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SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 209, 9th Waning of Tazaungmon 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 12 November 2017



State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi walks with a Filipino military officer upon her arrival to attend the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit and related meetings, in Clark, Pampanga Philippines. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor arrives in Clark, Philippines

AFTER attending the informal meeting of leaders of ASEAN countries and leaders of member countries of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Da Nang, Viet Nam by special plane yesterday morning and arrived in Clark city, Philippines at local stand-

ard time 2 pm.

At Clark International Airport, the State Counsellor was welcomed by Philippines Secretary of Justice Mr. Vitaliano Aguirre II, mayors, former Philippines President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Myanmar Ambassador to Philippines U Win Naing, Myanmar Perma-

nent Representative to ASEAN Ambassador U Min Lwin, Myanmar embassy staff together with a Philippines guard of honor and a traditional dance troupe.

After a brief rest in Clark state guest house, the State Counsellor visited Nayong Filipino Park (Philippines national

historical and traditional cultural village) and viewed the traditional weaving display, traditional dances and handicrafts.

The Nayong Filipino foundation was opened in 22 December 2007 to display the Philippine's diverse culture heritage.

SEE PAGE 2

Media coverage on Rakhine issue to be speeded up

THE role of media in releasing information related with the tasks of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance and Resettlement and Development (UEHARD) in Rakhine State will be speeded up, according to the Ministry of Information.

The remarks came at a meeting between the delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and the Rakhine State Government yesterday at the office of the government.

At the meeting, Dr. Pe Myint said the delegation would make a field trip to northern Rakhine to observe the ground situation in order to provide timely, updated coverage of the situation to the people.

The two sides also discussed the ground situation in Rakhine State, providing humanitarian assistance to the people affected by the terrorist attacks, health care, plans for repatriation of refugees, plans for development of tourism and trade zones based on agriculture and the news media sector.

The Rakhine State Government launched construction of infrastructure for refugees who will return while working for resettlement of ethnic people in Rakhine State.

SEE PAGE 2

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives in Clark, Philippines

FROM PAGE 1

To display Philippine's diverse cultural heritage, Nayong Philipino foundation was constructed on 5.4 hectare of land in Clark Freeport Zone, Pampanga Region on 22 December 2007.

The park displays a miniature-version of ethnic villages in Cordillera Central, Ilocos, Bicol and Visayas region, architecture of Philippines, model of villages, some of the 175 ethnic nationals' traditional houses,

history and traditions of the ethnic nationals.

In the evening, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a dinner hosted by former Philippines President Arroyo at Midori Hotel Fiesta Hall, Clark city.

The State Counsellor is in the Philippines at the invitation of the Philippines President Mr. Rodrigo Duterte to attend the 31st ASEAN Summit and related meetings that will be held in Manila from 12 to 14 November. —Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits ethnic national's traditional houses in the Philippines. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

All children to be vaccinated against Japanese encephalitis

The Ministry of Health and Sports is preparing to conduct a nationwide mass vaccination of about 14 million children between the ages of 9 months and 15 years against Japanese encephalitis, it is learnt.

Students under 15 years old registered under the school-based vaccination programme will be vaccinated from 15 to 23 November. Children between 9 months and 5 years of age and non-school attending children up to 15 years old in the people-based vaccination programme will be vaccinated from 11 to 28 December. Students remaining to be vaccinated under the school based vaccination program will also be vaccinated during this period.

An aggressive immunization programme is considered a high priority for the Government. The Union Minister for Health and Sports has emphasised efforts taken to reach every child in Myanmar with vaccines through immunisation campaigns. Vaccination under the two programmes will be conducted simultaneously in villages in difficult-to-reach, distant and border areas, it is learnt.

The school-based vaccination programme will be conducted in designated primary, post-primary, middle, high, monastic education, private and international schools, while the people-based vaccination programme will be conducted in township hospitals, child and maternal health care departments, regional health clinics, station hospitals, village health departments and sub departments, ward/village admin-

istrative offices and designated private homes.

