

# Information Sheet

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# Information Sheet

## Auspicious Ceremonies to Build Vijayabhumi Nimmana Land of Victory in conjunction with Launching of Saddadhipati Bell in Precinct of the Buddha Image Held



Auspicious ceremonies to establish Vijayabhumi Nimmana Land of Victory and to inaugurate Saddadhipati Bell in front of the Maravijaya Buddha image in the precinct of Maravijaya Buddha Park in Dekkhinathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area were held on 23 July. The Chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC) Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the leading donor of the Buddha image, attended the ceremonies.

Also present at the ceremonies together with the leading donor SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing were Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, wife of the SAC Chairman, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, SAC

secretary and wife, SAC joint-secretary and wife, members of the SAC and wives, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and wife, union ministers and wives, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and wife, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief and wives, Commander of the Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials.

At the ceremony to establish Vijayabhumi Nimmana Land of Victory, the leading donor SAC Chairman Prime Minister placed pieces of jewellery on the land of victory. At the auspicious time, the Senior General enshrined soil conveyed from lands of victory at seven holy places in Bodh Gaya in Majjhima Desa (India) and at 35 eminent pagodas across the country, at the Vi-





jayabhumi Nimmana land of victory. Next, he sprinkled scented Paritta water on the land of victory.

At the ceremony to inaugurate the Saddadhipati Bell, the leading donor SAC Chairman Prime Minister and wife inaugurated the noble Saddadhipati Bell by hitting it nine times and sprinkling scented water on it. Then, the SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister and wife hit the bell.

With the aims of showing the flourishing of Theravada Buddha Sasana in My-

anmar to the world, shaping Myanmar as a focal point of Theravada Buddhism, ensuring the prosperity of the State, and ensuring peace and prosperity of the world, the Saddadhipati Bell weighing 738 visses of bronze with five feet high, 4 feet and one inch wide of the bell mouth was donated by the leading donor SAC Chairman Prime Minister and wife, their sons and daughters and grandchildren.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (24-7-2023)

- **At the ceremony to establish Vijayabhumi Nimmana Land of Victory, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister placed pieces of jewellery on the land of victory, and enshrined soil conveyed from lands of victory at seven holy places in Bodh Gaya in Majjhima Desa (India) and at 35 eminent pagodas across the country, at the land of victory.**
- **With the aims of showing the flourishing of Theravada Buddha Sasana in Myanmar to the world, shaping Myanmar as a focal point of Theravada Buddhism, ensuring the prosperity of the State, and ensuring peace and prosperity of the world, the Saddadhipati Bell weighing 738 visses of bronze with five feet high, 4 feet and one inch wide of the bell mouth was donated by the leading donor SAC Chairman Prime Minister and wife, their sons and daughters and grandchildren.**



**Holding Auspicious Ceremonies to Build Vijayabhumi Nimmana Land of Victory in conjunction with Launching of Saddadhipati Bell in Precinct of the Buddha Image**



## Clarification on Progress of Maravijaya Buddha Image which would be World's Highest Sitting Marble Buddha Image Held



A ceremony to explain the progress of building the Maravijaya Buddha Image for public obeisance, which will become the World's Highest Sitting Marble Buddha Image, in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory, was held at the temporary briefing hall on the precinct of the Maravijaya Buddha Image on 23 July.

Present were the leading donor Chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC) Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Maung Maung Aye, union ministers, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander and officials, donors who are Sasana Nuggaha title recipients, donors from companies and honoured guests.

First, the leading donor the SAC Chairman Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing explained the following

points:

- The systematic stage by stage excavation of huge boulders;
- The conveyance of the parts of the Image and the Throne in different phases by waterway and road amidst many difficulties, and the world's heaviest conveyance in waterway and road transport records;
- The systematic calculations for the durability of the Maravijaya Buddha Image;
- The part-by-part connection of the Throne, construction of fountain square and circular fountains;
- The carving of the parts of the Image with the use of CNC machine;
- The construction of Maravijaya Temple and Mucalinda Lake and planting of kyee trees;
- The part-by-part connection of the parts





of the Image;

- The construction of stone plaque chamber accommodating marble stone slabs on which Pitaka treatises are inscribed in Pali and Romanized Languages with the use of modern machinery for pilgrims to study them;
- The success in connecting parts 1,2 and 3 of the Image and lifting up them by the concerted efforts of the Myanmar Engineering Council and the Military Engineers using advanced machinery;
- Gala ceremonies to enshrine sacred objects in the reliquaries on the Yadana Throne;
- The construction of Sasana Beikman Agga Dipati Withongama ordination hall accommodating 900 members of the Sangha and 1,200 laypersons with the holding of grand religious ceremonies;
- Installation of Uññalun holy hair on the face of the Buddha image, and the construction of the pagoda platform and

gandhakuti chambers;

- The systematic calculation with the use of modern technologies in providing the Image with wind-resistance, earthquake-resistance, natural disaster-resistance for its durability; and
- Explanations on the progress records of water fountain square and stone plaque chambers through video clip recorded by drone, and on portrayal of the Image and the Park construction project after its completion through video clip.

