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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects the Honour Guard as she arrives in Canberra, Australia. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

State Counsellor in Canberra

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in the Australian capital of Canberra yesterday and was welcomed by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

As the State Counsellor arrived at the Parliament House in Canberra, the guard

of honour fired a 19-gun salute and saluted her.

The State Counsellor then signed the guest book and was escorted by PM Turnbull into the guest hall of Parliament House. The State Counsellor and PM Turnbull then took a commemorative photograph

together.

Later, the State Counsellor attended the Myanmar-Australia bilateral meeting in the Parliament Hall. Accompanying the State Counsellor were Union Ministers U Thaung Tun and U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Amba-

sador to Australia U Tha Aung Nyunt and other officials.

Myanmar and Australian leaders talked about developing bilateral relations, the Rakhine situation and how Australia could contribute to making the situation better.

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\$80-million loan from ADB passed by 533 votes to 4

In yesterday's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting, a strong majority of MPs voted to pass a motion to secure a loan from Asian Development Bank.

The Ministry of Construction's motion to borrow a US\$80 million loan from Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Greater Mekong Sub-region Corridor Towns development project was passed with 533 for and four against votes and three abstentions.

In his explanation, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said the loan was for the development of Hpa-An, Myawady and Mawlamyine that are on the Greater Mekong Sub-region East-West economic corridor and are border towns.

These towns have the potential for further development. These towns were selected for the development of the Greater Mekong Sub-region East-West economic corridor.

This will benefit the people of the three cities in acquiring sufficient water, installing a more systematic waste disposal system, maintaining historical buildings in these cities and encouraging their socio-economic development, said the Deputy Minister.—Myanmar News Agency ■



'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'

Awarded by Financial Times (The Banker)

State Counsellor in Canberra

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The State Counsellor then met with Bill Shorten, leader of the Australian Labour Party, which is the opposition party in the Australian Parliament. They discussed Myanmar's democratic transition and also talked about developing bilateral relations and the Rakhine situation.

Later, the State Counsellor and her entourage travelled to the National Arboretum, where the State Counsellor planted a *Pinus roxburghii* (Chir Pine) in honour of Myanmar-Australia relations. This was followed by the State Counsellor meeting with Myanmar citizens living in Australia at the Albert Hall, Canberra. The State Counsellor explained the reforms taking place in Myanmar, the peace process and national reconciliation, the situation in Rakhine and how Myanmar expatriates could help contribute to making it better.

The State Counsellor then answered questions raised by the attendees at the ceremony. Myanmar's Ambassador to Australia U Tha Aung Nyunt then handed over the donation money collected from the Myanmar community in Australia to the State Counsellor for humanitarian assistance in Rakhine.

Later that night, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Thaung Tun, and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attended a dinner hosted by Aust-Cham (Australia Chamber of Commerce) member companies, which are investing in the various sectors in Myanmar, at the Hyatt Hotel. At the event, the Union Ministers explained about Myanmar's political and socio-economic development and then answered questions posed by Australian companies —Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in the Australian Parliament. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung inspects Mon State Hluttaw

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung arrived in the Mon State Hluttaw yesterday afternoon and met with Mon State Hluttaw Speaker Daw Tin Ei, Deputy Speaker Dr. Aung Naing Oo, State Hluttaw representatives and officials.

At the meeting, the Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker first delivered a speech, and then the Mon State Hluttaw speaker introduced him to the State Hluttaw representatives.

Next, the Mon State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker explained the State Hluttaw, and the Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker responded to matters raised by the Hluttaw representatives. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Free eye surgery offered to local people in Rakhine State

Shwe Karuna Foundation, a local philanthropic organization offered a free eye surgical treatment for cataract patients at a clinic in the capital Sittway in Rakhine State on Monday.

The free eye surgery started today and will last until 21 March, according to the organizer. Jointly organized by the Ministry of Health and Sports, Shwe Karuna Foundation's medical team is expected to treat more than 300 cataract patients throughout Rakhine State.

"The cataract surgery is being performed by a fourteen

member medical team led by Eye Specialist Prof. Dr. Khin Ohnmar Khaing from Yangon Eye Hospital. The medical team consists of nine surgeons, a glass expert and four nurses. We have already provided medical checkup for as many as 700 patients," said U Tin Nyein Oo, information in charge from the foundation.

This is 12th free eye surgical treatment given by the foundation in Rakhine State. Accommodation for the patients who will receive eye surgery is provided in Sittway. —Tin Tun ■



India hands over last batch of locomotives to Myanma Railways

THE Indian government's engineering consultancy company RITES Ltd. handed over the final batch of six YDM-4 diesel-electric locomotives to Myanma Railways during a ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the ceremony were Union Minister of Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Indian Minister of State for Railways Rajen Gohain, deputy ministers U Kyaw Myo and U Tar Oo, Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Vikram Misri, Technical Director of RITES Ltd. Mukesh Rathore, and other officials from the Ministry of Transport and Communications.

