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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor receives PRC Special Envoy

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Mr Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 September 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy for Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China, at 2 pm on 13 September 2019 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to recent developments in the peace and national reconciliation process and China's continued constructive support provided to the Myanmar government's endeavours. — MNA ■

Myanmar observes 7th Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

THE 7th Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day was held at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Celebration of this event was started in 2013 although Myanmar enacted the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law on 13th September 2005.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivered a speech at the ceremony, saying that trafficking in persons was a form for human right abuse with brutal exploitation among human beings; it could be seen in various forms across the world while the impact was more severe in economically less developed countries.

The Global Report on Trafficking in Persons 2018 released by the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) indicated that the overall number of reported trafficking victims has increased. The report added Myanmar in the country list of the East Asia and Pacific region.

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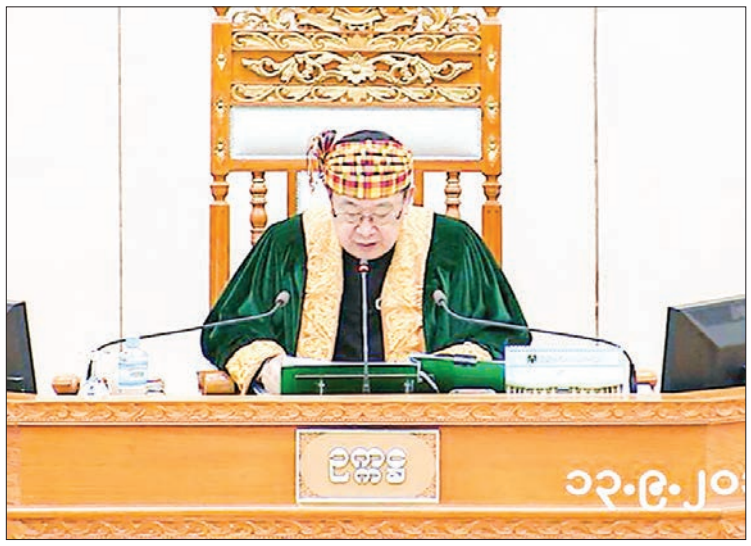
20th-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session held

THE 20th-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning where a motion urging the Union Government to produce experts in natural environment conservation subject, systematically expand the organization of Environmental Conservation Department down to district and township level and to raise the work momentum of the ministry's work processes to achieve success tabled by U Nay Htet Win of Sinbaungwe constituency was debated by Hluttaw representatives and approved.



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

Motion on natural environment conservation

The motion was first discussed by U Win Win of Minbu constituency, U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency, Dr U Khin Maung Thin of Ayadaw constituency, U Min Naung of Pinlebu constituency, U Myint Oo of Magway constituency, Daw Mi Kun Chan of Paung constituency, U Phone Myint Aung of DaikU constituency, U Myint Ngwe of Kyaukkyi constituency, U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency, U Aung Thike of Seikpyu constituency and U Saw Victor Clyde of Thandaunggyi constituency.

In his discussion Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe said that in Fiscal Year 2018-2019 13 district and one township offices were opened in Kachin, Mon, Rakhine, and Shan states and Taninthayi, Bago and Ayeyawady regions. In 2019 September five district offices were opened in Mandalay and Sagaing regions. Arrangements were made to open 15 district offices and 8 township offices during FY 2019-2020. As per the five years program lands for 38 district offices and 89 township offices were being coordinated with relevant state and region governments and land for 22 district offices and 32 township offices were already obtained said the Deputy Minister.

Funds to employ personnel to full strength in Environmental Conservation Department and to open district and township offices was being requested in the yearly budget and will be implemented according to funding obtained. Personnel on Environmental Conservation Department as well as representatives from related ministries were being sent to local and foreign long and short term courses, workshops, discussions and meetings to raise their capacity and to produce experts in natural environment conservation subject.

Environmental Conservation Department and World Bank were coordinating toward opening a training center to raise environmental conservation and social protection capacity and during the first year of the three year project Dam Safety Training Workshop, Land Acquisition and Resettlement training and Community Health and Safety training were conducted.

In addition to this, to raise capacity and develop human resources arrangements to draw up a human resources development strategy with the technical assistance of UNDP was being conducted and as a first step Capacity Needs Assessment was conducted. Based on this the strategy will be drawn up. Arrangements were also being made in cooperation with international organizations to continue sending trainees. As the Environmental Conservation Department was being systematically expanded and works continued for the success of the work processes the motion should be approved explained the Deputy Minister. As U Nay Htet Win want the motion to be approved and there was no objection from the Hluttaw toward it, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the Hluttaw's approval of the motion.

Question and answer session

In the question and answer session, a question by Dr U Aung Naing of Thabeikkyin constituency on removing forest land that were in the lands of villages in Thabeikkyin Township, Ohn one Village Tract was answered by Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Ye Myint Swe.

A question raised by U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency on payment of unpaid construction charges incurred by companies for No 1 Steel Mill (Myingyan) and No 2 Steel Mill (Pang Pet) was answered by Deputy Minister for Industry Dr Min Ye Paing Hein.

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Second Amyotha Hluttaw 13th regular session holds 20th-day meeting

AT the 20th-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning where asterisk marked questions were raised and answered, a bill and a report discussed and a report read and submitted.

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

Asterisk marked questions

In the asterisk marked question and answer session U Aye Min Han of Mon State constituency 1 first raised a question on whether there was a plan to return a land confiscated from Mon State Mawlamyine Education College. Deputy Minister for Defence Rear Admiral Myint Nwe replied that the land already had a land transfer authorization from Ministry of Home Affairs and the land was being retained for future projects. As such there was no plan to return this land said the Deputy Minister.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye replied to a question raised by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency 11 on plans made to relocate conflict displaced persons in Rakhine State to their places of origin safely.

Questions raised by U Shayrel Shu Mung of Kayah State constituency 2 on locals attending a midwife diploma school opened in Kayah State; Daw Than Than Aye of Magway Region constituency 7 on plan to construct a new building for Sinde Village sub-rural health centre in Magway Region Thayet District Thayet Township during fiscal year 2019-2020; Dr Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11 on plan to reorganize and reestablish again swimming, gymnastic, e-sport and other sports organizations; U Whey Tin of Chin State constituency 11 on plan to provide sufficient medicines to a station hospital and rural health centres in Chin State Paletwa Township; Dr Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State constituency 9 on plan to control usage of chemicals to produce quid; U Saw Sein Tun of Kayah State constituency 4 on employing sufficient number of personnel in 50-bed Loikaw Traditional Medicine Hospital and U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State constituency 11 on plan to educate the people of the effect of sunlight on drinking water and juices packed in plastic bottles were answered by Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr Mya Lay Sein.

Hluttaw informed of receipt of Bill Amending Farmland Law

Following the asterisk marked questions and answers session Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than informed the Hluttaw of the receipt of Bill Amending Farmland Law sent by Amyotha Hluttaw returned with amendments by Pyithu Hluttaw and announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to register their names.

Discussion on Myanmar Medical Degree, Diploma and Certificates Bill

Next, U Kyaw Naing of the Yangon Region constituency 12 discussed the Myanmar Medical Degree, Diploma and Certificates Bill.

Hluttaw discusses Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee Report 1/2019

Afterwards Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3, U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1 and U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5 discussed the Amyotha Hluttaw Public Complaints Committee Report 1/2019.

Report on motions and questions raised in Hluttaw

As a final agenda of the day Amyotha Hluttaw Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee member Daw Myat Thida Tun read and explained the committee's report on motions and questions raised in Second Amyotha Hluttaw's first regular session to 12th regular session.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the report to register their names.

The 21st-day meeting of Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 13th regular session will convene on 16 September.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Myanmar observes 7th Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

FROM PAGE-1

In reviewing the percentages of human trafficking in the region, men contributed 29 per cent and women 48 per cent; for children boys made up 4 per cent and girls 19 per cent. By categories of exploitation, sexual slavery was 60 per cent, forced labour 38 per cent and other forms 2 per cent.

Japan, Mongolia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Singapore detected many cases, while Myanmar and Thailand could bring many cases to the courts.

The main reasons for human trafficking in Myanmar included socio-economic conditions, natural disasters and internal armed conflicts, while legal or illegal migrants to foreign countries were trafficked.

Myanmar has been taking various measures against the trafficking in persons as a national duty carried out by drawing up a five-year plan which included four sectors in cooperation with relevant ministries, UN bodies, international organizations, INGOs and social communities. Prevention and protection activities including legal proceedings were also carried out.

