HONOURING THE WORKERS' DAY FOR 2019

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint
On the occasion of Workers' Day which falls on 1st May 2019

Dear esteemed workers,

On this historic and significant Workers' day, I send this Message of Metta and Greetings to all Myanmar workers including all Myanmar migrant workers abroad, good health and happiness, auspiciousness, peace in their work places and progress and development of their socio-economic lives.

The Workers' Day which emerged to honor all workers of the world traversed together with a long history throughout the ages. During successive industrial revolutions, workers have fought for their inherent rights and desires in the face of many difficulties and succeeded.

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State Counsellor holds separate meetings with Cambodian King, Queen Mother, Prime Minister

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party who were in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on a goodwill visit laid a floral tribute of honor at the Independence Monument yesterday morning.

From there, the State Counsellor went to the Royal Statue of late King-Father Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk (Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh) and laid a floral wreath.

Next, the State Counsellor went to Peace Palace, Cambodia Prime Minister Office to attend a welcoming ceremony where she was greeted by Cambodia Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen.

At the welcoming ceremony the national anthems of Myanmar and Cambodia were played, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Cambodia Prime Minister received the salute of the Guard of Honor and then inspected the Guard of Honor.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, accompanied by Cambodia Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, inspects the Guard of Honor in Phnom Penh, Cambodia yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses Yen 82.273 bln loan from JICA

THE Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 12th regular session's second day meeting was held yesterday in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall, where the meeting starts with Hluttaw representatives discussing Yen 82.273 billion loan from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

The matter was discussed by U Win Min of Hlinethaya constituency, Daw Cho Cho Win Mawlaik constituency, U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency, U Than Soe @ Than Soe (Economic) of Yangon Region constituency 4, Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency, U Myo Win of Mon State constituency 8, Dr. Saw Naing of South Okkalapa constituency, U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency, Dr. Aye Min of Kayan constituency, U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency and U Win Htut of Pyapon constituency.

After the discussion Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that response by union level organizations to the discussions and decision on the matter will be conducted in the forthcoming meetings.



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convinced in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Hluttaw explained about 2018-2019 Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill

Next, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win explained to the Hluttaw about the 2018-2019 Union Supplementary Budget Allocation Bill in order for the Hluttaw to discuss and approve it.

AFD Euro 35.7 mln loan

Hluttaw was also explained about Euro 35.7 million loan from Agence Francaise de Developpement (AFD) for Ministry of Electricity and Energy by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.

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

Hluttaw explained about Thai Baht 1,458.248 mln loan from NEDA

Following this, the Hluttaw was explained about Thai Baht 1,458.248 million loan from Neighbouring Countries Development Cooperation Agency (NEDA) of Thailand for Ministry of Electricity and Energy by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.

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

The third-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 12th regular session will be held on 6 May.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Ambassador of New Zealand

PYITHU HLUTTAW Speaker U T Khun Myat received Ambassador of New Zealand to Myanmar Mr. Steve Marshall at the Pyithu Hluttaw building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting, they cordially discussed and exchanged views on matters related to the democratic transformation and implementation of internal peace process in Myanmar, the Constitution amendment process, people's complaint letters and collaboration in the drive against corruption.— MNA

(Translation by TTN)



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Ambassador of New Zealand Mr Steve Marshall. **PHOTO: MNA**



A signing ceremony agreement for The Pay Taw Village Layer Farm Project by Pay Taw Village Development Fund Association, Ayeyarwady Bank and Myanmar CP .Livestock Co.,Ltd. in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends signing ceremony of Loan Agreement on Pay Taw Village Layer Farm Project

UNION MINISTER for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun attended the Signing Ceremony of Loan Agreement on "The Pay Taw Village Layer Farm Project" —a joint undertaking of the Pay Taw Village Development Fund Association, Ayeyarwady Bank and Myanmar CP .Livestock Co.,Ltd. on Tuesday at 9 am at the M. Gallery Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Pay Taw Village Layer Farm Project of Tatkon Township is supported by a long term concessional loan from Ayeyarwady Bank. A loan of 1,300 million kyats with 11 percent interest rate for 10 years was provided by Ayeyarwady Bank.

Union Minister U Thaung Tun delivered the opening remarks and representatives of Ayeyarwady Bank, the Myanmar CP. Livestock Co.,Ltd. and the Pay Taw Village Development Fund Association spoke on the benefits of the project.

Also present at the ceremony were the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, the Director General of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, and representative of Ayeyarwady Bank, the Myanmar CP., Livestock Co.,Ltd. and the Pay Taw Village Development Fund Association.—MNA

I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

Let me solemnly thank all our friends at home and abroad, who have helped us and are still helping us; organizations, business entrepreneurs, people from academia and professionals, and especially our people who have supported and assisted us with understanding and empathy. Those who have helped us once, we should never forget. Those who have helped us again and again are our real friends; they bring fulfillment to our lives.

(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 holds separate meetings with Cambodian …

FROM PAGE-1

After the ceremony the State Counsellor and Cambodia Prime Minister led a bilateral meeting. At the meeting increasing Myanmar-Cambodia bilateral relation and cooperation, especially bilateral trade and investment, culture, education, travel, regional cooperation including ASEAN, continuing and increasing cooperation in the international arena including United Nations and Non-Aligned Movement matters were openly and cordially discussed.

Discussions between the two sides focused on increasing bilateral investment, reaching an agreement on eliminating double taxation, and cooperation in education.

Also at the meeting, the State Counsellor thanked the Cambodia government for donating US$ 90,000 for humanitarian assistant for Rakhine State and extended an invitation to Cambodia Prime Minister to visit Myanmar at a mutually convenient time.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor went to Cambodia National Assembly (Lower House) and met with Lower House President Samdech Akeak Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin.

Following this the State Counsellor went to Cambodia Senate Building and met with Senate (Upper House) President Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdey Say Chhum.

During the meetings with the Presidents matters relating to increasing cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries, experience sharing process between the parliaments of the two countries, increasing cooperation in culture and travel sectors were discussed.

From there, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi went to Cambodia King's Palace and met with King of Cambodia His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni.

At the meeting increasing Myanmar-Cambodia bilateral friendship, conducting culture exchange and increasing people to people relationship were discussed. The State Counsellor also extended an invitation to His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni to visit Myanmar at a mutually convenient time.

Following the meeting with the King, the State Counsellor went to the resident of the mother of the King of Cambodia and met with Queen Mother H.M. Norodom Monineath Sihanouk.

Present together with the State Counsellor in the meetings were Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Myint Soe and officials.

Later in the evening State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a dinner hosted in her honor by Cambodia Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Min)*

Discussions between the two sides focused on increasing bilateral investment, reaching an agreement on eliminating double taxation, and cooperation in education.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with King of Cambodia His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni at the Cambodia King's Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a meeting with Cambodia Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on the occasion of Workers' Day

FROM PAGE-1

At the present time, we have seen that the rights to which they are entitled, of workers all over the world, including Myanmar have improved. We need to recognize and respect those workers who have provided leadership with good intentions. The Union Government has been working with special regard to ensure that workers are able to receive and enjoy in accordance with the law, all their entitled rights.

Dear esteemed workers,

Myanmar today is a country undergoing a democratic transformation, and we have been facing challenges not only inside the country but also in the international arena. Therefore we are working to get good results we are utilizing the strength of not only our people but also the assistance of our friends at home and abroad. Our Union Government has been making concerted efforts for democracy and human rights which the people ardently desire without losing sight of these goals.

Workers who are born of the people, should carry out their responsibilities and work hard, and try to solve the difficulties they are facing in accordance with the law through negotiations and discussions.

In the MSDP – Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (2018 – 2030), which has been formulated based on global aspirations, the Union Government has stipulated the goals of human resources and human development for the 21st century human community. In addition, the Union Government has put into its priority programs measures to utilize the productive force of all workers including migrant workers; and also to protect the rights of workers. These two items have been included into the strategy. In addition the Union Government has included programs for the prosperity and well-being of workers into the priority programs. In accordance with the above programs, the Union Government has been taking the following actions with seriousness and dedication:

- Providing full service to job seekers so that they get jobs.
- Providing the required training courses.
- Issuing competency certificates.
- To get full pay during the employment period.
- To get leave entitlements properly.
- Health and a workplace free from danger.
- Job security, happy workplace and good relations with workers.
- Increased productivity.
- Social security benefits to be enjoyed by those who have joined the scheme.
- In case of labor disputes to be settled in accordance with the prevailing laws through discussions and negotiations.

Dear esteemed workers,

We have been helping all workers who wish to work to get jobs. In addition we have put in place the following mechanisms – government programs and plans, foreign direct investment policies, policies relating to jobs, formulating policies for migrant workers, labor offices all over the country, mobile teams, One-stop service centers, domestic job agencies. These are the services we have been providing.

Furthermore, while establishing and implementing a policy to obtain foreign employment opportunities, a national level work program (2018-2022) on migrant workers has been drawn up and implemented.

Similarly, Labor Attaches were appointed and together with relevant Myanmar embassies, they are protecting and resolving issues faced by Myanmar migrant workers abroad. With the support of ILO and IMO, assistance and support centres for local migrant workers were opened.