Afterward, those present at the ceremony generously donated cash to the fund for building the Buddha Image and the park. Therefore, the Senior General and officials accepted the cash donations. Then, the SAC Chairman Prime Minister spoke words of thanks for collective contributions.

At the ceremony, 377 well-wishers donated K17.415 billion for construction of the Buddha image and the Buddha park.

Later, the attendees viewed round scale





models of Maravijaya Buddha image and Buddha park, printed books on Pitaka treatises in Pali and Romanized languages and inserting an application of treatises into tablets where the SAC Chairman Prime Minister conducted round them. The attendees al-

so paid homage to the Maravijaya Buddha Image and viewed round the Buddha Park.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (24-7-2023)

- The leading donor SAC Chairman Prime Minister explained the progress of building the Maravijaya Buddha Image, which will become the World's Highest Sitting Marble Buddha Image, and accepted the cash donations donated by the generous donors.
- 377 well-wishers donated K17.415 billion for construction of the Buddha image and the Buddha park.

**SAC Chairman Prime Minister Accepting Cash to Fund for Building the “Maravijaya” Buddha Image and the Park Donated by Attendees at the Ceremony**





**SAC Chairman Prime Minister Making Explanations on the Completion of Building the “Maravijaya” Buddha Image and the Park to the Attendees**





**SAC Chairman Prime Minister Making Explanations on the Completion of Building the “Maravijaya” Buddha Image and the Park to the Attendees**



## Work Coordination Meeting on Holding the Consecration of the Maravijaya Buddha Image, Hoisting Umbrellas atop Small Pagodas on Stone Plaque Chambers and Sharing Merits Held



A Work Coordination Meeting on Ceremonies to Hold Consecration of the Maravijaya Buddha Image, which will become the highest sitting marble Buddha Image in the world, on the fullmoon day of second Waso (Dhammacakka Day) 1385 ME, 1 August 2023, Hoist Umbrellas atop Small Pagodas on Stone Plaque Chambers, and Share Merits, was held at the temporary briefing hall on the precinct of the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 July. The meeting was attended by the Vice-Chairman of the State Administration Council (SAC) Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General Soe Win who delivered a speech.

Also present at the meeting were Advisor to the SAC Chairman Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, Union Minister for Construction, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, directors-general and officials.

During the meeting, SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister said as follows:

- Officials and well-wishers made utmost efforts to overcome all severe challenges including the terrible impacts of COVID-19 from the time of driving stakes for the bejeweled throne of the Buddha image to the consecration till the fullmoon day of second Waso (Dhammacakka Day) 1385 ME, 1 August 2023 during the 1,143 days. As a result, the consecration of the Maravijaya Buddha image, the world's heaviest weight and tallest marble sitting Buddha image, built on Thebyu Hillock in Dekkhinathiri Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, will be held on 1 August 2023 (the second full moon day of Waso). Buddhists across the world, intellectuals, intelligentsia and researchers who want to observe and study the technology of building the Maravijaya Buddha Image, and



Myanmar people will have the chance to pay homage to the Buddha image.

- As such, the donors who made generous donation before holding the consecration and merits sharing ceremony for the Buddha image and religious edifices of the park will be founders for the Buddha image and the Buddha park.
- Out of the well-wishers who generously donated four kinds of religious objects in Buddha Sasana and who were conferred Sasana Nuggaha titles, the Head of State will hold the third clarifications on the emergence of the Buddha image, the stone plaque chambers and religious edifices in the Buddha park to those who were not involved in the lists of attending the first and second clarifications, and such clarification will be held on 23 July 2023 (Sunday).
- The SAC formed the leading committee and nine subcommittees on 18 July 2023 to successfully hold state-level auspicious ceremonies, to consecrate the Maravijaya Buddha Image, which was carved into the Bhumiphasa style of the Yadanabon Era (the image and the plinth are 63 feet and 18 feet high respectively, totalling 81 feet while the image and the plinth weigh 1,782 tons and 3,510 tons respectively, totalling 5,292 tons), to hoist umbrellas atop stupas for stone inscriptions built with the noble aim of establishing a world's Buddhism library and to share merits for religious edifices constructed in the Buddha Park.

- As the date for ceremonies has drawn near, the respective sub-committees are required to make preparations, carry out remaining tasks, coordinate assistance from the central committee and rehearse arrangements concertedly round the clock.
- Respective sub-committees are also required to make detailed arrangements to enable members of the Sangha and guests including Venerable Sayadaws from other countries, local senior Sayadaws, union-level officials, union ministers, officials from respective ministries and well-wishers, and to share merits in peace of mind from the beginning to the end of the ceremonies, and to meditate on their donations in elation.
- After holding ceremonies to consecrate the Buddha image, hoist umbrellas atop stupas for stone inscriptions and share merits, the pilgrims who has undergone security checks will be allowed to pay obeisance to the Buddha image free of charge until 16 August 2023 to mark the success of the auspicious ceremonies.

