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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor concludes China visit

Press Release on Working Visit of the State Counsellor to the People's Republic of China



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with China's President Mr. Xi Jinping, left photo, and with Russia's President Mr. Vladimir Putin, right photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid a working visit to China from 24th to 29th April 2019 to attend the 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation at the invitation of President Xi Jinping of the People's Republic of China.

The 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation was held from 25 to 27 April 2019 in Beijing, China and attended by over 5000 high-level delegates from over 150 countries including 37 Heads of State and Government and representatives from international organizations.

On 26th April, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the opening ceremony of the 2nd Belt and Road Forum held in the morning at the China National Convention Centre-CNCC in Beijing and delivered a speech at the High-Level Meeting Session 1 under the theme: "Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future".

In her speech, the State Counsellor stated that Myanmar welcomed the Belt and Road Initiative launched by China since the 1st Belt and Road Forum, and expressed her hope that the Second Forum would provide the opportunity to deliberate on how to strengthen the existing partnership in the next phase and to achieve high-quality cooperation under the win-win partnership of the Belt and Road Initiative. She stressed that projects under this Initiative need to be in line with the development plans and priorities of the participating countries, should not only be economically feasible but also socially and environmentally responsible, and most importantly, the projects must win the confidence and support of local people. She added that Myanmar serves as a land bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, in close proximity to large economies such as China, India and ASEAN. It has always been Myanmar's policy to maintain close and friendly relations with all nations, especially with her neighbours. She recalled that at the first BRI Forum, Myanmar signed with China the MoU on co-operation within the framework of BRI, indicating its commitment to work together to realize the goal of common development in the areas of mutual interests, in line with Myanmar's national plans and priorities. She then informed the meeting that two years on, Myanmar and China completed the signing of the MoU on jointly building the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor and also agreed to set up Border Economic Cooperation Zones to facilitate trade and investment. She expressed her belief that the BRI projects selected in line with Myanmar's national plan and priorities will contribute to its endeavours for the improvement of much needed infrastructure that will not merely enhance domestic connectivity but also improve cross-border connectivity.

In the evening, the State Counsellor attended the welcome dinner hosted by President Xi Jinping to the Heads of State and Government attending the Forum at the Great Hall of the People.

In the morning of 27th April 2019, the State Counsellor attended the Leaders' Roundtable Session 1 held at Yanqi Lake International Conference Centre in Beijing and delivered a statement under the theme of "Boosting Connectivity to explore New Sources of Growth".

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

12th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commences

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw began the first day of its 12th regular session at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker delivers speech of greeting

In his greeting speech to the Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said the 12th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw that starts today will discuss and approve the 2018-2019 Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill, bills worked-on and to be worked-on, matters relating to amending Constitution as well as Hluttaw affairs.

This 12th regular session will see much more works than the previous sessions. In order for works to be completed in time within the set time frame, all need to have good management and opportune usage of time. At such a time when it was important to work together in collective strength for the benefit of the State and its people Hluttaw representatives were to acquire their rights and opportunities properly. At the same time they were to know and follow designated ethics and rules and care toward not affecting the rights and opportunities of our legislative Hluttaw and other representatives.

Authorizations to conduct works with fiscal year 2018-2019 Pyidaungsu Hluttaw development fund was issued for all townships and permission was granted after assessment to allow 95 works in 50 townships that were requested to be changed. Representatives were to coordinate and cooperate with relevant locals from the region and officials from each departmental organizations for the development of their respective constituencies.

Furthermore project work and budget assessment joint committees formed in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw were being reorganized under coordination between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. Joint committees were requested to assess in a timely manner the incomes and expenditures included in the present fiscal year's Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill and the assessment was to be based on established financial policies. Hluttaw representatives were urged to conduct their works to their utmost physical and mental abilities for the benefit of the State and the people. May the Hluttaw representatives show their unity in establishing a democracy federal union country and their honest and correct works said the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Second Pyithu Hluttaw 12th session to discuss 14 bills, 16 motions and 237 questions

By Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

THE first-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives take the oath of office

At the meeting, two Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives took the oath of office in front of Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and then signed the oath document.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker's message of greeting

In his message of greeting Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat said the 12th regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be discussing 14 bills, 16 motions and 237 asterisk marked questions. Depending upon the relevant ministries and time available, the bills, motions and questions will be included in the meeting agendas.

The Hluttaw's work processes are to be in accord with democracy norms and standards while it was specially required to enact firm laws develop the nation and the people's socio-economic lives. For the Hluttaw to be strong and relied upon by the people, Hluttaw representatives play an important role while they need to conduct the legislative works expertly. The duties and responsibilities of the legislative power is heavy and only through systematic thoughts, appraisal, discussion and assessment can correct decision be made and achieve good results. Therefore legislative as well as other Hluttaw works were urged to be performed in accordance with the laws, rules, regulations and procedures in an exemplary manner.

We are to become a Hluttaw that conduct check and balance on the country's administrative and judicial sectors according to democracy norms and strive toward becoming a Hluttaw that was depended upon by the country and the people. To achieve a true eternal peace it was important to acquire full democracy, equality and ethnic people rights. All are also urged to cooperate and assist toward establishing trust to resolve political problems through political means. As people's representatives, we were to work toward achieving the desires and wills of the people said the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

Informing the Hluttaw about trips and putting on record

The Pyithu Hluttaw speaker then informed the Hluttaw and put on record a study tour of

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw resumes 12th regular session, asterisk marked Qs raised

By Kyaw Thu Htat (MNA)

THE 12th regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw held its first day meeting yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw's meeting hall where new Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representatives were sworn-in, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker delivered a message of greeting, asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a bill tabled and a report on the bill read.



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker greets Hluttaw representatives

In his message of greeting to the Hluttaw representatives Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than spoke of his happiness in seeing all Hluttaw representatives attending the meeting in good health and refreshed. The voices, wills and expectations of the people obtained while the Hluttaw was in recess could now be systematically implemented within the frame of laws and rules he added.

As the Hluttaw's term had passed three years and was entering its fourth year, Hluttaw representatives were believed to conduct their works according to laws, rules and Hluttaw procedures. Thus the Hluttaw representatives were urged to systematically perform their legislative duties, check and balancing of administrative and judicial sectors said the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker.

Asterisk marked question and answer session

In the asterisk marked question and answer session that follows, a question on systematic registration of migrant workers working within the country so that they can vote in elections raised by Dr. San Maung Maung of Bago Region constituency 1 was answered by Union Election Commission member U Soe Rae.

Questions raised by four Hluttaw representatives including U Khin Myo Win of the Taninthayi Region constituency 12, U Mya Min Swe of Magway Region constituency 9 and U Pyu Lwin of Magway Region constituency 12 covering plan to construct a control tower in Bokpyin Airport,

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> We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.
>
> **(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)**

> No matter what kind of projects we implement, the main factor for success is collective endeavor. I am firmly convinced that we can overcome any challenge– no matter how big or difficult– if we can set aside prejudices of organizations and select groups, and work without pointing fingers and if every one of us makes concerted efforts with goodwill, wisdom, and courage.
>
> **(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)**

State Counsellor meets secretary of Yunnan communist party, arrives in Phnom Penh



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Secretary of the Yunnan's Communist Party of the People's Republic of China Mr. Chen Hao at Changshui International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and entourage departed from Beijing to Kunming by special flight and landed in Changshui International Airport yesterday morning.

They were welcomed by Mr. Zhang Guohua, the Deputy Governor of Yunnan Province, the Myanmar Consul General to China and other officials.

The State Counsellor received Mr. Chen Hao, Secretary of the Yunnan Provincial Party Committee of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, at the airport's special guest lounge.

Accompanying the State Counsellor were Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing and U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo and U Sett Aung, Myanmar Ambassador U Thit Lwin Ohn and other officials.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor and entourage flew to Cambodia and landed at Phnom Penh International Airport at 4:05pm local standard time.

They were welcomed by Dr. Kantha Phavi, the Cambodian Minister for Women's Affairs, Ms. Eat Sophea, Cambodia's Under Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, U Myint Soe, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia, Mr. Sok Chea, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar, and other officials.

The State Counsellor and entourage then went by motorcade to The Great Duke Phnom Penh Hotel where they will be staying.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor visited the Myanmar Embassy and greeted Ambassador U Myint Soe, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Win Ko Ko, staff of the embassy and military attachment and their families.

The State Counsellor and entourage then attended a dinner reception hosted by the Myanmar Ambassador. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo) ■



Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun holds talks with member of the Executive Committee of World Economic Forum and Head of Asia Pacific Mr. Justin Wood yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun meets with Member of the Executive Committee of World Economic Forum and Head of Asia Pacific

Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun received Member of the Executive Committee of World Economic Forum and Head of Asia Pacific Mr. Justin Wood on Monday at 3:30 pm. at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

The World Economic Forum is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation. The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas. The World Economic Forum has held annual meetings in Davos-Klosters, Switzerland since it was founded in 1971.