Broadcasting of informative programs in television and news media, controlling and managing by law on conducting ethical recruitment for foreign employments and coordination works for returning migrant workers were conducted.

Skill and expertise of workers were becoming important and the State was placing great emphasis towards producing expert workers while the workers on their side also need to put in efforts towards becoming expert workers demanded by the market.

Cooperation of employers is very important. As such a bill was drawn up to amend the prevailing Employment and Skills Development Law. To effectively implement factory, shop and work site safety works a new Occupational Safety & Health Law was enacted.

Dear esteemed workers,

For workers to enjoy more social security benefit services were expanded and reforms were conducted in rising momentum to relax work procedures. Systematic works were conducted toward improving work site relationship through forming Worker Coordination Committees in all work sites.

With the benefit of the workers in mind the State has been amending laws for workers to obtain appropriate workers compensation that were in accord with the time. Foreign Workers Law was drawn up to systematically manage foreign workers. Laws that were not in line with time and era were amended or newly drawn up.

In order to effectively implement workers affairs that were in accord with the accepted international workers norms a total of 2,932 labor organizations at grass roots, township, state/region levels were formed according to Labour Organization Law.

The Union Government is drawing up a complaint mechanism together with ILO to eradicate forced labor while work programs with the aims of raising the labor rights of ethnic minorities including vulnerable persons were drawn up in order to establish a National Complaints Mechanism.

Child labor and forcing to work in the worst forms were being eradicated through managing and guiding relevant committees and resolving matters in cooperation and coordination with local and foreign employer and workers associations. Works are underway towards confirming dangerous works also.

With the aim of establishing peaceful and stable worksites through improving tripartite relationship between government, employer and workers, National Tripartite Dialogue Forums (NTDFs) are being held once every four months and matters relating to amending labor law as well as labor affairs were discussed and decided.

At a time when the State is aiming toward achieving sustainable development goals while striving for all round development, all citizens are urged overcome the challenges faced with collective strength.

At a time when the State was placing emphasis toward conducting important policy changes for the lives of the workers to progress step by step, I send this Message of Greetings with the fervent hope that employers, workers and relevant departments would work towards raising productivity with harmony and mutual understanding.

* * * * *

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects road, bridge construction in Chin State

VICE President U Henry Van Thio who was in Haka Town to inspect status of regional development works went to inspect the construction of Haka-Hatha-Taungkinram road and Dongva Creek Bridge yesterday.

The Vice President accompanied by Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bawi, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Hla Maw Oo, state ministers and officials left Haka Town by motorcade and local populace from villages along the way greeted the entourage according to local tradition raised requirements on education, health and road transport situation. The Vice President and departmental officials coordinated on the matters raised.





Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the construction of Haka-Hatha-Taungkinram road in Haka, Chin State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Vice President and party then inspected the construction of Haka-Hatha-Taungkinram road by motorcade and also went to Dongva Creek Bridge construction project site to inspect the construction of the bridge.

At the briefing hall Bridge Department Bridge Project Group 1 Assistant Director U Thant Zin explained about the bridge project and the Vice President coordinated with officials on the work requirements.

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Vice Senior General receives DGMO of the Indian Army Lt-Gen Anil Chauhan

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win received Director General of the Indian Army Military Operations – DGMO Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan, yesterday morning, at the Bayintnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially and openly discussed matters concerning relations of strengthening the friendship between the two Tatmadaws, security measures in the border areas of the two countries, security of the Kaladan River Basin and exchange of information to counter terrorism, according to a statement issued by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA



Vice Senior General Soe Win meets DGMO Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE**

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Announcement

Nay Pyi Taw, 30 April

Union Election Commission of Myanmar declared that the website address of the Commission now changed from "www.uecmyanmar.org" domain name to "www.uec.gov.mm" domain name. Accordingly, the public can visit new website address.

Union Election Commission

15th Myanmar Health Coordination Committee meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 15th Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee meeting was held in Ministry of Health and Sports, Nay Pyi Taw on 29 April.

At the meeting Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said as there were many organizations participating in health sector works and cooperation and systematic coordination becomes important. Effective strategies, work processes and frameworks need to be established to strengthen exchange of news and information, cooperation and connections between ministerial departments, United Nations organization, INGOs/local NGOs and partner organizations.

Having work sector wise cooperative framework drawn up between ministerial department and cooperating organizations will support in assessing work conducted and successes achieved. INGO/Local NGO and partner organizations should prepare year wise work achievement books. Ministry's health programs are to include in their annual report the works of the partner organizations participating in the programs. The ministry was prioritizing prevention and eradication work on non-contagious diseases and every Wednesday clinics were opened to test and treat hypertension and diabetes. The work of these clinics will be reviewed and assesses to make it better. Resource flow analysis on government funds and organization funds also need to be done.

All need to cooperate and coordinate toward achieving more progress and development said the Union Minister.

Next, explanations were made by M-HSCC Secretariat Mr. Ole on "tracking of last meeting minutes actions points;" Save the Children on Global Fund Reinvestment Plan of HIV, TB and Malaria; Director (non-contagious) Dr. Kyaw Kan Kaung on Response to NCD and Action Plan Development; Technical Advisor Mr. Leigh Mitchell on Myanmar's Aid Information Management System; Deputy Director General (disease eradication) Dr. Thanda Lwin on Restructuring of Myanmar Health Sector Coordination Committee; UNOPS and Save the Children on Reports of Global Fund Grants Implementation; Assistant Secretary (NIMU) Dr. Thant Zin Htoo on Updates from NIMU on health financing and mapping of ODA to health sector and discussion and 7 Technical Strategy Groups on Latest data on work conducted and Updates from Regional Steering Committee Meeting. Attendees also join in to discuss and provide suggestions. —MNA



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe addresses the 15th Myanmar Health Sector Coordinating Committee Meeting at the Ministry of Health and Sports on 29 April. **PHOTO: MNA**

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Peace Commission Dy Chairman meets Special Envoy of Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs

NATIONAL Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) representative group consisting of Peace Commission Deputy Chairman U Thein Zaw, Peace Commission Secretary Lt-Gen (Retired) Khin Zaw Oo, Peace Commission advisor U Hla Maung Shwe and Ministry of State Counsellor's Office Director General U Zaw Htay met with a delegation led by Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at Shan State north, Muse Town, Shweli Yadana Guest House hall yesterday morning.

At the meeting Myanmar peace process matters and status of support and assistance provided by China, status of ethnic armed organizations yet to sign Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signing the NCA, meeting with KIO, MNTJP, ULA and PSLF on discussing Bilateral Ceasefire Agreement were discussed. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Peace Commission Deputy Chairman U Thein Zaw meets with Special Envoy Mr. Sun Guoxiang in Muse. **PHOTO: MNA**

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Press Release No. 16/2019
10th Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME
(29 April 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 27 April 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal actions taken
1	Information received of Pho Ko, who lives in Kankonegyi Village, Mohnyin Tsp, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 25-4-2019, police searched the house of Pho Ko (a) Zaw Lin Khine, aged 41, son of U Nyunt Lwin, and seized him with heroin and stimulant tablets without bearing letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa (Nanmar), MaYa (Pa) 10/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Win Aung, who lives in Taema Village, PhaungpyinTsp, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 26-4-2019, police searched the house of Win Aung, aged 26, son of U Tun Hla, and seized him with heroin and stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Phaungpyin), MaYa(Pa) 58/2019 under Section 19(a)/20(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Delone, who lives in Aungmingalar Ward, BokpyinTsp, Taninthayi Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 19-4-2019, police investigated Delone, aged 32, son of U Pe Than, and his elder brother San Oo, aged 35, and seized them with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa(Bokpyin) MaYa(Pa) 10/2019 under Section 19(a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Puthea, who lives in ThunNandar 7th St, Ward (Sa), North OkkalapaTsp, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 22-4-2019, police searched the house of Puthea (a) Thura (a) Pyae Sone Oo, aged 22, son of U Hla Shwe, and he absconded during the inspection, and police seized his neighbors Aung Naing Oo, aged 21, son of U Ba Shin and Win NaingOo (a) Ismail, aged 20, son of U San Win, together with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (North Okkalapa) MaYa (Pa) 34/2019 under Section 19 (a)/20 (a)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 605 cases have been opened files as of 27-4-2019. A total of 953 people, including 799 men and 154 women had been arrested with seizures of 5915.62 g of heroin, 73.67 g of ICE, 38704.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18879.27 g of speciosa powder, 7833.19 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of opium tincture, 231,963 stimulant tablets, 6424.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of speciosa tincture, 513.26 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 23.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 16 firearms, different kinds of 257 bullets and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.

4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.

During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates.

