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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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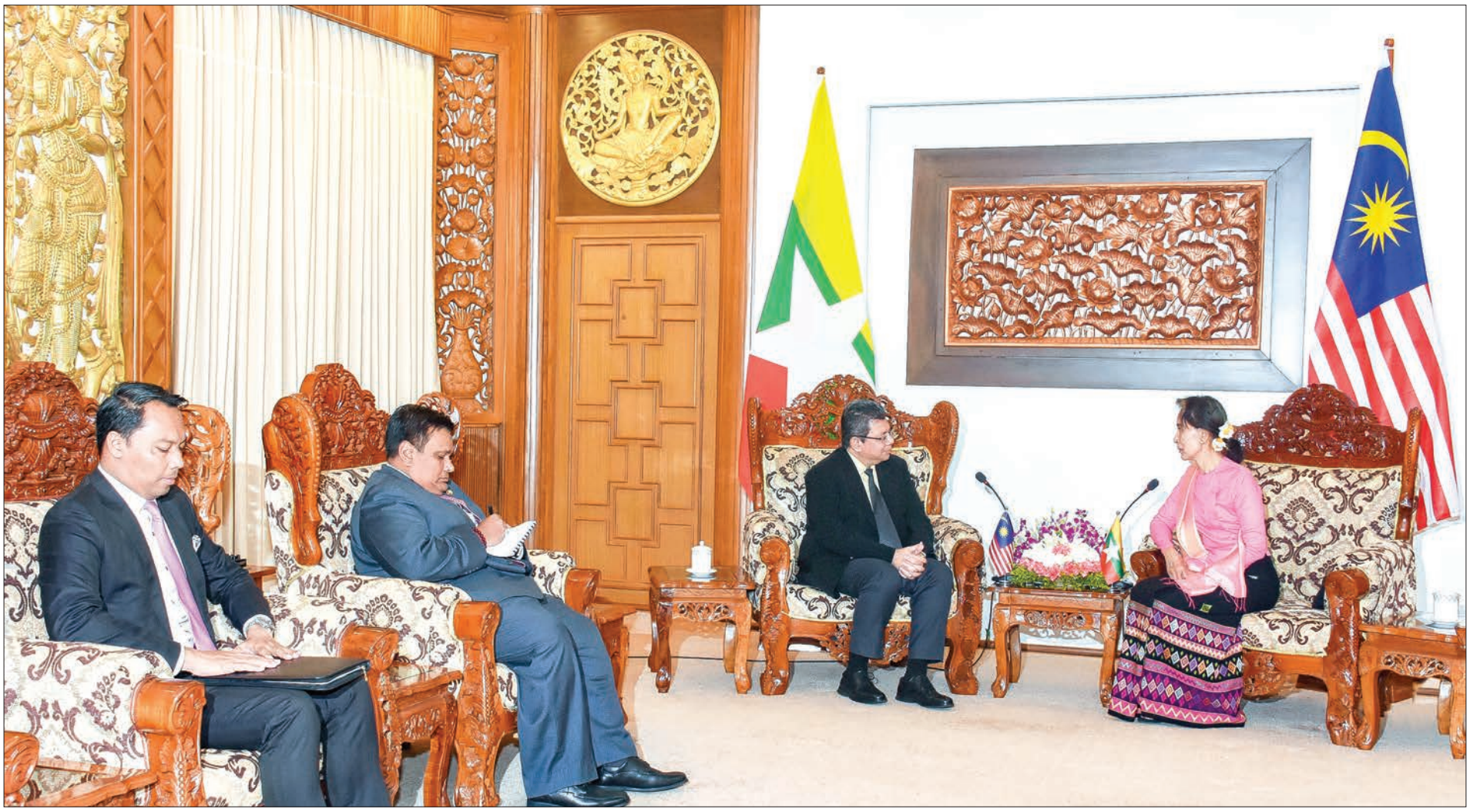
State Counsellor, Malaysian FM exchange views on latest situation in Rakhine State



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 April 2019 at 10 am during his official visit to Myanmar.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor and the Malaysian Foreign Minister discussed cordially various issues on promoting bilateral relations and cooperation, the recent developments in Myanmar and Malaysia. They also exchanged views on the latest situation in Rakhine State and how Malaysia and ASEAN could assist Myanmar in facilitating the repatriation process of the verified displaced persons.

Present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ambassador of Malaysia to Myanmar and the members of the Malaysian delegation.

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, also received Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, separately at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 9 am. During the discussion, they exchanged views on promoting trade and investment, strengthening constructive engagements in resolving the issue of Rakhine State and further consolidation of ASEAN unity.—MNA ■

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VP U Myint Swe attends National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation meeting 1/2019

Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting of National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHAIRMAN of National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Vice President U Myint Swe attended the first meeting of the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation for this year at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

In addressing the meeting U Myint Swe said the day's meeting was the first one for 2019. The 28 member council was led by the Vice President was formed by notification 7/2019 dated 12 March 2019 of the Union Government to develop science, technology and innovation works which were the aims of Science, Technology and Innovation Law, expanding research works based on modern science and technologies, conducting technology distribution and technology transfer works, conducting trainings to develop experts continuously, cooperation between universities, manufacturing works and other organizations, honoring and benefiting innovators, fostering development of research that supports market economy and effectively conduct and implement science and technology fairs and competitions.

Science and technology played a main role in a country's development. The present moment was a transition to the Fourth Industrial Revolution or Industry 4.0 where the manufacturing system exchanged data and information using automation systems. Science, technology and innovation works were required to be conducted in a rising momentum so that Myanmar would not be left behind.

To raise the role of science and technology, Myanmar repealed the Union of Myanmar Applied Research Institute Act 1954 and enacted Science and Technology Development Law 1994. To reflect the developing and changing time, this law was redrawn. On 25 June 2018 Science, Technology and Innovation Law was enacted over ruling the Science and Technology Development Law 1994 which was repealed.

It was everyone's knowledge that science, technology and innovation plays a major role in implementing the goals, pillars and strategic work processes of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan 2018-2030. The role of the science, technology and innovation sector was included in the sustainable development of the country's economy, implementation of Mekong region strategies, implementation of ASEAN Economic Community and government's other pledges and undertakings. Therefore the works included in the aim of the law were required to be implemented. Only then could the country be in line within the region and internationally to achieve our aims and Sustainable Developments. The science, technology and innovation works to be implemented at the present moment were research and development works, training and teaching works, and service and manufacturing works. In addition to this technology transfer, Myanmar needed to participate in supporting and assisting works on science, technology and innovation under the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC).

There were many areas in science and technology and the council was to form subject wise committees on science, technology and innovation that were appropriate for the country's situation and conduct science, technology and innovation works.

Under the Science, Technology and Innovation Law, the duties and responsibilities of the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation and the committees were mainly to implement research and development works and innovation works. Therefore, the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation was a National Research Council that represented the country.

The duties of the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation were to systematically setup, implement, encourage, support and coordinate research and development works, produce required experts and arrange to raise their capacities, setup arrangements for cooperation among research departments, universities and other organizations, form Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw and state/region level work committees, collect and distribute news and information and prepare annual work reports.

Furthermore it would study the socio-economic requirements of the entire country, coordinate and link universities, degree colleges, research departments, industrial manufacturing works to conduct science, technology and innovation works that would cause regional development and open courses that train and produces human resources.

For development of science, technology and innovation, not only the experts but the innovation of the grass roots people was also urged to be recognized and encouraged. It was also required to setup arrangements that would increase the participation of youths in innovation and invention activities as well as create opportunities for such activities.

Emphasis must be placed towards transferring technology from innovation to manufacturing. If full technology copyrights were granted to the innovators, there would be more innovators. For this to happen all need to work toward the establishment of technology transfer rules and regulations.

To implement the aims of the Science, Technology and Innovation Law, national level policies on science, technology and innovation will be established. To setup such policies for sector wise works in the law, discussion and coordination among relevant ministerial departments are urged.

Attendees were invited to openly discuss and make suggestions about future work processes and to successfully implement the aims, duties and responsibilities of the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation, said the Vice President.

Next, Council Vice Chairman Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi explained about the setup of the Council.

This was followed by Council Secretary Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun who explained about the draft Science, Technology and Innovation Rule and matters on which decisions were to be made.

Afterwards members of National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Tha Oo, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung gave suggestions and discussed sector wise cooperation programs and future works relating to science, technology and innovation works. The Vice President gave suggestions and comments to ensure coordination after which the meeting concluded following closing remarks by the Vice President.

The meeting was attended by the following persons:

The National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation Vice Chairman Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho, Dr. Myint Htwe and U Soe Win, Deputy Ministers U Hla Kyaw, U Tha Oo, Dr. Tun Naing, U Win Maw Tun and U Soe Aung, National Education Policy Commission Chairman, Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and Managing Directors, officials from Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies (Fed. MES), Myanmar Computer Federation (MCF), Rectors' Committee, Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (Central), Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association and Renewable Energy Association Myanmar and departmental officials.— MNA *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

> I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:
> 1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
> 2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
> 3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.
>
> (Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

> Not only in Rakhine State which has received the attention of the world, but in the entire country let us strive collectively for security of mind and body.
>
> (Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Newspapers to be distributed in turn this Thingyan

The News and Periodicals Enterprise of Ministry of Information announced that daily newspapers will be printed in turns during the Thingyan Festival.