Matters relating to provide an update on the collaboration between the World Economic Forum and Myanmar were discussed.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Mr. Piyamit Bing Chomprasob, Community lead, Regional and Geopolitical Affairs- Asia Pacific. —MNA ■

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects progress of regional development in Thantlang, Haka tsps





Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the construction site of a cyclone shelter in Haka, Chin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ON HIS trip to inspect regional development in Chin State, Vice President U Henry Van Thio met with Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Lwal, State Hluttaw Speaker U Zoe Bwe, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Hla Maw Oo, state ministers, officials and local residents at the guesthouse of the Road Department in Thantlang.

During the meeting, the State Minister for Development Affairs, U Soe Htet, and departmental officials explained about the tasks taken for distributing water, the budget allotted for supplying water, the pipeline drawn from the feasibility survey, future tasks and other requirements. The Vice President responded to each matter and encouraged the departments and local people to cooperate.

The water supply project in Thantlang will draw water from Kwebah creek and Mwaywah creek and will pump 187,200 gallons per day when completed. The water will be allotted at 21 gallons per person to the 8,885 local residents.

Next, State Minister U Pau Lun Min Thang explained the plans for constructing a Government Technical High School (Thantlang) and the Vice President and department officials discussed on the matter.

Next, local elders reported the requirements for education and healthcare in the region and the Vice President responded to them in his capacity as Chairperson of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee. He then handed over K51 million from the NDMC funds for building a 10,000-gallon tank for providing drinking water for the hotel zone and local people in Thantlang Township.

Next, the Vice President and entourage visited the 50-bed People's Hospital where the head doctor, Dr. Khun Saw Tun, presented on the hospital's healthcare services, construction works and other requirements. Dr. Soe Oo, Director-General of the Ministry of Health and Sports responded to the presentation.

Next, the Vice President toured the hospital and met with patients and gave them cash donations. He then inspected the construction site for an extended building to the hospital and received an explanation from the project manager, U Tin Tun Aung. The Vice President gave necessary instructions and inspected the site for staff residences and pathways in the hospital.

Next, the Vice President visited Thantlang Hill Resort in the hotel zone. Daw Tint Tint of Tint Tint Travels & Tours Co. Ltd then explained about the tasks and procedures for developing the hotels and tourism sector in the area. Officials responded to her queries and the Vice President gave instructions as necessary.

The Vice President next visited the construction site of the indoor stadium in Thantlang Township where Director-General U Myo Hlaing of the Department of Sport and Physical Education explained the benefits of the stadium when it is completed. The Vice President gave instructions and inspected the site.

He then observed the regional development of Thantlang from atop its View Point structure.

Afterwards, Permanent Secretary U Win Tint of the Ministry of Construction explained proposal status of laying nylon concrete on the Haka-Thantlang-Sarsi Chauk road and the Thantlang-Lonelel road. The Vice President gave instructions and inspected the construction progress.

Next, the Vice President and entourage arrived at the construction site of Haka Technical collage where Principal U Lian Za Kup explained the construction progress. The Vice President gave instructions and inspected the construction site.

Next, the Vice President arrived at the construction site of Haka Midwifery School and received an explanation on the construction process from a company official. The Vice President gave instructions and inspected the construction site.

Next, the Vice President arrived at the construction site of Haka cyclone shelter and gave necessary instructions. He then inspected the construction site of an RC 3-floor building for Chin State's court.

Next, the Vice President arrived at the construction site of the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Haka) and received an explanation on the construction process from Director-General U Myo Hlaing of the Department of Sport and Physical Education. The Vice President handed over sports equipment worth K1.5 million for the institute.

Next, the stake-driving ceremony for the intitute's administration office was held and Reverend Dr. Steven Lian Hom Lain offered prayers.

The Vice President, State Chief Minister and officials drove stakes at the designated spots and sprinkled scented water on them.

Next, the Vice President visited the 200-bed Haka People's Hospital and met with the patients and handed them cash donations.

The Vice President then inspected the construction site of a two-floor building expansion for the hospital.

Afterwards, the Vice President met with officials at the meeting hall of the Chin State Hluttaw building. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Vice President U Henry Van Thio drives a stake at the construction location for the administration office of the Sports and Physical Education Institute (Haka). **PHOTO: MNA**

Press Release on Working Visit of the State Counsellor to the People's Republic of China

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She also attended the Working Lunch and Roundtable Session 2 under the theme of "Strengthening Policy Synergy and Building Closer Partnership" and Roundtable Session 3 under the theme of "Promoting Green and Sustainable Development to implement the UN 2030 Agenda".

At the end of the Leaders' Roundtable, the leaders adopted a Joint Communiqué on the Belt and Road Initiative which stated, among others, that the Belt and Road Initiative aims for strengthening physical and infrastructure connectivity among countries along the Silk Road, for fostering policy coordination and connectivity cooperation, for unimpeded trade and investment, for cooperation to get clean and green environment to achieve sustainable development and for promoting people-to-people bond through exchange of culture, tourism, education, and digital connectivity.

During the visit, the State Counsellor held separate bilateral talks with President Xi Jinping and Premier Li Keqiang of the People's Republic of China on 24th and 25th April 2019 respectively. At the meetings, the leaders stressed the importance of advancing "Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership Relations" based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence and existing "Pauk-Phaw" friendship, promoting bilateral cooperation between Myanmar and China under the framework of Belt and Road Initiative, strengthening mutually beneficial cooperation for enhancement of socio-economic lives of the two peoples, continued provision of assistance to Myanmar's efforts for peace and national reconciliation, maintaining peace, stability and rule of law along the border areas, as well as for the success of repatriation process regarding the Rakhine issue, and lending continued support to Myanmar at the United Nations and other international fora. They also discussed on promoting cooperation in various sectors in 2020 in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of Myanmar-China diplomatic relations, further granting of rice quota for import of (100,000) metric tons from Myanmar and importation of more agro-based and animal-husbandry products from Myanmar and providing technical assistance for improvement of quality of the products, eradicating illegal border trade, and cooperation to combat human-trafficking, and providing 1 billion Yuan grant for economic and technical assistance to the government of Myanmar.

Following the bilateral meeting, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Premier Li Keqiang witnessed the signing ceremony of cooperation agreement and MoUs between the government of Myanmar and the government of the People's Republic of China. The two sides signed and exchanged a total of 3 instruments namely Agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation, Memorandum of Understanding on China-Myanmar Economic Corridor (CMEC) Cooperation Plan (2019-2030), and Memorandum of Understanding on the Formulation of the Five-year Development Program for Economic and Trade Cooperation which aims to enhance cooperation in investment and productivity. According to the first Agreement, China will provide 1 billion Yuan grant to Myanmar for its endeavours for socio-economic development, the MoU on CMEC will promote cooperation in such areas as industry, transportation, energy, agriculture, digital silk road, finance, tourism, environmental protection, people-to-people exchanges, science and technology and personnel training, water resources and flood prevention and control in line with the Myanmar Sustainable Development plan.

Later in the evening, the State Counsellor attended the dinner hosted by Mr. Song Tao, Minister for International Relations Department of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China at the CPC International Department.

On 28th April 2019, the State Counsellor and delegation visited the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing and met with Ambassador U Thit Lin Ohn and staffs of Myanmar Embassy, military attaché office and family members.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor proceeded to the Diaoyutai State Guest House to have a meeting with Mr. Wang Yang, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) and attended the Luncheon hosted by the latter.

In the evening, the State Counsellor attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 held at Guirui Theatre in Yanqin. Prior to the opening ceremony, the State Counsellor visited Exhibition Booths of Myanmar and China and attended the commemorative tree planting ceremony. Afterwards, the State Counsellor attended the opening ceremony of the Beijing International Horticultural Exhibition 2019 at Guirui Theatre together with President Xi Jinping, First Lady and other Heads of State and Government.

While in Beijing, the State Counsellor held bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation and discussed matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, trade and investment, renovation of Taunggyi Peoples' Hospital, continued cooperation at the United Nations and other international fora.

The State Counsellor also met with H.E. Mr. Sebastian KURZ, Chancellor of Austria on the sidelines of the Meeting, and discussed matters on promoting trade and investment, and possible investment in such areas as e-Government and infrastructure development.

During the State Counsellor's meeting with H.E. Mr. Jean Yves Le Drian, Minister for European Union and Foreign Affairs of French Republic on 26th April 2019, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation, trade and investment and continued support to the Myanmar government's efforts in overcoming the challenges in its democratic transition.