Two men were arrested with a seizure of 975 stimulant tablets, 10 g of heroin and one motorbike in Mawhan Village, Mohnyin Tsp, Kachin State. A woman was seized with 2090 stimulant tablets and 14 g of heroin in Naung Kai Taw Ward, Mogaung Tsp, Kachin State. A woman was seized with 77000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike near Naungpin Village, Shwegu Tsp. Two men were seized with 229 stimulant tablets and two motorbikes near Saungkan Village, Loikaw Tsp, Kayah State. A man was seized with 193 stimulant tablets in Ward 5, Myawady Tsp, Kayin State. A man was seized with 116 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Abit Village, MudonTsp, Mon State. Two men were arrested with 28275 stimulant tablets and one three-wheeled motorbike near Mingalargyi Village, Maungtaw Tsp, Rakhine State. Upon acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of a suspect, whom had already absconded, and seized 185250 stimulant tablets in U Shay Kya Village. Two men were arrested with 7460 stimulant tablets in Zedipyin Village, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 45 stimulant tablets at the Ohntawgyi (North) camp, Sittway Tsp, Rakhine State. A man was arrested with 60 g of opium blocks and one motorbike near Narbaung Village, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State. Police stopped a Honda Fit vehicle to search and the drive ran away, then police seized 19960 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle on Loilin-Taunggyi road, Hopong Tsp, Shan State. A man was seized with 170 stimulant tablets in Sikar Ward, Pekon Town, Shan State, and another two men were arrested with a seizure of 7400 stimulant tablets together with them. A man was arrested with 7800 g of heroin and one motorbike on Lashio-Maiyaw raod, near "Wa" Narpa Village, Lashio Tsp. A man was arrested with 1800 stimulant tablets and 14 g of heroin at No. 10, Pauklon Ward, Nankhan Town. Two men were arrested with 10000 stimulant tablets and one motor vehicle at the Oriental Toll Gate, Nawkhiong Town. A woman was arrested with 975 stimulant tablets in Zatsu Ward, Hsipaw Town. A woman was arrested with 700 stimulant tablets Lawa Village, Mabein Tsp. A man was arrested with 8000 stimulant tablets on Taunggyi-Kengtung road, Kengtung Tsp. A man was seized with 2816 stimulant tablets in Wankaung Village, Maiyaung Tsp. One man and three women were arrested with 207 g of heroin and two motorbikes on Shwebo-Myitkyina road. Two men and one woman were arrested with 45750 stimulant tablets, 8360 g of heroin and one motor vehicle at the crossroad of Nabar Village. Two men were arrested with 40240 stimulant tablets, 7150 g of opium, 20 g of heroin and one motor vehicle at the Kyatthonkin crossroad inspection gate, Htigyaing Tsp. A man was arrested with 6.7 g of heroin and 16 g of opium in Khaungton Village, Bamauk Tsp. Two men were arrested with 3800 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on Pinlebu Tsp. A woman was arrested with 0.01 g of heroin and 31 Tramadol Capsules in Pyidawtha Village, Kalay Tsp. A woman was arrested with 1503 stimulant tablets in Boatchaung Village, MyeikTsp, Taninthayi Region. A man was arrested with 88500 g of speciosa and a boat in Maetaw Village, Kyunsu Tsp. An ownerless boat was found out with 170700 g of speciosa powder and one boat in the Parpeik creek. A woman was arrested with 2800 speciosa powder in Bayintnaung Ward, Kawthoung Town. Three men were arrested with 39273.65 g of speciosa powder and one powered schooner in Bokpyin Tsp. Four men were arrested with 3751 stimulant tablets, 32.66 g of marijuana and two motorbikes in Minkwet Ward 2, Paungde Town, Bago Region. Two men were arrested with 92 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on Minbu-Saku road, Minbu Town, Magway Region. Two men were arrested with 130 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in the street of Makyeesu Village, Pwintbyu Tsp. Two men were arrested with 99 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Pwintbyu Tsp. A man and a woman were arrested with 2 Ecstasy Tablets and 0.5 g of low-quality opium in new satellite town ward 5, ChanmyathaziTsp, Mandalay Region. A man was arrested with 12000 stimulant tablets on the bus riding from Muse to Mandalay. A man was arrested with 2040 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on the motorbike coming from Hsipaw to Mandalay. Five men were arrested with 6 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder in Ward 12, ThakaytaTsp, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 38 stimulant tablets in Ward 3, Dagon Myothit (East), Yangon Region. Two men were arrested with 3890 stimulant tablets, 27.5 g of ICE and one motor vehicle at the corner of Bohmu Ba Htoo and Yawmingyi roads, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 372 stimulant tablets in Ward 8. Upon acting on a tip-off, a woman was arrested with 2000 stimulant tablets on Thanthumar Road, South OkkalapaTsp, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 1763.64 g of marijuana in Ward 4, Latha Township, Yangon Region. Five men were arrested with 115 stimulant tablets in Ward 4, PyaponTsp, Ayeyawady Region.

There have been two seizures of ammunitions. A man was arrested with a seizure of 2 stimulant tablets, one pistol that can shoot with Gas, one 22-mm cartridge and one Airwave vehicle in Ward 2, Hpa-an Town, Kayin State. Eight men were arrested with 1794 stimulant tablets, 170 g of ICE, four homemade air guns and 250 balls in Kangyi Ward, Taunggyi Town, Shan State. There has been one seizure with firing.

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A man was arrested with 10000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on Ayetharyar-Taunggyi road, Ward 3, Ayetharyar Town, Shan State. Upon acting on a tip-off, a man was arrested with 395 stimulant tablets in Shwethahtaygone Ward, Nyaung Shwe Tsp, Shan State. A man was arrested with 35 stimulant tablets and one sword in Khehe Village, YaksawkTsp, Shan State.

There have been 226 cases being opened between 21-4-2019 and 27-4-2019. A total of 328 people, including 289 men and 39 women, were seized with 493449 stimulant tablets, 6 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 8939.828 g of heroin, 202.91 g of ICE, 14966 g of opium, 60 g of opium blocks, 0.5 g of low-quality opium, 301943.65 g of specopsa powder, 1945.7 g of marijuana, 2 Ecstasy tablets, 31 Tramadol Capsules, five firearms, one .22-mm cartridge and 250 ball.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts
Auto Telephone No. – 067-590200
Fax Phone No. -- 067-590233
Email Address – antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects road, bridge…

FROM PAGE-4

The Dongva Creek Bridge was 250 ft. long and 30 ft. wide and was constructed at an estimated cost of Ks 1,300 million. The project was started on 3 April 2019 and was expected to be completed in 30 September 2019.

Next Road Department Director U Ye Lin explained about construction of Haka-Hatha-Hmantaw Road. The Vice President commented that this road section was linked to Monywa-Yagyi-Kalewa Road that would speed up flow of goods into India and would become the main road section from Haka Town to upper Myanmar. As such he remarked on widen the road up to 34 ft. in some sections where required, to reduce the gradient of the road where the climbs were steep, coordinate on obtaining required funds to complete with work on time and without delay.

In fiscal year 2017-2018 a 9 miles 2 furlong 20 ft. wide road section was constructed. The road will be constructed in stages through fiscal year 2018-2019 (six month budget period), fiscal year 2018-2019 and fiscal year 2019-2020 it is learnt. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Vice President U Henry Van Thio hears a report on constrution of the bridge on the Haka-Hatha-Taungkhinyan Road presented by the officials of the Ministry of Construction. Photo: MNA

NRPC delegation meets KIO, MNTJP, PSLF, ULA in Muse Town



A meeting between the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) and KIO, MNTJP, PSLF and ULA takes place in Muse yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

NATIONAL Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) representative group held a meeting with KIO (Kachin Independence Organisation), MNTJP (Myanmar National Truth and Justice Party), PSLF (Palaung State Liberation Front) and ULA (United League of Arakan) at Muse Town Muse-Namkham Border Trader Association yesterday morning.

At the meeting Peace Commission Deputy Chairman U Thein Zaw spoke of the difficulty and impossibility of establishing peace while holding on to arms, blaming and criticism not resolving problems or achieve a solution which can be obtained only through dialogue and meeting, timeliness for holding a meeting, dialogue and meeting being a work process strived for, the long duration of armed conflict in the country, the effect of this being mainly borne by the people and this point to be noted and thought about by armed organizations that were established for the benefit of the people.

He added that NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) was unavoidable for the government, Tatmadaw and Hluttaw in the country's peace process and was a historical inheritance for all and thus all were urged to participate in the process through the NCA. He then thanked KIO representatives and PCG (Peace Creation Group) officials for enabling the meeting to be held.

Next KIO General Secretary spoke of NCA-non signatories proposing bilateral ceasefire with the government, main discussion to reach agreement via bilateral stage, NRPC requested to comment on ceasefire, KIO sending a draft to NRPC, discussion to be conducted on the draft agreement, KIO's expectation to discuss with the government on bilateral and returning of IDPs to their places of origin. Discussion on NCA to be conducted until it was acceptable by both side and the importance of avoiding armed conflict during this period.

Afterwards, on behalf of MNTJP, PSLF and ULA, leading representatives delivered messages of greetings after which the meeting continues.

As the draft Bilateral Ceasefire Agreement was proposed only at the meeting, it was not possible to discuss about it in detail in the meeting. However, pledges on signing NCA, deployment of forces, opening of liaison offices, ways to avoid conflict and specific matters to be included in the NCA that were included in the draft Bilateral Ceasefire Agreement was discussed in the meeting.

