

NATIONAL

Our water resources must be conserved, maintained and managed: U Henry Van Thio

PAGE-6**NATIONAL**

Protest lodged against Bangladesh for construction of fortifications

PAGE-10**BUSINESS**

World Bank calls for Myanmar's Ease of Doing Business reform

PAGE-5

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 26, 13th Waning of Kason 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 12 May 2018



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor receives Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India

7 Agreement/ MoUs including Agreement on Land Border Crossing signed

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the External Affairs Minister of India Smt. Sushma Swaraj at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, in the morning of 11 May 2018 and held a bilateral meeting.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to promotion of bilat-

eral relations and cooperation; provision of assistance for the development of Rakhine State and support to the Myanmar Government's endeavours on the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State; and closer cooperation and collaboration between the two countries in the regional and

international fora. Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Shri Vikram Misri, departmen-

tal officials and members of the Indian delegation.

It was followed by the signing ceremony of bilateral cooperation agreement/ Memorandums of Understanding which was witnessed by the State Counsellor and the External Affairs Minister of India.

SEE PAGE-3

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses 17th meeting of Myanmar entrepreneurs

VICE President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, attended the 17th regular meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar entrepreneurs at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) office in Yangon yesterday morning.

Also present at the meeting were Vice Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee and Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint; Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein; Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Win Maw Tun, Yangon Region Ministers, officials from five work committees, UMFCCI President and members, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General, representatives of the Kalay-Tamu Border Trade Merchant Association, Sagaing Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Myanmar Flour Business Association, Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association and other officials.

Addressing the meeting, U Myint Swe said the committee was formed more than one and a half years ago to implement matters in the private sector development framework.

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Peace Conference organising committee secretaries hold meeting

PAGE-2**LOCAL NEWS**

Over 14,900 workers took overseas jobs in eight countries last month

PAGE-4**NATIONAL**

Union Legal Supporting Group office opens in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-6**OPINION**

We invite the sincere cooperation of Bangladesh to start repatriation

PAGE-8-9

“ We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.

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

“ We have many opportunities to learn in order to overcome and eliminate the evil legacies of the past and to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the nation. We know how much loving kindness, truth and bravery are needed; how greed, anger and ignorance can impact negatively. We have learnt the importance of having good friends. The most important lesson we learned is the value of understanding and unqualified support of our people.

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

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor receives Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister of India

FROM PAGE-1

On the occasion, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe and Indian External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj signed the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India on Land Border Crossing; and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Htun Ohn and Ambassador of India Shri Vikram Misri signed the Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India for the Conservation of Earthquake Damaged Pagodas in Bagan.

According to the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of India on Land Border Crossing, nationals of Myanmar and India and any third country with valid passports with visas/e-visas will be allowed to enter/exit through the authorized entry/exit points at the land border in Tamu (Myanmar)- Moreh (India) and Rihkhawdar (Myanmar)- Zowkhawthar (India) as per the permitted stay of respective visas whereas the local people living in the border areas of the two countries will be able to enter/exit to the

other country upon the application of Border Pass which has a validity of one year. According to the Memorandum of Understanding between Myanmar and India for the Conservation of Earthquake Damaged Pagodas in Bagan, the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will jointly implement the maintenance plan for the earthquake-damaged pagodas in Bagan.

Moreover, the officials concerned of both sides exchanged 5 MoUs namely, Supply of Ten Vehicles to the National Reconcili-



Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Htun Ohn (Right) and Ambassador of India Shri Vikram Misri (Left) exchange the MoU.. **PHOTO: MNA**

ation and Peace Centre (NRPC), setting up of Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Thaton, setting up of Indo-Myanmar Industrial Training Centre at Monywa, Capacity building of

Myanmar Foreign Service Officials and Exchange of Letter for the Implementation of the five years Comprehensive Maintenance Plan to IMITC (Mingyan).—MNA ■



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint welcomed at the Yangon International airport by officials. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint returns from Singapore

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint returned from Singapore yesterday afternoon after attending the 14th conference of ASEAN Ministers Responsible for In-

formation (AMRI) and other related meetings in Singapore.