Vaccination is the best prevention from Japanese encephalitis, and the World Health Organization is advising countries having a threat of Japanese encephalitis to include the Japanese encephalitis vaccination program in its regular vaccination program it is learnt. Myanmar has conducted organised informational efforts in schools, townships, wards and streets to have Japanese encephalitis vaccination. Japanese Encephalitis is an animal disease that can spread to humans—primarily transmitted by mosquitoes that feed on infected birds, pigs and other mammals that in turn pass on the infection to humans living and working in rural areas around rice paddies and irrigation systems. Children under 15 years of age seem particularly susceptible to infection. The majority of cases are asymptomatic, meaning persons do not exhibit symptoms. Some patients will develop neurological symptoms such as tremors, seizures (especially children), an expressionless face, and sudden paralysis which can affect the respiratory system and cause bladder retention problems. Patients may also experience behavioural changes which can be misdiagnosed as psychiatric illness. Japanese Encephalitis can be fatal in 20 per cent to 30 per cent of cases and many survivors continue to have long-term neurologic, psychiatric, or cognitive problems. —Yi Yi Myint, Ohnma Thant ■

Media coverage on Rakhine issue to be speeded up

FROM PAGE 1

Meanwhile, the government has given medical care and provided assistance to the people gathered at the border before they left for their original places.

"The reasons why they left for their original places on their own volition are involvement in terrorist attacks, threatened by terrorists, lured by their relatives that they would get the aid and cash when they arrive at the camp in the neighbour-

ing country and they would get opportunity to settle in a third country," said U Chan Thar, Rakhine State Social Affairs Minister.

He also said the government would work together with UEHRD to draw a town plan.

Following the meeting, the delegation led by Dr Pe Myint, and Chief Minister U Nyi Pu visited a camp established at Danyawaddy Sports Grounds where Hindus fled from Khamaungsei, Yebawkyia and Tamanthar villagers are sheltering.

At the meeting, Hindu people expressed thanks to the authorities for providing aid, shelter and education to their children, requesting to settle the Hindu community in one area.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint pledged to convey voices from the Hindus to the people via media.

The delegation donated K3.1 million for 539 people from 155 Hindu families through officials at the camp. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party meet with Hindu villagers at the camp established at Danyawaddy Sports Grounds. PHOTO: YE HTUT

First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin attends stake driving ceremony for Visakha Ponami Gonwei four story building

A stake driving ceremony for a Visakha Ponami Gonwei four storey building for Thilashins (nuns) was held yesterday morning at Visakha Ponami Gonwei Thilashin school in Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin graced the ceremony with her presence.

At the ceremony, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin drove a stake and sprinkled scented waters on the land where the four storey building will be built and then Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Visakha Foundation patron Professor Dr. Win Min Thit, chairperson Dr. Su Hla Han and vice chairperson Daw Shwe Zin drove stakes at designated places.

Next, the Visakha Foundation patron explained about the reason for donating the four storey building and Foundation chairperson explained about the activities of the foundation.

Afterwards First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin gave a speech honoring the donors of the four storey building. Similarly, Visakha Ponami Gonwei Thilashin school chief patron Thilashin-



First lady Daw Su Su Lwin drives stake for construction of Visakha Ponami Gonwei four story building in Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw on 11 November 2017. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Sayagyi Daw Zayya Theingi also delivered a speech of thanks.

Earlier in the year on 18 June 2017, the Visakha Foundation has also donated and opened a new thilashin school building and a library in Visakha

Ponami Gonwei Thilashin school, it is learnt.

At the ceremony, following comments were made by officials on the donation of the Visakha Ponami Gonwei four story building.

