



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu hands over aid to a local in Buthidaung. PHOTO: TIN SOE

Rakhine State Chief Minister delivers natural disaster prevention aid in Buthidaung Township

A CEREMONY to deliver natural disaster prevention aid to the local populace was held in U Utama Hall in Buthidaung Township, Maungtau District in Rakhine State yesterday evening.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said that he wanted to find out the villagers' opinion on the government's measures taken for regional development during

the new government's one-year period. And he discussed matters relating to future activities.

Local residents also submitted social, economic, transport and development requirements in their township. Then, officials from the state government and relevant departments responded.

After the meeting, the Rakhine State Chief Minister and

officials delivered natural disaster-prevention aid to Township Natural Disaster Prevention Committee Chairman Township Administrator U Kyaw Min Tun and Vice Chairman Township Police Commander Pol-Maj Thaug Ngwe. U Kyaw Min Tun and U Thaug Ngwe spoke words of appreciation.—*Yamanya*

India promotes friendship with Myanmar via healthcare improvement projects

THE INDIAN government continues to support Myanmar's priorities to improve the health industry through several healthcare projects costing millions of dollars, according to a news release issued by the Indian Embassy in Myanmar.

As a part of its continuing efforts, the government of India is supporting the development of the Women and Children's Hospital in Monywa through a financial commitment of

US\$2 million. It is also providing capacity-building training for Myanmar medical physicians in speciality institutes in India.

In recent years, India has also committed US\$7 million for upgrading the Yangon Children's Hospital and the Sittway General Hospital by supplying essential, state-of-the-art medical equipment for diagnostic testing including a CT scan machine, an oxygen machine, an ultrasound machine and other critical care

medical equipment. Some hospital equipment has already been installed at those hospitals under the bilateral agreement.

The neighbouring country also donated two ambulances equipped with modern healthcare facilities to the Yangon Children's Hospital last month. The two ambulances cost over US\$15,000 and can help the hospital enhance public health service delivery and facilitate transport in emergency cases.—*Shwe Khine*

Authorities to inspect construction of pandals

THE 2017 MahaThingyan Festival Pandals Allocating and Fortification Inspection Committee will inspect the construction of pandals in Yangon Region every two days. If they find the the building of pandals fail to follow the specified rules and regulations, they will take action against the owners of those pandals.

"We granted the pandals construction permits. We will make ground inspections every two days when the pandals start

to be built. The pandal owners have to pay a fine for the first time if they do not obey the discipline. Also, they have to rebuild the new pandal that follows the rules and regulations. If they do not follow, their pandals will be shut down," said U Than Hone, a member of 2017 MahaThingyan Festival Pandals Allocating and Fortification Inspection Committee. The region government has laid down 45 rules for the 2017 water festival. The pandals have to be built with wood in 2017.

The government also banned construction of pandals with extra areas or with private closed rooms.

Currently, the regional government has permitted 80 pandals to be built beginning on 3 April in the Yangon Region. The Yangon Region Government granted permission to build 16 large-sized pandals, 13 medium-sized pandals and 51 small pandals. The eight large pandals will be built along Pyay road.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Top commercial and income taxpayers awarded certificates of honour

A ceremony to present certificates of honour to the top commercial and income taxpayers and foreign companies in the fiscal year 2015-2016 was held at the Mingalar hall of Yangon Region Government office in Yangon yesterday.

Kanbawza Bank was announced as the country's top income taxpayer for this year, retaining its lead in the list of Myanmar's 1,000 top taxpayers for the fifth consecutive year.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win announced the list of the top 1,000 commercial and income taxpayers and foreign companies, saying tax efficiency plays an important role

in building a modern developed country. The strength of the entrepreneurs and taxpayers across the country is needed for seeking ways to leave the "least developed country" status, he added.

The Union Minister, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, the Deputy Speaker of Yangon Regional Hluttaw, Yangon Region minister for Security and Border Affairs and regional minister for Planning and Finance presented certificates of honour to the top commercial and income taxpayers.—*Ministry of Planning and Finance*



Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win presents the certificate of honour to Daw Nang Lang Kham, Executive Director of the Kanbawza Bank, following the bank is announced as the top taxpayer with K2.2 billion for the 2015-2016 FY. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Regional government spends Ks8 billion for prevention of floods

THE Yangon Region government will spend Ks8 billion for prevention of floods in the Hlaing and Ayeyawady rivers, according to an official from the Yangon Region Government.

The government will conduct annual flood prevention in those rivers. Prevention has reduced the impact of floods in Hlegue township and Dagon (East) township. The government will also conduct flood prevention in Taikkyi and

Hmawbe townships.

The regional government has spent money in the budget to prevent the floods which communities face annually across the country. The regional government is also trying to improve the drainage system to prevent roads from flooding.