While the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar newspapers will be printed on 13, 14 and 15 April, and the Myanma Alinn will temporarily cease printing operations during this period.

While the Myanma Alinn will resume operations on 16 and 17 April, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar will temporarily cease operations on those days.

Similarly, the Mandalay news sector from the Sub-Printing House (Mandalay) and the extra pages in ethnic language from the Sub-Printing House (Myitkyina) will temporarily cease printing operations on 13 April, the extra pages in ethnic language from the Sub-Printing House (Mawlamyine) will temporarily cease printing operations on 14 April, and the Shwe Pyi Rakhine Ponyeik sector from Sub-Printing House (Sittway) will temporarily cease printing on 17 April and will resume normal production after Thingyan holidays.

Advertisements will be received at the newspaper offices, which will remain open during Thingyan. All newspapers will resume normal production starting 18 April. —News and Periodicals Enterprise

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with the newly-accredited Ambassador of Ireland Mr. Joseph Anthony Cotter in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor, Irish Ambassador discuss bilateral relations, Rakhine issue

STATE COUNSELLOR and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Joseph Anthony Cotter, newly-accredited Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at 11:15 am on 8 April 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Ireland and recent developments in Rakhine State.—MNA ■

Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint holds talks with Assistant US Trade Representative for the Office of Southeast Asia and Pacific Mr. Karl Ehlers and US Ambassador Mr. Scot Marciel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Commerce receives Assistant US Trade Representative, US Ambassador

Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint received Mr. Karl Ehlers, Assistant US Trade Representative for the Office of Southeast Asia and Pacific, and Mr. Scot Marciel, US Ambassador to Myanmar at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed promoting investment and trade based on bilateral friendship, improvement in trade and investment after signing the Trade and Investment Framework Agreement between Myanmar and US, future cooperation between the two countries, speeding up and smoothing trade and more investment in manufacturing sector using Myanmar agriculture products.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

National Road Safety Council holds fifth meeting

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as Chairman of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC), addressed the fifth meeting of the council held at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Deputy Ministers, and ministers of transport at the state/region level – who are the Vice-Chairman and members of the NRSC, subcommittee secretaries and heads of departments attended the meeting.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the fifth meeting of the National Road Safety Council in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deadlines approaching

In his opening speech, the Vice President told attendees not to lose sight of the goal to reduce the death toll from traffic accidents by 50 per cent in 2020 from the toll in the base year of 2013. He also reminded them that the Road Safety Action Plan (2014-2020) was approaching its closing year and this meeting was to discuss what was left to be done in that remaining period.

He added that the Global Status Report on Road Safety 2018 showed that deaths and casualties from traffic accidents continued to increase around the world. He said it was still a long road till the global objectives were achieved. He urged everyone to strive for the NRSC's 2020 target as the council's works were important for the nation and the safety of its citizens.

Reflecting on past experiences

The NRSC's management subcommittee was able to compile a comprehensive annual report for 2018 that would greatly help in reviewing the last three years of the NRSC, said the Vice President. He said the report would help the various subcommittees, sub-national RSCs, and government departments analyse their weaknesses, see which target level their state or region had reached, and which areas they needed to focus on so that they could plan future tasks accordingly.

Motorcycle accidents dangerously high

The Vice President said motorcycle accidents encompass 49 per cent of all traffic accidents in 2018 with 2,376 deaths and 12,985 casualties. He said the NRSC's fourth meeting discussed how to reduce the high death rate from motorcycle accidents, which involved setting a standard for safety helmets. He highlighted how the management subcommittee held the Regional Workshop on Motorcycle Helmet and Minimum Safety Requirements for Cars, in cooperation with Suu Foundation, in Nay Pyi Taw during July 2018 to implement a Safety Helmet Standard that met the needs of Myanmar. He said they have now submitted a proposal to the National Standard Council to adopt UN Regulation 22 (Safety Helmet). The Vice President said motorcycle-related deaths would noticeably drop if Myanmar managed to adopt UN Regulation 22 and have everyone wear safety helmets with the E-mark. He said continued efforts needed to be made to educate the people on the benefit of wearing helmets that met specified standards, encourage systematic usage, and ensure every motorcyclist was able to wear one.

New database system, road safety

The Vice President said Myanmar successfully updated its Road Crash Database System, in line with ADB's TA 8987 program, in 2018 and began using the new system at the start of 2019. He said NRSC needed accurate information to set effective procedures and policies and thus urged close cooperation between the relevant subcommittees, Myanmar Police Force, and the Road Transport Administration Department. The Vice President gave necessary instructions to the sub-national RSCs concerning the upcoming UN Global Road Safety Week in May. The biennial commemoration would take place from 6 to 12 May this year under the heading of '5th UN Global Road Safety Week' with the motto: 'Save Lives - #SpeakUp'. He said the NRSC should review its road safety procedures based on Global Road Safety Week to see which procedures should be increased and which should be amended.

The Vice President said traffic-related injuries and fatalities decreased a bit in 2018 following a ten-year climb, according to the 2018 annual report. He said that while the achievement for decreasing road accidents should be welcomed, unfortunately, the numbers surged noticeably in the first months of 2019. He said the NRSC should take serious consideration in addressing this issue.

Seatbelts, a lifesaving necessity

The Vice President also addressed the issue with highway express buses. He said the majority of passengers did not wear seatbelts, while those that wanted to were unable to as most buses did not have full functioning passenger seatbelts. He said some buses even put on seatbelts only during inspections at checkpoints but failed to wear them during the remainder of the journey. He said this has led to unnecessary injuries or even deaths when accidents occurred.

The Vice President said all stakeholders must work to ensure these express buses have proper functioning seatbelts and to exact suitable punishment on those that failed to do so. He said joint monitoring groups must perform checks not just in central terminals but also in the smaller terminals. He said awareness campaigns needed to be conducted with greater momentum and that swift action should be taken against those who failed to comply with set rules and standards.

Attendees begin discussions

Next, NRSC Vice Chairman Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung explained traffic-related deaths and casualties, the high death tolls from motorcycle-related accidents, ensuring standard quality for safety helmets, fulfilling the UN's objectives, and reducing up to 50 per cent of the number of traffic-related deaths in 2013 by 2020.

NRSC Secretary U Zaw Min Oo, who is also Director-General of the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD), then explained the contents of the council's 2018 annual report. This was followed by the attendees discussing their relevant tasks and progress on implementing the decisions made at the council's fourth meeting.

Deputy Director-General U Nay Lin and Chief Engineer Daw Phyu Phyu Win of RTAD then explained traffic-related accidents around the world, and the child safety seats and child restraint system respectively.

Afterwards, attendees discussed various topics on traffic-related accidents to which the Vice President replied and gave suggestions as necessary.

Greater road safety needed

The Vice President then delivered the closing speech. He first acknowledged the successful reduction of traffic-related accidents in 2018. He urged everyone to work hard to produce better results in 2019 and to fulfil the objectives of the 2020 Action Plan as much as possible.

He added that education campaigns should be reinforced, inspections should be increased, and that appropriate action needed to be taken to ensure proper usage of safety helmets by motorcyclists as those who did not wear them had a higher risk of death or injury. Similarly, failure to wear seatbelts resulted in 6,276 injuries and 1,214 deaths in 2018 and the annual report showed that those who did not wear seatbelts were twice as likely to get injured and 4 times more prone to die from an accident, said the Vice President. He said a procedure must be implemented to effectively inspect and enforce all drivers and passengers across the country to wear their seatbelts at all times.

Thingyan Festival and Road accidents

The Vice President said all necessary preparations should be finalized in anticipation of the traffic-related accidents and casualties for the approaching Thingyan Festival. He urged all relevant stakeholders to ensure that this year's Thingyan Festival would have the lowest traffic-related accidents. The Vice President said there were 4.01 million licensed cars when the National Road Safety Action Plan (2014-2020) was initiated but that number had risen to 7.29 million as of February 2019. He said an increase in operating vehicles and traffic accidents were naturally linked, and coupled with the fact that 98.02 per cent of accidents were caused by human error, the need was greater than ever for road safety and adherence to traffic rules. The Vice President said public cooperation was essential to successfully reduce traffic-related accidents and to that end there was a need to increase education campaigns to persuade and encourage the public. Only then would Myanmar be able to truly achieve the global vision of "Towards Zero Together" on road safety, said the Vice President. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on friendly visit to PRC

At the invitation of Gen. Li Zuocheng, Chief of the Joint Staff, member of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party left Nay Pyi Taw international airport by air to China yesterday morning.

Upon arrival at the Kunming Changshui International Airport, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party were welcomed by Maj-Gen Yu Kun, political commissar of Yunnan military region, Deputy Governor of Yunnan Province Mr. Zhanguo Hua and high ranking officers from Chinese People's Liberation Army. After the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party were hosted a luncheon by the Yunnan Province Party Secretary Mr. Chen Hao, they left Kunming Changshui International Airport by air and reached Nanyuan public/military airport, Beijing in the evening. The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party were welcomed at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador U Thit Lin Ohn and officials from Chinese People's Liberation Army international military cooperation office and went to the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing for a brief stop.