Thilashin Sayagyi Daw Zayya Theingi, Vithanka Ponami Gonwei Thilashin school chief patron

In our school, more than 200 children including nuns were taught from KG to grade

9 with nine teachers. For grade 10 and 11 students, we arrange ferry and sent them to a government high school. Once this building is complete, we plan to accept about 500 students. Both formal education and religious education were provided. Sewing and computer courses were also provided in order to support the students' livelihood.

I was assigned to be responsible for the thilashin school on ME 1369 (2007). Children who could not attend school for any reason were provided with an education here so that they could become good sons and daughters of the nation.

Professor Dr. Win Min Thit, Visakha Foundation patron

Our foundation was formed with an aim to provide health, education, board, lodging and livelihood training to all people of Myanmar who are of different religion, ethnicity and region, especially orphans. The foundation is donating this building to this school as it is providing formal and religious education to more than 200 nuns and orphans.

Our foundation will continue implementing these aims.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint attends ceremony for donations to Rakhine State and opening ceremony of Yangon Book Street

A donation ceremony for Rakhine State reconstruction and development work was held yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Printing and Publishing Department on Theinbyu Road, Yangon with Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint in attendance to accept the donations.

The Union Minister delivered a speech of appreciation saying, "Government as well as civil society organisations and individual well-wishers participated in the Rakhine State reconstruction and development work. These works allow our country to show its unity. It also shows the fullest extent to which our Myanmar nationals have humanitarian feelings. I am very much happy for this. I also thank the Myanmar Printers & Publishers Association for donating money." Myanmar Printers & Publish-

ers Association Chairman U Min Han explained the reasons for helping Rakhine State, then donated Ks20 million, which was accepted by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint.

The donations were made to conduct Rakhine State reconstruction and development work and will be donated to the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), it is learnt.

Next the Union Minister attended the opening ceremony of Yangon Book Street (Saturday-Sunday Yangon Book Street) and cut a ceremonial ribbon together with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) chairman, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe and Myanmar Publishers and Dis-



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint attends the opening ceremony of Yangon Book Street (Saturday-Sunday Yangon Book Street). PHOTO: YE HTUT

tributors Association Chairman Dr. Tha Tun Oo.

Afterwards, the Union Minister toured the book stalls and handicraft shops displayed in the Yangon Book Street.

A total of 170 shops and stalls

will sell books and souvenirs in Yangon Book Street. In addition to providing gift books to book enthusiasts who come to the location, events such as discussion session between writers and readers, reading circles of

writers, literature quizzes, music programmes and caricature drawings by cartoonists will also be held.

On the occasion of the opening of Yangon Book Street, the street will be opened for three days from November 11 to 13 (Saturday, Sunday, Monday) and on the following weekends, the venue will be opened as usual on Saturdays and Sundays from 9 am to 5 pm.

The Ministry of Information organised Yangon Book Street under the books and literature development programme with the support of Yangon Region government and YCDC. It was opened for the first time from January to March and is now being opened for the second season, this time until early April, it is learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Sales from Maungtaw paddy kept as national budget

Interviewd by – Media group

After the attacks by ARSA terrorists, the Rakhine State government is working with guidance from the Union Government to restore various sectors in the region. The Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Ministers conducted a field survey on 8 and 9 November to assess the condition of ripe crops in Maungtaw, establishing Kanyin Chaung economic zone and setting up camps for Islamic and Hindu people returning from abroad. The following is an excerpt from an interview with Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

Q: How are you dealing with the ripe paddies that are left untouched?

A: We don't want the paddies to go to waste so we are doing our utmost to quickly reap them and plus this can contribute to the national budget as well. The money that we receive from sales of these crops will be used in this state's development. The Union Government wants us to quickly sell the paddies after they have been reaped so we don't have plans to store them for a long period.

We've already made negotiations with a buyer, who is also from the area. He will buy all the paddies produced from the area. We have already signed a



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

contract with him.

Q: We hear there are technical shortcomings and lack of labor in reaping the paddies. How are you dealing with this?

