The Inauguration Ceremony of the China – Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association and 2019 China–Myanmar Economic Corridor First Investment Summit held

Union Minister U Thaung Tun and PRC Former Ambassador Mr. Guan Mu open the inauguration ceremony of the China-Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association and 2019 China - Myanmar Economic Corridor First Investment Summit in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE inauguration ceremony of the China – Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association and 2019 China – Myanmar Economic Corridor First Investment Summit was held at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon today.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by U Thaung Tun, Union Minister for the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission, U Tin Maung Tun, Chairman of the Yangon Region Hluttaw, U Myint Thaung, Minister of Planning and Finance of Yangon Region Government, Mr. Guan Mu, Former Ambassador of the People Republic of China to Myanmar, representatives of the China – Myanmar Economic Cooperation and Development Promotion Association, senior government officials, and foreign and local investors.

Speakers at the opening session expressed their conviction that the close ties of friendship between China- Myanmar would be further strengthen through development of trade and investment opportunities.—MNA ■

Tatmadaw to take proper legal action against village in-charge linked to AA

TATMADAW columns are cooperating with the Myanmar Police Force, departmental officials and local residents to gather information on members of the AA group who are instigating fighting and hiding among the villages in Rakhine State.

During the course of these security operations, the police received information that AA members were masquerading as villagers of Shwe Pyi Thar village in Kyauktaw Township. Police and Tatmadaw columns conducted a surprise investigation on 16 May.

They noticed U Thein Soe Aung, who is in charge of the village, taking photos of the security forces from his home. Upon inspecting his phone, they discovered photographic evidence of his connection with the AA. They also discovered sacks of dried rice, cartons of instant noodles, rehydration salt packets and other foodstuff packaged in his home.

The Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services has released news that they are working in line with the proper rules and regulations to take legal action against U Thein Soe Aung for his connection to the AA group.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

The photo found in the mobile phone shows U Thein Soe Aung, who is in charge of the Shwe Pyi Thar Village, Kyauktaw Township in AA uniform. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Anti-Corruption Commission discusses whistle-blower protection in workshop

A workshop on drafting a whistle-blower protection law was held at Grand Amara Hotel yesterday morning.

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi first delivered a speech. He said Myanmar signed the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) in December 2012 and was brought into effect starting from January 2013.

The ACC Chairman read Article 33 of the UNCAC which says: "Protection of reporting persons—Each State Party shall consider incorporating into its domestic legal system appropriate measures to provide protection against any unjustified treatment for any person who reports in good faith and on reasonable grounds to the competent authorities any facts concerning offences established in accordance with this Convention."

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi delivers the speech at the workshop on drafting a whistle-blower protection law. **PHOTO: MNA**

He said objective 1/4 of the Strategic Plan for Anti-Corruption (2018-2021) includes plans to establish legal protection mechanisms for whistle-blowers and the deadline is slated as 2019-2020.

U Aung Kyi said this law is not just for combating against corruption. He said it will be equally important in government departments and public-oriented organizations when people expose money laundering, drug and human trafficking, counterfeiting food and drugs, technological fraudulence, sexual assault, blackmail and nepotism.

He said we must bravely expose cases of corruption to establish a good administration system and institutions and we must do them now to expect good results in the next decade. He urged the workshop attendees to put in their best efforts to revitalize the integrity of the civil servant workforce.

Next, Ms. Marie Pegie Cauchois from the UNODC Country Office explained that whistle-blower protection supports initial investigations and taking action. She said it protects whistle-blowers from revenge and promotes the emergence of such a law in line with Article 33 of UNCAC. She said people will only come out to expose crime if protection for them exists and welcomed the workshop as a first step towards that cause, adding that they provide whatever aid necessary.

The workshop then commenced. Attending the workshop were the Chairman, secretary and members of the Anti-Corruption Commission, external legal experts, officials from UNODC, UNDP and Union Ministries, journalists and invited persons.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*