MNTJP, ULA and PSLF then presented their proposals and NRPC was to respond to the proposal and continue the negotiation and discussion. An agreement was also reached to meet again in May to continue discussion after receiving proposals from both said and the meeting date was to be fixed by mutual agreement.

The meeting then came to a close after Peace Commission Deputy Chairman U Thein Zaw delivered a closing speech.

The meeting was attended by representatives of NRPC consisting of Peace Commission Deputy Chairman U Thein Zaw, Peace Commission Secretary Lt-Gen (Retired) Khin Zaw Oo, Peace Commission advisor U Hla Maung Shwe, Ministry of State Counsellor's Office Director General U Zaw Htay, representatives of KIO, MNTJP, ULA, PSLF, observers from UWSP (United Wa State Party) and SSPP (Shan State Progressive Party) and PCG representatives. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Building accountable governance, economic enterprises along with corruption-free society

THE Union Government has been taking action against corruption, in accordance with the law, without favoring anyone, with only the interests of the people and the country in mind.

Myanmar has witnessed the visible and tangible results of its success in the fight against corruption, to a certain extent, in the area of preventing and combating corruption.

We were able to establish branch offices of the Anti-Corruption Commission in the regions and states, and set up Corruption Prevention Units (CPUs) in the ministries.

The Anti-Corruption Commission responded to 5,286 letters of advice and 2,824 complaints against corruption from the people.

Thanks to investigations launched by the commission, more than K30.89 million and over US$4 million were returned to the government in 2018, preventing losses to the public exchequer.

Besides, the commission hired a third party to carry out a survey on corruption cases in the whole country, except Chin State, from October to December in 2018. Through the survey, the commission has found that it needs to step up its efforts to fight corruption in 2019.

> It is time for them to combat the terrible system of corruption in unison with the people.

Hence, steps are being taken to draft a bill for protecting citizens who inform the commission about corruption, and for drawing up the 4th law amending the Anti-Corruption Law so that severe action can be initiated against law breakers.

Corruption Prevention Units have been formed at ministries with three duties: to scrutinize and explore corruption cases, to solve corruption-related problems, and to prevent corruption by civil servants.

Corruption is a chronic disease which has taken deep root over many administrations, and which could push the country towards poverty.

We would like the authorities concerned to take the initiative, together with their organizations, and to make sacrifices to change the whole system.This would be in line with the process of democratization. Only then can we build accountable governance and economic enterprises in line with democratic norms.

We believe that there are many people who have been persistently against corruption, and they must take a leading role in fighting against it.

It is time for them to combat the terrible system of corruption in unison with the people.

By changing ourselves, we must endeavour to change our organizations and raise the prestige of our community, while promoting efforts at improving governance and economic conditions of the State.

■■■

MoHS: Promoting public health; Preventing disease through healthy environments; providing efficient health services

The National Health Plan (2017-2020) mandated a distribution of 33 types of medicine worth K85 million, an ambulance and Type C laboratories worth K10 million each.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe

By Khin Yadana
PHOTO: AYE THAN



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe inspects the out-patients Ward at the township hospital in Loilinlay, Loikaw on 21 October 2018.

WHEN the incumbent government came into power, two previous separate ministries were combined to create the Ministry of Health and Sports. The new team met with the Union Minister of MoHS Dr. Myint Htwe to talk about the various achievements of the Ministry throughout the 3rd year of the incumbent government.

Q: What are some notable achievements throughout the previous year?

A: We are only at 55% of the permitted workforce. We hired around 10,000 more community health workers from nurses to mid-wives to hospital managers. Around 1000 more hospitals got additional beds, totaling up to 55,266 new beds along with 200 more additional community health centers/clinics built across the country.

There were also 10,377 rooms built in the 2018-19 financial year to house our staff as well as plans to build more. The healthcare budget was increased when the new civilian government took over – the budget is currently K944 billion from the Union Government, K152 billion from international entities as well as K35.5 billion set to be loaned. From the budget, around K164 billion has been set to buy medical equipment and medicines.

Within 2018 alone, the public hospitals treated 3 million in-patients and 12 million out-patients with 760,000 surgeries operated. The community health centers/clinics in villages had an additional 14 million people seeking consultation and treatment. Every month, the centers/clinics provide care and guidance for 70,000-80,000 mothers. We also opened our Fertility center in the Central Women's Hospital and successfully birthed our first test tube baby on 12 June 2018. The Ministry also spent K420 million to install a state-of-the-art tele-radiology X-ray machines in 3 townships in Mon State. If our budget allows, we will install these machines in Kachin and Kayah as well since these are really useful for people who live far from such facilities.

Q: What about improvements in laboratories and blood-donation banks?

A: The National Laboratory Department received 22 million Euros along with other Euros 5 million in funding for constructing a world-class laboratory. The laboratory performed 75,000 tests on pathology and 63,000 on microbiology. We are working with USCDC, WHO and groups from the UK to get the laboratory ISO 15189 certified. For blood donations, the Ministry was able to distribute 97,000 units of blood for free in 2018. We also opened our first Emergency Life Support Training Center in January 2019 which aims to educate doctors, nurses and all health professionals within the country to perform first-aid emergency response. The general hospitals also received additional pharmacies, restaurants and stores to accommodate the increasing patients' guests. To help prevent public health emergencies, there are health clinics and emergency response teams in the highway buses stations where there is a lot of people in a confined space in Yangon city.

Q: Can you tell us a little bit about the National Health Plan?

A: The National Health Plan (2017-2020) mandated a distribution of 33 types of medicine worth K85 million, an ambulance and Type C laboratories worth K10 million each. We expect all townships to be covered by 2021. The Ministry is also rolling out the DHIS 2 software for health management system for early detection. There is about 665 hospitals using the software currently along with the township health departments for healthcare reporting.

Q: What about capability building in the healthcare sector staff?

A: The first step for the ministry was to distribute tablet phones which contains healthcare guides, emergency response plan and other procedural documents. There and already 11,000 tablets distributed throughout the country with 14,000 more planned from Gavi Vaccine Alliance. The information is also translated into 55 ethnic languages for distribution as booklets. Other health information is also posted on our public websites and social media sites and can be accessed online.

Q: What are some measures taken towards infectious diseases?

A: In 2012, 22.5 % of deaths in hospitals are caused by infections. The figure has been reduced to 14% by 2017. For HIV/AIDS, the Ministry is able to supply 166,121 patients with Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) available in 272 townships across the country. Additionally, we were able to test 1 million expectant mothers in 2018 for AIDS/HIV in an effort to prevent mother to child infections. Thanks to the public hospitals and clinics across the country, 135,435 TB patients were treated free of charge with 87% success rate. There are also 55 methadone dispensaries for drug users with plans to build 14 more. In 2016, there were 110,000 million people diagnosed with malaria. The number fell to 68,000 in 2018 with only 14 deaths in the whole country in the whole year. The main goal, of course, is to eradicate it. Dengue is also another concern with 13,000 diagnosed in 2018 with 112 deaths.

Vaccination programs for infants are also in full force with 11 types of vaccines distributed around the country. The Union spends around US$6.7 million every year to buy the necessary shots and is aiming for 100% coverage (we are currently at 80-90%). Rabies is also another priority. The ministry spent over K14 billion within the past three years for vaccine shots and treated almost 190,000 people who have been bitten. This significantly lowered death by rabies to 70 people in 2018 from 99 in 2016. Field Epidemiology Training Programs – FETP are also being held for public health workers and epidemiologists for practical training in preventing communicable diseases.

Q: What about collaborations with other international organizations?

A: We are working with several international organizations including: Global Fund, Gavi, Access to Health Fund, USAID, World Bank and ADB as well as UN organizations such as WHO, Unicef, UNDP, UNFPA, UNOPS and FAO. Others include TICA from Thailand, JICA from Japan and KOICA from Korea as well as 80 other INGOs from various different fields. We have an INGO profile book to keep track of all the INGOs active in the country with what they are working on. The Universities under the ministry also signed 75 MoUs with universities from 75 different countries.



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Q: Can you explain to us about other improvements that are planned or is in progress such as human resource capability building?

A: We are trying our best to enforce laws for the safety of consumers regarding medicine and food. There has been post marketing surveillance tests on products that are already on the market with 6746 samples for food and 298 medicine samples tested last year in 2018. The FDA lab is also ISO/IEC 17025:2005 certified. The Ministry introduced a Mobile Lab Van which tours around the states and regions. It has been a great success- the vehicle has sampled 6200 food samples and 264 medicines over the course of 6 months that it has been deployed.

In 2017, there was a Healthy Myanmar Seminar held to encourage healthy living for Myanmar citizens. There were 13 decisions that came out of the seminar including training physical education teachers and installing outdoor fitness equipment over the state and regions.

Q: Any other tips for citizens to stay healthy?