Later in the evening, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party went to the Myanmar Embassy where they were welcomed by families of the embassy and military attaché's office and officers attending training courses.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing then met with families of the embassy and military attachés office and officers attending training courses. He then presented foodstuff and gifts to the ambassador, military attaché, families of the embassy and military attache's office and officers attending training courses.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being welcomed at Kunming Changshui International Airport, China yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party were then hosted to a dinner by the families of the embassy and military attachés office, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar-Bangladesh border forces senior officials hold meeting in Nay Pyi Taw

A 6th MEETING of senior officials from the Myanmar-Bangladesh border forces was held at Royal Ace Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chief of the Myanmar Police Force Police General Staff Police Brig-Gen Myo Than, senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Union Government Office, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Border Guards Bangladesh Director General Maj-Gen Md. Shafeenul Islam, ndc, psc and high ranking officials.

At the meeting cooperation in border area security and rule of law works covering illegal drug trade, terrorism, effective prevention of illegal border crossing, exchange of citizens who had served their prison terms, conducting regular flag meetings at battalion commander level and camp level, holding a first meeting between border liaison offices of the two countries, timely exchange of news and information related to security of the border region and rule of law, continuing coordinated patrols along the border line of the two countries, implementing trust building works to increase cooperation between the border forces of the two countries were discussed. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

The six meeting of senior officials between two border forces of Myanmar and Bangladesh held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Malaysia Foreign Minister departs from Yangon

Malaysia Minister for Foreign Affairs Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah seen off at Yangon International Airport by officials yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A delegation led by Malaysia Minister for Foreign Affairs Dato' Saifuddin Abdullah, departed from Yangon yesterday afternoon.

The delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia Ambassador Mr. Zahairi Baharim and officials. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 14/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 6 April.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President as of 6 April.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 10 April issue of *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.—GNLM

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment and hear cases

UNION Supreme Court sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges to pass judgments on five special civil appeal cases. It also heard two special criminal appeal cases and three special civil appeal cases. —MNA

UEC, election observers discuss final report for 2018 byelections

THE final report of the 2018 byelections was presented and put up for discussion at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The report was compiled by the People's Alliance for Credible Elections (PACE) and Phan Tee Eain (Creative Home).

Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein spoke at the seminar and said the UEC began permitting local and foreign election observers since the 2015 General Elections. He said the observers were also given permission in the 2017 and 2018 byelections and code of conduct and procedures for observers were published. He said PACE has been observing elections in Myanmar since the 2015 General Elections.

UEC upheld the five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people during the 2017 and 2018 byelections, said U Hla Thein, adding that they will continue to do so in the 2020 General Elections. He said election observers will continue to be invited to ensure the elections are transparent and free from corruption. He said they take the reports from election observers seriously and will take them into consideration for improving the electoral process where applicable.

Afterwards, PACE Executive Director U Sai Ye Kyaw Swar Myint explained the observation process for the 2018 byelections, the methods used and the results discovered. The UEC Chairman, members and officials from the UEC office replied to the discussion in kind. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein attends the meeting for the final report of the 2018 byelections in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister discusses youth policy issue in Mon State

A MEETING with Mon State youth affairs committee members and youth members of political parties was held at Department of Social Welfare Center for Vocational Training, Mawlamyine on Saturday. The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Mon State minister for social affairs Dr. Htein Lin.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye poses for the documentary photo together with attendees during the meeting with Mon State youth affairs committee members and youth members of political parties in Mawlamyine, Mon State. **PHOTO: MNA**

At the event the Union Minister said social protection works were conducted for the existence of every individual person and for their development. Policies and laws for early childhood to elderlies were being implemented by the government. Myanmar was among over 30 countries of the world that didn't have youth policy. Now, youth representatives elected by youths listened to the youths' voices, innovative thoughts and ideas and lessons learnt from mistakes made by elders in Nay Pyi Taw Council as well as states and regions and drawn up a youth policy by including the youths' feelings and requirements. It contains 16 sectors and this youth policy must be made known to youths in Union territory Nay Pyi Taw Council as well as states and regions through youth affairs committees. Relevant government departments and civil society organizations need to cooperate and participate in this. However, as situations in states and regions were not the same, there'll be difficulties and obstacles to overcome and priority sectors will also be not the same. Strategic plan for each sectors were already drawn up. Budget allocations were to be acquired in order to implement the projects of the strategic plan. The work projects will be implemented not only by our ministry alone. Participation and cooperation of other relevant ministries as well as non-government organizations, foundations and civil society organizations were required. Implementation of the 16 sectors of the youth policy can be said as giving youths their rightful rights. Youths will be taking over the responsibility of the country in the future. We'll be facing difficulties as we start to go down the democracy path. We must be patient, have resolve and unity to produce the best results said the Union Minister.

Next, Mon State youth committee members discussed the works of the committees and meeting attendees discussed and raised questions on acquiring land for Youth Center; people, rural youths and youths from parties and organizations to know the youth policy, cooperation required between Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and related ministries; youth and handicaps; youth and drug; youth and job opportunity and ethnic national affairs. The Union Minister, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, state minister for social affairs, Department of Social Affairs-Director General and officials responded to the discussions and questions raised.

Afterwards the Union Minister presented K 5,333,000 support to Mon State Youth Affairs Committee and took commemorative group photo with youth representatives in attendance. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Rakhine State Peace and Stability Supporting Committee holds first meeting

RAKHINE State Peace and Stability Supporting Committee will report short-term and long term plans to the Union Government after meeting with local authorities and collecting basic facts in the state.

U Aye Tha Aung, Chairman of the Committee and Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, said in his opening address of the first meeting of the committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday that the committee will hold talks with local authorities and work for reducing conflicts in Rakhine State.

Afterwards, Vice Chairmen of the Rakhine State Peace and Stability Supporting Committee Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, and members of the committee Deputy Minister of the Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint, Rakhine State Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Phone Tint, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Yangon Region Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, Representative of Rakhine State Hluttaw U Maung Maung Ohn and U Nyi Hla Nge discussed the short-term and long-term projects for bringing peace and stability to Rakhine State.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung delivers the speech at the Rakhine State Peace and Stability Supporting Committee meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs receives BGB director general

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Thu meets Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) director general Maj-Gen Md. Shafeenul Islam. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY MINISTER for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu received Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) Director General Maj-Gen Md. Shafeenul Islam, ndc, psc and party at Ministry of Home Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting matters relating to counter terrorism works, prevention of illegal drug trade, exchange of news and information, increasing cooperation between border forces and trans-nation crimes eradication were discussed. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Chief of Myanmar Police Force meets Border Guards Bangladesh Director General

CHIEF of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo received a delegation led by the Border Guards Bangladesh Director General Maj-Gen Md Shafeenul Islam, ndc, psc at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting they discussed promoting cooperation between two countries for stability and peace, combating illegal drugs trafficking in addition to terrorisms, sharing information between two countries and increasing cooperation through BLO (Border Liaison Office) were cordially discussed.

The discussion also focused on activities of ARSA and AA groups along the border areas of the two countries.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

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All in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations; antiflatulants; intestinal regulators; gastro-intestinal treatment preparations; medicines for alleviating constipation; diarrhea medication; lactobacillus dietary supplements; bifidus dietary supplements; nutritional supplements; dietary supplements for humans; oiled paper for medical purposes; sanitary masks; wrapping wafers for medicine doses; gauze for dressings; capsules for medicines; eyepatches for medical purposes; ear bandages; menstruation bandages; sanitary tampons; sanitary napkins; sanitary panties; absorbent cotton; adhesive plasters; bandages for dressings; liquid bandages; breast-nursing pads; cotton swabs for medical purposes; lacteal flour for babies; dietetic beverages adapted for medical purposes; dietetic foods adapted for medical purposes; beverages for babies; food for babies; dietary supplements for animals" in **Class 5**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

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For **BIOFERMIN PHARMACEUTICAL CO., LTD.,**
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Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated **9th April 2019** lmm@kcyangon.com

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports for the supply of Medical Equipments in the (2018-2019) Budget year.

Tender documents are available during office hours at the Procurement and Supplying Division, Department of Medical Services office No (4), Ministry of Health and Sports Commencing from (11.4.2019). Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (16-5-2019), 15:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph/telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Phone No.067-3411510, 067-3411544, Procurement and Supply Division Office, Department of Medical Services, Ministry of Health and Sports.

Procurement and Supply Division
Ministry of Health and Sports

Awareness is no small responsibility for anyone on the road

ACCORDING to statistics released by the National Road Safety Council, the number of road accidents have been on the rise for ten years, but the number declined in 2018. However, the number of deaths from road mishaps increased again in early 2019. The situation has alerted us of the need to carefully handle the issue.

The increase in the number of fatal road accidents paints a worrisome picture.

Drivers and passengers not wearing seatbelts, driving under the influence of alcohol, distracted driving and crossing speed limits, and using mobile phones while driving have been identified as major causes for road mishaps, according to experts.

> Public participation is the key for reducing accidents, and awareness is no small responsibility for anyone on the road.

It has been found that half the road accidents in Myanmar are caused by motorcycles.

Nationwide, motorcycle accidents accounted for 49 per cent of the total mishaps in 2018, in which 2,376 people died and 12,985 were injured.

Use of quality helmets can reduce the risk of death, and awareness about using quality helmets must be raised among the people.

The Myanmar New Year festival is drawing near. We must make preparations and take measures to reduce road accidents during the four-day festival, which starts on 13 April.

At the festival last year, there were 317 road mishaps, which killed more than 640 people and injured 106.

