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in
Picture

Hot-air balloons in the shape of animals hover over the crowd assembled in Taunggyi, Shan State, for the annual balloon festival. Balloons in the shape of animals, cartoon characters and historic figures were among the dozens of entries into the festival, which attracts thousands of spectators. The festival will continue until 3 November. **PHOTO: KO KO SOE NYUNT**

Entrepreneurs to develop Rakhine

ENTREPRENEURS gathered in Maungtaw, Rakhine State, yesterday to explore business opportunities in their attempts to revitalise the border region's economy, which has stalled since terrorist attacks in late August.

The businessmen from the

Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) arrived in Maungtaw yesterday to seek development opportunities for the whole region.

Soon after their arrival, the businessmen met with repre-

sentatives of the Rakhine State Government.

"Can we establish a textile factory in Maungtaw Region? We have to think about production and business development since it's an economic zone. If we can boost the market, then it

will simultaneously increase job opportunities," said U Aung Kyi Soe, General-Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

The Union Government urged the businessmen to op-

erate in a new economic mechanism, pledging that the administration would encourage competition among the businesses in Rakhine in implementing rehabilitation, resettlement and development.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than at stake-driving ceremony for main building of the region Hluttaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than visits Bogoyoke Aung San Museum

AFTER a meeting with MPs of Magway Region parliament, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than yesterday drove stakes at the place where the main building of the region Hluttaw will be built.

Accompanied of MPs of Amyotha Hluttaw and officials,

the Speaker held meeting with region Hluttaw representative at the Hluttaw at 11 am.

The ceremony to drive in stakes for the building was held at noon. The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, the speaker and the deputy speaker of region Hluttaw and officials

drove stakes at an auspicious time.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and party visited Bogoyoke Aung San Museum in Natmauk at 2 pm. They also presented cash donations for the museum. —Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe) ■

Markets start doing normal business in Maungtaw

MARKETS in Maungtaw region have started doing business as usual after a brief closure due to the terrorist attacks occurred on 25 August this year.

The Four-Mile market which has over 100 shops and Kanyintan market, mainly for vendors are busy as usual thanks to the gradual prevalence of peace and stability in the region. The Maungtaw Myoma Market with over 400 shopping booths will open soon.

“In the past there were private markets. Rakhine State government made an announcement to terminate them before the occurrence of terrorist attacks. After the attacks all markets were closed. But after the establishment of new villages, the markets will be opened in accord with the regional needs. Some private businessmen have opened their shops, but

others have not yet. The Myoma Market will be opened only after the renovation and sanitation work have finished. The Township Development Committee and townselders will fix the opening date after holding a meeting,” said an official of the committee.

Maungtaw has the Myoma Market, the Four-Mile Market, other vendor markets owned by the Development Committee and 26 private markets operating under its permission.

“As there were a number of markets in Maungtaw before the occurrence of terrorist attacks, the price of a chicken is just around K 5000. But now it is about K 10000; a local shop owner said.

After the establishment of new villages in the places of burnt-out villages, all the markets will be upgraded. —Thant Zin Win/Naing Lin Kyi ■



Street vendors selling fresh vegetables and fruits at the market in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

UEHRD project continues together with Rakhine Gov't



UEHRD Vice Chairman Dr Win Myat Aye meets with members of Rakhine State Cabinet at State guest house meeting room in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

“WORK has started for the emergence of a collective force with the participation of all stake holders to implement the UEHRD Programme,” said vice chairman of UEHRD, Dr. Win Myat Aye.

“In working to achieve the goal of UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine) internal strength is most important. We are working to create a better situation than before. Humanitarian assistance and development works are also being carried out simultaneously,” said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, vice chairman of UEHRD, Dr. Win Myat Aye at the meeting with members of the Rakhine State Cabinet at the State Guest House meeting room yesterday morning.

He then explained about arrangements being made

by UEHRD to accept donated funds through the Myanmar Economic Bank and Private Banks, arrangements being made for dissemination of news and communications procedures, arrangements being made for implementation of UEHRD projects with the cooperation of businessmen who have been organized into Nine Task Forces, and plans for the implementation of certain recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State which are deemed to be beneficial, and plans for the participation of youths in future projects.