A: We are currently reaping the paddies in Yathedaung and Southern Maungtaw, and we will eventually head towards Buthidaung. We currently have 44 tractors to reap the paddies and there are 25 more tractors on the way. The southern part of Maungtaw has the most ripe paddies, over 40,000 acres, so we are starting from there.

Q: What is the procedure in selling the paddies after they've been reaped?

A: There are some difficulties drying and storing the paddies so we're going to sell most of it to a merchant in Maungtaw for USD 2.65 per basket

(40.88kg). If the buyer has any difficulties selling the paddies then the government will provide as much support as it can. As per the contract, money from the sales of the paddies will be deposited in a bank account as part of the national budget. As to how the money will be utilized will depend on the policies and guidelines the Union Government puts forward.

Q: There are over 70,000 acres of rainy season paddy in Maungtaw. How much paddy do you predict will be procured from that?

A: That's right, there are over 70,000 acres of paddy fields in Maungtaw and that will pro-

duce about 2 million baskets (81,769 tons) of paddy. We estimate about 20 per cent of it will be lost or damaged but it depends on how much we can accomplish and how quickly we tractors arrive to the area.

Q: What is the situation of building camps for IDPs returning to the area?

A: We've chosen Taungpyolet and Ngakhuya outposts/villages for the IDP camps. From there we will relocate and resettle the IDPs in either Kainggyi, Konetaing or Thittone Nakwasone village.

We will also help rebuild the Hindu village of Ohtain village that got burned down. The De-

partment for Development of Border and National Races is contributing to the rebuilding of the burnt Nanthartaung Village.

Q: Can you tell us when and how you will relocate and resettle the IDPs?

A: We are beginning to clear the land of wreckage for the rebuilding efforts and we will follow the Union Government's guidelines in the relocation efforts.

The State Counsellor is trying hard to get this done as quickly as possible and she has made everyone home and abroad aware of that. They have already officially announced to accept the IDPs according the 1993 agreement. ■



Paddies harvested from fields in Southern Maungtaw being dried in the Sun. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

YANGON DECLARATION adopted by Institute of Social & Cultural Studies (ISCS), India and The Myanmar Institute of Strategic & International Studies (Myanmar-ISIS) on 11-Nov-2017 on the occasion of the International Conference on 'India-Myanmar Relations: The Way Forward'

India and Myanmar delegates have arrived at and suggested the following recommendations:

Following is excerpts of the recommendation.

As democracies, India and Myanmar should enhance bilateral cooperation in all areas.

Contribute to the peace process in Myanmar through sharing of India's experience in resolving disputes with ethnic groups in the North East part of India.

Security

Globally, terrorism and flow of refugees are two of the biggest concerns of our times. Having a peaceful, prosperous and stable neighbourhood is in everybody's interest.

Security and peace in Myanmar is not only important for the security of India but also for the security of the region.

Security forces of India and Myanmar work together to prevent extremist activities on either side of the border. More efforts and cooperation

are suggested to prevent cross-border Non-Traditional security threats.

The Bay of Bengal is an important element in India-Myanmar security cooperation.

Trade & Investment:

Trade between India and Myanmar doubled to over USD 2 billion in the last decade. Both countries are to intensify efforts to address obstacles to trade ranging from better connectivity, to improving soft infrastructure, freer movement, better logistics and financial connectivity, etc.

Myanmar should reform its banking sector especially in core banking areas to make the financial system in sync with other nations.

Indian FDI in Myanmar is far from optimal.

Indian companies should be aware of the future opportunities in Myanmar.

Facilitate use of Myanmar-Indian currencies and exchange for trade.

Leverage the strategic potential of Myanmar for trade and investment for the ASEAN, India, and ASEAN-FTA markets including benefiting from duty-free trade preference provided by India to Least Developed Countries.

North Eastern India and Myanmar

North Eastern states of India especially States bordering Myanmar and vast parts of Myanmar's hinterland in the West can gain from the Trilateral Highway, Rih-Tedim Road and Kaladan Projects.