Four measures can help us ensure national road safety—wearing helmets (for motorcyclists) and seatbelts, refraining from using mobile phones while driving, abstaining from drinking while driving, and taking care not to over speed.

The tasks for implementing road safety are of great importance for the nation, as they are tasks that need to be carried out specifically for the safety of people's lives.

There are steps that can be taken by everyone every day that will make roads safer -- motorists need to be aware of people on foot and on bicycles, and people on foot and on bicycles need to take responsibility for their own safety as well.

If drivers and road users follow the vehicle, traffic, and road rules, loss of property, lives, and limbs can be reduced significantly.

Public participation is the key for reducing accidents, and awareness is no small responsibility for anyone on the road.

Only if we participate and take responsibility on the road can we meet the global road safety goal of 'Towards Zero together'.

■■■

Third-Year Reform Agenda of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

"Endeavors are being made by the ministry for development, including social protection, safety from harm, provision for rapid assistance, and improvement of conditions."

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye

By Naing Lynn Kyi

DURING the third year period of the incumbent Government, the tangible reform agenda and the swift implementation of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement are being centered and focus along with the people and worked in cooperation with the public and poised ahead in the same steps.

Endeavors are being exerted by the ministry for individual stance and development including the social protection, the safety from harm's way, the provision of rapid assistance, and the making of better condition than the previous situation.

Convincing the effective rehabilitation is vital for the relief of social dilemma and disaster, the ministry has expanded one new department. On 31st January 2018, under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Department of Rehabilitation was established with the staffs from the existing two departments. Moreover the name of Relief and Resettlement Department was changed to Disaster Management Department.

For the greater good of the people, the budget allocation from 0.09 to 0.41 per cent is seen during the third year plan of the new government.

With a view to saving wastage in the public funds, the under staffed ministry has sought and looped in additional manpower from the General Administration Department, the civil societies and the general public.

As the fine and fast arrangement are being made in the distribution of the aids and cash to the people, there comes the voices and echoes of good feedback from the people. In drawing up the relevant work preparation including the strategic plan, a research center was established, and subsequently four research papers have been approved by the Protocol and Ethnic Board (PEB). Research papers with pragmatic approach are connected with the Modified Conditional Cash Transfer (MCCT), the Social Cohesion, the Survey on Earthquake and the Rakhine Joint Assessment.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye accepts cash donation for flood victims in Toungoo on 30 August 2018. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

In the best interest of the pubic, the supervisory team for project implementation was being formed in 2018-2019 fiscal year and that (14) non-governmental organizations have been scrutinized.

> Job opportunities and employment have been provided to local people in the Rakhine State by assisting in various ways and means including investment to the Smart Garment Industry; the Khine Pyi Soe Garment Industry; the Shwe Kyar Traditional Weaving Industry.

In giving the exposure of Myanmar images to the international community, the responsible persons of foreign governments, the UN agencies and the international organizations; they are being provided with information of policies, principles, and techniques through frequent discussions with positive approach.

Taking care of the child from the pregnancy period up to the age of (8) of the child, the Department of Social Welfare is undertaking Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Child Protection Programme.

Child Protection Programme

From the time of pregnancy until (2) years of the child, proper development of the brain is very much vital, and therefore, raising awareness on nutrition in addition to monthly cash assistance of MMK 15,000 is provided to the womenfolk.

The project started in 2017-2018 in Chin State, Rakhine State and Naga Self-Administrative zone, and it expanded in Kayin State and Kayah State in 2018-2019. The budget allocated was MMK 17.832 billions from the government treasury and MMK 5.592 billions from international aid agencies.

Embracing (6) months infants to (3) years children under day-care bracket as well as (3) years to (5) years kids, where no pre-primary day care is available, are being looped into(650) newly established units of community based mother circles for all-round development of the children in 2018-2019 fiscal year with momentum. It is part of early childhood care.

In the elevation and boosting of childhood care and development, as well as imparting lifelong basic learning, a total of (1,025) community based pre-primary child care centers on self-helped basic have been commissioned.

For the proper functioning of the early childhood care centers, one month teachers' training have been facilitated in (200) townships in 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Pilot Project

In identifying and finding out the less developed children door to door in time and to lend hands to the parents, the Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) centers have been established in Yangon Region, Ayeyawady Region, Sagaing Region and Mon State, and subsequently picked out (851) children from ward and villages.

For the needy children of infant to (10) years in age, (7) child care centers have been functioning and that the kids under (18) are being taken care at (10) youth training schools.

In search of alternative ways and means for taking care of the children similar to embracing into arms the by the real and genuine parents for a limited time period, some new measures are being implemented in townships namely Dalla, Insein, Hlinetharya and North Okkalapa of Yangon Region, and MahaAungMyay Township and ChanMyaThazi Township of Mandalay Region.

A building with international standard of the Care Center for Abandoned Children (Nay Pyi Taw) is in the process of construction in Wunna Theidhi Ward in Zabuthiri Township. The building was donated by the Orphan Reduction and Protection Association (Myanmar) and well wishes to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Tasks of Youth Care

Youth policy is being drawn for Myanmar Youths to become multi-developed citizens by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Health and Sport, Ministry of Education in cooperation with relating departments and also youth representatives including women, persons with disability in States and Regions , UN organizations, NGOs and INGOs. Youth Policy is adopted by Cabinet on 8th November, 2017. Youth Policy Launching Ceremony was held on5th January 2018 at MICC (II), Nay Pyi Taw.

A discussion on draft National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy was held at Mingala Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw on 25 and 26 of March 2019.

Awareness raising activities were held at union level, state and region levels across the country from 25 November 2018, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to 10 December 2018, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign.

With a view to compile people's voices for (24) hours, the help-line 067-3404222; 067-3404999 have been opened up for the people, and eventually resolved many problems.

In providing services for the women, "One Stop Women Support Centers (OSWSCs)" are being setup in Yangon, Mandalay and Mawlamyine, and then further expanded in Lashio and Hpa-an in 2018.

Total of (90) women are sheltered at the centers and that (60) vulnerable girls have been provided with jobs for livelihood with the total budget of MMK 26.24 millions.

Social Protection Assistances

A total of MMK 2299.955 millions have been provided as aid assistances to various organizations namely (225) units of Youth Development Shelters; (12) units of Disabled Shelters; (80) units of Home for the Aged; (13) units of Women's Shelters; (1025) units of Self-help Pre-Primary Schools across the country.

Cash assistance are also provided to (622) pregnant mothers with MMK (21.545) millions; to (1,201) children under (5) years with MMK 46.990 millions; to (43,128) people with disabilities with MMK 1,291.385 millions; to (5,785) households of women led families with MMK 114.855 millions, amounting in all to MMK 1,472.123 millions.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye provides cash assistance to elderlies. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye donates cash to flood-affected people in Shwekyin on 27 July 2018. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye provides humanitarian assistance to residents at IDP camps in Mogaung. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

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Third-Year Reform Agenda of Ministry of Social Welfare,....

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Monthly Universal Social Pensions have been provided to elderly in 2017-2018 in the whole country at the age bracket of above (90), and then reduced to (85) and above in 2018-2019, benefiting to (168,578) elderly people with MMK 5057.340 millions in total cash.

Children are placed at the temporary child friendly spaces in the IDP shelters due to armed conflicts across the country. They are provided with cash assistances with MMK 1.5 millions to each group, and that (68) units of child friendly spaces have received MMK (102) millions.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung provides cash assistance to aged persons in Magway on 7 January 2019.
PHOTO: AYE THAN

Drafting of policies and laws

For National Strategic Plan of Youth Policy, the first meeting was held on 26 March 2018. A discussion on draft National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy was held at Mingala Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw in March 2019 and likely to release soon.

The Child Rights Law (Draft) have been completed and submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval on 6 July 2017 and then submitted to Amyotha Hluttaw in 2018.

The new prostitution law (draft) is in the process and that another draft law, on the prevention of violence against women, is drawing.

National level policy and law for the elderly along with the by-law are in the process.

Seeking advice

Total of (116) multi-hazard protection buildings are under construction in states and regions namely Bago, Taninthayi, Ayeyawady, Sagaing, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Chin and Shan.

National level drill and exercise for countering earthquake was worked out in February 2018, and that the national level preparation and response plan to counter earthquake and natural disaster was drafted in 2018. Moreover, a think tank of advisors has been formed in connection with national disaster management in the country.

Rehabilitation

The disaster management committees were also formed at regions, states, self-administered regions and zones, districts, townships, wards and villages, and that the rehabilitation tasks were carried out in momentum in 2018.

Natural disasters and flood hit areas during 2018 namely Kayin State and Mon State, Bago Region and Taninthayi Region have been accorded with assistances such as that of food stuff and relief materials; that of crop seedlings for cultivation; that of repair of roads and bridges; that of reconstruction of houses and monasteries; incurring MMK 6167.78979 millions.

Implementation

Myanmar has already formed the "Myanmar Preparedness Partnership" (MPP). Moreover, with the aid and assistance of Canadian government, Myanmar is using the ADB technology on the implementation of "Strengthening Climate and Disaster Resilience in Myanmar". Furthermore, the Technical Assistance Project is under implementation.

In cooperation and collaboration with the UNDP and the ADB, Myanmar has adopted the "Recovery Guidelines" to be used as standard norm for rehabilitation tasks after encountering the natural disaster.

