



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Thai Armed Forces General Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan inspect the Guard of Honour. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Thai Armed Forces General

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Chief of Defence Force of the Royal Thai Armed Forces Gen. Tarnchaiyan Srisuwan with a Guard of Honour, in front of Zeyar Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In their meeting, they dis-

cussed the matters relating to boosting the friendship between the two armed forces, exchange on friendly visits of cultural troops and athletic teams, exchange of visits between the naval ships, and strengthening of relations between the two armed forces. —Myanmar News Agency ■



A meeting on holding the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement signing ceremony for the New Mon State Party and Lahu Democratic Union is held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Gov't to hold NCA signing ceremony for NMSP, LDU on 13 Feb

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At the meeting, U Zaw Htay, Director-General of the Union Peace Implementation Department, reported on detailed plans for holding the ceremony.

U Thant Sin, Director-General of the Protocol Department, reported on sending out invitations; Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung on accommodation and seating plans at the ceremony; Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo on transportation; Union

Minister U Ohn Maung on accommodation and reception; Deputy Minister U Min Thu on decoration of the ceremony; Myanmar Police Force Police Chief Aung Win Oo on security; Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint on registration of media, issuing security cards, live broadcast and issuing documentary photo albums; Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe on health matters, Director-General U Zaw Naing on financial affairs, Deputy

Minister U Khin Maung Tin on coordination among sub-committees; Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win on preparations for the signing ceremony and Dr. Myo Aung, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, on preparing the MICC-II building where the signing ceremony will be held.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Suspects in killing former MraukU administrator arrested

POLICE detained a family on suspicion of their involvement in the murder of former MraukU administrator U Bo Bo Min Theik, who was stabbed to death in a car on the highway on 30 January.

Police are still actively pursuing others who are suspected of being involved in the killing.

After interviewing eyewitnesses to a car crash in Rakhine State, police arrested Min Than Htay, also known as Min Than Htike, son of Kyaw Myint, also known as Khaing Kyaw, a former village administrator of Teinnyo Village in MraukU Township, near the Kyeikwine Pagoda Road's traffic light in Mayangon, Yangon on 31 January, the day after the killing.

Their plan was to abduct U Bo Bo Min Theik as he travelled to Sittway.

Later that evening, Kyaw Myint and his wife, Daw Kyi Kyi Win, were arrested at Mitta Gonyang Nunnery in Latyatsan Village, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Region. They were reportedly hiding in the nunnery, trying to elude arrest, police said.

Their sister-in-law Ma Khaing Zar Hlaing, wife of Min Than Htaik, was also found at the monastery and arrested, according to police.

U Bo Bo Min Theik's body was found near an overturned vehicle that had crashed between mileposts No. 169/0 and 169/1 on Yangon-Sittway Road near Thayet Cho Village, between Yongu and Aungpyupin villages, some seven miles north of Punnagyun, Rakhine State. His body was found with several stab wounds, including two to his chest, 12 on his back and one cut over his left eyebrow.

According to witnesses, there were four men in the car, including U Bo Bo Min Theik. U Bo Bo Min Theik reportedly struggled with the men as he was being stabbed, causing the vehicle to overturn. The three other men fled on foot towards a nearby mountain range, wit-

nesses said.

As a result of an interrogation, Kyaw Myint, who is also known as Khaing Kyaw admitted to hatching a plot on 25 January with Ko Latt, Sa Paing, Zaw Myo Aung, who is also known as Zaw Moe Aung, and his neighbour mechanic Myo Chit Aung to kill U Bo Bo Min Theik, police said. Ko Latt, Sa Paing and Zaw Myo Aung are reportedly organisers for AA armed ethnic group in Rakhine State.

Their plan was to abduct U Bo Bo Min Theik as he travelled to Sittway, police said.

On 26 January, they phoned U Bo Bo Min Theik, offering to drive him to Sittway, where he was relocating for a new job.

On 30 January, as they were driving to Sittway on Yangon-Sittway Road, Sa Paing and Zaw Myo Aung allegedly stabbed U Bo Bo Min Theik to death when a struggle ensued after the men tried to seize his mobile phone.

It was also discovered that Kyaw Myint and Min Than Htay were transporters of illegal drugs from Shan State to Buthidaung and Maungtau and selling the illicit drugs.

The income from the drug trading was allegedly spent on buying arms for the AA ethnic armed group.

The father-and-son team admitted to earning more than

Measures are being taken to expose additional suspects who may be involved in the case.

Ks397 million from transporting and trading more than 4.4 million YW Yaba pills from December 2016 to November 2017.