Five major human trafficking cases in Myanmar were forced marriages, forced prostitution, forced labour, trafficking in children and debt bondage. The country's human trafficking cases in 2018 were found to be 75.24 per cent in forced marriages, forced prostitution 13.59 per cent, forced labour 8.74 per cent, surrogacy 1.94 per cent, and illegal adoption 0.49 per cent. By countries of destinations, 79.61per cent was related to China, 1.46 per cent to Thailand and 18.93 per cent in Myanmar.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the event to mark the 7th Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Vice President also said the forms of human trafficking have changed, but the cases have not declined significantly year by year. It was also found that the cases could be reduced by creating employment opportunities and by giving reasonable wages after discussing with employers and relevant associations.

From the 6th ceremony of the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day last year to date, a total of 210 cases of trafficking in persons occurred. Some 156 cases were brought to courts. Legal actions were taken against 152 men and 334 women in human trafficking cases. Money and properties related to cases were confiscated in accordance with the Money Laundering Eradication Law.

U Henry Van Thio also suggested to give protection to victims in human trafficking in line with basic human rights, UN convention and the humanitarian aspects.

> Five major human trafficking cases in Myanmar were forced marriages, forced prostitution, forced labour, trafficking in children and debt bondage.

Plans were under way to update the 2005 Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law, together with adopting its bylaw. The Central Body for Suppression and Prevention of Trafficking in Person and its working units have been reformed, while the Anti-Trafficking in Person Division of Myanmar Police Force has been expanding its units for effective works.

Myanmar was also a participant in the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The country was also taking part in other UN conventions of child rights, various forms of discrimination against women, forced labour, and anti-corruption.

Myanmar hosted the 19th Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime and its related meetings, the16th ASEAN Senior Officials Working Group Meeting on Transnational Crime, and the 34th Special Senior Officers Meeting on Anti-trafficking in Person.

The country was cooperating with other member countries in the implementation plan for the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Blueprint (2009-2015), the future plan for ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children (ACTIP) and Bohol Trafficking in Person Work Plan (2017-2020).

He also urged the news media to provide assistance together with the relevant state/regional departments and partner groups, courses on human trafficking at basic education level of state-owned schools, private school and universities, disseminating knowledge to the public through regional anti-trafficking units in Regions/States, districts, townships, wards and villages, and promoting cooperation with neighbouring , regional and international countries in fighting against transnational crime in human trafficking.

In concluding his speech, the Vice President advised to take legal actions against human traffickers, protect the potential victims, to rescue the trafficked ones, and to make all-inclusive cooperation in rehabilitating them.

He urged for the participation of all citizens across the country in combating human trafficking in accordance with the theme 'Join Hands in Fighting Against Trafficking in Person' for the 7th ceremony for Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day 2019.

Next, a video documentary depicting the efforts in anti-human trafficking in Myanmar was screened.

The Vice President looked around the exhibition booths after posing for documentary photos together with the attendees.

The ceremony was also attended by Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Thein Swe, Dr Myo Thein Gyi and U Kyaw Tin, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Tin Myint, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Member of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Dr Tin May Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council Member Colonel Min Naung, Permanent Secretaries, Chief of Myanmar Police Force, Directors-General, Deputy Chiefs of MPF, Deputy Directors-General, diplomats, representatives from UN organizations, INGOs and NGOs, members of Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons and its working groups, social organizations, invited guests and officials. —MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio looks at documentary photos displayed at the event to mark the 7th Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee members discuss the 2019 Union Tax Bill sent by the Union Government at the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D, second floor meeting hall, yesterday afternoon to discuss the 2019 Union Tax Bill sent by the Union Government.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Joint Bill Committee and Public Accounts Committee U Tun Aung (*a*) U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win, Central Bank of Myanmar Deputy Governor U Soe Min, Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee deputy chairmen, secretaries, joint secretary and members, Pyithu Hluttaw Banks and Financial Development Committee, Hluttaw representatives who had tabled amendment motions, officials from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General Office and Central Bank of Myanmar, business persons from Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Rehabilitation hospital to be set up in Mandalay

DR MYINT HTWE, the Union Minister for Health and Sports, visited Yenathar Leprosy Hospital in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, Thursday morning to discuss upgrading the healthcare facility into a rehabilitation hospital.

After being upgraded, the hospital could provide healthcare services not only for leprosy patients, but also for other disabled persons.

Union Minister Dr Myin Htwe appreciated the works of hospital's staff members, including medical superintendent and health workers, in their services after hearing reports on medical treatments, implantation of prosthetic legs, physiotherapy, employees and facilities at the hospital.

He added the ministry will supply the hospital with skilled employees, building and equipment in 2019-2020 fiscal year in setting up a rehabilitation hospital for upper Myanmar, like its precursor the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Yangon.

The Union Minister called on stronger measures in fighting against leprosy diseases as the country still experiences 2,000 new cases every year although only 0.39 persons were infected with this disease in 1,000 people, according to the data collected in 2018.

The new plan was discussed by Permanent Secretary Dr Thar Tun Kyaw, Director General of Department of Public Health and Medical Services Dr Soe Oo, deputy directors-general, directors, Head of Mandalay Region's Department of Public Health and Medical Services, the medical superintendent of National Rehabilitation Hospital in Yangon. The Union Minister and party looked around the medical wards at the hospital.

He also watched the Mandalay IBSF World Billiards and Snooker Championship 2019 at Mandalar Thiri sports stadium in Chanmyathazi Township, that is being participated by 21 countries. The event is being held from 9 to 25 September.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe visits Yenathar Leprosy Hospital in Madaya Township, Mandalay Region, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun attends 4th Belt and Road Summit in Hong Kong

Union Minister U Thaung Tun gives speech at the Belt and Road Annual Roundtable in Hong Kong. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR Delegation led by Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC),U Thaung Tun attended the 4th Belt and Road Summit held in Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), 11-12 September 2019.

The Summit, organized by the Government of Hong Kong SAR and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, aims to promote business collaboration through the Belt and Road international platform. The event also provided an opportunity for senior government officials and private sector leaders to exchange views on multilateral cooperation and explore concrete business opportunities. The Summit was attended by over 5800 participants from 69 countries and regions along the Belt and Road. The Union Minister participated as a panelist in the panel on Policy Dialogue held on 11 September. He pointed out that both Hong Kong and Myanmar are a strategically located and that they complemented each other. Hong Kong, he observed is not only a logistic but also a gateway to China. Myanmar, on the other hand, is the fastest growing economy in the ASEAN Region. The further stressed that Myanmar would continue to work with Hong Kong and other countries along the Belt and Road to achieve sustainable development. The Union Minister and members of the Myanmar delegation also attended the Belt and Road Annual Roundtable on 12 September. At the roundtable meeting, Union Minister said as part of the ASEAN Countries and the ASEAN Plus Dialogue Partner Countries, Myanmar is committed to facilitating trade and development in the region. He also informed the forum of developments in Myanmar particularly with regard to trade and investment.

The Union Minister also called on Mrs Carrie Lam, Chief Executive of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR, met with Mr Edward Yau, Secretary for the Commerce and Economic Development of the Government of the Hong Kong SAR. Matters relating to investment promotion and human resource development were discussed in the meeting. The Union Minister was accompanied by the Director General U Thant Sin Lwin of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration and other senior officers from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. —MNA ■

UEC chairman meets with district election commissions from Yangon Region

UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the speech at a meeting with officials from district-level sub-election commissions in Yangon Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein held a meeting with officials of the district-level sub-election commissions in Yangon Region yesterday, discussing electoral processes.

The meeting was held at the Yangon Region Election Commission and it was also attended by U Myint Naing, member of the UEC and Yangon Region Incharge, U Kyi Myint, Yangon Region Sub-Election Commission, and members, chairmen and members of district Sub-election commissions and electoral officials.

At the meeting, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein said the UEC is committed to holding the 2020 general elections as the model one because he believed that chairmen and members of the election commission at different level would carry out their duties in accordance with the five norms of the general elections.

He continued to say that in the electoral process, making lists of voters is a huge task, stressing the importance of including all 18-year old citizen in the list as they are eligible for voting by law.

The UEC chairman also urged the electoral officials to study the electoral law, rules, by-laws and directives in detail in preparation for holding the 2020 general elections successfully. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Ministry of Border Affairs holds coord meeting 2/2019

MINISTRY of Border Affairs held a coordination meeting 2/2019 on border development works conducted in Fiscal Year 2018-2019, review of human resources development works conducted and works to be implemented in Fiscal Year 2019-2020. The meeting was held at the assembly hall of Ministry of Border Affairs on 12 and 13 September.

At the meeting Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung spoke of openly discussing and submitting suggestions and ideas on the status of completing Fiscal Year 2018-2019 border development works up to the set norms and standard within the set time; strengths and weaknesses encountered; remedial works required; preventing overlaps of works to be conducted with union fund and state/region funds during Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and on conducting truly effective and beneficial works for the region.