During the 2nd Belt and Road Forum, the State Counsellor had opportunities to discuss with the leaders of China on matters relating to promotion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries under the framework of Belt and Road Initiative, further deepening of bilateral relations and cooperation, trade and investment, provision of 1 billion Yuan grant from Chinese government to support Myanmar's development endeavours, particularly in the peoples' livelihood improvement, feasibility study for major projects and humanitarian assistance for the IDPs in northern part of Myanmar, as well as granting of rice quota for import of (100,000) metric tons from Myanmar and importation of more agro-based and animal-husbandry products from Myanmar.

In the morning of 29 April 2019, the State Counsellor and Myanmar delegation left Beijing by special flight to Kunming. The State Counsellor received Mr. Chen Hao, Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party of Yunnan Province at the Meeting Hall of the Kunming airport. In the afternoon, the State Counsellor and Myanmar delegation left Kunming to Phnom Penh by special flight to pay an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

During the visit to China, the State Counsellor was accompanied by Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing, U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Ministers U Aung Htoo, U Set Aung and senior officials.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
Dated: 29 April 2019.

Ministry of Information holds coord meeting on media development

A coordination meeting for developing the media sector was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.



Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, addresses the coordination meeting on media development held at the MoI building in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Deputy Information Minister U Aung Hla Tun, officials from the three pillars of government, Chairperson of the Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Kyaing (Hanthawaddy U Ohn Kyaing) and council members, and officials from the Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Journalists Union, and Myanmar Journalists Network attended the meeting.

Firstly, the Union Minister delivered a speech, followed by speeches from the MPC Chairperson, Deputy Minister and MPC Vice Chairman 1 Dr. Myo Thant Tin.

Next, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung explained the arrangements for the workshop on the four pillars of democracy and MPC Secretary U Kyaw Swar Min explained the arrangements likely to be implemented.

Next, officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Supreme Court, Ministry of Home Affairs, Tatmadaw True News Information Team, the Spokesperson and Press teams of MoI, MPC, MJA, MJU and MJN gave explanations.

Afterwards, attendees then engaged in general discussions and the Deputy Minister delivered the closing speech. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State holds 2nd coord meeting



Chairman U Aye Tha Aung delivers the speech at the second coordination meeting of the Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State Peace in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Committee for Supporting Peace and Stability in Rakhine State Peace held its second coordination meeting at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, U Aye Tha Aung, Chairman of the committee and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, recounted the committee's first trip to Rakhine State, saying that the suggestions received by in meetings with Rakhine communities and political parties in Yangon and Sittway were much beneficial to the committee and the Sate.

The discussions at the meeting focused on easing the conflicts in Rakhine State, said the committee chairman.

In coming second trip, the committee would meet with experts, said U Aye Tha Aung, asking the attendees to review and discuss the outcomes of the first trip.

Afterwards, Vice Chairment of the Committee Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, members of the committee Deputy Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Tin Myint, Rakhine State Minister for Border Affairs and Security Col. Phone Tint, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, Rakhine State Hluttaw Representative U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Aung Naing Thu, and U Nyi Hla Nge took part in the discussion advising the committee to continue to hold discussion with local people to reduce the current conflicts, to fulfill the current needs and requirements before the rainy season, making further trips to Rakhine State and seeking ways for carrying out short-term and long-term plans. —MNA

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

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

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 16/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against illicit drug trafficking up till 27 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 27 April.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 1 May issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

MP to sell special stamp for month of Kasone

MYANMAR POSTS of Ministry of Transport and Communications under the Ministry of Transport and Communications will issue a special commemorative stamp worth K200 to mark the month of Kasone representing its symbols of Sagawar (Michelia Champaca) and Bodhi Tree Water Pouring Festival on 4 May 2019 (1st Waxing of Kasone 1381 ME). The stamp will be available at post offices in states and regions.

Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office will stamp post mark and date on the commemorative stamps and First Day Covers bought on 4 May 2019.—MNA

(Translated by Nwe Nwe Tun)



LIP Union Minister attends regional conference on future of work in Asia in Singapore



Union Minister U Thein Swe delivers the speech at the conference on the Future of Work 2019 held in Singapore. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe attended a conference titled "Future of Work 2019 Embracing Technology; Inclusive Growth" held in Singapore yesterday morning.

The conference was attended by Singapore Minister of Manpower and ASEAN ministers of labour, representatives of six dialogues partner countries, ILO (International Labour Organization) Director General Mr. Guy Ryder, ASEAN Secretary General Dato Lim Jock Hoi, ILO Global Commissioner, government, worker and employer representatives from ASEAN member countries.

Union Minister U Thein Swe and party will meet with officials from Singapore's Center for Domestic Employees on Myanmar workers affairs and with officials from Singapore Polytechnic International Pte. Ltd. on capacity raising matters on 30 April. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Three IEDs planted by AA group on Kyauktaw-MraukU Road defused by security forces

SECURITY forces discovered three improvised explosive devices planted by the AA group near Kyauktaw on the Kyauktaw-MraukU Road and deactivated them on Monday.

Acting on a tip that several mines were planted in the vicinity, security forces searched the area yesterday morning and discovered two IEDs, each being six inches in diameter and eight inches in height, planted two feet from the road.

Also, another landmine was discovered some 20 meters north of the first site.

Security forces deactivated the landmines and cleared the area of explosives.

Since January, security forces have cleared 46 landmines planted by the AA group. —MNA

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)



PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

MIC approves US$290 mln port, container yard development project last Friday

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) recently gave the green light to one project for the development, operation and maintenance of the Ahlon International Port Terminal and container yard on a build, operate and transfer basis, with an estimated initial capital investment of US$ 290.124 million, according to the MIC.

The project is a wholly foreign owned investment from Singapore, which is expected to create 1,176 job for local residents.

Furthermore, the 22 foreign and 12 domestic projects received permits and endorsements at a meeting of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) held in early April.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 5 April, 2019, 147 foreign enterprises received permits and endorsements, bringing in capital of $1.38 billion. Overall foreign direct investments of $2 billion flowed into the country, so far, including expansion of capital by existing enterprises and investments of over $121 million in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

According to the Myanmar Investment Law, the Regions and States Investment Committees are allowed to grant permission to local and foreign proposals when the initial investment does not exceed Ks6 billion, or $5 million, with an aim to assist the verification process of investment projects. — GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Containers are seen at Asia World Port Terminal in Yangon. **PHOTO- ZAW GYI**

Myanmar's exports to Netherlands double in February

MYANMAR'S exports to the Netherlands reached US$30 million in February, nearly double the value registered in the same month last year, according to the monthly trade report released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Exports usually outperform imports in the bilateral trade between the two countries. This February, Myanmar exported goods worth over $30 million to the Netherlands, an increase of $14.7 million from February, 2018, when exports were valued at $15.5 million.

Myanmar imported goods worth $1.7 million from the Netherlands in February this year, an increase of $0.8 million from the year-ago period.

Over the first five months of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, Myanmar has earned $163 million from exports of goods to the Netherlands. Meanwhile, it has imported goods worth nearly $14 million from the European country.

Myanmar chiefly exports fruits and vegetables, marine products, and garments to Europe.

As per official data, Myanmar-Netherlands trade reached nearly $230 million during the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September).

Trade between the two countries has been on the rise since 2011. The bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Netherlands was pegged at $211.6 million in the 2017-2018FY, $141 million in the 2016-2017FY, $61.212 million in the 2015-2016FY, $41.973 million in the 2014-2015FY, $25.676 million in the 2013-2014FY, $9.33 million in the 2012-2013FY, and $23 million in the 2011-2012FY.

According to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, Myanmar has approved one investment project with a capital of $26.4 million from the Netherlands. The European country invested $533.92 million in Myanmar in the 2017-2018FY.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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Animal product exports reach $279 mln by 19 April

MYANMAR'S exports of animal products reached US$279.3 million between 1 October, 2018 and 19 April, 2019, a sharp increase compared with the corresponding period in the 2017-2018 FY, when income from livestock trade registered only $65 million.

Animal product exports are mainly driven by the private sector. Live cattle trade was allowed to begin in late 2017, and exports are expected to rise as Myanmar is exploring new export markets for cattle.

The demand this year is higher than last year. A large cow is selling for over Ks2 million, while a small cow is priced below Ks2 million. Myanmar and Chinese merchants recently discussed cattle exports through the Lweje gate. On 25 March, officials from the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department and cattle exporter bodies from Mandalay and Sagaing regions conducted feasibility studies for cattle trade via the Lweje route, said a cattle trader.

The exported cattle are older than five years old, and include vaccination certificates, health certificates, and farming registration certificates. According to the 2018 cattle census, there are 11.5 million head of cattle in the country. It was noted that an increase in the export value of animal products can help reduce Myanmar's trade deficit.