U Thant Sin Maung mentioned 18 locomotives were purchased with loans procured from India's EXIM Bank. He thanked the Indian government, EXIM Bank and RITES Ltd. for aiding in the development of Myanmar's railways.

Next, Mr. Rajen Gohain and Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri delivering the opening speeches. Next, General Manager of Myanma Railways U Min Aung and Mukesh Rathore



Officials from Myanma Railways and India's railway ministry pose in front of YDM-4 locomotive. PHOTO: MNA

explained the mechanics of the locomotives.

Mukesh Rathore then handed over the documents for the locomotives to the Managing Director of Myanma Railways U Thurein Win. The officials then sprinkled ceremonial water on the locomotives. The new YDM-4 locomotives have a microprocessor-based control, The location of the locomotives, their travelling speed and status can be monitored with software download-

ed from the factory. In addition to this, the control unit can be linked with a laptop to keep track of the locomotive's status.

India handed over the first batch of six locomotives in July 2017, another batch of six in November 2017 and the last batch on 6 February 2018. The 18 new locomotives will be used on Yangon-Mandalay, Mandalay-Myttha and Yangon-Mawlamyine railways. —Myanmar News Agency ■

ASEAN, Australia committed to countering terrorism

THE ASEAN-Australia Summit concluded on 18th March with both sides adopting a joint statement - the Sydney Declaration - which sets out their shared commitment to boost cooperation on various issues.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Government of Australia on Cooperation to Counter International Terrorism signed on 17 March 2018 will deepen and expand our strong existing cooperation.

The signatories agreed to share intelligence and strengthen law enforcement cooperation, among a host of other joint initiatives.

The leaders exchanged views on ways to boost cooperation on security issues, particularly cyber security. The landmark MoU to combat international terrorism inked on Saturday focused on developing capabilities to deal with terrorists' use of technology to spread their ideology.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other Southeast Asian leaders signed an agreement at the summit with the Australian government to strengthen cooperation and collaboration to counter violent extremism and terrorism within the region.

In all the meetings between Australia and ASEAN, the subject of counter terrorism has been given careful deliberations and Myanmar has been quick to discuss the recent surges of terrorism and violent attacks in her border areas.

Both sides unequivocally condemned in the strongest terms terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, reiterating their commitment to work together even more closely to enhance regional cooperation to counter terrorism, including to prevent and suppress the flow of foreign terrorist fighters in the region, and address the underlying factors and conditions that contribute to the growth and spread of violent extremism and radicalization.

"Nowhere is far away from anywhere when it comes to terrorism, and none of us can tackle this threat alone," said Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.

Australia has continuously supported humanitarian aid to Myanmar and is also a valuable ally with ASEAN. In 2016, the ASEAN-Australia summit was held in Laos and the recent one was held in Australia herself. Relations between ASEAN and Australia reached mutual strategic levels in 2014, and in 2016 the ASEAN-Australian trade value reached USD 73 billion placing it in third place after China and the European Union.

Australia has pledged to contribute humanitarian aid to Myanmar and last year agreed to support an additional AUD 16 million (approx. USD 12.3 million), as well as to follow the recommendations from Kofi Annan's final report on Rakhine State in providing assistance to the area. Since July 2016, Australia has provided USD 18 million in cash assistance to Myanmar.

Energy Consumption with Sustainable Development in Myanmar

By Khin Yadanar

THE energy sector is the totality of all of the industries involved in the production and sale of energy, including fuel extraction, manufacturing, refining and distribution. Modern society consumes large amounts of fuel, and the energy industry is a crucial part of the infrastructure and maintenance of society in the world.

Exploitation of energy

The use of energy has been a key in the development of the human society by helping it to control and adapt to the environment and managing the use of energy is inevitable in any functional society.

In the industrialized world the development of energy resources has become essential for agriculture, transportation, waste collection, information technology and communications that have become prerequisites of a developed society. The increasing use of energy brings about a number of serious problems, some of which, such as global warming, can create potentially grave risks to the world.

Discovery of energy sources

Ever since humanity discovered various energy resources available in nature, it has been inventing devices, known as machines that make life more comfortable by using energy resources.

In this time of globalization



uncertainty one thing we do know is that the world is in need of energy -- and in increasing quantities -- to support economic and social progress and build a better quality of life in the country.

But providing this energy around the globe comes with a responsibility and commitment to developing and using our resources responsibly. Commitments should be made to protect both people and their environment, thereby making positive economic contributions.

