

State Counsellor receives Philippines' Arroyo, S'pore Ambassador



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former president of the Philippines. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received the Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, former President of the Republic of the Philippines, yesterday at the Ministry of For-

eign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was the 14th President of the Republic of the Philippines (2001-2010), and is currently the Representative of the 2nd District of the Province of Pampanga.

During their meeting yesterday, they discussed matters relating to the promotion of trade, investment and cooperation in the education sector between the two countries. Also present at the meeting were senior officials from the Ministry of

Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Following the meeting with the former President of the Philippines, the State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

met Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they discussed matters relating to boosting bilateral relations. — Myanmar News Agency ■



(L-R) Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-ocha, Viet Nam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, Laos' Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith and Myanmar's Vice President U Myint Swe pose for a photo yesterday during the second Mekong-Lancang Cooperation leaders meeting in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. **PHOTO MNA**

Myanmar pledges cooperation with ...

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U Myint Swe also reiterated that the strategies of Mekong-Lancang, including the Belt and Road Initiative, should comply with the work procedures of organisations in the region such as ASEAN.

He expressed thanks to the Chinese government for finalizing the first batch of 132 projects to be implemented by Mekong-Lancang's special fund, saying that 10 projects in Myanmar include in the first batch.

Besides, the second batch of 214 projects would benefit the people of Mekong countries, he added. In conclusion, the Vice President pledged to actively participate in the Mekong-Lancang cooperation effort at present and in the future, maintaining friendship, good neighbourly relations, mutual trust and mutual benefits.

After the meeting, Vice President U Myint Swe attended a ceremony to hand over the chairmanship from the Cambo-

dian Prime Minister to the Lao People's Democratic Republic's Prime Minister.

Initiated by China in 2014, the LMC consists of six countries - China, Cambodia, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and Viet Nam. It focuses on several priority areas of cooperation: connectivity, production capacity, cross-border economic cooperation, water resources management, as well as agriculture and poverty reduction.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Work begins on buildings to house refugees

AUTHORITIES have started the land work to construct buildings that will accommodate refugees repatriated from Bangladesh in Hlaphoekhaung Village in Maungtaw District yesterday.

The work was launched on 7 January by pressing into service eight backhoes and four bulldozers.

The refugees will be temporarily housed in the buildings after their citizenship is scrutinised.

“Those who return from Bangladesh will be scrutinised at Ngakhuya and Taungpyolawe, and they will be provided with temporary accommodation here,” said U Ye Htut, Maungtaw district Deputy Commissioner.

Myanmar and Bangladesh came to an agreement on the terms of repatriation for those who fled Rakhine State four months ago and are staying in temporary Bangladeshi camps. —Ko Min ■

Reuters reporters charged with Official Secrets Act

Prosecutors yesterday charged two Reuters reporters under the Official Secrets Act, which carries a maximum prison sentence of 14 years, their lawyer said.

Yangon Region's northern district court started the hearing yesterday morning of Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, both reporters for Reuters, who have been charged under the Official Secrets Act, a Colonial-era law that prohibits “entering prohibited places, taking images or handling secret official documents

that might be, or is intended to be, directly or indirectly, useful to an enemy”.

Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo along with two policemen were detained on 12 December in Yangon for illegally obtaining and possessing government documents, according to the Myanmar Police Force. The next hearing for the journalists is scheduled for 23rd January, with a police officer who opened the file against the two reporters expected to testify.—Zaw Gyi ■

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From H.E. Mr Michel Temer
President of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Mr. President,

On the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, celebrated on January 4th 2018, I extend to your Excellency the most effusive and cordial congratulations on behalf of the Brazilian people and on my own, with the renewed wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From H.E Mr. Milos Zeman

President of the Czech Republic
Excellency,

I would like to sincerely congratulate you and the people of your country on the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my firm conviction that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to develop and deepen in many areas.

I wish you and the people of your country lots of success in the future.

