

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Australian Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Nicholas Coppel at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and openly discussed matters related to Australia-Myanmar bilateral cooperation, cooperation in development programmes to strengthen the Hluttaw and democracy systems, and programmes to promote education and build the capacity of the Hluttaw representatives and the legislation sector.

Present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speak-



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat welcomes Australian Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

er U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Pyithu Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for Information leaves for Singapore to attend AMRI

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint left for Singapore yesterday to attend the 14th Conference of the ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) and other related meetings.

The delegation led by the union minister was seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Information.—MNA ■



Officials see off Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint at Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation receives chairman of China Huaneng Group Co Ltd

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win received Chairman of China Huaneng Group Co. Ltd. Yuan Xianghua at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and discussed matters related to the hydroelectric production capacity of Myanmar, especially prospects to generate hydroelectric power on Shwe Li River, and the environmental and social impact assessments for the production of hydropower.—MNA ■



Union Minister U Ohn Win holds talks with China Huaneng Group Co. Ltd. Chairman Yuan Xianghua in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Press Statement

Myanmar rebuts Dhaka Declaration's reference on situation in Rakhine State. Myanmar calls for Bangladesh's sincere cooperation to start early repatriation

THE 45th Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) held in Dhaka from 5 to 6 May 2018 issued the Dhaka Declaration expressing concern over alleged human rights violations by security forces in Myanmar.

The Declaration lacks balance and fairness, and fails to denounce the brutal attacks of the terrorist group, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) which triggered the humanitarian situation unfolding today.

Myanmar categorically rejects the irresponsible labelling of "ethnic cleansing" or "State backed violence" to describe events in Rakhine State. More than 50% of the Muslim community, which represents a majority in Maungdaw Region, have remained in their villages.

The Government has stated time and again that no violation of human rights will be condoned. Allegations supported by evidence will be investigated and action taken in accordance with the law.

It is highly regrettable that the Dhaka Declaration did not even mention the immediate need for the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine in accordance with the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh. Nor were there any suggestions aimed at promoting harmony and sustainable development in the Rakhine State.

As the monsoons are approaching, Myanmar is now focusing on expediting the repatriation process. To that end, Myanmar urges Bangladesh to take all necessary steps to help the process in accordance with the said agreement.

Myanmar stands ready to facilitate the voluntary, safe and dignified return of the displaced persons from Rakhine.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Myanmar women's delegation to receive ASEAN Outstanding Women Entrepreneurship Award

A DELEGATION of women entrepreneurs left for Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday to receive the ASEAN Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs Award granted by the ASEAN Women Entrepreneurs' Network (AWEN).

The 10-member delegation was seen off by executive members of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association (MWEA) at Yangon International Airport.

The Myanmar women's delegation will attend the annual meeting of AWEN and the ASEAN Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs Award Ceremony, which will be held on 10 and 11 May at the Department of Social Development and Welfare's Building in Bangkok, Thailand, and receive the ASEAN Outstanding Women Entrepreneurs Award.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Women entrepreneurs delegation poses for the photo before departure for Bangkok at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

“ We will abolish the red tape that burdens the people and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fiber of our people. We will draw out from our past experiences as a civilian government overcoming various obstacles and hardships, as we work to the best of our ability for the immediate present and head towards the future of a democratic nation that respects human rights and is free from all stains of corruption.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

“ Let us strive collectively for the emergence of a just and free nation— a nation which will guarantee equal rights and equality, a nation which practices a pure ideology.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

State Counsellor receives Chinese Minister of Public Security, Swiss Ambassador



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Mr. Zhao Kezhi, Member of the CPC Central Committee and Minister of Public Security of China, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Mr. Paul R. Seger, Ambassador of Switzerland to Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

Union Minister for International Cooperation calls in Bangladesh Ambassador

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin called in the Ambassador of People's Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury on 8 May 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw and raised a number of border security issues and challenges hindering early repatriation of the displaced persons.

During the meeting, the Union Minister officially objected to the recent construction of bunkers and other structures by the Bangladeshi side near the borderline in the Non-Construction Zone and called for the removal of those structures, as such activities violate the bilater-

al Boundary Demarcation Treaty between the two countries. The Union Minister also conveyed Myanmar's request to the authorities of Bangladesh to stop assisting construction of sheds and shelters on the Myanmar side of the Non-Construction Zone and sought the cooperation of Bangladesh in facilitating the return of the displaced persons illegally staying inside the Zone.

The Union Minister also informed the Ambassador that a total of 368 people of Rakhine/ Mro / Khami / Daingnet ethnic origin, who are believed to be Bangladeshi citizens, have entered from Bangladesh into Myanmar during the past few



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of People's Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar, on Tuesday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

months and called for early verification and voluntary repatriation to Bangladesh.

The Union Minister reiterated Myanmar's readiness to commence repatriation of verified displaced persons from Rakhine State before the monsoon as agreed by the two governments and sought the earliest

cooperation of the Bangladeshi side to send back around 1,200 verified residents of Hindus and Muslim community as well as over 929 verified displaced persons contained in the list provided by the Myanmar side. The Ambassador was also reminded to send the list of displaced persons using the right form

as agreed in the Physical Arrangement. The Union Minister also informed the Ambassador of Myanmar's desire to resolve the issue of displaced persons and any other issue of common concern through bilateral negotiations and cooperation in a spirit of good neighbourliness. —Myanmar News Agency