Japan's State Minister for Foreign Affairs visits Maungtaw

JAPAN'S State Minister for Foreign Affairs Ms. Toshiko Abe, accompanied by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, visited Maungtaw yesterday and viewed houses which are under construction with the assistance of Japanese government.

First, they flew to Kyeinchaungtaung Village in Maungtaw Township by helicopter where personnel of a construction company reported on works related to the construction.

Afterwards, viewed the houses which are under construction and earth works.

Mrs. Toshiko Abe has the documentary photo taken together with teachers at Shwezar Village. **PHOTO: MNA**

With the assistance of the Japanese government, 51 houses with steel frames in Kyeinchaungtaung Village, 50 in Oh-htein Village, including each community hall for the two villages.

Afterwards, the two deputy ministers visited the Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre where officials concerned reported on readiness for repatriation including for accommodation, security, clinic, mess, drinking water supply, electricity, roads and rations.

Following this, the delegation visited the clinic at the centre. Afterwards, Ms. Toshiko Abe and party visited Shwezar Village and viewed Islam children studying lessons. Ms. Toshiko Abe met with local ethnic people, Hindu people and Islam people at the village. At the meeting, she told the villagers that the Japanese government would cooperate with Myanmar government in Rakhine issue.

Ms. Toshiko Abe and Deputy Minister U Soe Aung hear report on readiness for repatriation at Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterwards, Ms. Toshiko Abe and U Soe Aung went to Pantawpyin (Middle) Village and viewed the distribution of food to local ethnic people and Islamic people living in 12 villages by the volunteers under the program of Japanese government and the Food and Agricultural Organization.

They also greeted the local Islamic villagers.

Afterwards, they flew back to Sittway. Thence, they left Sittway for Yangon by air. — MNA

(Translated by AMS)

Opening ceremony for the First Mandalay Yatanar Mall International Gems and Jewellery Fair-2019 held

THE opening ceremony for the 1st International Gems and Jewellery Fair-2019 held at Yadanabon Super Center, on the corner of 78th street and 34th street, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.

Firstly, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr. Ye Myint Swe and officials opened the ceremony by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Afterward, Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung said, gems expos in every country showcase the wealth of the country. Various types of the gem are found in Myanmar and 80 types of precious stones including qualified stones are found in Mogok. High-quality gems and low-quality gems are displayed in the expo so that all levels of people can come and buy. We need to try to hold more such kind of expo in the future. By including program about holding the expo annually in this expo, international audience will become aware of it and will visit without invitation. On the other hand the expo will promote the country's tourism industry. As such I encourage to work toward conducting the expo in a sustained manner every year after this expo.

Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe said Myanmar is a country rich in natural resources, not the least of which are jade, rubies, and sapphires from Myanmar have consistently ranked as some of the most popular and magnificent gems in the world market. As Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation intends to use natural resources until next generations in accordance with rules and regulations and will reduce selling raw gems and now is giving priority to produce as high-value products. Following this Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association U L Phai Khun Sa and Mandalay Yatanar Mall Gems Entrepreneurs Development Committee Chairman U Kyaw Thura says words of thanks.

Then, the Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, the Deputy Minister Dr. Ye Myint Swe and officials pressed a button to unveil the expo's signboard and toured the booths exhibited.

The aim of the event is to penetrate the international market through the exhibition of Myanmar's gems, to rebuild international gem market in the country and to upgrade development of jade and refined gems market and technology.

The event will be held from 15 to 19 January, 10 am to 7 pm. The expo will feature about 400 booths and about 10,000 gem merchants from 40 countries were invited.—Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-Printing House) /*(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)*

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung looks around jeweleries displayed at the 1st International Gems and Jewellery Fair-2019. **PHOTO: AUNG PHYO KYAW**

Foreign trade reaches $8143 mln in October-December this fiscal year

MYANMAR'S foreign trade totalled US$8143 million in October-December this fiscal year, with exports valued at $3598 million and imports pegged at $4545 million. The value of trade increased by $126 million from the same period last year. The value of exports rose by $143 million and imports decrease by $17 million.

During the same period last year, the value of trade stood at $8017 million, with exports worth $3455 million and imports worth $4562million.

The following table shows Myanmar's exports this FY compared with the same period last FY: (US$ million)

Sr.	Sector	2018-2019 FY (October-December)	2017-2018 (October-December)	Comparison (+/-)
1	Agricultural products	739.686	737.768	1.918
2	Animals products	170.784	13.206	157.578
3	Marine products	225.100	194.165	30.935
4	Mineral products	293.007	379.279	-86.272
5	Forest products	47.162	50.086	-2.924
6	Manufactured goods	1922.130	1676.540	245.589
7	Other products	199.784	404.135	-204.351
	Total	**3597.653**	**3455.180**	**142.473**

The following table shows Myanmar's imports this FY compared with the same period last FY:

(US$ million)

Sr.	Sector	2018-2019 FY (October-December)	2017-2018 FY (October-December)	Comparison (+)/(-)
1	Investment Products	1513.250	1536.109	-22.858
2	Raw Materials	1889.320	1955.166	-65.845
3	Articles of use	1142.954	1070.871	-72.083
	Total	**4545.526**	**4562.146**	-16.620

Financial support transferred for fallen police officers in Buthidaung

ON 14 January House of Orchid organization presented K 13,000,000 to Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for 13 fallen police officers in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State and Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye received donated cash and in thanked the donors for the donation.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and party then transferred the donated cash to Police Colonel Soe Myint Oo, Chief of No.1 Border Guard Police who accepted it on behalf of the families of the 13 fallen police officers. —MNA