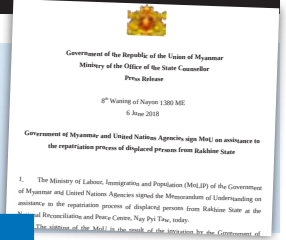


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Government of Myanmar, United Nations agencies sign MoU on assistance to the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State

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VP U Myint Swe attends second Myanmar-EU Economic Forum

Myanmar invites EU investors to buy into prioritised sectors



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 2nd Myanmar-EU Economic Forum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Myint Swe delivered the opening address at the 2nd Myanmar-EU Economic Forum held at the Hotel Kempinski in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the forum were Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Myo and U Aung Htoo, Deputy Governor U Soe Thein of Central Bank of Myanmar, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, EU Ambassador Mr. Kristian Schmidt and EU representatives, representatives from the European Chamber of Commerce (EuroCham), economists, and invited guests.

The Vice President began his speech by expressing gratitude towards EuroCham on behalf of the Union Government for organising the Myanmar-EU Economic Forum. He said he believed the forum will promote trade relations between Myanmar and the EU's economies.

The Vice President said Myanmar's economic and development policies include people-centred inclusive policies and goals such as national reconciliation and peace, developing basic infrastructure, supplying electric power, creating jobs, conserving natural resources, capacity building, and creating

opportunities for youth.

He said they are working towards promoting basic infrastructure, investment, agriculture, the private sector, small and medium enterprises (SMEs), and sustainable development goals. Myanmar's economic policies include an economic framework focused on conserving the country's natural resources and distributing them fairly among the states and regions. The government has also presented a 12-point economic policy which is supported by the investment policy.

According to Asian Development Outlook 2018, Myanmar's

GDP rose from 5.9 per cent in FY 2015-2016 to 6.8 per cent in FY 2016-2017. Experts say the reasons for the growth are increased investments, a rising economic sector, a stronger agricultural sector, increased exports, and better consumer spending. Foreign tourist visits have also increased by 18 per cent in 2017, with roughly 3.4 million visits. Increase in foreign direct investments has likewise raised purchasing power, which contributes to developing the economy. Myanmar's GDP is projected to increase 7 per cent in the coming years.

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MoU on assistance to repatriation process signed

A Memorandum of Understanding on assistance to the repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State was signed by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the United Nations agencies at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe expressed his hope that with the tripartite MoU between the Myanmar government, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the repatriation process would be successful.

The Union Minister also called on UNDP and UNHCR for cooperation with the Myanmar government in accepting and resettling the displaced persons and creating job opportunities for them.

He also recounted that Myanmar and the UN have previously enjoyed successful cooperation concerning the voluntary, safe and dignified return of displaced persons.

In 1993, the Government of Myanmar and the UNHCR signed an MoU to provide

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OPINION

How will climate change impact Myanmar?

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RTAD to crack down on fake driving licenses

By May Thet Hnin

THE Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) announced yesterday that they would allow those holding fake driving licenses and certificates to turn them in before arrests will be made.

An official from the RTAD said that the police force has already arrested 10 people who produced fake driving licenses and certificates.

U Lyan Kyint Man, Director of the Road Transport Administration Department said, "We want to make a request that people are urged to hand in their forged driving licenses and certificates to our departments as soon as possible. If not, traffic police will take action against them when they are found using forged documents."

People are also advised to check their licenses at our of-

fice whether their licenses are genuine or not. To get a driver's license, every driver needs to know traffic rules and etiquette. As for our department, we will carry out our duties rapidly according to the law."

Drivers are able to obtain fake licenses online or pay counterfeiters up to Ks250,000 to obtain forgeries. Counterfeiters have even advertised on Facebook pages using Myanmar, Chinese and English languages to draw attention to their services.

Myanmar Police have attempted to track the counterfeiters through their Facebook accounts, and made inquiries regarding their links.

The RTAD so far has issued 530,000 car licenses; 330,000 motorcycle licenses, and 770,000 driving licenses as of the end of April 2018, according to RTAD data. ■



Fake drivers license. PHOTO: PE ZAW

Free eye surgery given to locals in Kachin State

FREE eye care services were offered to local people at Sitagu Eye Hospital in Myitkyina, Kachin State starting from 3 June. This was 10th times of its kind in Kachin State.

Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung together with chief judge of the Kachin State high court U Tu Jar and party visited the eye patients. Under the aegis of the Sitagu Sayadaw Ashin Nanissara, a six-member Korean eye specialist team led by Mr. Kim Myaung Shin from Seoul Namsan Lions Club provided free eye treatment and

glasses to patients regardless of race and religion.

The free healthcare services were carried out in cooperation with medical staff, social organizations and members of the Red Cross Society. The chief minister also donated Ks. 1 million to the Sitagu Eye Hospital.

The team conducted medical check-ups for 386 eye patients and performed eye surgery for 83 patients from 27 May to 5 June. They also provided the patients with meals, according to Sitagu Board of Administration.—Myanmar Digital News ■



UNDP Representative Mr. Knut Ostby and UNHCR Resident Representative Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis signing the agreement at the MoU signing ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MoU on assistance to repatriation process signed

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a frame of assistance and cooperation in the voluntary repatriation programme from Bangladesh. Some 230,000 displaced persons were repatriated.

After yesterday's opening remarks, the MoU was signed by Mr. Knut Ostby, Resident

Representative of the UNDP in Myanmar, and Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis, Resident Representative of the UNHCR, in the presence of Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe and U Kyaw Tin.

Afterwards, Union ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, U Kyaw Tin and Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo had documen-

tary photos taken.

The signing ceremony was also attended by Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, permanent secretaries of ministries, directors-general, diplomats and officials from the UN agencies.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Key suspect arrested in massive illegal drug haul in Malaysia

POLICE recently arrested a key suspect behind a record-breaking illegal drug haul in Malaysia which was intercepted by authorities last month.

A combined team comprised of an anti-drug squad and the Myanmar police force arrested Maung Maung, alias Yassin, 44, at 10:15 pm on 5th June following a tip-off that the suspect had left Pyin Oo Lwin for Mandalay by car from the Top Light Travel Service.

Three Malaysians and three Myanmar citizens were captured in Malaysia in the initial raid along with 1,187 kilograms of methamphetamine and 750 grams of white heroin.

The drugs were found stashed under food products in a container from Nice Guy Clearance Service Agency.

Investigations on 2 June led to the capture of a suspect and extraction of vital information pointing to Yassin, who had been in hiding since 30 May. Police seized a Toyota Lexus owned by Yassin on 3 June. The car was parked under the Tamwe overpass. The next day, police



Suspect Maung Maung, alias Yassin. PHOTO: SEIKKAN TOWNSHIP IPRD

discovered Yassin and his accomplices had opened bank accounts in two private banks with a combined balance of Ks2.8 billion.

Police have frozen the

assets and investigations are continuing. Authorities said the investigation will quickly lead to the apprehension of additional suspects.—Myanmar News Agency ■