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State Counsellor meets with local farmers in Danubyu Township



STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with local farmers in Danubyu, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday.

The State Counsellor and her entourage arrived in Danubyu by helicopter yesterday morning to meet with local farmers.

At the meeting, the State Counsellor said "It is learnt that close to 2,000 peasants and farmers have attended this meeting. It is also learnt that private businesses, associations and organizations, merchants and mill owners were in attendance. On the administrative side union level and state/region level officials were in attendance. For our country's agriculture to develop, it was important for all in attendance today to cooperate with empathy and understanding. It was especially important for our peasants, farmers, merchants and mill owners to have firm and durable relations, with understanding and sympathy.

To have such relations government departments were to assist and help in a correct way the requirements of the farmers, agriculture businesses and companies. Among the departments, the land records department, irrigation department, agriculture department and agricultural mechanization department were directly dealing with the farmers and peasants and providing services on behalf of the Union government. As such these departments must warmly help and assist the farmers and peasants. They must be in close and regular contact. If there were anything in which the departments were unable to provide help or assistance, open and honest reasons and explanations must be given on why. As the government had financial and budget limitations, selection had to be made based on priority. I request the understanding and acceptance of our peasants and farmers on this matter.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the meeting with local people in Danubyu, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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VP U Myint Swe attends Martyrs' Day coord meeting



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses at the coordination meeting for holding 72nd Anniversary of Martyrs' Day in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

VICE PRESIDENT U Myint Swe, Patron of the 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee addressed the second coordination meeting held at the meeting hall of Arzani Beikman (Martyrs' Mausoleum) management office in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

In his speech the Vice President said the meeting was the second coordination meeting of the Central Committee to successfully convene the 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day. For this, the Central Committee, Work Committee, Security Committee and eight sub-committees were formed and all were seen to be cooperating and coordinating for the timely completion of duties and responsibilities.

The first coordination meeting of the Central Committee was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 June where 24 decisions were made. To implement the decisions and assigned duties and responsibilities in a timely manner 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Work Committee and sub-committees meeting led by Work Committee Chairman Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein was held on 20 June and a meeting led by Central Committee Chairman Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko was held on 24 June. Meeting decisions and ongoing works were urged to be completed in time said the Vice President.

Martyrs' Day ceremonies were held annually so as not to forget the efforts and sacrifices made by the fallen martyrs for Independence. The ceremonies were held to awaken patriotism in the generations to follow and to let them know that Independence was gained only after much blood and sweats were spilt.

Even though Martrys' Day ceremonies were held annually it was being held year by year with increasing essence and significance. Systematic works need to be done to make the event significant and full of patriotic spirit in every township of the country. Instructions were made to broadcast Bogyoke Aung San's speeches, songs related to Martyrs' Day and interviews on July 16, 17, and 18. It was the duty of the Ministry of Information to publish news, information articles, interviews related to Martyrs' Day, Bogyoke Aung San speeches, songs, record of efforts made for Independence, movies, newspapers, radio and television for the public as it had done in the past years. The Ministry of Education was also instructed to conduct essay writing competition, talks, debates and painting competitions at universities, colleges and basic education schools.

On the 72nd Martyrs' Day, a ceremony to offer soon (a day meal) to members of the Sangha dedicated to the fallen martyrs would be held both in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, and respective committees and sub-committees were urged to conduct detailed coordination.

At the Martyrs' Day ceremony held at the Martyrs' mausoleum there should be no lapses in greeting and assigning places for families of the Martyrs as well as guests and ceremony attendees. Systematic rehearsals should be conducted so that the entries and exits were on schedule and on time. Furthermore arrangements were to be made to divert traffic to prevent traffic jams on the rehearsal days as well as the actual day and the public was to be informed.

As it was a State-level event, it should be held in accordance with Union-level and diplomatic protocol. And since it was the rainy season, necessary preparations should be made for the convenience of those who were paying their respects. The Vice President also spoke of the importance of informing in advance through television, newspapers and radios on the time to pay respects, and dos and don'ts to the public coming to pay their respects.

To hold the flag raising and saluting ceremony successfully in the Secretariat Building (former Office of the Ministers), dress rehearsals should be systematically conducted. The state parliamentary meeting hall and the room where the Martyrs were assassinated were to be prepared and displayed as last year.

In the same way, arrangements were to be made in Bogyoke Aung San museum in the same way as last year so that visitors could visit it systematically, conveniently and safely.

As it was a State level ceremony special emphasis must be placed towards security and those who were responsible for security were to draw up systematic arrangements according to 12-points security work duties and conduct coordination so that there were no lapses.

> Martyrs' Day ceremonies were held annually so as not to forget the efforts and sacrifices made by the fallen martyrs for Independence.

In order to successfully convene the 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day with full essence, past years' experiences were to be reviewed and works systematically conducted with coordination between work committees and sub-committees so that there were no lapses and weaknesses. At this meeting officials from the Central Committee, work committees and sub-committees were to discuss openly about sector wise works completed, future works, difficulties encountered and provide necessary suggestions, said the Vice President.

Next, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Chairman of the 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee, explained about implementation of decisions made, ongoing works and future works.

This was followed by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Vice Chairman of the 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee, who explained about works conducted by work the committee and sub-committees.

Afterwards ceremony organizing work committee Vice Chairman Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture U Kyi Min explained about coordination done to hold Martyrs' Day ceremonies in every township of the country and the status of cooperation between committees and sub-committees. Ministry of Home Affairs Myanmar Police Force Police Major General Myo Swe Win and Police Brigadier General Tin Ko Ko also explained about security arrangements while officials from various sub-committees explained about works completed and ongoing works.

Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General U Min Thein and Col. Than Htoo Zaw from Yangon Command also provided additional explanations where necessary.

The meeting came to a conclusion after Vice President U Myint Swe made necessary comments to ensure coordination based on the discussions and submissions made and delivered a concluding speech.

After the meeting, he went to the Arzani Beikman and inspected the preparations made.

He then continued to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Bahan Township, Yangon, and inspected the preparations made for the public to visit the museum.

From there, he went to the Secretariat Building (former Office of the Ministers) in Botahtaung Township and inspected the original flag pole where the Union Jack flag was lowered and the Union of Myanmar flag was raised on Independence Day, historical stone pillar commemorating the Martyrs, parliamentary meeting hall and the meeting room where the Martyrs were assassinated.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the 72nd Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Ministers Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe and U Kyi Min, Yangon Region Ministers, high ranking Tatmadaw officers, departmental heads and officials. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

State Counsellor meets with local farmers in Danubyu Township

FROM PAGE-1

Doing anything would require a lot of financial backing. As a developing country, we don't have sufficient financial strength to do everything we want to do. So if things can't be done now, our government will explain about it openly and the reason why. To provide such explanation is the responsibility of the government while to receive such explanations are also the rights of the farmers and peasants. Everyone had rights. Farmers and peasants also had rights. But there were also responsibilities. If both sides gave equal value to both the rights and responsibilities, any problems can be resolved.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister, MPs and local people as she arrives in Danubyu in Ayeyawady Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Land matters for the farmers

Priority has been given towards amending land use laws and rules that are of vital importance for the farmers to be clear, concise and practical. Especially farm land, vacant, fallow and virgin land laws were given a priority for the Hluttaw organizations and the government departments to work on. On the other hand, the Office of the President had been giving emphasis towards returning land confiscated for any reason back to the original owners.

When I went to all parts of our country and met directly with the people, farm land matter was the matter that was raised most. That was why I'm pushing for the quickest settlement of farm land problems. Even though time limitations were set up, on the ground there were instances of years of wait and delays with many outstanding cases remaining. Reviews and assessments must be made on whether responsible people were not taking responsibility or simply shuffling papers back and forth. Relevant ministerial departments and state/region governments were urged and pressured to look into it and do the necessary.

What we found was that in some cases, those who had confiscated the land were delaying matters because they don't want to release back the land. In some cases, administrative sections were not conducting their works properly. Some original land owners also don't have proper evidences to show their original ownership while there were cases of people acting as original land owners and attempting to get lands falsely. So it was important for all sides to be truthful, straightforward and responsible. Only then could the land matters be resolved quickly. In the Ayeyawady Region, the Region Chief Minister discussed earlier that people or organizations that were to release back the lands were delaying matters. Such people and organizations were urged not to delay. Why hold on to something that you don't own? It is good for all if it is returned quickly. It is good for the country. To date, our country depends on agriculture and farm land matters are very important. Cooperate with the authorities to speed up matters as it is honorable to return things that you don't own and it is also beneficial to the country as well.

At the same time we were studying matters that cause difficulties for our peasants and farmers. For example, due to recent changes in foreign market, there were great impacts on crops selected and grown in the country. Our government would provide policy support to change and grow crops that were profitable.

Peasants and farmers would also have to do their part. In the time where things change quickly, they must not be slow. It was not even year by year but month by month, climate wise and market wise that we all must study what is the most beneficial and profitable crop. The government would help and assist but the farmers and peasants themselves must have the will to study. Crops that grow well in the past may no longer grow well due to climate change. The planting method may have to be changed. Continuous study must be made and appropriate and timely changes made. It was expected that Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation would educate and distribute as much news and information as possible.

Farmers and fishermen were important for our country's economy as well as for food sufficiency of our people. Due to this importance Protecting Rights and Enhancing Economic Welfare of Farmers Law was enacted.

To implement this law, the steering group led by Vice President U Henry Van Thio was formed with the secretary was Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu. State/Region Chief Ministers were members. We'll strive for the benefit of the farmers and peasants based on the law.

If this group had shortfalls in implementing the matters prescribed in the law, our farmers and peasants had the right to demand, insist and criticize. We'll do what we can to implement the aims and enactment of the law. Here I want to talk a bit about rule of law. Ever since we took up responsibility, we designated rule of law as the main requirement. Rule of law was very important for peace and stability in a country. Without peace and stability, the country wouldn't develop. Law is not one sided. It is to protect all. No one is above the law. It is fair and equitable to all. If a law is not fair and equitable or not up to date, the legislative pillar of the Hluttaw must change what ought to be changed.