Later, the officials from the respective sub-committees made detailed reports on the completion of tasks and measure to be taken for the successfully holding the ceremonies. Then, the SAC Vice-Chairman Deputy Prime Minister coordinated the requirements presented by the officials.



- The donors who made generous donations before holding the consecration and merits sharing ceremony for the Buddha image and religious edifices of the park will be founders for the Buddha image and the Buddha park.
- As the date for ceremonies has drawn near, the respective sub-committees are required to make preparations, carry out remaining tasks, coordinate assistance from the central committee and rehearse arrangements concertedly round the clock.
- After holding ceremonies to consecrate the Buddha image, hoist umbrellas atop stupas for stone inscriptions and share merits, the pilgrims who has undergone security checks will be allowed to pay obeisance to the Buddha image free of charge until 16 August 2023 to mark the success of the auspicious ceremonies.

### **Press Conference Held on Building of Maravijaya Buddha Image which would be the Highest Carved Sitting Marble Buddha Image throughout the World**

A Press Conference on the Building of Maravijaya Buddha Image which would be the Highest Carved Sitting Marble Buddha Image throughout the World was held at the temporary briefing hall on the precinct of the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 July. The Leader of the Information Team of the State Administration Council (SAC) Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun explained at the press conference and replied to queries raised by reporters from news agencies.

At the press conference, the Leader of the SAC Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun clarified the following points:

- The building of “Maravijaya” Buddha

Image with the four aims of showing the flourishing of Theravada Buddha Sasana to the world, shaping Myanmar as a focal point of Theravada Buddhism, ensuring the prosperity of the State, and ensuring peace and prosperity of the world;

- The facts of the building of the Buddha Image as well as the religious edifices and stone plaque chambers constructed in the Buddha park;
- The arrival of massive marble rocks to be carved as the Buddha Image and systematic calculation from engineering point of view in details;



- The systematic calculation on the conveyance of the marble rocks to Nay Pyi Taw by waterway and road;
- Advice sought from venerable members of the Sangha from the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee for carving the Buddha Image, placing the Image for public obeisance and construction of religious buildings after the massive marble rocks to be carved as the Buddha Image had been arrived at Nay Pyi Taw, and preparation for construction tasks;
- The carving of Buddha Image in four parts with the use of CNC technology and the completion of all carving processes on 31 March 2022;
- The successful completion in connecting the parts of the Buddha Image and building 720 stone plaque chambers;
- The conveyance of Buddha Image onto the Yadana Throne after connecting the parts of Image, and the gala ceremonies to enshrine religious objects and jewellery items donated by well-wishers across the nation into the central parts of the bejewelled throne which were held;
- Installation of Uññalun holy hair on the face of the Buddha Image in line with the treatises of Tri Pitakat;
- Progress records of the construction of Sasana Beikman and the systematic calculations for the durability of the Buddha Image;
- Progress records of the carving of the Image and bejewelled Throne;
- Detailed explanation on the portrayal of the Maravijaya Buddha Image and Park after its completion through Powerpoint Presentations and Video Records with special effects;
- Plans to hold the ceremonies to consecrate the Maravijaya Buddha Image, hoist umbrellas atop small pagodas on stone plaque chambers, and share merits on 1 August 2023 on a grand scale;
- More than 70 members of the Sangha from nine countries who will consecrate the Buddha Image; and
- The live broadcasts by State-owned media channels for holding the gala ceremony for public obeisance.

Then, the Leader of the SAC Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun replied to queries raised by the reporters from news agencies, and the press conference



Cash for building the Maravijaya Buddha Image and the Park donated by media agencies in progress

was successfully over. Media personnel at the press conference donated cash to the fund for construction of the Buddha Image and the Park to Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun.

The press conference was attended by the officials from the Ministry of Information, senior military officers, officials concerned, invitees and local and international reporters and journalists from news agencies and daily newspapers, and photographers from Myanmar Photographers Association.

conducted attendees round the Maravijaya Buddha Image and the Maravijaya Buddha Park, it is reported.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (22-7-2023)

After the press conference, the officials

- A press conference on the building of Maravijaya Buddha Image which would be the highest carved sitting marble Buddha Image throughout the world was held at the temporary briefing hall on the precinct of the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 July, which was attended by the Leader of the SAC Information Team Maj-Gen Zaw Min Tun who replied to queries raised by reporters from news agencies.



**Reporters and Journalists from Media Agencies Paying Homage to “Maravijaya” Buddha Image and Viewing round the Buddha Park**



## The First Birthday of Yadana White Elephant Rattha Nandaka Celebrated



The first birthday of the Yadana white elephant Rattha Nandaka (that means “our beloved white elephant that will bring prosperity and happiness to the nation”) was celebrated at Yadana White Elephant Hall in the compound of the Uppatasandi Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 July.

The birthday ceremony was attended by Chairman of State Administration Council Prime Minister Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Vice Chairman of SAC Deputy Prime Minister Vice-Senior General and wife, the Secretary of SAC and wife, the Joint Secretary of SAC and wife, members of SAC and wives, the Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) and wife, union level dignitaries, union ministers and wives, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, senior military officers and wives, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and officials.