The 9th ASEAN's Disaster Simulation Exercise was being held from 26 March to 1 April 2018, and that Myanmar has assumed the alternative chair of the ASEAN Natural Disaster Management Committee for 2019.

With regards to the fire that continues to burn at Yangon waste dump at garbage near Htein Pin cemetery in Yangon's Hlingthaya Township on 21 April 2018, assistance and cooperation on technology was being sought from the Office of the ASEAN Secretariat and AHA Center.

The statistics and information on disasters and damages in Myanmar from 2015 to 2017 have been compiled through online system, and subsequently submitted to United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) on 30 September 2018.

Moreover, review tasks are being carried out such as that of the early assessment and evaluation of the natural disasters; that of the appraisal over the program on the awareness raising and necessary items in the preparedness program; and that of the review over the emergency relief assistances.

> The ministry is designing a national strategic plan to close IDP camps in Rakhine, Kachin, Shan and Kayin states after the national strategic plan is adopted.

After June 2018, aid and relief assistances become fast and swift as transport vehicles are provided to region and state offices, and more districts and townships are expanded.

As more staff members are recruited and more offices have been commissioned, necessary aid and relief assistances could be distributed to the public in shortest possible time, mitigating the suffering of the people.

Moreover, all the main responsibilities and tasks such as that on distribution of information; awareness raising; risk reduction; construction of buildings; profuse use of technology in disaster management; engage in more research works; hook up cooperation with international organizations; are functioning well.

More offices and shelters have been expanded for the vulnerable groups; narcotic and human trafficking; drug rehabilitation; and temporary shelters for victims.

Raising momentum

Plans are underway for better treatment to be delivered in a separate department in top gear to the people with disability; to the elderly; to the drug addicts; to the trafficked victims; to the abandoned kids; to the child soldiers; to the helpless women; to the IDPs of conflict zones; and to the migrated families.

More emphasis is being centered for the people with disabilities during the third year term of the new government with all round care in five-year strategic plan.

In 2018, total of (75) child soldiers have been rehabilitated and looped back with the community, and moreover, (2) youth training centers transferred from the Ministry of Home Affairs have been taken up for functioning.

Community based drug rehabilitation courses have been conducted with the voluntary supervisors.

A review on research work over the three-year drug rehabilitation task has been carried out, and subsequently a network is being established among the community based civil societies with regards to the drug rehabilitation.

Social Conflicts

According to the statistical index, Rakhine State stands on the dot of second last developed state in Myanmar, and that for many decades the land is suffering from social conflicts.

Government formed a Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State.

Meanwhile, the President's Office also announced the formation of four working committees to assist the central committee in order to achieve success in the implementation of peace, stability and development.

Rakhine State

Job opportunities and employment have been provided to local people in the Rakhine State by assisting in various ways and means including investment to the Smart Garment Industry; the Khine Pyi Soe Garment Industry; the Shwe Kyar Traditional Weaving Industry.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement have announced a plan to close camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in four states.

The ministry is designing a national strategic plan to close IDP camps in Rakhine, Kachin, Shan and Kayin states after the national strategic plan is adopted.

In the year 2018, total of MMK 15598.169 million have been provided for the social protection plan and for the disaster management in Rakhine State.

The tasks of the ministry included that of in reducing the negative impact on social development of the country; that of aiding and assisting through indirect approach in social protection program.

In conclusion, the writer of this article would like to share the observation of the Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye who firmly believes that the collective works in the assigned tasks would surely overcome the existing challenges in the days ahead.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Eye on export market, growers seek GAP certification for Myanmar banana

THE Myanmar Banana Producers and Exporters Association has applied to the Agriculture Department for GAP (Good Agricultural Practices) certification to allow Myanmar banana to enter international markets.

To ensure consumers' safety, local banana growers are being given GAP training courses. The association applied to the Agriculture Department for a GAP certificate in 2018.

"Currently, banana is being grown under the GAP system. Therefore, we have applied for GAP certification. Earlier, GAP certificates were not issued to banana growers in Myanmar. None of the local growers have ever received such certification. Banana grown from the local variety of seeds cannot be exported yet. However, banana cultivated from Chinese species in Kachin State is being exported. Local farmers are still making efforts to export locally grown banana," said Daw Ohnmar Kyaw, the secretary of the association.

"Although banana is being exported to China through the border points, we have faced difficulties in packing them for transportation. In fact, the association has been transporting them in baskets for around one year," she said.

"We plan to transport banana in cold storage vehicles in the future, and sell Myanmar banana in the ASEAN market," she said.

"Local farmers are making efforts to grow banana using the GAP system so they can obtain GAP certificates. Besides, they are also thinking of penetrating the international market. Now, they can only supply to the local market. Local people mostly consume the Phee Gyan banana, although the species is not to the taste of foreign consumers," she added.

"In City Mart, Myanmar banana sells better than the Chinese variety. Previously, the government issued GAP certificates easily. But now, they are issuing the certificates only if the fruits meet their set criteria," she said.

Myanmar banana is grown across the country. However, it is chiefly cultivated in the Ayeyawady region. The authorities will issue GAP certificates mostly for local banana grown in Ayeyawady region, said Daw Ohnmar Kyaw.— Aye Yamone

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade through Hteekhee gate tops $1 bln in as of March

THE value of Myanmar-Thailand border trade through the Hteekhee gate in the first half of the current fiscal year exceeded US$1 billion, which is more than double the value registered in the corresponding period of the previous FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 29 March, 2019, the total value of Thailand-Myanmar trade stood at more than $1.74 billion. During the same period in the previous fiscal, the bilateral border trade was valued at $881 million.

Myanmar's exports to Thailand surpassed imports in the current 2018-2019 FY, with exports estimated at $1.23 billion and imports at $501.4 million, according to data released by the Commerce Ministry.

Earlier, the Myawady gate saw the largest trade among the Myanmar-Thailand checkpoints. In the current financial year, trade surged at the Hteekhee gate, with exports worth $988.5 million and imports valued at $17.4 million.

Of the seven border trade points between Myanmar and Thailand, Tachilek, Myawady, and Myeik gates witnessed a small decrease in trade, while the remaining gates registered an increase.

The value of trade stood at $37.2 million at Tachilek, $1 billion at Hteekhee, $438.9 million at Myawady, $119.56 million at Myeik, $125.5 million at Kawthoung, $1.18 million at Maese, and $11.8 million at Mawtaung.

Myanmar primarily exports fishery products such as crab, fish, shrimp, and squid, as well as onions, sesame, dry tea leaves, coconut, and turmeric to Thailand. It imports capital goods such as machinery, raw industrial goods such as cement and fertilizers, consumer goods such as cosmetics, and food products. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar-US trade up 67% in January

MYANMAR'S overseas trade with the United States in January touched US$85.69 million, up by over $34 million or 67 per cent, as against the corresponding period last January when the bilateral trade was $51.28 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The total trade figures included exports worth $54.77 million and imports worth $30.92 million. When compared with January 2018, the current export value significantly increased by $29.74 million while the bilateral import rose slightly by $4.68 million.

From October through January in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, Myanmar-US bilateral trade included $176.43 million in the exports and $139.45 million in the imports, totalling $315.88 million.

Myanmar exports agriculture products, beans and pulses, marine products, clothing, forestry products and other finished products to the American market, importing medicine and related equipment, raw materials, industrial products, transportation products, dairy products, and other commodities.

The Myanmar-US trade in the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September) was $455.72 million in total, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The total value of trade between the two countries reached a record high of $718.38 mln in the FY2017-2018 FY. The bilateral trade was $690.63 mln in the 2016-2017 FY, $196.90 mln in the 2015-2016 FY, $544.64 mln in the 2014-2015 FY, $104.44 mln in the 2013-2014 FY, $122.79 mln in the 2012-2013 FY, and $293.07 mln in the 2011-2012 FY.

According to the Myanmar Investment Commission, the US's foreign direct investment in Myanmar during the 2018 mini-budget period totalled $55.9 million. There was no new investment from the US in the current fiscal year.—Khine Khant

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Import of CMP raw materials up by $172 mln as of March

MYANMAR spent US$1.09 billion importing CMP raw materials between 1 October and 29 March, up by $172 million or 18.7 per cent, as against the corresponding period in the last 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

At this time last FY, the country's CMP imports stood at $922 million.

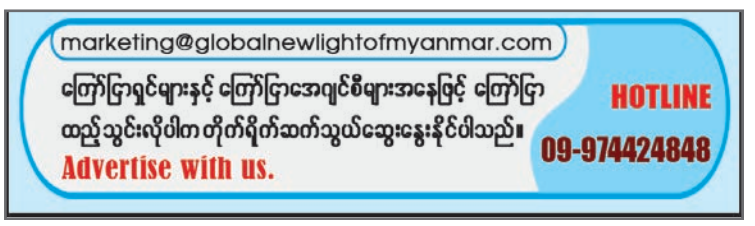
Also, during the week between 23 and 29 March, the country bought CMP products amounted to $61.47 million, which saw an increase in value by over $30 million compared to that of the same period last FY, when the import of CMP raw materials was $29.2 million.

CMP raw materials is one of four major groups of import products. The country also imports capital goods, intermediate products and consumer goods from countries in Southeast Asia, Asia, Africa, Europe and America.