That was why rule of law must be respected. We must abide by enacted law. If a prevailing law is not just, unfair and inappropriate, the people can ask to change or amend the law through their Hluttaw representatives. Hluttaw is the legislative pillar. If law is required to be amended, it must be amended according to the law. If a law is fair and just to all, all must abide by it. It is not rule of law if people abide by it only in cases where you turn out to be the winner. I want to caution both sides on this. On land matters, people think the law was good if they turned out to be the winner. If they lose, they complain that the law was not good. This is not how it is done. Law must be fair. If you think it is not fair, attempts must be made within the law to amend it.

Process of setting base price for rice and paddy

In a meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw on March 2018, I urged to announce a base price of full quality rice at Ks 500,000 per 100 tins. As insisted, an announcement was made accordingly. But the base prices must be announced every season. International practice was to study the local and foreign market and make an announcement before the planting season. Depending upon this announced base price, peasants and farmers grew crops that wereprofitable and beneficial for them.

In our country too, even if base price couldn't be announced for all crops, it should be announced for main crops like peanut, sesame, corn etc. that were widely grown by the farmers. Weaknesses and strengths of the announcement of the base price made last year must be studied and reviewed. The work of announcing a base price must be conducted under long term cooperation between the government, private businesses and farmers. The government on its side must strive towards ensuring that the price did not fall below the base price.

A base price is the very basic price and the price must not fall below it. Government and theprivate sector must cooperate towards increasing demand if production of a crop rises. People sometime don't know that we were discussing such matters with other countries. The farmers don't know.

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State Counsellor meets with local farmers in Danubyu Township

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The pulses and beans prices drop because India was not buying as much as they bought before. So we have to discuss and negotiate with India. We discuss as friends to resolve it. It is the same with other countries too. There are many matters in which we discuss as friends with other countries so that it was beneficial to both.

If for any reason prices fell below base price public-private arrangement to purchase and store surpluses had to be made systematically. These processes are not for a single season or a year only. It goes on season by season and year by year continuously in cooperation. The next government will also have to do the same for the benefit of the peasants and farmers, and for rural people. The matter of setting base price is a long term work process based on basic matters like market and production amount.

Agriculture loan

While doing a short term work on one hand, our government is also dong some priority works that had long term benefits. In the long run we'll work towards making theMyanma Agriculture Development Bank a real development bank that the farmers can rely on. Support and assistance of international development partners were being obtained towards achieving this transformation. We know the importance of Myanma Agriculture Development Bank for our farmers. We were striving towards providing expanded short, mid and long term loan services of the bank.

When our government took over the responsibility in 2016, agriculture loan for monsoon paddy was increased from Ks 100,000 per acre to Ks 150,000. For other crops, it was increased from Ks 50,000 to Ks 100,000. However, this amount is actually not enough for our farmers and peasants. Based on the financial situation of the Union government, we'll increase agriculture loan step by step.

Here I would like to make a special request to private banks. They are urged to provide short and long term loans as much as possible for the agriculture sector according to rules and regulations. Give this a priority. If private banks can provide agriculture loans in accordance with to banking regulations, they'll be doing the same works as the state-owned Myanma Agriculture Development Bank. We encourage competition. A competition needs to be fair, good and beneficial to our people. State-owned banks must be able to compete with private banks and international banks. If we had such fair competitions, it'll benefit all our people including the farmers.

Our farmers also must not compete within the country. They must compete with the world. Now is the time when we could not stay however we like in our country. We must always look at the situation of other countries. In an age when we are competing with the world, we must put in our effort and develop. Development had its own timing. We missed out when Southeast Asia developed so we must strive towards catching up. World organizations had predicted our country to have the fastest development rate. Even though this is an encouragement, it must be noted that we need to do it. We could not relax because we were predicted to have the fastest development rate. Then our rate will drop. It is through all out efforts by all that this development rate could be maintained. It is with this in mind that I'm telling the farmers, the banks and the businesses.

Invite more foreign investment

Our government recently laid down policies for international businesses to trade in our agricultural sector. The market was expanded for value adding agriculture products. Here too local business should not worry. If we look at others as partners rather than rivals, we'll gain international experiences, we can obtain and learn research and development works from international businesses. For agriculture sector development systematic international cooperation is required and foreign investment in agriculture sector must be invited.

Food safety

While meeting with our peasants and farmers a special request I'd like to make is food safety. Our country is based on agriculture and our agriculture products had good names. As life styles develop and change people are demanding safe food. Our farmers and peasants are to use pesticides and chemical only when it is absolutely necessary.



Daw Than Than Oo.



U Hla Naing Soe.



U Toe Toe Win.



U Hla Shwe.

We are competing with the world. We must be up to the standard set by the world. Developed countries are careful about their health. They take great care towards ensuring the safety of the food they consume. If our agriculture products were not up to the standard set by the world, it'll be difficult for us to enter the world market. Think long term and don't look at short term gains.

Using pesticides will kill pest quickly but the outcome is getting less price for the product. Sometimes, it might become unsaleable. So look long term and put in effort towards producing world standard food.

Excessive use of chemical s will have bad consequences on our agriculture products both in local and international markets. Trust and reliability is important in business. Once trust is lost, it would be hard to restore it. Our farmers and peasants must be responsible producers for our consumers.

To become an effective ministry for farmers and peasants

Our peasants and farmers in rural areas are doing both agriculture and livestock breeding. It was done as a tradition. In the past there were agriculture and livestock breeding was two ministries. Now it was combined. The aim was for a single ministry to provide agriculture and livestock breeding requirement of rural farmers and peasants. In addition to this cooperative sector was also included so a cooperative system that is appropriate for the 21st century and the one that could be conducted by the rural farmers and peasants can be systematically conducted.

Africa Swine Flu is something to be aware of in livestock breeding. The damage to some ASEAN countries was high and wide. As our peasants and farmers were also raising pigs, special care must be taken towards having preventive/protective measures in place. Ministerial departments and state/region governments must make preparations to provide systematic information and education works. Advance warnings, cautionary notes, matters to be aware of etc. must be shared and distributed to prevent cross country contamination.

Development of basic farm resources

Agriculture development projects, rural road links, storage and drying facilities, pure breeds and markets are things or works that must be strived for continuously. Basic farm resources required by our farmers and peasants such as trade routes, technology, resource development etc. were to be fulfilled by the government. Market conditions, world politics, economy etc. are changing daily and we must not lose sight of it and study it continuously. Farmers, peasants and the government are requested to cooperate in this.

We place great emphasis on matters raised here. As Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials from Region government who are directly responsible for agriculture sector are also present they'll also discuss and respond to questions.

Thank you."

Following her speech, Daw Than Than of Zalun Township reported to the State Counsellor on their challenges including shortage of labour, shortage of pesticide sprayers to control pests, requirement of contract farming system at every township which can guarantee stable crop price at the time of harvest, access to fertilizers at a reasonable price, dredging Innkaw canal which benefits over 5000 acres of farmland and building a bridge across a river.

Similarly, U Hla Naing Soe of Sisongon Village suggested the Union Government to send the companies or organizations which can guarantee the quality rice market at the villages, to announce the price of crops before planting season, to help farmers who do not get access to the government's agricultural loans to get loans from private banks, to grant sufficient agricultural loans and turn the emerald green village project to a project like a new village project.

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U Toe Toe Win of Hleswe Village urged the Union Government to supply quality seeds, technology and capital to farmers timely and to timely announce the type of land which is suitable for the quality seeds, to upgrade the farmland to meet the modern farming system, to build all-weather production roads, to help the farmers facing high price for fertilizer and pesticides through the government and private banks and to sell modern sprayers to the farmers in installments or lend them to farmers.

U Hla Shwe of Ywathit Taung Village asked the Union Government to provide loans to farmers with lowest interest rate to build silos and modern dryers, to create more foreign market, to lend short-term loans to farmers and to help SMEs.

The suggestions of the farmers were replied by Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, deputy ministers U Aung Htoo and U Maung Maung Win and officials.

Afterwards, another three farmers suggested the Union Government to allow farmers to pawn about 30 percent of the value of the farmland and the problem of drought hitting the Bodi Creek in summer.

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win replied to the questions of the farmers.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor made concluding remarks. She said "Rounding all up, the main requirement is for, farmers and government to have more interactions. Peasants, businesses and government participate in this meeting. Such a meeting does not end with one meeting. It must be done all the time. The responsibility here lies in the Region Government because the Union Government could not come all the time. It had to do things all over the country. We could not do this in Ayeyawady Region only. We'll have to do this in 13 other States and Regions. For Ayeyawady Region that is dependent on agriculture and livestock breeding, Region Government members, administrative officials must always engage with farmers and peasants. Among some of the questions answered by Dr. Aung Thu and U Maung Maung Win some included ignorance or not knowing the rules, regulations and laws. The government is responsible to make the people know these rules, regulations and laws. It is better for the Region Government to do this rather than the Union Government.

Another matter is the Union Government not knowing the requirements of the farmers and peasants. In such cases, it is the responsibility of the Region/State government to let the Union government know the requirements. In other words, Region/State government is a bridge between the Union government and the people.

My suggestion would be for members of the state/region governments and administrative personnel are to engage regularly with farmers and peasants. Go on field trips. Go to where the farmers and peasants are. Or meet with all at a place. People from many places came to Danubyu so they were unable to tell details about what was happing in their places or what was required. With such limitations we will also be unable to fulfill fully. It is important to have engagements all the time. Another matter is for peasants and farmers to obtain notifications, announcements, news and information issued by the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. This can be done if you had a mobile phone. I'd like to urge all to put in efforts here. If you do this, your views and knowledge will become wide. You'll also find solutions to matters that you saw as problems.