Afterwards, U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State clarified on rehabilitation plans, the status of donations received and use of donated materials, and arrangements for cooperation and coordination with UEHRD.

Then the State cabinet members discussed about the present and future plans regarding

UEHRD projects after which the Union Minister gave concluding remarks for coordination of efforts. He also discussed the creation of a system for youth volunteers, social organizations and community based organizations to collaborate with the Union government. To be able to implement the above-said system a 3-day course will be conducted from 6-8 November 2017 and the Central Coordination Team, State Coordination Team and youth volunteers will attend the course.

Besides, the team led by the Union Minister went to Myothugyi village of Maungtaw township to see the harvesting of ripened paddy with harvesting machines provided by the Union government. It is learnt that humanitarian assistance will continue to be provided by the Rakhine State government and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. —MNA ■

Farm machinery course for peasants of N. Rakhine State

ANNUAL farm machinery operation courses are being held for the convenience of rice harvesting in Maungtaw region the rice bowl of northern Rakhine State.

“Agricultural Mechanization Department-AMD is conducting both the long-term and short-term courses annually. The short-term course lasts for 14 days.

The courses enable farmers to operate their own farm

machinery. The courses include the use and repair of power-tillers and pumps. Last year the courses were held at two different places,” said head of Rakhine State ADM.

As there is no adequate number of skilled operators in the region yet, skilled staffs of the AMDs of other regions and states were hired for mechanized harvesting and winnowing. “As for operating heavy machinery, farmers can

attend the Central Agricultural Mechanization School in Meiktila. It is a four-month course. The school’s admittance system prioritizes children of peasants. It is accepting nearly 1000 trainees every year. Trainees from Kyauktaw and MraukU are now attending the course. The course enables them to skillfully operate heavy farm machinery,” he said. —Naing Lin Kyi/Thant Zin Win ■

Two townships in Rakhine State get 24-hour power supply



U Myint Maung.



U Win Hlaing.



U Nyi Htwe.



U Aung Myint.



Ma Pan Nu Wai.

Interviewers: Aung Kyaw Oo and Han Lin Naing
PHOTOS: NAY THIT OO

A 33/11 KV5MVA sub-power station in Rakhine State has been supplying electricity to Myebon and Pauktaw round the clock since the first week of this month even before the ceremonial commissioning of the facility that will be in the early November.

The news team interviewed the officials of the Electricity and Energy Ministry.

U Myint Maung, Superintending Engineer Nay Pyi Taw HQ

We face a lot of difficulties in installing power lines to Myebon and Pauktaw townships as they are located on the coastline. We are happy as we could overcome all the difficulties including poor transportation, harsh weather and labour shortage in providing electricity for locals.

In the past there was a diesel power-distribution generator. The government permitted the project for community peace and social progress. Thanks to the cooperation of the locals and officials, we could achieve the goal amidst the many difficulties.

U Win Hlaing, Head of Myebon Township Electricity Department

The national grid is provid-



U Kyaw Myo Win.



Daw Saw Yin Oo.



U Tun Wai.



U Kyaw Win Gyi.

ing power to Myebon beginning 1 October. In the past we used generators that could supply power under time limits. Now we are providing power to over 1100 households of the nine wards in Myebon. Five villages will get power before the fiscal 2017-2018.

Because of the terrain that is divided with many natural streams, we are going to provide power to 20 villages within a three-year period.

U Nyi Htwe, Headmaster Myebon Basic Education High School

Life was so hard when there

was no electricity. Even duplicating a copy of a letter needed the ignition of the generator. So it was very difficult to do the office works then. Now we have round-the-clock electricity. It facilitates the office work and the learning process.

Students now can learn their lessons individually or in groups at night. Electricity has improved the social lives of the locals, apart from the progress in health and education sectors.

U Aung Myint, townselder Myebon

The whole town was very

happy when the 24-hour power distribution started. Electricity has ensured convenience for all the families, businesses and students of the town. As there is electricity there is no more depletion of mangrove forest as people do not need to cut woods for fuel. We have never dreamt of it. Now we are happy.