A: There is actually a couple: try to reduce your alcohol, nicotine and betel nut intake, quit if you can; exercise regularly; reduce the sugar and sodium intake; use only FDA approved medicine; meditate; vaccinate your children; read about the health announcements and warnings and go to the hospital if you have any symptons.

(Translated by Myat Thu)



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe visits Emergency Life Support Training Center which was opened on 17 January 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw.



Kidney Treatment Ward in Thingangyun Sanpya Hospital.

Taninthayi Region: Keeping pace with developments throughout entire region

From the 2016-2017 FY to 2018-2019 FY, the regional government has executed 351 border developmental projects using K36,990 million from the regional government funds



Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myint Maung.

By Nandar Win
Photo: Aye Than

WITH stunning beaches offering captivating sunsets that attract tourists from home and abroad, Maungmagan beach is full of traditions and customs at the southernmost tip of Myanmar in Taninthayi Region.

The hotels and tourism sector in the region have been called the smokeless factory. There are 30 hotels and 10 guesthouses in the region and 94 tour companies contributing to the development of tourism.

A Travel and Investment Fair was held in Kawthoung from 24 to 25 March last year and highlighted the archipelago routes as the main attraction.

Each of the districts in Taninthayi have their own share of interesting travel destinations. In Dawei District, there are the Shin Koe Shin pagodas, nine historic pagodas sharing the word 'Shin' in their names: Shin Pin Kayu, Shin Tauk Htein, Shin Taung Pone, Shin Za Lun, Shin Monti, Shin Ded We, Shin Ote Aou, Kaleinaung Shin Sandaw, and Myat Shin Maw.

As for beaches, there are Maungmagan beach, Myin Kwar Aou beach, Poe Poe Kyauk beach and Sam Hlam beach. The district has the Maungmagan hot springs, traditional Dawei pasoes, longyi weaving businesses, and Dawei pottery.

Myeik District has the Lay Gyun Si Mee Thein Daw Gyi Pagoda, Athu Layan Thi (Pa Htet Taung) Shwe Tar Lyaung reclining Buddha, and island travel routes.

Kawthoung District has the Pyi Taung Aye Pagoda, Ma Li Wam waterfall, 555 hill viewpoint, Bayinnaung island and Bayinnaung cape, Kyun Philar, Bo Ywe, Nga Mahn island, Nga Khin Nyo Gyi island, Nyaung Oo Phi island, Island No. 115, Ka Yin Kwa island, Barlar island (a) Than Yote island, Poe Ni island (a) Bo Yar Nyunt island, Bo Nat Kyaw island, Hlaing Gu island, Nga Htwe Yu island and many more along its extensive archipelago.

Taninthayi is made up of Dawei, Myeik and Kawthoung districts with 10 townships. The regional cabinet began working on regional development on 1 April 2016.

In doing so, they adhere to the policies set by the Union Government on national reconciliation, national stability, establishing a democratic federal Union, rule of law, and raising the living standards of the people.

Objectives

The region's government returns land to local residents from companies unable to utilize them, developing regional tourism, exporting fishery products abroad, ensuring full security and protection by the rule of law to local people, and making the electricity bill as affordable as possible.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi encourages a mother who is giving care to her child receiving medical care at Dawei Hospital, Dawei.

Tasks

The regional cabinet supports the movement for sustainable peace by solving political issues with political methods and organizing political dialogue for every stakeholder to be involved. They advocate for finding peaceful solutions to reforms on politics, economy, society and security.

They cooperate on the emergence of Constitutional law based on democracy and federalism, entitled benefits and opportunities on each ethnic race and gatherings, managing and distributing land and natural resources.



Bayint Naung point also known as Victoria view point in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region.

Three pillars of government

Over the course of three years since assuming office, the regional legislature enacted 14 new laws within the first to eleventh regular meeting of the Second Taninthayi Region Hluttaw and reatified 2 bylaws on exisiting laws.

The executive pillar carries out its duties preofessionaly in line with Section 31 (b) of The Region or State Government Law. We also have a high court, 3 district courts, and 10 township courts who perform the duties of the judicial pillar in upholding a free and fair judicial system and adminstereing impartial judgement.

Regional development

From the 2016-2017 FY to 2018-2019 FY, the regional government has executed 351 border developmental projects using K36,990 million from the regional government funds and 179 border developmental projects using K10,808 million from the Union Government fund.

We've planted 49,847,097 baskets of monsoon crops on 491,791 acres in the three-year period, 1,232,719 baskets of summer crops on 29,303 acres, and 25,589 acres of winter crops.

Over the course of three years, we have produced 244,745,005 pounds of rubber on 1,041,665 acres, and 1,092,356 tons of edible oil from 422,483 plantation acres.

The regional government has issued 22,054 licenses for inshore fishing and 4,289 licenses for offshore fishing. We've also issued work permits for 144,207 fishermen.

Taninthayi Region exported over 6.5 million tons of fish and prawn from the farms from the 2016-2017 fiscal year to February of the current 2018-2019 Fiscal year, earning over US$ 41 million.

The fishery products export from the last fiscal year to February, 2019 reached over 780,125 tons of fishery products worth of over US$ 744 million and over K6.9 billion.

Electricity Production Sector

With increasing in power production, the region has seen an increasing in number of households which get access to electrification.

In three years starting from April, 2016 to January, 2019, a total of 283,099 households get access to electrification.

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Taninthayi Region: Keeping pace with developments throughout entire region

FROM PAGE-10

Effirts for development of SME Sector

Taninthayi Region Government has encouragaged the private small and medium industries by issuing licenses and providing loans to them.

In the three-year period, over 600 private industries were registed in the region.

Improving infrastructure

The Taninthayi Region Government spent over K 5.7 billion on building 15 retaining walls in three years.

The government has improved and upgraded the transportation infrasrcutures including over 630 miles long Union Highway passing through the region, roads with over 440 miles in distance, 50 ft and under 50 ft long 959 bridges, over 50 ft long 24 bridges and 2371 conduit pipes.

Mining Sector

Taninthayi Region has set its target of extracting about 834.816 matric tons of ore in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, and so far, 295.033 tons have been extracted.

Pearl and Oyster production

Regarding the production of pearls and oyster from October to February of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the region sets its target of producing 387,000 momi of pears and 142 matric tons of oyster. So far, 336,955 momi of pearls and 98 matric tons of oysters have been produced.

Tax and trade

Taninthayi Region earned over K147 billion, Thai baht over 100 million and US$5.956 million in three years from the 2016-2017 fiscal year to 2018-2019 fiscal year.

In the same period, the region' s trade volume through the border reached over US$1.3 million.

The region's GDP reached over K5.4 million in the past three years. The par capital income of the region is targeted to reach over K2.9 million.

Efforts for increasing school enrolment rate in Taninthayi Region

The regional government carries out school enrolment week from 25 to 30 May every year since the 2016-2017 fiscal year. Over K1.4 billion contributed by the State and donars were spent on stationery and school uniforms for the students and furniture for the schools in the past three years.

Meanwhile, with the permission of the Ministry of Education, 279 graduates were appointede as the primary school teachers in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.

Out of 20,237 students who took for the 2018 matriculation examination, 6174 passe it, reaching 30.51 passing rate.

Health care services

To promote the quality of basic health care services in Taninthayi Region, the regional government arranged eight trainings in 2016, 14 in 2017 and 19 in 2018, producing 182 nurses from the Dawei Nursing Institute and 201 midwives from the Myeik Mid-wifery Institute.

Public Welfare Services

Taninthayi Region Government conducted 56 vocational trainings in three years and over 1300 trainees received the skills.

Plans are underway to establish a training school for youths from the border areas and the school is under construction starting from the 2018-2019 fiscal year.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits the pearl farm on the Pearl Island, Bokpyin Township in Taninthayi Region.



Statue of King Bayint Naung on the Bayint Naung hill in Kawthoung.

> The government has improved and upgraded the transportation infrasrcutures including over 630 miles long Union Highway passing through the region.

Agricultural loans for farmers

In three years, Taninthayi Region Government disbursed over K51 billion for growing paddy in monsoon seasons and over K403.5 million for growing rice in irrigated fields and other crops. Meanwhile, the government lent over K1.4 billion to farmers to buy agro machinery at installments and over K67 million in short-term installments.

Relief efforts and disaster

Preparedness in Taninthayi Region

Taninthayi Region Government provided over K151 million to victims of natural disasters from in three years. Recently, the government provided K234.128 million to the people for their houses were destroyed by strong-winds in June and July.

Taninthayi Regional Development Plan

As part of efforts for drafting the Taninthayi Regional Development Plan, the regional government has been working togher with the representatives of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

To entrepreneurs from Thailand

The two sides also held talks over the Development Planning in Tanintharyi Region and Dawei Sepcial Economic Zone.

Ralaxing rules and regulations to encourage industries

Taninthayi Region Industry Small and Medium Enteprises Development Department has relazed some rules for lending loans to SMEs and has lent under K10 million to SMEs with the recommendation of the head of the region's SME Developmemnt Department.

Peace Process

Tanintha Yi Region Government has arranged a meeting for a Yangon-based civil society organization for development of ethnic people and Myeik-based civil society organization to hold talks on peac in Myeik in October.

