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Tuesday, 19 March 2019

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary celebrations of Mon State Day

Dear esteemed ethnic brothers and sisters of Mon State,

On this day the 19th of March which marks the 45th anniversary of Mon State

Day, I am very much honored and happy to have this opportunity to send this Message of Greetings. On this auspicious occasion of Mon State Day which has been recognized by Mon ethnic brothers

and sisters as truly special, I send this Message of Greetings to all Mon ethnic nationals and all Union citizens living in Mon State to be blessed with auspiciousness and good fortune.

The 19th of March 1974, the date on which "Mon State" was inscribed in the 1974 Draft Constitution, has been designated as Mon State Day.

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President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho present offertories to the Bhamo Sayadaw at the ceremony to offer "soon" to member of the Sangha. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Government offers "soon" to members of the Sangha

THE Union Government offered "soon" (midday meal) to members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee and Sayadaws who will receive religious titles at the Sasana Maha Beikman in the precinct of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw

Cho Cho attended the ceremony and offered "soon" to the Sayadaws.

The ceremony was attended by members of the Sangha led by Chairman of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa.

SEE PAGE-2



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Kayin ethnic people with traditional dance in Hpa-an, Kayin State, yesterday. **PHOTO: THET AUNG**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets residents of Hpa-an

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung and U Min Thu and officials arrived to Kayin State, Hpa-an by helicopter yesterday morning.

The State Counsellor was welcomed at Hpa-an airport by Kayin State Chief Minister Nan Khin Htwe Myint, State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, Kayin State minister, Hluttaw representatives, departmental officials, ethnic national cultural groups and local people.

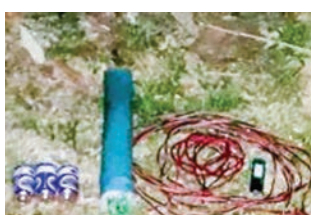
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NRPC and KNPP hold meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

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Children's Literature Festival commences in Putao

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A congregation led by President U Win Myint, First Lady Daw Cho Cho and Vice President U Myint Swe receive the Five Precepts from Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa at the Sasana Maha Beikman in the precinct of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Government offers “soon” to members of the Sangha

FROM PAGE-1

The congregation led by President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho received the Five Precepts from Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa.

Afterwards, the President and First Lady presented offertories to Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa and Pyinmana Mahavisuta Yama Zaygon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhajamharatthaguru State Ovadacariya Bhaddanta Kavithara.

Vice President U Myint

Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker's wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi and Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo presented offertories to Sayadaws.

Chairman of the State Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Dr Sein Sein Thein, wife of Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Union ministers, Union Auditor-General, Chairman of the Union

Civil Service Board, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, Permanent Secretaries, departmental officials also presented offertories to Sayadaws.

Similarly, First Lady Daw Cho Cho, Vice President's wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw's wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi and Chairman of the State Constitutional Tribunal's wife Daw Htay Yi presented offertories to nuns.

The ceremony ended with

sharing merits gained.

Following the ceremony, President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho and the congregation offered “soon” to Sayadaws and nuns.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker's wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Chairman of the State Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye

Thida, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein's wife Dr Sein Sein Thein, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, Union ministers, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council and their wives, Permanent Secretaries, departmental officials and invited guests. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the 45th Anniversary celebrations of Mon State Day

FROM PAGE-1

Since then we have been celebrating this day annually and this year marks the 45th Anniversary.

Mon State is a place where Mons and Burmans constitute the majority and Kachins, Chins, Rakhines, Shans and Pa-O ethnic races all live in close friendship. In various parts of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, all types of ethnic national races have been living since centuries ago together in close friendship in weal or woe. All our ethnic brothers and sisters have struggled together, hand in hand in unity to free ourselves from the colonialist yoke.

However, since the day we gained independence, our ethnic brothers have been unable to settle their political ideologies through negotiations and compromise. However they have tried to settle these differences through armed conflicts. As a result of this we have moved further away from internal peace and our country had to suffer the bitter

experience of armed conflicts for many years. Although successive governments have tried to solve the problem of internal armed conflicts in many ways among our ethnic brothers and sisters, because we have been unable to solve the root political problems through political means, even to this very day we are witnessing the continuation of these armed conflicts.

Our Union Government has been successfully conducting the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panlong Meetings up to the Third meeting. We have also reached agreement on some fundamental federal principles. We have done these things to fulfill the ardent desires of our citizens who have been yearning for many years for durable peace. They know that to achieve this, armed conflicts which are the roots cause of political problems need to be solved through political means; and that a democratic federal union which is acceptable to all ethnic brothers and sisters need to be established.

I have been very happy to note that the New Mon State Party signed the NCA – Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement on 13th February 2018 and that it has participated in the political dialogues at different levels. Our ethnic brothers and sisters need to maintain the agreements reached thus far; I believe that they will continue to participate enthusiastically in our endeavors for the emergence of a democratic federal union as soon as possible.

Mon State which is full of splendor and steeped in culture, history and traditions, has the potential to develop with momentum within a few decades because of its location and geographic situation. I have been pleased to notice this. As we strive ardently for a constitution that would allow us to build a democratic federal union which can guarantee us rights such as democracy, national reconciliation and the right of self-determination, I firmly believe that both men and women of Mon State would join in, strive hard and work hand in hand

with other Union citizens.

The opportunity to practically create the dream of a federal union which has yet to be fulfilled, though we have yearned for it for so many years is now within the reach of every Union citizen. This dream of a federal union is the dream of Bogyoke Aung San our national leader; architect of independence and father of the Tatmadaw and other Union leaders to be passed on to the new generation of youths. I send this Message of Greetings with good wishes for our Mon ethnic brothers and sisters urging them to continue walking on the path of National Reconciliation and Union Peace with courage and wisdom. I also pray that they would be able to firmly grasp the stability and peace of Mon State to strive in unity for the emergence of a socially harmonious, equitable, modern, and developed state within the coming decade.

signed / -
(Win Myint)
President

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets ...

FROM PAGE-1

From there the State Counsellor went to Hpa An town Thita Hta Man Aung Pagoda and paid homage to the pagoda offering flowers and water. She then made a cash donation for all round maintenance work of the pagoda to the pagoda trustees.

After wards the State Counsellor met with the local people at Hpa An town Zweekabin hall.

At the meeting the State Counsellor said the reason for holding a meeting with the people was to learn from the people. It was for the government, the public servants and the people to learn. It was to find a way of working together in cooperation in a democracy system. That was why when I hold such a meeting I don't want personnel from the government administration in the meeting hall while people were on the outside. In such a setup both sides would not have the opportunity to learn from the other side. When I came the first time to Mt. Zweekabin in 1995, it was to pay homage to Thamanya Sayadaw and since then many changes could be seen.

At that time Hpa An town was not as big as now. Hpa An had developed to a certain level but the development was not adequate enough. There remained many requirements. These would be included when people made their submissions later. These were requirements in the entire country. It would be difficult to fulfill all the requirements of the country. Time would be needed. It had been for decades that the country had not developed and it would be impractical to develop such a country in three years. Yet there were developments even though the development had not reached a satisfactory stage. In fact we must never be at a stage where we were satisfied. If so we would not be striving hard and lose the will for it. We must strive towards developing year by year.

When I came by car back in 1995, I was able to learn about the situation in the small villages. Now that I came by air, I was not able to see the situation at village level. I lost some opportunities to know the situation of farmers and people at the grass roots level. On the other hand, as I came in by air, I was able to see clearly how developed Hpa An had become. This was a lesson for me. A view from a place is not the same as a view from an-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a cordial meeting with the local residents of Hpa An in Zweekabin Hall. PHOTO: MNA

other. Only when the views and thoughts are combined can we make our country develop fully. From Kayin State we were able to understand well the miseries of not having peace. We also saw clearly the changes when there was ceasefire and were on a road toward peace.

About two years ago a dis-

He admitted that as he lived in a place where there was peace he did not know of the effect on daily lives when there was no peace.