During the first six months of this fiscal year, Myanmar's total imports were valued at $8.9 billion, with capital goods worth $2.89 billion, intermediate goods worth nearly $3.3 billion and consumer products worth $1.64 billion.

This year saw a continuous decrease in imports of capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumer products. Compared with last FY, the current import value of the three products declined by $690 million.—Khine Khant

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



New rules and checks aim to reduce casualties on Yangon-Mandalay highway

By Kyaw Ye Thwin

THE Joint Monitoring of Highway Buses and Trucks has released a series of rules for vehicles to follow on the Yangon-Mandalay highway.

The following is an interview with U Soe Naing Oo, Assistant Director (Civil) of the Highway Preservation and Administration Group, and Police Major Zarni Maung, Myanmar Highway Police Force, regarding the issued set of rules and future tasks.

U Soe Naing Oo.

Police Major Zarni Maung.

U Soe Naing Oo

Q: Can you tell us the reason for issuing rules vehicles must follow on the Yangon-Mandalay highway?

A: We want to reduce traffic accidents minimize casualties on the highway. There is a set of 20 rules for express cars, minibuses, vehicles carrying pilgrims, and vehicles with the telematic system. Light trucks have to follow their own set of 18 rules.

Q: When will you assess if people are following these rules of not? How will you spread this to the wider public?

A: The joint groups will begin assessing if the rules are followed beginning from 8 April 2019, at least three times a week. The first month will be conducted as an awareness raising month. We will begin taking action in the months to follow. We have included these rules in the state newspapers and put them up on toll gates in order to reach a large number of the public as possible. We've sent the rules to nearest bus lines and the toll gates with send handouts to vehicles.

Q: How many traffic accidents have occurred throughout the years and what are the numbers for 2019?

A: There were 745 accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in 2016, 555 in 2017, 473 in 2018, and 135 in 2019 as of March.

Q: What does the telematic system do and how can installing it benefit us?

A: The telematic system is mostly installed on cargo trucks that carry perishable materials like vegetables, meat, fish, and flowers. Some express vehicles have it too but all vehicles travelling on the highway should have it installed.

Telematics allows monitoring of location, movements, status and behaviour of a vehicle in real time and will also show its history. We can see if the vehicle is going over the speed limit or driving roughly and an alarm will warn the drive in the vehicle. Daily and monthly records of the registered vehicles can be viewed. Plus, if an accident occurs then we can review from the black box.

Owners of vehicles can use mobile applications to manage their vehicles and the traffic command and control center can contact drivers not following the rules, and drivers can press the panic button in case of emergencies.

Q: Which organizations will be incorporated in the joint group?

A: The Highway Police Force will be mainly in charge. Other personnel will be added from the Road Transport Administration Department, the Business License and Transport Management Department, the Highway Preservation and Management Group, the Highway Fire Services Department, and the Highway Red Cross Society.

Q: Can you explain how the rules you've published are suitable for bus lines and drivers?

A: Both list of rules detail facts that all vehicles should have and they are capable of being followed by bus lines and drivers. Everyone must follow these rules to avoid traffic accidents.

Q: What are the main causes of traffic accidents on the highway?

A: The greatest causes of accidents are vehicles that flip over from overspeeding, drivers falling asleep at the wheel, and tyre bursts. Currently family cars have the highest accident rates so we need to make a separate case for them.

Q: How many vehicles travel every day on the highway?

A: The highway sees an average of 4,500 to 5,000 vehicles every day. We published these rules to make it safer for travellers on the highway. We urge vehicles to cooperate with us to be accident free.

Police Major Zarni Maung

Q: We hear the joint group will begin checking the sturdiness of vehicles travelling on the highway starting from 8 April. Could you explain about that process?

A: We will designate three checkpoints on the Yangon-Mandalay highway to examine vehicles. One will be at No.3 junction toll gate, one at Nay Pyi Taw toll gate, and another at Sagar Inn toll gate. We will carry examinations once in the morning and once in the evening. We aim to perform this routine at least three days a week.

Q: When you examine a vehicle, how long would the process take? What will you do to ensure travellers are not delayed too long and what will become of vehicles not adhering to the rules?

A: We will assign different groups on various shifts to make the examinations as quick and smooth as possible. If the vehicles do not meet the designated rules of criteria then we won't allow them on to the highway.

Q: In what other ways does the highway police help travellers?

A: We help transport people to hospitals when accidents occur. We try to quickly reach vehicles that have malfunctioned, have a burst tyre, or ran out of gas. We use modern speed checkers and take action against vehicles so that they drive within the speed limit. We also use alcohol testers to check for drunk drivers. There are five toll gates where we check if people are wearing seatbelts and educate them on its importance. We also check if the fire extinguishers on cars are still functioning.

There are many villages along the highway so the police force conduct awareness training to prevent accidents with motorcycles, wandering cattle and other animals.

Q: We understand that most of the accidents on the highway are due to human error. How much vehicle faultiness has been behind accidents?

A: We separate traffic accidents into four categories: human, vehicle, road, and weather. In 2018, 367 accidents were caused by human error, 98 by vehicles, 9 due to the state of the road, and no causes by the weather. We can see human errors are the greatest cause for traffic accidents.

Overspeeding is the primary culprit for accidents. That's why we use speed checkers and alcohol testers and we see the number of accidents gradually going down year by year. As we begin examining vehicles for their sturdiness and preparedness for the highway, I'm sure traffic accidents will further decrease.

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

An express bus passes toll gate at the 115-mile Terminal, on Yangon-Mandalay express way.
PHOTO: HTAN PHONE

Union Health & Sports Minister attends GAVI board meeting, 52nd session of Commission on Population and Development

DR. MYINT HTWE, Union Minister for Health and Sports, attended the board meeting of GAVI, the Global Alliance for Vacciness and Immunization, as the sole representative of all developing countries. The meeting was held in Ottawa, Canada, from 27 to 29 March.

He also attended the 52nd session of the Commission on Population and Development at UN headquarters in New York, USA, from 1 to 5 April.

GAVI board meeting

The Union Minister discussed ways to implement systemic procedures for increasing support from GAVI and the importance of reducing wastage in distributing vaccines. He advised on what steps GAVI should take in implementing GAVI 5.0 (2021-2025) and on cooperating with WHO and UNICEF. He said GAVI should cooperate with WHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the US to research and combat the resurgence of diseases preventable by vaccines. He also said this should be considered as the second priority for investment.

During his stay in Ottawa, the Union Minister met with officials from Pharos Global Health Advisors and discussed support for micronutrient tablets. He also met with officials from Global Affairs Canada and discussed support for improving Myanmar's healthcare system and offspring health process.

P&D Commission session

During the 52nd session of the Commission on Population and Development, the Union Minister said international cooperation is needed to swiftly implement the ICPD program to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). He said the 2014 Census conducted in Myanmar was vital in designing many national-level policies, strategies and procedures such as the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018-2030).

The Union Minister said UN member countries need to help each other to facilitate faster progress regarding population and development to fulfil the SDG. —MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

PHOTO: MNA

Request for Letter of Interest

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Plot No. 55-56, Survey Ward No. 14
Shwe Than Lwin Industrial Zone
Hlaing Tharyar Township
Yangon, Myanmar

(the "Company")

Ref: Y19/MKT/Finance/004

The Company request the Letter of interest for purchasing of Invoice books for 2019

We are planning to call for tender for Annual usage of Invoices, vouchers & receipt books for 2019.

If you are interested to participate in the tender, please submit the LOI to the below email address by 12th April 2019.

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Room 508, 5th floor, Building 18, MICT Park, Hlaing Campus, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar
Attn: mya_hnin_ei_pwint@bat.com

Request for Letter of Interest

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Plot No. 55-56, Survey Ward No. 14
Shwe Than Lwin Industrial Zone
Hlaing Tharyar Township
Yangon, Myanmar

(the "Company")

Ref: Y19/OPTS/003

The Company request the Letter of interest for below services:

Require Services: Annual M&E Services for BAT facilities for 2019

Location: Yangon

If you are interested to participate in the tender, please submit the LOI to the below email address by 12th April 2019.

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Room 508, 5th floor, Building 18, MICT Park, Hlaing Campus, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar
Attn: mya_hnin_ei_pwint@bat.com

Request for Letter of Interest

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Plot No. 55-56, Survey Ward No. 14
Shwe Than Lwin Industrial Zone
Hlaing Tharyar Township
Yangon, Myanmar

(the "Company")

Ref: Y19/OPTS/004

The Company request the Letter of interest for below services:

Require Services: Annual Diesel Purchase for Generators Usage 2019

Location: Yangon

If you are interested to participate in the tender, please submit the LOI to the below email address by 12th April 2019.

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Room 508, 5th floor, Building 18, MICT Park, Hlaing Campus, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar
Attn: mya_hnin_ei_pwint@bat.com

Request for Letter of Interest

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Plot No. 55-56, Survey Ward No. 14
Shwe Than Lwin Industrial Zone
Hlaing Tharyar Township
Yangon, Myanmar

(the "Company")

Ref: Y19/OPTS/001

The Company request the Letter of interest for below services:

Require Services: Guards & Protective Services for 2019

Location: 6 cities (Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyaing, Pyay, Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi)

If you are interested to participate in the tender, please submit the LOI to the below email address by 12th April 2019.