The Senior General and wife and the Vice - Senior General and wife sprinkled

scented water on the white elephant. Then, the Senior General and wife presented a one-year birthday present for the white elephant through an official.

The master of the ceremony prayed and sent message for the birthday of Rattha Nandaka. To mark the first birthday of the white elephant, 10 white doves were released and given sanctuary.

After the ceremony, the Senior General and wife marked the successful completion of the ceremony with a religious performance and treated white elephants and others at Yadana White Elephant Hall with food and nourishment together with the attendees.

The Yadana white elephant named Rattha Nandaka (that means our beloved white elephant that will bring prosperity and happiness to the nation) was born to Zar Nan Hla of the compound of Myanmar Timber Enterprise in Taungup Township of





SAC Chairman Prime Minister and wife feeding precious white elephants and their companion elephants in the white elephant shed



Rakhine State at 6:30 am on July 23, 2022. At birth, the white elephant was 2 feet and 5 inches in height, 3 feet and 1 inch in width and about 180 pounds in weight. Of the eight unique features, the white elephant consists of pearl-coloured eyes, plantain branchshaped back, white hair, a distinctive tail, auspicious plot signs of the skin, pinky skin, each limb having five claws and big ears. It arrived at Nay Pyi Taw on October 27, 2022 along with its mother elephant.

Now, in its one-year old age, the white elephant is 3 feet and 10 inches in height and 670 pounds in weight. He lives healthily and happily at Yadana White Elephant Hall in the compound of the Uppatasandi Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, it is reported.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (24-7-2023)

- **The first birthday of the Yadana white elephant Rattha Nandaka was celebrated at Yadana White Hall.**
- **The Senior General and wife presented a one-year birthday present for the white elephant through an official.**
- **Of the eight unique features, the white elephant consists of seven unique features. Now, in its one-year old age, the white elephant is 3 feet and 10 inches in height and 670 pounds in weight. He lives healthily and happily at Yadana White Elephant Hall.**

## Celebration of First Birthday of Yadana White Elephant “Rattha Nandaka”





**Celebration of First Birthday of Yadana White Elephant “Rattha Nandaka”**



## **Monks, Laypersons Honoured with Titles and Medals for Contributions to Building Maravijaya Buddha Image**

The Chairman of the State Administration Council conferred honorary titles on the monks and laypersons for contributions to building the Maravijaya Buddha Image in Dakkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area as well as for their outstanding performances in the tasks of security, law enforcement and development of the State contributing to building efforts of the developed and modern Nation on 23 July 2023.

In this regard, the Chairman of the State Administration Council has conferred the title of Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara on the person, title of Thray Sithu on nine persons, the title of Sithu upon four persons, Thura title on two persons, title of Thiri Pyanchi upon 23 persons, the title of Wunna Kyaw Htin on two persons, the title of Theikpa Kyawswa on four persons, Hero Records medals to two persons, Yethura medal on nine persons, Ye Bala medal on 36 persons, medals of Excellent Performance in Administrative Field (First Class) to 14 persons, medals of Excellent Performance in Administrative Field (Second Class) to 28 persons, medals of Excellent Performance in Administrative Field (Third Class) to 34 persons, medals of Excellent Perfor-

mance in Social Field (First Class) to three persons, medals of Excellent Performance in Social Field (Second Class) to six persons, medals of Excellent Performance in Social Field (Third Class) to four persons, medal of Excellent Performance in Industrial Economy Field (Third Class) to one person, medal of Excellent Performance in Arts (Second Class) to one person, medals of Excellent Performance in Technology (First Class) to five persons, medals of Excellent Performance in Technology (Second Class) to 10 persons, and medals of Excellent Performance in Technology (Third Class) to 33 persons, totaling 231 persons, it is reported.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (24-7-2023)

- **The Chairman of the State Administration Council conferred honorary titles and medals on a total of 231 Sayardaws and persons for contributions to building the Maravijaya Buddha Image as well as for their outstanding performances in the tasks of security, law enforcement and development of the State contributing to building efforts of the developed and modern Nation.**



## Central Bank of Myanmar Will Issue a New Type of “twenty-thousand-kyat” Banknotes Starting from 31 July

**Obverse Side**



**Reverse Side**



The Central Bank of Myanmar will issue a new type of “twenty-thousand-kyat” banknote starting from 31 July 2023, and in commemoration of the completion of the Maravijaya Buddha Image, which was built to show the brightness of the Theravada Buddhism firmly shining in Myanmar, for Myanmar to be a focal point of Theravada Buddhism and to bring peace to the country and the world, and in celebration of the one-year birthday of a white elephant, “Rattha Nandaka,” born on 23 July 2022.

Such a banknote will be issued in a limited number and will be distributed only by exchange of the same value with various

types of old banknotes that should not be appropriate for circulation in Myanmar. This process will be carried out initially at the Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw, the Yangon branch, and the Mandalay branch. Current valid currency notes and changes will continue to stand as official currency.