Myanmar's exports include agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other marketable products. — Ko Htet ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Imports of consumer goods decline 7.8% in current FY

MYANMAR'S import of consumer products as of 19 February in the current fiscal year has touched US$1.8 billion, which saw a decrease by $153 million or 7.8 per cent, from the corresponding period last FY, according to the statistical report of the Ministry of Commerce.

The total imports of consumer goods included over $28 million by the public sector and nearly $1.8 billion by the private sector. This FY saw a continuous decline in the imports of consumer products by both sectors in comparison with the same period last FY.

From this time during the last FY, Myanmar's import of consumer goods was pegged at almost $1.96 billion, with $56 million by the public sector and $1.9 billion by the private sector.

The country's imports of consumer products exceeded $2.6 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September).

The ministry's annual statistical report indicated that the imports of consumer goods were $1.245 billion in the 2011-2012 FY, $1.4 billion in the 2012-2013 FY, $2.3 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, $2.9 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, $3.5 billion in the 2015-2016 FY, over $4 billion in the 2016-2017 FY and $4.403 billion in the 2017-2018 FY.

Between 1 October and 19 April, Myanmar also imported three other major groups of commodities, covering $3.1 billion worth of capital goods, $3.6 billion of manufactured goods and $1.2 million worth of CMP raw materials. Aside from the CMP raw materials, the country saw a decrease of over $800 million in the current 2018-2019 FY.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Come see untapped investment opportunities of Chin State

WITH huge potential in the emerging organic fruit and vegetable sector, the agriculture sector of Chin State offers a great potential to investors.

Myanmar is sometimes regarded as Asia's last 'frontier market'. As such, Chin State should be considered a most promising investment destination.

The quality of agricultural products from the state, such as coffee, elephant foot yam and avocado, are well-known and has potential for growth, if investments are made into modern growing, processing and better marketing techniques.

It is required to form associations or groups to produce and trade Chin State's high-quality products, as well as to penetrate international markets.

In Chin State, elephant foot yam was produced in Matupi, Mindat and Paletwa townships. An acre of land can yield more than 3,000 Viss (Viss = 1.53293 kg = 3.6 lb) of elephant foot yam and, if properly planted, the yield per acre can range from 5,000 to 8,000 Viss, earning a farmer more than Ks 8.3 million.

> We need modern farming and post harvest technology to prevent Chin State's high quality agricultural products from declining, due to traditional methods practiced by today's farmers.

An acre of avocado yields some 3 tons per year, and at US$ 1,300 per ton, an income of Ks 5.8 million can be expected. If both avocado and elephant foot yam were planted, the income for farmers could be more than Ks 14 million.

Meanwhile, the grade of coffee from Chin State is above 96, while internationally, if a grade of coffee is above 80 it is considered a special grade. This means coffee from Chin State is among the world's top grades.

Coffee planting should be performed by individuals or groups, which has been successful in Chin State for many years.

We need modern farming and post harvest technology to prevent Chin State's high quality agricultural products from declining, due to traditional methods practiced by today's farmers.

Investment in modern technology and quality packaging system would help world class coffee from Chin State to penetrate the international market.

Today, some private companies are producing the best quality Arabic coffee with modern equipment in Chin State.

These prospects for businesses have proven that the time is ripe to invest in Chin State.

While investments into Myanmar are once again turning a corner, we cannot allow Chin State to be left behind.

We would like to urge local and foreign investors who have not yet been to Chin State to visit the state and witness the untapped investment opportunities offered by Chin State.

■■■

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation: Defending and protecting the interests of the people and the State in the international arena

During the third year of the government's term, we have made efforts to use what is known as "soft power" to show to the world not only our culture but also positive progress achieved in other sectors as well.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs is one of the important ministries of the Union Government which has aggressively broken down barriers and impediments and positioned itself on the international stage to face and solve problems in the interest of the State. Foreign policy is formulated and adopted based on domestic policy. It is the extension and projection of domestic policy in the international arena. Myanmar has been endeavoring for the establishment of a stable, peaceful and prosperous Democratic Federal Republic as well as protecting and promoting the interests of the people and the State. Since international relations plays an important role in the achievement of the above aspirations, in order to let the people know how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation have been facing and solving the Myanmar issue in the international arena during the term of the new government, I am presenting here my interview with the Union Minister for International Cooperation.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a photo together with other ASEAN leaders at the 33rd ASEAN Summit and related summits in Singapore, Nov. 2018 **PHOTO: MNA**

Q: Mingalabar Mr. Union Minister. First of all please tell me what kind of policies has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs adopted and for what kind of goals has it been working?

Union Minister: Our ministries have been practicing an "active and independent foreign policy" based the aspirations of the State and the "Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence". Just as we have been practicing right after independence, we have been making concerted efforts to establish friendly relations with all countries of the world. We have been making efforts to consolidate our traditional friendly relations with our neighboring countries. At the same time we have worked to further enhance our friendly relations with countries in the region and countries far from us. We are also actively participating in the activities of regional organizations including ASEAN. We are working hard for the promotion of our interests as well as for the interest of the region; we are also cooperating with the United Nations and international organizations in accordance with our national plans and priority needs.

The tenure of the People's government which gained the overwhelming support of the people is now in its third year. During the term of the People's government, we have changed to a new approach called the people-centered diplomacy. In our efforts to promote and consolidate our bilateral relations we have given more attention to government to government relations; however, at the moment we are also giving attention to people to people relations. Also, as we respond to pressures exerted upon us in each and every international arena in regard to the Rakhine issue, we are gradually moving towards using not only the government's strength but also the united strength of the people.

In line with people-centered diplomacy, Myanmar embassies have given more attention and focus to the interests of the people, to work more than ever before to protect the interests of Myanmar nationals and former Myanmar nationals and to improve relations with the people. To cite one tangible result, we have been able to implement reform measures so that Myanmar diplomatic missions are now providing services to the people in a much more warm and friendly manner than before.

We expanded and established the Ministry of International Cooperation to put more focus and efforts in our international relations, to get more support and assistance from abroad for the fulfillment of our domestic requirements and needs, and to provide policy coordination from the political and economic perspectives. As the Union Minister for the Ministry of International Cooperation, I have performed my duties in matters relating to United Nations and International Organizations, ASEAN, BIMSTEC, ASEM (Asia-Europe Meeting), regional ministerial meetings including Mekong Cooperation initiatives meetings; in short I performed my duties with respect to regional and international relations.

Q: Please also tell me your experiences during the tenure of the current government how the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has conducted its relations with the countries of the world in terms of difficulties and challenges. How have you overcome them?

Union Minister: During the term of this government, as the State Counsellor herself has taken over the responsibility of Union Minister for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the role of international cooperation and coordination has been elevated. The countries of the world welcomed and supported the government elected by the people. During the first one and a half year period of the incumbent government, assistance and support for the success of the democratic transition increased overwhelmingly and the expectations of the countries of the world and the people became very high.

In international relations, this may be regarded as a significant change as well as a challenge. Right after the People's government came to power within one year, our relations with our neighboring countries and countries in the region became very good; at the same time because we were able to improve our relations with development partner countries such as the United States and west European countries, one visible and significant success was the lifting of all economic sanctions in September 2016.

However, after two and a half years of the term of the government, we could see that the situation changed in connection with the Rakhine State issue. Our relations with the western countries turned became less warm and because the government was unable to meet the expectations of the world countries, we had to confront criticisms and pressures. The government has been giving extra focus and attention to solve this problem. However with regard to the Rakhine issue, there are certain people with their own political agenda who are not interested in achieving a solution to the problem but who wish to only focus on putting pressure and giving punishment.

> The Union Government has a deep concern that our country's stability and our people's future would be affected if we took the approach of the western countries to solve the Rakhine State issue.

We were able to forge better relations with countries such as China, India, Japan, ASEAN countries, members of BIMSTEC and countries in the region, who were able to understand the challenges and pressures and the harsh realities being faced by us. We were able to stop and thwart attempts to intervene and infringe upon our sovereignty. Furthermore, we are encouraged by our ability to maintain friendly relations and cooperation with countries who could understand the extremely complicated nature of our challenges.

That is why we are able to get the encouragement and support of most of the countries of the world including the western countries for our peace process, democratic transition and development although there are challenges we are facing in the international arena with regard to the Rakhine State issue.

As for Myanmar, with respect to the Rakhine State issue, as part of the international community, we need to take heed of their views and perspectives; as a sovereign country, domestically, we need to take into account the views and perspectives of the people and protect their interests; that is why it is one of the challenges of the Union government to solve this issue systematically and with proper balance. To be able to fulfil the extremely high expectations of the world countries and the Myanmar people is also a huge challenge for the government.