The ministry had established strategy, policy, aims and work processes and drawn up short, mid and long term plans in connection with Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan and Project Bank said the Union Minister. Works were being implemented with the aims of stability and peace of border region, equal and a sustainable development of border region and mainland, development of socio economic and human resources of ethnic nationals in the border region.

The ministry was selecting, prioritizing and conducting works that were beneficial, appropriate and required to the country and the people based on the budget and fund allocated by the Union.

As soon as there were natural disasters, responsible personnel were required to conduct timely works according to Standard Operation Procedure (SOP), assess and report damages and loss to the Union Government Office through the relevant state/region governments.

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung delivers the opening address at coordination meeting 2/2019 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Next, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut, Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department Director General, Education and Training Department Director General discussed and explained about strengths and weaknesses of works conducted and future work programs.

Other meeting attendees also discussed and explained about their respective works and the Union Minister coordinated on the discussions and explanations.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Transport, Communications Minister receives Japanese Amb

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung meets with Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung received Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama at his ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. They discussed acquiring passenger coachers for Yangon's circular railway.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

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Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with National Democratic Institute (NDI) Senior Legislative Strengthening Adviser Edmond Efendija in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Dy Speaker receives NDI delegation

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein held a meeting with a delegation from the National Democratic Institute (NDI) led by the Senior Legislative Strengthening Adviser Edmond Efendija, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They talked at length on the discussion papers concerning Hluttaw bylaw scrutinization, monitoring the legislative process, supporting instances of representation, and opportunities for NDI to provide further cooperation in the Myanmar Hluttaw Strategic Plan 2019-2020.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw's Hluttaw Rights Committee member Dr Myint Thein, Hluttaw Development Coordination Group member U Tin Aung Cho and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint meets with UNESCO Resident Representative Ms. Min Jeong Kim and UN Women Resident Representative Mr. Nicolas Burniat in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr Pe Myint meets with UNESCO, UN Women officials

THE Union Minister for Information, Dr Pe Myint, met with UNESCO Resident Representative Ms Min Jeong Kim and UN Women Resident Representative Mr Nicolas Burniat yesterday evening at MRTV building in Yangon.

They discussed fostering cooperation with UNESCO and UN Women in news coverage for the multi-party democracy general elections in 2020, and organizing training courses for women in using social media for peace processes and gaining a better understanding of media literacy. —MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)

Union Minister U Win Khaing receives Japanese Ambassador

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing received Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr Ichiro Maruyama and party in his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed collaboration of Japan on future plans for development of Myanmar's electricity and energy. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister U Win Khaing meets with Japanese Ambassador Mr Ichiro Maruyama in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye visits flood-hit Bago

FLOOD hit Bago due to swollen Bago River recently, affecting over 13,800 people.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye visited the flood shelters opened at monasteries yesterday and provided aid to the flood victims.

Firstly, the Union Minister visited the Kyakhat Tawya Monastery where flood victims are sheltering and provided cash assistance, aid and school uniforms to the people.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party went to the centre of the Bago Region Flood Management Committee and held a meeting with members of the Bago Region Cabinet and Hluttaw representatives over flood management.

Bago Region Disaster Management Committee is collecting data about the flood hit people to be able to provide aid to them in time.

The water in Bago River has exceeded its danger mark of 880 cm since 12 April and the overflow water from the river inundated the low-lying areas of the town. — Hein Htet (Bago) ■

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye hands over cash assistance for flood victims in Bago Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

Agri Minister holds talks with Finnish Amb

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu presents a gift to Finnish Ambassador Ms Riikka Laatu yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu received Finnish Ambassador Ms Riikka Laatu at his ministry yesterday.

They discussed cooperation on renewable energy sources with the Under Secretary and External Economic Relations from Finland that will visiting in a future time.

They also discussed Finland's assistance in Myanmar's education sector, peace process and forest conservation, renewable energy sources such as solar power, biofuel and energy generation from waste, and prospective investments. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

20th-day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session held

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Similarly questions raised by U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency on major subject changing process for students applying to attend distance university education; U Ne Lin Aung of Mindat constituency on plan to open an arts and science college university or a college in Chin State Mindat Town; Daw Tin Tin Yi of Kyunsu constituency on plan to appoint teachers in Kyunsu Township post primary schools; Dr U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency on plan to appoint volunteer teachers and qualified graduate education personnel as government employed teachers and for them to continue their education in education college and Daw Ni Shwe Hlyan of Thantlang constituency on selection process to primary school teacher course were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

Hluttaw approves Basic Education Bill

As a final agenda of the day Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat obtained the decision of the Hluttaw to approve the Basic Education Bill sent with amendments by Amyotha Hluttaw.

Bill Committee secretary U Kyaw Soe Lin then tabled a motion to submit the 26 points that the two Hluttaws were in disagreement on the bill to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for discussion and decision. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced further that the matter will be submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

21st-day meeting Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 13th regular session will be held on 16 September.—Aye Aye Thant, Kyaw Zin Htike ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Meeting held with media to help for Myanmar Unicode Migration

NEWS media and press were invited yesterday afternoon to seek their help for Myanmar Unicode Migration. The meeting was held, in conjunction with official appointment of ambassador for the change, at the Conference Hall of MICT Park in Yangon.

Chairman of the Computer Technology Development Council and Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung delivered speech at the ceremony.

He requested the assistance of media organizations to inform public about the Myanmar Unicode Migration which will be carried out on 1 October as the international font system could help a lot to accelerate e-Government process of the country, and then it will support information and technology. Moreover, the common font system will be very helpful in sharing information of government, private organizations and state-departments to the public.

He also urged media and press to help in the transformation as the new font system will help in exchanging information and technologies with international communities as it was created by the international font system.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun also said although the idea of using Myanmar Unicode system emerged about 20 years ago, the plans could be implemented recently. He also remarked the participation of media and press plays crucial role in introducing this system as it is a very important change for the country.

He also said the move should be joined by the public to be able to prove the unity of Myanmar. The Deputy Minister also remarked there might be some difficulties at the initial stage when Myanmar Unicode is started to use on 1 October, however, it is believed to solve the problems in a short span of time. He said to meet with the media groups for discussion about Myanmar Unicode Migration, and called on the contribution of media in the change.

President of Myanmar Computer Federation U Min Zeyar Hlaing extended greetings, Vice-President Dr Tun Thura Thet explained about Myanmar Unicode standard, and General Secretary U Thaung Su Nyein talked on the public campaign programmes.

Then, Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung conferred official certificate of Myanmar Unicode Migration Ambassador.

The ceremony was organized by the MCF under the guidelines of Ministry of Transport and Communications, the participation of Ministry of Information to give public information about international standard Unicode font system.

U Zeya Hlaing, the secretary of Media Ethics and Development Committee, said, "Media persons should use the most useful and appropriate way in public communications. Theoretically, media persons should try the best way to inform public. Although the government ministries could do the change immediately, public will need some assistance for their participation in this move."

The ceremony was attended by Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo, media persons and the invited guests.—Zaw Gyi ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung delivers the speech at the ceremony at the Conference Hall of MICT Park in Yangon. **PHOTO: HLA MOE**

Marching towards a new era

TRANSITIONING to a new political system require skilled people with leadership potential capable of inspiring their followers. Also needed are sound policy frameworks and effective systems. The antiquated ways of the former period cannot alter the new era for the better.

We believe the people's representatives can lay down good political practices and policies in this time period where everyone is striving for positive changes. They also need to implement good administrative practices and procedures to ensure these positive policies are well-intentioned and can be successful.

> Some government departments used to be under public ridicule but are now receiving praise for their hard work and accomplishments. Similarly, some cities have implemented working management systems that have catapulted their development.

The old system was rife with wrong procedures, faulty management, misuse of public funds, embezzlement, dishonesty and tardiness. This made the system ineffective and unpopular.

A lot of places were devoid of correct decisions and implementations while incorrect processes took root. Any attempt to amend these broken sections was met with resistance from the established methods taken for the norm. Trying to change the wrong ways that have manifested for a long time within a short period was faced with numerous cases of the resistance mentioned above.

The group of people who resist change and opt to remain in the old incorrect system are one of the main reasons for slow progress. People don't want new systems when it begins to hurt their personal business and might even try to reverse the changes made.

The role of the leaders who will take charge during this tension between the old and the new is crucial. They need to see the entire process holistically, allot responsibility accordingly, and take necessary steps to implement proper management.

Some government departments used to be under public ridicule but are now receiving praise for their hard work and accomplishments. Similarly, some cities have implemented working management systems that have catapulted their development.

Likewise, some townships of those cities are faring better and this shows that the issue lies not in the scale of problems or policies but in the skills and capabilities of its leaders.

Appointing the right people, scouting for talent, recruiting, and gathering public support for proposed projects are the keys to success during times of policy changes, daunting challenges and complex problems.

