

# US Embassy celebrates Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw

THE Embassy of the United States in Myanmar celebrated the 242<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the Independence Day of the United States of America at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and wife, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and wife, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and wife, and deputy ministers U Khin Maung Tin and U Aung Hla Tun and Hluttaw representatives, officials from the respective ministries and foreign embassies in Myanmar and other invited guests attended the ceremony.

The ceremony began with



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin extends greetings at the reception to mark the 242<sup>nd</sup> anniversary Independence Day of US in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

the playing, the national anthems of the United States and Myanmar.

Later, Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and U.S. Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Marciel

delivered the opening speeches.

The union ministers, deputy ministers, the US Ambassador to

Myanmar, officials and other invited guests then had dinner together. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Merchants appraise a jade stone at the 55<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Sales continue to rise at 55<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium

THE 55<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium entered its ninth day yesterday in the compound of Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, and the daily sales percentages continued to rise, officials said.

“From the start to 28 June, between 80 per cent and 90 per cent were sold. Although the prices were cool in the Mandalay gems market, prices in Nay Pyi Taw were doing fine. This is because more internation-

al gem merchants visited the emporium. If the qualities of the gems are good, it will fetch better prices”, said U Than Zaw Oo from the Myanma Gems Enterprise.

The ten-day Myanmar Gems Emporium began on 20 June and will end today.

This year’s event included changes that have resulted in continued, day-to-day sales growth, officials said.

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## Rakhine State Chief Minister receives ICRC President

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and the members of the State Cabinet received International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) President Mr. Peter Maurer and party at his office in Sittway yesterday.

At the meeting, matters related to ICRC and the Myanmar Red Cross Society co-operating to conduct the Red Cross Movement programme to fulfil regional requirements after the violent incidents in the Maungdaw region, the status of ICRC president meeting local communities in Rakhine State to increase assistance, security forces assisting in ICRC works, the union government and the state government conducting the process of receiving returnees, the assessment and resettlement of returnees under the UEHRD programmes, and the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission inspecting jails and detention centres and conducting the necessary works to fulfil the requirements were discussed.

During his Rakhine State trip, the ICRC president met communities requiring humanitarian assistance and provided the necessary assistances. In addition to this, he met government representatives and discussed matters related to providing humanitarian assistance.



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu welcomes ICRC President Mr. Peter Maurer in Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

“I’m sorry to hear about what the people went through. After the terrorist incidents that caused the displacement of the people, emergency supports are still required,” said Mr. Peter Maurer.

“All need to understand the terrible consequence of the terrorist act on the socio-economic situation of the people. In a village such as Nga Khu Ya where I went, only a quarter of the people remain. The markets were no longer supporting the economy anymore. The general security situation is still difficult. People are no longer going to the

farms and the markets. They no longer can stand the situation and are depending upon assistance and aid,” added the ICRC president.

During his trip to Rakhine State, the ICRC president visited the mobile Red Cross clinic in Buthidaung Township and the food distribution centre in Maungdaw Township. The ICRC president also met Rakhine ethnic nationals, Hindu, Muslim and community elders.

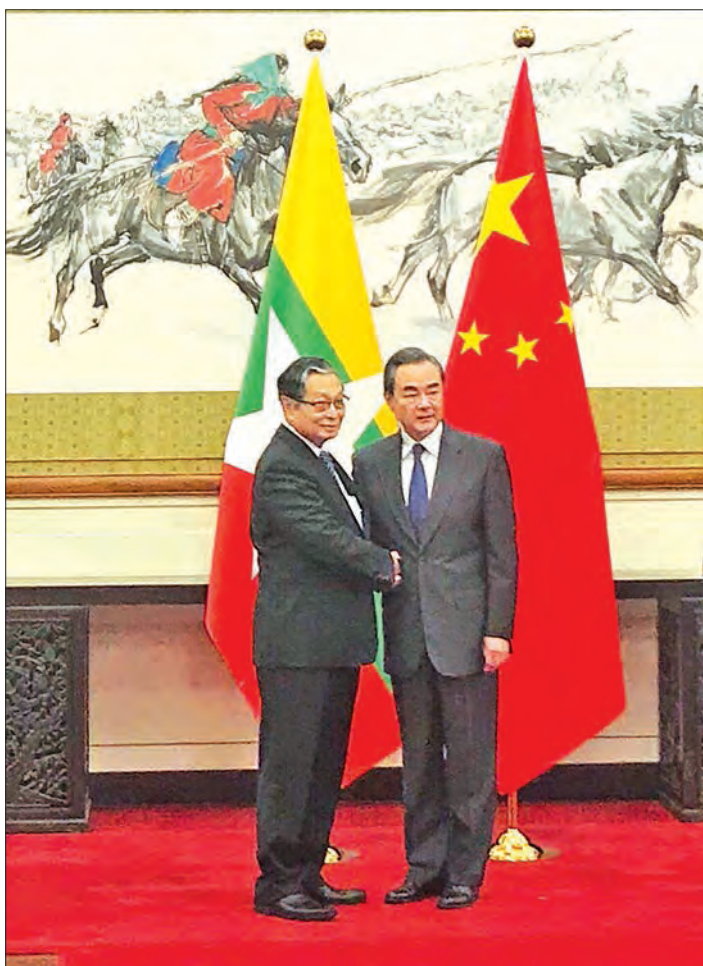
Mr. Peter Maurer and party then left Sittway for Yangon by air at 1.40 p.m.—Tin Tun (IPRD)/Aung Thuya (MNA) ■

## Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor pays working visit to China

At the invitation of State Councilor and Foreign Minister of People's Mr Wang Yi, Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe arrived Beijing on 28 June, 2018 for a working visit.

That evening, Myanmar delegation and the delegation of the People's Republic of China discussed issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations and cooperation in the international arena.

The State Councilor and Foreign Minister of PRC hosted a dinner in honour of visiting Myanmar delegation.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with State Councilor and Foreign Minister Mr Wang Yi in Beijing yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Sales continue to rise at 55<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium

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“There is a slight change in the way jade was sold this year in comparison to past years. In the past, good quality jade was all shown together, and as a result the sales volume was high during the sale of quality jade. This year, good quality jade was spread out, and it was available throughout the entire sales period. This seems to be a better method,” said U Than Zaw Oo.

As the 55<sup>th</sup> Myanmar Gems Emporium was conducted during the monsoon period, there were some difficulties due to weather situation. But despite the weather challenges, large numbers of merchants were seen bidding freely and submitting their tenders.

“Display is better in this emporium compared to the previous one. However, some rain water

entered the area displaying gem lots. There should be a better drainage system”, said local gem merchant U Thein Naing Win.

Even before the end of the emporium, officials have already declared this year's event a success. “There were more gem merchants visiting the emporium when compared to last year. Sales targets were reached. It can be deemed successful”, said Myanmar Gems & Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association Vice Chairman U Hla Soe Oo. “Reviews were conducted at the end of each day and these reviews will improve future emporiums. Efforts were being put in toward improving the work processes. We are striving toward improving the gem sales systematically. We will also ensure that the mining method of jades to be non-damaging to the environment”.—Min Min Zaw (MNA) ■

## Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary stresses importance of impartiality and objectivity of Special Rapporteur in discharging her duties at the Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar during the 38<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council (Geneva, 27 June 2018)

An Interactive Dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar was made on 27 June 2018 during the 38<sup>th</sup> session of the Human Rights Council which was being held at the United Nations Office in Geneva from 18 June to 6 July 2018.

During the dialogue, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar presented her oral update on the situation of human rights in Myanmar to the Human Rights Council.

In response to the Special Rapporteur's remarks, U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar, made a rebuttal Statement as a concerned country. In his statement, the Permanent Secretary said that just two years ago, the present government came to the office with the overwhelming support of the people to push forward its long struggle for peace and stability, democracy and development. Myanmar Government would never tolerate any violation of human rights. Myanmar appreciates cooperation from all friends who understand the issues objectively, and render their support.

He also pointed out that the situation in Rakhine State is a complex challenge of enormous dimensions in-

volving issues including, but not limited to, sovereignty, territorial integrity, terrorism, rule of law, human rights and illegal migration. Unless the security challenges are promptly addressed, the risk of renewed inter-communal violence will remain. The security situation in northern Rakhine deteriorated sharply following the attacks on police outposts in Maungdaw Township by the terrorist group called ARSA. He expressed the deep concern of Myanmar over the suffering of all the people who have been caught up in the conflict. He underlined that those who had to flee their homes are many- not just Muslims and Rakhines, but also small minority groups, such as the Daing-net, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus. He regretted the fact that their plight had been totally and conveniently overlooked by the international community and that some had gone even further to glorify or advocate the terrorist group. He pointed out that the Special Rapporteur conveniently failed to mention the heinous terrorist attacks and the brutal massacre of 99 Hindus committed by ARSA in her statement and the fact showed clearly bias and imbalance of the Special Rapporteur's assessment. At the same time, he stressed that the Government of Myanmar would not

condone any human rights violations, and would take action against perpetrators in accordance with the law where allegations were supported by sufficient evidence. He also mentioned that the Government has recently made the announcement of its decision to establish an Independent Commission of Enquiry with international and national personalities as part of its national initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine.