The information about the new banknotes has been officially published in the daily government newspapers.

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar Newspaper (24-7-2023)

- **The Central Bank of Myanmar will issue a new type of “twenty-thousand-kyat” banknote starting from 31 July 2023, and in commemoration of the completion of the Maravijaya Buddha Image, and in celebration of the one-year birthday of a white elephant, “Rattha Nandaka”.**
- **Such a banknote will be issued in a limited number and will be distributed only by exchange of the same value with various types of old banknotes that should not be appropriate for circulation in Myanmar.**
- **Current valid currency notes and changes will continue to stand as official currency.**

## SPTT Engages in Peace Talks with UWSP, NDAA, and SSPP Delegations



The National Solidarity and Peacemaking Negotiation Committee (NSPNC) held peace talks with delegations of the United Wa State Party (UWSP), National Democratic Alliance Army (NDAA), and Shan State Progressive Party (SSPP) in at the National Solidarity and Peacemaking Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 and 21 July.

During the talks, they discussed the implementation of previously agreed-upon points, the convening of a peace conference, local development activities and issues to be addressed by ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) among others. Moreover, the final agreements were signed and exchanged.

The meeting was attended by Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, SAC

Member Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, NSPNC Secretary Lt-Gen Win Bo Shein and members, UWSP Vice-Chair U Lou Yaku, NDAA Vice-Chair U San Pae, and SSPP Vice-Chair 3 Sao Sae Paing Pha, it is reported.

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar Newspaper (22-7-2023)

- During the talks, they discussed the implementation of previously agreed-upon points, the convening of a peace conference, local development activities and issues to be addressed by ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) among others. Moreover, the final agreements were signed and exchanged.





Peace Talks Team Leader Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and UWSP Vice-Chair U Lou Yaku exchanging the agreements after signing them

### Union Ministers Receive ACC Secretary-General



Union Minister U Than Swe receiving a delegation led by ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General Mr. Shi Zhongjun

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe and Union Minister for Education Dr. Nyunt Pe received a delegation led by Mr. Shi Zhongjun, Secretary-General of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) at the respective ministries in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 July. Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Aung Thaw received a delegation led by

ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General Mr. Shi Zhongjun at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 21 July.

- **During the call with Union Minister for Foreign Affairs**, they exchanged views on ASEAN-China dialogue relations and the crucial role of the ASEAN-China Centre in deepening mutual un-



Union Minister Dr. Nyunt Pe receiving a delegation led by ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General Mr. Shi Zhongjun

derstanding and friendship under the six priority cooperation areas which are trade, investment, education, culture, tourism, information and media and promoting cooperation in various areas of the ASEAN-China Plan of Action 2021-2025.

- **During the call with Union Minister for Education**, the Union Minister discussed 25 memorandums of understanding (MoU) have been signed between Chinese and Myanmar universities, enhancement of student and teacher exchange programmes, cooperation in research sectors. The ACC secretary-general talked about the promotion of joint ventures among ASEAN states in trade, investment, education, culture, tourism and media, and pledged that Chinese universities are ready to cooper-

ate in the development of Myanmar's education sector.

- **During the call with Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism**, they discussed increasing tourism cooperation and opening courses on human resource development, to enhance mutual travel and tourism cooperation between Myanmar and China, and promoting tourism through international travel exhibitions held in China and sending invitations to festivals and trade fairs.

Also present at the meetings together with the Union Ministers were Deputy Ministers, permanent-secretaries, directors-general and officials, it is reported.

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar Newspaper (22-7-2023)

- **During the calls between the Union Ministers and Secretary-General of the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC)**, they discussed promoting cooperation in various areas of the ASEAN-China Plan of Action 2021-2025, projects and activities to be conducted by the ASEAN-China Centre and enhancement of student and teacher exchange programmes, cooperation in research sectors, and to enhance mutual travel and tourism cooperation between Myanmar and China, and promoting tourism.





Union Minister U Aung Thaw receiving a delegation led by ASEAN-China Centre Secretary-General Mr. Shi Zhongjun

## Union Ministers Receive Indian Ambassador to Myanmar

Union Minister for International Cooperation U Ko Ko Hlaing and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement Dr. Thet Thet Khine on 20 July, and Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe on 21 July, received a delegation led by H.E. Mr. Vinay Kumar, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar, at the relevant ministries in Nay Pyi Taw.

- **During the meeting with Union Minister for International Cooperation**, they cordially exchanged views on the promotion of existing friendly bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, India's humanitarian assistance as well as the provision of necessary construction materials for repairing and rebuilding works in Cyclone Mocha-hit areas, the possibility of expanding India's investment as well as exporting rice, and beans and pulses to India, and

the progress on India-Myanmar-Thai Trilateral Highway project.