He was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials from the Ministry of Information.—MNA ■

Hotline for Trademark

09-251022355



CHINA-MYANMAR (YANGON) TRADE FAIR 2018

17-19 . 5 . 2018 | Myanmar Event Park (MEP)

- ★ Building Materials/ Hardware/ Lighting Products
- ★ Vehicles/ Motorcycles, Parts & Accessories
- ★ Farming Machines/ Machinery & Equipment/ Generators/ Industrial Equipment

100%
High Quality
Reliable Supplier
from
CHINA

- ★ Household Appliances/ Consumer Electronics
- ★ Home Supplies/ Consumer Goods
- ★ Foodstuffs

Organizers: China-ASEAN Expo Secretariat, Trade Development Bureau of Ministry of Commerce of China, Trade Promotion Organization of Ministry of Commerce of Myanmar

Associate Organizers: Wuxi-Singapore Exhibition (Guangzhou) Co., Ltd., BOPCON (Bureau of Commerce of Qinghai)

Supporters: Economic and Commercial Consulate Office of the Embassy of China in Myanmar, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry

We invite the sincere cooperation of Bangladesh to start repatriation

WHILE Myanmar has insisted that it is ready to begin the repatriation process to accept the verified displaced people from Bangladesh, it is very upsetting to hear that the Prime Minister of Bangladesh called on the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) to put pressure on Myanmar to take back the displaced people and ensure their rights and security.

The repatriation forms were to be completed in accordance with the agreement between the two countries. If so, why did Bangladesh fail to fill in the forms of more than 8,000 people? The forms received by Myanmar were not the ones agreed upon by both countries. What came as a complete surprise to Myanmar is that the Bangladeshi Foreign Minister did not know that the forms were not completed in accord with the bilateral agreement until he met with a Myanmar delegation led by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in mid-April.

We would like to urge Bangladesh to take all necessary steps to help the repatriation process in accordance with the bilateral agreement as we are ready to facilitate the dignified return of the displaced persons from Rakhine.

The displaced people did not produce signed documents stating they were returning of their own free will, and their fingerprints and individual photographs were not included in the documents sent to Myanmar.

This shows that the actions of the Bangladeshi government are not workable for the repatriation process.

We reject the OIC meeting's Dhaka Declaration as it 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 per cent

of the Muslim community, which represents the majority in Maungdaw region, have remained in their villages.

The term genocide should not be used in the case of Myanmar, nor in other countries, without clear evidence.

We should note that the problems in Rakhine State are long-standing, complicated and sensitive. For Myanmar there are many arduous tasks ahead of us, and this may be considered to be just the beginning of a long journey to bring peace and prosperity to Rakhine State.

Our main strength is cooperation. Rehabilitation is a social and political need.

There is motto which goes: Winning the peace is harder than winning the war.

We would like to urge Bangladesh to take all necessary steps to help the repatriation process in accordance with the bilateral agreement as we are ready to facilitate the dignified return of the displaced persons from Rakhine.

At the same time, we hope that the international community will constructively contribute to our efforts to advance the democratization process and promote and protect human rights in line with the country's circumstances and needs. ■

Keeping the Inya Lake in an original state of preservation

By Tin Win Lay
(Kyimyindaing)

THESE days, there is no reason why I was humming softly to myself: a song on a university girl student by Ko Min Naung. The proximity of the Yangon University to the Inya Lake has created a famous location for romance and coming to my mind the first days of student life in the University.

But Yangon Region Hluttaw Representative Daw Khine Mar Htay from Hlaing Constituency No. 2 raised a query about the maintenance of Inya Lake: "Are there any plans of maintaining the original state of preservation for the Inya Lake not only for the Yangonites but for foreign tourists?" Again on 5 May, Mayangon Constituency No.1 Hluttaw Representative U Yan Shin also raised some questions about hundreds of rat holes and leftover foods thrown into the Lake on the east side facing the Myanmar Plaza.

There are two famous lakes in Yangon: the Kandawgyi and the Inya Lakes, with latter roughly five times larger than the former. With long historical backgrounds of the two lakes, only the Inya Lake has created a lot of love stories among the university students due to its proximity to the University Campus.

During the heyday of the University of Yangon, there was a little bit of maintenance of the

lake. Walking on the lanes on the bank, students used to be at a popular rendezvous at the roadside shops where fried fruit and vegetables were available. Now these places have become an area of scenic beauty: shady trees with beautiful red flowers have grown on both sides of the bank for holidaymakers. From dawn till dusk, more and more restaurants and shops have sprouted in recent years to sell food and drinks.

Beautification of the Lake

Yangon Major U Maung Maung Soe responded to the queries that arrangements and plans are being carried out for beautification and upgrading of the lake for the Yangonites as well as for foreign tourists. For beautification purposes, rubbish are being salvaged from the lake daily; silt has been removed with the help of suction pumps; and floodgates are put in places to control the level of the water in the lake. Silt has been salvaged from the inlet pipes of Kokkine and Inya Myaing to raise the level of water up to 47' to 48' by installation of 12 floodgates. For strength and cleanliness of the lake bank on the side of the Pyay Road, big concrete slabs were put in place for the length of 2350 pieces and 2015, silt-sieve pool and 170-foot long embankment of polluted water were also constructed.