Then, he added that with the arrival of the monsoon season, there is an urgent need to provide humanitarian assistance to all and to expedite the repatriation process agreed by Myanmar and Bangladesh in November 2017, and that Myanmar is doing its utmost to repatriate the displaced persons expeditiously. He expressed that with the recent signing of the MoU between the Government of Myanmar, UNDP and UNHCR, things will now move expeditiously and the UN agencies will take part in various stages of return and resettlement as well as sustainable socio-economic development in Rakhine. He also reiterated Myanmar's position regarding the Special Rapporteur that although Myanmar had a good track record of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur over the past two decades

and remains committed to continue to work together with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, the people of Myanmar considered that it would no longer be productive to continue to extend cooperation with the current Special Rapporteur because of her lack of objectivity and non-compliance with the code of conduct. He recalled that Myanmar had requested the Council for the replacement of her, expressing his regret that Myanmar's request was fallen to deaf ears. He said that as the cooperation with the United Nations is a cornerstone of Myanmar's Foreign Policy, Myanmar would continue to extend cooperation with the relevant UN mechanisms. He further highlighted that Myanmar facilitated the first visit of the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General from 12 to 21 June 2018, allowing her to visit all places of her request including a tour of Rakhine State, Myanmar also agreed to open Special Envoy's office in Nay Pyi Taw and invited her to take part in the forthcoming Union Peace Conference.

He then concluded by stressing that in its efforts to achieve national reconciliation and peace, democracy and development, Myanmar was happy to engage constructively with the United Nations as well as the international community.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## ICT Modern Classroom opens in Agricultural Institute in Pyinmana

INFORMATION and Communication technologies (ICT) taught as part of agricultural science will improve the farming sector as well as national development, Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, said yesterday.

The Union Minister made the remark in his address at the opening ceremony of the ICT Modern Classroom held in State Agricultural Institute (SAI), Pyinmana yesterday morning.

The ministry, Inservice Training and SAI Division have opened SAIs in states and regions that provide both theory and practical training in agriculture that will produce mid-level agriculturists annually, officials said.

A total of 19,271 agriculture diplomas and 19,688 livestock breeding diplomas have so far been awarded and 6,290 students are undergoing training in the 2017-2018 academic year, it is learnt.

“On the part of the teach-



Representative from NICHE presents the detail of the ICT Modern Classroom in Agricultural Institute in Pyinmana yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ers, they are not to lose sight of technology developments and new methods and should train their students so that they become entrepreneurs who are

experts in agriculture”, said the Union Minister.

After the opening ceremony, the Union Minister, Nay Pyi Taw Council members,

Inservice Training and SAI Division director and the representative of the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education

(NICHE) cut a ceremonial ribbon to open the ICT Modern Classroom which is being conducted with the support of NICHE in SAI, Pyinmana.

NICHE is a Netherlands-funded development cooperation programme. By sustainably strengthening higher education and technical and vocational education and training capacity in partner countries, it contributes to economic development and poverty reduction.

For the development of the agricultural sector, training of mid-level agriculturists are being conducted with partner organisations.

The Department of Agriculture, Inservice Training and SAI Divisions are conducting a four-year project with NICHE to improve vocational education and training for food security. The programme began on 21 November 2016 and will continue until 20 November 2020, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Local, foreign media visit Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre

A media group comprised of journalists from home and abroad travelled from Sittway to Indin Village in Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State, yesterday.

The journalists interviewed villagers about the terrorist attacks that occurred in the village and the situation of

the village before the attacks.

The journalists then met Maungdaw District Deputy Administrator U Ye Htoo and other officials at the General Administration Department and gathered news on the repatriation of returnees, the verification process, resettlement, regional safety and

development.

At noon, the journalists arrived in Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre and gathered news on the reception process and the centre's construction.

They then interviewed members of the Islamic community who returned from Bangladesh.—Thura Zaw ■



Journalists interview members of the Islamic community at Nga Khu Ya Reception Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets with South Korean Ambassador Mr. Lee Sang-hwa yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Dr. Win Myat Aye receives ROK, Bangladesh ambassadors separately

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea (ROK) to Myanmar Mr. Lee Sang-hwa at the ministry yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed the ROK cooperating with ASEAN in disaster management works, the visit of the United Nations Secretary General's special representative to Myanmar, the MoU signed between the Myanmar government, UNHCR and UNDP, ROK investing in the agriculture and garment manufacturing sectors of the UEHRD project in some selected townships, as

well as ROK cooperating for Rakhine State's stability, peace and development.

Later, the union minister received Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury and matters related to UNHCR collecting biometric data of displaced persons from Myanmar in Bangladesh, difficulties faced in filling forms to return, unclear matters on arrangements made by Myanmar in resettling the returnees, sending and disseminating information from Myanmar side to Bangladesh on resettling and receiving returnees were discussed.—MNA ■