Ma Pan Nu Wai Matriculation student

In the past, we faced difficulties in learning our lessons. We are all happy as there is 24-hour power supply in the town.

U Kyaw Myo Win Head of Pauktaw Township Electricity Department

Power is flowing into Pauktaw from the national grid on 2 October this year. We faced the harsh weather conditions in installing the power line to Pauktaw. As the ground is soft, erection of posts was also a hard job. In the past our department supply power for four hours and the power supply committee over one hours every day. Now we have 24-hour electricity.

Currently we are providing power for 976 households of the five Wards of Pauktaw. The remaining households will get power soon.

Daw Saw Yin Oo Basic education teacher, Pauktaw

The 24-hour power supply facilitates our daily work. Students now can learn their lessons without difficulties. In the past children could learn their lessons only when the power supply was on. Household work has also become easier now. We thank the officials concerned for 24-hour power supply.

U Tun Wai, townselder Pauktaw

Truly, there is social progress due to 24-hour power supply. In the past generators could supply power for only three to four hours daily. The townspeople were facing hardships. Now we don't need to rely on charcoal for cooking. People of the town are also happy.

U Kyaw Win Gyi, secretary of a religious association Pauktaw

There was only part-time power distribution for the town in the past. We are happy as the national grind is supplying power for us round the clock. We feel extremely happy when we know that even the villages will get electricity. We thank officials concerned for the continuous power supply. Power supply has facilitated the health and education sectors.

The dream of the ethnic natives of Pauktaw and Myebon has come true thanks to the 24-hour power supply. ■



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Yangon Region Hluttaw to receive commemorative blue plaque next month

THE Yangon Heritage Trust, a non-governmental heritage body conserving historic buildings around the city, will install a commemorative blue plaque at the Yangon Region Hluttaw building in coming November, said U Thurein Aung, history researcher and project manager of the YHT.

According to the Myawady Daily, the Hluttaw building is one of historic structures in Yangon.

The commercial city Yangon has Asia's largest collection of colonial-era structures.

There are numerous ancient buildings in the city. Under its project, over 100 colo-

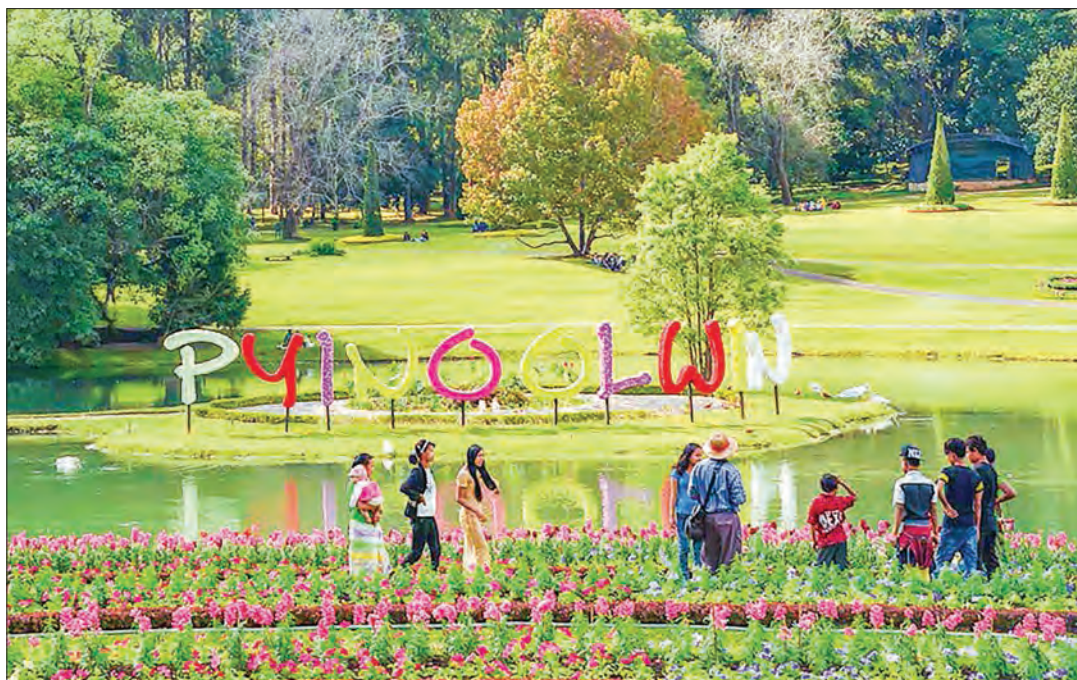
nial-era buildings will receive the YHT's commemorative blue plaque.

