"Myanmar is now on the path to democracy. A nascent democracy can be compared to a toddler learning to walk; we have to be careful not to falter at this stage and need to maintain a proper balance. If we wish democracy to survive, we have to respect the rule of law and existing rules and regulations."

(Excerpt from the message extended by President U Win Myint on the occasion of the International Day of Democracy which falls on 15th September, 2018.)

Ancient Heritage Yoke Soun Kyaung and Nuns.
PHOTO: ZAW ZAW WEI (SINBYUKYUN)

Message of Greetings sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the occasion of the Kayin New Year day (6 January 2019)

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3. The good traits such as honesty, diligence, loyalty, and ability to act with firm determination which has been inherited from great grandparents of Kayin ethnic nationals have been preserved and maintained up to the present. This year marks the 2758th year.
4. Such good traditions and customs are very valuable resources for the establishment of a democratic union. At such an important time like this when we are facing internal and external challenges, the abilities and spirit of each and every ethnic national is indeed very important. The united consolidated strength of all of us constitutes a very powerful weapon for the defence and security of our country.
5. Kayin nationals who have suffered heavily the scourges of internal conflicts for many decades understand and believe deeply the need to achieve peace without fail. That is why I have high regard and great expectations for the power of straightforwardness and bravery of Kayin nationals in the peace building and national reconciliation process.
6. I pray that for many years to come, as long as this world endures, countless generations would be able to preserve the noble traditions laid down by the grandparents, in happiness and personal security; may they be able to implement with great momentum in 2758 Kayin Era; may the Kayin State continue to develop and enjoy bounteous harvests and prosperity; may you all have peace of mind and share the blessings of good fortune and auspiciousness. I thus send these warm good wishes with Metta.

Aung San Suu Kyi

Union Minister U Ohn Win inspects storage of raw jade

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win inspected the storage of raw jade in the jade storage area in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

There, the Union Minister inspected the storage of raw jade and the arrangement of jade lots to be auctioned in the 56th Myanmar Gems Emporium, which will be held from 11 to 20 March 2019.

He also viewed the arrangement of jade lots from Sankatan 1 block, operated in a joint venture between the State and U Ya Gem Company in the jade storage compound, the storage of 28 raw jade pieces cut from a 308 ton jade boulder found at Maklinchaung 2 block, operated by Yadana Taung Tan Company, and the installation of new CCTV cameras for security.

Union Minister U Ohn Win inspects the storage of jade lots in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MNA

The 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium concluded on 30th June last year at Mani Yandana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Emporium lasted for 10 days, during which 5,259 jade lots worth 423.118 million euros, were sold to merchants.

Most of the jade lots were bought by Chinese gem merchants, and they were better represented than gem merchants from Thailand, Canada, Australia and the US, who were attending the emporium.

Myanmar Gem Enterprise Managing Director and company officials provided explanations, and the Union Minister reviewed the necessary arrangements. Later, the Union Minister inspected trees planted during the 2018 monsoon tree planting festival in Pho Zaung Taung reserve block 17 near Nay Pyi Taw-Tatkon No. 1 Road mile post.

He also viewed a mixture of 12 bamboo species planted during the 2018 rain season in a 1.18 acre bamboo plantation near Orthopaedic Hospital in Ottarathiri Township, Ottara District, Nay Pyi Taw. Further, the Union Minister remarked on making preparations to conduct similar plantings of trees during the upcoming rain season. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin visiting Maungtaw

A group led by Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin from the Office of the State Counsellor will visit Maungtaw region on 6 January, following recent attacks on four border police outposts.

The group will include Permanent Secretary U Zaw Than Thin, U Myo Myint Maung, Myanmar Police Force, Chief of Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and Relief and Resettlement Department Director General U Ko Ko Naing.

The group will inspect the sites where the attacks occurred and will provide support and assistance. They will be accompanied by a representative from the Rakhine State government and 15 news media personnel. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)