Keeping Inya waters clean

In 2017, some experts from



the Irrigation and Water Management Department investigated the strength of the bank on the side of Pyay Road. In order to the waters clean, nearby polluted water, rubbish and dirty water from restaurants have been purified or channeled into the drains beside the Inya Road at the back of the Convocation Hall. On the side of Yangon Sailing Club, the letout of polluted water through the floodgate is released 10 feet above the surface of the water. In the same way, polluted water from the restaurants of Myak-

yuntha side is released in the same manner, keeping the water in the lake purified and clean.

Upon the scenic beauty of the Lake, an officer-in-charge U Zaw Win Htun said: On the Pyay Road, the Inya Lake is connected with townships of Kamayut and Hlaing with the White Bridge in the middle. When asked about hundreds of rat holes, he pointed out at the reckless behavior of holidaymakers; they throw away leftover foods without taking anything into consideration. He continued to point out these animals live on these foods by making holes in the ground. These holes have been filled with sand, broken bricks and mud on a daily basis. The owners of restaurants are strongly urged not to let the polluted water flow into the Lake; systematic collections of rubbish are closely watched; collected rain water should be released through the drains into the White Bridge creek.

Daily cleanliness

Those who walk on the bank for relaxation are reminded to throw the rubbish into the dustbins; 108 trashcans are already put in place on the Pyay Road

side with 111 garbage cans on the side of Kaba Aye Road.

These dustbins are cleaned by a workforce of 60 employees on a daily basis. The bank on the side of Pyay Road is long but beautiful with a park on Inya Road meticulously planned for beautification. Even if there are no fences or barriers near the Lake, the path on the bank is hugely popular for walkers under the shady trees in the morning.

Security for walkers

For the security of those who spend a few hours of relaxation, installation of 34 CCTV are already carried out on the Pyay side and with 39 CCTV on the Kaba Aye side. The idea is to record all events and accidents occurred near the lake and it is as well meant to make the images of the lake better. Park benches were built on the bank by some business companies; some benches are removed to make ways for fun seekers. Arrangements are urgently made not only for Yangonites but for pleasure-seeking foreign tourists as well. The passage ways to the bank and restaurants are meticulously paved under the

shady trees.

Reckless throwing of rubbish

Billboards with notices are erected near the lake to abide by walkers as well as fun seekers. These people are believed to have thrown rubbish recklessly, making a lot of rat holes in the grass on the ground. If foreign tourists happen to find these holes, we may get shy and embarrassed. Eradication of these rodents is being supervised with the help of Animals and Slaughterhouse Department, according to U Zaw Lin Htun. More than three hundred thousand rats were eliminated in 2016 and more than that number in 2017, according to an official.

The Inya Lake is 1800 feet long on the Pyay Road side and can hold 4 trillion gallons of water according to an expert. It would be of great concern to local people if the strength of the bank becomes weakened by rat holes in the grass on the ground. As the lake has been a symbol of historic and natural beauty of Yangon, the maintenance of the Lake should be carried out by active cooperation and participation of people from all walks of life. ■

Closing the gaps in economic statistics for sustainable development

Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week 2018

THE 2018 Asia-Pacific Economic Statistics Week (APES) closed today in Bangkok with a strong focus on strengthening the capability of Member States to produce core economic statistics and improve monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Senior economic statisticians from statistical offices and central banks of countries in the region, as well as international development experts gathered at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Bangkok for the four-day forum to exchange research priorities and best practices, and help close the data gaps for sustainable development.

Economic statistics are specifically required for almost half the current indicators in the global monitoring framework for the SDGs, yet many countries continue to struggle with getting the basics right such as population and economic statistics. Therefore, there is an urgent need to improve data collection in order to present a complete picture of the region's development.

"It is critical that governments invest in national statistical systems to address monitoring needs of the SDGs," said UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Dr. Shamshad Akhtar. "The support that different development partners give to advance statistical capacity development is crucial to promote evidence based policy making for the benefit of the regions' most vulnerable populations."

The forum included a two-day seminar, which covered big data, modern technologies for production of economics statistics, administrative data, System of National Accounts, Islamic finance, natural resources and communication, and the use of statistics. The seminar was held back to back with the fifth meeting of the Steering Group for the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics, where delegates outlined research priorities for the region such as the digital and creative economy.