> We encourage competition. A competition needs to be fair, good and beneficial to our people. State-owned banks must be able to compete with private banks and international banks. If we had such fair competitions, it'll benefit all our people including the farmers.

In conclusion, thanks to all for coming to the meeting. I said our country was an agriculture based country. Some look down on a country based on agriculture. Some think only industrialized country develop, progress and are at the front. No. It is not like that. Some of the world's most developed countries are agriculture based country with developed industries. They are based on agriculture and they value add their products step and step and become developed. I frequently think whether our country will become such a country. The world today requires food sufficiency. Everyone is concerned about this. Agriculture sectors decline in developed countries. They rely on other countries to import food. In other words, they'll have to turn toward agriculture based countries that produces food.

Looking at the world's situation, our country's development, fulfilling the requirement of the world, for our benefit and for the benefit of all, it is strongly believed agriculture is not beneficial only for our farmers and peasants but also for our country too.

So our farmers and peasants must believe in oneself and work. Inform relevant departments if there are any problems. Without saying anything a solution can't be found. Say when it is required to be said. State/Region government and administrative department must conduct field visits. Always engage with farmers and peasants. Hold meetings frequently. Only then can one side hear the other side. Only then can problems be resolved together."

After the meeting, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi enjoyed lunch together with the farmers and greeted them.

About 1963 farmers, 400 ricer millers, traders and guests, over 100 departmental officials totaling 2475 attended the meeting.

The State Counsellor flew back to Nay Pyi Taw by helicopter in the afternoon and arrived back Nay Pyi Taw in the evening. The following senior officials were also present at the meeting: Union ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Min Thu and Dr. Aung Thu, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Deputy ministers U Aung Htoo, U Maung Maung Win, members of the Ayeyawady Region Government, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads, entrepreneurs and local farmers. — MNA

(Translated by GNLM)

Students from Veterinary Science University undertake field trip to Meiktila villages



Veterinary Science University students visit a dairy farm in Meiktila. **PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKTILA)**

Fifth-year students of the University of Veterinary Science started a three-day field trip to provide medical care to cattle with a visit to a dairy farm in Meiktila.

Over 200 students and over 20 faculty members observed operations at the Kaung Htet San Diary Farm in Nyaungpinthar Village of Mekitila Township.

The team will observe cattle farming in nine villages in Meiktila Township, and provide free medical care during the trip.

The veterinarian team is led by Dr. Myint Thein Win, the Head of the Meiktila District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Dr. Soe Naing, the Head of the Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, and Dr. Saw Po Po, the Pro-rector of the University of Veterinary Science.

During the trip, students will provide services such as vaccinations to cattle, share veterinary knowledge with villagers, and observe the feedstuff system. — Chan Thar (Meiktila)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Convoy carrying ICRC aid attacked by AA group



Bullet wounds are seen on the truck attacked by the AA group on 27 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CIVILIAN convoy carrying aid from the International Committee of the Red Cross struck landmines planted by the AA group around 8 pm on 27 June in Kyauktaw, Rakhine State. Members of the AA also fired upon the convoy using small arms.

The six vehicles were carrying aid to the ICRC Office in Kanyintan Myoma Ward of Maungtaw, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

The MPF is investigating the incident and ascertaining the damage caused by the attack to life and property.

The police force has also issued a statement saying it will take the necessary action against AA. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

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Maritime Police register 25 cases of smuggling, illegal fishing in Ayeyawady River

THE Myanmar Maritime Police (Mandalay) have registered 25 cases pertaining to illegal fishing and smuggling of forest products since January while patrolling within a limit of 65 nautical miles along the Ayeyawady River, said Police Lt-Col Aung Zaw Myint.

The maritime police are conducting patrols along the river with the help of three vessels and four speedboats to protect life and property. Their duties include law enforcement, ensuring safety of coastal vessels, and taking action against smugglers.

"We have been conducting undercover patrols along the river. During the patrols, we have found jade being transported illegally and other cases. While conducting special operations against electrofishing, our members were attacked by some illegal fishing vessels. In once case, we had to resort to firing gunshots into the air to protect our members."



Maritime police conducting marine patrol along Ayeyawady River. **PHOTO : KHINE HSAT WAI**

According to the police, vessel No. 152 conducts its patrol within an area of 15 nautical miles between Shangalekyun Village and ancient Ava city, while patrol vessel No. 154 has been assigned to patrol the area within 7 nautical miles from Shangalekyun Village in Amarapura Township to Seta Village in Patheingyi Township, with its base at Gawwein Jetty. Patrol vessel No. 159 operates an area within 48 nautical miles between Seta Village and Yadana Theinkha Bridge in Singu Township.

According to an official report, the maritime police registered two cases pertaining to illegal trade of forest and related products, one jade smuggling case, and 22 cases of illegal fishing vessels doing battery fishing in 2018. Between 1 January and 25 June this year, the police have registered one case of smuggling of forest-based products and 24 cases of illegal battery fishing in the river.—Khine Hsat Wai ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



A doctor with a mobile medical team examines a patient in Thanbyuzayat Township. **PHOTO: KYAW WIN (THANBYUZAYAT)**

Mobile team carries out active TB screening in Thanbyuzayat Tsp

A mobile team, led by Dr. Tun Oo, is carrying out screening to identify active tuberculosis cases and providing healthcare services in villages in Thanbyuzayat Township of Mon State, under the supervision of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The active case-finding program is being implemented from 24 June to 28 June.

Another team, led by Dr. Min Thant Zin, the Head of the Township Public Health Department, conducted Public a joint anti-TB program with healthcare staff, IOM delegation, members of the Myanmar Red Cross Society, the Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association, and the Township Women's Affairs Federation on 27 and 28 June in Mon State. — Kyaw Win (Thanbyuzayat) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Fisheries Department releases fingerlings into river, paddy fields in Paung Tsp

THE Thaton District Fisheries Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, released fingerlings into the Yinnyein river and paddy fields in Paung Township of Mon State on 26 June.

"The move is aimed at preserving aquatic resources and raising fish production by inducing reproduction of freshwater fish. We have, therefore, released 55,000 fish belonging to different species into the Yinnyein river and paddy fields.

Over 150,000 fish were released into Waba dam, Hlaylaw lake, and Durian creek on 21 June," said U Win Bo, in charge of the Thaton Fisheries Camp.

At an event organized to release the fish on 26 June, Director U Soe Myint and Deputy Director U Soe Min of the Mon State Fisheries Department, Thaton District officer Daw Hla Hla Wai, the head of the Paung Township Fisheries Department, and trainees from the Freshwater Fish Induced Breeding Program (7/2019) released fingerlings into the river and paddy fields. — Khun (Win Pa) ■ *(Translated by La Wonn)*



Thaton District Fisheries Department staff releasing of fingerlings in paddy filed in Paung Township. **PHOTO: KHUN (WIN PA)**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Vietnamese delegation



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with Communist Party of Viet Nam Central Committee (CPVCC) member Mr Tran Van Tuy in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received Mr Tran Van Tuy, Communist Party of Viet Nam Central Committee member (CPVCC) and Deputy Head of the PCC Commission for Organization, Member of the Standing Committee of National Assembly and Head of the NA Committee for Deputy Affairs, at the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly exchanged views on strengthening the inter-parliamentary friendship and cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar structure, and legislation process of Myanmar's parliaments, matters on holding general elections and electing of MPs, and promoting investments in Myanmar. Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Tun Tun Hein and officials from the Hluttaw office.—MNA *(Translated by TTN)*

Myanmar Investment Commission approves investment proposal which will create nearly 3,000 job opportunities



Chairman of MIC U Thaung Tun attends the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting (10 / 2019) was convened at the meeting room of MIC in the morning on 28th June 2019 in Yangon. U Thaung Tun, Chairman of MIC, Dr. Than Myint, Vice Chairman of MIC and (9) members attended the meeting.

The meeting approved twelve projects in livestock sector, industry sector, education sector, transportation sector and mining sector. The amount of USD (174.247) million and Kyat (62,775.772) million have been approved for above projects which will be create (2,909) job opportunities for citizens.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order No. 22/2019

11th Waning of Nayon, 1381 ME
(28 June 2019)

Appointment of Region Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (f) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (g) of Region or State Government Law, U Moe Kyaw Thu has been appointed as Minister for Immigration and Human Resources in the Sagaing Region Government.

Sd/-
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Notification No. 81/2019

11th Waning of Nayon, 1381 ME
(28 June, 2019)

Formation of the new Ministry at the Region and State levels

In accordance with the agreement of the respective Region and State Hluttaws, the Ministry of Immigration and Human Resources has been established in the Kachin State Government, the Chin State Government and the Bago Region Government respectively.

Sd/-
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Correction

Please read "Notification No. 80/2019" in the announcement of the Office of the President on page-9, 28 June Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.— GNLM

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Myanmar-China Culture Association unveils sign-board in Yangon

MYANMAR-China Culture Association (MCCA) officially opened their office in Royal Holiday Hotel, Tamway Township, Yangon, with a ceremony on 27 June.

MCCA Chairman U Hlaing Win, Assistant Director of the Township General Administration Department U Aung Kyaw Aye, and the First Secretary, Embassy of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, Mr Cheng Peng attended the signboard unveiling and donation ceremony.

The officials first cut ceremonial ribbons to unveil the signboard. U Hlaing Win next delivered a speech, after which U Aung Kyaw Aye explained about the MCCA. The donation ceremony then followed.

MCCA is currently planning to disseminate information on national culture and to arrange an art exhibition of paintings and sculptures, said the artist Ni Po Oo, an executive member of MCCA. MCCA was officially formed on 5 December last year and mainly deals in cultural exchange and philanthropic activities. —TTHL *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*



MCCA Chairman U Hlaing Win delivers the speech at the sign-board unveiling ceremony of MCCA in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

29 JUNE 2019
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

National electrification gets solar boost

THE Union Government has been striving to provide electric supply to the whole country. Before the end of this year, electricity is expected to reach more than 50 percent of the country. The government is hoping to achieve 100-per-cent electrification in 3 to 4 years, and efforts are being made towards that end. With the launch of its first-ever solar power plant yesterday, Myanmar is well on the road to using renewable energy resources for generating power.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inaugurated the first phase of a solar power plant project in Minbu yesterday, adding 40MW of power generated by the plant's first phase to the national grid.