From H.E Mr Giorgi Margvelashvili
President of Georgia

Your Excellency,

Allow me to extend to You my cordial congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

On this notable day, I wish to reiterate that Georgia attaches great importance to the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. I express my confidence that amicable relations between our countries will be further developed and intensified in the coming years.

Your Excellency, please accept the assurances of my highest consideration along with the best wishes for the peace, security and prosperity to the highly esteemed People of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to State Counsellor

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From H.E. Mr. Aloysio Nunes Ferreira
Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federative Republic of Brazil
Excellency,

On the occasion of the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Independence of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, celebrated on January 4th 2018, I would like to express to Your Excellency our best wishes and sincere congratulations as you celebrate another year of Independence, on behalf of the Brazilian government and on my own. On this important occasion, I reaffirm our commitment to strengthening relations between our two countries.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From H.E Mr. Andrej Babis
Prime Minister of the Czech Republic
Excellency,

Let me extend my most sincere congratulations

to you and the people of your country on the 70th anniversary of the Proclamation of Independence.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my firm conviction that the friendly relations between our two countries will continue to develop and deepen successfully and dynamically in many areas.

I wish you, Excellency, lots of success and health.

From H.E. Mr Martin Stropnický
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic
Excellency,

Let me extend my most sincere congratulations on the Independence Day of your country.

I avail myself of this opportunity to express my encouragement and hope that the process of democratization, national reconciliation and modernization will successfully continue towards prosperity and stability of your country.

I believe that your country's progress on political

and economic reforms provides new opportunities for strengthening bilateral relationship between our countries for our mutual benefit.

Let me wish you lots of health and success.

From H.E. Mr Mikheil Janelidze
Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Georgia
Excellency,

Allow me to extend my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Georgia attaches great importance to the development of friendly and mutually beneficial relations with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. On this special day for your country, I would like to convey to you and to the friendly people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar best wishes of continuous peace, success and prosperity.

Excellency, please accept the assurance of my highest consideration.

Kachin State Day celebrated in Myitkyina

A CEREMONY to mark the 70th Anniversary Kachin State Day was held on the lawns of Kachin State Government Office in Ayeya Ward, Kyitkyina this morning.

Minister for Social Affairs Dr Thin Lwin of the Kachin State Government read out the message to commemorate the Kachin State Day sent by President U Htin Kyaw, and those present took part in the “Htongkar” dan together with young national brethren.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker of Kachin State Hluttaw U Dein Khan Phon (a) Khan Lin, Chief Justice U Tu Jar and cabinet members, Hluttaw representatives, leaders of respective ethnic groups, departmental officials and local people totaling over 1200.

The ceremony covers mini-marathon, tennis, cycling, volleyball and other sports meets. — Win Naing-Kachin Land/ Myanmar Digital News



Kachin ethnic people perform at Kachin State Day celebration. **PHOTO: WIN NAING**

Schools to reopen in Maungtaw

SCHOOLS that were temporarily closed following terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army in the Maungtaw region will be reopened, as peace and stability return to the region.

Of the 650 primary schools in Maungtaw, some 424 schools have been closed to date, while some 46 schools will be reopened soon.

According to an official from the education department, some 283 schools have already been opened, including 98 schools in Maungtaw, 175 schools in Buthidaung and 10 schools in the Yathedaung region.

Another 46 schools will be reopened, and preparations are underway to reopen 95 schools as soon as possible. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw speaker receives Singapore Ambassador

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning

promotion of social, economic and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General receives Gen. Koji Yamazaki of Japan, German Ambassador

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Gen. Koji Yamazaki, Chief of Staff of Japan Ground Self-Defense Forces, at Zeyar Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on improving military relations between the

two countries, Tatmadaw efforts to stop ARSA terrorists in Rakhine State, and the role of the Tatmadaw in the peace process in Myanmar.

