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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Pope asks for peace and equality

POPE Francis delivered a speech at the Myanmar International Convention Center-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, urging Myanmar leaders to redouble their efforts to justice and equality for all.

“The future of Myanmar must be peace, a peace based on respect for the dignity and rights

The full text of the speech of Pope Francis is on **Page-7** and the speech of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is on **Page-6**.

of each member of society, respect for each ethnic group and its identity, respect for the rule of law, and respect for a democratic order that enables each individual and every group — none excluded — to offer its legitimate contribution to the common good,” the pope said.

The pontiff’s speech came immediately after an address by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in which she said “the road to peace is not always smooth”.

Yesterday’s event was attended by First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin, wife of Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Dr. Shwe Hl-wam, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers, the Vatican City Secretary of State Cardinal Pietro Parolin,

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Pope Francis and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attend the meeting with members of the civil societies and diplomatic corps. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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President U Htin Kyaw and Pope Francis attend the welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace grounds in Nay Pyi Taw, on 28 November. **PHOTO: MNA**

President welcomes Pope Francis

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Pope Francis, who has been in Yangon on an official friendly visit, was welcomed with a Guard of Honour by President U Htin Kyaw yesterday evening at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

Pope Francis arrived at the Presidential Palace at 3:45 pm and was cordially welcomed by the President.

Afterwards, the President and Pope Francis received the salute from the Guard of Honour. Then the President greeted Pope Francis along with members present at the ceremony.

Present at the welcoming party were Union Ministers Lt General Kyaw Swe, Dr Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr Myint Htwe, U Kyaw Win, U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to Vatican City State U San Lwin and responsible officials.

After the welcome ceremony, Pope Francis signed the Special Guest Record Book and posed for documentary photos with the President.

Following the ceremony, President U Htin Kyaw and Pope Francis met in the lounge for envoys of the Presidential Palace.—Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Pope Francis in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

Appointment of Singapore ambassador agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Ms. Vanessa Chan Yuen Ying as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Singapore to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Ms. Chan was born in 1966. She graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Law (Honours) from the University of Cambridge, England in 1988. She obtained a Profes-

sional Qualification for the Board of Legal Education, Singapore in 1990 and practiced law in Singapore from 1991 to 1995.

Ms. Chan joined the Singapore Foreign Service in 1995. Her portfolios covered North America, Southeast Asia and International Organizations. She served at the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations in New York from January 1999 to August 2002 and at the Embassy of Singapore

in Yangon from October 2007 to January 2011. She was the Director-General of the International Organizations Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from January 2012 to June 2017. She also served as the Co-Chair of the Steering Committee of the United Nations Development Programme Global Centre for Public Service Excellence in Singapore from 2013 to June 2017.—Myanmar News Agency

Pope asks for peace and equality

FROM PAGE-1

Archbishop of the Myanmar Roman Catholic Church Cardinal Charles Maung Bo, Myanmar Catholic Church bishops, ambassadors and charge d'affaires of foreign embassies in Myanmar, representatives of UN organisations, representatives of civil societies, officials from ministries and invited guests.

Yesterday's event was the pontiff's second day in Myanmar. Today, Pope Francis will hold a Mass for the public in Kyaikkasan, Yangon, meet with the State Sangha Nayaka Committee in Kaba Aye Hill and with Myanmar Catholic bishops at St. Mary's Cathedral. The Pope will depart for Bangladesh tomorrow. — Myanmar News Agency

APOSTOLIC VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO MYANMAR

Address by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor
of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar*Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar International Convention Centre
Tuesday, 28 November 2017***Holy Father Pope Francis,
Distinguished Guests,**

It is a great joy and a great honour for me to welcome you to this gathering that reaffirms our faith in the power and possibility of peace and loving kindness. Let me begin by thanking His Holiness for being with us today. Grazie per essere arrivato qui da noi.