The Union Government has a deep concern that our country's stability and our people's future would be affected if we took the approach of the western countries to solve the Rakhine State issue. That is why we exerting efforts to protect and promote human rights in our country by choosing an approach of reconciliation and peace process without harming the interests of the people.

Q: What priority activities has the Ministry of Foreign Affairs embarked upon during the third years of the Government's term?

Union Minister: To achieve the goals of our Ministry, we have worked to expand our diplomatic relations with the countries of the world. We have also expanded our efforts to establish consultation mechanisms between foreign ministries, not only with countries in the region but also with western countries. We have also sent special envoys to Europe, and some Latin American countries, including Bangladesh and Malaysia to present our case and promote better understanding. With regard to the Rakhine State issue, we are not only meeting the challenges in the international arena to respond and seek a solution, we are making concerted efforts to be able to show practical progress on ground to create a good environment by working with the relevant departments.

During the third year of the government's term, we have made efforts to use what is known as "soft power" to show to the world not only our culture but also positive progress achieved in other sectors as well. We are also working to promote tourism, giving visa exemptions to some countries such as Japan and Republic of Korea, relaxing visa rules and regulations including on-arrival visas and instructing Myanmar embassies to make strenuous efforts to promote economic progress, trade and investment. It may be said that the fact that foreign investments and tourist arrivals have increased significantly is the result of our success.

To achieve success in our relations with the outside world, we need to be able to appoint capable diplomats. That is why we have undertaken efforts to increase the level of recruitment and also to build up their capacities and skills. To enable our embassies to be able to function at a level commensurate to their status, we have been able to take measures to fulfil administrative needs such as health of our Foreign Service personnel and their families, and providing support and assistance for the education of their children.

SEE PAGE-10

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of International Cooperation: Defending and protecting the interests of the people and the State in the international arena

FROM PAGE-9

Q: Please tell us how you have been able to arrange goodwill visits to new partner countries of Myanmar?

Union Minister: We have been able to promote friendship and cooperation with partner countries by arranging exchange of friendly visits for State leaders and high-level delegations while ensuring proper balance. During the third year of the government's tenure, the President went on friendly visits to Singapore, Thailand, Nepal and Indonesia to attend summit meetings of ASEAN and regional organizations.

The State Counsellor also went on official visits to Laos, Thailand, China, United States, Japan, Singapore, Italy, Vatican, Britain, Belgium, India, and Australia. During the third year, she went on friendly visits to Vietnam, Japan, Singapore and Nepal to attend summits of ASEAN and regional organizations.

Q: Please also tell us the status of visits made by visitors from countries of the world?

Union Minister: During the three year period of the tenure of the new Government, we were able to promote and elevate the friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and countries such as Singapore, India, Laos, the Philippines, Mongolia, Cambodia and Vietnam which sent Presidents, State Leaders and the Pope on friendly visits. Countries such as China, Italy, Canada, Japan, India, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, Australia, Serbia, Britain, Hungary, United States, Norway, Ukraine, Luxembourg, Netherlands, France, Czech Republic, Turkey, EU, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Malaysia sent high-level delegations on friendly visits totaling more than 80 visits. We were able to successfully arrange these visits and thus greatly enhance and promote bilateral and regional level relations. In addition, we were able to make concerted efforts to promote the socio-economic development of Myanmar and the people and obtain development assistance, technical assistance and financial assistance.

Q: Please comment on the benefits that have been derived for the country from the exchange of such visits.

Union Minister: The benefits that have been gained from the exchange of such visits are namely: the consolidation of friendship between the leaders of the two countries, and the promotion and elevation of cooperation between the two countries. We also derived many other benefits for the country. At the ASEAN summit, we were able to arrange separate meetings for the State Counsellor to meet the leaders from countries such as China, United States and New Zealand. We were able to establish a new historic milestone for bilateral relations with Nepal by arranging the friendly visit of our President to Nepal in August 2018. This was the first time a civilian leader has made a goodwill visit to Nepal in 40 years of bilateral relations. Our State Counsellor also paid a visit to attend the Asia-Pacific summit held in Nepal and during this visit she was able to make an official visit. She met the Nepali President and Prime Minister and as a result of discussions she had with them many MOUs were signed in the field of trade and investments.



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin.

During the friendly visit of the Indian President, MOUs in the field of education and legal matters were signed. 50 housing units out of 250 units which were being built with the assistance of India for Rakhine State were handed over to the Myanmar side. In addition, an Advanced Centre for Agricultural Research and Education and Rice Bio Park were handed over to the Myanmar side, thus further cementing and consolidating the friendship that exists between the two countries.

> To be able to fulfil the extremely high expectations of the world countries and the Myanmar people is also a huge challenge for the government.

During the friendly visit of the Foreign Minister of Japan, an agreement was reached to assist flood victims. In addition, discussions and coordination efforts were successfully made for the Japanese government to fund two projects in Rakhine State amounting to USD 22 million, to be implemented by 7 agencies in 2018, and also in 2019, 9 UN agencies to implement 3 projects in Rakhine State, Kachin State and Northern Shan State with Japanese government funds amounting to USD 35 million.

The special envoy of the Vietnamese Prime Minister who came to Myanmar in January 2019 donated USD 100,000 for humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State on behalf of his government. Furthermore, we have received bilateral assistance from many other countries. What I have told you represents just an example of what I have picked out.

Q: Please also tell me what the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been discussing or negotiating to improve bilateral relations.

Union Minister: To improve bilateral relations we have been organizing commissions for bilateral cooperation, mechanisms for foreign ministry consultations and seminars. This is in addition to exchange of visits of State leaders and ministerial level delegations. The fourth China-Myanmar, 2 + 2 high level senior officers meeting under the leadership of the Foreign and Defence ministries was held in Beijing in 2018. Issues discussed included China's constructive support for Myanmar peace process, peace and stability of the border regions of the two countries, development issues, and realizing the interests of the local people. We were able to discuss these issues in a frank and open manner.

China has donated USD 3 million for the continuation of the Myanmar peace process; they have also donated Kyats 2000 lakhs to the UEHRD to provide assistance in the repatriation of displaced persons from Rakhine State. In addition, they have also donated 1000 assembled housing units and 20 trucks. Among the examples of visible progress are the success in lifting all economic sanctions from the USA and the fact that the EU member countries, Switzerland and Norway including the United States and Britain are providing development assistance on a continuing basis. The EU also donated Euro 221 million to the Myanmar government for the education sector. Negotiations were conducted with the EU to make sure that the GSP privileges would not be revoked for over 400,000 Myanmar garment factory workers. As a result of these negotiations, better understanding between the two sides has been achieved.

We were also able to improve and consolidate our Strategic Partnership relationship with China; a Comprehensive Cooperative Partnership – CCP with Vietnam; and achieve the level of Natural Strategic Partners with Thailand.

TO BE CONTINUED



Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin attends the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat in Chiang Mai, Thailand, Jan. 18, 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

Infrastructure, electricity & tourism; key priorities of Sagaing Region

Our region also won awards for installing clean public toilets in 2017 and 2018 and the ASEAN Public Standards Awards for 2019-2020.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, Dr. Myint Naing.

By Shin Min
PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT

THE Sagaing Region government follows three principles to improve the socio-economic development of its citizens: 1) promoting the agriculture and livestock sector, 2) ensuring better transportation infrastructure and electrificsation, 3) expanding the tourism industry.

We interviewed the Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, Dr. Myint Naing, of his cabinet's endeavors fulfilling these principles during the third year since the civilian government assumed office.

Q: Please tell us about your government's objectives and tasks.

A: We have three principles or policies we follow in our work to raise the living standards of the people and the economy. We've followed them since taking up office. The three principles are developing the agriculture and livestock sector, making the basic transportation infrastructure better and increasing electric power supply, and growing the tourism sector in the region. The regional government bases its annual prioritized objectives and tasks on these three principles.

Q: Can you tell us why these sectors are given priority?

A: We're the second largest subnational territory in the country with a population of 5.4 million people. People living in the urban areas make up 17.14% of the population while the remaining 82.85% live in rural areas. Since the agriculture and livestock sector is the main business driving the region's economy, we need to develop it first to increase the income of the majority of our population in the rural areas which will raise their living standards in turn.

So, if we can upgrade the basic necessities such as infrastructure and electrification then we can develop the agriculture and livestock sector. This will simultaneously develop the industrial sector and trade. Development will soon follow with education, healthcare, humanitarian processes and the expand the tourism industry as the end result.

The expansive region still has its forests, mountains and rivers intact and we have cultural heritages and various unique customs and traditions of our diverse ethnic races living here. All of this is the perfect foundation to grow our tourism industry. Giving priority to them and developing them will grow our economy in all aspects and this is why they are part of our list of priority tasks.