Reliable and Affordable energy sources

Energy sector enables the

productivity and services which can enrich the quality of human life in our modern world. For developing nations like Myanmar, the need for reliable and affordable energy becomes more and more crucial and it can also improve and even save our lives.

Moreover, reliable energy can support the development of industry, agriculture, trading and transportation sectors respectively. Also it can help the people escape poverty and create higher living standard. The majority of the countries in the world use energy which comes from hydrocarbons, with crude oil being the dominant source of transportation

fuels and its demands is getting higher and higher.

It is of paramount importance to increase the growing needs of energy consumption including oil and gas because renewables alone cannot meet the demand in the market but all sources of energy are needed to address this problem.

The Yadana Gas project

The Yadana Gas project is one of the biggest gas production fields in Myanmar and is an extension of Yadana gas field, an offshore gas field in the Andaman Sea.

French oil and gas giant Total is the operator of Yadana project with 31.2 per cent interest, while partners own the rest: US Chevron-Unocal is holding 28.3pc, Thai firm PTTEP with 25.5pc and state-owned Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) with 15pc.

This project has been thriving since 1995 and the production started in 1998. Moreover it is still producing with plateau production of 8 billion cubic meters per year.

Energy Sectors in Myanmar

The energy sector plays an important role in the country's economy, with natural gas providing by far its most important

among businesses about electricity shortages.

According to the records, Myanmar has been one of the major natural gas producers and exported to China and Thailand. But power demand has grown steadily since Myanmar overhauled its economy in 2011 to encourage foreign investment.

Production of usable energy

Producing energy to sustain the needs of the country is an essential social activity, and a great deal of effort goes into this activity.

Efforts should be made to increase the production of electricity and oil, and to explore newer ways of producing usable energy resources from the available energy resources. One such effort is to explore means of producing hydrogen fuel from water and though hydrogen use is environmentally friendly.

Endeavors of Ministry for Electricity and Energy

Myanmar has been blessed by its low-CO2 energy which is quite an issue for the country because it is one of the countries which are most affected by global warming.

As for the Ministry for Electricity and Energy, efforts are being made to set up a proper energy policy and effective plans which can be implemented the process and increase the product of energy sector.

Also the Ministry has planned to establish the joint venture projects for laboratory services to analyse petroleum and petrochemical products and certify them in accordance with the International Organization of Standardization (ISO).

Priority should be made to its energy reforms, harnessing the power of the various stakeholders. Ensuring public support in a sustained and sustainable development of its energy potential while attracting the financial and technical capability of investors will be important.

Moreover, public, private and civil society stakeholders must collaborate and partner in concrete initiatives. ■

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung *****

Appointment of Malaysian Ambassador agreed

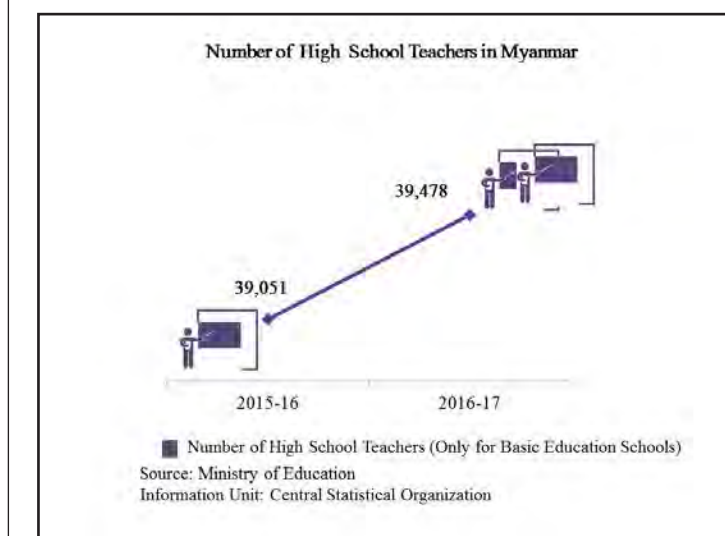
THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Zahairi bin Baharim as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Malaysia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to His Excellency Mr. Mohd Haniff bin Abd Rahman.

Mr. Zahairi bin Baharim was born on 10 February 1972 in Melaka. He obtained a Bachelor degree of Law (Hons.) from the University of Malaya and a Diploma in Public Administration (DPA) from the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) of Malaysia.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia in 1996, and has served in the Ministry and the Malaysian Embassies in Lao PDR, Kuwait and Qatar in various capacities. From 2008 to 2011, he served as Principal Assistant Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia. From 2012 to 2016, he served as the Minister Counsellor at the High Commission of Malaysia in Pretoria, South Africa. Since 2016 to date, he has been serving as Undersecretary of the Multilateral Economic and Environment Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia.

Mr. Zahairi bin Baharim is married.

Myanmar News Agency



Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.) - Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office