Your Holiness, you bring us strength and hope in your understanding of our need, our longing, for peace, national reconciliation and social harmony. Our national anthem, adopted at the time of our independence, begins with the words: Never swerving from just freedom, “reflecting the strongly held conviction of the founding fathers of our nation that true freedom cannot survive without justice. These words resonate with us today, just as they did with those who fought for independence that our people might be able to realize their full potential. It is incumbent on us to continue the task of building a nation founded on laws and institutions that will guarantee each and everyone in our land justice, freedom and security.

Your Holiness, the challenges that Myanmar faces are many, and each challenge calls for strength, patience and courage. Our nation is a rich tapestry of different peoples, languages and religions, woven on a backdrop of vast natural potential. It is the aim of our Government to bring out the beauty of our diversity and to make it our strength, by protecting rights, fostering tolerance, ensuring security for all. Our most cherished endeavor is to carry forward the peace process based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement that was initiated by the previous Government. The road to peace is not always smooth but it is the only way that will lead our people to their dream of a just and prosperous land that will be their refuge, their pride, their joy. The quest for peace has to be reinforced by the attainment of sustainable development, that the future of coming generations might be assured.

Of the many challenges that our government has been facing, the situation in the Rakhine has most strongly captured the attention of the world. As



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi gives a speech during a meeting with the Pope and members of civil societies and the diplomatic corps in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

The road to peace is not always smooth, but it is the only way that will lead our people to their dream of a just and prosperous land that will be their refuge, their pride, their joy.

we address long standing issues, social, economic and political, that have eroded trust and understanding, harmony and cooperation between different communities in Rakhine, the support of our people and of good friends who only wish to see us succeed in our endeavours, has been invaluable. Your Holiness, the gifts of compassion and encouragement that you bring to us will be treasured and we take to heart your words in the message for the celebration of the fiftieth World Day of Peace on 1st January 2017:

“Jesus himself offers a “manual” for this strategy of peacemaking in the Sermon on the Mount. The eight Beatitudes (cf. Mt 5:3-10) provide a portrait of the person we could describe as blessed, good and authentic. Blessed are the meek, Jesus tells us, the merciful and the peacemakers, those who are pure in heart, and those who hunger and thirst for justice.

This is also a programme and a

challenge for political and religious leaders, the heads of international institutions and business and media executives: to apply the Beatitudes in the exercise of their respective responsibilities. It is a challenge to build up society, communities and businesses by acting as peacemakers. It is to show mercy by refusing to discard people, harm the environment, or seek to win at any cost.”

Your Holiness, we are proud and happy that you have come to our country a mere six months after the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Myanmar. This is not only the opening of a new era of close relations, it also constitutes a revival of old ties that I, and others of my generation, remember with affection and appreciation. I began my education at the St. Francis Convent in Rangoon which makes me fancy that I am entitled to special blessings from your Holiness. But all the blessings you confer will be

shared by all of us that we may be able to spread goodwill and joy throughout our land.

Your Holiness, each age in the life of a nation brings its own responsibilities just as it has to bear the legacies of the past. We today who have been given the opportunity to effect changes that could open new vistas of progress for our nation, will strive to discharge our duties with probity and humanity we would like to leave to the future a land that has been nurtured with care and respect, a healthy land, a beautiful land. We would like to leave to the future a people united and at peace, secure in their capacity to grow and prosper in a changing world; a compassionate and generous people, always ready to hold out a helping hand to those in need; a people strong as strong in skills and whole in spirit.

Your Holiness, the children of your Church in this country are also the children of Myanmar, loved and cherished. We thank them, as we thank you, for praying for our nation and all the peoples of the world. The road ahead is long but we will make it with confidence, trusting in the power of peace, love and joy.

Your Holiness,
Continuiamo a camminare insieme con fiducia.
I thank you all.