Q: How much have you accomplished so far?

A: We've converted 2,641 acres of vacant and virgin lands into farmlands for those who didn't have any to cultivate on. We've formed 2,225 acres of high-level farmlands and we've purchased 466 tractors and 5,806 power tillers to transition to a mechanized farming system.

We maintain our dams, lakes and reservoirs every year and repair them if necessary. There are 43 state-owned and 290 rural ones that provide irrigation to 730,000 acres of monsoon crops and summer crops and 890,000 acres used to cultivate other crops.

We issued certificates that recognize good agricultural practices (GAP) to 44 farmers to export mangoes and melons into foreign markets. In the three-year period we have performed free vaccinations for 180,000 cattle in 11 townships once every six months. This has reduced diseases and increased livestock production.

We've increased fish production by 239.55 million peittha (approx. 390,466,500 kg) and 87,409,000 fingerlings from three breeding ponds. Two more bee farmers have emerged and make up the 312 bee farmers in the region.



Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, Dr. Myint Naing.

Q: Now, tell us about how your cabinet handled improving the region's infrastructure.

A: Well for starters, we upgraded about 3,248 miles of road over the course of three years. And we've constructed 50 bridges over 150 feet and 2,549 bridges under 150 feet.

The big projects we took were the three Chindwin Bridges – Kalewa, Khamti and Homalin. We also constructed the Mu Bridge (Tamayoe) and Mezar Creek Bridge.

Q: And what did your cabinet have to do for increasing the power supply and connectivity for the people?

A: We've converted Tamu, Mingin, Kalewa townships and 1,392 villages from the transmission line system to a converting distribution system in three years.



An aerial view of the bridge across the Chindwin River in Khamti.

SEE PAGE-12

Infrastructure, electricity & tourism; key priorities of Sagaing Region



Asphalt mixing plant in Sagaing Region.



Workers upgrade Kyaukkar road in Monywa, Sagaing Region.

FROM PAGE-11

The number of people with access to electricity has risen to 121,652 and electric consumption has risen to 120.85 Megawatts. Out of the 5,989 villages in the region, about 88.53 per cent have access to electricity now.

We completed a small-scale hydroelectric project on Taing Kham creek in the Naga Self-administered Zone's town of Nan Yun. We're currently constructing a 4 MW small-scale hydroelectric project in Homalin Township as well.

The city development committees have completed 339 tasks for acquiring water, constructed 3 new markets, 8 bazaar expansions, 5 new city halls, highway terminals and upgraded old car lots.

Q: How did you manage the finances and funds for those endeavours?

A: We systematically divided our available funds for each sector and arranged for the work to be as close to the people's wishes as possible. This was done by submitting the reports to the regional Hluttaw and getting the vote of the people's representatives.

We allot about 58 per cent of our annual budget on infrastructure and power supply. We divide the rest on which tasks need to be prioritized based on their urgency.

Q: What have you done for the rule of law and stability in Sagaing Region?

A: There are 2,844 police officers in the region; a ratio of one officer to 1,405 civilians; who uphold the rule of law, security, stability and public services.

The police have made 7,306 arrests on illegal drugs and confiscated 85.4813g of heroin, 458.073g of opium and 6,104,484 psychotropic tablets over the course of three years.

Police have also arrested 2,115 individuals on illegal timber charges and confiscated 5,566.3375 tons of timber worth K2,462.9 million. Other cases handled by the police involve 187 counts of illegal mining and 64 counts of illegal immigration.

Q: And what about economic development and the industrial and SME sectors?

A: We have the Sagaing, Monywa, Shwebo and Kalewa economic zones in the region. We have permitted the registration of 424 new industrial enterprises in the three-year period. Currently, there are 410 large, 1,202 medium and 3,372 small enterprises in the region. We are trying our best to address their difficulties.

We have issued certificates of proof for 461 entrepreneurs and loaned out a total of K1,770 million to 59 of them. Furthermore, we helped 73 RBF Grant winners access a total of K2,360.7 million from Denmark. We've also held 27 workshops for MSMEs.

Q: Can you explain the policies for developing tourism in detail?

A: We've designated 6 travel zones in Sagaing Region and are implementing new travel destinations as well. We've worked hard to preserve our historical cultural heritage, install maps and guides and built 3 port bridges for tourists who come by boat to Mingun and Nwe Nyein districts.

We've opened a resort on Zalone Mountain and saw 200,000 pilgrims visit the mountain in 2017-2018 FY. We estimate there will be over 500,000 pilgrims this year. We've also implemented community-based tourism in Zalone Mountain, Nwe Nyein Township and the one in Indaung for viewing the Ayeyawady dolphins. We've also held rally races two years straight.

> We've formed 2,225 acres of high-level farmlands and we've purchased 466 tractors and 5,806 power tillers to transition to a mechanized farming system.

Because of all these efforts, tourism increased by 22.9 per cent in 2017 and again by 17.14 per cent in 2018. We are trying to increase it again this year too. Our region also won awards for installing clean public toilets in 2017 and 2018 and the ASEAN Public Standards Awards for 2019-2020.

Before we took up office, there were only 21 hotels in the region but that has now increased to 36 and we are looking to give licenses to 10 more this year. We've held regional guide courses and hotel service trainings twice each, with 714 graduates. We're trying to get private sector funding into the tourism sector.

Q: Did your cabinet face any particularly difficult challenges in bringing investments here?

A: Our region is quite large and the infrastructure is inadequate so there were some impediments to inviting investors here. There are also various restrictions on border trade which is why our government is reducing those restrictions as much as we can to attract investors.

Q: Among your hard work for the people in the region, which tasks do you feel most satisfied with?

A: The transportation and electric power sector. The people received numerous benefits from our efforts in those two sectors. I feel satisfied with the developments in the travel and tourism sector too. But our regional government has much left to do. We will continue to try hard for our citizens.

Q: What will your government be working on in the remainder of its term?

A: We will continue acting on our three basic principles. We will continue to strive for development of MSMEs, human resources in the nation, and investments from home and abroad.

Q: Is there anything else you wish to inform the public about?

A: The government is working to the best of its ability while being free of all forms of corruption. But these tasks and projects cannot be accomplished with the strength of the government alone. We need the people and all relevant organizations and departments to join hands and collaborate with us to succeed.

(Translated by Pen Dali)



Photo shows the completion of construction of the affordable apartments in Nandawun Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region.

12th regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commences

FROM PAGE-2

Matters put on record

Next the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker informed the Hluttaw about a trip made to 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Doha, Qatar and announced the Hluttaw put it on record.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker also informed the Hluttaw about the appointments of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myint Maung, minister for planning and finance Daw Yi Yi Cho, minister for natural resources and environment U Hla Htway and minister for electricity and energy U Aung Thuya sent by the President and announced the Hluttaw putting it on record.

Reading of Joint Bill Committee reports

Afterwards Joint Bill Committee reports on the committee's findings and comments on Gambling Bill and Literature and Arts Copyright Bill the President sent were read by committee members U Aung Kyi Nyunt and U Nay Myo Tun while a Joint Bill Committee report on the committee's findings and comments on Major Bridge Bill in which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement were read by committee member U Zaw Win.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bills to register their names.

Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report explained

Later Anti-Corruption Commission Annual Report was explained to the Hluttaw by the commission chairman U Aung Kyi and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who wish to discuss the report to register their names.

Custom duty and commercial tax exemption for import of five Red Cross office vehicles

Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win then explained to the Hluttaw on the matter of exempting Custom duty, commercial tax and special good tax on five Red Cross office vehicles valued at US$ 127,879.2 imported for humanitarian support works in Rakhine State by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and International Committee of the Red Cross. Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also provided additional explanations.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Explanation on Japanese Yen 28.642 billion loan from JICA

This was then followed by Deputy Ministers for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation; Energy and Electricity; Construction and Planning and Finance explaining the Hluttaw about obtaining Japanese Yen 28.642 billion loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the matter to register their names.

Joint Public Account Committee reports read

As a final agenda of the day Joint Public Account Committee report 4/2019 on the committee's findings and comments 2018 April to September six month national planning report and Joint Public Account Committee report 6/2019 on the committee's findings and comments on 2018 April to September six months budget report were read by committee members U Myo Win and U Sai Kyaw Thiha. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the conclusion of the meeting after making an announcement for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the reports to register their names. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Second Pyithu Hluttaw 12th session...