He understood the importance of peace after hearing what the youngsters from Kayin State said. Locals in Kayin State had learnt from their practical life of the importance of peace. There-

Meeting with the people was for the government, the public servants and the people to learn.

cussion was held with youths about peace. Youths from all around the country attended that discussion. A youth from Mandalay was there. Two youths from Kayin State were there. When they discussed the two youths from Kayin State knew the importance of peace and its value. They told of what they had seen clearly after achieving ceasefire and how the lives of the people had changed. The youth from Mandalay spoke honestly of learning there and then about it. As he was born in a peaceful region, he never had firsthand experience about the miseries and tragedy of internal conflict. It was not that he did not know as he was quite a well learned youngster who had much interest in the affairs of the country.

fore I strongly believed that the people here would work enthusiastically toward the success of the peace process. Only then can our country become a true democratic federal union. Our country has not become a full democracy yet. We are yet to be a country that practices a firm federal system. This was thought to be the goal of all. Some did not understand this. Some support it. Some were not interested. I would be repeating the same thing repeatedly if I were to speak to those who were not interested.

We should not be dis-interested in politics. Politics directly relate to us. Politic was about the affairs of the country. It was not about party politics or solely about winning an election. De-

mocracy nowadays was about a government elected by the majority of the people. In other words it was a representative democracy. It was not a direct democracy. Our country had a population of more than 50 million. All were not at the voting age. Looking at those who were of voting age, not all could participate in the administrative machinery. A representative democracy system was a system that was practically appropriate to the will of the people. However it was not without faults too. People themselves were not faultless. As people who were not faultless created something it would not be faultless too. A renowned person said a democratic system was not good but other systems were worse. From whatever angle it was looked at, a system that represented the people cared for the people.

A system that represented the people would be a system that placed emphasis on the will of the people. This need to be noted and emphasis must be placed on the will of the people. The government members and public servants were also the people. But they were people who were given the rights to do things. Whether these rights were used for the country and the people or for themselves were to be decided by them. It would be a grave mistake if people in the government and the administrative machinery used these rights for their benefit. Personally it would be a great opportunity to gain much merits. Politically, it would be a great op-

portunity to benefit the country. Thus, use this opportunity well. Only through correct use can there be development for self, as well as for all. I spoke about this throughout our entire movement for democracy. Once there was an eastern saying that categorizes four types of government. The first was a government despised by the people. A little worse one would be a government feared by the people. A better one was a government that was praised by the people. But the best was a government whose existence the people did not know. If we reviewed our government's performance through the past three years, we had not reached the best stage yet.

Because the people did not know about all that we had done, I concluded that we were not too bad. They thought this was their right. I like that. For example, the two youths from Kayin State first spoke about road transport at the peace discussion. After achieving peace road transport became better. Roads can be built with peace. Prior to that, as there were battles raging, roads could not be built. Due to improvements in roads, their lives developed. Within the three years more than 60 miles of road were built. Most would not have realized this and they need not too. The main thing was the changes in people's lives. They were not looking at how many miles of roads constructed. But they knew the changes to their lives. It was the same when I was representing Kawhmu Township.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets ...

FROM PAGE-3

I had a sad experience on how successful the road communication was. After a child was killed in a road accident, I went to the child's parent and the mother in tears told me of the death of her child. She said her child was not able to enjoy the good road that was built and that hit me very hard.

Those who did not look into it deeply wouldn't realize how important it was but the roads were becoming better for sure. Whether they realize this or not a good government do such things. Our country was still going down the path of democracy. Cooperation of the people was required to achieve success. People need to notice this. For all to develop, all need to participate. It would not be possible to share the benefit of development if you do not want to part take in the development works. All need to do it hand in hand. Our country was not facing challenges only from the development side but from all sides. I have said this repeatedly. It was our choice

whether these challenges were an opportunity or a problem for us. The important thing was to make it as an opportunity for us. Due to the challenges, we got to know the importance of collective strength. If we faced the challenges with unity, we would overcome it and reach our goal. People from Kayin State would be especially capable to teach the people in the whole country about union spirit. Teach all about it. The best way to teach was to practice it yourself. Do not teach by word but teach by action. People from Kayin State were to walk down a path that would enable their offspring not to experience what they had experienced from internal conflicts. If all aimed towards peace, we would achieve peace. Destabilizing the country more by taking opportunity of facing challenges would be akin to being disloyal to the country. It would be akin to not having metta towards the people. Such people and organizations would not benefit anything or anyone. They may look successful for a short while but in the long run they would never benefit the world they lived in. Kayin people were known for being loyal not only in this country but in other countries as well. Be an example on being loyal. Spread metta. There were many beliefs and

religions in Kayin State. There were many ethnic nationals. People from Kayin State were to show how through this collective situation they achieved their goal successfully. Relevant departmental officials will now answer to submitted questions.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects the interior of Yathe Pyan natural cave in Hpa An, Kayin State. **PHOTO: TET AUNG**

We will permit people to raise questions and to do this we would have to select who would ask the question. As we do not have time for all to raise questions, people should be disciplined. Do not compete towards raising a question. The main point was to get an answer to your question. If you were not permitted to ask a question, you can do so in writing. We have opened a complaint section. Questions should be mainly about our country and related to the benefit of the country.

Pre-submitted questions covering cross border travel and permission for foreigners, railroad connection, upgrade of bridges, traffic congestion, construction of roads and bridges, questions raised by five locals outside the meeting covering returning confiscated land, reviewing expansion of the school land and theft of motorcycle in Hpa An university and questions raised by 3 locals in the meeting covering construction of a new airfield for Hpa An, reopening village connecting road, exist-

ence of buildings that should not be on Strand Road in Hpa An, having adequate medicines in Kamamaung People's Hospital, upgrading Kamamaung town into a township etc. were answered by State Chief Minister and departmental officials.

The State Counsellor added onto the replies made by saying that government need to assess and measure a feasibility of a work program. Decision on conducting a huge work could not be made without detailed

were made and instructions issued. Trespassing or illegal settling was not acceptable. It was violation of laws and rules. If people do not have a place to live, they should approach their respective state/region governments. Governments were to setup projects to provide for this, said the State Counsellor.

In conclusion, the State Counsellor spoke of receiving questions on land matters whenever meetings with people were held. Therefore, a priority pro-

truly modern country provided both physical and mental security. The most important for a country to be modern was to have rule of law. People were bored with this word and were not interested in this. They were not interested in laws, rules and regulations. But a law was made by the people and it need to be fair and just.

A word of caution as made in my visits to state and region governments would be made here again. Engagement with the people was required. Both the administrative and government portions need to engage with people.

The state government was elected by the people. Even though public servants were not elected by the people, they become public servants because they wanted to. If they served for money alone or just to have a living it would not make them an honorable dignified public servant. As they became a public servant, they might just as well become a good public servant that were loved and respected by the people. If they were loved and respected by the people, they would never go hungry or face difficulties. If the people did not love and respect them, they would not feel good even if they were rich or live in peace.

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Trespassing or illegal settling was not acceptable. It was violation of laws and rules.

study. Utilization of government could not be decided by looking narrowly. Demands and requests made from all over the country were reviewed and our aim was to fulfill all but priority had to be made and was implemented only after a practical study was conducted.

Arrangements were made to return land confiscated after 1988. In a country practicing democracy nothing could be done by verbal order alone. It would not be legal. Official decisions

gram was being drawn up to return such lands to true owners. As people rely on agriculture the importance of land ownership was understood and the government was making it a priority to resolve these matters. Decisions were made after careful assessment according to the law without taking the administration's side or the side of the people.

For some a country's modernity and progress meant having modern buildings or having high technology. In her view a



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the Japanese traditional silk weaving factory in Ward 6 of Hpa-an, Kayin State, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-4

The people, the government and public servants all

had responsibilities.

All must not shirk their responsibility. Only then can

the country develop. With such courage, Kayin State would become a safe, rich and developed

State even if it had suffered from the ravages of internal conflict.

Finally, the State Counsellor apologized to the people outside the hall as this hall was not the type of hall in which she would want to meet with the people. This arrangement made the government on one side and the people on the other side. Instead of holding a meeting in such place, it would be better to meet with all in a big place outside, said the State Counsellor.