APOSTOLIC VISIT OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS TO MYANMAR

Address to Government Authorities, Civil Societies and the Diplomatic Corps

*Myanmar International Convention Center, Nay Pyi Taw,
Tuesday, 28 November 2017*

**Madam State Counsellor,
Honourable Government
and Civil Authorities,
Your Eminence, My Brother
Bishops,
Distinguished Members
of the Diplomatic Corps,
Ladies and Gentlemen,**

I am grateful for the kind invitation to visit Myanmar and I thank you, Madam State Counsellor, for your kind words. I am very grateful to all who have worked so hard to make this visit possible. I have come, above all, to pray with the nation's small but fervent Catholic community, to confirm them in their faith, and to encourage them in their efforts to contribute to the good of the nation. I am most grateful that my visit comes soon after the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Holy See.

ed with great natural beauty and resources, yet its greatest treasure is its people, who have suffered greatly, and continue to suffer, from civil conflict and hostilities that have lasted all too long and created deep divisions. As the nation now works to restore peace, the healing of those wounds must be a paramount political and spiritual priority. I can only express appreciation for the efforts of the Government to take up this challenge, especially through the Panglong Peace Conference, which brings together representatives of the various groups in an attempt to end violence, to build trust and to ensure respect for the rights of all who call this land their home.

Indeed, the arduous process of peacebuilding and national reconciliation can only advance through a commit-



Pope Francis makes a speech during a meeting with members of the civil societies and diplomatic corps in Nay Pyi Taw, on 28 November 2017. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

ment to justice, peace and human development worldwide, and to resolve conflicts through dialogue, not the use of force.

In this sense, the presence of the diplomatic corps in our midst testifies not only to Myanmar's place in the concert of nations, but also to the country's commitment to uphold and pursue those foundational principles. The future of Myanmar must be peace, a peace based on respect for the dignity and rights of each member of society, respect for each ethnic group and its identity, respect for the rule of law, and respect for a democratic order that enables each individual and every group – none excluded – to offer its legitimate contribution to the common good.

In the great work of national reconciliation and integration, Myanmar's religious communities have a privileged role to play. Religious differences need not be a source of division and distrust, but rather a force for unity, forgiveness, toler-

ance and wise nation building. The religions can play a significant role in repairing the emotional, spiritual and psychological wounds of those who have suffered in the years of conflict. Drawing on deeply-held values, they can help to uproot the causes of conflict, build bridges of dialogue, seek justice and be a prophetic voice for all who suffer.

It is a great sign of hope that leaders of the various religious traditions in this country are making efforts to work together, in a spirit of harmony and mutual respect, for peace, for helping the poor and for educating in authentic religious and human values.

In seeking to build a culture of encounter and solidarity, they contribute to the common good and to laying the indispensable moral foundations for a future of hope and prosperity for coming generations.

That future is even now in the hands of the nation's young people.

The young are a gift to be

cherished and encouraged, an investment that will yield a rich return if only they are given real opportunities for employment and quality education. This is an urgent requirement of intergenerational justice.

The future of Myanmar in a rapidly changing and interconnected world will depend on the training of its young, not only in technical fields, but above all in the ethical values of honesty, integrity and human solidarity that can ensure the consolidation of democracy and the growth of unity and peace at every level of society.

Intergenerational justice likewise demands that future generations inherit a natural environment unspoiled by human greed and depredation. It is essential that our young not be robbed of hope and of the chance to employ their idealism and talents in shaping the future of their country and, indeed, our entire human family.

**Madam State Counsellor,
dear friends:**

In these days, I wish to encourage my Catholic brothers and sisters to persevere in their faith and to continue to express its message of reconciliation and brotherhood through charitable and humanitarian works that benefit society as a whole.

It is my hope that, in respectful cooperation with the followers of other religions, and all men and women of good will, they will help to open a new era of concord and progress for the people of this beloved nation.

"Long live Myanmar!"

I thank you for your attention, and with prayerful good wishes for your service to the common good, I invoke upon all of you the divine blessings of wisdom, strength and peace. ■

It is a great sign of hope that leaders of the various religious traditions in this country are making efforts to work together, in a spirit of harmony and mutual respect...