Once completed, the plant will have a total capacity of 170MW, and it will produce 350 million kWh (kilowatt hour) per annum, and electrify about 210,000 households.

People in rural areas have also taken a smart approach to solve the problem of power and turned to solar panels to gain access to electricity.

> Climate change had rendered hydropower unreliable. Therefore, with the changing situation, it was important to have the ability and courage to change our technology.

Connecting people living without access to electricity to sources of power is the need of the hour. We must generate solar and wind power, using clean energy resources as much we can, to meet the national goal of nationwide electrification without damaging the environment.

Increased use of clean energy would make Myanmar less dependent on fossil fuels, a major contributor to climate change. The effects of climate change -- including rising sea levels -- pose a direct threat to the country.

But, we must be aware that our development must be in conformity with the natural environment and situation. This means we must inculcate a spirit of continuous innovation and invention.

Just like all power generation systems have strengths and weaknesses, there will be weaknesses in solar power plants, too.

The authorities had to consider this and select the best option. Climate change had rendered hydropower unreliable. Therefore, with the changing situation, it was important to have the ability and courage to change our technology.

Our country needs a lot of power, which renewable resources can provide. Solar power can be an emission-free driver of the economy, which can generate growth, both through direct and indirect employment.

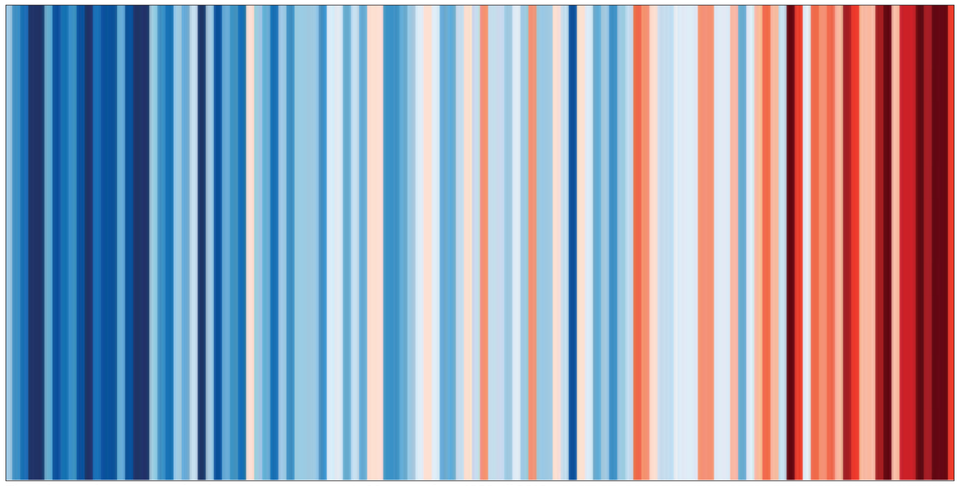
We would like to urge other towns to follow Minbu's solar example.

The Study of Myanmar's Climate Change Impacts

By Ju

LAST two weeks on the 5th of June during World Environment Day celebrations, I was in Nyaungshwe town. By 5pm Saya O-pekyal and I attended the planting ceremony. Planting trees are higher than the height of a man; trees are known to be of species of persimmon. I haven't asked whether it was Myanmar family or that of a neighboring country. As far as I understand whether they are of Myanmar family or foreign ones, it is important that they grow well in our homeland.

During the ceremony, an authority from Town Development Committee said that something I could not ignore in accordance with the 2006 survey: the untimely death rate was as high as 20,000 because of air pollution and its related conditions. The day happened to be " World Environment Day"; the celebrations on the theme of " Beat Air Pollution" are being held throughout the world.



The colour scale represents the change in temperatures in Myanmar from 1850 till 2018. **SOURCE: COLORED 'WARMING STRIPES BY ED HAWKINS, UK UNIVERSITY**

Visibly worst hit

According to the Global Climate Risk Index during 1995 and 2014, the world experienced harsh climates; there were 183 countries with Myanmar recorded as the second worst-hit country. Nargis Cyclone in 2008, many casualties due to the 2010 extreme heat and 2015 flooding disasters happened very recently. Myanmar is visibly the hardest hit country in terms of climatic changes among the other countries in the world. Myanmar should maintain ecological balance which it has had in the past, according to the Technical Report of World Wide Fund released in March, 2017.

Hazardous to Health

What was the worst environmental damage about 20 years in Myanmar?; the answer would be deforestation, according to a foreign expert.

There is a lot of environmental damage in Myanmar; the people have been facing various kinds of worst cases: worst droughts on record, heavy rain with flooding, air pollution, increasing death rate because of air pollution, water pollution followed by increasing death rate, dryness of fertile top-soil lead to be hit in the areas of economy and health.

> According to the forecasts described in the Report, Myanmar would experience unprecedented high temperatures in the middle of this century.

According to the forecasts described in the Report, Myanmar would experience unprecedented high temperatures in the middle of this century. The yearly average rate of the temperature during the two decades—1981-2010—is 0.25c to the highest 0.4c. The rate was found to be higher and higher. The comparison of the coastal areas and land areas is said to have a high temperature in the latter. In the Report, the temperature not only rises but there is also little rain. Myanmar will face dangerous levels of sea water.

More sufferings of evil effects

After Nargis cyclone, the future cyclones in coming years, have nothing to do with evil effects of other cyclones which will hit Myanmar in terms of depth and emphasis on only climatic changes.

Increasing population, unprotected living of the population, unsystematic land use and deforestation could cause ill effects of the storms. People in deltaic areas will mainly have to suffer from more evil effects of the cyclones.

While reading that Report, the other day I happened to listen to the radio about cyclonic shelters; as many as 200 cyclonic shelters were built in Delta and Rakhine regions. As far as I know there are 4000 cyclonic shelters in Bangladesh. 500 to 2500 could take shelter in one shelter. The result is the death rate in Bangladesh has dramatically reduced.

Cooperation

In Myanmar, everything is urgently needed; the infrastructure of power supplies, transport, buildings, communications, water supply systems, and waste disposal systems is included. To carry out respective sectors and resolutions, plans must be drawn in consideration of the ill effects of climatic changes. For instant, uncertain about water flowing downstream, one has to rely on water management experts for cooperation.

It is highly important to re-establish the watershed to maintain the water above the ground and underground. Many sectors in the infrastructural developments are closely related; with a collapse of one sector leads to others resulting in evil effects. In decades to come, infrastructure developments such as planning and buildings of embankments and hydroelectric power in Myanmar must be carried out in consideration of climatic changes by means of prioritization.

Translated by Arakan Sein

Sustainable rural development is vital for Myanmar

By Lokethar

Rural development is the process of improving the quality of life and well being of people living in rural areas. The objectives of rural development include alleviation of poverty and unemployment through creating basic social and economic infrastructure, to provide training to rural unemployed youth and to provide employment to marginal farmers/labourers to discourage seasonal and permanent migration to urban areas. (Source: the Internet).

About two thirds of Myanmar's population live in the rural areas. According to surveys the average rural income is around half of the urban income and regarding those under the poverty line the majority are from the rural areas. Hence sustainable rural development in Myanmar is vital to the all inclusive economic and social development of the country.

Strategically rural development encompasses higher productivity, wider and easier access to markets and better marketing mechanisms leading to higher incomes for improved quality of life of the rural population.

Higher productivity relates to better use of land and water resources, better and quicker methods of preparing land, better strains of seed and improved methods of sowing and reaping/harvesting as well as access to safe and secure storage facilities prior to marketing of the produce.

Wider and better access to markets relates to better village roads and produce transport facilities, as well as marketing mechanisms including Co-operatives and Private dealers, better pricing mechanisms and methods of payment to ensure the producers enjoy the benefits of their toil.

There is in Myanmar the Department of Rural Development and some NGO's involved in "Rural Development Programs". These are funded by Government as well as donor entities and the rural development activities are mostly being carried out in selected priority Regions or States, largely in the form of projects. The tangible outcomes of the projects, as per the Reports seen on the internet, includes grants to rural people for crop production, feeder roads, rural water supply, village electrification, schools, primary health centres,etc.

The writer, having been in Government service for some 35 years, is well acquainted with project type of "Aid". Once the project period is completed, there is usually not enough funding (due to budget constraints) to expand the activities or even to carry on with the sustainability of current activities, unless of course the project concerned is high on the priority list of the Government.

With regard to Rural Development Projects, once they are ended, there will not be the same enthusiasm by the project implementers if they have to operate on a shoe string budget. Hence for the projects to be continued full scale by the government (and Rural Development Projects do need to be increasingly implemented) there must be solid and tangible outcomes to convince the peoples' representatives in Parliament as well as the Government to continue with them in full force.

Hence, the writer's suggestion is that the Rural Development Projects should achieve more tangible outcomes on the economic front, like for instance proven higher crop outputs of those given loans/grants, improved village roads for produce transport, communal or cooperative storage and/or marketing arrangements etc.; and on the social front, provision of safe drinking water, electricity where feasible, provision of at least primary school facilities and health care facilities, and so on.

Security upgraded smart card driving license to be issued from 1 July

WITH the supervision of the Ministry of Transport and Communication, Road Transport Administration Department, security upgraded smart card driving license will be issued starting from 1 July.

The Road Transport Administration Department said a total of 17 suspects were apprehended together with fake driving licences making machine that imitate driving licenses in 2018.

Upgraded smart card driving license could not be faked and information about license holder can be checked by a Chip Reader or QR Code Scanner said an official.