The Yangon Heritage Trust was established in 2012 by Historian U Thant Myint-U, the grandson of U Thant, the third Secretary-General of the United Nations, as a centre of excellence in urban buildings

and cultural heritage management.

Since then, the YHT has led the conservation effort in the culturally rich city and set the standard for good heritage practice. The YHT installed its 19th blue plaque on Yangon General Hospital this month.—GNLM ■

PyinOoLwin to be transformed into ASEAN Flower City



People visit Kandawgyi National Garden in PyinOoLwin, also known as the city of flower. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

IN a bid to export flowers to international markets, FMK Business Support Co Ltd will import quality flower seeds from the Netherlands, said Dr Tin Htut, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

According to a report of the Myawady Daily, the company will grow quality flower-

ing plants imported from the Netherlands in PyinOoLwin Township in Mandalay Region with the use of natural fertilizers. The Netherlands will provide flower growers with techniques and assist them in exploring international markets.

The Flower Growers Association will be formed as quickly as possible and loans will

be granted to flower growers. The ministry plans to transform PyinOoLwin into ASEAN Flower City, with the use of flower growing techniques of the Netherlands. Growing quality flowers in PyinOoLwin may reduce the inflow of flowers from other countries. Thanks to it, Myanmar may become a top flower-exporting country.—GNLM ■

Htamanthi Wildlife Reserve to be turned into eco-tourism destination

AUTHORITIES are planning to turn Htanmanthi Wildlife Reserve into a nature-based tourism destination, according to a report of the Myawady Daily.

The Htanmanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is planned to be transformed into an eco-tourism destination in the near future, said U Than Lynn, an official of the sanctuary.

Located within the Khamti and Homalin townships in Sagaing Region, Htanmanthi Wildlife Sanctuary is home to a wide variety of biodiversity and rare species of animals including tigers, elephants and bears. Diverse range of cultural, tradition and lifestyle of ethnic people including Shanni, Naga and Chin are also attractions for visitors. That is why the authorities are arranging to implement the new scheme.

More than 530,000-acre wildlife reserve was established in 1974. It is a natural habitat of gaur, wild pigs, mountain goats, deer, monkeys and birds.

Currently, infrastructure development plan including construction of transport facilities is being implemented in the area to turn the place into an eco-tourism destination. Data collection has also been made in the area ahead of the plan. The area of the sanctuary has enough for camping, canoeing, animal visits and vacations, an official of the sanctuary said.—GNLM ■

Entrepreneurs to develop Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

The Maungtau Border Merchants Association had been working on the Kanyin Chaung Economic Zone as the UMFCCI facilitates the project, while the UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine) has formed task forces under the leadership of their Director General Dr. Aung Htun Thet.

"The task forces will focus on creating jobs ranging from constructing buildings, agriculture, livestock breeding, developing the economic zone, healthcare, private loans, creating job opportunities and developing tourism. We have to acquire the necessary items from Yangon and Sittway", Dr. Aung Htun Thet said.

With the establishment the Kanyinchaung Economic Zone,

cold storage factories should be established to boost the region's fishery export, he said.

The largest export item from Maungtau to Bangladesh are aquatic products like prawns, hilsa and other fish, and the second biggest export item is rice.

The third and fourth most popular items are raw ginger and kitchenware.—Mawsi and MNA ■

Entrepreneurs seek business opportunities in Maungtaw

Maw Si and team

“CAN we establish a textile factory in Maungtaw Region? We have to think about the production and business development since it’s an economic zone. If we can boost the market then it will simultaneously increase job opportunities.” – U Aung Kyi Soe (General-Secretary of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

“We need to think about what we can export back when ships carrying imports arrive in Maungtaw. Right now I can think about bananas and coconuts. In 2008 the main banana market was in the Ayeyawady Region. In the context of Myanmar, bananas and coconuts are in high demand in the local markets as well.” – U Kyaw Thu (Secretary of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Production and Trade Association)

The following are excerpts from interviews with U Aung Kyi Soe, U Kyaw Thu and U Aung Myint Thein, Chairman of the Maungtaw Region Merchant Association and the Secretary of the Committee for Establishing an Economic Zone in Maungtaw, during their visits to the Maungtaw region on 29 October.