Besides, the regional government has made arrangement for budget allocation in the 2019-2020 fiscal year for resettlement of people displaced by armed conflicts in the region.

Fruitful results of efforts of Regional Government

In three years, the regional government installed 48 generators with a combined capacity of 30.83 MW in areas which can not get access to the national grid.

In the education sector, the regional government has upgraded a total 374 schools in the region.

Another significant achievement is that Taninthayi Region Hluttaw approved the town plan Pulaw Township and Maungmataw in Launglon Township drafted by the Taninthayi Region Government.

Conservation of the region's tangible culture

The regional government designated the old city of Taninthayi as the cultural zone.

Besides, in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, the regional government submitted the several regional cultural festivals to the the UNESCO to be included in the cultural heritage list. The cultural heritage of the Taninthayi Region has attracted the local and foreign visitors. For the all round development of the Taninthayi Region including its tourism sector, the Taninthayi Region Government is making strenuous efforts following the polices and guidelines laid down the Union Government.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

Four pillars of democracy discuss balanced cooperation for accurate news dispersal

REPRESENTATIVES from the four pillars of democracy — the legislative, the administrative, the judiciary, and the media — took part in a workshop yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss ways to promote balanced cooperation between the media and the three other pillars in order to provide reliable information to the people.

Speaking at the workshop, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint expressed the hope that the forum would help strengthen press freedom and smoothen the path to democratic transition.

The meeting was aimed at the four pillars working with each other to seek solutions to challenges, said the Union Minister, adding that there are checks and balances to ensure the voices of the people and the media are heard by the other pillars.

Each pillar has rights and limitations, said the Union Minister.

Before discussions began at the workshop, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint outlined the agenda of the workshop — the fourth pillar, the media, would demand its rights, which would be followed by a discussion, and a deliberation on ways to resolve issues.

He also told the media that if the discussions are successful, the media would gain benefits, while the remaining pillars would gain pride.

Afterwards, the Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council, Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing, stressed the importance of building trust between the government and the media, and urged both sides to strengthen trust through understanding.

He referred to the workshop as a meeting for building trust between the government and the media.

Then, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun expressed his belief that issuing of accreditation cards to media personnel by the government would help dispel distrust and doubts between media personnel and their sources.

He also stressed the importance of cooperation and understanding from the first three pillars, so that the media can provide fair and balanced information to the people.

Later, Myanmar Press Council Vice-Chairman Dr. Myo Thant Tin called for the legislative, the administrative, and the judiciary to coordinate with the media through forums and workshops to promote democracy and the perpetuation of the State and the people. Thereafter, Pyithu Hluttaw Health and Sports Development Committee Chairman Dr. San Shwe Win underscored the importance of media development, as the fourth pillar can help reduce poverty, fight corruption, uphold laws, protect human rights, and prevent losses to the public exchequer.

Next, the Deputy Director of the Union Supreme Court, U Nyo Tun, told participants at the workshop that the News Media Law was enacted in 2014 and one year later, the Union Supreme Court issued a media manual for court news.

The Union Supreme Court formed an information team at every court, and information officials of the courts released news to the media, he said.



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers the speech at the meeting of four pillars of democracy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Supreme Court releases an annual report on measures taken by the courts at different levels, he added.

Afterwards, the Secretary of the Tatmadaw True News Team, Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun, said the Tatmadaw has maintained a good relationship with the media, and has stepped it up since the Myanmar Press Council came into existence. Then, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information, U Myo Myint Maung, and the Secretary of the Myanmar Press Council, U Kyaw Swar Min, detailed efforts taken for the development of the media sector.

At the workshop, representatives from the executive pillar, the legislative pillar, the judiciary pillar, the Union Attorney-General's office, and the Myanmar Press Council discussed matters related to collecting accurate and correct information, and cooperation between the media and the other pillars by building trust and understanding. Afterwards, personnel from the Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Journalists Network, Burma News International, Myanmar Press Union, and Myanmar Women Journalists Group raised questions and officials of the three pillars answered them.

The workshop came to an end with concluding remarks made by the Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint.The first meeting of the four pillars of the democracy was held on 30 December, 2016, and the second on 21 February, 2018. Participants at the workshop decided to increase cooperation between the four pillars, and to hold a Union-level meeting of the four pillars at least once a year.

According to discussions at the workshop, the Myanmar Press Council and other related organizations would help the media sector ensure that they collect information ethically. The four pillars also agreed yesterday to overcome challenges by encouraging mutual respect, and the Myanmar Press Council also agreed to lead the issuing of accreditation cards to media personnel, and the other pillars agreed to assist it in this work.

The Myanmar Press Council and the Ministry of Information will work together to encourage the sustainability of print media.

Participants at the workshop also agreed to cooperate in releasing news in a timely manner, promote Media and Information Literacy, put up information and press releases on the ministries' websites and online pages in a timely manner, provide easy access to information at the Hluttaws, form a work committee to implement the results of the meeting of the four pillars, work with the authorities to expose those who disseminate fake news, control misuse of social media, promote cooperation between the Myanmar Press Council, the ministries concerned, and the Hluttaw to enact laws which can help develop the news media, and provide equal opportunities to media, including ethnic media, in terms of access to information from the regional and state government departments. — MNA ■ (Translated by AMS)



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint holds talks with Honourary Consul of Myanmar from Nagoya Mr. Toshio Nishimura yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar, Japan discuss cultural exchange, producing documentaries, movies

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint received a Japanese delegation led by Mr. Toshio Nishimura, Honourary Consul of Myanmar, from Nagoya at the ministry yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed cultural exchange focusing poem, literature and arts, cooperation in producing documentary, drama and action movies, cooperation with the MRTV in creating animation and giving assistance to libraries and children's libraries.

Mr. Toshio Nishimura was appointed as the Honourary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, by the State Counsellor in October, 2017. —MNA ■

(Translated by TTN)

Security forces capture AA training camp



Security forces found bags of rice and bottles of oil of the WFP emblem from AA training camp in Buthidaung.
PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

SECURITY forces captured a training camp belonging to the AA group near Phonenyoleik Village in Buthidaung Township on 28 April, according to a military release. Some AA members were killed and ammunition was seized from the camp during the operation.

Security forces conducted a security operation about 12,000 meters southeast of Phonenyoleik Village during which, AA members retreated in the south-east direction towards the camp.

After the operation, the security forces found some bodies and ammunition at the camp. There were two parade grounds, 49 huts, and foxholes in the camp.

After a thorough search, the security forces discovered ration, including 15 bags of rice of the WFP brand and 38 bottle of oil of the same emblem, stashed away by the AA group.

It has been found that the AA has been obtaining food donated for IDP camps using several methods, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Tatmadaw extends its unilateral ceasefire period

OFFICE of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services issued a press release yesterday, announcing that the Tatmadaw would extend its unilateral ceasefire with KIA, TNLA and MNDAA upon the ethnic armed groups' demand.

The press release stated that the Tatmadaw announced its unilateral ceasefire on 21 December, 2018, and suspended military operations at Northern Command region, North-East Command region, Eastern Command region, Eastern Central Command region, Triangle Region Command region from 21 December, 2018 to 30 April, 2019, to effectively make efforts for peace.

Following the suspension of military operations, the ethnic armed groups who have not yet signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement conducted peace talks, said the statement. Following the discussion, ethnic armed organizations KIA, TNLA and MNDAA asked the Tatmadaw to extend the ceasefire period so that they can carry on the peace making till they can sign the NCA.

Hence, the Tatmadaw announced that it would extend the unilateral ceasefire period in the above military command areas till June 30, 2019 upon demand of the ethnic armed groups as part of efforts for gaining eternal peace and for effectively bring about the peace in the country, said the statement. —MNA

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TAIKLI VOY. NO. (EAL28)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TAIKLI VOY. NO. (EAL28) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERETT ASIA LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (036 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUZURAN VOY. NO. (036 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 01-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited receives Aerodrome Certificate from Myanmar Civil Aviation Department

YANGON Aerodrome Company Limited (YACL), the Airport Operator of Yangon International Airport, received Aerodrome Certificate from Myanmar Civil Aviation Department.

The mentioned Aerodrome Certificate attests the capability of the Aerodrome Operator "YACL" to perform and comply according to international standards and recommended practices, assuring a safe, secure and efficient airport operation at the country's main international air transport gateway.

The certification is valid for three years, until 28 February 2022, and YACL is committed to maintaining and develop the necessary standards according to national and international standards.

To reach the certification status, YACL engaged since 2015 an internal restructuring and excellence policy foreseeing the coming challenges. Significant improvements were done at the aerodromes' infrastructure, as well as the production of manuals, plans, programmes, operational procedures, and guidance materials, that were developed and submitted to the national regulator "DCA" for validation and approval.