Security upgraded smart card driving licenses will be available for new driving license, renewal of old driving license, or replacement for lost driving license according to the Road Transport Administration Department. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 28th June, 2019)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 29th June, 2019: Rain or thundershowers have been isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Naypyitaw, Upper Sagaing Region, Shan, Chin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Kachin State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9-12)feet off and along Myanmar Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th June, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th June, 2019: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29th June, 2019: Likelihood isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, widespread in Yangon Region and isolated in and Mandalay Region.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
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Yangon to start low-cost housing project for squatters in next 3 months

By Nyein Nyein

CONSTRUCTION of low-cost housing for squatters is expected to start within the next three months, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at a media conference following a meeting of the Yangon Region Investment Committee on 26 June.

"We plan to start construction work in the next three months. For the time being, preparations are being made for the project," said U Phyo Min Thein.

"The housing project for unregistered citizens will be conducted by the regional government in partnership with private organizations on state-managed land. The government plans to sell the units to squatters, and those who face accommodation difficulties such as low-income families and pensioners who do not own homes. They will be granted loans to pay for the apartments in instalments. Squatters residing in the units will not be allowed to sell or rent out their apartments," he said.

"A feasibility study on the project has been conducted and workshops have been organized in order to start the project as soon as possible. These are important steps to ensure the project is implemented in a systematic manner. The authorities would like unregistered residents to move into the apartments voluntarily," he added.

"Under the plan, the apartments will be 18 feet wide and 35 feet long. Priority will be given to those who actually need a stable place to live for the first phase," said the Chief Minister.

As part of efforts to implement a resettlement plan for squatters, the regional government had conducted a population survey with the support of civil society organizations. As per the survey, there are over 100,000 squatters across Yangon Region. While 70 per cent of the squatters in the region have smart ID cards, the rest do not have smart cards, the survey showed.

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



File photo shows mine workers working inside a mine. **FILE PHOTO**

Mineral exports down 16% in Oct-June

MYANMAR'S mineral exports in the current 2018-2019 financial year have reached almost US$1.2 billion, a decline of more than $230.2 million, or 16.3 per cent, from the corresponding period in the previous FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported on 28 June.

Between 1 October and 21 June in the current financial year, the public sector mineral exports totalled $389.6 million, a decline of more than $220 million from the same period in the 2017-2018FY. Meanwhile, private sector mineral exports were pegged at $797 million, a drop of over $7 million from the year-ago period.

During the same period in the previous FY, the country's mineral exports had exceeded $1.4 billion, with public sector exports valued at $611 million and private sector exports crossing $800 million.

Forest products and other miscellaneous items have also shown a downward trend in terms of export growth in the current fiscal year. Compared with the previous FY, exports of forest products have declined by $17 million, while shipments of miscellaneous items have dropped by $356 million in the current FY.

During the 2018 mini-budget period (April-September), the country exported mineral products worth $1.034 billion.

As per the ministry's yearly trade report, Myanmar's mineral exports were valued at $1.010 billion in the 2016-2017FY, $968 million in the 2015-2016FY, $1.498 billion in the 2014-2015FY, $1.339 billion in the 2013-2014FY, $399 million in the 2012-2013FY, and $897 million in the 2011-2012FY.

Myanmar exports minerals mainly to China and Thailand.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

YRIC nods to 7 foreign projects worth $9.3 mln, one domestic proposal worth K2.5 bln

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Investment Committee has endorsed seven foreign proposals with estimated capital of US$9.3 million and one domestic project worth K2.5 billion during a meeting held last Wednesday. The projects are expected to create 3,174 jobs, according to a press release issued by the committee.

Since its establishment, YRIC has approved 230 domestic and foreign businesses in the manufacturing, hotels, and other services sectors from China, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, Hong Kong, the Republic of Korea, Viet Nam, India, China (Taipei), Malaysia, the British Virgin Islands, and Seychelles.

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year (August-March), YRIC allowed 39 foreign businesses and 9 domestic firms to invest in Yangon Region, with capitals of $56.6 million and K23.06 billion, creating 22,481 jobs.

During the mini-budget period (April-October, 2018), YRIC permitted 44 projects, 34 foreign and 10 domestic, with a total pledged amount of $72.52 million and K21.2 billion. A total of 21,173 jobs emerged from those projects.

Between 1 October and 26 June in the 2018-2019FY, YRIC has granted 113 foreign and 17 domestic projects, with capitals of $190.48 million and K33.97 billion, creating over 67,542 jobs. In the current fiscal year, the manufacturing sector has received capital expansion of $10.9 million, while domestic investments of K479.98 million have downed in the sector.

The manufacturing sector accounts for the largest share of foreign investments in Yangon Region.

Those enterprises are engaged in manufacturing of pharmaceuticals, vehicles, container boxes, and garments on Cutting, Making and Packing (CMP) basis.

At present, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of foreign investments. Mandalay attracts 30 per cent of investments. Other regions and states get only a small portion of investments, according to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

The Myanmar Investment Law allows the Region and State Investment Committees to endorse local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K6 billion, or $5 million, with the aim of simplifying the verification of investment projects. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

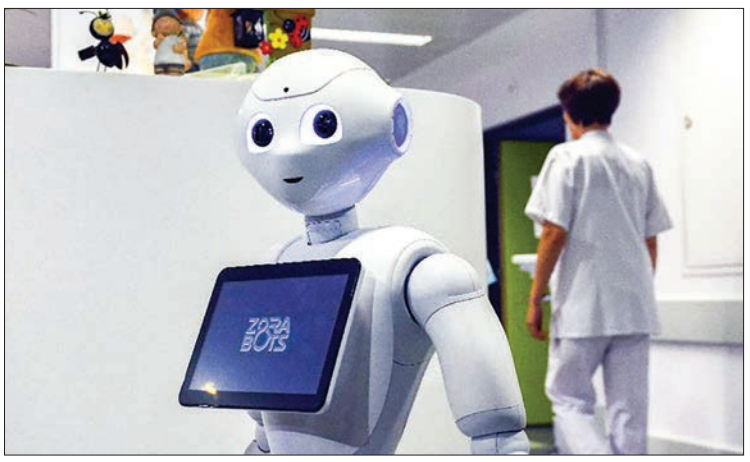
Robots to replace 20 mln manufacturing jobs by 2030: British think tank

LONDON — Up to 20 million manufacturing jobs will be lost by 2030 due to the accelerating usage of robots across the world, according to a report issued by Oxford Economics, a British think tank.

The think tank found that around 1.7 million manufacturing jobs have already been lost to robots since 2000, including around 400,000 in Europe, 260,000 in the US, and 550,000 in China.

Oxford Economics stated "the rate of 'robotization' is increasing rapidly: Since 2010, the global stock of industrial robots has more than doubled."

The study showed each new robot installation could displace on average 1.6 manufacturing workers.



The robot Pepper during a press conference at the CHR Citadel hospital centers of Liege on 13 June, 2016. **PHOTO: AFP**

Oxford Economics said that the use of robots in services industries will accelerate sharply in the next five years, meanwhile logistics, healthcare, retail, hospitality, and transport sectors will also be affected greatly.

On the meantime, robot usage will lead to millions of new jobs being created throughout all sectors and improve productivity growth, study showed.

"Across the world, we find that a 1 per cent increase in the stock of robots per manufacturing worker leads to a 0.1 per cent boost to productivity, measured by output per worker — enough to drive meaningful growth," study said.

Oxford Economics' Global Economic Model showed a 30 per cent rise in robot installations by 2030 would bring a 5.3 per cent boost to global GDP, compared with its current forecast. — Xinhua ■

Controversial S America-Europe trade deal 'up in the air'

BRUSSELS — A blockbuster trade deal between Europe and South America remained uncertain on Thursday as key negotiators tried to clinch a breakthrough and deliver a blow against Trump-led protectionism.

Ministers from the South American trade bloc known as Mercosur were locked into a second day of negotiations with top EU officials in hopes of sealing what would be one of the world's biggest regional trade deals.

The EU has been in talks with the countries of Mercosur (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) for two decades, with talks stumbling repeatedly over the highly sensitive beef market, with cattle farmers in Europe furiously against any deal.

"A political agreement today or tomorrow is possible... There may also be no agreement at all. It's still up in the air," said a source close to the negotiations.

An EU spokeswoman told reporters there have been "constructive exchanges", but refused to comment further given the sensitivity of the talks.

Anticipation of a potential deal comes amid increased political opposition in Europe, with beef farmers joined by activists in demanding an immediate halt to talks over Brazil's deforestation of the rainforests. Amid the growing uproar, cracks have emerged among European governments with the leaders of France, Ireland, Belgium and Poland expressing their concerns for farming to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. Pro-trade members meanwhile have staunchly backed the deal, with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday insisting that a deal would boost Europe's economy and ultimately benefit the rainforests in Brazil.

"The political context is quite charged in Europe. The anti-trade rhetoric is strong in many countries, including pro-trade ones," said an EU diplomat.

The tricky discussions could also continue at the leader level at the two-day G20 summit in Osaka, Japan where Merkel was set to meet Brazil's President JairBolsonaro.

The increasingly acrimonious debate resembled the push-back against a highly ambitious trade deal with the United States, known as TTIP, that triggered mass protests in Germany, Austria and France a few years ago.

The main obstacle since 1999 has been European reluctance to open its market to beef and other farming goods and more recently differences have emerged with Brazil over trading meat, sugar and automobiles. —AFP ■



European farmers' fears of a flood of imported beef have been one reason the EU and the Mercosur countries haven't been able to agree a trade deal over two decades. **PHOTO: AFP**



IBM's tie-up with Red Hat will be one of the biggest tech mergers ever. **PHOTO: AFP**

EU okays IBM's $34 bn buyout of Red Hat

BRUSSELS — The EU's powerful anti-trust authority cleared the buyout by IBM of open source software company Red Hat, one of the biggest tech mergers in history which the computing giant said would enhance its cloud offerings.

"The European Commission has approved unconditionally ... the proposed acquisition of Red Hat by IBM, both information technology companies based in the US," a statement from the EU executive said.

