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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor arrives in Hanoi

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc in Hanoi yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

AT the invitation of Viet Nam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi departed for Viet Nam from Nay Pyi Taw by air yesterday morning.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, accompanied by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Office of the President Deputy Minister U Min Thu and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung and other officials, reached Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport at local standard time 10 a.m., where she was greeted by Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Dang Dinh Quy, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Luan Thuy Duong, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win and wife, Military Attache Col. Aung Kyaw Oo and other officials.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the delegation were taken to Grand Plaza Hotel in a motorcade. Next, the State Counsellor laid a wreath at the Martyrs' Monument of Viet Nam.

The State Counsellor then attended a welcome ceremony held at the Presidential Palace of Viet Nam, where she was greeted by Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc.

SEE PAGE-3

'We are ready for repatriation'

Union Ministers reaffirm Myanmar's willingness and readiness to receive displaced persons

A press conference on the visit of the Myanmar delegation led by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar, to Cox's Bazar and Dhaka, Bangladesh from 11 to 13 April was held at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC), in Yangon yesterday morning.

The press conference was attended by Heads of Mission, diplomats and representatives of UN agencies residing in Yangon as well as representatives of local and international media.

SEE PAGE-5

"Myanmar was ready and willing to receive the verified returnees under the principle of voluntary, safe and dignified return."

U Thaung Tun
Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government

Senior General receives All Myanmar Gurkha-Hindu Dhamma Association Chairman

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received All Myanmar Gurkha-Hindu Dhamma Association Chairman U Kaladahr @ U Maung Win at Bayint Naung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, matters related to the status of forming a Nepal-Myanmar Friendship Association in Myanmar, increasing bilateral friendship, trade, tourism and the status of achieving peace in Myanmar, according to the law, were discussed. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with delegation led by All Myanmar Gurkha-Hindu Dhamma Association Chairman U Kaladahr @ U Maung Win in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 19/2018

5th Waxing of Kason, 1380 ME
19 April, 2018

Appointment of Magway Region Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262, Sub-section (f) and article 264, Sub-section (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as Magway Region Ministers of the Ministries shown against each of their names.

(1) U Win Maw Htay	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
(2) U Myint Swe	Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

Sd/ -
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism assigns Mrs. Junko Koshino as tourism ambassador

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung designates Japanese fashion designer Mrs. Junko Koshino as a tourism ambassador to Myanmar, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Mrs. Junko Koshino and her entourage visited Inle Lake in Nyaung Shwe Township, southern Shan State, on 17 April.

During their stay, the fashion designer visited tourist destinations in Inle Lake and surroundings. They talked with officials from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism about plans for more Japanese tourists traveling to the region.

The Japanese team arrived in Myanmar on 15 April to promote the Myanmar-Japan tourism industry. They visited key tourist destinations in Myanmar and have been conducting promotional campaigns for the tourism industry.

The delegation took part in the Myanmar Water Festival at the grand mayor's pavilion at the Yangon City Hall on 16 April, and enjoyed the festival around the Kandawgyi Lake.

The team visited Bagan and neighboring areas yesterday, and is scheduled to leave for Japan today, 20 April.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Union Minister for SWRR receives UN Resident Coordinator

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) Dr. Win Myat Aye received United Nations Resident Coordinator Knut Ostby at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Union Minister explained the peace, stability and development that had been achieved in Rakhine State, the preparation of committees formed to receive returnees, the current status of receiving the returnees, the works conducted to close IDP camps, the status of granting freedom of movement and the status of naturalisation. The Union Minister also called for the signing of the works cooperation agreement on receiving returnees by the UNDP and UNHCR at the earliest. Knut Ostby said the international organisation will cooperate with the government and participate in the process of receiving the returnees. Efforts will be made to sign the agreement as soon as possible. The UN organisations are also working towards cooperating and participating in the process and all its organisations, including UNDP, will join the process, he noted. Also present at the meeting were the Deputy Minister for SWRR and the director-general of the Department of Disaster Management. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with United Nations Resident Coordinator Knut Ostby at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MNHRC conveys New Year greetings

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) released announcement No. (5/2018) yesterday conveying Myanmar New Year greetings.