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Room 508, 5th floor, Building 18, MICT Park, Hlaing Campus, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar
Attn: mya_hnin_ei_pwint@bat.com

Request for Letter of Interest

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Plot No. 55-56, Survey Ward No. 14
Shwe Than Lwin Industrial Zone
Hlaing Tharyar Township
Yangon, Myanmar

(the "Company")

Ref: Y19/OPTS/002

The Company request the Letter of interest for below services:

Require Services: Annual Car Maintainese & Repair Service for 2019

Location: Yangon

If you are interested to participate in the tender, please submit the LOI to the below email address by 12th April 2019.

British American Tobacco Myanmar Limited
Room 508, 5th floor, Building 18, MICT Park, Hlaing Campus, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar
Attn: mya_hnin_ei_pwint@bat.com

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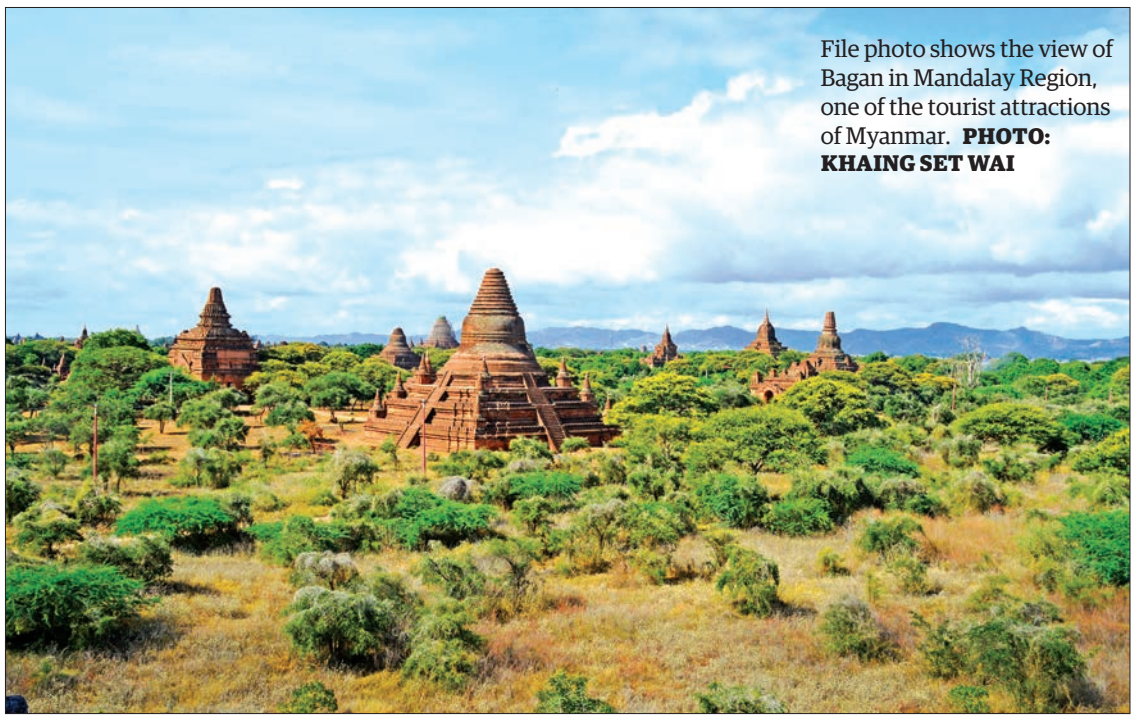
Rates for camera, video permits in Bagan cultural zone revised downwards



File photo shows the view of Bagan in Mandalay Region, one of the tourist attractions of Myanmar. **PHOTO: KHAING SET WAI**

THE Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan) has revised its fee for issuing photography and filming permits in the Bagan ancient cultural zone, following which, the rates for camera permits have become lower compared to earlier.

"After discussions at the Ministry of Information, the fees for photography, documentary, and movie-filming permits were reduced," said U Aung Aung Kyaw, director, Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan).

The old rates were K500,000 per day for filming movies and videos, and K100,000 for photography. The rates have been lowered to K100,000 for video and movie filming, and K30,000 for commercial filming with still cameras. Foreigners will have to pay the foreign currency equivalent of the set rates.

Staff from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum (Bagan) will not accompany film crews for day shoots. But for night shoots, two staff members will accompany the crew as part of security measures, for a service charge of K10,000 each. The in-charges of film crews will have to provide information about shooting sites and the purpose of filming. They will have to sign a pledge, agreeing to abide by the rules, and they will be liable for actions of their crew.

"The rules have been released. Film crews will now have to inform the pagoda's board of trustees and related officials. Mural paintings in Bagan and the Bagan archaeology museum cannot be filmed without a permit. Movie and video filming will have to be approved by the Nay Pyi Taw office. Film crew will be required to follow the rules," said U Aung Aung Kyaw.

Film crews will be required to keep the locations of shooting clean. They will be required to treat local visitors and tourists with respect. Any acts which hurt Myanmar religion, customs, and traditions will be strongly prohibited, he added. —Khaing Set Wai

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Electrical fire destroys home in Shwebo, Sagaing Region

AN electrical fire destroyed a home in Shartaw village, Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region last Sunday, according to the Shwebo Township Police. No one was injured in the incident.

The blaze started around 10:30 p.m. at the home of U Tun Lin, 34, due to overheated electrical wiring. The fire soon engulfed the 24'x16'x9' home. A team of 15 firefighters, led by U Aye Myint, the Assistant Director of the township Fire Services department, 200 villagers, and three fire engines brought the blaze under control within 20 minutes. The fire was extinguished by 10:55 p.m.

The fire caused losses to the tune of over K650,000, according to the Fire Services Department.

The Shwebo township police have initiated action against U Tun Lin. —Moe Thouk (Shwebo)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Authorities arrest three suspected elephant poachers

OFFICIALS from the Forest Department and the Hainggyikyun Township Police arrested three suspected elephant poachers around 2 a.m. on 8 April near the Nyaungwine village-tract, Hainggyikyun Township, Ayeyawady Region, according to police.

The three suspected poachers have been identified as Aung Lin from Hlinethayar Township, Yangon Region, and Zin Maung Maung and Min Zaw from Hainggyikyun Township, Ayeyawady Region.

Police said they were found in possession of weapons, including a homemade gun, 15.5- and 17-inch knives, a 16-inch arrow, a black gunpowder packet, four penicillin bottles, a plastic bag, and other items.

The Police has filed a case of elephant poaching against the three suspects.— IPRD

(Translated by La Wonn)

Three elephant poachers are seen together with related materials and weapons. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Over 240,000 tourists arrive in Sri Lanka in March

COLOMBO, — Over 240,000 tourists arrived in Sri Lanka in March, growing 4.6 percent compared to the same period last year, statistics from the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority showed here Monday.

The leading markets for Sri Lanka tourism were India, Britain and China.

Chinese arrivals last month grew 12.6 percent compared to March 2018, with the arrival of 23,759 tourists.

China accounted for 10 percent of the total traffic, while India accounted for 14 percent and Britain 12 percent. To date, this year, 78,212 Chinese tourists have arrived in Sri Lanka while the total number of tourist arrivals this year has been 740,600.

Tourism Development, Wildlife and Christian Religious Affairs Minister John Amaratunga said the government was on target to reach its total aim of three million tourists by the end of this year. He said China being one of Sri Lanka's main markets, the tourism industry was expecting at least 300,000 Chinese tourists to visit the island country by the end of this December.

Sri Lanka Tourism has emerged as one of the leading markets following the end of the country's civil war in May 2009.

This year the government said it is expecting a revenue of at least five billion dollars from its tourism industry.—Xinhua ■

Bangladesh deploys border guards to island near Myanmar

DHAKA (Bangladesh) — Bangladesh on Sunday deployed heavily-armed border guards to an island near its southern border with Myanmar for the first time in 20 years, officials said.

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) distributed images showing dozens of troops carrying assault rifles disembarking at Saint Martin's island, a small island in the Bay of Bengal that has caused diplomatic tensions between the neighbours.

The BGB said the troop deployment was part of "regular activities" to ensure border protection and curb drug trafficking.

But the force's lieutenant colonel, Sarker Mohammad Mustafizur Rahman, told AFP it was the first time since 1997 their men had landed there.—AFP ■

Nepal expedition to remeasure height of Everest: officials

Nepali survey chief Khim Lal Gautam (L) along with his team, Suraj Sing Bhandari (2l), Yubaraj Dhital (2r), Rabin Karki (r) and Mountain Guide Tshiring Janbu Sherpa (c) check the equipments before leaving on an expedition to remeasure the height of Mount Everest in Kathmandu on 8 April, 2019. A Nepal government expert team is preparing to climb Mount Everest this season to remeasure its height, officials said on 8 April, in order to settle speculations that a powerful quake in 2015 altered the world's tallest peak. **PHOTO: AFP**

KATHMANDU — Nepal is sending a team of government-appointed climbers up Mount Everest to remeasure its height, officials said Monday, hoping to quash persistent speculation that the world's tallest mountain has shrunk.

Four government surveyors will depart Wednesday for Everest, which lies on the Himalayan range straddling the border of Nepal and China.