To further gain and ensure a move from informal to formal traffic; the

two countries should ease VISA procedures. Currently, movement on business and E-VISA facilities are restricted at Moreh-Tamu border gates.

Setting up Special Economic and Industrial zones in border areas of both India and Myanmar and along the connectivity corridors like the Trilateral Highway and Kaladan Multi-Modal Transport Project and other potential routes with a focus on the agriculture sector.

Improve connectivity, both cargo and passenger by sea routes between Indian and Myanmar ports.

Tourism and Medical Tourism

Both countries should leverage their respective strengths including nature, culture, wildlife, river tours and medical facili-

ties, to promote tourism.

India should promote and improve facilities and infrastructure on the Buddhist pilgrimage circuit for pilgrims from as well as South and South East Asia. Management and land ownership issues and bureaucratic restrictions limiting pilgrim travel should be looked into urgently.

Buddhism and People-to-People

India and Myanmar should jointly promote the message of peace, compassion and loving kindness (Metta) and the Middle Path of Lord Buddha to the world.

Conduct Research on historic Buddhist ties between Myanmar and India, including Tagaung, the Pyu cities, Thaton, Bagan, Mrauk-U, etc.—GNLM ■

Detailed records for rice harvest in Rakhine

By Aye Min Soe

THE Agricultural Mechanization Department has harvested the rice in Maung-taw in order to prevent waste and to complete the harvest in a timely manner.

Meanwhile, the Settlements and Land Records Department (SLRD) has put the harvested rice on record with the owner's name, plot number, and quality of the rice. The rice was dried to a moisture level of 13 per cent, bagged and then stored in designated storage areas.

When it started the harvesting effort, the government announced that transparency will be ensured, with records of rice per acre with the names of the farmers who own the land from areas where terrorists attacked happened.

However, foreign media who covered the rice harvest in Rakhine have

said that the refugees were not likely to reclaim their rice and farmland, as their rice has been harvested. This sort of irresponsible reporting is very dangerous. The truth of the matter is that it is the intention of the Myanmar government to return the rice, either in cash or as rice to the original owners of the land as recorded by the personnel of the Settlements and Land Records Department.

In solving the Rakhine issue caused by the terrorist attacks, the news media plays an important role. They are obliged to report the true facts in any given situation instead of using their imagination or engaging in speculation so that the people can know the true situation on the ground.

The government has taken immediate steps since the terrorist attacks in late August to restore peace and stability

in northern Rakhine and the situation in Rakhine State is now moving towards stabilization as a result of efforts by the Myanmar Government, the official said.

This is a proof that the Myanmar government is doing its best for the resettlement and rehabilitation of refugees who had crossed over to Bangladesh, in the northern Rakhine. The United Nations and the international community should have patience and provide constructive assistance in cooperation with Myanmar for a proper settlement of the issue.

Today, the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance and Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) has speeded up its efforts for rebuilding of Rakhine State focusing on different sectors of the economy, job opportunity, education, health and socio-economy.

The Union Government has expressed its commitment to the world that it will perform the implementation of big projects, with the concerted efforts of the Union Government, the private sector, INGOs, NGOs, UN agencies and international and regional financial institutions and the people of Myanmar, to get rid of the roots causes of the problems and to find durable peace and stability.

The media should cooperate to make people and international communities know the true situation in Rakhine.

The Rakhine issue is an internal affair of Myanmar. The most powerful force for making the country peaceful and developed is its people. No matter how much anger, hatred and bullying, we are ready to face the challenges and we shall overcome all challenges and obstacles. ■

Top 10 most widely traded animals in the Golden Triangle identified in new report

- Recent surveys by WWF and TRAFFIC have identified 10 of the most widely trafficked animals in the Golden Triangle.
- These top 10 animals are: the tiger, elephant, pangolin, bear, rhinoceros, serow, helmeted hornbill, gaur, leopard, and turtles.
- The wildlife markets in the Golden Triangle cater mostly to tourists from China and Vietnam, the report noted.