I would like to see this decision as a sign of the nation's commitment to pursuing dialogue and constructive cooperation within the greater international community, even as it strives to renew the fabric of civil society.

I would also like my visit to embrace the entire population of Myanmar and to offer a word of encouragement to all those who are working to build a just, reconciled and inclusive social order.

Myanmar has been bless-

ment to justice and respect for human rights. The wisdom of the ancients defined justice precisely as a steadfast will to give each person his due, while the prophets of old saw justice as the basis of all true and lasting peace. These insights, confirmed by the tragic experience of two world wars, led to the establishment of the United Nations and the universal declaration of human rights as the basis for the international community's efforts to

Visit of Pope Francis to Myanmar

THE world's smallest country is being endowed with lots of characteristics of great virtue. Compared to other nations, its population is infinitesimal, only some 1000 people. The world's smallest country is a fully independent nation-state. To be exact, it is the ecclesiastical state. It is called Vatican City, the State of the Vatican City, which is the Seat of the Roman Catholic Church. The State of the Vatican City has an area of about 100 acres. It is situated in the territory of Italy, but according to A Treaty of Conciliation signed on 11th November 1929, it stood as the ecclesiastical state. Though being the tiniest country in the world, it represents 1.2 billion Roman Catholic believers around the world.

The Head of the State of the Vatican City is Pope Francis, 266th Pope. Currently, Pope Francis is in Myanmar on a

The Papal Visit representing 1.2 billion Roman Catholic followers around the world to Myanmar is not only to meet the believers in Myanmar but also to pay a friendly visit to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka and simultaneously to meet individuals and societies representing the nation including the Myanmar President and the State Counsellor.

Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services. The Papal Visit representing 1.2 billion Roman Catholic followers around the world to Myanmar is not only to meet the believers in Myanmar but also to pay a friendly visit to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka and simultaneously to meet individuals and societies representing the nation including the Myanmar President and the State Counsellor. The visit of the Pope to Myanmar clearly exemplifies how freedom of religion is being practiced in Myanmar and the friendly and generous nature of the people of Myanmar.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

By U Khin Maung
(A retired diplomat)

Introduction

What is law?

Law is the regime that orders human activities and relations through systematic application of the force of politically organized society or through social pressure, backed by force, in such a society. It is the legal system¹. Under Myanmar culture and civilization, law is everybody's concern, everybody's business. There is an old-saying in Myanmar. If freely translated, I think it may read: "a man may not live hundred years long, but he may be faced with over hundred cases or problems². Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary defines the term "law" as follows:

"Law is the whole system of rules that everyone in a country or system must obey". Thus, there is a legal maxim or principle: "Nobody is above the law", "equality before the law."

Significant legal maxims and principles

Law is so wide, so delicate, so demanding, so difficult a subject that nobody could claim that he knows all the best about the laws. As such, may I, with some sort of legal background, present to you some of the significant legal maxims and principles as follows:

- (1) **The rule of law, law and order**
- (2) **Equality before the law, nobody is above the law.**
- (3) **The letter of the law, spirit of the law.**
- (4) **Ignorance of law is no excuse**
- (5) **Conflict of laws**

1. The rule of law, law and order

The incumbent government is a democratically elected government, or in other words, the incumbent government is "government of the people, by the people, for the people." Together with the people, our government is carrying out a

variety of tremendous tasks. And one of those tremendous tasks, I would like to present to you, with pride and glory as an ordinary citizen is, about our democratic people's government's noble aim and vision to set up a democratic federal union. And in connection with this article, may I present to you a relevant quotation as follows: "The first essential condition for making democracy secure in our lives" is to base all our activities, firmly on the rule of law. There are never two sets of law, one for those within and another for those outside the ruling party. Whoever breaks the laws, must take the consequences. The rule of law and equality before the law must prevail. Law and order is often equated with the rule of law, and in this equation the punitive and deterrent functions of law tend to be over emphasized".