"To get the Aerodrome Certification was somehow a "reward" for the serious hard work performed in last year, being also a motivation for the upcoming tasks. We are aware of our role and responsibilities as the airport operator and will spare no effort in the implementation of some requirements and standards, thru a strong liaison and coordination with the Regulator (DCA), as it has been. The Aerodrome Certification shows the achievements from YACL and DCA for the future of Myanmar/Yangon Aviation Industry," said Mr. Jose Angeja, Chief Operating Officer of YACL.—GNLM

POSCO International Corporation (PIC) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for Exploration Drilling and Future Development of the Shwe Project

POSCO International Corporation (PIC) is planning on proposed exploration drilling activities and commencing the next phase of development of the Shwe Gas field Project. This will include drilling up to five (5) exploration wells and installation of a platform, subsea facilities, pipelines and production drillings. The Shwe Field is located in Block A-1 and A-3, offshore Rakhine State; 70 km from Sittwe and 105 km from Kyauk Phyu.

Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, PIC is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the proposed activities. The EIA Studies have commenced and are being conducted by Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Environmental Quality Management (EQM), on behalf of PIC, in accordance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015). Associated stakeholder engagement has been undertaken at the national and local levels in Naypyidaw, Sittwe and Kyauk Phyu. Further engagement as part of the EIA Study has been conducted in Rakhine State in end of March 2019.

Information on the project is available at PIC's webpage www.poscointl.com. Any queries, comments or suggestions on the Project and the EIA Study can be provided in writing to arkar@poscointl-enp.com.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITOR
Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS
Zaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR
Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS
Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER
Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER
Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM
Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe

EDITORIAL SECTION
(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION
San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING
(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish **"Letter to the Editor"** that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Fishing license suspended during hatching season

THE Region and State fisheries departments have stopped issuing fish and prawn catching licenses during the hatching season, according to the Fisheries Department.

"We have instructed the regional and state fisheries departments to be strict with local and overseas offshore fishing boats and entrepreneurs, in respect to observance of the rules and regulations prescribed by the Fisheries Department. Additionally, we have ordered them not to issue fish and prawn catching licenses during the hatching season. Entrepreneurs have requested that we reduce the no-fishing period. We've fixed a three-month period of no-fishing to prevent the loss of the fisheries' resources," said U Myint Zin Htoo, Deputy Director-General of the Fisheries Department.



Workers harvest fish at a farm in Ayeyawady Delta. **PHOTO: ZWE MAN**

"We will take legal action under the existing law against those who are engaged in exporting or catching fish and prawns during the no-fishing season. We have arranged temporary places for fishing vessels to dock during the time of bad weather. We will take legal action if we find them engaged in inshore fishing", he said.

Previously, the department has reduced the no-fishing period for fishing vessels. But this year, the department will not reduce the ban for any offshore fishing vessels. The department set up a three-month no-fishing period beginning 12 April.— GNLM *(Translated by Hay Mar)*

Asphalt road to Thilawa SEZ to be ready in October

THE construction of a four-laned asphalt road connecting Thanlyin Bridge to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, which is being carried out with funds from an ODA loan from Japan, will be completed in October, said the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Ichiro Maruyama.

"The Thilawa Special Economic zone is one of the special economic zones in Myanmar. The transportation sector is the most important one for the development of the economic zones. The existing roads are not ideal for safe and smooth transportation. So, we are building a four-laned asphalt road with a Japanese ODA loan. The construction of the road will be complete in October," he said.

A new Thanlyin Bridge will also be constructed at a cost of over US$300 million. The bridge will be called Thanlyin Bridge 3, and it will be constructed in three phrases.

"With the development of Yangon City, the need has arisen for a new Thanlyin bridge. The existing bridge has limited capacity for transport of goods to Thilawa and the jetty. There are many difficulties, such as heavy traffic because of the increasing number of vehicles. So, a new four-laned cable-stayed bridge will be constructed in three phases by Japanese companies," said U Kyaw Lin, the Deputy Minister for Construction.

The Thanlyin Bridge-3 will be built at a distance of 125m from the existing No.1 Thanlyin Bridge. The main bridge measures 1,224 meters in length, with overall length reaching 1,928 meters upon including the approach road, connecting Yangon, Thakayta Township, and Thanlyin. The approach road on Thakayta side measures 300 meters in length, while the road on the Thanlyin side is 404 meters.

The Thanlyin Bridge-3 will be have a steel box girder, and its base will be built using steel pipe sheet piles. It would have a capacity of up to 75 tons.— Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Seed sector to develop following creation of local seed production companies

THE seed sector will be developed after the creation of local seed production companies throughout the country, according to Daw Than Than Nu, the Assistant Director of the cotton and fiber production Division, Agriculture Department.

"For the development of the seed sector, seed production entrepreneurs need to expand with agricultural staffs and to local farmers. For the sake of the local community, we have to welcome new entrants to the industry," said Daw Than Than Nu.

The cotton crop is the best fiber crop that can yield edible oil. Additionally, cotton seed provides value added products that can be manufactured. Over 70 countries around the world are growing cotton crops. The garment industry mainly depends upon cotton crops for use as raw materials.

Local seed production industries have been successful by cooperating with each other to fulfill the demand for seeds and assisting local farmers in growing quality crops. —Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Forest fire destroys over 100 acres of rubber plantation in Hlegu Township

A FOREST fire occurred at U Soe Myint's 510.78 acres of rubber farm in Potethinnyo Village, Hlegu Township, northern Yangon around 1 p.m on 29 April.

Acting on a tip, fire was initially started from the scorching heat in the rubber farm and the blaze was spread to the rubber and bamboo plants inside the farm. The fire was under the control around 4:05 p.m and it was totally extinguished at 7:40 p.m by 160 firefighters, policemen and residents with three fire engines from Hlegu and Htaukkyant Fire Services departments.

Over 100 acres of planation, including rubber and bamboo plants were destroyed in the blaze. No injuries to human and animals are reported. —Naing Lin (Hlegu)

(Translated by La Wonn)



Firefighters put out the fire at the rubber farm in Potethinnyo village. **PHOTO: NAING LIN (HLEGU)**

Seintalone mangoes to be sent to India via Tamu this month

STARTING from May, Myanmar's Seintalone (Diamond Solitaire) mangoes will be exported to India through the Tamu border gate under a business-to-business agreement, according to growers from Sagaing Region.

The Indian market offers higher prices than China, and the trade route to India through Kalay town in Sagaing Region is shorter.

"Last year, we sent Seintalone mangoes to India, but only small export volume was seen. This year, exports are expected to be higher than last year. Seintalone mangoes will be sent to India through the Tamu border gate under a business-to-business agreement between trade partners in the two countries," said a grower.



Seintalone mangoes (Diamond solitaire mango) will be exported to India. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

"There are 250,000 acres under mango plantations across Myanmar. If we estimate the yield per acre to be 3.5 tons, 200,000 acres would produce 700,000 tons of mangoes. Sagaing Region has 12,000 acres under mango cultivation, and so, the yield is estimated to be around 40,000 tons. Myanmar primarily consigns mangoes to China, along with India, Bangladesh, Thailand, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, and Japan," said an official from Sagaing Region's Consumer Affairs Department.

"As per world mango production data, India is the world's largest mango producer, followed by China. The mango harvest season falls around July in China. Therefore, Myanmar exporters send mangoes to China prior to the first week of July. Brunei and Singapore are also potential markets for mango exports, as they do not produce the fruit themselves," said an official with Sagaing Region's Agriculture Department.

"Mango farm-owners need to follow Good Agricultural Practices (GAP). They also need to obtain GAP certification. The Agriculture Department has been instituting criteria for long-term organic farming," he added. _ GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Bonded Warehouse Programme set to provide boost to Myanmar's industries

THE Customs Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance, and the DaNa Facility, a UK aid funded programme, today launched the Developing Custom Bonded Warehouse programme to introduce Customs officers and relevant stakeholders to the potential of a bonded warehouse system in supporting local industry, and to highlight the key components of a bonded warehouse programme in Myanmar.

Bonded warehouses are specifically designed to support industry, particularly those which import high value and/or high import duty goods. Through bonded warehouses, these industry sectors will have the ability to defer their import duties and taxes until they themselves find customers willing to buy the goods or identify export markets, meaning that they can improve productivity and better manage their cash flows.

This system allows for exported finished goods to be more competitively priced in regional and global markets as this export pricing does not include embedded duty and tax charges. This system also enable to export through such an enhanced competitive process brings in important income for the country. The significant cases are found in the garment exporting countries, where shorter lead-time is a competitive factor. Therefore, it will be a case for Myanmar.

"The Customs warehousing business has improved accompanied with increased job opportunities. Especially, opportunities for CMP manufacturing could increase in areas such as delivering goods to customers in real time, saving costs of transportation and manufacturing, allowing higher competitive capacities to enter international markets. Additionally, trade with neighbouring countries would be more developed if customs and bonded warehouses are situated at border points," said U Aung San Tun, Deputy Director General of the Customs Department.

Bonded warehouse systems not only streamline export and import process and contribute to the transformation of key industries such as garments and other manufacturing, but also create an environment conducive to linkages between SMEs and large multinational and local firms.—GNLM

Lychee high-priced in domestic market at beginning of harvest season

LYCHEE, the delicious tropical fruits, is expensive in the domestic market at the beginning of this harvest season although the majority of fruits taste sour, according to growers.