Large casinos, hotels, shopping malls and markets flourish in Southeast Asia's Golden Triangle — the area where Thailand, Laos, and Myanmar converge. These gambling halls and markets, known to be centers of prostitution and drug trafficking, have now emerged as hubs of wildlife trade.

From tiger skin and bones to skulls, forelegs and gall bladder of the goat-like serow, the Golden Triangle's shops and hotels have become a haven for illegal wildlife products, according to recent surveys by WWF and TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

Based on these surveys, the teams have identified 10 of the most widely trafficked animals in the Golden Triangle: the tiger, elephant, pangolin,



An elephant pulls a teak log in a logging camp in Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Division. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

bear, rhinoceros, serow, helmeted hornbill, gaur, leopard, and turtles.

"Bear farms and tiger farms, along with wide open wildlife markets across the Golden Triangle, are a menace to wild populations of these species and should be closed," Bill Possiel, WWF-Greater Mekong regional conservation director, said in a statement. "This region has a deserved reputation as both a destination and source of some of the world's most endangered species and that has to stop or these species could go extinct."

The wildlife markets cater mostly to tourists from China and Viet Nam, the survey teams noted in a report. Keen to consume wild animal parts, either in traditional medicines,

food, or as symbols of wealth, these often-elite tourists travel to MongLa and Tachilek in Myanmar, and border areas like Boten and the Golden Triangle Special Economic Zone (GT SEZ) in Laos — a joint venture between a Chinese company called the Kings Romans Group, and the Laos government.

"Visitors [in GT SEZ] can openly buy endangered species products including tigers, leopards, elephants, rhinos, pangolins, helmeted hornbills, snakes and bears — smuggled in from Asia and Africa," the Environmental Investigation Agency had reported in 2015. "Restaurants [offer] endangered species on their menus, from 'sauté tiger meat' and bear paws to reptiles and pan-



Wildlife parts in the Golden Triangle region. **PHOTO: WWF-GREATER MEKONG**

golins; one business kept a live python and a bear cub in cages, both of which were available to eat on request."

Meet the top 10 most widely traded animals in the Golden Triangle:

1. Tiger

Tigers — both poached from the wild and captively farmed — are favorites in the Golden Triangle. Nearly every part of the tiger is on sale there, the report notes, either in the form of traditional medicine or as decoration, tiger wine or meat.

2. Elephant

Again, the survey teams found almost every part of elephant on sale in the region, including elephant teeth, hair,

bones, tails, trunks, and ivory. Even elephant skin was available for consumption in restaurants as a cure for stomach ailments, the authors write. While much of the elephant ivory is thought to be smuggled from Africa, elephants in Myanmar are being poached, then skinned, to meet the demands of elephant skin.

3. Pangolin

Chinese and Vietnamese tourists in the Golden Triangle seek out pangolin meat, considered a delicacy, as well as pangolin scales, which are used in traditional medicine. International trade in all eight species of pangolins — four African and four Asian — is prohibited under international law.

SEE PAGE-9

Construction of Mayyu Mountain road will rapidly improve socio economic conditions of least developed villages

By News Team

TO improve the socio economic conditions of ethnic nationals living in Yathedaung township, Maungtaw township and Buthidaung township and to support in the administration Kyaukpandu-Indin-Zedipyin road and Kyeinchaung-Gopi road that connect Maungtaw and Buthidaung over the Mayyu Mountain range is being constructed by Ministry of Construction, Road Department, road construction group 3, road special group 17.

Deputy Director U Aye Tun Maw of road special group 17, Road Department, Sittway was interviewed about the Mayyu Mountain road.