Its official height is 8,848 metres (29,029 feet), first recorded by an Indian survey in 1954. Numerous other teams have measured the peak, although the 1954 height remains the widely accepted figure. But a heated debate erupted in the aftermath of a massive earthquake in Nepal in 2015, with suggestions the powerful tremor had knocked height off the lofty peak. Nepal's Survey Department commissioned a team of surveyors in 2017 to prepare for an Everest expedition in the hope of putting the matter to rest.

"We are sending a team because there were questions regarding the height of Everest after the earthquake," the expedition's co-ordinator from the Survey Department, Susheel Dangol, told AFP. Four government surveyors have spent two years fine tuning their methodology for measuring the peak, collecting readings from the ground and training for the extreme conditions they will encounter at the top of the world. They will ascend the treacherous mountain armed with advanced equipment to collect the remaining data to derive the true height of the peak, officials say.

"It will not be easy to work in that terrain, but we are confident our mission will be successful," said the expedition's leader and chief surveyor, Khim Lal Gautam, who summited Everest in 2011.

It also provides Nepal a chance to measure the fabled mountain for which it is famous, the impoverished country having never conducted its own survey.

In May 1999 an American team added two metres to Everest's height when it used GPS technology to survey the peak. That figure is now used by the US National Geographic Society, but otherwise not widely accepted.

Later, Nepal became embroiled in a diplomatic row with China after the latter claimed the peak was four metres shorter than the accepted height.

Nepal rests on a major fault line between two tectonic plates: one bearing India that pushes against the other carrying Europe and Asia, the process that created the Himalayas.— AFP ■

LDP wins majority of prefectural seats ahead of upper house race

TOKYO — The ruling Liberal Democratic Party won more than half of the 2,277 seats up for grabs in prefectural assembly elections held across Japan on Sunday, showing support for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's party remains firm ahead of the upper house election in the summer.

Taking advantage of a fractured opposition, the LDP obtained 1,158 or 50.9 percent of seats in 41 prefectures in the first leg of quadrennial nationwide local elections. It won a majority in 25 assemblies, including in areas such as Hokkaido and Aichi that typically lean more toward non-LDP forces.

But the LDP also suffered a number of setbacks including losses in the Osaka gubernatorial and mayoral elections. "We will look seriously at the results and make sure we achieve victory in the second leg" later this month, Abe said Monday. The LDP's victories came despite a deputy land minister resigning days earlier over remarks implying that a road project had been given preferential treatment to please Abe and Deputy Prime Minister Taro Aso.

The party's junior coalition partner, Komeito, retained all 166 prefectural assembly seats that it campaigned for.

It was the first major batch of local elections after the law requiring more female participation in politics came into force in May 2018, but the outcome was a far cry from the government's target of having women in 30 percent of the country's leadership positions. While the total number of female assembly members elected in Sunday's votes in the 41 prefectures reached a record 237, or 10.4 percent of seats up for grabs, the figure is still in single digits in 40 of the country's 47 prefectures. Including prefectures where no elections were held Sunday, the Tokyo assembly had the largest ratio of female members at 28.4 percent, followed by Kyoto at 21.7 per cent. The ratio is lowest in the central Japan prefecture of Yamanashi where there is only one female assembly member.

Among the opposition, the Constitutional Democratic Party of Japan had a relatively strong showing with 118 seats, 31 more than it had heading into the polls.

But the Democratic Party for the People lost 59 seats to end up with just 83. Combined, the two parties won 201 seats compared with the 264 that the now-defunct Democratic Party of Japan, from which they splintered off, won in 2015. The Japanese Communist Party, which had members in every prefectural assembly before campaigning began, lost its seats in Aichi. It shed a total of seven seats to finish with 99. centers on a group pushing to reform Osaka into a metropolitan government like Tokyo, added 13 seats to end with 67. The group, Osaka Ishin no Kai, won a crucial majority in the prefectural assembly as well as the gubernatorial and mayoral elections, giving it renewed momentum to pursue its plan.—Kyodo News ■

Team readying for the AFC qualifiers, says Myanmar U-15 coach Koga

The Myanmar U-15 team and the China U-16 team ahead of their opening match for the Hua Shan Cup Championship in Weinan, China, on 6 April. **PHOTO:MFF**

THE Myanmar U-15 national football team are giving their best at the Hua Shan Cup Invitational U-16 Championship in Weinan, China, in preparation for the AFF U-15 Championship and the AFC U-16 Qualifiers.

Team Myanmar is headed by coach Koga Takuma. Speaking about the team's target during the Hua Shan Championship, he said: "Our target is the AFC qualifiers. Before that, we will compete in the AFF U-15 Championship in Thailand in August. We know it is hard to qualify for the AFC U-16 (the qualifiers are in October), but we will try as hard as we can."

"We came here and we participated in this tournament because we wanted to improve our performance. We will gain experience by playing against better teams, and we will review the performance of our players," said Koga.

In the opening match of the U-16 championship in China three days ago, the Myanmar U-15 team had faced the China U-16 team, and suffered a 5-0 loss.

Team Myanmar also lost to Tajikistan U-16 by 5-0 yesterday.

Myanmar will next play Kyrgyzstan U-16 on 10 April.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Napoli draw puts Juventus coronation on hold

Napoli's Greek goalkeeper Orestis Karnezis (R) fails to stop an equalizer during the Italian Serie A football match Napoli vs Genoa on 7 April, 2019 at the San Paolo stadium in Naples. **PHOTO: AFP**

MILAN, (Italy)—Napoli drew 1-1 with ten-man Genoa on Sunday to ensure that Juventus will have to wait another week to seal an eighth consecutive Serie A title.

The champions have a 20-point advantage on second-placed Napoli, who they have beaten in both their head-to-head clashes, with seven games to go.

Juventus, who beat AC Milan 2-1 on Saturday, needed Napoli to lose to win the Scudetto for the 35th time, ahead of their Champions League quarter-final first leg against Ajax next week.

A draw next weekend at lowly SPAL would be enough for Massimiliano Allegri's side to win the title which would be the first in Italy for Cristiano Ronaldo.

Despite their numerical advantage, Napoli struggled to contain the visitors who inflicted the only league defeat this season on Juventus last month.

Genoa went a man down when Stefano Sturaro was sent off on 28 minutes following a VAR review for a diving studs-up tackle on Allan.

Dries Mertens blasted in the opener on 34 minutes, but Darko Lazovic pulled Genoa level just before the break.

Genoa goalkeeper Ionut Radu ensured his 14th-placed side went away with a point with a string of fine saves including two late on Mertens and Kalidou Koulibaly.

"It was an unexpected performance that makes an alarm bell ring, if we play like this in London, then we're in trouble," said Napoli coach Carlo Ancelotti ahead of next week's Europa League game against Arsenal.

"We absolutely must wake up, demonstrate the value and potential that this group has and find our true identity.

"Luckily we have four days to fix things."—AFP

MFF looking for national goalkeeping coach

THE Myanmar Football Federation is looking for a highly qualified goalkeeper coach for its senior men's national team, who will also act as an educator and mentor for all national teams and the MFF Academy Goalkeeper Coaches, according to a statement released by the federation.

To raise Myanmar football to international level, the association needs a permanent and qualified goal coach, said an official.

The goalkeeping coach needs to understand and apply the latest training methodology, in line with international standards, to groom talented goalkeepers and national team goalkeepers to perform at the international level, according to the MFF.

The coach needs to be qualified to analyze games and goalkeepers' performance, and design practical sessions, based on individual and team data-analysis, according to the MFF.

The coach must have knowledge of goalkeeping and experience at the international level, along with an open and flexible mindset, the MFF stated.

Interested applicants can submit their resumes, detailing their knowledge and experience, to the MFF by the end of April, said a source with the football federation. The applications need to be addressed to the MFF General Secretary, Ko Ko Thein (kokothein@mff-ma.com), the MFF CEO, Phone Naing Zaw (phonenaingzaw@mff-ma.com), and the MFF Technical Director, Eric Abrams (eric.abrams@mff-ma.com).—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Arsenal lacked fight in Everton defeat, admits Sokratis

LONDON—Arsenal defender Sokratis Papastathopoulos bemoaned his team's lack of fight after a costly 1-0 defeat at Everton extended a damaging sequence of results away from home.

Unai Emery's team on Sunday missed out on the chance to move into third place in the Premier League, above Tottenham, in the race to qualify for next season's Champions League, conceding in a 15th consecutive top-flight away game for the first time since February 1985.

Arsenal have won 14 out of their 17 Premier League home matches this season but they have won just once on the road in the league, at relegated Huddersfield, since late November.

Despite the problems, Sokratis said he did not feel the club's poor away form was becoming a mental hurdle.

"I don't think so because if you see big teams like (Manchester) United and Chelsea, they also lost a lot of points," he said.

"It is very difficult. We are in the Premier League and the other teams are strong.

"I don't have a reason. Other teams are the same, some days good, some days bad. We have to improve and look towards the next game.

"But I think we didn't have the same fight (as Everton) so we didn't win a lot of battles and we conceded a goal which was a little bit easy."

A top-four place remains in Arsenal's hands but they will have to do without Sokratis for the away game at Watford and the visit of Crystal Palace as a 10th booking of the season means he will serve a two-match suspension.

"Of course (it is frustrating). I like to play every game, to be there to help the team but it is not in my hands," he added.

"I hope that Laurent Koscielny (injured for the trip to Goodison Park) is coming back. We need to win at least another four games and then we will see if we are in the top four."—AFP