Later in the afternoon the State Counsellor visited a Japanese traditional silk weaving factory in Hpa An town Ward No. 6 to inspect the silk products production and took a commemorative group photo with the factory workers.

From there, the State Counsellor visited Yathe Pyan natural cave and inspected the interior of the cave. Afterwards the State Counsellor went to the Computer University (Hpa An) where the headmaster of the school explained about construction of staff house and students' hostel while migrant workers working at the site

discussed about their job opportunities and education and health of their offspring.

The State Counsellor commented that parents need to arrange for the education of their children and employers also need to help their employees' children to attend school. The government was providing assistance to expecting mothers and children up to two years old and General Administration Department would help towards providing financial assistance.

Later in the afternoon, the State Counsellor went to Naungkamyang village at the invitation of a villager present at the meeting with the people in Zweekabin hall and paid homage to Naungkamyang Ywagyi monastery Sayadaw U Thumana and donated offertories.

She then met with villagers of Naungkamyang village and discussed education, health and problems faced by the villagers. After this meeting the State Counsellor inspected development and construction works along Hpa An strand road by motorcade. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister U Min Thu meets GAD staff of Kayin State

U MIN THU, the Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, met with staff of the Kayin State General Administration Department at the State GAD office in Hpa-an, Kayin State, yesterday.

Firstly, the head of the Bago Region GAD, U Kyaw Soe, introduced the Union Minister to everyone in attendance and explained about the State GAD's processes and performances. The Union Minister then delivered a speech.

GAD's roles and plans

The Union Minister said the GAD has been strengthening the administrative mechanism of successive political systems for the nation and the people. He said now is the time for the GAD to make visible changes for the public to see to be in line with the changing political system and government policies.

It was with this mindset that the workshop on reform was held in Nay Pyi Taw for GAD staff from 26 to 28 February. There, GAD staff and officials engaged in meaningful discussions on taking further steps for the future of the GAD, said the

Union Minister.

Vision, mission of the GAD

The Union Minister said the workshop produced vision and mission statements, workplace standards and reform procedures for the GAD. The vision statement was chosen as 'Building good administration and mechanism based on the people'. This is the long-term objective chosen by the GAD staff.

The mission statements made at the workshop include proliferating the rule of law and community peace, implementing State Policy, establishing a good administrative system, and carrying out people-centred regional development. These mission statements were designated by the GAD staff and thus they must undertake them with deep consideration, said the Union Minister.

Three main reform tasks

The Union Minister said the workshop also facilitated the emergence of 3 tasks for reform: (1) reforming policies, (2) reforming regulations and managerial components, and (3) establishing regional develop-

ment and good practices.

The first reform task includes reviewing amending laws, bylaws, written orders and directives as necessary. The Union Minister said this task requires some preparation as the GAD has been transferred to his ministry and includes the need for some flexibility and lessening of restrictions. He said this task will be undertaken on a step-by-step priority basis.

The second reform task includes handling the GAD's manual, organization, administrative

management, e-Government and the digital platform, capacity development, and public interaction. These will also be ordered on a priority basis.

The third reform task will also sort out and prioritize steps to be taken towards establishing good practices that are in line with the current political system, and to produce noticeable regional development. The Union Minister said the reform tasks need to be carried out at the same time in uniformity with each other and with the One

State-One Township project.

Ideals to maintain on the path to reform

The Union Minister urged GAD staff to systematically implement the vision, mission and reform tasks in a uniform manner. He said the GAD is working towards becoming an administrative sector that initiates reforms as an example to others will be people-centred. He said there are three points to remember in this regard.

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Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government, U Min Thu, addresses the meeting with staff of the General Administration Department of Kayin State in Hpa-an yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tatmadaw conducts Combined Fleet Exercise-Sea Shield 2019



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects the combined fleet exercise of the Tatmadaw navy from the Aung Zeya Vessel. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

TATMADAW (Navy) conducted a Combined Fleet Exercise-Sea Shield 2019 yesterday in the Bay of Bengal and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspected the exercise.

Accompanied by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Commander-in-Chief

(Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San and Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Maung Maung Kyaw, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services viewed the combined fleet exercise from the Aung Zeya Vessel.

First, the Senior General and party heard a report on the exercise presented by the naval division commander on duty of naval division who was the leader of the exercise, and gave the verbal offensive order on war vessel-Aung Zeya. Afterwards, the commander and Cos returned to their respective warships and conducted the exercise in accord with the program.

Navy seals gave a demonstration of raiding an enemy-seized passenger and trad-

ing ship and rescuing hostages by using four fast patrol crafts and three helicopters.

On completion of the exercise, the participating war vessels saluted the Senior General aboard war vessel-Aung Zeya under fleet review.

Next, officers and other ranks aboard the high-speed watercrafts who participated in the exercise saluted the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

They then continued conducting their exercise by firing aerial defence weapons at enemy aircrafts and fired artilleries at enemy reconnaissance watercrafts. In order to crush the enemy's main fleet, the naval troops changed into Formation-10 and conducted firing missiles and main artilleries.

After the fighting exercise, the naval water crafts carried out underway replenishment at sea exercise.

Local media also reported the Combined Fleet Exercise-Sea Shield 2019 from the Aung Zeya navy vessel.

Following the exercise, the Commander-in-Chief visited the Cocogyun Township People's Hospital and comforted the patients receiving treatment by specialists of the mobile ship of the Tatmadaw.

Afterwards, the Commander-in-Chief met with the press and briefed on the military exercises carried out by the Tatmadaw, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Cocogyun Township People's Hospital providing medical care to local people. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Over 900 jade lots sold out on eighth day of Gem Emporium

THE 56th Gem Emporium continued its eighth day at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Jade lot numbers 3601 to 4800 were put up for sale through an open tender system and sold 909 jade lots for Euro 46.735 million.

Gems merchants attending the emporium more than 20 times were honoured with certificates presented by Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe, who is also Chairman of the Gem Emporium Central Committee, the Chairman of the Myanmar Gems Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association, and the Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise.

So far, the Gem Emporium has sold 1,050 jade lots from numbers 1 to 1200 for Euro 46.505 mil-



Merchants inspect an uncut jade. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**

lion, 858 jade lots from numbers 1201 to 2400 for Euro 78.825 million, 783 jade lots from numbers 2401 to 3600 for Euro 101.472 million, and has amounted to a total sale of 3600 jade lots for Euro 273.537 million.

The emporium will continue to 20 March and will display jade lot numbers 3601 to 4800 on 18 March, numbers 4801 to 6000 on 19 March, and numbers 6001 to 6973 on 20 March.

2,912 gem merchants from



Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe honors a gem merchant who has attended the Gem Emporium for the 35th time. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**

China, Thailand, Australia, US and India, and 1,649 domestic gem merchants have registered

for the gem emporium and many visited yesterday. —Mhwae Kyu Zin (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

With POSCO

Go Together

အမည် အသစ်နဲ့ အသစ်တဖန် ပြန်လည် မွေးဖွားလာသော ပေါ်စကိုအင်တာနေရှင်နယ်လ်သည် တန်ဖိုးကို သိမြင် တွေ့ရှိပြီး အခွင့်အရေးများကို ဖန်တီးပေးပါမည်။

