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President U Win Myint, centre, meets with members of the Union Election Commission at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## President U Win Myint meets UEC

UEC is obliged to supervise political parties as part of efforts for holding free and fair elections

President U Win Myint met the Union Election Commission at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, urging the UEC to hear the voices of political parties as part of the commission's obligation to strictly supervise the parties in order to hold free and fair elections.

In accordance with its duty and responsibilities, the UEC should invite the political parties

and listen to them in order to learn more about their platforms, said the President.

President U Win Myint also called on the UEC to make systematic arrangements for holding the elections so that eligible voters cannot lose their chance to vote.

At the meeting with the UEC, the President also stressed the importance

of voting lists, as it helps the voters to clearly know where they should go to vote.

He also stressed the need to give election-related training courses to state, district, township and ward/village election sub-commissions so that they can digest and understand the election law and its rules.

He urged the election sub-commissions to make

preparations for their role in holding free and fair elections to become reliable and trustworthy commissions for the people, as sovereign power resides in the people in a democracy.

Afterwards, the Chairman of the UEC reported on measures being taken by the commission for compiling voting lists, cooperation with related departments and training

courses being conducted for the sub-commissions and meetings with political parties.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Minister U Min Thu from the Office of the President and members of the UEC including U Aung Myint, U Soe Rei, U Tun Khin, U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing and U Than Htay.—Myanmar News Agency

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Myanmar youngsters gear up for the Football for Friendship Programme in Russia

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## Myanmar, UN agencies initial MoU on assistance for repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) initialed a Memorandum of Understanding in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 May, to assist the government of Myanmar in implementing the "Arrangement on the Return of Displaced

Persons from Rakhine State", an agreement between the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh signed on 23 November 2017.

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Today at this time, we are witnessing the transformation of an era and a system in accordance with democratic principles. This is just the beginning of the democratic transition. To make this transition process smooth and successful, it is very important for our peoples, government employees and civil servants to change their dogmatic mindset and habits. Those government institutions which are lagging behind in the transformation process will need to be put under tight management controls. The country's weak judiciary system would need to be strengthened. More efforts need to be exerted to stamp out corruption. More efforts need to be exerted to prevent human rights violations. More efforts need to be exerted to crack down illegal drug trade. We need to manage public funds properly so that there is no wastage. Measures need to be taken to return confiscated farmland to farmers and to give compensation to farmers for losses they have suffered in accordance with the law. We also need to improve the socio-economic life of farmers, improve the lives of workers and ensure that students gain access to higher education.

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

I would like the people to assist and support the peace efforts of our Union Government. I would especially want the youth to look to the future and join in this effort. I have observed that youth have been participating in these efforts.

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

## Myanmar, UN agencies initial MoU on assistance for repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State

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The ceremony was held at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor and it was attended by Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thein Swe and U Kyaw Tin, UNHCR Representative Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis and UNDP's Deputy Country Director Ms. Dawn Del Rio.

The MoU was initiated by Permanent Secretary of the Min-

istry of Labour, Immigration and Population U Aye Lwin, UNHCR Representative Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis and Deputy Director of the UNDP Ms. Dawn Del Rio in the presence of Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Thein Swe and U Kyaw Tin.

The Government of Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR are expected to sign the MoU soon. — Myanmar News Agency ■



A ceremony to initial MoU on assistance for repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State between Myanmar and UNDP and UNHCR in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 31 May, 2018. **Photo: MNA**

## Meeting of Construction and Infrastructure Task Force held in Sittway, Rakhine State

Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement who is also Vice-Chairman of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) stressed the importance of accountability and responsibility in building infrastructure in Rakhine State.

He made the comment at the Coordination Meeting of Construction and Infrastructure Task Force of UEHRD in Sittway yesterday, urging the task force to construct the buildings meeting standards as they had also gained reasonable profits from the construction works.

"I can understand that the working hours are few because it depends on the weather conditions. In doing so, scrutiny and review are of great importance to carry out the tasks. There are some obstacles in the process of joining UEHRD projects. As for the UEHRD committee, and Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development,



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye addresses the meeting of construction and infrastructure task force in Sittway yesterday. **Photo: MNA**

scrutiny and review are needed to perform the tasks. It is essential to meet the standards and finish the tasks in time."

He said he was much obliged to the businessmen who attended the meeting. There should be accountability and responsibility among them, because they had also gained reasonable profits from

the construction works. With positive attitude, efforts should be made to carry out the tasks successfully, he added.

Then Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu also discussed repatriation process. U Ko Ko, a deputy leader of the CITF openly discussed the UEHRD process and some of the difficulties they had encountered in the construction

process. Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin, and Rakhine State Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan gave comments and advice with a view to coordinating with the relevant government departments and to fulfill their needs in the construction process.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Monsoon moderate to strong over Andaman Sea, South Bay

The monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea and the South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and neighboring areas for today is isolated rain or thunderstorms and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent, whereas for Yangon and the neighboring area it is one or two rain or thundershowers and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent.

Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely off and along Mon-Taninthayi coasts. The surface wind speed during the squalls may reach 35-40 m.p.h. Seas will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar's waters. The wave height will be some seven-nine feet off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts and some four-seven feet in the Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama and off and along Rakhine Coasts.—GNLM ■