The announcement said that to perform the two tasks of promoting and preserving human rights, the commission had formed the Human Rights Education Department, Human Rights Promotion Department, Law Department and the International Relations Department. In keeping with the principles of international human rights organisations, the commission is acting according to the prescribed law on submitting reports to the President and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, and providing advice and encouragement to the respective departments and organisations.

During the President's meeting with members of the MNHRC on 12 April, the President urged the commission to uphold righteously the law to preserve human rights in Myanmar.

The commission will do its tasks according to the president's advice, it stated. —Myanmar News Agency ■

'We are ready for repatriation'

FROM PAGE-1

The briefing was jointly conducted by U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the members of the Myanmar delegation - Dr. Aung Tun Thet, Chief Coordinator of Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State, Dr. Thet Thet Zin, Chairperson of the Myanmar Women's Affair Federation and members of the Interfaith Dialogue, U Tin Myint, U Than Lwin and Dr. Hla Tun.

A Press Conference on the visit of Myanmar Delegation led by Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar, to Cox's Bazar and Dhaka, Bangladesh on 11-13 April held at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC), Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye

Union Minister U Thaung Tun

Prof Dr Aung Tun Thet

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, in his opening remarks stated that Myanmar wished to implement, in an expeditious manner, the bilateral agreement on return of displaced persons from Rakhine State signed by the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2018. In its earnest desire to commence the repatriation expeditiously, Myanmar unilaterally identified 508 Hindu villagers from Rakhine who had expressed their desire to return. Myanmar side was informed by the Bangladesh authorities that Hindus would be part of the last segment of the first batch. To accommodate the position of the Bangladesh side, Myanmar verified and sent additional list of names of 750 Muslim villagers so that the first batch comprising 750 Muslim and 508 Hindu villagers could be repatriated expeditiously. He said that no response had been received so far.

During the visit of the Minister for Home Affairs of Myanmar to Bangladesh, the delegation was provided with another list of forms of 8032 displaced persons from Rakhine State. However, the Myanmar side proceeded to verify them immediately. The forms were found to be different from prescribed forms agreed in the Physical Arrangement for Repatriation. In particular, they did not contain signatures, finger prints and proper photographs necessary for proper identification. The situation made the verification process most difficult. He said that Myanmar had requested the Bangladesh side on three separate occasions through diplomatic channels to forward duly-filled prescribed forms that would enable displaced persons to be repatriated under the principle of voluntary, safe and dignified return. Notwithstanding the limited information provided by the Bangladesh side, over 600 persons on the list were ascertained to be residents of Rakhine. Myanmar had informed the Bangladesh side accordingly.

The Union Minister added that the Myanmar side was ready to receive verified returnees and that necessary preparations had been completed for the repatriation. In this connection, Myanmar believed that it would be beneficial to send a team to Bangladesh headed by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, who is concurrently the Chairman of the Implementation Committee for Recommendations on Rakhine State which among others included recommendations of the Kofi Annan Commission, to explain to the people in the camps in Cox's Bazar and encourage them to return. The United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator in Myanmar and Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar were invited to join the delegation. The UN Resident Coordinator responded that he could not join the visit. The Ambassador of Norway initially planned to join the delegation. Subsequently, as she was the only diplomat among the members of delegation, she cancelled to participate in the trip. During the visit, the Myanmar delegation requested to meet with 508 people of Hindu faith, 750 Muslim villagers and over 600 verified residents of Rakhine. The delegation found it disappointing as they were unable to meet the persons they requested to see. The delegation was taken to the camp where they met with a number of displaced persons and explained to them the preparations made by Myanmar for their repatriation of displaced persons. The delegation was told by the people that they met that they were not provided with any form and that they had no knowledge of the repatriation agreement. In the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Home Affairs of Bangladesh, the delegation informed the Ministers that the forms sent back to Myanmar were not the prescribed forms agreed upon between the two governments. The Minister of Foreign Affairs ascertained the validity of this information and informed the Myanmar delegation that proper forms would be sent soon. The delegation informally learnt from the officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh that the forms of 8032 persons sent by Bangladesh were arranged through the community leaders without the consent of the individuals concerned. The prescribed forms which include the necessary details would facilitate the repatriation process. As the condition of camps in Cox's Bazar is poor, it is imperative to receive the returnees as soon as possible.

