



Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko greeting children at the Mary Chapman School in Dagon Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko makes donations to Mary Chapman School, Islam Home for Aged

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko arrived at the Mary Chapman School for the Deaf in the Yangon Region, Dagon Township, Thantaman Street, yesterday morning and donated Ks5 million, which was accepted by school principal Daw Nyunt Nyunt Thein.

The Union Minister first explained the reason for the do-

nation, and after the donation was made, the school principal presented a document of honour and expressed his gratitude.

Next, Thura U Aung Ko toured the school and met with the trainees attending a cooking course.

Later, the Union Minister went to the Islam Home for Aged in Thingangyun Township, Pyithaya Road, and donated Ks 5 mil-

lion after explaining the purpose of the donation. The donation was accepted by Islam Home for Aged secretary Haji U Hla Wei, who thanked the Union Minister.

The event was attended by Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin, officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and other invited guests. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Discussion on reform work for public servants

UNION Civil Service Board Chairman Dr. Win Thein received 359 Group International Japan Co. Ltd. CEO Mr Banyan Zaw, the Kanematsu Corporation, Yangon, Chief Representative Mr Taro Sakai, General Manager Shinichiro Mitsuhiro and the accompanying delegation at the Nay Pyi Taw Union Civil Service Board guest room yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the reform work for public servants conducted by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japanese companies, and the database core system, as well as the digital staff IDs with grant aid and yen credit, to be established by JICA.—Myanmar News Agency ■



UEC Chairman Dr Win Thein meets 359 Group International Japan Co. Ltd. CEO and Kanematsu Corporation personnel. **PHOTO: MNA**

Forest Department, ICIMOD conduct international workshop

The Forest Department and the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) held the opening ceremony of an international workshop at the forest research department's assembly hall on the morning of 21 February. The workshop was held to discuss the national-level climate change reduction work programme

among partner countries in the Himalayan Mountain region, and the Reducing Emissions-from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) sector, supporting the sustainable development goals.

In his address, Forest Department Director General Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw said the experience of the national-level climate

change reduction work programme among partner countries in the Himalayan Mountain region and REDD+ sector supporting sustainable development goals, as well as the experience of REDD+ in partner countries and organisations will be shared, and the project outcomes and research findings will be submitted, discussed and suggestions

provided during the workshop.

The Forest Department and the ICIMOD have been jointly implementing the project to reduce carbon emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in the Himalayan Mountain range region since 2016.

The project works include Gap Analysis of REDD+ in Myanmar, conducting capacity

building courses from REDD+ work processes, conducting forest management courses, talks, demonstration planting, establishing sapling farms and conducting courses to support the socio-economy for the locals in Taunggyi District, Pindaya Township, Pwe Hla, Sha Pya and Nan Kon villages.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Suspects with gun found near Maungtaw coast

SECURITY forces of Gawdutharra Coast in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, caught five men who were in possession of a gun, 1 bullet, Ks1,280,000 and 1,050 Bangladeshi takas in cash. Two of the men are Bangladeshi citizens, while the other three, Husaung Ahmet, Ali Hussein and Saw Yusalan, are suspected of having crossed into Bangladesh.

An initial inspection has revealed that the money and gun belonged to Saw Yusalan. Further investigations will be conducted to see if they have connections with the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army terrorist group.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Five terrorist suspects are detained by police. **PHOTO: MNA**



Home made gun and other things seized from five suspects. **PHOTO: MNA**

JPN gov't five INGOs sign Exchange of Notes on Grant Aid to Rakhine State

TO assist in humanitarian aid program and in works of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance and Resettlement in Rakhine-UEHRD, Japanese government and UN agencies signed Exchange of Notes on Grant Aid to Rakhine yesterday.

The signing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye and representatives from the UN agencies.

The Union Minister expressed thanks to the Japanese government for the aid.

Japanese Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI, representatives of five international organizations signed the Exchange of Notes for grant assistance projects in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 February for implementing projects with total grant assistance of 2.2 billion Yen in order to improve humanitarian and development situation in Rakhine State.

UN-Women is expected to sign the Exchange Note separately in the near future.

The Project for Responding to the Humanitarian Situation in Rakhine State would get grant

assistance of 1.1 billion Yen.

The project aims to improve regional stability and the humanitarian situation, and contribute to better living conditions for people affected by the incident, school enrollment rate, child protection and psychological care for women and girls etc.

Immediately after the terrorist attacks that occurred at the end of August last year in Myanmar's Rakhine State, emergency assistance has been implemented by the International Red Cross Committee (ICRC) etc.

Providing humanitarian aid for food, health and sanitation, living environment and promoting cohesion among communities would be vital once the repatriation of IDPs and those who have fled to Bangladesh commence officially.

Through World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), this project will provide humanitarian assistance to affected people and communities such as food distribution,



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and participants pose for the documentary photo. PHOTO: MNA

child protection, protection of displaced persons, shelter maintenance, child education and health care.

Meanwhile, the project for Inclusive Development and Empowerment of Women in Rakhine

State would be provided with total grant: 1.1 billion Yen.

This project, to be implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and

the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) will support people who were affected by inter-communal clashes since 2012 and the situation after the 2017 attack on the security forces.—GNLM ■



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein holds talks with Knut Ostby, UN resident coordinator from UNDP in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

UEC Chair U Hla Thein receives UNDP delegation

U HLA THEIN, chairman of the Union Election Commission (UEC), received a delegation led by Knut Ostby, UN resident coordinator from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), at the UEC office in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the UEC chairman referred to the success of the 2017 by-election,

preparations for holding the 2018 by-election and the support of the UNDP during elections since 2015.

"Assistance is being provided for the process of democratisation in Myanmar. As for the UNDP, it will continue to support the upcoming elections, as well," said Knut Ostby.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses ...

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Furthermore, U Maung Maung Win said the development of the Greater Mekong Sub Region roads with \$360 million is important for the Myanmar transport sector. The east-west corridor will link Viet Nam, Laos and Thailand via the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in Yangon to Patheingyi in the Ayeyawady delta region. The north-south corridor road in Myanmar will connect the People's Republic of China and India via the Yangon-Mandalay road.

The project is related to the east-west corridor road and north-south corridor road, and the permission of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is requested to approve the loan of \$360 million to upgrade the Yangon-Patheingyi road, Bago-Thantlabin road and Yangon-Mandalay express road, said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is requested to ap-

prove the loan of \$80 million with which the socio-economic and the infrastructure sector development of Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Myawady can be conducted, explained U Maung Maung Win.

An announcement was then made for the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the loans to enrol their names.

Later, the policy, basic principle and project works in the National Planning Bill and the Union Budget Bill for the six-month period from April to September 2018 were discussed by Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency (11), Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency (7), U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency, U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency (11), U Myo Win of Mon State constituency (8), Dr. Hla Moe of Aungmyethazan con-

stituency, U Whey Tin of Chin constituency (11), U Tun Wei of Phaungpyin constituency, U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State constituency (1), Dr. Tin Tin Win of the Bago region constituency (5), U Naing Htoo Aung of Natogyi constituency, U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency, U Soe Aung Naing of Kyonpyaw constituency, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of the Bago Region constituency (3), U Bo Gyi of Chauk constituency, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency, Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale constituency, U Yi Mon @ Maung Tin Thit of Pobbathiri constituency, Daw Cho Cho Win of Mawlaik constituency, U Tin Tun Naing of Seikkyi Khanaungto constituency, U Maung Maung Oo of Insein constituency, U Kyaw Myo Min of Moenyio constituency, U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency (4) and U Pyu Lwin of the Magway region constituency (12).—Myo Myint, Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency) ■