Q. What is the status of constructing the second Mayyu Mountain road of Kyeinchaung-Gopi road?

A. The two east-west roads over Mayyu Mountain connecting Maungtaw-Kyeinchaung-Bandula road in Maungtaw and Buthidaung-Gopi road in Buthidaung are about 8 miles long but to have a smooth route (gradient) it is likely to be longer.

Q. How much has been completed in the Maungtaw Township side and Buthidaung Township side of the Kyeinchaung-Gopi road?

A. Construction of the Kyeinchaung-Gopi road over Mayyu Mountain was conducted by two groups, one from Kyeinchaung said and another from Gopi side. From Kyeinchaung side, a single lane road axis was being made up to more than 5 mile onto the mountain and from Gopi side up

to 3 mile totaling 8 miles. The remaining one to one and half mile portion near the top of the mountain where steep places and ravines are avoided is expected to be completed in the coming three days.

Q. What is the next stage after constructing a single lane road axis?

A. For the road to be an all-weather road and for ease of vehicles driven on the cross mountain road, road design group will conduct measurements for appropriate route in the open season and only after this will the road upgraded to a smooth paved road.

Q. How useful and strategically important is the Kyeinchaung-Gopi for Maungtaw region?

A. Maungtaw-Kyeinchaung-Bandula road in Maungtaw on the western part of Mayyu mountain range is on the sea-side that is well populated. But the difficulty of villagers of ethnic national villages in the eastern part of the mountain range in Buthidaung side going over the mountain is limiting the developing of these villages. Once this road is completed least developed ethnic villages will develop rapidly easing health, education and all else while it will be an essential road for the entire administration mechanism.

Q. What are the difficulties encountered in constructing Kyeinchaung-Gopi road?

A. Only foot path across the mountain range exists along



PHOTO: NAY LIN

the path of Kyeinchaung-Gopi road. And these foot paths are not all-weather. Mayyu mountain range is thick with forest and had many natural obstacles. Wildlife still exists on the Mayyu mountain range. There is a danger of wild elephants. Creeks, rivers and ponds also exist as natural obstacle. Work need to be done with increased momentum during the open season.

Q. From which budget is the Kyeinchaung-Gopi road is being built with?

A. For this year, the first road Kyaukpandu-Indin-Zedipyin road and the second road Kyeinchaung-Gopi road going across the Mayyu Mountain range is constructed from the President's special fund instead of the usual government budget. In the

following years, up to four more roads were being planned for the development of eastern and western part of Mayyu Mountain range.

Q. What is that status of the first road built across the Mayyu mountain (range), the Kyaukpandu-Indin-Zedipyin road?

A. Kyaukpandu-Indin-Zedipyin road connecting Maungtaw to Angumaw is on the western part of the Mayyu Mountain that is being maintained by the west group. This road is 49 miles and 4 furlong long. Similarly, on the eastern part of the Mayyu Mountain, rural department is constructing a more than 45 miles long Buthidaung to Angumaw road. Two parallel roads on the east and

west of Mayyu Mountain were constructed but both could not be used to go over the mountain. The Maungtaw-Angumaw road on the west of Mayyu Mountain can support the development of ethnic nationals on the eastern part of Mayyu Mountain as well as for its regional development. The Kyaukpandu-Indin-Zedipyin road that goes over the Mayyu Mountain range connecting these two roads is being planned to be build up to a smooth paved road. Just like the Kyeinchaung-Gopi road, Kyaukpandu-Indin-Zedipyin road is being constructed by two groups, one from Zedipyin side and another from Indin side. 15 machineries were being used and now a single lane road axis is connecting Kyaukpandu and Indin. For vehicle to go over this road, road design group need to conduct measurements for appropriate route in the open season and then it will be upgraded to a smooth paved road.

Q. Is there anything you want to add on building the roads across the Mayyu Mountain.

A. The two roads going over the Mayyu Mountain will support the development of Yathedaung Township in Sittway District, Buthidaung Township and Maungtaw Township in Maungtaw District and the socio economic condition of the ethnic nationals.