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SEE PAGE-15

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein take their oaths of office at the Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat gives the oath document to the Chairman. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat casts his ballot during the voting. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein signing their oath documents. **PHOTO: MNA**

The then Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint (current President) presents cash assistance for UEHRD to Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 October 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Building. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw MPs register to attend the Hluttaw meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

that were approved?

A: A total of 84 proposals were submitted and from among them, 33 proposals were approved, 46 proposals were put on record, 3 proposals were unapproved, one proposal was revoked, and one proposal was denied.

The approved proposals included those to reduce and abolish corruption, and to protect the livelihoods of farmers from natural disasters and pests. There was a proposal approved for allotting a set budget to schools for the physical wellbeing of the young people and this was done with cooperation from the Ministry of Health and Sports. The Ministry also helped with a proposal to draw a sports competition calendar from the primary schools up to colleges and universities with the aim of raising future athletes to represent Myanmar.

There was a proposal approved to broadcast a government education TV channel to support development in the education sector, a proposal for preserving natural water resources, and a proposal for establishing third parties in construction projects nationwide so they can review the projects and ensure the people's budget is now wasted.

Q: Were there other significant processes?

A: I'd like to share some things Myanmar Hluttaws did in the ASEAN parliament and international parliament conferences.

In the 38th General Assembly of the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly conference held in Manila, Philippines, there was a discussion under the title of the "Human Rights difficulties and violence against the Rohingya" to which a Hluttaw delegation objected based on the covenant of the AIPA (ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly). Since the rules state that every decision should be made with consensus the discussion topic was repealed.

At the 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) Assembly in St. Petersburg, Russia, eight countries from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held a one-sided discussion on the situation in Rakhine State but our Hluttaw MPs managed to counter-argue the topic and effectively explained to all the IPU member countries on the Rakhine situation and humanitarian aid given there. They successfully repealed the decisions made by the IPU member countries which were not based on true facts.

Q: Is there anything else you want to tell the readers?

A: We will use all our experiences gathered during the two years to do an even better job in the future. During the break until the next Hluttaw session, our MPs will be returning to their constituencies to relay the information from the meetings to the people and in turn they will ask and gather information on the people's wants and needs to be discussed in the next Hluttaw session, such as confiscated lands and rural development.

In conclusion, I want to tell the people that the Hluttaw is doing what it can to strengthen the foundations of democracy in the country and we promise to accomplish the people's hopes and develop their livelihoods. ■

(Translated by Chris)

'We are ready for repatriation'

FROM PAGE-5

Next, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye briefed the audience on the purpose of the visit, the readiness for repatriation and the benefits of holding NVC cards. In addition, the Union Minister shared his experience on the visit. He said that the delegation was not able to meet the requested displaced persons despite meeting with some from the camps in Cox's Bazar including some who spoke Myanmar language fluently. He learnt that the displaced persons had no knowledge of the forms to be filled for repatriation and no one had explained to them about the forms. He stated that the meeting with the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Home Affairs of Bangladesh in Dhaka was fruitful. He mentioned that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh found out that the forms that they sent to Myanmar were not the prescribed forms agreed upon between the two governments. The Minister of Foreign Affairs assured the delegation that agreed forms would be sent soon.

U Than Lwin, member of Interfaith Dialogue

Dr. Hla Tun, member of Interfaith Dialogue

Journalist Wall Street Journal

Journalist from the Asahi Shinbum.

Journalist from NIKKEI

Journalist from AFP

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Chief Coordinator of UEHRD Dr. Aung Tun Thet also shared his experience on the visit of Cox's Bazar and Dhaka. He mentioned that despite having made arrangements to include diplomats from the neighbouring countries posted in Dhaka to the visit, they were unable to join the delegation due to the unavailability of seats on the flight to Cox's Bazar. He underlined that the main purpose of the visit was to discuss with the Bangladesh authorities and the displaced persons in order to move forward the repatriation process expeditiously. He said he was surprised to learn that the displaced persons that he met had no knowledge of the need to fill the forms for repatriation. The high point of the visit was the meeting with the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh. He added that the Myanmar side was ready to receive the returnees and was even thinking of beyond the repatriation. He confirmed that the Myanmar side was taking necessary steps to provide livelihoods for the returnees. He said that unfortunately the delegation experienced that some media incorrectly mentioned on what the delegation did not say. The cooperation of the media is crucial. Furthermore, the Chief Coordinator added that the delegation had genuine and sincere desire to create the conditions to receive the displaced persons under the principle of voluntary, safe and dignified return. Myanmar is willing and ready to receive the verified returnees.