U Aung Kyi Soe (General-Secretary of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry)

Q: Can you tell us about your trip in Maungtaw?

A: There is an upcoming panel discussion about investment opportunities by the Rakhine State Government and I came here to assess development opportunities for the whole region before that discussion.

The Maungtaw Border Merchant Association had been working on the Kanyin Chaung Economic Zone and the UMFCCI (Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry) facilitates the project while the UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assis-



U Kyaw Thu. PHOTO: MNA

tance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine) has formed task forces under the leadership of their Director General Dr. Aung Htun Thet. The task forces jobs range from constructing buildings, agriculture, livestock breeding, developing the economic zone, healthcare, private loans, creating job opportunities and developing tourism. We have to acquire the necessary items from Yangon and Sittway and we had a field inspection by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Dr. Aung Htun Thet in Kanyin Chaung yesterday.

Q: What are your views on the current situation in Kanyin Chaung economic zone?

A: About 500-800 tons of supply by the Myanmar Red Cross Association arrived in the port during my visit. The main export here is fish and the sellers can immediately cross the border to sell their product over there. If we can establish the economic zone here then we can build freezer factories to store the fish and sell them when we get the price we want.

Q: How do you think the Kanyin Chaung economic zone should proceed?

A: If the economic zone is established then we need to set up border lines for potential buyers to come in and do business in the designated areas. There are also other business opportunities. Can we establish a textile factory in Maungtaw region? We have to think about the production and



U Aung Kyi Soe. PHOTO: MNA

business development since it’s an economic zone. If we can boost the market then it will simultaneously increase job opportunities.

I believe if we press forward with vigor, we can quickly and effectively develop the region.

U Aung Myint Thein (Chairman of the Maungtaw Region Merchant Association and the Secretary of the Committee for Establishing an Economic Zone in Maungtaw)

Q: Can you tell us about the history of the Kanyin Chaung Economic Zone?

A: It started as a trading zone before it was an economic zone. The trading zone started with business deals with Bangladesh. The population of Bangladesh is triple the population of Myanmar and they have a scarcity of farmland so their demand for basic foodstuff is high. This area also has 90 per cent of the export market in all of Myanmar’s nine border gates.

Q: Can you tell if there were any repercussions to business in the area after the recent attacks?

A: The US Dollar has been the main form of currency used in business transactions in Maungtaw since 1991. After the incidents in June 2012, trade went down by 60 per cent in the area.

Q: How long did it take to establish the economic zone?

A: The plans for the trade



U Aung Myint Thein. PHOTO: MNA

zone was submitted to the then Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Hla Maung Tin with four points to it but it only materialized in October 2015 by which time we started establishing the Kanyin Chaung trade zone.

The benefits of the trade zone were the increased number of vessels transporting goods. There are currently 500 to 1000 vessels in operation. Another benefit is that people from Chittagong and Dacca can directly come and purchase in Kanyin Chaung and after the incidents in Maungtaw in 2012 I hope we can offer more job opportunities.

Terrorists can arrive during times of poverty and if there are good job opportunities then it will be easy for them to penetrate into the area.

Q: Can you tell us how you acquired and managed the budget for the economic zone?

A: In the 2015-2016 fiscal year the regional government invested Ks 600 million and the private sector invested Ks 400 million into the project but it was halted due to terrorist attacks. Now in the 2017-2018 fiscal years a new budget plan of Ks 2.2 billion was planned out and submitted at a recent meeting in UMFCCI.

Q: What is the main export product for the area?

A: The largest export item are aquatic products like prawns, hilsa and other fish. Our second biggest export item is rice and third is raw ginger and kitchenware.