However, dragging ourselves up from the lowest point also requires the unity and support of the people. Farseeing wisdom, mature resolution and genuine kindness are required in the leaders who envision the benefit of both the nation and its citizens.

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Combating human trafficking through collective action

By Maung Thaung Win (Ex-diplomat)

HUMAN trafficking is a kind of modern-day slavery. Trafficked men are usually exploited for their forced labour ; women and children are hardest hit in human trafficking . Women are sold for forced prostitution and children tend to suffer from forced prostitution and exploitation of their labour. Extraction of internal organs or body parts of trafficked people may lead to the loss of their lives.

Nowadays, human trafficking stands as the third largest crime after drug trafficking and gunrunning. A number of trafficked people yearly is about 20 million, generating a total of illegal profits of US$ 40 billion. That is the reason why a lot of difficulties encountered in fighting against human trafficking.

Slavery is alive and well, living under an assumed name of Human Trafficking. **GRAPHIC IMAGE: BT**

What does human trafficking mean?

> Human trafficking occurs because of lack of job opportunities, extreme poverty, lack of knowledge, domestic violence and advice of friends and relatives for going abroad to earn more money.

Human trafficking is the trade in which a person seizes, transfers, sells, buys, lends , borrows, shelters or accepts another person with or without his consent in the hope of exploiting him. In committing such kinds of human trafficking, many methods are included such as threats, coercion, persuasion, cheating , enticement, abuse of power, abuse of one's unstable life and squeezing money or other profits from a person's inconsistent life. In addition, a person forces another person into prostitution, slavery and bonded labour; internal organs are extracted and sold for money or other profits and all profits are agreed and accepted , also committing crime deeds of human trafficking.

Reasons for Human Trafficking

Human trafficking occurs because of lack of job opportunities, extreme poverty, lack of knowledge, domestic violence and advice of friends and relatives for going abroad to earn more money. Some people are sold as servants in other countries for their feelings of embarrassment, honesty, lack of knowledge, admiration of foreign countries, by falling victims into the tricks of traffickers. Forced marriage, coercion, and forced prostitution followed. In addition, traffickers have exploited migratory workers for their advantages, thus paving the way to the emergence of human trafficking.

Human traffickers entice and sell people including women and children by giving a lot of incentives. Human trafficking gradually increases, thereby committing trans-boundary crimes. International Organizations have condemned human traffickers as violators of human rights. Still human trafficking keeps threatening human societies. Activities of human trafficking are found even in a country. Human traffickers have targeted at extremely poor people, children and young women. Human traffickers have enticed young women as sex slaves, exploitation of labor over men and extraction of body parts from children by giving a lot of incentives.

Trafficked people

Sex trade is called for a trafficked person who perform for sexual pleasure in the name of exploitation. Sex traffickers have exploited children as forced prostitution including sex slaves. Sex trading is a fast-growing kind of crimes all over the world. According to International Labor Organization, 20.9 million people have to work under duress. 22% of that numbers happen to be sex slaves. Nowadays, a population of about 40.3 million people have to work like slaves without getting any wages. Many trafficked people in many countries of the world have been working with small payments or no payment at all due to threats and violence. Illegal sex slavery is ubiquitous.

Suffice to say, trafficked people should be dubbed as modern-day slaves. Increasing poverty rates and lack of sending children to school in the developing countries lead to an increasing number of child workers. Human traffickers lure children into a workplace by paying a lot of incentives.

> The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law was promulgated in Myanmar on 13 September, 2005; 13 September is fixed as Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day. The first duty of human trafficking is to forbid forced prostitution. As human trafficking has threatened the whole world, the governments and NGOs should take a collective part to fight against it.

Collective prevention against human trafficking

As human trafficking is a crime which cannot be solved by a single government of a country; by combing efforts of all countries in the world might reduce the crime rate in human trafficking. Cooperation between the United Nations and international organizations, and that of the country-level authorities must be dealt with building strong capability, knowledge-sharing for the people, technological supports, complete protection for the trafficked people and creation of ideas among the people for collective fight against trafficking must be emphasized. If authorities concerned might arrest traffickers, effective actions must be taken against them with severe punishments.

Wide punitive actions must be taken against trafficking defendants through the media. Rapists for juveniles, human and drug traffickers must be left out in prisons even during the general amnesty. If these criminals are pardoned, they could commit the similar crimes repeatedly. Parents should look after more on young people especially young girls. Human traffickers coax young people in different fashions; if strangers are found among the young boys and girls, enquiries must be made about them, sending the information to the authorities concerned. If children from schools and private tuition classes do not get home in time, immediate searches must launched. Parents or guardians should send and take them home if it is possible.

Anti-trafficking in Persons Day

The Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law was promulgated in Myanmar on 13 September, 2005; 13 September is fixed as Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day. The first duty of human trafficking is to forbid forced prostitution. As human trafficking has threatened the whole world, the governments and NGOs should take a collective part to fight against it. If human trafficking is appropriately managed, the trafficking rate will dramatically reduce to a certain extent. Human trafficking cannot, in any way, be eradicated overnight and collective efforts are the only answers for all the countries to reduce to an appropriate extent.

Translated by Arakan Sein

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 13th September, 2019)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 14th September, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway Region, (Northern and Eastern)Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Ayeyawady Region and Southern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Tanintharyi Region.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th September, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th September, 2019: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th September, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, widespread in Yangon Region and isolated in Mandalay Region.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to **ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Own name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).– **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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Government holds press conference on peace making process, rule of law, anti-corruption drive

THE Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor held a press conference on peace making process of the government at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Director-General U Zaw Htay said to media that the government discussed with Karen National Union at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon on 7 September. The next discussion was made with 10 signatories, including KNU, in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. The discussion included the concerns of Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAO) about the suspension of peace talks.

Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of Office of the State Counsellor holds a press conference at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 13 September 2019. **PHOTO : MNA**

There are four processes in way forward for peace process. The peace commission explained it ahead of Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The PPST meeting made decisions to meet with the government. The meeting formed the groups for discussions. The follow-up meetings could make some recommendations. The attitude of EAO was quite optimistic on these recommendations. They presented their expectations in details. Preparations were thoroughly made for this achievement.

The EAO has formed 18 groups until 13 September. Among them, some 10 groups have signed in NCA, but the remaining 7 northern groups are not yet in it. The KNPP is one of the seven group. The mechanism of NCA include JICM, JMC and UPDJC. The JMM is concerned with ceasefire, while UPDJC with political dialogue. The all matters merge in Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. The JMC mechanism is related with trust building, and this process will be handled by the UPDJC.

Management in interim period is very important for building trust. It will have to be reviewed to go ahead to the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. In this stage, discussions are under way with NCA signatories to make political agreements in shaping a federal union.

Views were also exchanged how to make bilateral agreements of the leaders. Myanmar will hold the General Election in 2020. After the elections, the change of government may occur, and the possible ways in peace making process beyond the elections must be considered under the plan of 'Before & Beyond 2020'. Under this title, the discussions will focus on how to conclude peace talks and stronger ceasefire agreement ahead of the 2020 General Election and till the election period. The agreements will be recorded in Union Accord. After signing them in the agreement, it will be presented to the Union Hluttaw. After the Hluttaw approved it, the peace making process with the 10 signatories will follow this way.

Meanwhile, a joint announcement with KNPP has been issued in Loikaw, Kayah State. Pledges in bilateral ceasefire agreement have been compiled. And that the ongoing discussion with KNPP focuses on the timing for signing agreement in NCA. Then, KNPP will be joined NCA and its mechanism JICM, JMC and UPDJC.

Out of 7 northern armed groups, ceasefire agreements have been reached with UWSA, MNDAA and SSPP. There are no major armed conflicts with them. Especially, there is neither fights nor conflicts in Wa and Mongla regions. Although bilateral ceasefire agreements were made with KIA and KIO, the armed clashes have occurred again. However, there is now ceasefire agreement with AA, TNLA and MNDAA. Discussions are under way with these groups and KIA. During the earlier period of this administration, efforts were made to issue a statement with these three groups. More discussions are being made with a total of four groups, including KIA, through the three steps. These steps will lead to make peace with the four groups. Bilateral ceasefire agreement will be made with each group before going ahead to NCA. Efforts will be made to sign MoU with the remaining groups for NCA.

Chairman of Mongla Region has said on the occasion of Mongla's 30th peace anniversary that their group is ready to sign NCA. The SSPP is also ready for this step. Discussions are under way with these 7 northern armed groups to join NCA.

A common goal must be set up among these stakeholders for the periods of before and after 2020. The government is now trying to operate NCA process, informal process and parallel process well. Some remaining challenges for the government include political dialogue framework with JMC and UPDJC, common definition and understanding in NCA. These problems will also be solved. Regarding non-signatories, discussions are taking place as KIA+3. A meeting will be held on 17 September before the deadline of the unilateral ceasefire agreement of Tatmadaw on 21 September. The Tatmadaw is believed to extend this period depending on the results of this meeting. It is very interesting about possibilities of signing with the seven armed group in NCA.