- **During the meeting with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement**, the Ambassador discussed various topics, including India's scholarship assistance, and humanitarian aid for the areas affected by Cyclone Mocha, the accepting of internally displaced persons (IDPs), human trafficking issues, and economic development projects being implemented in Rakhine State as per the Myanmar-India MoU.
- **Union Minister Dr. Thet Thet Khine** also discussed the benefits of the humanitarian aid provided by India for Cyclone Mocha victims, the visit of the ERAT Team representatives from the AHA centre to the cyclone-affected areas of Rakhine State, relief supplies from the AHA centre, the plan to establish a coor-



Union Minister U Ko Ko Hlaing receiving a delegation led by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar  
H.E. Mr. Vinay Kumar

dination mechanism to send the international assistance to the cyclone-affected areas as well as educative awareness on danger of land mines, and the rehabilitation of human trafficking victims and individuals who have successfully overcome drug addiction.

- **During the meeting with Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe**, matters related to direct payment in Indian Rupees/ Myanmar Kyats in bilateral trade were discussed. The discussion focused on allowing the Indian Rupees obtained by any means to be opened in the accounts of Myanmar banks to be opened at the Punjab National Bank. Among the points in the mutual agreement, (concept notes) are the con-

tinuation of certain issues and the acceptance and inclusion of remittances from foreign workers in India in a specially opened account. They also discussed the points of agreement between Myanmar and India to support and provide technical assistance in anti-money laundering issues.

The meetings were attended by the Union Ministers together with deputy ministers, permanent-secretaries, directors-general and officials.

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar Newspaper (22-7-2023)

- **During the meeting with Union Minister for International Cooperation**, they cordially exchanged views on the possibility of expanding India's investment as well as exporting rice, and beans and pulses to India, and the progress on India-Myanmar-Thai Trilateral Highway project.





**Union Minister Dr. Thet Thet Khine receiving a delegation led by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Vinay Kumar**



**CBM Governor receiving a delegation led by the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Vinay Kumar**

- **During the meeting with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, discussions were made on the humanitarian aid for the areas affected by Cyclone Mocha, the accepting of internally displaced persons (IDPs), human trafficking issues, and economic development projects being implemented in Rakhine State as per the Myanmar-India MoU.**
- **During the meeting with Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar Daw Than Than Swe, views are frankly exchanged on matters related to direct payment in Indian Rupees/ Myanmar Kyats in bilateral trade and the points of agreement between Myanmar and India to support and provide technical assistance in anti-money laundering issues.**



## Coordination Meeting among Relevant Ministries under the Three ASEAN Community Pillars Held on Development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision



A Coordination Meeting among Relevant Ministries under the Three ASEAN Community Pillars was held on the development of the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 July.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Than Swe discussed as follows:

- He expressed his satisfaction with the progress made by the High-Level Task Force on the ASEAN Community's Post-2025 Vision (HLTF-ACV).
- The representatives from respective ministries are urged to identify the current

and anticipate the challenges in respective sectors, and propose future actions in overcoming those challenges.

- Discussing the matters in line with the national plans of relevant ministries will achieve national interest through regional cooperation.

Then, the representatives from ministries under three ASEAN Community Pillars at the meeting discussed the progress and challenges of the implementing processes in their relevant sectors. Representatives from 27 ministries in total attended the meeting, it is reported.

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar Newspaper (21-7-2023)

- **Union Minister U Than Swe and representatives from 27 ministries participated in the coordination meeting among relevant ministries under the three ASEAN community pillars regarding the development of the ASEAN community's post-2025 vision.**



## UEC Examines Seven Political Parties in line with Political Parties Registration Law and By-laws



The Chairman of the Union Election Commission (UEC) U Thein Soe met the chairpersons and members of registered political parties: Federal Democratic Party based in Bago Region, People's Workers Party, Myanmar Farmers' Development Party, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party (White Tiger party), Democratic Party and New National Democracy Party based in Yangon Region, and Kayin People's Party (KPP) based in Ayeyawady Region at the Pearl Hall of Hluttaw Building in Yangon on 20 July and inspected the activities of the political parties in line with Political Parties Registration Law and By-laws.

During the meeting, the UEC Chair inspected the activities of the registered political parties in line with the regulations issued

by the UEC, and stressed that the representatives of the respective parties must be built strong political parties because the forthcoming elections will be held in line with the proportional representation system, and explained the status of preparations for Electronic Voting Machine for the upcoming election.

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar Newspaper (21-7-2023)

- **The UEC Chair met the chairpersons and officials from the seven registered political parties, and inspected the activities of the political parties in line with Political Parties Registration Law and By-laws.**

## MHRC Attends SEANF Working Group 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting



The second meeting of the Working Group of the Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum-SEANF was held in a hybrid format by the Thailand National Human Rights Commission, the alternate chair, on 19 and 20 July in Bangkok.

The meeting discussed the implementation of five priority tasks included in the SEANF strategy (2022- 2026), holding AI-CHR-SEANF regional workshop related to economy and human rights in the ASEAN in 2024, drawing ASEAN Environmental Rights Framework, the cooperation with World Justice Project (WJP) and holding SEANF's 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the forum and related meetings. The working group meeting reached an initial agreement for holding the 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the forum and related meetings in November 2023.