2. Equality before the law. Nobody is above the law

Regarding this legal maxim, I would like to quote a British author Fielding Hall's impression of Burmese (Myanmar) people, mentioned in his book. "The soul of a people". The learned author observed that "the Burmese are a community of equals", in a sense that has probably never been known elsewhere". And according to our traditional justice system, "the King was the mighty fountainhead of justice, though he was not himself above the law".

Well, in explaining this legal maxim, "equality before the law" may I also mention its definition in Black's Law Dictionary" as follows:

"Equality before the law" means the status or condition of being treated according to regularly established norms of

justice" ¹. And many constitutional laws prescribe the notion that all persons are subject to the ordinary law of the land; administered by the ordinary law court and officials are not exempt from the general duty of obedience to the law³. And with reference to this legal maxim, may I present to you from the collection of my memories something about diplomatic immunity. Diplomatic immunity is the general exemption of diplomatic agents from the operation of local law, or the law of the country where he is serving. But this immunity or exemption means only from procedural matters and not from legal liabilities. So, if a diplomatic agent had committed offences in the receiving state he would be declared as a "personanongrata" and he would be called back by the sending state and then legal action would be taken

against him. In essence, nobody is above the law.

3. The letter of the law, spirit of the law

"The letter of the law" means the strictly literal meaning of the law, rather than the intention or policy behind it.

Spirit of the Jaw means the general meaning or purpose of the law, as opposed to its literal content.

So, learned lawyers would like to advise and assert that when studying and applying the law, both the letter and spirit of the law should be studied and applied

4. Ignorance of law is no excuse

As stated in the introduction, law is everybody's business', everybody's concern. Nobody could argue that I have committed such an act or such

an offence, just because I do not know the law. Lack of knowledge about a legal requirement or prohibition is never an excuse in a criminal charge. In Latin, "ignorantia juris non excusatur".

5. Conflict of laws

A difference between the laws of a state or between the laws of different states or countries is known as conflict of laws. If there is a conflict of laws within a state, the later law shall prevail over the earlier law. And if there is a conflict between the laws of a state party to a convention and the stipulations of the convention, then those of the convention shall prevail.

Conclusion

To sum up, I would like to quote some relevant words of wisdom of our legal and literati giant Dr. MaungMaung who mentioned in his book "Law and Custom in Burma and the Burmese Family" as follows: "Law is founded on morality and morality finds its foundation in the moral integrity of the individual. Law is not or must not be reduced to mere words in statute books and legal decisions, but law is or should be an active, ceaseless social process that runs like a nerve system in the living society, and the blood stream of law needs to be constantly renewed and nourished so that it may accommodate change in its continuity, youth in its age." Our incumbent democratic government is carrying out tremendous tasks, together with the people. These noble tasks include to set up a democratic federal union.

Reference:

- (1) Black's Law Dictionary By Bryan A. Garer
- (2) အသက်တစ်ရာပေမဲ့ရဲ့ အမှုတစ်ရာမဟာတွေ့ရတတ်သည်။
- (3) Law and custom inBurma and the Burmese Family. Dr. Maung Maung, B.L (Rangoon), J.S.D (Yale), LL.D (Utrecht), of Licolin's Inn, Barrister-at-law.

UN urges everyone to take action to end violence against all women and girls

ACTIONS are needed now more than ever to prevent and respond to violence against all women and girls, underscored United Nations representatives at the Asia-Pacific Regional Commemoration for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women held at Chulalongkorn University on 27th November.

This year's commemoration came at a unique moment, coinciding with the unprecedented mobilization of millions behind #MeToo and other movements in an escalating global protest against sexual harassment and violence against women. As the annual 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign kicked off, UN agencies and partners called for seizing the opportunity created by the global outcry over sexual harassment and moving it towards concrete actions to better implement laws and policies to end violence against women once and for all.

Aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, speakers highlighted the importance of reaching the most underserved and marginalized women and girls who are particularly vulnerable to violence.

Ms. Anna-Karin Jatfors, Deputy Regional Director of UN Women Regional Office said: "The current #MeToo movement has revealed the silence of so many women and the long-lasting effects of violence. We have finally heard from women who were afraid to speak up, women who were silenced by powerful men and did not feel they could be heard. The world has seen that violence against women can happen to anyone, in any country, in any part of society. This movement has shown that everyone has a role to play in shaping our societies for the better. There is power in speaking out against harassment and violence in our homes, workplaces, universities and schools, and in the media. In the Asia-Pacific region, we see that violence can be prevented and that change is happening."

Dr. Kingkarn Thepkanjana, Dean of the Faculty of Arts at Chulalongkorn University and Director of the BALAC Program shared that violence against women is an issue that affects millions worldwide. "By educating the next generation and involving young people in anti-violence initiatives, we can work to challenge violent behaviours and norms, and create a safer, fairer society for everyone," said Dr. Thepkanjana.

The event, attended by over 300 students, civil society representatives and government officials, also underlined the crucial role that youth can play to prevent violence against women. Youth have the ability to question outdated thinking about gender roles and establish respectful relationships promoting gender equality.

The Asia-Pacific commemoration was coordinated through the Regional Coordination Mechanism Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women, co-chaired by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and UN Women. This event was supported in part by the Australian Government.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign, which mobilizes governments and public alike, is commemorated by the UN under the Secretary-General's campaign UNITE to End Violence against Women by 2030. Throughout the 16 Days of Activism, the UNITE Campaign's Spotlight Days will focus on the far-reaching consequences of violence within some of the most marginalized and underserved groups of women and girls.—ESCAP News



Plan to cultivate 24,123 acres of summer paddy and 459,219 acres of winter crops in Rakhine



Agricultural officials visit a winter crop field in Sittway as they assist farmers in growing peas. **PHOTO: WIN MIN SOE**

A total of 24,123 acres of summer paddy and 459,219 acres of winter crops were planned to be cultivated in Rakhine State for fiscal year 2017-2018.

Rakhine State has a total of 9,088,053 acres of farm lands and there are 1,287,236 acres of cultivated lands.

For fiscal year 2017-2018, 204 acres of summer paddy and 26,810 acres of winter crops were planned to be grown in four townships in Sittway Dis-

trict; 3,426 acres of summer paddy and 143,199 acres of winter crops were planned to be grown in four townships of Mrauk-U District; 20,246 acres of summer paddy and 107,707 acres of winter crops were planned to be cultivated in two townships of Maungdaw District, 100 acres of summer paddy and 78,782 acres of winter crops were scheduled to be grown in four townships of Kyaukpadaung District and 147 acres of summer paddy and 102,721

acres of winter crops in three townships of Thandwe District, said Daw Hla Theingi, assistant Director of State Agriculture Department.

Due to the heavy rains monsoon paddies and crops were damaged in the townships of Rakhine State. Growing of monsoon paddies and other crops were also delayed. In some townships, cultivation of the paddy and winter crops is also delayed, she added.—Win Min Soe (IPRD)

Sharing Hygienic Knowledge to be prioritized in Maungdaw

Dr May Win Myint, Chairperson of the Central Women Committee, of the National League for Democracy and the Parliamentarian said that sharing hygienic knowledge will be prioritized for the local populace in Maungdaw region, in Rakhine State.

At the ground breaking ceremony of the rural dispensary for Mro local people to be implemented in Kaigy (Mro) New village, Dr May Win Myint disclosed the statement.

The dispensary in accord with the designated standard will be included in the new-village implementation project—Kaigy (Mro) village.

At the ground breaking ceremony held in the afternoon Dr Daw May Win Myint and party, Maungdaw district Deputy administrator U Ye Htoo and responsible officials drove stakes into the ground.