Participants decided on priority topics for collaboration including the use of big data technologies and national accounts statistics. The forum also provided a platform to expand the knowledge repository of national studies to improve data collection.

APES was established in 2016, within the Regional Programme on Economic Statistics, to provide substantive, consistent support to countries to ensure effective production and dissemination of basic economic statistics, and share national research studies across the region.—ESCAP News ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office



Goods supplied by NGO. **PHOTO: MNA**Sandbagged defensive position with over head cover. **PHOTO: MNA**People forced to install CCTV Camera pointed at Myanmar side. **PHOTO: MNA**

Protest lodged against Bangladesh for construction of fortifications

MYANMAR has summoned the Bangladeshi Ambassador to lodge a formal protest against the construction of fortifications, such as sandbagged with overhead covers and bunkers on the Bangladesh side of the border, in violation of the terms described in the bilateral border agreement.

From Taungbro Village in Bangladesh facing border posts 34 and 35 near Rakhine State, Maungtau Township, Taung Pyo Town to Lower Bashbari Village, the No. 34 BGB battalion had constructed seven fortifications — two sandbagged defensive position with overhead cover, three sandbagged/earth defensive position with overhead cover, one earth bunker and one concrete bunker, which were then manned by BGB troops day and night.

Furthermore, the No. 34 BGB battalion installed four CCTV cameras and 10 security solar lamps on the Bangladesh

side of the border between the two countries on 6 and 7 March, and 9 and 10 March, respectively.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin summoned Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Majurul Karim Khan Chowdhury to demand that Bangladesh remove the installations constructed in violation of the bilateral border agreement, stop supporting the construction of houses and buildings in the no-construction zone on the Myanmar side of the border line, and cooperate in removing displaced persons living there illegally. Myanmar informed him about 368 Rakhine, Mro, Khami and Daingnet peoples thought to be Bangladesh nationals who had entered Myanmar in the past few months.

Their nationalities will be assessed, and they will be sent back to their places of origin in Bangladesh, as per their wishes as soon as possible, he said.

The Union Minister then reiterated the readiness of Myanmar to receive the displaced persons from Rakhine State, according to the bilateral agreement between the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh before the monsoon.

The Union Minister also urged cooperation from the Bangladesh side for the speedy repatriation of some 1,200 Hindus and Muslims in a list provided by Myanmar and 929 persons already assessed by Myanmar from a list provided by Bangladesh.

Furthermore, the Ambassador was told to provide the list of displaced persons who wanted to return through the forms prescribed in the agreed physical arrangement for receiving returnees, resolve the matter of displaced persons and other bilateral matters through bilateral discussion with neighbourly spirit. — Myanmar News Agency ■

A Concrete Bunker seen at Bangladesh side. **PHOTO: MNA**Solar lamps installed between 34 and 35 mile post of Myanmar-Bangladesh border line. **PHOTO: MNA**

UCS Board Chairman attends programme on civil service cooperation with China

UPON the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Governance (CAG), Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman Dr. Win Thein and party attended the China-Myanmar Cooperation on Civil Service Affairs held in Beijing from 7 to 11 May and arrived back in Yangon by air yesterday evening.

The study tour was part of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Central Institute of Civil Service under UCSB and CAG on 15

November 2017.

During the study tour, the Myanmar delegation met with Chinese Academy of Governance Vice President Mr. Chen Li and talked about establishing the academy and matters relating to training of public servants. Next, the Myanmar delegation met with Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Education to discuss and study the education system of People's Republic of China. Afterwards, they went to the Institute of South-South Coopera-

tion and Development (ISSCAD) in Peking University, studied and discussed the Leadership Development Programme, met with the department head of the Chinese Bureau of Civil Service, Department of the Central Committee of the CPC, to discuss and study public servant matters. On 10 May, a discussion was held with Shanghai Province Deputy Mayor Shanghai Institute of Administration Chairman Mr. Peng Chenie about the Shanghai Province public servant manage-

UCSB Chairman Dr. Win Thein meets Chinese officials in China. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment system. On 11 May, the Myanmar delegation went to Yunnan Institute of Administration in Kunming to study and discuss

the training of public servants and conducting public servant affairs matters, it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

SG Min Aung Hlaing receives Indian Minister of External Affairs

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Indian Minister of External Affairs Ms Sushma Swaraj at the Zeya Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed about peace and stability in the border areas of the

two countries, cooperation in bilateral security, anti-drugs and anti-terrorism measures, cooperation between the two armed forces, Indian assistance in the repatriation process and the efforts made by the Tatmadaw for the peace process in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Indian Minister of External Affairs Ms Sushma Swaraj in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

We are responsible for safety for the international aid groups when they go to the armed conflict areas. It is not true that we denied them to go the conflict areas: Kachin State Chief Minister

Interview with authorities in Kachin State regarding armed conflicts

By: Ye Khaung Nyunt

A media delegation led by Chief Editor U Tha Sein of the Myanmar News Agency (External) visited the conflict areas in Kachin State from 9 to 11 May.