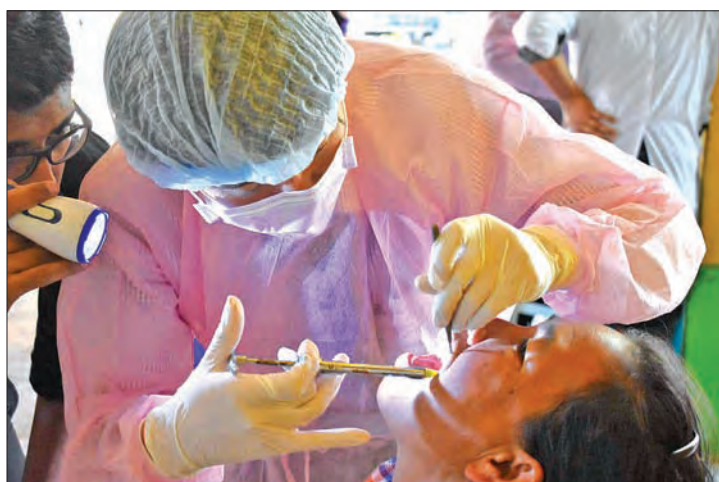
In the afternoon, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the newly appointed German Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke - Wenzel, at Zeyar Thiri Beikman.

In the meeting, matters relating to efforts by the Tatmadaw on achieving lasting peace and stability in Myanmar, increasing Myanmar-Germany military defence cooperation, the role of female Myanmar soldiers, and assigning Tatmadaw representatives at the Hluttaw were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives German Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke - Wenzel. PHOTO: MNA

Dentists from UDM-Yangon provide care in Magway



A dentist gives medical care to a patient. PHOTO: UDM-YANGON

A medical team from the University of Dental Medicine (Yangon) provided oral health-care services in Magway Region from 3 to 7 January.

The team comprised of about 200 included 150 students who have passed the fourth year of Bachelor of Dental Science, 30 surgeons

and 20 faculty members from UDM-Yangon. They gave educative talks on dental and oral health to residents in Pakokku, Yesagyo, Seikpyu and Myaing townships in Magway Region. They also checked the oral health of 3,581 residents and treated 2,140 patients.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Villagers, security forces involved in killings of 10 armed Muslims

Some villagers and security forces were involved in the killing of 10 armed attackers whose bodies were found in a mass grave last month in a cemetery in Innadin Village in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State, the True News Information Team of the Ministry of Defence acknowledged yesterday.

"Action will be taken against some security forces who broke the Rules of Engagement and some villagers who were involved in the killings," said the announcement from the ministry posted on its Facebook page yesterday.

An investigation team led by Lt-Gen Aye Win of the Ministry of Defence probed the killing from 20th December to 2nd January, interrogating 21 security force members, three border guard police, 13 members of the No. 8 security regiment, six villagers and six departmental officials.

Since the 9th October terrorist attacks, Muslim villagers, whose population is about 6,000 in the village-tract, had been threatening ethnic minorities, of which there are about 840 in three villages.

The Muslim armed men allegedly killed Maung Ni, a villager from Innadin Village, who had been on his way to a rice field on 25th August, 2017, and threatened nearby ethnic villagers with attacks every day, said the statement.

The ethnic villagers moved to a monastery and security forces arrived to provide security.

The announcement said on 1st September, about 200 armed attackers tried to attack security forces. In response, the security forces fired warning shots into the air to disperse the attackers and arrested 10 armed men.

During a subsequent interrogation, the 10 men con-

fessed that they had ties to the terrorists and that they were organised by Muslim religious leaders also known as Mawlawi at mosques in Muslim villages.

The detainees should be handed over to police. However, two vehicles from Innadin Village Police Station were set on fire by terrorists and terrorists attacks were happening at that time in the local areas, the statement said.

"Some villagers from Innadin village and security members confessed they killed 10 Muslim terrorists and action would be taken against the villagers and security members who violated the Rules of Engagement. Besides, action would be taken against those officers who failed to report the incident to the upper commands though they did not involve in it but those who involved in the incident are under their command," said the statement.—Myanmar News Agency ■