Q: Can you briefly explain the job and business opportunities in the area?

A: Maungtaw region alone produces at least 450 tons of prawn and the entire northern region of Rakhine produces about 900 tons of prawn. These are exported to Bangladesh which in turn exports to Singapore. We need to build a freezer factory for quality control if they do not purchase the intended amount.

Secondly, if we can build a textile industry here then we can offer jobs to the huge unemployment pool of women in Myanmar.

U Kyaw Thu (Secretary of Myanmar Agricultural Produce Production and Trade Association)

Myanmar produces between 1 million to 2 million viss of ginger annually and 80 per cent of that is exported to Bangladesh. Ginger is mainly produced in Southern Shan State and travels via Yangon to Singapore. Ginger has a shelf life of 8 months and if we can create facilities for turning ginger into high-end products then we can get better prices and income.

The Kanyin Chaung economic zone now has ports for cargo vessels. We need to think about what we can export back when ships carrying imports arrive in Maungtaw. Right now I can think about bananas and coconuts. In 2008 the main banana market was in the Ayeyawady Region. In the context of Myanmar, bananas and coconuts are in high demand in the local markets as well.

Q: What is the situation for agriculture in the area?

A: We can supply the high demand for ginger to Bangladesh by planting them here so that instead of carrying them from Shan State we can cut costs if we can supply it directly from here.

The main advantage of this area is that it is in proximity to the nearby countries so we have a control of the trade market. ■

University Scouts to entertain at the Tazaungdaing lighting festival Eve

UNIVERSITY Scouts will entertain with Messenger of Peace songs near the Independence Monument in the Mahabandoola Park, Yangon on 2 November evening, Tazaungdaing lighting

festival Eve. As “Myanmar Scout Music Festival” will be held in the evening of 12 November at Thuwanna Stadium (1), University Scouts will entertain at the Tazaungdaing lighting festival

Eve with the “Messenger of Peace” songs to bring the public’s interest to the peace.

The university scouts were in dress rehearsal yesterday evening at the Sabai Hall of No

(2) BEHS, Sanchaung Township so that to entertain at the Tazaungdaing lighting festival Eve.

The university scouts were taught by associate secretary

of Myanmar Scout Federation U Aye Kyaing and senior scouts and circus committees’ members at the dress rehearsal of yesterday evening. —Myanmar Scout Federation ■

From economic development to regional peace and stability

By Khin Maung Oo

UNDENIABLY, poverty and naivety can easily cause unnecessary evil effects, being the causes which create the increasing growth of social problems and conflicts in northern Rakhine State. It can be said that the local people in Rakhine State were mainly displaced to other places by severe shortages of employment opportunities in the region. Displaced persons include not only those who fled in large numbers into the neighboring country due to attacks of extremist terrorists but also the local nationals who went away in search of greener pastures.

Now that the region has started to regain some measure of peace and stability, all have been found to be making concerted efforts for the successful implementation of projects and initiatives to alleviate the suffering of the people in Rakhine State regardless of race or

religion. Yet, success cannot emerge all of a sudden as if being thrown into a magic lake. We will achieve success only if we all collectively implement under short-and-long-term plans effectively and in a timely manner. Recently, local entrepreneurs energetically offered tidy amounts of contributions to the UEHRD (Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State) for the provision of humanitarian assistance, resettlement efforts and the economic development of Rakhine State. However, more investments are needed from other companies and business leaders for the socio-economic development of Rakhine State. Once we have a successful working model in Rakhine State, this process can be replicated in other States and Regions.

Being a coastal region, Rakhine State is a fertile land. Looking at towns,

villages and the coastal areas, it has a large number of rivers, creeks, lakes and the flat coastal plain which abounds with fish, prawns and other marine life. Paddy and other crops may be cultivated successfully in the rich soil. Natural resources and labor are abundant. But, due to lack of capitals for investment in regional businesses and a lack of peace and stability, the region still remains trapped in a quagmire of endless poverty in spite of plentiful resources.

It has been learnt that more and more investments will be made step by step for the development of agriculture and rice sectors in northern Rakhine State—Buthidaung, Maungtau and Rathedaung townships within a 3 year period in combination with the Myanmar Agri-business Public Corporation Ltd, (MAPCO) and Myanmar Rice Federation's member associations, by using K 50 billion.