FROM PAGE-2

Nepal national health insurance system by Dr. U San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency from 2019 March 17 to 20, Dr. Wai Phyo Aung of Thakayta constituency attending a second regional workshop on Strengthening Legal Frameworks to Protect Children from Sexual Exploitation in Travel and Tourism in Thailand from 2019 March 18 to 19, Daw Zin Mar Aung of Yankin constituency attending 5th World Assembly for Women in Japan from 2019 March 23 to 24, Dr. Daw Shwe Pone of Bago constituency and Daw Khin Hnin Thit of Padaung constituency attending 140th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamenary Union in Doha, Qatar from 2019 April 6 to 10, U Phyo Zeya Thaw @ U Zeya Thaw of Zabuthiri constituency participating in European Union Visitors Programme (EUVP 2019) study tour to Belgium from 2019 April 15 to 18, a Myanmar delegation consisting of ten Pyithu Hluttaw representatives led by Amyotha Hluttaw representative Daw Naw Mya Say conducting a study tour of Western Cape Provincial Parliament, South Africa from 2019 April 20 to 27, U Soe Htay of Kawkareik constituency and U Kyaw Min of Kamayut constituency attending a workshop on transition of Netherland Constitution and security sector of federal state from 2019 April 23 to 27, U Zaw Thein of Wakema constituency attending Guidelines of AIPA Engagement with Guest, Observer and Dialogue Partner temporary work group meeting in Indonesia from 2019 April 27 to 28, and Dr. U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency and U Kyaw Soe Lin of Pyigyidagun constituency attending 26th Harm Reduction International Conference (HR 19) held in Portugal from 2019 April 28 to May 3.

Questions and answers session

In the question and answer session that follows questions raised by U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency, U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency, U Nay Myo Htet of Kyauktada constituency, Daw Nam Kham Aye of Namtu constituency, Daw Thandar of Einme constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency and U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

Motion on agriculture product

After the question and answer session U Win Win of Minbu constituency tabled and explained in detail a motion urging the government to seek out local and foreign markets, transparently inform the people of lists of products that had firm market season wise or annually for agriculture products and crops obtaining fair and equitable prices and to draw up and implement arrangements for government and people to cooperation toward producing quality and marketable agriculture products.

The motion was supported by U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu constituency and after Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker obtained the agreement of the Hluttaw, an announcement was made to accept and discuss the motion. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names.

Receipt of bills and registration for tabling amendment motions

Next Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the receipt of Children's Rights Bill returned with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw and a bill amending Union Civil Service Board Law for the second time. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to table amendment motions to register their names.

The second-day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session will be held on 2 May it is learnt.—*(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Second Amyotha Hluttaw resumes 12th regular session

FROM PAGE-2

Bokpyin Township, Kawthoung District, Taninthayi Region, repairing of line phones, upgrade Pakokku port and plan to open a Road Transportation Administration Department in Gangaw Township, Gangaw District, Magway Region was also answered by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.

2019 bill amending Myanmar Investment Law tabled and report read

After the asterisk marked question and answer session Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun tabled a 2019 bill amending Myanmar Investment Law and Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee member U Kyaw Kyaw read and explained a report on the committee's findings on the bill.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table amendment motions to register their names. The second-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session will be held on May 2.—MNA *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

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ASEAN NATIONALS TO APPLY FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITION:
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Jetty near Buu Pagoda in Bagan packed with tourists watching sunsets

BAGAN-NYAUNGU, the cultural heritage zone of Myanmar, is hosting large numbers of tourists and pilgrims.

Buu Pagoda, one of the nation's famous historical pagodas in Bagan, is crowded with throngs of visitors, especially in the evening.

Buu Pagoda usually receives large numbers of travelers to view the sunset, and most travelers ride sunset boat cruises along Ayeyarwaddy River to enjoy scenic views of Bagan. Therefore, crowds of visitors and boats can be seen around Buu Pagoda every evening, where boat drivers can earn K20,000 per round trip.



Photo shows the sunset in the ancient city Bagan. **PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAUK)**

International travelers enjoy the sunset, and they also take pictures of sunset by riding sunset boat cruises on Ayyarwaddy River. Many visitors thronged to Tant Kyi Taung pagoda by boat, allowing drivers to earn well in Bagan. Nevertheless, they have to serve a small number of visitors during June and July due to high tides and strong winds, said U Maung Toe, a boat owner. — Ko Htain (Ngathauk) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Indaw Lake needs maintaining through demarcation of boundary

MYANMAR'S third largest lake, Indaw Lake located in Indaw Township in Katha district, Sagaing region, needs to be maintained through the demarcation of its boundaries, according to officials.

Previously, Indaw Lake had a depth of between 150 and 200 feet, was five miles in length and three miles in width. Today, however, it is only four miles in length and two miles wide. Moreover, since the former Settlement and Land Records Department issued land grants to local farmers, the boundary is in need of being redrawn.

"Indaw Lake is the third largest lake in Myanmar. The lake includes scenic natural forest views. Additionally, it is one of the natural habitats for rare species of birds and aquatic species. Indaw Lake is linked to Zaluang Mountain, being one of the main tourist attractions. Many famous locations are also found close to Indaw Lake. "The tourism industry will develop further after the Indawgyi boundary has been reset", said U Than Win, an MP from the Regional Hluttaw Constituency 2 in Indaw Township.

Indaw Lake is located some 2 kilometers southeast of Indaw town. The boundary of Indaw lake was set by the Katha district administrative committee in 2015, which included 1,927 acres of land.—Ko Min (Indaw) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over K3 billion worth of drug ice seized near Kawthoung Township

MYANMAR Navy seized a boat carrying a load of drug ice that are worth over K3 billion and seven fishery workers on 26 April near Kawthoung township.

During Myanmar Navy's maritime warfare operation led by Major Thaung Htoo, they discovered seven fishery workers and 1,238 packs of ice drug that had been packaged with plastic bags inside Aung Pyae Sone (1) boat near Roe bank in Thanintharyi Region. The total worth of ice drugs are estimated K3 billion according to the Police Force.

Action is being taken against those seven workers under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic substance Law by Kawthoung Police Force.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



Seven detainees and drugs. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**

Two dead in house fire in Pinlebu Township

TWO women are dead after a fire erupted in a house in Pinlebu Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, on Monday early morning, according to the township's fire services department.

The fire took place at the home in Kowntaung Village at about 4 a.m. on 29 April.

According to investigators, four women who live there were in the house at the time, and two escaped with wounds. The other two including house owner Daw Mya Yin, 65, and her daughter Zin Mar Win, 27, were unable to get out and were pronounced died. The escaped women were rushed to the People's Hospital in Pinlebu.

With the support of residents, firefighters brought the blaze under control by 5 a.m. An investigation is being conducted by the township police to determine the cause of the fire.—Myo Lwin (Pinlebu) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

As severe cyclone Fani intensifies, Indian PM urges officials to take measures

NEW DELHI — Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Monday directed officials to take preventive measures to deal with Cyclone Fani which is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday, a government spokesman said.

The prime minister has asked the officials to remain prepared to provide all possible assistance to deal with the situation.

"Prime minister himself is closely monitoring the situation and has directed cabinet secretary to convene meeting of National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to take stock of the situation with state governments and central ministries, agencies concerned and ensure that all preparations to deal with any situation are in place," a statement issued by home ministry said. Cyclonic storm Fani on Monday morning was located at 870 km southeast of Chennai (Tamil Nadu), officials said.

According to India Meteorological Department (IMD) it is expected to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday. The storm will continue to move northwest and change its path to northeast from Wednesday. "Yesterday's cyclonic storm FANI over southeast Bay of Bengal and neighborhood moved north-northwestwards during past 24 hours and lay centered at 08:30 a.m. (local time) today over the same region about 620 km east of Trincomalee (Sri Lanka), 870 km east-southeast of Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and 1,040 km south-southeast of Machilipatnam (Andhra Pradesh)," the IMD said. "It is very likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm during next six hours and into a very severe cyclonic storm during subsequent 24 hours. It is very likely to move northwestwards till Wednesday evening and thereafter recurve north-northeastwards gradually."

Home ministry officials said landfall over Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh was ruled out. However, the possibility of landfall in Odisha was under continuous watch. Authorities say the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Indian Coast Guard teams have been put on high alert and placed at the disposal of local government authorities in the areas that are likely to get hit due to cyclone.

"Regular warnings have been issued since Thursday to fishermen not to venture into the sea and asking those at sea to return to coast," home ministry officials said. "IMD has been issuing three hourly bulletins with latest forecast to all the concerned states." —Xinhua ■



Members of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) guard on a street during an operation against suspected militants in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 29 April, 2019. Two suspected militants were confirmed dead in a series of blasts at their hideout during an operation by Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), a military spokesman said Monday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Two confirmed dead in Bangladeshi blasts

DHAKA — Two suspected militants were confirmed dead in a series of blasts at their hideout during an operation by Bangladesh's Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), a military spokesman said Monday.