During the bilateral meeting with KNPP in August, it proposed the needs which the government should be supplied.

The most update at this stage is discussion with KIA+3 in three stages. Discussions will be made with the whole group and individually. The steps will continue until signing NCA. The current expectation of the government is to persuade the seven armed groups to sign NCA.

There are the four parallel working process proposed by the government at the informal meeting of UPDJC secretaries.

The first one is implementation of NCA. In this state, agreements have been reached on Chapter 3: Ceasefire Related Matters, Chapter 4: Maintaining and Strengthening Ceasefire, and Chapter 6: Future Task. Some agreements have been made on security affairs. There are 36 meeting agreements to be referred for NCA. Among them, it was agreed to discuss 8 decisions again very thoroughly. The definitions in NCA should be common. Some EAO leaders have prepared the books about the definitions in NCA, the government has also made definitions based on video record and audio files recorded during the meetings. The Tatmadaw has also created such publication. However, the terms and definitions are not similar each other due to different understanding. A working group should be formed to address this problem. For example, 3+3 represents individual from the government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadw, while the three representatives from NCA signatories will take part in it. It was proposed by the government. Discussion for implementation of NCA will be made.

The second parallel working process is to follow the roadmap of Union Peace Conference to be able to set up federal principles in the Union Peace Conference.

The third parallel work process was what to achieve prior to 2020. What to do in stages between the government, Tatmadaw and EAOs beyond 2020 will be discussed. Finally it'll be submitted to UPC. In addition to this three, discussion on interim period management may take some time. Especially ceasefire region announcement is required. NCA Section 25 defines as within the ceasefire region of the respective organization and this would be difficult to define by JMC. At this situation, the deployment of forces is to be specifically designated so discussion on this will be difficult. Much time would be needed and include education, health, regional development and road transport matters too. The government doesn't want the people to wait for the fruit of peace until the discussions and agreements were completed. So discussion will be held and at the same time the government proposes to conduct bilateral education, health and development for ethnic nationals in the region where EAOs had signed the NCA so that the ethnic nationals in that region could start enjoying the benefits of peace.

After this, development works that support peace will be conducted on the ground. The vision of the State/Region will be achieved by working together. The government had proposed for state/region government, Hluttaw, Hluttaw representatives, EAOs, CSOs and business person to work together. For example, what are the strengths in Mon State? The weaknesses, business opportunities, protecting the environment and nature will be discussed.

In which part of the state/region will have industrial zone. How to protect and maintain the environment and cultural traditions? These will be included. What sort of future we want for Mon State within the next ten years? The proposal was cooperate toward the aims of each state/region. This was proposed to the EAOs. Except for some groups, almost all accepted the government's proposal.

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Government holds press conference on peace making process...

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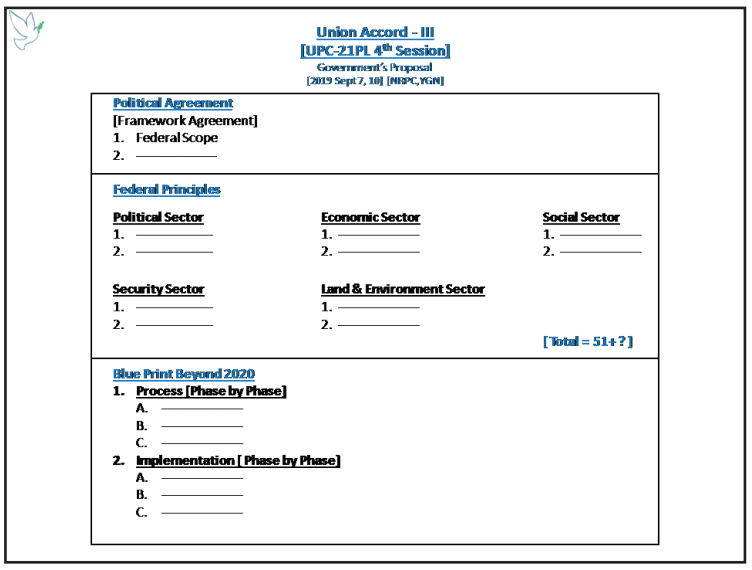
This was started. Talks were held with the government toward establishing agriculture zones and to construct houses for people to live. Some were discussing on how to produce electricity. Physical study on resources to produce electricity will be conducted as a priority work.

The main point was these three. These were also what the EAOs leaders were concerned. There was an announcement after the third session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. Peace conferences will be held twice in 2019 and once in 2020. Efforts will be made toward establishing Federal Principles and Democracy Principles in this three conferences. Does this mean there's no more political dialogues in post 2020?

Another point was Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief's announcement at the third anniversary of NCA held at Nay Pyi Taw Shwe San Ein Hotel. Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief said efforts will be made to completing the peace process in 2020. So there were worries that Tatmadaw will no longer have peace process in post 2020. This was the statement of the desire of the Tatmadaw. This was made with the Tatmadaw's desire to have ceasefire all over the country and reach the stage of political discussion. This was explained. Discussions were conducted on how to implement this in stages. Based on government's proposal discussions were held at PPST Chiang Mai. On 7th and 10th KNU and 10 groups that had signed the NCA held a discussion where all was agreed to in principal.

There the government proposed three parts of Union Accord. Discussion with EAOs was to hold a Peace Conference once before 2020. There'll be Parallel Process. Frame of Union agreement was proposed to the EAOs and there were three parts in it.

One part can be said as Political Agreement or Framework Agreement. It is the establishing of political agreement by the Government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, EAOs and political parties participating in the peace process. This is not a Federal Principal. It is Federal Scope. We'll discuss what the federal union we were aiming for. The separation between the Union and state/region will be one. What is the Union Constitution and what are the state/region Constitutions. How to resolve disagreements? Basic framework agreement on such matters will have to be obtained.



If an agreement on ceasefire was reached, it'll be included in the agreement. Two sides will continue to negotiate and discuss. This is a Framework Agreement on the future union. These will be included as 1, 2, 3, 4 etc. Another point is Federal Principle. Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong second and third session reaches agreements on 51 points in five sectors of political, economy, social, security, land and natural environment. Discussions will be on what more to include, to keep as it is and proceed toward Federal Principal.

Another matter is how to proceed stage by stage with peace work process in the post 2020 period. Agreement was to be obtained on this. If an agreement was reached, implementation will be conducted in stages. Stage wise works will be designated. Implementation works will be designated. This whole thing is the Union Accord that will be signed in the forthcoming Union Peace Conference. The aim was to conclude the political discussions conducted during the NLD government term and pass it on to the next government. Emphasis must be placed toward discussing the inclusion of the thoughts and ideas of groups that hadn't signed the NCA.

Only then will these groups that hadn't sign the NCA will have ownership of this work process. We were thinking and working toward that aim. And it was proposed to conduct in this way. EAOs were in principal agreement of the remaining timeline. But they would need to submit it to PPST. After submitting to PPST, they'll meet with us and uncover the next step. This explains our peace process said U Zaw Htay.

Next, question raised by the media on peace processes, action taken against corruption, Victoria case and rumors circulating about banks were answered by U Zaw Htay.

The Irrawaddy questioned whether there was any connection between resignation of Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho and BPI factory manager Dr Aung Zaw corruption enquiry. U Zaw Htay said there was no connection. U Khin Maung Cho was a complaint made to the President while Dr Aung Zaw was a complaint made to Anti-Corruption Commission. There was no relation in the two and departments taking action against the two were also not the same. The two were not related or connected.

> The government has given priority to the Rule of Law and this is its policy.

Factory personnel supporting BPI factory manager was due to their respect toward the factory manager. There was no restriction imposed on the factory personnel. But Ministry of Industry Permanent Secretary explained to the personnel about staff and personnel rules and regulations. No pressure was applied.

According to investigation conducted by Anti-Corruption Commission, there was no violation under the corruption law but there were some violation of administrative rules. Recommendation was made to take action according to negligence in following administrative rules. Managing Director U Ko Ko Aung was also removed from his position on 12 September.

Dr Aung Zaw case is now at the court and court will decide on it so the Government has no comment on this.

He also refuted the accusations that the government turned a blind eye to some staff who are also connected with the case.

The government has given priority to the Rule of Law and this is its policy, said U Zaw Htay, adding that, therefore, the government has formed the Anti-Corruption Commission and given mandate to the commission.

The accusations that actions are taken only against the government employees, while the MPs are pardoned are concerned with the Anti-Corruption Commission. These questions should go to the commission, he said.

He also responded the questions raised by the New Watch Journal regarding the case of Dr Khaing Soe Hla and U Min Lwin Soe of the Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Committee.