ပေါ်စကို ဒေပူးအား ပေါ်စကိုအင်တာနေရှင်နယ်လ်အဖြစ် အသစ်တဖန် စတင်နိုင်ခဲ့ပါပြီ။

ပေါ်စကို ဒေပူးသည် ၁၉၆၇ခုနှစ်တွင် ဒေပူးဆိုသော ကုမ္ပဏီအမည်ဖြင့် စတင်ခဲ့ပြီး ပေါ်စကိုဂရု(ပ်)၏ ကုမ္ပဏီခွဲတစ်ခုအဖြစ်ဖြင့် တောင်ကိုရီးယားနိုင်ငံ၏ စီးပွားရေးကို ဦးညွှန် ဖွံ့ဖြိုးလာအောင် ဦးဆောင်လာခဲ့ပါသည်။ ယခုအခါမှာတော့ တာဝန်ယူ လုပ်ဆောင်နေသော လုပ်ငန်းဆောင်တာများနှင့် ကိုက်ညီသည့် ပေါ်စကိုအင်တာနေရှင်နယ်လ်ဆိုသော အမည် အသစ်ဖြင့် အသစ်တဖန် စတင်မွေးဖွားလာခဲ့ပါပြီ။ နိုင်ငံပေါင်း ၈၀ကျော်၌ ရှိသော ရုံးခွဲများမှ တဆင့် စတိုးနှင့် ကားပစ္စည်းများ အပါအဝင် အမျိုးမျိုးသော ကုန်ပစ္စည်းများကို ရောင်းချပေးနေပါသည်။ လျှပ်စစ် နှင့် စွမ်းအင် ထုတ်လုပ် ရောင်းချမှု၊ စားသုံးကုန်လုပ်ငန်း အစရှိသော နယ်ပယ်များတွင်လည်း ကျယ်ပြန့်စွာ လုပ်ဆောင်နေသော ပေါ်စကိုအင်တာနေရှင်နယ်လ်သည် ကုန်သွယ်မှု လုပ်ငန်းများအပြင် ကုမ္ပဏီ၏ ဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်မှုကိုသာမက ကမ္ဘာတစ်လွှားတွင် ရှိသော လူအများ၏ လူနေမှု၊ အဆင့်အတန်းများကိုပါ တိုးတက်ဖွံ့ဖြိုးလာစေရန် လုပ်ဆောင်ပေးမည့် အရည်အသွေးမြင့် ကုန်ပစ္စည်းများကိုသာ ထုတ်လုပ် ရောင်းချပေးနေသော ဂလိုဘယ်လ် ကုမ္ပဏီတစ်ခုအဖြစ် တိုးတက်လာခဲ့ပါပြီ။

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INTERNATIONAL

End armed conflicts without losing sight of people's aspirations

AT EVERY meeting with locals during her visits to the regions and states, the State Counsellor has listened to the concerns of the people and tried to fulfil their needs as far as possible.

The issues raised by the people mostly involve education, health, economy, transportation, safe drinking water, land confiscation, and electrification.

The Union Government is working to upgrade towns to uplift the socio-economic condition of the people, and providing help to ensure the same for people in rural areas.

The development of border regions and far-flung hilly areas is especially being given a priority by the government.

While the Union Government is working hard to find sustainable solutions to bring about peace, stability, and development in Rakhine State, the recent fighting ignited by attacks on police outposts by the AA group has further complicated the situation in the state.

... The attacks on police outposts have disrupted not only the rule of law, but also the daily lives and security of the local people ...

materials meant for the development of Rakhine State.

The attack on the civilian target has highlighted the need for communal peace and rule of law to carry out regional development aspired to by the people. It has also highlighted the fact that armed conflicts only hinder regional development projects and pose obstacles to the aspirations of the local people.

The Union Government is committed to overcoming the grave challenges it has faced in Rakhine. From the very beginning of its term, the government has made rule of law and sustainable development in Rakhine, for which there is a vital need in the state, a national priority.

To ensure long-term peace and harmony in the State, the incumbent government has been doing its utmost to meet the security and humanitarian needs of the people, in line with the recommendations of the commission led by the late Dr. Kofi Annan.

To end ongoing armed conflicts, we would like to urge the Government, the Tatmadaw, and the ethnic armed organizations to resolve issues through negotiation, without losing sight of the goal of total peace for the country.

■■■

BY KYUNTHA NGAMAN

AMONG the kitchen ingredients people use in the kitchen, none are as basic or widely used as the noble salt. Salt is an essential nutrient for humans and animals as it contains the chemical sodium that helps nerves and muscles, including the heart, to function correctly.

Myanmar's history with salt

Salt production in Myanmar can be divided into two groups; coast and inland productions. Inland production is where salt is harvested from saltwater springs and wells. Shwabo District once housed a prominent inland salt production industry during the reign of Myanmar's kings. Takwataw, Hanlin, Sartauing regions and Kyauktaw Village in Sagaing all produce salt for Myanmar. People in Chin State were known to harvest salt from the saltwater springs in Hukaung Valley and more were found in Kamine Township. Another prominent salt producer is found in Shan State at Bawkyo Village in Hsipaw Township.

Coastal salt production is where sea salt is harvested from seawater. In Myanmar, you can find sea salt harvesters in Taninthayi Region, Mon State, Bago Region, Ayeyawady Region, and Rakhine's coastal region.

When Myanmar fell under British colonial rule, the governing body took direct control of the national salt industry. Up till just before World War II, salt had to be imported for domestic use. In 1908, salt manufacturing was limited to Kyaukpyu, Hanthawaddy, Myaungmya, Patheingyi, Dawei, Kyaukkhami, Thaton, Myeik, Katha, Sagaing and Shwabo districts to control the production of salt.

The British government systematically levied taxes on salt production in Myanmar and sold back to foreign countries at quadruple the purchasing price.

Early Rakhine salt era

It was in the initial years of the British occupation where Rakhine's salt business was at its peak. This is evident from the records at Kolkata and Chittagong ports that shows salt from



Rakhine producers need to implement clean high-quality salt in order to normalize the salt market.

Kyaukpyu District was imported from Kyaukpyu port.

Salt production rose rapidly after the end of WWII. This was intentionally boosted to make Myanmar self-sufficient on domestically manufactured salt with no foreign imports necessary.

After independence, few people get involved in salt production in Rakhine State; boiled salt was produced to meet local demands in Myanmar during 1955-1956. Mass production was carried out in Kyaukpyu District and Maung-taw township and supervisory offices were opened in their respective townships to oversee management.

Salt production was enough only for the State. After 1962, the salt industry survived unsteadily under the Socialist Economic System. But in Rakhine State, production changed from boiled salt to sun-dried salt by means of techniques, helping much development of production in the State.

The steady rise of salt production

Rakhine salt production has

... To produce salt of high quality, the latest techniques are required and about K9 million is needed per acre, said salt producers. That is why financial support is required, they said ...

developed during post-Socialist Era in 1990s. Mass production of dried salt was widely used in the coastal townships of Kyaukpyu, Thandwe, Gwa, Taungup, Myebon, Pauktaw, Sittway, Ponnag-

yun, Yathedaung and Maungtaw. But a market for Rakhine salt is sufficient for the locals and upper Paletwa region and India borders.

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trading officially opened in 1995. Sun-dried salt was exported to Bangladesh via border trade especially from Sittway's borders from 2002 to 2008.

Demand from Bangladesh became so strong that additional salt had to be ordered from the Ayeyawady Region. Salt warehouses proliferated along the banks of Shwemangan brook during these times.

However, salt export to Bangladesh was suspended in 2009, leading to a decrease in Rakhine's salt production and ultimately a loss of salt market to Bangladesh. In addition, in 2010, smooth salt from Thailand began entering Myanmar with cheaper prices thus sending Rakhine salt production to its lowest level.

Quality production of salt

The efforts of the Rakhine

State government reopened trade opportunities with Bangladesh in 2012-2013, but the quality had dropped below Bangladesh's standards. Their sun-dried salt was now produced with modern techniques and was a cut above the methods used in Rakhine's producers.

Bangladesh now produces a clean and quality salt by channeling salt water to plastic-spread salt land. Rakhine producers need to implement clean high-quality salt in order to normalize the salt market.

Industrial Raw materials

As Rakhine State is on the edge of the Bay of Bengal, eleven coastal townships are expected to carry out sun-dried salt production successfully. As it is used as common salt as well as industrial raw material; raw salt is used for ice packs and for paper production machines.

By-products from sun-dried salt are marketable items. Magnesium sulphate, calcium sul-

phate and magnesium hydroxide are produced from — water. Magnesium sulphate can be used in the manufacturing of medicines and calcium sulphate are used in the cement and porcelain factories. Magnesium chloride can be used in rice mills and greatly in need for the production of fertilizers.

Therefore, the development for the market of sun-dried salt can be improved. The State for feasibility for a parcel of land for construction The Rakhine State has a long and beautiful coast and wide areas of paddy land. Thanks to geographic backing for social advancement, it has an abundant supply of rice, fish, meat and natural resources accompanied by invaluable heritage.