Produced in Thandaung Township, Kayin State, lychees have started entering the domestic market beginning in the third week of this month.

One of retailers living in the plains said: "Currently, lychees are sold at K3,000 per viss (3.6 pounds). This is overpriced because production is slow at the beginning of harvest season. However, the current prices are reasonable as some retailers spent lots of transport charges in purchasing lychees from the hilly region." At the beginning of this harvest time, lychees taste sour. The taste of the fruit is so sweet in the rainy season when the market sees high local demands. Bumper harvest may be seen in mid-May in the hilly regions when supply exceeds demand that causes a decrease in prices of lychees in the market. A greengrocer in Yedashe Township, Bago Reion, said: "For the time being, there are some buyers who purchase the expensive lychees as a gift."

Not only lychee growers but durian, mangosteen and pineapple growers from hilly regions normally earn handsome profits in the wet season.—Ko Lwin (Swa) *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

DICA officials discuss business climate with US trade mission

U Thant Sin Lwin, the acting director-general of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, attended a luncheon with the American Trade Mission organized by the U.S. Embassy in collaboration with the American Chamber of Commerce Myanmar at the Melia Hotel in Yangon last Monday.

At the luncheon, U Thant Sin Lwin briefed delegates on matters related to the investment law, business opportunities, and action being taken by Myanmar to improve the business environment. He also responded to questions raised by the delegates.

The luncheon was aimed to help US investors understand the business climate in Myanmar. In turn, the American investors held friendly discussions on matters concerning investment in Myanmar.

Afterwards, delegates from American and Myanmar businesses also took part in B2B meetings. They visited the Thilawa Special Economic zone yesterday.

According to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry, Myanmar's trade with the US totalled US$394.59 million during the October-February period, with exports worth $232.54 million and imports valued at $162 million.

Myanmar mainly exported rice, various types of pulses, forest products, fish, prawns, apparel, garments produced on cut-make-pack basis, and other finished industrial goods to the US, while it imported personal goods, capital goods, and industrial raw materials.

Under the Barack Obama administration, the US ended more than two decades of economic sanctions on Myanmar and reinstated it into the Generalized System of Preferences.

Myanmar's bilateral trade with the US was pegged at $455.72 million in the last mini-budget period, $718.3 million in the 2017-2018FY, $690.6 million in the 2016-2017FY, $196.9 million in the 2015-2016FY, $544.6 million in the 2014-2015FY, $104 million in the 2013-20014FY, $122.7 million in the 2012-2013FY, and $293 million in the 2011-2012FY. —GNLM

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Group A: Myanmar, Australia stamp tickets to finals


Myanmar team celebrate after beating Nepal. **PHOTO: MYANMAR FOOTBALL FEDERATION**

MANDALAY: Myanmar and Australia confirmed safe passage to the AFC U-19 Women's Champions Thailand 2019 Finals, after they earned wins over Nepal and Uzbekistan respectively on Tuesday.

MYANMAR 2-1 NEPAL

Group hosts Myanmar were a goal and a player down at half-time, but they completed a second-half turnaround to seal qualification with a 2-1 win over Nepal. Goals from San Thaw Thaw and May Phu Ko ensured the group hosts claimed not only the one point they needed to reach the Finals, but all three, after they had fallen behind in a sequence that resulted in their captain Zune Yu Ya Oo being sent off.

Buoyed by their fighting display against Australia on Sunday, Myanmar began full of confidence, only for both Thaw Thaw and Pont Pont Pyae Maung to squander a series of early chances.

Myanmar's position of relative comfort changed dramatically in the closing stages of the first half, with Ya Oo shown a straight red card after bringing down the goal-bound Manisha Raut, who converted the resulting penalty kick to give Myanmar a 39th-minute lead.

With their fate in the balance at the interval, Myanmar immediately pegged back the deficit through Thaw Thaw, who headed home at the back post in the 47th minute, and could have taken the lead through a Pyae Maung penalty eight minutes later, only for the forward to hit the woodwork from both the spot kick and the follow up.

Despite that dramatic moment, the hosts did eventually seal their win, with substitute Phu Ko finding acres of space before slotting a neat finish beyond Anjana Rana Magar to seal a 2-1 win for Myanmar, who will feature in the finals for the first time since 2013.

AUSTRALIA 4-1 UZBEKISTAN

Earlier, Australia took their Round 2 record to a perfect three wins from three, with a 4-1 win against Uzbekistan on Tuesday.

The Young Matildas were too strong for the Central Asian opponents, scoring three second-half goals to put the seal on their progression, and leave Uzbekistan waiting on the result in the Myanmar match; one which ultimately didn't go in their favour.

Australia burst into life in the early stages of the match, but they were initially unable to make it count as Mary Fowler missed two chances before having a goal ruled out for offside, and Kyra Cooney-Cross hit the crossbar in the 31st minute. Persistent forays forward finally paid off when Cooney-Cross beat Zarina Saidova with a low, angled effort to give Gary van Egmond's side a deserved lead in the 41st-minute.

The terrific Cooney-Cross delivered a pin-point corner for Princess Ibini to nod home in the 49th minute, before Fowler finally got her goal - her seventh in three matches in Myanmar - with a close range effort three minutes later. Uzbekistan's chances of reaching the finals were becoming slimmer by the minute, but they did manage to capitalise when Australia's defence switched off in the 78th minute, with Shahnoza Kurbonova beating Annalee Grove to make it 3-1.

But any chance of a late Uzbekistan revival was snuffed out by Chelsea Blissett, who headed home another superb Cooney-Cross set piece delivery to stamp Australia's ticket to Thailand with three minutes remaining.—AFC ■

Bale '100 per cent' committed to Real claims agent

LONDON — Gareth Bale is still "100 per cent" committed to Real Madrid despite speculation over his future, the Wales star's agent insisted on Monday.

Former Tottenham winger Bale has been linked with a return to the Premier League after a difficult season with the troubled Spanish club.

The 29-year-old has had to endure claims that he doesn't have a strong relationship with his teammates, while Real have suffered a woeful campaign on the pitch.

Bale played the full 90 minutes when Real suffered a shock 1-0 defeat against lowly RayoVallecano on Sunday, but Madrid boss ZinedineZidane later questioned whether he was fully focused.

Bale's agent Jonathan Barnett has responded to Zidane's comments by telling BBC Sport Wales: "Gareth is 100 per cent committed to Real Madrid."

Referring to his past assertion that Bale wanted to spend the rest of his career with Madrid, Barnett added: "Nothing has changed."

Frustrated at a lack of starting opportunities for Real towards the end of last season, Bale had actually hinted he might consider leaving when he spoke to the media immediately after scoring twice in last year's Champions League final win against Liverpool. Bale's Madrid contract runs until 2022, but the return of Zidane, with whom he reportedly has a difficult relationship, has revived talk of a potential move. Despite winning four Champions League trophies and one La Liga title in Spain, Bale has come under-fire for his inconsistent performances and injury problems from Real fans.


Gareth Bale has scored 102 goals in 231 games since joining Real Madrid in 2013 . **PHOTO: AFP**

Zidane, who is back after quitting at the end of last season, recently warned Real stars who are unhappy with their playing time should "go elsewhere and get more minutes".

Manchester United and Tottenham are among the clubs said to be interested if Wales international Bale wants to leave the Bernabeu.—AFP ■

Boxing must end controversies to end Olympic threat: coach

NEW DELHI—Boxing must quickly fix "controversies" surrounding the sport to keep its Olympic place when a decision is made next month, leading international coach Santiago Nieva said Tuesday.

The International Olympic Committee is to deliver its verdict on May 22 on whether to keep boxing at the 2020 Tokyo Games.

Nieva, director of the Indian men's and women's teams and a senior member of the AIBA international federation coaches commission, said he was "worried" about the looming decision.

"I think they will find a way but... in boxing we tend to exaggerate our importance for the Olympic movement," the Swedish coach told AFP.

"We think that we are so pure, one of the oldest, but for other people who are not into boxing, they see it more from a commercial and political standpoint.

"They don't want controversies, they don't want scandals at the Olympics and boxing is giving controversies over and over again," said Nieva. The IOC froze boxing's preparations for next year's Games to give the sport time to clean up its image after allegations of bout-fixing tainted the 2016 Rio Olympics. An inquiry into AIBA governance and its anti-doping programme is also being held. In response, the "right to protest" a referee's decision is to be re-introduced at the world championships in September. Nieva said India had been on the receiving end of judging blunders, and highlighted the 49kg final at the Asian Championships in Bangkok when Deepak Singh lost his final to NodirjonMirzahmedov of Uzbekistan. "We felt it was very clear," Nieva said. India was certain Singh had won, and the coach said this is an example which showed the rules are "meaningless".

"It's tough because it is not black and white. It is a grey area when it comes to close bouts." At the 2014 Asian Games, India's Sarita Devi refused to accept her bronze medal and tried to hang it on her Korean rival instead, who won the women's semi-final on a unanimous decision.—AFP ■