He said an accused is considered as a suspect until the court convicts him/her for his or her offence because the courts have to protect the rights of suspects and accused.

When a case is brought to the court, the police or the ACC have to submit evidences and witnesses to the court. According to the court procedures, there are also lawyers on both sides for becoming a fair trial. After hearing both sides, a judge makes a decision based on his/her rationalization, he said. Regarding the aforementioned case, the judge made the decision based on his rationalization, he added.

He continued to say that U Min Lwin Soe was released unconditionally in connection with the case he was charged. He has been reinstated as the head of the department at the Nay Pyi Taw Development Affairs Department. He spent two years in custody and experienced grievances. According to the law, he had got the fully salary for the first year. Now, he can demand the salary for the second year he spent in custody as he was released unconditionally.

For his grievances, he has rights under the Anti-Corruption Law to file lawsuit against those who lodged complaints against the ACC.

In response to the questions on ethnic armed organizations and the government's proposed timeline and development plans, U Zaw Htay denied to officially answer the first question saying that the two sides would negotiate the timeline again after the EAOs discussed the timeline.

For the second question, he clarified the Paragraph-25 of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement saying that development projects would be carried out in ceasefire areas after areas for ceasefire and for troops of both sides are designated, he said.

But, it will take a long time to start the development projects only when the above requirements are fulfilled in accordance with the NCA. Therefore, we, the government side, proposed to start the development projects first and most of EAOs agreed our proposal, said U Zaw Htay.

Regarding a high-profile minor sexual assault case in Nay Pyi Taw, he said the government is keeping on watch the case under the three points of views : the Rule of Law, exposing criminals, and responsibility and accountability in court proceedings.

Regarding the recent rumour about banking sector, the director-general said some Union ministers of the government, the Central Bank of Myanmar and chairmen of the private banks held a meeting on 6th September. At the meeting, they discussed assistance to be rendered by the government and the CBM to help the private banks to overcome their current challenges.

He also urged the people not to believe the rumours because the government and the Central Bank of Myanmar are monitoring the cash flow of banks.

Regarding the repatriation of the displaced persons in Rakhine State, Director-General U Zaw Htay said the government has released announcement on the repatriation programme of the displaced persons. Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made press conferences.

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Government holds press conference on peace making process, rule of law ...

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The programmes should be carried out in line with bilateral agreements between Myanmar and Bangladesh. The agreements include repatriation of their own volition. The interference of NGO was found in it, not to return home. Another threat is from ARSA. Some misappropriate actions were also found that officials did intensive surveys on the willingness of the displaced persons for returning home.

Regarding the revoke of awards from the City of London, U ZawHtay said that it was informed in the letter based on their view. However, Myanmar is moving along on the logical path. The truth cannot be hidden forever. Tension was very high in the past two years.

However, the representatives from ASEAN and the ambassadors of neighbouring countries could interview Hindu people how these displaced persons were treated by ARSA. Some Muslim people have returned home of their own volition. Myanmar government arranged for meeting with them. In the past, Myanmar government hardly confronted the huge media wave. However, news about the camps in Bangladesh have often appeared. The interference of NGO there was seen. Reports have said there were some threats in these camps. The real situations cannot be hidden. The world has gradually realized. Some other organizations have revoked their awards due to some reasons and pressures. These awards were not requested to get. So the withdrawal was just related with them. It is more important to consider about the welfare of this country and the people.

Regarding the rule of law in Rakhine State, it was an inhumane killing of decapitation in Rakhine state, not an anarchism. It is just an terrorist act, and an inhumane act. ARSA and AA appeared in Rakhine State. Civilians were killed by bomb and mine attacks there. Mine explosions have caused serious damages and losses. The armed conflicts have destroyed rule of law and stability. The participation of Hluttaw representatives is very important for the management of government in this issue. Stability and peace in Rakhine State could be done with the participation of Rakhine people and Rakhine Hluttaw representatives.

Much can be done with people's participation. In any country rule of law was through the people's participation. We are striving toward this. At the moment, there are fighting. We were discussing about AA. Priority was given toward reaching some sort of a ceasefire status. This will be followed with arriving at political dialogue on the NCA path. This can be resolved. For example, some Hluttaw representatives were criticizing the government. We want to say that Rakhine State is part of the Union. So we take this as a matter of the Union. We met frequently with Rakhine society. We explain repeatedly whenever we met. On their side they say there were more than 60,000 who were facing difficulties. This number is ethnic Rakhine nationals in IDP Camp. Mro and Kaman ethnic nationals were facing difficulties without being in IDP Camp. That was why we ask for assistance to be provided to IDP Camp as well as those who were not in IDP Camp. Not only ethnic Rakhine stay in Rakhine State. There are other ethnic nationals like Kaman and Mro. It is like a small union within the Union. Once there is a ceasefire, IDP matter can be handled. This will follow with returning to their places of origin. We were heading toward long term development and peace in Rakhine region. Many years ago we faced armed conflicts. But for many years we didn't face it anymore. For example, much was experienced in Kachin, Shan and Kayin State. So their leaders were also striving toward not hurting or affecting the people. Rakhine also need to go this way. — MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)

Officials survey seven schools in Indaw for prevalence of lymphatic filariasis

WITH the help of the World Health Organization (WHO), the anti-malaria team of Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, conducted a survey in seven schools to check the prevalence of lymphatic filariasis, or elephantiasis.

"A rapid diagnostic test for lymphatic filariasis infection was conducted for students in the 6-7 age group from 7-11 September. There were 24 students from the age group in the Nabargyi post primary school, 23 in the Pinttin post primary school, 36 in the Kyantaw branch middle schools, 46 in the Kyawywar branch middle school, 4 in the Tonesi primary school, 10 in the Laungsu primary school, and 131 students in the Mezar high school," said U Tin An, an inspector with the anti-malaria team. Similar surveys will be conducted in 29 districts of 11 states and regions, and residents in those regions will be administered lymphatic filariasis vaccines, based on the results of the survey. In addition, such surveys are planned for 6-7 years old school students in Tamu, Kalay, and Katha districts of Sagaing Region. —Mg Chit Lin (Indaw)

Anti-malaria team conduting survey as part of a test for lymphatic filariasis infection in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MG CHIT LIN (INDAW)**

(Translated by La Wonn)

Planning begins for centenary event of Myanmar films

THE Temporary Committee for Organizing the Centenary of Myanmar Films held their coordination meeting at the Film Promotion Division under the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) in Bahan Township yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister U Zaw Aye Maung, departmental heads from the Ministry of Information and Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the Patron, Chairman and members of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO), officials from businesses related to the film industry, representatives from theatre, music and film organizations, experts and invited guests.

Dr Pe Myint's speech

Firstly, the Temporary Committee Chairman Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivered a speech. He said the temporary committee was formed in August this year and is given four tasks. He said the temporary committee will lead the process before the leading committee, working committee and subcommittees have been formed.

The Union Minister said everyone should take pride in being a part in organizing for Myanmar Film's centenary. He said the silver, gold and diamond jubilees conducted in the past will be most helpful for this celebration as well. He said they must review the events organized in the past as well as similar events conducted around the world.

The Union Minister urged everyone to provide suggestions from their inherit capabilities and enthusiasm in organizing the hundred years of film heritage established by our ancestors and displaying that respect in the celebration.

U Phyo Min Thein's speech

Next, the Vice Chairman (1) of the temporary committee, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, delivered an address where he said the Yangon Region government will work closely with all relevant ministries to ensure the successful holding of the Myanmar Film Centenary celebration event.

The Chief Minister mentioned his role as joint secretary in planning the centenary event for Yangon University and the support from his cabinet in the film festival to be held in Yangon. He said the artistes central to the centenary event will lead the awareness campaign for the celebration among the public and the regional cabinet will provide necessary assistance as well.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting to prepare for Centenary event of Myanmar Films in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Following this, the secretary of the temporary committee, IPRD Director-General U Ye Naing, explained the motive behind forming the temporary committee, pre-events leading to the centenary, and the proposed programmes for the main event.

Next, temporary committee Vice Chairman (3), MMPO Chairman U Zin Wine, discussed suggestions for making the centenary celebration event lively, the corresponding logo design, designating the theme song and venue, and experiences from the diamond jubilee event for Myanmar Films.

This was followed by a general round of discussion with attendees for ideas to incorporate into the centenary event. The meeting then decided on making the motives for organizing the centenary event more meaningful, forming and creating an ideas bank website for the event's programmes with appropriate members, establishing a research and development team to review similar events held across the world, holding contests for the event's logo, theme song and motto, forming working groups within the temporary committee with suitable members, and involving youths into the entire process. The Union Minister then delivered the closing speech.

Work on holding the centenary event for Myanmar Films, which falls on 13 October 2020, will begin this October. Authorities will form a leading committee, working committees and subcommittees for choosing the venue, dates and time period of the event and will hold subsequent meetings to discuss them.

