

President pledges to return confiscated farmland to farmers

Farmers should have their farmland returned to them or given proper compensation for land that cannot be returned, President U Win Myint said yesterday in his speech at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The President made the remark in his address to those attending the 6th meeting of the Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands.

Present at the meeting were the committee's chairman, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Dr. Aung Thu, U Khin Maung Cho, U Han Zaw, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairperson Dr. Myo Aung, Chief Ministers from all fourteen states and regions, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, department heads, and other officials.

The President said confiscated land must be swiftly returned to their rightful owners and squatters must be dealt with in accordance with the law. He called on the central committee, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairperson and chief ministers to properly review confiscated land for the good of the nation and the public and follow legal procedures without delay.

(The President's full speech is displayed on page 10 in a separate article)

Next, central committee chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio addressed the attendants, saying that a copy of the central committee's policies and 52 agenda items have been



President U Win Myint delivers speech at the meeting of Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

sent to similar committees in Nay Pyi Taw and states and regions. He said committee chairs should ensure proper reviews are made on the ground and to form subcommittees accordingly.

Afterwards, officials from Confiscated Land Review Groups (1), (2), (3), and (4) explained the field inspections conducted in states and regions and the completed and ongoing processes related to them. They also gave presentations about confiscated farmland returned and compensation given, response to appeals for compensation, and other field procedures.

This was followed by the central committee's joint secretary and the state and region

chief ministers explaining their processes, operations, and progress regarding confiscated land in their administrative areas.

Next, union ministers and the Union Attorney General, who

are all members of the central committee, presented and discussed their respective ministry's available support and the issues they were facing.

The Vice President then re-

plied to the presentations and explanations, gave guidance and instructions where necessary, and then concluded the meeting with a closing speech.—Myanmar News Agency ■

President: Increase the fight against drug abuse

FROM PAGE-1

Authorities conducted drug plantation cleansing operations between 1 October 2016 to 30 April 2017 and have destroyed 97.50 hectares in northern Shan State, 3,023.54 hectares in southern Shan State, 264.34 hectares in eastern Shan State, 28 hectares in Kachin State, 47.20 hectares in Kayah State, 28.03 in Chin State, and

47.13 hectares in Magway Region; a total of 3,535.74 hectares.

Among the attendees at yesterday's ceremony were Vice President U Myint Swe, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung, union ministers, the Union Attorney General, the Nay Pyi Taw Council chairperson, Chief Ministers from States and Regions, deputy ministers, Hlut-

taw MPs, permanent secretaries, ambassadors and military attachés, representatives from UN organisations, NGOs and INGOs, members of the Central Body for the Prevention of the Danger of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and working groups on drugs, humanitarian groups, contest winners, and other officials.—MNA ■

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin receives Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis, UNHCR Resident Representative

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin received Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis, Resident Representative to UNHCR Myanmar, on 26 June 2018 at 14:00 hours at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the forthcoming visit to Myanmar of Mr. Indrik Ratwatte, Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia

and the Pacific of UNHCR, early implementation of the tripartite MoU signed between the Government of Myanmar, UNHCR and UNDP, steps to be taken for coordination and cooperation in repatriation and resettlement of displaced persons, and initiating pilot projects that can contribute to confidence building between the communities in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with UNHCR Resident Representative Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**



Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Italian Ambassador Mr. Pier Giorgio Aliberti in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann separately receives Italian Ambassador, President of NDI

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann separately received outgoing Italian Ambassador Mr. Pier Giorgio Aliberti and National Democratic Institute's (NDI) President Mr. Kenneth Wollack in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting with the Italian Ambassador, they discussed the continued support to Myanmar's democratic tran-

sition and promotion of bilateral relations.

In his meeting with NDI President, Thura U Shwe Mann said the NDI had provided much help in Myanmar's democratic transition and provided constant support to fully realise it. He said everyone should be cautious of the negative effects on Myanmar's democratic transition that can possibly arise from the situation in Rakhine. He said the UN and subsequent organisations

should provide assistance and understand the complex history of Rakhine State and the current situation. He emphasised that cooperation between Myanmar and Bangladesh is the key in solving the issues in Rakhine State.

Present at the meetings were commission members U Kyi Thar, U Nyi Tun, Dr. Daw Thida Oo, and other commission officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

MNHRC calls for providing aid sufficiently to Kachin State IDPs

FOLLOW their trip to IDP camps in Kachin State, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued a statement yesterday, calling on the Union Government to provide aid and assistance for the IDPs and to make appropriate arrangements for access to humanitarian assistance from local and foreign donors.

The team visited a Baptist church, a Roman Catholic church, and an Anglican church in Lang-gwa village of Mogaung Township, IDP camps located at the entrance of Mogaung, and Lawah and Line-naung Roman Catholic IDP camps located in Karmine township on 21 June and Jaw-ma-sup, Tan-phe-reh and Trinity IDP camps located in Myitkyina Township, and Winemaw zone IDP camp located in Wine-maw Township on 22 June.

The statement said the displaced villagers fled into the forest because they feared being hit by bombs that fell near their villages and because of a fear of clashes with armed organisations near their villages.

"Along the route of escape, they faced difficulties from a shortage of food and potable water; a shortage of medicines for sickness and diarrhea and not having enough shelters. Moreover, elderly persons and children were unable to walk due to malnutrition and had to be carried. Some pregnant women had to give birth in the forest and some newborn babies and

elderly persons died due to severe weather conditions," said the statement.

The statement quoted the villagers as saying that during the time they were hiding in the forest, there was a shortage of food, and villagers who went back to their villages to fetch food found out that their houses were destroyed.

In most of the IDP camps inspected by the Commission's team, villagers have been facing the difficulties including inadequate tents, lack of potable water, unclean water for bathing, risk of fire from improper kitchens, inadequate toilets, and difficulties for education of their children.

The MNHRC also called on Hluttaw Representatives, responsible persons from the government and responsible military officials responsible for the security of the region to visit such villages and establish security, building of trust and confidence, hillside cultivation and an environment in which citizens can live and move freely within the region, which can happen only if the skirmishes stop. As the citizens living in the villages, including elderly people, children, pregnant women and the disabled, are faced with the above-mentioned manifold problems, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission would like to urge for the early realisation of the Union Peace Process, which the State is currently implementing.—MNA ■

Drugs destroyed in Yangon on Int'l Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

A LARGE amount of confiscated illegal drugs were burned yesterday in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon as part of a ceremony in observance of the 31st International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Present at the ceremony were Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Chief Justice of the Yangon Region High Court U Win Swe, Regional Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Chairperson of the Yangon Region Body for Preventing the Danger of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Regional Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Aung Soe Moe, ministers of region

government and official concerned, invited guests and students, and reporters from home

and abroad.

At the ceremony, Police Brig-Gen Win Naing said the drugs being destroyed were confiscated by police from Yangon, Taninthayi, Bago, Ayeyawady, Rakhine, Mon, and Kayin, by the No. (1) Border Security Force, and by the highway police force. Approval from the courts had been obtained before the destruction of the drugs, officials said.

Brig-Gen Win Naing said there were 25 types of drugs destroyed, worth a total of about Ks89,584.5122 million (approx. US\$66.36 million). He said that destroying the drugs was part of the national duty.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Seized drugs are being incinerated in Hlinethaya Township in Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/ PHOE KHWAH**