"The Commission concluded that the transaction would raise no competition concerns," it added.

The commission, the guardian of competition in the EU, took very little time to authorise the operation and has not demanded any concessions from the companies.

If approved by authorities worldwide, the tie-up will be the third biggest tech merger in history, according to CNBC. Red Hat said it was the biggest involving a software company.

Cloud computing refers to the delivery of computing services over the internet, including storage and software, and is considered fundamental to a highly connected world.

The EU's anti-trust teams have taken close looks at tech mergers, including Facebook's buyout of WhatsApp, in which the social network was fined in 2017 for failing to provide correct information.

Brussels' bans on mergers are extremely rare: since the arrival of European Competition Commissioner MargretheVestager at the end of 2014, there have only been six.

Once known primarily for its computer hardware, IBM has made cloud computing a priority in its growth strategy, like Amazon and Microsoft.

Red Hat will continue to operate as a separate unit led by its current management team.

Founded in 1993, Red Hat launched its famous version of Linux OS a year later, becoming a pioneering proponent of the open source movement that arose to counter giants like Microsoft whose models were based on keeping their source code secret.

The Raleigh, North Carolina based company is today present in 35 countries and employs some 12,000 people, and is one of the best-known open-source players whose customers pay for tailor-made solutions. —AFP ■

Juneyao Air opens Shanghai-Helsinki direct air route

SHANGHAI — Juneyao Air opened Shanghai-Helsinki direct air route Friday, providing non-stop intercontinental flight service with wide-body aircraft.

The new direct air route will offer more flexible and convenient flight experience to passengers, Juneyao Air said.

The round-trip direct flight service is carried by B787 wide-body aircraft each day, linking Shanghai in east China with the capital of the Nordic country Finland. Juneyao Air and Finnair have code-share cooperation on both the Shanghai-Helsinki intercontinental route and their domestic routes respectively in China and Finland.

Headquartered in Shanghai, Juneyao Air is a private Chinese airline. It operates a total of more than 140 domestic and international air routes.

In 2018, the airline provided air services to more than 18 million passengers.— Xinhua ■

G-20 leaders wary of trade war sapping potential for global growth

OSAKA — Many leaders of the Group of 20 major economies on Friday expressed concerns over an escalating trade war between the United States and China, identifying it as a serious downside risk to the global economy, along with geopolitical tensions in the Middle East.

On the first day of their two-day summit in Osaka, the leaders assessed the status of the global economy while skepticism persists over whether they can jointly uphold the rules-based, multilateral trading system.

"Concerns were expressed by many countries about heightened trade tensions," a senior Japanese government official said.

The G-20 shared the need to promote global growth at a time of downside risks, the official added. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, hosting the summit, faces the task of projecting a united G-20 front despite disagreements over contentious issues such as trade and climate change.



Leaders from the Group of 20 nations pose for a photo during their two-day meeting in Osaka on 28 June, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

The G-20 dropped its signature pledge to fight protectionism in the previous meeting last year in Argentina as US President Donald Trump has pushed his "America First" agenda and shied away from multilateral arrangements. "We should send out a strong message," Abe said as he opened this year's G-20 leaders' discussions.

Abe said he is "deeply concerned" about the current global trade situation, saying restrictive measures will not benefit any country, in an apparent reference to tit-for-tat tariff hikes by the United States and China.

At the summit that will also address environmental issues, the G-20 leaders are expected to agree to end the discharge of plastic waste in the world's oceans by 2050, sources familiar with the matter said Friday. The goal will likely be included in a post-meeting joint statement.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, speaking at a press conference in the western Japan city, acknowledged that it will be "very difficult to have a breakthrough in relation to some of the most difficult challenges that the international community is facing."

Other heads of international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization, as well as nearly 10 invited countries including Singapore and Thailand, are also participating at the G-20 summit.

Bilateral talks scheduled for Saturday between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping have already gripped the G-20, as the tariff battle between the world's two largest economies has threatened to darken the economic outlook given the integrated nature of global supply chains.— Kyodo News ■

Japan, US affirm alliance after Trump revives security treaty flak

OSAKA — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Donald Trump agreed Friday to bolster the "unwavering" bilateral alliance after Trump earlier revived his criticism of what he sees as a one-sided security treaty.

Meeting for the third month in a row and just ahead of the two-day Group of 20 summit in Osaka, the two leaders also agreed to work closely in dealing with regional issues such as North Korea and accelerate ongoing bilateral trade talks to achieve results at "an early date," according to a Japanese government official.

"These frequent visits between the leaders in such a short period of time are evidence of the robust Japan-US alliance," Abe said at the outset of their meeting.

While the two leaders have been known for enjoying personal rapport, Japanese and US government officials have recently been scrambling to deny a report by Bloomberg news agency earlier this week that Trump mused to confidants about withdrawing from the security treaty, a key part of the postwar Japan-US-relationship.

Trump even appeared to double down on his arguments when he openly showed his discontent with the treaty on Wednesday on Fox Business Network. "If Japan is attacked, we will fight World War III. We will go in and we will protect them and we will fight with our lives and with our treasure...but if we're attacked, Japan doesn't have to help us at all. They can watch it on a Sony television, the attack," he said.



(l-r) US President Donald Trump, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and China's President Xi Jinping attend a meeting at the G20 Summit in Osaka 28 on June, 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

The remarks are similar to those Trump voiced during the 2016 presidential campaign, but political observers have speculated that the reason he may have revived the argument was to gain leverage over the trade negotiations by reminding Japan of its heavy reliance on defense.

In the latest effort to play down the concerns, Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasutoshi Nishimura, who briefed reporters on the Abe-Trump meeting, said, "There were no such discussions at all on reviewing the Japan-U.S. security treaty."

"The two leaders agreed to further strengthen the unwavering Japan-US alliance," he added. But at the same time Nishimura admitted that Abe did not ask Trump directly about his intentions behind the remarks criticizing the long-standing treaty. The White House separately said they "confirmed their intent to deepen and expand US-Japan alliance cooperation around the globe."

The security pact requires the United States to come to the defense of Japan in the event of an attack. Around 50,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Japan, which has renounced war under its postwar Constitution, enabling the United States to respond rapidly to contingencies in the Asia-Pacific region, including North Korea.

During the 35-minute talks with Trump, Abe also called for diplomatic efforts among relevant parties to ease rising tensions in the Middle East stemming from the confrontation between the United States and Iran over a global nuclear deal reached in 2015.

With Japan long enjoying amicable ties with Iran, Abe made a two-day visit there earlier in the month in an apparent bid to serve as a bridge between Washington and Tehran.

But tensions spiked after two oil tankers, one operated by a Japanese company, were attacked near the Strait of Hormuz, a critical route for oil shipments from the region. Trump also came close to launching a military strike against Iran, which downed a US drone last week. — Kyodo News ■

Two die in Spanish heat as France braces for 45 degrees

PARIS — Temperatures in France are expected to hit a record high on Friday, as Europe swelters in a heatwave blamed for several deaths, including a 17-year-old farm worker in Spain.

The Spanish teenager felt dizzy while helping harvest wheat in the southern Andalusia region.

After a dip in a swimming pool to cool off, he collapsed with convulsions and was rushed to hospital in the town of Cordoba where he later died, the regional government said.

Elsewhere in Spain, a 93-year-old man collapsed and died on the street in the northern city of Valladolid, police said, who gave heatstroke as the cause of death.

Heat-related deaths have also been reported in Italy, France and Germany, mainly among the elderly. France was bracing for what could be the hottest day in its history on Friday — an extraordinary event for June. Temperatures are forecast to reach 45 degrees Celsius in the south, beating the current record of 44.1 degrees dating to the catastrophic heatwave of August 2003.—AFP ■



Realme C2 sales launches

Realme C2 Fresh Experience Party was held at the Lottee Hotel in Yangon on 19 June, 2019.

At the party, Realme introduced its brand messages and its products realme C2 Diamond Design, Budget King.

Sales of Realme C2 was launched on 25 June at the mobile shops nationwide.

Realme C2 has become the new budget king owing to its massive battery, a lively HD+ display screen and a powerful octa-core MediaTek processor. Realme C2 has become the new budget king owing to its massive battery, a lively HD+ display screen and a powerful octa-core MediaTek processor. — GNLM

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Casabella's 26th anniversary mid-year sale on 22 June 2019 at Casabella Luxury Home Furnishing Center. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Remains of Genoa bridge to be demolished on Friday

GENOA — The two remaining towers of the motorway bridge in the Italian city Genoa that collapsed nearly a year go killing 43 people are to be demolished on Friday to make way for a new structure, authorities said.

The remains of the Morandi bridge are to be detonated at 9:00 am (0700 GMT), with nearly 4,000 local residents evacuated, the city authorities said.

Explosives have been attached to the legs of the towers and the parts of the bridge still standing and experts estimated that the detonation of the 4,500-tonne concrete and metal structure would last six or seven seconds.

Water tanks have been placed around the towers to prevent the spread of dust. Italy's Deputy Prime Ministers Matteo Salvini and Luigi Di Maio are expected to attend.

The dismantling of the remains of the bridge, which collapsed in bad weather on August 14, 2018, started in February.

The disaster threw the spotlight on Italy's creaking infrastructure.

Local residents expressed relief that the eyesore would finally be gone, but were also concerned about the possible consequences of the detonation.

The bridge "is high, it is big, it is full of iron, it is super heavy... I don't know what will happen when it falls. Apart from the dust it will cause, I am worried about the impact," local resident Francesco Russo told AFP TV.

Following the demolition, officials are expected to welcome a ship that will arrive in the city's port transporting the first parts of a new bridge, the construction of which is scheduled to begin next year.

The government has promised that the new steel and concrete motorway bridge, designed by Italian architect Renzo Piano, will be open for traffic in April 2020.—AFP ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE
Invitation to Bid for purchasing of 1040 MW from Gas Engine Power Plant/ Power Barge/ Power Ship on Independent Power Producer and Build-Operate-Own Basis

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing of electricity 1040 MW from the **Gas Engine Power Plant/Power Barge/Power Ship** on Independent Power Producer and Build-Operate-Own (IPP/BOO) basis as follow.