Anti-crime elite force RAB early Monday cordoned off a tin-shed house in capital Dhaka's Bosila area, where militants were suspected of being holed up.

Several explosions took place at the house after the members of RAB cordoned off the house, RAB spokesman Mufti Mahmud Khan, told journalists.

The roof of the tin-shed house was blown away in the explosions. And the bodies (of the two militants) have been blown apart in the huge explosions.

"Three legs were seen on the spot meaning two persons are confirmed dead," he said, adding they will have to identify the bodies through DNA profiling. Law enforcers detained four persons including the caretaker of the house for interrogation.

Authorities have imposed a restriction on movement of vehicles and pedestrians around the terror hideout which is now under siege by the security forces.

Security has been tightened up in Bangladesh since militants attacked a Spanish cafe in Dhaka's Gulshan on 1 July, 2016, killing 22 people mostly foreigners.

Since the cafe attack, Bangladeshi police have conducted series of large-scale operations against militants. —Xinhua ■

Floods in Indonesia kill dozens, thousands displaced

BENGKULU (Indonesia) — Floods sparked by torrential rains have killed nearly 40 in Indonesia with a dozen more still missing, officials said Monday, marking the latest calamity for a disaster-prone nation.

Landslides and floods are common during the monsoon season between October and April, when rains lash the vast Southeast Asian archipelago.



Residents try to dry out their belongings as their home sits surrounded by floodwaters in Bengkulu on the Indonesian island of Sumatra on 29 April 2019. Floods sparked by torrential rains have killed nearly 40 in Indonesia with a dozen more still missing, officials said on 29 April, marking the latest calamity for a disaster-prone nation. **PHOTO: AFP**

On Monday, Indonesia's disaster agency confirmed 29 deaths and said at least 13 more people were missing in Sumatra island's Bengkulu province.

A landslide triggered by heavy rain in neighbouring Lampung province on Saturday also killed a family of six.

Meanwhile, flooding in and around parts of the capital Jakarta last week killed at least two people, forced more than 2,000 to evacuate their homes and set 14 pet pythons on the loose.

In Bogor, a satellite city of Jakarta, residents had to contend with the prospect of coming face to face with the giant serpents, after they were set loose from a private property due to the high waters.

Six of the snakes — which were as long as four metres (13 feet)— have been found, but eight were still missing, officials said at the weekend. "If you find them please report it to authorities or volunteers," said Indonesian disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho. That was not much comfort for some Bogor residents. "We're terrified to hear this," said Samsudin, who goes by one name. "Apparently they're very big so we want authorities to help us find them or take action."

Illegal mining

In Sumatra, some 12,000 residents have been evacuated from water-logged Bengkulu with hundreds of buildings, bridges and roads damaged.

Authorities have set up temporary shelters and public kitchens for those displaced by the rains. Hardest hit was Bengkulu Tengah district, just outside of the provincial capital, where 22 people were killed along with hundreds of livestock.

Illegal coal mining was partly to blame for deadly landslides, authorities said. "Apart from natural factors like the heavy rain, (the flooding) was also caused by human activity that destroys the environment," disaster agency head Doni Monardo told reporters in Bengkulu on Monday.

Activists have long warned deforestation from rampant mining in the province could trigger a catastrophe. At least four major rivers in Bengkulu overflow every time it rains due to environmental damage near their banks, activists said. "The flooding in Bengkulu was made worse by the severe damage... caused by coal mining," Ali Akbar from local environmental group Kanopi Bengkulu said in a statement. Illegal mining was blamed for killing dozens on the island of Sulawesi in March when a makeshift mine collapsed.—AFP ■



Myanmar U-19 Women's team. **PHOTO: PHONE THAW**

AFC U-19 Women's Qualifiers: Myanmar to play Nepal today

MYANMAR will play Nepal in the second round of matches in Group A of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifiers today. "We have well planned to beat Nepal tomorrow," said Daw Thet Thet Win, the coach of the Myanmar U-19 Women's team.

The result of the match with Nepal will decide Myanmar to secure qualification to the next round. Group hosts Myanmar faced Australia in their second match of the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Qualifiers. However, Australian beat Myanmar by three goals to one.

Uzbekistan will take on Australia in their third match today. If Uzbekistan loose the match with Australia, Myanmar will sail into securing qualification to the next round even if it draws with Nepal.—Shine Htet Zaw

Australia's Lee roars to victory at LA Open

LOS ANGELES — Australia's Minjee Lee pulled away from the field with a closing round of three-under 68 to capture the LAOpen by four strokes and earn her fifth career USLPGA Tour title.

The 22-year-old from Perth finished at 14-under 270, four strokes ahead of runner-up Kim Sei-young of South Korea.

Lee collected $225,000 in first place prize money and boosted her career earnings to $5.32 million, making her the third highest winning Australian overall in purse money.

In terms of victories only Karrie Webb, with 41, Jan Stephenson (16) and Rachel Hetherington (eight) have more titles by an Aussie.

Lee started her fourth round on Sunday with a one-stroke lead over Denmark's Nanna Koerstz Madsen who stumbled to a five-over 76. "I was just going to carry on playing my game," said Lee. "I had a couple of birdies opportunities coming in so I didn't get riled up. "I have been hitting it solid and playing solid so this one feels pretty good."

Kim had one of the best rounds of the day with a 66 but it wasn't enough to catch Lee. Americans Annie Park, with a 67, and Morgan Pressel tied for third at nine-under, five shots adrift of Lee. Madsen, who was seeking to become the first from Denmark to win on the Tour, finished in a tie for 13th. Lee, who was the only player to shoot all four rounds in the 60s, made two birdies on a bogey-free front nine. She rebounded from a bogey at No. 11 with birdies at the 13th and 18th.

The win comes at a time when she is playing some of her best golf. Lee tied for third in Hawaii last week after consecutive second-place finishes in February. She hadn't won since May of 2018 at the Volvik Championship.

"For the rest of year I want to try and get a couple more wins," she said.—AFP ■

Eriksen's future an indicator of Tottenham's ambitions to not copy Ajax

LONDON — Christian Eriksen's present meets the Danish midfielder's past when his former side Ajax travel to Tottenham for the first leg of an unexpected Champions League semi-final for both sides on Tuesday.

But where Eriksen's future lies will give a good indication of whether times have truly have changed at Spurs.

Ajax arrive in London already in the knowledge that despite reaching a first Champions League semi-final since 1997, they will sell a number of their shining lights this summer and start again.

Frenkie de Jong has already sealed a 75 million euro ($85 million) move to Barcelona for next season, captain Matthis de Ligt is expected to command a similar fee, while Hakim Ziyech, Donny van der Beek, David Neres and Nicolas Tagliafico could also go.

Spurs have benefited themselves from the conveyer belt of talent that rolls through the academy at the Dutch giants.

As well as Eriksen, Toby Alderweireld, Jan Vertonghen and Davinson Sanchez will come up against their former club in the last four.

Tottenham have long since had a similar, if less prolific strategy.

Luka Modric and Gareth Bale eventually outgrew Spurs' status to join Real Madrid, where they went onto win four Champions League titles together.

However, having moved into now the biggest club ground in London and edging ever closer to a fourth consecutive season of Champions League football, manager Mauricio Pochettino wants Tottenham to truly belong among the European elite.

"We need to start to think about the new chapter, the new era, to ensure Tottenham is a real contender for the big things," said Pochettino as the new Tottenham Hotspur Stadium was opened last month.

"We have to behave like a big club for sure. We need to be a realistic contender for big things."



Tottenham Hotspur's Danish midfielder Christian Eriksen (R) takes a shot during the English Premier League football match between Manchester City and Tottenham Hotspur at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, north west England, on 20 April, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Behaving like a big club means keeping hold of their best players.

Pochettino has not yet won a trophy, but the Argentine has worked wonders in making Tottenham top-four regulars in the Premier League despite far more limited resources.

The club's accounts published earlier this month revealed a world record £113 million net profit thanks to a wage bill half that of Manchester United.

Unlike Harry Kane, Dele Alli and Son Heung-min, who have committed to long-term deals, Eriksen has just over a year left on his contract and is in no rush to renew with rumoured interest from Real Madrid and Juventus.

"The timing for him or for the club to be agreeing something are maybe different to another player," said Pochettino, after Eriksen scored the only goal in a vital 1-0 win over Brighton last week. "I hope and I wish Christian can be with us in the future but I think Christian and us we are so open to talk and we will see what happens."

By getting Tottenham to the last four of the European Cup for the first time since 1962 on a short and at times injury-ravaged squad having not signed a single player since January 2018, Pochettino has done his bit to herald a new era for the club. —AFP ■