Similarly, the region government spent Ks32 billion on a special project for the development of places outside the YCDC area.—*200*

Three more first aid centres to be opened on highway

MYANMAR Red Cross Society (MRCS) will open three more first aid centres on the highway this year. The health centres will be opened with an aim to provide emergency health care for the victims of the road accidents on the highway.

MRCS opened the first first aid centre at 115th Mile and the second centre at 285th Mile. Three new health centres will be stationed at 39th Mile, 326th Mile and 202nd Mile.

"We have targeted to open 33 new health centres in this fiscal year. We have already se-

lected the locations. One out of the 33 new health centres will be opened at 202nd Mile on 8 May. The ambulance which was donated by Singapore has arrived for 202nd Mile first aid centre, said Daw Khin Khin Shein, first aid and safety director of Myanmar Red Cross Society.

Currently, awareness training courses will be provided by MTCS jointly with Shell Myanmar with an aim of safe driving in 11 villages in Kyauktaga township on Yangon- Nay Pyi Taw highway.—*200*

Ministries hold press conference on performance ...

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Q&A session of the Press Conference

On the question of having a plan to purchase a helicopter for rapid response when faced with natural disaster and plan to provide humanitarian assistance to relief camps in Kachin State, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said arrangements are being made to purchase a helicopter and prompt assistance was provided to internally displaced persons in Kachin State whenever they face with dangers. Long term assistance and redevelopment assistance were also provided. Humanitarian assistance are also regularly provided to IDPs camps in Kachin State.

Processes that benefit the men, women and children in the camps are being conducted. In Kachin State, priority is given to these processes. For women's development, vocational training course and manageable scale course were conducted while livelihood education for men was also conducted. We are coordinating with the relevant ministries for children education.

Acting Director General Daw San San Aye of Social Welfare Department said the ministry is drawing up the draft law on violence against women. Once the law is enacted, procedures to enable the relevant departments to understand and implement the provision of the law need to be drawn. Therefore, definitions will be included in the procedures that will be enacted later.

Questioned about the budget allocated for the people in the IDPs camps, Permanent Secretary U Soe Aung said there are two types of disasters, man-made and natural. The ministry is responsible for both disasters. According to the government budget and annual budget the ministry is allocated Kyat 6.5 billion. In both man-made and natural disasters, relief materials are speedily provided and on the matter of redevelopment, short-term programs are mainly conducted. There is a national disaster management fund. The government allocated Kyat 20 billion last year and for this year too, another 20 billion Kyat was allocated. Left over from last year's allocation was combined with this year's allocation and utilized in required areas. He further added and explained that redevelopment work for refugee camps is providing livelihood works while redevelopment of children is important, so enjoyment space for children are also provided. Social Welfare Department provide for these matters 575 million budget was used for livelihood of children and women.

Answering to the question on investigations conducted on former Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe, the Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Home Affairs U Tin Myint said the investigations relating to the Magway Region

development fund were conducted according to the instruction of the Union and the assignment of the President's office, by a joint group of Special Investigation Bureau and responsible persons from Magway Region Auditor General. Findings of the investigations were submitted to Union Attorney General Office for legal advice. Currently there were no further directives or confirmation from the President office.

Regarding the question of why demonstrations were allowed in faraway places instead of at the front of the Nay Pyi Taw Ministerial departments, Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint said, demonstrations are related to the peaceful assembly demonstration act. Application for permission to demonstrate in a certain place need to be submitted at least 5 days ahead and a response to the application is provided within 48 hours according to the law if the place where the demonstration is to be held could cause public disturbance, cause violence and threaten peace and stability. Demonstrations are conducted for the public to know and will be allowed where there is public. At the ministries, only the staff is there.

Answering to the question of providing land lease agreements for rural area, he said villagers are allowed to live on a land without land lease agreement. Land lease agreement was provided annually to rural areas that became developed when there was application for it. If there is a request and a requirement, it will be provided. Application for tax free lease of religious land is also being considered and granted. Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee looks into the matter of living in the Nay Pyi Taw Municipal area.

On the question of action taken by police force on the absconded suspect Aung Win Khaing in the January 29 Yangon airport assassination of U Ko Ni case, Chief of Myanmar Police Force, Police Major General Zaw Win said intensive search for the suspect was made together with officials from Township, Ward and village tracts in the Naypyitaw area. The photo and a brief about Aung Win Khaing was distributed to States and Regions in order to detain him. In case he fled abroad, Asean countries were informed about him as well as INTERPOL also being notified accordingly. Everything was done in order to detain him.

Regarding the question on amending the firearm act in order to take effective actions against illegal arm possession, Police Major General Zaw Win said amendment to the firearm act is being prepared together with the parliament in order to make it relevant to the present situation while every effort is made to detain and take action against illegal arm possessors.

Asked if the Ministry of Transport and Communications has a plan to amend the Section

66/D, Permanent Secretary U Win Khant replied that the section is aimed at giving guarantee to development of the communications business and to convenience of businessmen.