For the development of the rice sector, "A Garden of Food, Fruits and Crops" of 500 acreages will be established in Buthidaung. Job opportunities will be created and vocational training courses will be conducted so that rice and other agricultural produce can be used as raw materials for the manufacture of foodstuff. And, installation of paddy dryer plants, transformation of conventional mills into modern rice mills and investments in storage buildings and high-quality steam boiler rice mills will be launched in other regions.

Now that such investments are being started for the regional development of northern Rakhine State while the Union Government and the Rakhine State government is taking responsibilities for regional security, we deeply urge our entrepreneurs to invest in other economic enterprises in confidence for the development of Rakhine State. ■

As To Whether Local Housemaids Got Full Rights---

Khin Yadanar

PROUDLY a housemaid had ever said, "Our jobs are to help others not to be worried about their household chores in their absence," with regard to her job. Quite right in saying so! In the living ways of modern society, most people depend upon care or help assistants so as to reduce stress and tension, so that they can move toward their destination. Each and every one of the helps cannot be completely relied upon, but they can fulfill needs of families to some extent, presently.

It is a part of the project of changing all-inclusive economic, legal and social sectors to draw the amendment of labor protection law in Myanmar. There is nothing special in the country, concerning laws on the helps. The prescriptions of the national labor law as regards salary or wage and freedom of forming labor unions include home help's rights. Forced labor, debt-related labor bondage and child laborers are legally protected. Regarding dangerous employments, housemaids are granted legal protections such as social securities.

Local housemaids are now seen to have been being employed from employment agencies. Their salaries are said to be round about K 100000 per month. But, on the nationwide scale, the salary is learnt to be K 20000 to K 100000 only.

Least-paid helps

Presently, the minimum wage is designated to be K 3600, but most of in-house helps find it difficult to get that amount. The major problem is that they

lack knowledge and academic learning, according to a responsible Myanmar official of ILO. The worst thing is that most of landlords in Myanmar who hire helps have no acknowledgements as relations between employer and employee, he added.

Remuneration of a housemaid

With effect from January 2016, home helps are included in the Wage Paying Act, but little was known about it. In section 9, chapter 3 of the Act, it is

There is no specific age limitation of housemaids in Myanmar. But most people employ those between 16 and 40. As of January 2016 age limitation for children was changed from 13 to 14. Hence, children under 14 cannot be employed as housemaids.

described that an employer must pay in cash, half of the wages due to be paid in the situation of deducting for accommodation from the wages. Under the current situation, it can be designated that helps must get at least K 1800, half of the minimum pay as one-day-earning. Moreover, as those under 16 must be regarded to be child laborers, they should get K 3600 as one-day-minimum wage as prescribed in section 10, sub-section E of the Act. Those who hire house maids should notice that the Act has been enacted so as not to be able to deduct from child laborers in any way.

Social security and Housemaids

Housemaids cannot be excluded from rights of social security act. In section 20 of the social security act, helps

desirous of social security benefits can give contributions of their own accords and enjoy benefits in accord with the prescriptions. Housemaids should have noted that registration for social security is up to their desires.

Though not having social security registration, most of local housemaids are required to be given medical treatment by landlords as far as they can when they become ill. Practically, most landlords are being found to have fulfilled social and health needs of their

helps.

Anti-human trafficking and home helps

Human-trafficking Protection Law forbids any forced labors to adults and minors. As regard exploitation, there are some designations in the law. If and when housemaids are kept as the possession of landlords due to failure to pay off debt or housemaids are paid less and made work without time limitation, the landlord can be sued under human trafficking protection law.

Age limitation and skills

There is no specific age limitation of housemaids in Myanmar. But most people employ those between 16 and 40. As of January 2016 age limitation

for children was changed from 13 to 14. Hence, children under 14 cannot be employed as housemaids. Fundamental needs for housemaids include skills in managing house works, tolerance and being ready and willing to help. Skills in managing house works are the major problem for helps. Most belong to bottom-level class so it takes time landlords to teach them how to manage house works systematically and to be well-convinced of application of electric equipment and hygienic knowledge. With the development of their skills, housemaids will get favored and more paid by landlords. But, sorrowfully designations for housemaids were not included in the law on employment skill development, but laying stress on economic businesses.