Dr May Win Myint said, “At the monthly meeting, U Phyto Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister invited the Yangon Re-



Dr May Win Myint gives talks on health knowledge to local ethnic people. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

gion government to take part in the rehabilitation of Maungdaw region. We also want to help in a corner necessary. So we came here. Being a medical doctor, I came to donate K 17 million for the sector of health. On emerging as a rural dispensary, we will take part in helping a dispensary to become abundant with drugs and other equipment.

Especially, supply of drugs and sharing medical knowledge

will be prioritized. The present dispensary will be beneficial not only for Mro village and but also for nearby villages.”

Present at the ceremony were U Ye Htoo, Maungdaw district Deputy Commissioner and responsible officials, members of NLD Central Women Committee and parliamentarian Dr Shwe Hmone and Daw Aye Aye Mu (a) Daw Shar Mi.—News Team

Sai Din Bridge to be completed in March

THE Department of Bridges under the Ministry of Construction is building several bridges that will help regional development in Rakhine State, officials said yesterday.

The bridge projects include the Sai Din Bridge, which is nearly half done and will facilitate travel between Ponnagayun and Buthidaung when complete. It has been learnt that arrangements are being made to finish the bridge in March.

The construction of Sai Din Bridge began in December 2016. The bridge is a two-way concrete bridge measuring 600 ft in length, 24 ft in width and 9 ft in height. The bridge is being constructed with 150 labourers to complete the project within the designated time.

“It was targeted to complete the construction in March, at the end of the open season prior to monsoon season. On completion of the bridge, development along the region will remarkably be gained. In the past, local people used to depend only on waterway. On completion of the Ponnag-

yun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung Road, regional development will rise up remarkably. Transport plays an important role for the regional development”, said U Myint Naing Oo, deputy director of the bridges department.

There are four other bridges being constructed — Yathedaung Bridge, Thaung Bridge, Nga San Paw Bridge and Ywa Haung Bridge. The spans are targeted to be completed in March, the end of the budget year and before the monsoon reason.

According to the Bridge Department, the Sai Din Bridge will cost an estimated Ks2.73 billion.

Daw Pu Ma Nyo, a local woman living in Phon Nyo Leit village, opposite of the Sai Din Creek said, “Now we are plying Buthidaung by waterway. So, it is not convenient to travel by waterway all the time, Upon completion of the bridge, it will be convenient for all of us. We find it difficult to sell our crops by waterway. So we thank a lot for the construction of this road”. —News Team



Sai Din Bridge is under construction in Maungdaw. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

Two IEDs found in Maungdaw

WHILE clearing debris away from the gutted place in Myoma Kanyintan ward in Maungdaw with a bulldozer, a thing suspected to be home-made mines attached with two wires (red and black) packed with a blue Cellotape was found.

An 8-year-old Hindu child named Rauchan found the mine while collecting old used commodities in the gutted ground, half of which was seen on the ground.

On receipt of the information, local police examined

the material, discovering the material measuring 8 inches in length and 5 inches in diameter to be a home-made mine attached with two wires (red and black).

Then, the team led by Captain Nay Zaw Shine of the battle field company (engineer) arrived, searching for other explosives nearby in combination with the police force. In the search, another local-made mine measuring 6 ½ inches in length and 3 inches in diameter was found. —News Team

Pope Francis in Nay Pyi Taw

ပုဂံရဟန်းမင်းကြီး ဗရန်ခစ် မိန့်ခွန်းပြောကြားသည့်အခမ်းအနား

Speech by His Holiness Pope Francis

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နေပြည်တော်



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Pope Francis stand on stage with children during a meeting with members of the civil society and diplomatic corps. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Pope Francis signs a guestbook during a meeting with President U Htin Kyaw at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw, on 28 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Pope Francis in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Pope Francis blesses a child as he arrives with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to attend a meeting with members of the civil society and diplomatic corps in Nay Pyi Taw, on 28 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Pope Francis is welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw Airport, on 28 November 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**