The representatives of the human rights commissions from member countries – Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Timor-Leste – attended the forum in person,

while representatives from the Indonesia National Human Rights Commission and the Chairman, the Vice-Chairman and members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission joined the forum via videoconferencing, it is reported.

Source: The Global New Light of Myanmar Newspaper (21-7-2023)



- The meeting discussed the implementation of five priority tasks included in the SEANF strategy (2022- 2026), holding AICHR-SEANF regional workshop, and holding SEANF's 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the forum and related meetings.
- The working group meeting reached an initial agreement for holding the 20<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the forum and related meetings in November 2023.

### **Central Bank of Myanmar Performs Measures to Accelerate Digital Payment System in State**

The Central Bank of Myanmar is endeavouring to improve payment service providers' platforms providing digital transaction services across the country, secure the digital payment system and reduce the use of cash among people.

Moreover, the CBM issues merchant acquiring service licences so that banks can process payments from customers on behalf of merchants using digital system. To meet

the goals and objectives of the National Payment Strategy (2020-2025), National Payment System Governing Committee comprising the CBM and other ministries concerned has been formed and coordination matters are being undertaken.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (20-7-2023)

- The CBM is endeavouring to improve payment service providers' platforms providing digital transaction services across the country, secure the digital payment system and reduce the use of cash among people.

### **Relief Items from China for Victims of Cyclone Mocha Arrive at Myanmar Industrial Port**

China Aid Cargo Ship (SEOUL GLOW) which is carrying relief items donated by China for the victims of Cyclone Mocha arrived at Myanmar Industrial Port (MIP), Ahlone Township of Yangon region. The relief items were Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Chen Hai handed over to Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Soe Thein.

The arriving relief items weigh 190.241 tons donated by China included

4,000 boxes of instant noodle, 200 water pumps, 1,700 tarpaulin tents, 10,000 blankets, 10,000 mosquito nets, 10,000 hand-held solar lamps, 200,000 bottles of Chlorine dioxide, 500 water disinfectant pills – total worth of US\$1,172,068. These items will reportedly be transported to the cyclone-hit areas by ship.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (22-7-2023)



- The People Republic of China donated US\$1,172,068-worth relief items for victims of Cyclone Mocha.

### Rakhine State Government Delivers Relief Items to IDP Camps in Sittwe

Rakhine State Chief Minister and Chairman of the Rakhine State Natural Disaster Management Committee U Htein Lin, along with deputy ministers and state officials, visited and provided relief items to the IDP camps in Sittway Township.

- The state Chief Minister and party visited various IDP camps, including Thechaung, Dahpine, Thet-kepyin, Mawthinya, and Basara, providing rice aid to each camp. They then inspected the cyclone shelter in Thechaung village and gave necessary instructions.
- In Gaungdukka village, the chief minister met camp officials at the village administration office and provided rice ration to them.

The Rakhine state Chief Minister provided 1,400 bags of rice to the people living in

10 IDP camps in Sittway Township. He also said that the State Government is conducting restoration works including aid and relief distribution and moreover, ongoing activities of trading, agricultural and livestock and fishing, and business expansion must be promoted. In case of necessity, officials of IDP camps are urged to cooperate by contacting the relevant district and township administration teams, it is reported.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (23-7-2023)





**Rakhine State Chief Minister and party providing relief supplies to the displaced persons living in the IDP camps in Sittwe at the meeting with them**

- **The Rakhine state Chief Minister and party visited and provided 1,400 bags of rice to the people living in 10 IDP camps in Sittway Township.**

## PDF Members with no Crime Records Returning Legal Fold Entrusted to their Parents



The ceremonies of entrusting PDF members, who completed trainings in the areas of some EAOs and returned to legal fold without committing any crime, to their respective parents have been holding as follows:

- On 20 July, four male PDF members from Hinthada, Ngaputaw, Latputta townships of Ayeyarwady region and Hlaingthaya township of Yangon region were entrusted to the care of their parents and guardians after they had signed the document of pledge. Moreover, the officials of the relevant regional government also provided cash assistances to

the returnees.

At present, the State's government has released an announcement stating that organizations or groups including PDFs are welcomed if they want to enter the legal fold for their normal civilian lives by surrendering their weapons following rules and regulations to participate in future work plans of the country. Up to 20 July 2023, a total of 572 persons including 434 males and 138 females have already entered the legal fold.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (21-7-2023)

- **Four male PDF members, who attended trainings in the areas of some EAOs, committed no crimes and returned to legal fold, were entrusted to their respective parents. Moreover, the officials of the relevant regional government also provided cash assistances to the returnees.**
- **Up to 20 July 2023, a total of 572 persons including 434 males and 138 females have already entered the legal fold.**



## Passenger Trains (Express) Delayed due to Terrorists' Mine Attack on Rail



Damages of rail track in the aftermath of brutal mine attacks of the terrorists

Myanma Railways under Ministry of Transport and Communications has managed to run 18 passenger trains (express), 14 mail-trains, eight passenger and freight trains, two RBE passenger trains and 35 circular trains, totalling 77 trains and six freight trains on a daily basis, aiming to travel for passengers across the country with cheap fare and good flow of goods.