Void of Regular Inspections

In Myanmar, the government is regularly inspecting labor affairs. On-job inspections in various sectors as in included the framework of national labor affairs were found to have regularly been inspected. According to labor affair experts, there are several differences in the law. It was found out that entertainment places, restaurants, tea shops and families where housemaids are employed and workplace where employees less than 5 are employed were excluded. In fact, there are laws and acts for workers and workplaces but weakness is visible in exercise of laws and acts. It was concluded that responsible persons from small-scale businesses and homes who hire housemaids are violating in paying wages as well as in limiting working hours.

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Over 2500 watch International Police Band Concert

THE 22nd International Police Band Concert (2017) was held at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon at 7 pm yesterday.

After explaining the salient points of the Japan, Singapore, Viet Nam and Myanmar police bands, there were country-wise and four-nation performances.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and wife, Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe and

wife, Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw U Lin Naing Myint, officials, MPs, the Myanmar Police Force-MPF chief and over 2500 people enjoyed the performances.

This is the first time, I have seen this type of occasion. Apart from Myanmar Police Force foreigner counterparts also took part in it.

This kind of concert will enhance trust in the Myanmar Police Force, said U Myint Wai of Mayangon.—Myanmar News Agency



Members of International Police Music Band performing at Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on Sunday night. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Roundtable discussion on emergence of federal state held in Mandalay

PEN Myanmar which is taking part in the works of sharing knowledge to gain more knowledge to the people on peace process improvement and emergence of federal state held a roundtable discussion at a church in 26th street, between 74th and 75th road in Chanayetharzan Township, Mandalay on 28 October.

The discussion made in 21st Century Panglong Conference generated improvement and good potential.

The people are also participating in peace process and program for emerging of federal state. In the discussion which conducted by PEN Myanmar, Writer Myo Myint Nye-

in, Khin Mya Zin and Khine Ma Ma Myo and Ko Jimmy from 88 Generation Peace and Open Society participated, following by discussing that the races or nations who have rights to stay as a separate entity come united into a Union at their free will without establishing the state separately.

Then, writers and other participants continuously and actively held roundtable discussions and literary talk.

Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Region Hluttaw deputy speaker, townselders, the populace and students attended these events. — Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■

Fire destroys four houses, one shop in Maungtaw

A fire broke out in Myo Oo village, north Myoma ward, Maungtaw on 28 October, destroying four houses where no people stayed and one shop.

The fire was put under control by township firemen, police forces and military forces after

10 minutes.

Four houses with that roofs and wooden walls and a shop were engulfed in the fire.

Police are taking action to file charges causing the fire in accord with the law. — Myanmar News Agency ■

40 hand-made Mines found near a bridge in Maungtaw

A pack of 40 Hand-made mines made of plastic pipes found near the bridge of MyoU village in Myoma Myauk quarter, Maungtaw yesterday morning 10:30

am.

U Tin Nyunt, a local people of Maungtaw was found 1 inch radius and 6 inches long 40 mines near the bridge and

he sent the information to the MyoU village police outpost.

The investigation is ongoing for the suspect.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Tatmadaw, good service personnel honoured



Thousands of participants supporting the Myanmar Tatmadaw and the good service personnel take part in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

A ceremony to support the Myanmar Tatmadaw and the good service personnel was sponsored by Tatmadaw Lovers Association (Yangon) in front of Maha Bandoola Park near the City hall in Yangon yesterday.

Participants gathered at a bus stop near the eastern archway of Shwedagon Pagoda in

Bahan at noon.

They marched to the park through Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Signal Pagoda Road waving the flags of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the flags of the Tatmadaw and singing military songs and patriotic songs.

After staging the ethnic cultural dances, they commenced

the ceremony by saluting the State Flag and singing the National Anthem.

They observed a one-minute silence in honour of the security forces and service personnel discharging duties in Rakhine State.

Speakers explained the purpose of the ceremony. —Myanmar News Agency ■