With the proceeds of the first drug haul, they bought two pistols and four cartridges in June 2017, police said. Later the same month, they purchased 10 semi-automatic M-16 rifles and 50 bullets for the pistols after the second drug run. In August 2017, after the third drug run, nine M-16 rifles were purchased for the ethnic armed group. After they transported and sold illegal drugs a fourth time later

in August 2017, they bought 38 cartridges and 6,000 rounds of ammunition for the M-16s, two pistols and four cartridges from a woman in Mandalay, they told police. They also bought one pis-

tol from a man in Myawady, one cartridge, nine bullets, 19 M-16 rifles, 38 cartridges and 6,000 bullets, five pistols and 8 cartridges with 59 bullets. The father and son admitted to transferring 23 weapons, 46 cartridges and 6,050 bullets to the AA armed group.

The pair kept one pistol, one cartridge and nine bullets for their personal use, police said.

The investigation is active and ongoing, authorities said, and measures are being taken to expose additional suspects who may be involved in the case.— Myanmar News Agency ■

# Angumaw-Maungtaw road to development



U Aung Kyaw Zan (Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation)



U Ye Htut (Chief Administrator of Maungtaw District)



U Myo Khaing (Asia World Foundation Officer)



U Nay Lin (Engineer from Asia World Co.)



U Maung San Thein (School Principal)

Aung Ye Twin, Ko Min  
PHOTO: AUNG MIN

AS part of the UEHRD's (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine) task force, Asia World Foundation has been handling the upgrading of the Angumaw-Maungtaw road since November 2017.

The following are excerpts of interviews with the project's officials and local residents on their opinions of what kinds of positive development would the completion of the project bring in.

**U Aung Kyaw Zan** (Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation)

This road used to take 4-5 hours to travel either way but after the upgrade we estimate it will only take an hour for a

trip. Of course, this will make it faster for security forces and administration personnel to travel and it will attract more businesses to the area too. I admire Asia World's system and skills in building concrete roads.

The UEHRD's task forces have invited a lot of overseas development to the area. The Rakhine State Government will also help the development of the state as much as our budget permits.

**U Ye Htut** (Deputy Commissioner of Maungtaw District)

Asia World Co. is helping with the basic infrastructure sector for the area and I believe they have the necessary skills and equipment for this. However, they are currently short of sand and gravel, which is in



Daw Khin Oo Shwe (Teacher)

low supply in the area. But they have promised that 50 per cent of the project will be completed before the rains set in.

**U Myo Khaing** (Asia World Foundation Officer)

Asia World is using its funds for the project. It's a sort of donation to the area.

The road is 49 miles 6 furlong and 18 feet wide and we're upgrading it to a concrete road. The project is headed by the Union Government, supported by the local government and the UEHRD.

**U Nay Lin** (Engineer from Asia World Co.)

Asia World Foundation is helping the Union Government by taking on this project. This road used to be a 12 feet wide gravel road and it took cars 4 hours to cross from either end. Our aim is to cover about 20 miles within this year. We're employing 1,500 workers and 200 pieces of machinery for this. We're expecting the road to withstand around 30 tons of pressure.

**U Maung San Thein** (Headmaster)

I believe transportation and infrastructure are important for the development of an area. I have been stationed here for two years and the roads during that time have been very bad.

But now that Asia World is upgrading the road I believe that the area's education, economic, social and health sectors will get better. They're using machines we've never seen before too.

**Daw Khin Oo Shwe** (School Teacher)

The new road will be much better for the students and local residents. The old road was hard to access during the rainy season but after the upgrade we won't have to spend too much time on the road. For that we are grateful to Asia World. ■

## Music show boosts morale of students in Maungtaw

THE Yeikhita Swan Arr (National Spirit) philanthropic group organized a music show for teachers and students who were trapped for three days in Nanthartaung Monastery, Maungtaw Township, during the ARSA terrorist attacks on 25 August 2017.

The music show was done with the hope of boosting the morale of the teachers and students and was held in the Strand Hotel in Sittway City.

U Win Maung Maung, the Patron of Yeikhita Swan Arr; Shwe Latt Myar (Golden Hands), and WSKD Youth Philanthropic groups, presided over the show. He conferred honorary awards to the presiding Sayadaw of Nanthartaung Monastery

for "bravely giving protection to 400 students" and also to the presiding Sayadaw of Shwezedi Monastery for making sure the education of the displaced students would continue.

The Yeikhita Swan Arr (National Spirit) philanthropic group is composed of 21 separate philanthropic organizations and has donated over Ks100 million to the Maungtaw area since the 25 August attacks.

The group also has plans to donate items of clothing and food to the security forces stationed in Maungtaw.

The music show hosted actor Min Yarzar, actress Phoo Son, both famous and up-and-coming singers from Rakhine. —Han Lin Naing ■



Music show organized by Yeikhita Swan Arr (National Spirit) philanthropic group held in Maungtaw. PHOTO: ZAW ZAW NAING



Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut delivers the opening speech at the meeting for Ethnic literature festival in Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Ethnic literature festival planned in Shan State

THE Ministry of Information and the Shan State Government held a discussion meeting yesterday to plan ahead for the Ethnic literature and paper reading festival to be held at a later date.

Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut, who is also the Patron of the Ethnic literature and paper reading festival planning committee, delivered the opening speech.

Next, Chairman of the Ethnic literature and paper reading festival planning committee and Minister for Bamar Ethnic

Affairs, Dr. Aung Than Maung explained the process of the upcoming Ethnic literature and paper reading festival.

The festival will include exhibition booths for traditional ethnic handiworks, traditional literature recitals and dances. There are 24 topics in the recital part and 10 of them are about culture. Participants include Yinkyar, Yinnet, Tanaw, and An ethnics reciting their traditional literature, Eastern and Northern Shan ethnics reciting Lisu literature and Kachin people

residing in Shan State will recite their traditional literature as well. The festival will also host booths selling traditional ethnic cuisine, traditional costumes and paraphernalia.

Next, U Ye Naing, the Director General of the Information and Public Relations Department lead discussions with the various committees for the festival's organizations, ranging from the committee for handling invitations to the committee for organizing entertainment. —Shan State IPRD ■

## Myanmar-Japan to jointly implement affordable housing project

MYANMAR will implement an affordable housing project, in cooperation with the Japanese government, this fiscal year, as a pilot project in Mingaladon Township, Yangon Region, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

The project will be implemented with two housing designs. The technology and other

construction materials that are used in the project will be showcased in the showroom, said U Shein Win, vice chairman of Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA).

As for the pilot project, MCEA will take responsibility for land allocation, while Japan will provide financial assistance for the construction.

After three years, Japan will transfer the building, along with the land and showrooms, to the MCEA. Currently, the Japan-Myanmar Association for Industry of Housing and Urban Development and MCEA have signed a memorandum of understanding on 4 December, 2017, to run trials of the affordable housing project. —GNLM ■

## Forestry Department, WCS Myanmar to protect river tern nests

THE forestry department and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Myanmar are protecting river tern nests in the upstream of Chindwin river, with the cooperation of the local people, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

The combined population of river terns in their major habitats in the Ayeyawady and

Chindwin rivers is hardly more than 100, while the majority of the population is found between Khamti and Homalin in the Chindwin river. During the survey in 2017, some 41 nests were found near the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers. Some 40 per cent of the breeding was successful. This year, 11 nests were found, and a survey is still

being carried out to find more. Since 2017, the forestry department and WCS Myanmar have worked to protect the nests from humans and animals, with the cooperation of the local people.

As it is breeding season now, the WCS has set up a warning system and signboards on the sandbanks and islands to increase awareness. —GNLM ■

## Inspection in Maungtaw and Buthidaung's rural development

U KHANT ZAW, the Director General for Department of Rural Development travelled to Maungtaw and Buthidaung townships yesterday to inspect the rural development plans in effect.

U Khant Zaw and his group first travelled to Kayay Myaing Village in Maungtaw Township to inspect the construction of a reservoir which received its budget in the 2017-2018 financial year. They then listened to and discussed a request from local residents to dig up a well.

Next, they met with the Maungtaw branch for Rural Development and listened to officials explain the workings of different sectors.

At noon, the Director General and entourage travelled to Ywartywar Village, Maungtaw Township, and toured a motorcycle workshop training center opened by the Rural Development Department.

The course is free of charge. The center's instructor explained the teaching process to the Director General. The center currently has twenty students.

The Director General then travelled to Buthidaung Township and met with the Rural Development Department there. He listened to officials explain the workings of different sectors and gave advice on related topics. —Aung Ye Thwin, Ko Min ■



Director-General U Khant Zaw and officials visit rural area in Buthidaung. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN**

## Price of rough rice increases slightly

THE price of rough rice, which is mainly exported, has increased slightly in the local market before the arrival of the summer paddy crop.

Also, the foreign ship meant to purchase Myanmar rice has been berthed, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

"The price of good quality rice, which is consumed mostly in the local market, has stabilised. However, the stock of rough rice that will be exported has decreased gradually. Summer paddy will be supplied to the local market by the end of February," said U Than Oo, secretary of Myanmar Rice Association.

In the last two weeks, the

price of rough rice was between Ks18,500 and Ks19,000 per bag. However, now, the price of rough rice has increased to Ks20,000 per bag.

Currently, the Pawsan variety from the delta region is selling for between Ks30,000 and Ks40,000 per bag, while the new Shwebo Pawsan variety costs some Ks40,000 per bag. The price of old Shwebo Pawsan is Ks60,000, because there is no old stock left.

In the coming week, the price of Export-25 mark rice will not drop, and the price is expected to rise by Ks100 and Ks200 in the Bayinnaung wholesale market, according to the rice market. —GNLM ■