		Location	**Size(MW)**	Remark
Lot 1	Package-1	Kyun Chaung	20	Gas (Pass Through basis)
	Package-2	Ahlone	120	
		Location	**Size(MW)**	
Lot-2	Package-3	Kyauk Phyu	150	LNG to Power
	Package-4	Thanlyin	350	
	Package-5	Tharketa	400	

2. The concession period shall be **5 years (five)** years from commercial operation date (COD).
3. The Tender Form for each package can be purchased at Procurement Department, Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar within office hour from the tender announced date. The Tender Form fees for each package is as follow;
   - Package -1 Myanmar Kyat **300,000**/- (Myanmar Kyat three hundred thousand only)
   - Package -2 and 3 Myanmar Kyat **400,000**/- (Myanmar Kyat four hundred thousand only)
   - Package - 4 and 5 Myanmar Kyat **500,000**/- (Myanmar Kyat five hundred thousand only)
4. Site Visit will be conducted for package 2,3,4 and 5. The tentative date for site visit is July 6 and 7, 2019.
5. The bid submission date is 29th July, 2019 at [14:00] hr. Myanmar Standard Time.
6. The bidders shall make the proposals in accordance with the **Invitation for Bid and Supplemental Request for Proposal (SRFP)**. Bidder's Proposals must be submitted at the address on time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.
7. The necessary information of this tender can be inquired within office hour.

Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw
Ph +95 67 8104282

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (127 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (127 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-06-2019 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (924S/926E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC DHAKA VOY. NO. (924S/926E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SIBI

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SIBI VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-06-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of WILMAR 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 BEN LINE AGENCIES (SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Two Sacred Stupas built in **Konbaung** Dynasty

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

UNTIL now, there still can be seen two prominent stupas under the names of Pahtodawgyi, which were religious edifices of Konbaung Era's architectural artifacts, in Mingun of Sagaing township and in Amarapura. The Mingun Pahtodawgyi built by Bodawpaya (also known as Badon King—1782-1819) did not come into its completion while the Amarapura Pahtodawgyi was built by Bagyidaw Sagaing King (1819-1837). During the excursion trip of the Royal Bells donated by Kings of Konbaung Dynasty, the writer arrived in Sagaing and Amarapura, where the Royal Bell donated by Bodawpaya "Badon King" was found in the campus of Aungmyay Loka Ceti with the Phahtodawgyi Bell donated by Bagyidaw Sagaing King seen nearby the Pahtodawgyi Ceti in Amarapura.

Sagaing and Amarapura

Sagaing and Amarapura, the ancient cities of Upper Myanmar, are situated on each side of the Ayeyawady River. On the west bank of the Ayeyawady River Sagaing is situated. The River is flowing from north to south, turning westwards just at the south of Sagaing and happening to look like embracing the town. Hence, the riverine Sagaing is metaphorically called ဇေယျာကမ်းအလှပန်းချီ-"a painting which reflects the riverine beauty of Zeyar." Sagaing is 12 miles far from the west of Mandalay, situated at the lower part of the Minwun mountain range.

After the downfall of Bagan Dynasty, Saw Yun of Shan Ethnic Origin, the youngest one out of three sons of King Taseeshin Thihathu who founded Pinya Kingdom built Sagaing Kingdom in 677 M.E (AD 1315), ruling Sagaing & its northern part under the name of the King Thiri Athinkhaya/Sri Asinkra. The year of establishment of Sagaing Kingdom had been noted in memorable phrases: "သားတိုးတိုင်း-စစ်ကိုင်းတည်" and "သံတံတိုင်း-စစ်ကိုင်းတည်" which are meant for "Sagaing was built in 677 ME." The then area of Sagaing which King Athinkhaya Saw Yun built was originally only 833 cubits, but its present area developed into the one of 485.6 square miles, in which a population of over 70000 is residing.

Sagaing Kingdom had been ruled by 7 kings of the dynasty for some 50 years—8 years ruled by Athinkhaya Saw Yun, 14 years by elder brother named Tayartphyar, for 3 years by Tayartphyar's son called Shwe Taung Tet, for 10 years by Athinkhaya's son King Kyaw Swar, for 7 months by younger brother Nawrahta Minye, for 3 years by younger brother Sinphyushin Tayartphyarnge and for 13 years by King Min Pyauk respectively.

Likewise the Mingun, the Great Bell and Mingun Pahtodawgyi in Mingun Area situated at 12 miles far from north of Sagaing, it became prominent as a royal city which lasted for 50 years.

Amarapura built by King Bodawpaya in May 1783 had been the Royal City for two times—from AD 1783 to 1823 under the reign of Bodawpaya & from 1837 to 1857 in the rule of Tharawady. On account of the urban regeneration and urban sprawl of the modern urbanization, Amarapura which is only 6.8 miles far from Mandalay is now becoming the adjoining area with the latter.

Being situated at the south of Mandalay, Amarapura is also called "South City". It is famous for the production of silken-ware and brass-ware. In addition, U Pein Bridge (alias) Taungthaman Bridge is a renowned site of tourist attraction. The 6-furlong-long bridge made up of 984 teak posts had been built across the Taungthaman Lake by U Pein, the clerk of city viceroy office under the command of Baganmin, 9th King of Konbaung Dynasty, reaching its completion in the year, 1851.

Mingun Pahtodawgyi

In ME 1152 (AD 1790), Bodawpaya (Badon King) who founded Amarapura had Mingun Pahtodawgyi built. Especially paying attention to prosperity of his kingdom and propagation of religious affairs in the land, he made concerted efforts for the restoration of Aung Pinle and Nanda Lakes and new embankment of Meikhtila Lke. In his reign, he had statistical analysis renowned as 'Bodawpaya Sittam' collected across his kingdom, which was a kind of present days' demography.

According to the Shwetaik Original Scroll, Mingun Pahtodawgyi which deeply pious King Bodawpaya built has been learnt to have 293 cubits in diameter and 352 cubits in height whereas in the stone inscription of Mingun Pahtodawgyi (Mingun Pahtodawgyi 2nd stone inscription No-221, Maha Muni Pagoda stone inscription building of Mandalay, it has been described that the measurement of Pahtodawgyi is u300 cubits and 2 mai (one mai is equal to 6 inches), from the square-built bottom of the pagoda to its first terrace.

Nine years after Bodawpaya ascended the throne, the biggest religious edifice of Pahtodawgyi in his territory was built up in Mingun region. Though intended to be built up to 500 feet in height, the pagoda had collapsed at the height of 160 ft, Dr. Than Tun, the historian, wrote.

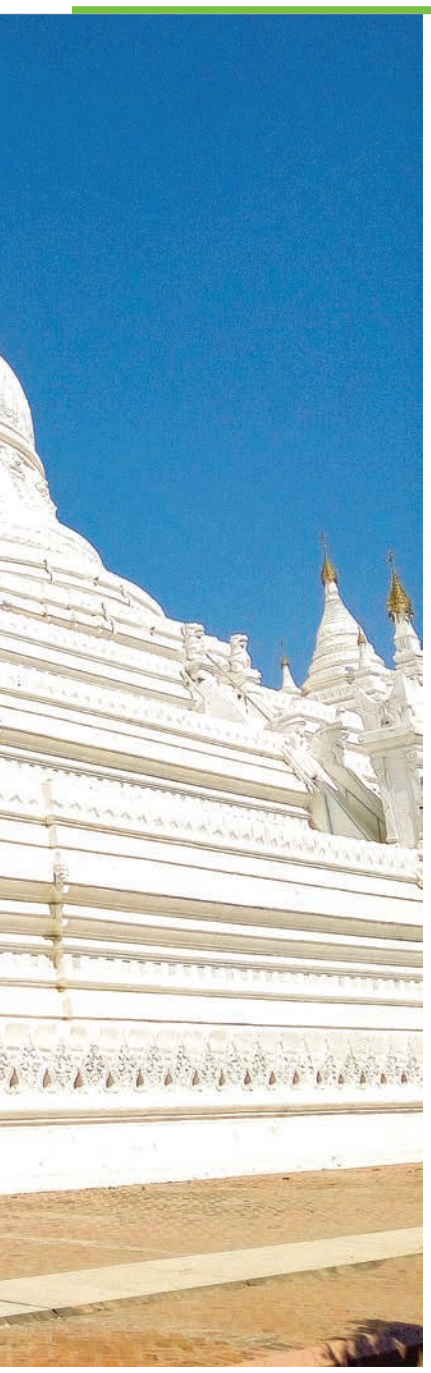
According to unconfirmed sources, the construction of the pagoda is presumed to have been suspended in 1174 ME on account of random utterances interpret-



Taungthaman Pahtodaw



Taungthaman Pahtodaw bell.



ed as prophecy, "ကြီးလေးကြီး-အပြီးမသတ်-မုဆိုး သုံညအပ်." Here, ကြီးလေးကြီး means Pahtodawgyi, Great Bell, Great Lion Statue and Great Lake. The scholars construed the random utterance that the King will meet the demise if the King had managed to finish the construction of the pagoda. However, in AD 1819 Bodawpaya passed away, without finishing the construction of the pagoda.

Bodawpaya built up a replica of Mingun Pahtodawgyi simultaneously. The pagoda of 15 feet in height has been named as Naungdawgyi Ceti. Prior to finishing the construction of Pahtodawgyi, the holy 'Anaykaja Mingalar Ceremony' of the Replica was held. By looking at the Replica Ceti all can imagine and worship the real image of the Pahtodawgyi that we will see if the construction had been completed. With a view to hoping for age-long conservation, pilgrims are not allowed to climb up any longer.