Thus, the people of the state will have to try to succeed what they possess in hands to become a modernized region. It is true that Rakhine State is in a good geographic location and possesses plentiful natural resources; its coastal areas are strategically located with the Bay of Bengal.

These conditions create a golden opportunity for the people of the State. Geographically there are a lot of streams and rivers and much plain; forests and mountains and a wide land area will attract a good investment by locals and foreigners. Climate is favorable with natural resources both in land and the sea. As the State is strategically near the Bay of Bengal, it serves as a commercial gate to China, India and other ASEAN countries.

Assistance needed

To produce salt of high quality, the latest techniques are required and about K9 million is needed per acre, said salt producers. That is why financial support is required, they said. Ethnic businessmen want assistance from local government for the development of small and middle businesses. At the same time, by-products from salt production should be fully emphasized. Presently, Rakhine salt producers are found to be helpless. To improve Rakhine salt market, to produce salt of higher quality and to penetrate new markets are the harsh realities of the producers' life.

(Translated by Arakan Sein, Pen Dali)

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

The Office of the President issued Press Release No. 11/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 16 March.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 16 March.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 20 March issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.— GNLM

မြန်မာ့နေပြည်တော် : ပညာရေးနှင့် အားကစားဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပညာရေးနှင့် အားကစားဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပညာရေးနှင့် အားကစားဝန်ကြီးဌာန

မလ္လိကစာပေပွဲနှင့် စာအုပ်ပွဲများ (ပဲခူးမြို့)

၂၀၁၉ ခုနှစ် ၊ မတ်လ (၂၀၊ ၂၁) ရက် (ဤသတင်းစာသည်) ၁၀ နာရီ ၀၀ မှစ၍ ၊ နံနက် ၉ နာရီ မှ ည ၅ နာရီ အထိ မလ္လိကစာပေပွဲနှင့် စာအုပ်ပွဲများ ဖြစ်ပေါ်မည်။

ပဲခူးတက္ကသိုလ် ဘွဲ့နှင်းသဘင်ခန်း၊ ပဲခူးမြို့

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Monday 18 March 2019)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MST: During the past (24) hours, light rain have been isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions. Weather has been partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Day temperatures were (2°C) above March normal temperatures in Sagaing and Magway regions, Kayah and Mon States and about March normal temperature in the remaining regions and states. The significant day temperatures were (42°C) in Chauk, (41°C) each in Aungmye and Bawlahe, (40°C) each in NyaungU, Nay Pyi Taw(Zayyathiri), Minbu, Magway, Taungdwingyi, Sinhyugyun, Tounghoo and Pyu. The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Myeik (0.08) inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North and Southwest Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 19 March 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin states and isolated in Lower Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Northern Shan and Kayin states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3 - 5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi regions, Kachin and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 March 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 March 2019: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19 March 2019: Partly cloudy.

Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution holds meeting 7/2019

MEETING 7/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Joint Committee secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Committee joint secretary U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho and members who were

representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein delivers the speech at the meeting of the Joint Committee to amend the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Constitution (2008) yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



NRPC, KNPP hold meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

NATIONAL Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) and Karen National Progressive Party (KNPP) held a meeting at NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting, NRPC member Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo said KNPP had signed a state level and union level agreements since 2012 and was an organisation that had maintained an almost perfect zero conflict status in the region. KNPP Vice Chair Khu Oo Reh had participated as a leader of UNFC's Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) and thoroughly discussed UNFC's 9 point-proposal in order to continue the peace process. Although a good situation of having an agreement on almost all of the proposals were reached, there remains some that still need to be discusses and thus KNPP was unable to sign the NCA yet and had been continuing discussion with the government.

The Peace Commission and KNPP had met in Loikaw, Kayah State on 27 April 2018. Negotiations were conducted on signing the NCA and progress was achieved on the matters of troop movement and communication, holding regular state level meeting, mutually agreeable communication channel for the short time period prior to signing of the NCA as well as agreement on troop matters.

On 10 March this year a working meeting was held in Chiang Mai, Thailand where difficulties faced by both sides were openly discussed and outcome of this was today's meeting. Therefore, discussion in today's meeting should also be conducted openly and discussions are requested on matters in which



A meeting between the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) and Karen National Progressive Party (KNPP) takes place in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

the government side should do said the Union Attorney General.

Next KNPP Peace Implementation Committee group leader Khu Oo Reh said in order to resolve the 70 years long problem between KNPP and government discussions had been held for seven years from 2012 March to 2019 March. There were progress during these seven years of discussions but there still remain some problems out of which some were still being under negotiation. This meeting is finding a solution to the problems and the problems need to be recognized by both sides. Problems recognized by both sides also need to be resolved in a way that is acceptable to both sides. Only when there are the same understandings on the problems can an answer acceptable to both sides could be identified.

It is an honest assessment that mutual recognition during the seven years of discussion had become firmer but mutual understanding had been waxing and waning. But this doesn't mean there is a lack of trust between

the two. Official and unofficial meetings were between the two groups for several times. All meetings were conducted not only to find a solution or submit a matter but to discuss what were the understandings of both sides on the matters and to find solutions that were the best for the country.

Therefore in the day's meeting too KNPP will discuss agreements reach at bilateral level and difficulties faced on the ground. It'll discuss matters to be discussed in the next levels and agreement related to NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement). In today's meeting military matter will be left out to be discussed with the Tatmadaw next day. Some ongoing works conducted in the region will also be discussed by representatives. While expecting for the best, it is strongly believed that there'll be some progress said Khu Oo Reh.

Next regional development matters, holding monthly state level coordination meetings, signing of NCA, future peace process works and general matters were

discussed.

Afterwards Khu Oo Reh said the day's meeting was beneficial and was thankful to see both side eager to openly discuss requirements in the seven years of meetings. It is expected that an agreement stage with better guarantee and solution will soon be reached and felt that both sides were satisfied with the outcome of the day's meeting. Therefore it is hoped that next meeting will achieve better results said Khu Oo Reh.

In return NRPC member Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo said NRPC and KNPP had spent a lot of time to thoroughly discuss matters. Discussion today was on education, health, regional development and training and is believed that the matters can be implemented soon. The matter of conducting regular monthly meeting will be implemented with the State government and it'll enable achieving better results in the peace process.

Agreement was reached to hold another meeting before end of April and signing of NCA dis-

cussed in today's meeting will be continued. As KNPP is also joining the forthcoming meeting with other non-signatories of NCA on 21 March all are urged to strive toward signing of NCA, said the Union Attorney General.

After the meeting Peace Commission Support Group member U Kyaw Lin Oo and KNPP spokesperson Nei Neh Plo met with the media and responded to questions raised by the media.

The meeting was attended by NRPC members Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Lt-Gen Min Naung, secretary Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Peace Commission secretary Lt-Gen (retired) Khin Zaw Oo and member U Aung Soe and Kayah State minister for planning and finance U Maw Maw. KNPP Peace Implementation Committee group leader Khu Oo Reh and members Saw Bi Htoo, U Phone Naing, Khu The Bu, Khu Daniel, Mann Saw and Khu Taw Reh (S) also attended the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Children's Literary Festival commences in Putao

THE Putao edition of Myanmar's Children's Literary Festival was launched at Phonganrazi Hall in Putao, Kachin State, yesterday.

The Putao literary festival is a collaboration between the Putao district administration committee, various donors, the Department of Basic Education under the Ministry of Education, and the Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information.

Opening ceremony

The festival was formally opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony outside Phonganrazi Hall by Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Kachin State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Khan Lin, State Minister for Social Affairs U Nay Win, IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing, Putao District Administrator U Thant Zin, and three outstanding students, while a student's marching band played in the background with dancing troupes.

The Union Ministers then took a documentary photo with the guests and students in attendance.

The second part of the opening ceremony continued inside Phonganrazi Hall as students from B.E.H.S. Putao sang the theme song of the children's literary festival.