On the segment of Yangon-Mandalay, it runs four passenger trains (Express), two mail-trains, two passenger and freight trains and three cargo trains daily. On 18 July, No 3 Up train left Yangon for Mandalay and the train driver saw an unusual situation at the mile-post (109/20-21) between Kyauktaga and Penwagon stations. He saw that the rail network was bent and the sleepers were in a vertical position under the headlight of the train. He stopped the train in time and held the train back and the said-train segment was temporarily closed for the security concern.

The concerned officials arrived the scene and repaired overnight the rail network destroyed by the terrorists and managed to resume the running of the trains on the segment. Due to the terrorists' mine attack, No 3 Up train and No 4 Down train stopped the nearest rail stations and both trains were delayed. It is reported that a total of about 1,500 passengers suffered difficulties on their journey.

Terrorists wilfully destroyed the rail by mine attack not only to destroy the passenger trains and travellers but also to harm the projects for upgrading Yangon-Mandalay rail segment. If the train driver did not stop the train in time, it would claim many lives of passengers. As this was a heinous terrorist act, the entire population feel hatred and strongly oppose such acts.

To date since 1 February 2021, terrorists have committed 112 mine attacks on rail and in the areas of rail stations, 41 mine



**Attack of the terrorists leaving concrete slab of No (161) Railway Bridge damaged**



**Repairing of the damaged rail track in timely manner**

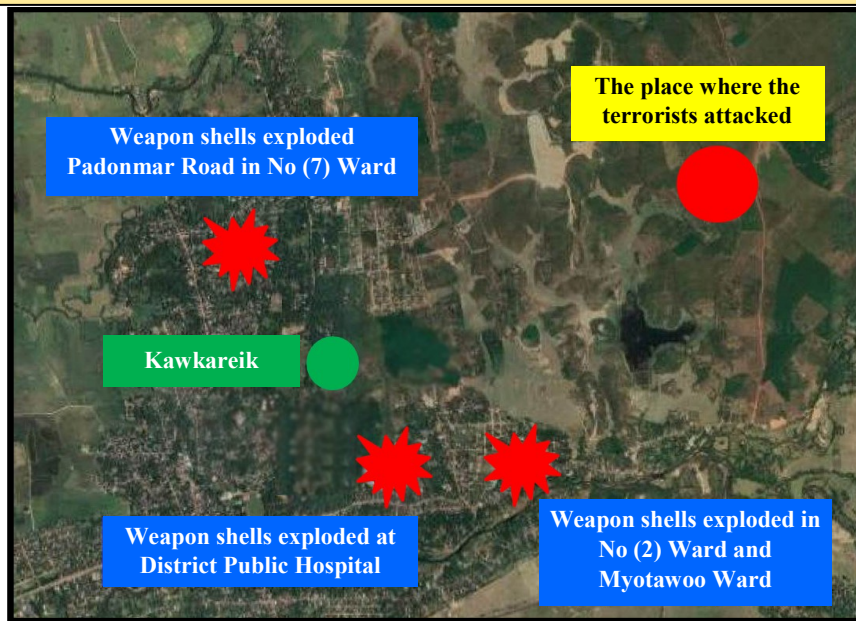
attacks on rail-bridges and 12 arson attacks on railway stations and family housings of civil servants, it is reported.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (20-7-2023)

- **The concerned officials arrived the scene and repaired overnight the rail network destroyed by the terrorists and managed to resume the running of the trains on the segment on 19 July.**
- **Due to the terrorists' mine attack, No 3 Up train and No 4 Down train stopped at the nearest rail stations and both trains were delayed. It is reported that a total of about 1,500 passengers suffered difficulties on their journey.**
- **To date since 1 February 2021, terrorists have committed 112 mine attacks on rail and in the areas of rail stations, 41 mine attacks on rail-bridges and 12 arson attacks on railway stations and family housings of civil servants.**



## KKO (Splinter Group) and PDF Terrorists Fire Heavy into Kawkareik Township



Location of incident

On 19 July, KKO (Splinter Group) and PDF terrorists fired heavy weapons into Kawkareik township from a position about 3,000 meters northeast of the township. A heavy weapon shell fell into No. (7) Ward, another one into No. (2) Ward and another in front of the district public hospital. Due to the explosions, two men and three women got shrapnel wounds.

The injured people were sent to Kawkareik public hospital for medical treatment. The security personnel are checking the bomb-hit wards to ensure there is no unex-

ploded bomb shell and no civilian casualties from unexpected explosions.

Violent attacks on non-military targets of residential wards amount to War Crimes according to Geneva Conventions and International Law. The security personnel will take necessary measures in response, it is reported.

Source: Myawady Daily Newspaper (21-7-2023)

- **KKO (Splinter Group) and PDF terrorists fired heavy weapons into Kawkareik township, leaving five innocent civilians injured.**