During the three-day visit, the delegation visited churches where displaced people, who fled their homes amid armed conflicts, were sheltering and Awng Lawt area, where KIA's brigade-2 was established, and is currently under control by the Tatmadaw.

The journalists interviewed Chief Minister of Kachin State Dr. Khat Aung, Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Col Thura Myo Tin, Kachin State Advocate General U Disinyal, Chairman of Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee U Ge Nas, and officials.

Following is the interview with Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khat Aung.

Q: Is it correct that Kachin State Government denied the offers by international communities to give assistance to Kachin State?

Chief Minister: After co-ordination with the Northern Command, we permitted rescue groups depending on the security situation to go to the areas where the armed conflicts happened between the Tatmadaw and KIA. Some asked permission from the Kachin State Government to go to the areas. There are landmines in the conflict areas. We are responsible for safety for the international



Members of the Kachin State Cabinet meeting with the media delegation in Myitkyina, Kachin State. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

aid groups when they go to the armed conflict areas. It is not true that we denied them to go the conflict areas.

Q: Can you say that there is no people who are trapped amid armed conflicts?

Chief Minister: We can not say that there is no people who are trapped amid armed conflicts. Youths staged protests here recently demanding to rescue people trapped in the conflict areas. We have the same ambition with the youths. So, we asked them to give information on locations where the people are believed to be trapped, who needs health care services, etc. We, the Kachin State Government, will help them, rescue them by ourselves or by co-ordination with the Tatmadaw. Only when we hear the voices of the people, we can help them. We have formed committees to rescue and to aid the displaced people. We are ready to give our help to the people at the state, district and town levels.

Q: There are accusations. People are anxious. Can we say that there are political reason behind that. How is your government planning to return the situation into normalcy?

A: Maybe there are political grounds. The main reason is lack of peace here. We all must work together to achieve peace in Kachin State.

Q: Some said that residents are trapped in armed conflicts areas. I think the General Administration Department have the list of the people trapped in the conflict areas. What is the difference between the number of people who fled their homes and who were trapped in the conflict areas?

A: Some areas are within the reach of our administration, but some are not. For example, Awng Lawt area where the media delegation visited yesterday was not within our administration. First, we got the information that about 160 people were trapped in the Manwae. Of them,

30 have no household document. Kachin State Government have made arrangements to grant household documents to them. You can get the detailed information from the Director of the Immigration and Population Department and Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister.

Q: Is it correct that the Kachin State Government sent the displaced people to their relatives' homes, not to the IDP camps? How about your opinion on the information that IDP camp is not allowed to be established in Tanai?

A: We transported them to their relatives' homes on their own volition. The real situation is that they sheltered at monasteries and churches temporarily due to security concern. Now, IDP camps have been established and the Union Government and the Kachin State Government have provided assistance to them. NGOs and INGOs are also giving assistance to them.

Q: Kachin State Government said it is ready to rescue the people who are trapped once it gets the information. How can you carry out the rescue operation?

Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister: Officials of the Tatmadaw have promised that they will assist in rescuing the people who are trapped in the conflicts and will transport them to safe place. If the people need urgent medical care, the Tatmadaw will move them by helicopter. It depends on the choice of the people. Re-

garding the IDP camps, there are about 100 IDP camps in the government areas and non-government areas. This is not a good sign. We sent the people from Manwei to the relatives' houses on their own volition. They want to return home but they don't due to some pressure on them, I think.

Kachin State Social Affairs Minister: First, we moved the people from Manwei to Karmai. First, we sent the red cross members to the area and they got the list of people who want to stay at their relatives' homes. You can check that list from the U Gae Nas, Chairman of Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee.

U Gae Nas, Chairman of Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee: We sent the list of 28 households to the Kachin State Government. We, red cross members, were also together with the Kachin State Government when they transported the displaced people to the relatives' homes.

Q: Could please tell the messages from the State Counsellor for the current situation here?

Chief Minister: First priority is the prevalence of peace and the second is the rule of law in Kachin state. The Rule of Law includes elimination of drugs. But, we can not work in full swing for the drug elimination here as we still not yet achieve peace. The next step is the social economic development. The whole country is facing the peace problem. If we have strong desire for peace, we can achieve it. Thank You. ■