By hanging nearby Pahtodawgyi, Bodawpaya donated Mingun Great Bell which is renowned as the biggest one among the sound-producing bells of the world. The great bell had been cast in Nandawkyun, weighing some 55555 viss (equivalent to 90.52 tons.) The weight of the Great Bell has been recorded as "မင်းဖြူမှုန်မှုန်ပြော" with 5 alphabets representing for Thursday—Pa,Pha, Ba, Bha, Ma--ပ, ဖ, ဗ, ဘ, မ, so that people can easily memorize its weight.

Amarapura Pahtodawgyi

The real name of Pahtodawgyi situated in the southwest of Amarapura is 'Maha Vajaya Ramsi' but it is well-known as 'Seekhontaw Pahtodawgyi. Nowadays, it is accessible to pilgrims by going along the 'Hsutaungpyae' road in Amarapura, and crossing the 'Shwegugyi' pagoda compound, from thence going past the rail track at the end of the compound.

On 7th June 1819 Bagyidaw Sagaing King succeeded to the throne of Bodawpaya Badon King, doing meritorious deeds. King Badon donated by constructing 'Haymamarlar Ceti' and the Monasteries in the days of his Crown Prince-hood. But, the said Ceti and monasteries burned to the ground. So, the King Sagaing intended to build a Ceti in the original 'Mango Grove / Thayet Uyindaw'.

Bagyidaw Sagaing King himself had broken ground to build Ceylon/ Sri Lanka's Maha Ceti-like 'Seekhontaw Ceti' on the open space of 2800 cubits at the southwest of Amarapura Palace on full moon day of Tagu Month following the new year day, ME 1181 (on Tuesday, 28th March AD 1820.)

There were terracotta rings of Bagan Era's handiwork installed around the first terrace of Pahtodawgyi Ceti, with titles and their respective short stories included in 550 short stories of Buddha Life on the slaps of marble around the 2nd terrace & 'Sambuddhay Buddha Images sculpted on the 3rd terrace. The Original Holy Umbrella of Pahtodawgyi was the golden one with 9 tiers. Its height is 18 cubits and its diameter is 12 cubits.

Relics of Pahtodawgyi had been said to have been enshrined in 4 big repositories and 12 small ones. The bottom of Pahtodawgyi is 120 cubits in diameter and the height of the Ceti is also 120 cubits.

Location of the Amarapura Pahtodawgyi is one of the 7 royal co-existing places—royal city, royal moat, royal palace, royal religious edifice, royal lake, royal cave and royal repository of the Buddhist scriptures, it was said.

Holy Umbrella of Pahtodawgyi and Earthquakes

On Friday, 22nd March 1839 (8th Waxing day of Tagu Month after the new year of ME 1200 a strong earthquake struck Sagaing, making the holy umbrella of 'Maha Vijaya Ramsi Oahtodawgyi fall down on to the ground. Thus, the Ceti had been void of the holy umbrella for 34 years. According to Myanmar Encyclopedia, it was learnt that King Mindon had the new umbrella of 13 cubits one htwa/ 9 inches in height and 9 cubits 2 mai / 12 inches=1 foot in diameter hoisted in ME 1234.

Professor Dr. Than Tun, the historian wrote in his book, 'Environs of Taungthaman Lake and the historical sites that the expenditure list for repairs and hoisting the umbrella by King Tharyawady has been found. In that book it was also recorded that King Tharyawady, younger brother of Bagyidaw King Sagaing had a new holy umbrella hoisted at Maha Vijaya Ramsi Pahtodawgyi built by his elder brother, in ME 1297.

Due to the earthquake which struck in ME 1274, the holy umbrella hoisted by King Mindon fell down to the ground. Thus, it was void of the umbrella for 7 years.

The holy umbrella hoisted by townspeople in Amarapura in ME 1281 was ruined by the quake which struck in July 1956, with 'from part of the pagoda immediately below the finial when its its shape resembles the fruit of the Indian medlar tree up to part of a Ceti resembling an inverted lotus flower collapsing. In 1959, Bamar Khit U Ohn Khin and wife Daw Khin Khin Lay had a new holy umbrella at the Pahtodawgyi hoisted.

Pahtodawgyi Great Bell

At the north-east of Maha Vijaya Ramsi Pahodawgyi , there can be seen a great bell hung on two 5- feet-wide square-built brick posts. The Great Bell was donated by Bagyidaw King Sagaing on Tuesday, 13th March 1828 (13th Waning day of Tabaung 1189 ME. Its weight is 1500 viss of pure brass with 5 cubits in diameter and 5 cubits 2 mai / 12 inches in height. In a fetal position on the bell, images of a lion were cast. The Great Bell was named as 'Maha May Yu Makudaghanda Yarza.'

According to the present measurements, it is 8 feet 8 inches in diameter and 7 feet 4 inches in its interior diameter of the bell's mouth. The interior height of the bell is 6 feet 1 inch and it thickness 8 inches. The inscriptions on the bell were written around the bell at the place 29 inches each far from up and bottom, by U Nu, Wetmasook Viceroy who was famous as the 2nd Nawaday.

It is regrettable that we no longer can read the bell inscriptions to the full, due to randomly written sketches and letters on the bell in correction pens, as against the warning not to do so. it is essential for us to understand the value of antiques of historical heritage.

The two kings of Konbaung Dynasty—royal father King Badon & royal son King Sagaing donated one Pahtodawgyi Ceti and one Great Bell on each side of Ayeyawady River, leaving heritages of Konbaung Era to us, hence the need for us to eternally conserve the historical heritages, hand in hand with each other.



Mingun Pahtodawgyi

Reference:

Myanmar Encyclopedia (volume 6)

Taungthaman Wunkyin & Thamaingwun Nayyarmyar (Ko Pyinnya-Amarapura)

Win Dwe Hnint Tee Khe Thee Min Nay Pyi (Natmauk Tun Shein)

Translated by Khin Maung Oo



Yangon United's defender Nan Wai Min takes his training ahead of match against Hantharwady United on 29 July. **PHOTO:YUFC**

Match against Hantharwady crucial for standing table top spot: Nan Wai Min

THE match between Yangon United and Hantharwady United, scheduled to take place at 3.30 p.m. today at the Grand Royal stadium in Bago, will be crucial for both teams as it will decide which team will lead the Myanmar National League standing table, said Yangon United defender Nan Wai Min.

Hantharwady United is leading the MNL standing table with 25 points from 13 matches played. Yangon is a close second with 24 points. Commenting on the much-anticipated match, Yangon defender Nan Wai Min said: "There is a very narrow difference in points between the two teams. So, the match is really important for us, and it promises to be a thrilling one."

"We will lead the table if we win. Thus, the match will be worth watching," the defender added. "We will try our best to take all three points, even though we will be playing against a strong and well-prepared team in their home stadium," he said.

Speaking about the opposing team, he said: "They have performed really well in this season of the national league, displaying good organization with foreign and local talent. I know that playing in their home stadium will be a good challenge for us as they will perform their best in front of their fans." He asked fans to come and support Yangon United "like in the last match against Shan United".

"And the fans who are away can enjoy the match on TV," he said.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

MFF Warrix Futsal Cup 2019 begins today in Mandalay

The MFF Warrix Futsal Cup 2019 will kick off today with GV Athletic taking on Dream Team F.C. in the opening match. A total of 41 teams are competing in the event, which is scheduled to be held at the Mandalar Thiri Indoor Stadium in Mandalay.

The opening ceremony of the tourney will start at 8 a.m. The drawing ceremony for the cup was held on Thursday at the Myanmar National Football Academy in Mandalay, during which, the participating teams were divided into ten groups (A-J).

Group A comprises five teams, while the remaining groups have four teams each.

The tournament will conclude on 16 July.

The winning team will get a trophy and K3 million, while the second placed team will receive K2 million, the third placed team will get K1 million, and the fourth placed team K500,000, according to the tourney's organizers. Players from the top three teams will also be awarded medals.

The cleanest team will get a medal and prize of K300,000, and the best goalkeeper will be awarded K200,000.

The daily entrance fee for the matches has been set at K500, according to the tourney's organizers.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



AC Milan banned from Europe for financial fair play violations



AC Milan's Turkish midfielder Hakan Calhanoglu (left) and AC Milan's Polish forward Krzysztof Piatek (right) walk with AC Milan's Italian defender Ignazio Abate after Abate played his last match with the club at the end of the Italian Serie A football match AC Milan vs Frosinone on May 19, 2019 at the San Siro stadium in Milan. **PHOTO : AFP**

LAUSANNE — AC Milan were banned from European football for next season on Friday over breaches of financial fair play rules, CAS, the top court for sport, announced.

European football's governing body UEFA had accused the club of violating financial fair play (FFP) regulations over the past three seasons and the Court of Arbitration for Sport ruled in their favour. "AC Milan is excluded from participating in UEFA club competitions of the sporting season 2019/2020 as a consequence of the breach of its FFP break-even obligations" for the past three seasons, the court ruled.

UEFA initially found the Italian giants, who had qualified for the Europa League next season, guilty in June last year of violating financial rules which broadly limit club expenditure to club income in any given year.

However, CAS referred the matter back to UEFA judging that an European ban was disproportionate. Ultimately UEFA action against the club was suspended pending the outcome of arbitration, resulting in Friday's decision following agreement between UEFA, the club and CAS.

The announcement follows the club's adoption of spending curbs in recent months designed to return its finances to a better state and which saw the departure of coach Gennaro Gattuso.

The Serie A giants, who missed out on a Champions League spot by one point to city rivals Inter, are one of several clubs, including Paris Saint-Germain and Manchester City, to have been investigated for breaching UEFA's rules, whereby clubs cannot spend more than they generate by their own means. AC Milan have fallen foul of UEFA's financial rules since they spent 200 million euros ($225 million) on transfers in the summer of 2017.

The club insist however that their finances should improve under American hedge fund Elliott Management Corporation, who took control last summer when former Chinese owner Li Yonghong defaulted on the loan he had taken to buy the club in 2017 from former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi.—AFP