Dr. Thet Thet Zin, Chairperson of the Myanmar Women's Affair Federation, and U Tin Myint, U Than Lwin, Dr. Hla Tun, members of the Interfaith Dialogue shared their experiences of the visit. They mentioned that it was very important to start the repatriation process because the monsoon was coming soon. The main purpose of the visit was to explain the repatriation process and persuade them to be repatriated. Although the Myanmar delegation requested to meet with religious and community leaders, the delegation was unable to meet them. It was requested that dully-filled prescribed forms as agreed by both sides to be sent to Myanmar. Despite requesting to meet displaced Hindus in the camps in Cox's Bazar, the Bangladesh side did not facilitate the request, giving reason of the distance of the place where displaced Hindus were residing. Sadly, it was found out that their camp was located just before the camp the Myanmar delegation visited. It was also learnt that the forms had not been distributed to the displaced Hindus. He therefore called on the government of Bangladesh, the United Nations and International Organizations to assist in the process for early repatriation of displaced Hindus.

The Union Ministers responded to the questions raised by the media personnel.

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government made the closing remarks. He thanked the attendees and said that the violence was triggered by the terrorist attacks on 25 August 2017. He confirmed that Myanmar wished to commence the repatriation process at the earliest possible time in keeping with the "Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State", signed between the two countries. He said that Myanmar had already made necessary preparations for the repatriation in accordance with the agreement. He reaffirmed that Myanmar was ready and willing to receive the verified returnees under the principle of voluntary, safe and dignified return. Those who expressed their willingness to return should be allowed to do so.—MNA ■

Thai-Myanmar border trade value increases by $200m

TRADE at the Thai-Myanmar border gates was worth some US$1.59 billion from 1 April to 31 March of the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY), which increased by some $200 million compared to last FY.

Among the seven Thai-Myanmar border gates, the Myawady gate is the main point for bilateral border trade, but the trade value decreased by $25 million compared to the 2016-2017 FY.

Similarly, Tachilek also showed a slight decline in trade.

The remaining gates showed an increase in trade. Exports via the Kawthoung and Myeik checkpoints surpassed imports significantly.

The value of border trade was $90 million at the Tachilek gate, $907 million at Myawady, $204 million at Kawthoung, $259 million at Myeik, $122 million at Hteekhee, $7.4 million at Mawtaung and $0.95 million at Maese.

Large volumes of fishery products are exported daily through the Myawady gate.

Nevertheless, the import of vehicles through the checkpoint ceased owing to changes in the automobile policy.

Industrial machinery, trucks, agricultural equipment, tractors, motorcycles, cars, food and beverages, cosmetics, fuel oil, fertilisers, cement, construction materials and sugar for re-export are imported through the Myawady gate. Fish, prawns, crabs, onions, sesame, turmeric, herbs and forestry products are sent to Thailand—Htet Myat ■

CONDOLENCE

We , Staff of the Export Marketing & Milling Department of Myanma Timber Enterprise would like to express our sadness of the passing away of Mr.P.C.Cheng of Cheung Hing & Company(Hong kong),Thai Sawat Import Export Co,Ltd(Bangkok). We offer our deepest condolences to the family ,relatives and friends of Mr.P.C.Cheng in this occasion of grief and sorrow.

General Manager(Export) and Staff
Export Marketing and Milling Department

U YE WUNNA AYE
AGE 47
B.E (Petroleum) YIT
Post Graduate Diploma in Hotel Management and Tourism (S.H.M.S) Switzerland
Mastery Diploma in English (W.S.I) Switzerland

YE WUNNA AYE beloved son of U Tin Maung Aye (Councillor, Myanmar Press Council ,Asahi Shibum Reporter:Rtd)-Daw Myint Myint Aye, brother of Daw Saw Thiri Aye – U Myo Aung Thane (MD-Myo Auto Services), Managing Director of Ananda Lin Lett Co.,Ltd, Thuwanna Lin Lett Co.,Ltd and Amara Lin Lett Co.,Ltd, passed away in Luton and Dunstable University Hospital in UK on 18 April 2018.