Dr. Pe Myint's speech

The Union Minister for Information then delivered a speech. He said special value was placed in organizing the children's literary festival in Putao as it is located in the northernmost region of the country. He said he took care to ensure he could visit the festival in Putao and came together with the Union Education Minister. He explained the three objectives for organizing literary festivals for children.

The first objective is making the children happy. The Union Minister said pairing fun moments with reading will instil pos-



Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and officials cut ribbon to open the Children's Literary Festival in Putao, Kachin State.

PHOTO: MNA

itive connotations for the rest of their lives. The second objective is making children happy through literary and the third objective is fostering the spirit of teamwork in children.

The Union Minister encouraged the children at the festival to participate in the activities organized there so that they will gain self-confidence and increase their capabilities.

The Union Minister highlighted the fact that more government departments are participating in the children's literary festivals by opening their respective exhibition booths. He said this festival is displaying 3,263 books published in 2018 and will be donated by the IPRD and other donors to remain in Putao District for its residents to read.

The Union Minister urged the people to read at least one book from the donated batch. As is true in the saying 'Every people and country that reads, prospers', everyone needs to develop their skills for a better future for our country, said the Union Minister.

Dr. Myo Thein Gyi's speech

The Union Minister for Education next delivered a speech.

He said it is important for the children to participate in the various competitions held at the festival. He said his ministry holds the greatest responsibility for ensuring children are literate. He said it is also important to make sure

left behinds in education, school dropout rates are non-existent, and all school-age children finish primary education, said the Union Minister.

He said priority education programmes are carried out in

He said he was referring to reading to be able to discuss what is right and wrong. He also said we must preserve the literary and culture of all ethnic races.

The was followed by words of gratitude from State Minister U Nay Win. The opening ceremony then continued with performances by students from B.E.H.S. Putao, B.E.H.S. Dottan, and B.E.H.S. Lay Yin Kwin, after which the Union Ministers and invited guests met cordially with the cultural dance troupes, students and local residents attending the festival.

Competitions and exhibitions

The Union Ministers later visited B.E.H.S. Putao and observed the ethnic cultural groups and students partaking in the poem recitals, storytelling, impromptu speaking, origami, colouring, and painting competitions.

They next visited the exhibition booths displaying the culture of the Rawan, Lisu, Jinhaw and Taikhamti Shan ethnic races. Other booths include an educational display on conserving biodiversity, organized by the

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Children take part in the colour painting competition. PHOTO: MNA

the children are attracted enough to read the books at the festival, have fun from reading, and are able to attend school.

The Ministry of Education vows there will be no discrimination in ensuring no citizen gets

regions like this and teachers are traversing difficult terrain to provide education to the children. This is for ensuring all children finish primary education. It is also important for students completing third grade to be able to read.



Jinhaw students, compete in the storytelling contest in ethnic languages at the Children's Literature Festival in Putao. PHOTO: MNA



Students entertain the visitors with dances at the Children's Literature Festival in Putao, Kachin State. PHOTO: MNA

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MCEA asks gov't to enact Apartment Law

By Aye Yamone

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA) said it has asked the government to enact the Apartment Law.

Although there are about 300,000 apartments in the Yangon Region, there is no guarantee when it comes to purchase of apartments because there is no binding law, according to the association.

If the Apartment Law is enacted to develop the housing sector, apartment owners will be able to get their titles registered, enter into legal deeds of sale, and the government will earn a good revenue from sales tax. Additionally, apartment owners will be able to sell, transfer, and mortgage their apartments legally.

"The enactment of the Apartment Law will turn around 300,000 apartments into strong assets. In the absence of the Apartment Law, most sales contracts are being drawn up in an informal way. This being so, if owners try to mortgage their apartments with banks, they are not granted loans. Apartment owners cannot exercise their consumer rights. There are also unwanted problems such as cases of construction contractors absconding, brokers cheating, and apartments owners being at risk of losing their apartments.



An aerial view of Yangon City with high-rise buildings. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

As for the government, it cannot impose taxes. If the Apartment Law is enacted, registration will be required when purchasing apartments," said U Myo Myint, the General Secretary of the MCEA.

Yangon Region has higher apartment occupation compared to other states and regions. Therefore, the MCEA is planning to draw the Apartment Law for Yangon Region along with the regional government.

The Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association has submitted a bill to the Pyithu Hluttaw after drawing up the National

Apartment Law. The law is to be implemented by the Urban and Housing Development Department, under the Ministry of Construction.

Currently, the National Apartment Law is being discussed at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw construction committee meeting.

According to the constitution, the Apartment Law can also be enacted at the state and region levels. Before work begins on a building, the construction plan needs to be submitted six months in advance to the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) for approval as designing build-

ings, copying municipal maps, etc., take time. So, if the YCDC makes changes once work begins, construction cannot be completed on time, creating differences between home-owners and contractors, according to the MCEA.

The MCEA has requested that contractors be granted at least 6 months' grace period at the 25th regular meeting between Vice President U Myint Swe and entrepreneurs, held on 15 March at the Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Five passengers killed, 12 seriously injured in car plunge on Alaungdaw Kathapa road

FIVE passengers were killed and 12 others injured when an express car plunged into a 200-foot-deep ravine at 16 mile 1 furlong on Alaungdaw Kathapa road, Sagaing Region on 18 March.

The vehicle carrying on board the pilgrims plunged into a deep ravine, according to U Thike Soe Tun, the administrator of Kani Township.

"Five passengers—one male and four females—died on the spot with 12 others on board the express car seriously injured in the fatal accident. There were altogether 36 passengers on-board on the express car, it is learnt. The injured were rushed to Monywa People's Hospital in the vehicles from the social organizations," said U Thike Soe Tun.

According to the witnesses, the express passenger bus, which was arranged by Yangon Shwe Chanthar vehicle line, dived down into the ravine when the driver lost control of the car.

"We saw the express passenger bus diving down at around 6 am. When we checked the bus, we found 12 passengers seriously injured, and we thus took them in a hurry to the hospital by my friend's car. We are not sure that they are still alive or not. But five passengers lost their lives on the spot," said U Tun Tun Win, Kani Township Hluttaw representative.

The police from Kani Myoma police station arrived at the scene of the accident, and they interrogated the driver and the witnesses to take legal action



Five passengers die after their express passenger bus plunges into ravine. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

against him if found guilty.

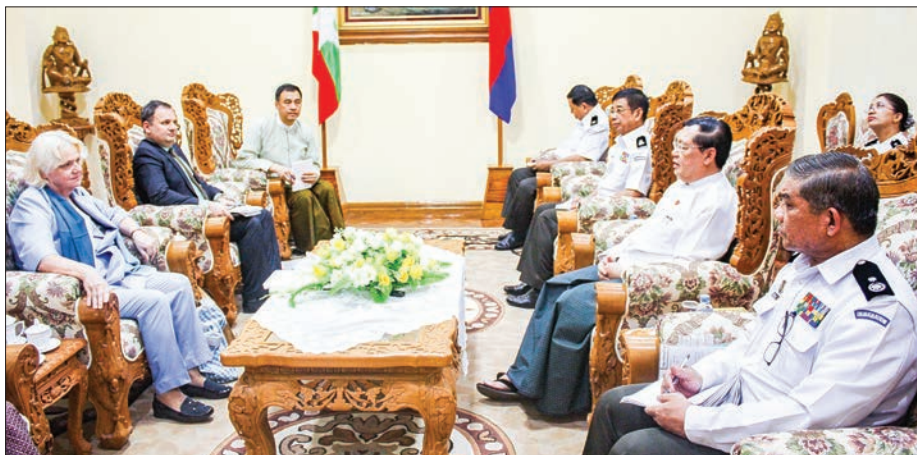
The cases of accident are annually reported on Alaungdaw Kathapa hill road, which was built with tortuous bends involving many twists and turns. To reduce such fatal accidents, the

Sagaing regional government and the related ministries are discussing upgrading of the road by the private construction companies under the B.O.T system. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Union Minister U Thein Swe receives Ambassador of Austria

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe receive Bangkok based Austria Ambassador to Myanmar Dr. Eva Hager at Union Minister's guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon. During the meeting status of forming committees and works implemented toward implementing e-Government system, status of implementing e-ID system which was the priority work of an e-Government system, status of forming e-ID system work committee, status of collecting biographic and biometric data of people