However, the current cases connected the Section 66/D happened based on the hate speech though the section was included in the law without considering the hate speech when it was drafted, he said. U Soe Thein, Director-General of the Directorate of Telecommunications, elaborated that the Communications Law was enacted to give guarantee to the local and foreign investment in the communications sector and currently, the ministry and other related institutions are seeking the way for amending the Section 66/D.

Asked when Hanthawady International Airport project started, Permanent Secretary U Win Khant said the project began in the time of the previous government, adding that the project is expected to launch in this year if the Japanese government's loan, which is playing an important role in implement of the airport project on the 9,000 acres of land, is okay this year.

U Min Lwin, Director General of the Department for Civil Aviation, clarified that the framework agreement of the Hanthawady Airport project was signed in 2016 as a first step, and discussion are undergoing for the second step of signing the construction agreement. No company has received tender for the project yet, he added.

Asked when the Yangon-Mandalay Highway is upgraded to a four-lane road, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Lin said an international tender will be announced to upgrade the Yangon-Mandalay Highway, which is using by about 16 million people a day, when the time comes and the ministry needs to seek approval from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to sign a loan agreement for upgrading the road. Asked when work on construction of the Yangon-Dala Bridge across the Yangon River starts and how much does it cost, U Kyaw Lin said the plan for construction of the bridge started in 2008 and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has already approved US\$138 million loan from the Republic of Korea and the people in the project area have been relocated.

Regarding inauguration of Chaungson Bridge in Mon State, Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Lin said the bridge, which was named Bogyoke Aung San Bridge on 13th February, was expected to be commissioned into service in the last week of April after the bridge receives final checks for its withstanding. Regarding a plan for construction of a bridge in parallel with current Gukteik Bridge in Nawngkhio, Shan State, U Kyaw Lin disclosed that the design for the new bridge has been drawn and plan is underway to construction the bridge after the bypass road is constructed in Nawngkhio.—*Myanmar News Agency*

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Eduardo E. Kapunan, Jr. as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

He obtained a Bachelor of Science from the Philippine Military Academy, and a Master's degree in Management from the Asian Institute of Management.

From 1971-1977, he served in the Philippine Air Force as Senior Pilot. From 1977-1986, he served in the National Defence Intelligence Office. From 1986-1987, he served as Group Commander of Special Security and Anti-Terrorist Force of General Headquarters, Armed Forces of the Philippines. In 1987, he served as Assistant Chief of Staff for Operations of the Philippine Military Academy. From 1992-1993, he served as Consultant of the National Unification Commission(NUC). From 1993-1995, he served as Chief Operations Officer, Witness Protection Program in the Department of Justice. From 1996-1998, he served as Director of the San Miguel Foods Corporation Governing Board and Consultant of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (International Operations). From 2000-2002, he served as Consultant of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for the Peace Process (OPAPP). From 2002 -2005, he served as Special Assistant to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs as well as Director of Intelligence and Security Service of the Department of Foreign Affairs. From 2007-2008, he served as Assistant Secretary for the Department of Transportation and Communication. From 2008-2010, he served as Deputy Director General of the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Three houses burn down in Maungtaw

FIRE destroyed three houses in Done Kala village in Maungtaw Township on Sunday.

The outbreak of fire started from the kitchen of a house owned by Amina Khatu, 52, in

Done Kala village at about 5pm and spread to two other houses.

Local police have taken action against Amina Khatu for causing the fire.—*Myanmar News Agency*

490 morphine vials seized in Sittway

FOUR hundred-and-ninety vials of morphine were seized near Tadaphyu on Sittway-Yaychanpyin Road on Sunday in Sittway, Rakhine State.

Acting on a tip-off, a local anti-narcotics team searched Mamoud Jabay, 32, from Done Pyintaung village, who was walking near Tadaphyu on Sittway-Yaychanpyin Road at about 6pm and found 200 vials of

morphine in a plastic bag. Local police also discovered another 290 vials in his home. The seized morphine is worth Ks17.15 lakhs.

Upon interrogation, the suspect Mamoud Jabay admitted that Adhusalin, of SatOh village, had trusted these vials to him. Sittway Myoma Police opened a case and are still investigating the case.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Body found in Buthidaung

A man's body was found in a potato field in Bogyee Chaung village, Maungtaw Township on Saturday, according to a local police source.

The man, identified as Rawphee from Bogyee Chaung Village, left home with Ar Yarrs, who was from the same village, and did not return. Ar Yarrs phoned Rawphee's wife on Friday and informed her that Rawphee had been killed by three men, including Gya Sutin, using axes and knives and buried his body

under the potato field.

Acting on the information, Rawphee's wife opened a file about the murder at Taung Bazaar police station. A combined team comprised of security forces and forensic doctors excavated the field where Rawphee was said to have been buried on Saturday and found his body.

Authorities continue to investigate the case and the four suspects, including Ar Yarrs, are being interrogated.—*Myanmar News Agency*