Afterwards, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint visited the Film Development Centre at No 50, Golden Valley Road, Bahan Township, and inspected the library, studios, makeup rooms and theatres there.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

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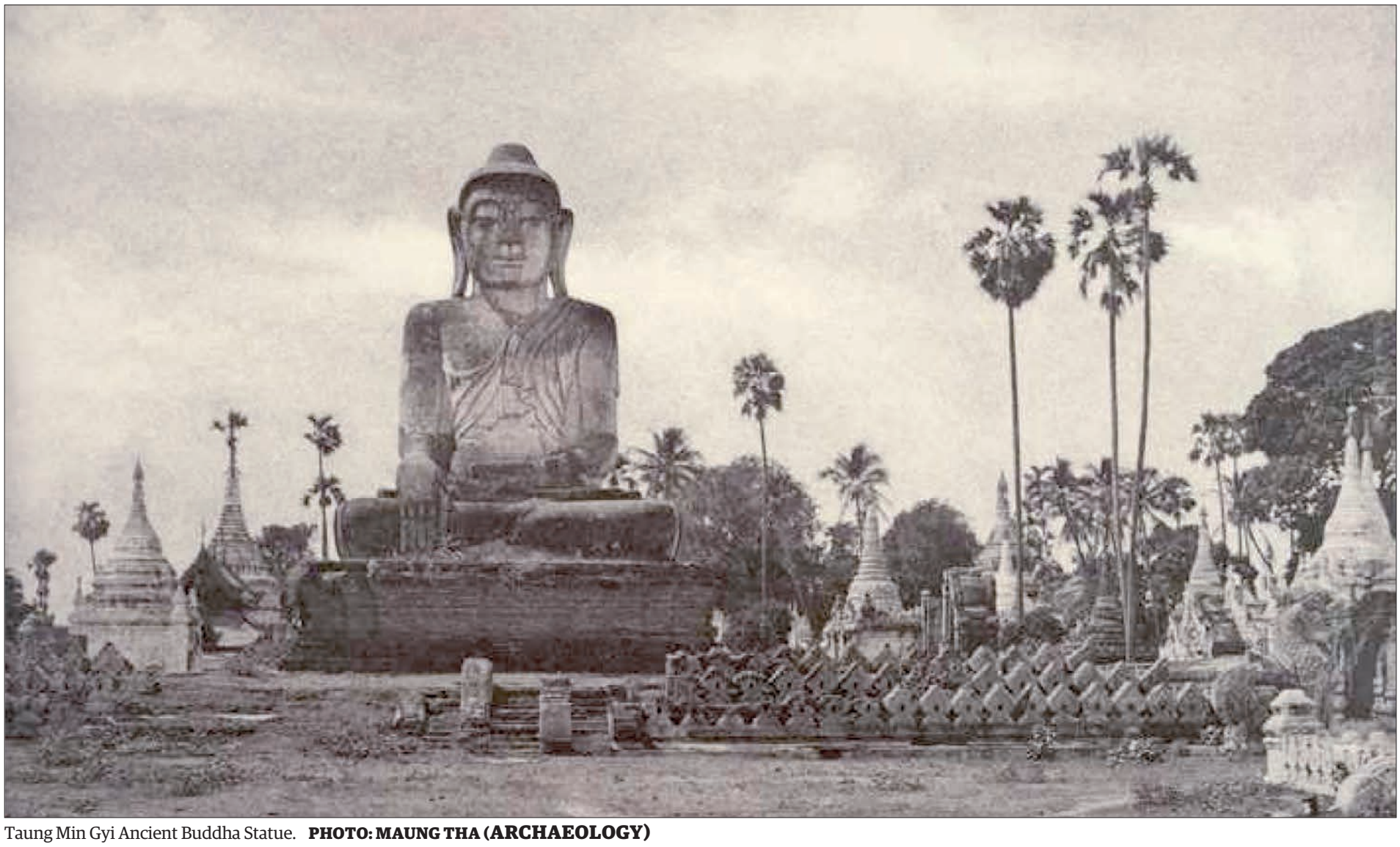

Taung Min Gyi Ancient Buddha Statue. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

Taung Min Gyi Buddha Statue in Amarapura

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

AFTER arriving at the Taung Tha Man Lake in Amarapura, first of all we went straight to the Monastery Campus in which Taung Min Gyi Buddha Statue is located, prior to heading for U Pein Bridge. While walking along the passageway to the premises of the religious edifice, there can be ancient old buildings seen on each side of the road. On climbing up along the brick stairways at the end of the passageway, a huge Buddha Statue can be seen sitting with the legs crossed, in all its grandeur.

The Statue is as an ancient historical one, known as the Basking Statue "Nay Pu Khan Kodawgyi," once in the past. Taung Tha Man Lake situated in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region is a tourist attraction for U Pein Bridge which had been built across the wide fishery and its peaceful environs of great beauty. Amarapura is located at 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) far from Mandalay. Due to the urban development, at the present time Amarapura completely became connected with Mandalay. Accordingly, all visitors to Mandalay come to call at Amarapura. During the Konebaung Era, Amarapura was the city of the Kingdom for two times, once in the reign of Bodaw Phaya (King Badon) in (1783-1823) and another in the rule of King Thayarwady in (1837-1857).

The Sacred Buddha Statue made of bricks which is located at the western end of the U Pein Bridge near to the Taung Tha Man Lake formerly used to reside in the open space without having any roof above, so it was renowned as the Basking Buddha Statue. In Taung Tha Man Region, it was built of bricks in 1148 ME (AD- 1786) by the donor Taung Min Gyi by the name of Min Hla Kyaw Swa, the high ranking executive officer of Artistes, who had ever served as the Chief of White Elephants, "ဆင်ဖြူဝန်". Hence, it was also named "Hsin Phyu Wun Pagoda" after the Chief. In the Parabaik Map drawn by the artists in the Royal Palace, which was the writing tablet made of palm leaves in the form of accordion the Statue was recorded as ဆင်ဖြူဝန်ဘုရား. However, it was known as "Taung Min Gyi Phaya," nowadays.

Measurements of Taung Min Gyi Buddha Statue are 46 feet 11 inches in height, with 36 feet 6 inches in width between the kneecaps while sitting legs crossed and 13 feet 1 inch in height of the crested headdress respectively. The sacred posture of the hands of the Statue is called "Bumi Phatha Mudra" as its fingers are touching the ground. The holy legs of the Statue had been sculpted in the position of practicing meditation, so it was called "Zarnarthana".

At the time when Nay Pu Khan Kodawgyi was built, it had never roofed. Long ago, it was believed that it would cause great trouble to the worshippers if the Statue "Nay Pu Khan Kodawgyi" was kept under the roof. By word of mouth, it was learnt that it had collapsed though the Sacred Statue had ever been roofed once in the past.

Under the aegis of U Yin Gale of Chinatown in Amarapura, the sale of raffle tickets was launched so as to get contributions needed for the construction of the edifice for the Basking Buddha Statue to take the shelter under the roof. With the money gained from the raffle, a prayer hall managed to be built successfully. Thenceforth, the original name of the Sacred Buddha Statue gradually disappeared and it was well-known as the Taung Min Gyi Pagoda. However, the record of the date when it had been constructed was not found.

It had been written in the journal of "Tanung Min Gyi Myat Swar Phayar", Henry Yule of the British Envoy Entourage which arrived at the Government Rent House of Amarapura in 1855 made a record in "the Court of Ava in 1855" that 'Nay Pu Khan Kodawgyi' / a great statue situated at the far end of Taung Tha Man Fishery Lake in Amarapura was smilingly looking at them, like the great statues in Nile Basin of Egypt.

King Mindon (1853-1878), 10th Ruler of Konebaung Dynasty ruled his kingdom residing in Amarapura in 1853. Before King Mindon moved the capital of his kingdom from Amarapura to Mandalay, Dalhousie, the Governor General in India sent the Envoy Entourage led by Sir Arthur Phayre in June, 1853, to Amarapura, which came there with two main objectives. One was to consult with King Mindon to fully acknowledge the British's occupation of Pegu in 1852 at the end of Anglo-Burma War, as the Upper Burma Government and the other aim was to be able to record the various situations in Myanmar, accompanied by an English Officer named 'Linnaeus Tripe who was serving in Madras Army & an artist named 'Colesworthy Grant.' Amarapura was the first-ever city in which the British Envoy established headquarters in Myanmar. The envoy team led by Sir Arthur Phayre lodged in the Government Rent

House opened in 1795.