Union Minister U Thein Swe meets with Dr. Eva Hager, Bangkok based Austria Ambassador, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

living in the country and issuing a unique ID number, status of implementing and practicing e-Government system in Austria, using

modern technologies to make it a secure system, cooperation program of Austria toward Myanmar's e-ID works and status of

bilateral cooperation on implementing e-Government system were discussed. — MNA
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Discussion held on implementing rule of law and human rights

DEPUTY Attorney-General U Win Myint received Denmark Auditor General Office Director Mr. Henrik Lange and party at Union Attorney General Office guest hall yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting matters relating to research on legal affair, drawing up a law, ethic of law officers, practicing norms of fair justice, implementing human rights conventions signed by Myanmar and holding training courses and workshops were discussed. — MNA



Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint meets with Mr. Henrik Lange, Denmark Auditor General Office Director, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Children's Literary Festival commences in Putao

FROM PAGE-11

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, displays on drug and human trafficking and road safety by Myanmar Police Force, exhibits by the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Technical,

Vocational Education and Training, a booth on women's domestic education by the Ministry of Border Affairs, booths by the Department of Rural Development and the Consumer Affairs Department, and a clinic set up by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Union Ministers

also visited booths selling traditional ethnic products by region and cheered on as they watched people participating in futsal, sepak takraw and women's htote-see-htoe (game combing elements of hopscotch and tag) competitions.

The Children's Literary Festival in Putao will

continue today at Phonganrazi Hall and B.E.H.S. Putao with children from Rawan, Lisu, Jinphaw, Shan ethnic races competing in storytelling and poem recitals using their respective ethnic languages. —District IPRD

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Dated: 19th March, 2019

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Security forces conduct operation against AA, arrest suspected member

SECURITY forces clashed with an AA group in MyaukU on 14 March, after 10 AA members, in civilian outfits, attacked a convoy carrying military personnel with remote-controlled mines.

The fighting took place near mile post No. 118/2 on the MraukU-Kyauktaw Road.

The security forces continued their operations along the route AA members had retreated.

During the operations, U Sein Hla, the son of U Hla Tun Aung of Phayargyi Village, MraukU Township, was found carrying an improvised explosive device (IED) in the toolbox of his motorcycle, and was arrested.

On 15 March, security forces clashed with AA members between MraukU and Teinnyo Village. Following the clash, the security forces seized a Honda Wave motorcycle used by the AA group.



An improvised explosive device confiscated from the AA group.

PHOTO: MA THA SA-YA THA SA

In a separate incident, a military convoy sent from Sittway to conduct security operations in Kyauktaw and MraukU townships was ambushed by about 30 AA members. Following the fight, security forces found the body of an AA member and one IED.

On 17 March, security forces attacked an AA base at Point-802 hill near border post BP-67.

Some AA members were killed in the clash and some arms and ammunition were seized. The AA group had set up base at the hill to hinder border fencing work.

The security forces are continuing to conduct operations in Rakhine State to ensure security and stability of the people, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA



U Sein Hla seen with an improvised explosive device and motorcycle.

PHOTO: MA THA SA-YA THA SA

Union Minister U Min Thu meets GAD staff of Kayin State

FROM PAGE-5

The first point is to regularly meets, discusses, and solicits advice with the public to become a GAD that promotes public participation. He told GAD staff to always be ready for the people and stand together with them.

The second point is to be refrain from promoting self-interest and to be free from corruption, said the Union Minister.

He said the GAD must follow existing laws, rules, regulations, and procedures and avoid burdening the public. He said they will take serious action against all forms of corruption.

The third point, said the Union Minister, is to take bold steps towards changing what needs to be changed while having a forward-looking approach to reforms.

Change starts from the individual no matter where it is being implemented and as such, GAD staff need to follow the policies and procedures set by the ministry to cultivate a strong mindset

for change, said the Union Minister.

Concluding remarks

The Union Minister asked GAD staff to exercise more effort in their daily tasks to become better and more effective. He asked them to closely review the designated policies make any necessary changes in their workplace. He told them to be more careful when interacting with the public, as offering polite conversations is the GAD's most basic service. He told to bear in their hearts that they are serving the public and to work hand-in-hand in fulfilling the motto of 'Change begins with the GAD'.

Afterwards, GAD staff in attendance submitted requirements to the Union Minister, who gave necessary suggestions and directions and then urged the staff to respect and follow the policies and procedures of the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Coordination meeting discusses logistics for Children's Literary Festival in Bago

OFFICIALS discussed plans to organize a children's literary festival in Bago during a coordination meeting held in the convocation hall of Bago University yesterday.

Speaking in his capacity as Chairperson of the Working Committee for Planning Children's Literary Festival, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun said everyone needs to discuss ways to implement the necessary procedures in time for holding the literary festival. He said he will coordinate discussions to ensure necessary processes are completed in time and are carried out efficiently. He said subcommittees need to be formed to and appointed with dif-

ferent duties while coordinating together to complete the overall purpose.

Complications in the workflow will delay progress, said the Deputy Minister. He said he believes the festival in Bago will have more festivalgoers than the other festivals as the roads in the region are quite good. He said there will be a lot of additional workload since the festival will also include activities and programmes not included in previous festivals. He said he will coordinate and negotiate on the tasks undertaken by the subcommittees.

Next, Daw Naw Pwal Hsay, regional Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs, explained the

completed tasks for holding the Children's Literary Festival in Bago and said the regional government will support the tasks as well.

U Aye Kwyel, Deputy Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department, also explained the completed tasks for the festival and was followed by reports from the subcommittees on their assigned tasks. The Deputy Minister gave instructions and advice as necessary.

After the meeting, the Deputy Minister and entourage inspected the layout for the festival in the university and gave instructions and advice as necessary. The Children's Literary Festival in Bago will be held from 28 to 30 March at the Convocation Hall in Bago University. The festival will include booths displaying and selling books, booths showing ethnic culture, government departmental booths, literary talks and roundtables, and competitions for impromptu speaking, poetry recitals and storytelling, also in ethnic languages, team building activity contests, playing htote-see-htoe (game combining elements from hopscotch and tag), and other sports and physical activities. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun addresses the coordination meeting for holding Children's Literary Festival in Bago. **PHOTO: MNA**

Local gold price likely to fall: traders



The price of gold in the domestic market is expected to remain low. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

By Nyein Nyein

WITH gold prices registering a downward trend in the global market, the price of gold in the domestic market is expected to remain low, said U Ohn Myaing, the General Secretary of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

“Currently, in the domestic market, gold is priced at K1,064,000 per tical (1 tical is about 0.578 ounces), which is relatively higher than the rate prevailing in the global market. The price in the domestic market is linked with the global market. Therefore, the domestic price is likely to fall,” said U Ohn Myaing.

“With global gold prices

soaring, the domestic price had touched a high in mid-February, reaching above K1,080,000 per tical. Now, the price has slid to K1,064,000,” said gold traders.

At present, the domestic gold market is seeing regular trading, they added.

Gold price hit fresh peaks in the domestic market earlier this year on account of the upward trend in global gold rates. The domestic price was recorded at K1,050,000 for the period between 17-29 January, remained above K1,060,000 from 30 January to 7 February, above K1,070,000 from 8-18 February, and above K1,080,000 from 19-21 February.

In Q4 of 2018, domestic gold price reached a low of K969,000

on 1 October and a high of K1,040,000 on 31 October. It hit a low of K1,027,100 on 30 November and a high of K1,044,500 on 2 November. In the last month of 2018, the gold price touched a low of K987,000 on 4 December and a high of K1,043,000 on 29 December.

The gold price touched a low of K1,043,400 per tical and a high of K1,061,000 on 31 January.

The domestic gold price has remained above K900,000 since 21 July, 2017. With global gold prices increasing, domestic gold price touched a high of K1,047,700 on 20 September last year.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

About 150 tons of cabbage exported daily to Thailand via Myawady

ABOUT 150 tons of cabbage are being sent to Thailand every day through the Myawady border gate, according to traders in the Bayintnaung vegetable market in Myawady Town.