During the trip from Yangon to Amarapura, Mr. Linnaeus Tripe took over 200 photographs in all, and published 120 photos. Out of them, there included 50 photos photographed in Amarapura, including the picture of Nay Pu Khan Kodawgyi, which became a valuable record in history. The Sacred Buddha Statue taken by the photographer was surrounded by miniature stupas. He recorded in his book on photo record, together with the photograph that the statue was 37 feet 6 inches in height above the throne.

At the time when Bodawpaya (King Badon—1782 to 1819) ascended to the throne, he appointed his childhood friend, Taung Min Gyi as the Chief of the Royal Treasury, who had a son named Maung Shwe Kan.

Ancient religious building at the side of the passageway. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)**

Being a handsome youth whose father was so familiar with King Badon, Maung Shwe Kan used to flirt with daughters in the western royal chamber and young concubines of the King. On hearing this, King Badon summoned Taung Min Gyi to reprimand his son.

For fear that the whole lineage would incur the wrath of the King on account of his son's imprudent foolishness Taung Min Gyi himself killed his son 'Maung Shwe Kan' at the 'Cemetery of Two Mango Trees' it was said. The then Amarapura city dwellers who had heard Taung Min Gyi's execution of his own son lampooned that 'Shwe Kan incurred the wrath of his father, happening to face his father's execution mercilessly.'

On hearing about this, the King summoned Taung Min Gyi to appear before him and said, "I asked you to reprimand your son, instead you killed your son against my order. Feeling greatly saddened over his great regret for his own son, Taung Min Gyi had been said to have passed away after building 4 Standing Buddha Statues on the western side of Taung Tha Man Lake. One more pagoda was built in Yardaw village near to the village of Tagundaing in Amarapura Township, which was the native village of Maung Shwe Kan.

Due to the earthquake which struck in 1200 ME, Taung Min Gyi Buddha Statue was collapsed to destruction. Therefore, U Hmone, owner of the sawing business of Myin Yone Quarter, Amarapura got permission from King Bagan (1846-1853) to renovate the ruined Buddha Statue in the posture of sitting with legs crossed, in 1212 ME. With the subsidies granted by the King, U Hmone renovated the statue, it completely came to a finish in the year 1214 ME when King Mindon ascended to the throne.

As time went past, Taung Min Gyi Buddha Statue went uncared and unmaintained, and it was covered by bushes exuberantly again. During the period when the British Government ruled the country after taking King Thibaw to India Shwe Hlan Sayar Phoo residing in Mikesu Ywathit, at the east of Theingyizay, Amarapura in 1250 ME, cleared away the bushes in the surrounding area of Taung Min Gyi Buddha Statue and held a grand food-offering-ceremony to the Statue on the Full Moon Day of Tabaung month. Thenceforth, Taung Min Gyi Buddha Festival has been being celebrated in Tabaung month annually.

In the journal of 'Taung Min Gyi Myat Swar Phayar' it was written that the bottom of the present day's Sein Daun Khon / decorative device resembling a row of upright leaves used in the Statue has been 85 square feet in width, with 10 feet 6 inches in height, 21 cubit 2 hand-spans between kneecaps while sitting with legs crossed, the length of the forehead 12 cubit, the width of the mouth 4 cubits and one hand-span.

In the description on the platform of the Buddha Statue it was expressed that the measurement of the throne has been 7 cubit in height, 33 feet from East to West & 47 feet from South to North. Each of the ears of the Buddha Statue is wide enough for a man to sit in, it was written.

We moved around the Sacred Buddha Statue clockwise to worship it and then we exited through the north gate to set foot on the Tarmac Road leading to U Pein Bridge.

In the campus of the Taung Min Gyi Buddha Statue, ancient edifices can be found. The Basking Statue, found among the Cassia Trees once in the Past, can be seen under the grand shelter nowadays, and we can worship it with deep devotion. It depicts Myanmar People's heart-felt belief in the religion. Similarly obviously enough, the Sacred Buddha Statue had been sculpted with splendid handwork of Myanmar Architecture.

Reference : The Journal of Taung Min Gyi Myat Swar Phayar

The Journey to Amerapoora in 1855 (Linnaeus Tripe)

Translated by Khin Maung Oo

■■■

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Myanmar International Series: Thet Htar Thuzar in semifinal after beating India's Samiya Imad

MYANMAR badminton icon Thet Htar Thuzar defeated India's Samiya Imad Farooqui yesterday in the quarterfinal match of the women's singles, held at Court I of the National Badminton Stadium in Yangon.

With the win, Thet Htar Thuzar has secured a place in the semifinals, where the world No. 73 ranked player will face Indonesia's Maharani Sekar Batari, whose world ranking is 290. Samiya Imad Farooqui is ranked 581.

In yesterday's match, in spite of the gap in ranking, Thet Htar Thuzar made an all-out effort to get a win. She managed to beat Samiya Imad Farooqui 21-13, 13-21, and 21-16.

Maharani Sekar Batari defeated Yu Chieh of Taiwan in the Round of 32 event by 25-23 and 21-28, and she beat Gayatri Gopichand Pullela of India by 21-10 and 21-13 in the Round of 16 event, and Benyapa Aimsaard of Thailand in the quarterfinal by 18-21, 21-13, and 22-20.

The match between Thet Htar Thuzar and Maharani Sekar Batari will start at 1.30 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time at the National Badminton Stadium. It will be broadcast live on Skynet Channel and will be streamed on Get Ride Myanmar's Facebook page.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Myanmar badminton star Thet Htar Thuzar poses for a photo at the National Badminton Stadium in Yangon. **PHOTO: THET HTAR THUZAR'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

Children participating in a Grassroots Football Festival, held yesterday at the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago. **PHOTO: MNL**

Grassroots Football Festival for youth kicks off in Bago

WITH the aim of identifying, grooming, and training the next generation of youth footballers, a grassroots football festival supervised by the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) was held yesterday at the Grand Royal Stadium in Bago.

The festival opened with the announcement of the 12 teams participating in the U-14 football tournament 2019, which is scheduled to be held from 14-22 September at the same venue in Bago. Governmental officials from Bago Region, MFF officials and coaches, trainers from the Sports and Physical Education Department, and children from basic education schools in Bago and their parents attended the ceremony. The ceremony opened with the Myanmar Post and Telecommunications and Myanmar Care donating footballs to children. The ceremony was well-attended, with children kicking balls into the net, eager to show their skills on the pitch, and posing for group photos with trainers. A total of 260 children participated in the festival yesterday.

Similar festivals will be held later at other cities in different states and regions, including Yangon, Pathein, Bago, Mawlamyaing, Taunggyi, Monywa, and Sittway, according to officials.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Sarri back, Ronaldo firing on all cylinders as Juventus head for Fiorentina

MILAN — Cristiano Ronaldo returns to Italian league action after his four-goal spree for Portugal as Juventus head for Fiorentina on Saturday also boosted by coach Maurizio Sarri's highly-anticipated debut on the bench after a bout of pneumonia.

The ex-Chelsea coach missed his first two league games with the Serie A champions against Parma and his former club Napoli. But the 60-year-old will be on the bench for the first time on Saturday as Juventus look to make it three wins this season before their Champions League opener at Atletico Madrid midweek. Ronaldo's four goals in Portugal's European qualifying win over Lithuania during the week were enough to send shivers down the spines of Fiorentina fans. The 34-year-old overtook Ireland's Robbie Keane as the all-time top scorer in Euro qualifiers, with 25 goals, and will be looking to impress further with the winner of the Best FIFA Football Awards to be named in Milan on September 23.

Ronaldo will lead the Juventus attack along with Douglas Costa and Gonzalo Higuain, the Argentine also in-form on his return to Turin after a loan spell at Chelsea.

"I'm back on the same team as Cris (Ronaldo) after a few years and he's even stronger, more complete and ambitious, I'm happy to play with him again," said Higuain, who played alongside Ronaldo on Real Madrid, said on Thursday. Fiorentina have also changed owners and coach with former AC Milan and Sevilla manager Vincenzo Montella overseeing two defeats in as many games on his return to the club.

"Great stories are born of impossible challenges," said Montella, whose side last beat their fierce rivals in January 2017.

The rivalry has been fuelled further after Juventus wrapped up their eighth consecutive title with a 2-1 win at the expense of the Tuscans last April.

"I'd like to start a new chapter in Fiorentina's history by doing something special against Sarri's team," Montella told Gazzetta Dello Sport.

And Montella believes that new French signing Franck Ribery can make the difference for the team.

Maurizio Sarri missed Juventus's first two matches because of pneumonia. **PHOTO: AFP**

"Franck played the friendly against Perugia as if he was playing the Champions League final," he said. "He's different, as Ronaldo is different. We talk of stars who excel through sacrifice. They are wonderful examples for everyone." "It will be hard, very hard, but we're convinced that we will see a new great Fiorentina," said new Italian-American owner Rocco Commisso hoping to build a team who can add to their Serie A titles in 1956 and 1969.—AFP ■