“Myanmar did not send cabbages to the Thailand market earlier. Exports began this year. Cabbage farms in Thailand have been destroyed due to excessive use of pesticides. Therefore, Thai traders have begun purchasing Myanmar cabbages. Cabbages, an important ingredient in Thai dishes, are fetching 6-7Baht per kilo in the border market. They are also being delivered to Bangkok, Phuket, and Pattaya,” said a merchant.

The cabbages being supplied to the Thailand market are from Pyay, DaikU, Kalaw, and Aungban towns.

During the period between 1 October and 8 March in the



A farmer works in the cabbage farm in Tatkon. **PHOTO: GNLM**

current financial year, imports outperformed exports at the Myawady border gate, with imports registered at \$318 million and exports valued at \$58 million.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products such as crab, fish, and shrimp and agro prod-

ucts such as onion, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut, and turmeric to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizer, and consumer goods such as cosmetics and food pr—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Rice export earns \$615 mln over 11 months

THE volume of rice export from 1 April, 2018 to 1 March, 2019 is estimated at 1.82 million metric tons, earning over US\$615.74 million., according to an announcement of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Over the past 11 months, Myanmar’s rice was shipped to 50 countries whereas over 393,790 metric tons of broken rice were exported to 25 countries, earning \$114.69 million.

Normally, border trade volume was relatively high compared to sea trade in rice export. Yet, tight confiscation by China results in trade drop at border

gates. Maritime trade outperformed border trade.

Additionally, the values of rice and broken rice export dropped compared to the corresponding period of the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice worth \$1.13 billion were exported to foreign countries.

MRF did not reach its target of 2 million tons during the past mini-budget period (April to September). —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Export to Japan exceeds \$460 mln in current fiscal

THE value of export to Japan in the first four months (October-January) of the current fiscal year hit over US\$461.6 million while import was valued only \$166.8 million, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of trade between Myanmar and its development partner Japan touched over \$628.46 million during Oct-Jan period.

Myanmar’s export items to Japan are garments, marine products, rice, black sesame, green grams, rubber and other products. In return, it imported machines and machine equipment, electronic equipment, fertilizers, chemical products, medicines, automobiles, and other products.

Bilateral trade values were registered at \$1 billion in the past mini-budget period, \$1.92 billion

in the 2017-2018 FY, \$2 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and \$1.84 billion in the 2015-16 FY respectively.

This FY, five enterprises from Japan were approved to make initial investments of \$15.96 million into the country, according to the data of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Japan has made up nearly 28.9 per cent of total FDI in Thilawa Special Economic Zone, with estimated value of \$464 million since its establishment in 2014-2015 fiscal year.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) offers loans such as ODA loan and two-step loan with a view to bringing about socioeconomic development in Myanmar. -GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Correction

Please read “Myanmar’s bilateral trade with Singapore was registered at \$1.99 billion in past mini-budget period...” in the second paragraph in the second column of the story headlined “Import surpasses export in Myanmar’s trade with Singapore” of the 18 March edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—Ed

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Suarez suffers badly sprained ankle — Valverde

SEVILLE (Spain) — Luis Suarez suffered a “bad sprain” to his right ankle during Barcelona’s win over Real Betis on Sunday, coach Ernesto Valverde confirmed.

Suarez was taken off for Philippe Coutinho in the 89th minute of the 4-1 victory, in which he scored one goal and set up the second of a Lionel Messi hat-trick.

“He has a bad sprain,” Valverde said afterwards. “We’ll see what the doctors say but this is the feeling we have.”

Suarez looks unlikely now to feature over the international break, with Uruguay playing Uzbekistan in the China Cup on Friday. He will hope to recover in time for Barca’s La Liga clash against Atletico Madrid on 6 April and has just under four weeks to be ready for the first leg of their Champions League quarter-final against Manchester United.—AFP ■



Barcelona’s Uruguayan forward Luis Suarez (l) vies with Real Betis’ Spanish goalkeeper Pau Lopez during the Spanish league football match between Real Betis and FC Barcelona at the Benito Villamarin stadium in Seville on 17 March, 2019. Photo: AFP

Philippines will be “overwhelming underdogs” in FIBA World Cup: coach

MANILA — Yeng Guiao, the head coach of the Philippine men’s national team, said his nationals will be “overwhelming underdogs” in the 2019 FIBA World Cup.

Guiao said it will take a “miracle” for the Philippines to clinch a victory in the World Cup, after the national team was slotted with powerhouse squads in Serbia, Italy, and Angola in Group D at the end of the draw

on last Saturday night.

“I’m not going to say this is the group of death. But like I said, we’re overwhelming underdogs. Maybe this is the group of near death,” the national team mentor said on Sunday, adding that Serbia is really a world-class team and it’s the same with Italy.

However, Guiao does not want to say miracles can’t happen.

“The good thing about me is I believe in miracles. But you need to prepare hard for miracles to happen,” Guiao said.

If there is a chance for the Philippines to pull off an upset in the quadrennial competition, it will be against Angola.

“They (Angola) are a strong team. Angola is the team that we can say we can realistically upset. But it’s going to be a hard win. We will fight tooth and nail

to win. That’s how hard it’s going to be,” Guiao said.

The Philippines still has nearly six months to plan and prepare before the World Cup kicks off on August 31 in China.

According to the head coach, he is eyeing to have the national team train for two to three months and to have former NBA veteran Andray Blatche back from the US as early as possible.—Xinhua ■

United’s Martial pulls out of France Euro qualifiers

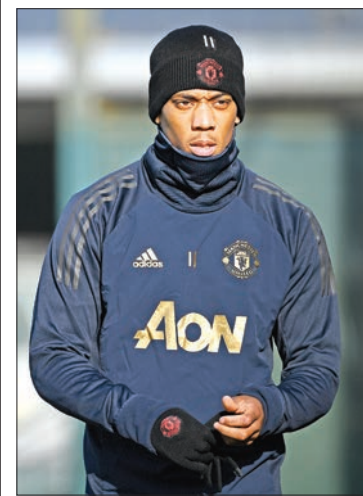
PARIS (France) — Manchester United forward Anthony Martial will miss France’s Euro 2020 qualifiers against Moldova and Iceland with a knee injury, the French Football Federation (FFF) announced on Sunday.

Martial who wasn’t selected as part of the World Cup winning squad in Russia is replaced by Atletico Madrid’s Thomas Lemar.

The United attacker, 23, aggravated the problem in his club’s FA Cup defeat to Wolves on Saturday. His last international appearance came in a friendly against Russia in March 2018 and has scored nine goals in 21 Premier League games for the Red Devils this season.

World champion Lemar has found it difficult since arriving the Spanish capital in July scoring only once in La Liga.

France face Moldova on Friday before hosting Iceland on 25 March in a qualifying group which also includes Turkey, Albania and Andorra.—AFP ■



Manchester United’s French forward Anthony Martial. PHOTO: AFP

Ronaldo rested as Genoa inflict Juve’s first Serie A defeat



Juventus’ Portuguese forward Cristiano Ronaldo. PHOTO: AFP

MILAN (Italy) — Juventus suffered their first Serie A defeat of the season on Sunday losing 2-0 to Genoa with late goals from former player Stefano Sturaro and Goran Pandev.

Ronaldo missed the trip to Genoa after firing the Serie A side to the Champions League quarter-finals with a hat-trick over Atletico Madrid during the week.

Sturaro and Pandev came

off the bench in the second half scoring on 72 minutes and 81 minutes respectively to inflict the first league defeat on Massimiliano Allegri’s side since April 2018 against Napoli.

The Champions had already been beaten this season by Atalanta in the Coppa Italia and lost in the Champions League to Young Boys in the group stage and Atletico Madrid the last 16 first leg.

Juventus had won 24 of their 27 previous matches in Serie A with three draws including 1-1 to Genoa in the reverse fixture.

Allegri’s side remain on track for an eighth consecutive title as they sit 18 points clear of second-placed Napoli who host Udinese later on Sunday.

Genoa move up to 12th after this eighth win of the season.—AFP ■