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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven at the Government Rosenbad in Stockholm, Sweden, yesterday. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

83 of 122 bodies from downed military plane recovered

THE remains of 24 more victims of a Chinese-made Y-8-200F military transport plane that crashed into the Andaman Sea on Wednesday were discovered yesterday, according to a statement by the office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, bringing the total number of bodies to 83.

A total of 122 people, many of them military officials and their families, were aboard the plane when it crashed last week.

The bodies were found by Tatamadaw forces, which have been searching the area off the coast of Dawei with sonar equipped naval vessels, divers, local shipping vessels. On the beaches, ground troops and citizen volunteers also searched.

The newly recovered bodies include 15 children, 28 women, and 38 men, including four Tatamadaw officers and nine soldiers of lower rank, and two unidentified bodies.

The remains were sent to Dawei Tatmadaw Hospital for identification.

To date, 35 victims have been cremated. —Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor: UN Rakhine probe would have increased tensions

A United Nations decision last year to send an international fact-finding mission to investigate allegations of abuse by security forces against Muslims in Rakhine State is not in keeping with the needs of

both communities in Rakhine State, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday.

Myanmar's diplomatic and political leaders as well as government officials from

China and India had rebuffed the mission.

"We did not feel it was in keeping with the needs of the region in which we are trying to establish harmony and understanding, and to remove

the fears that have kept the two communities apart for so long," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said to reporters in Stockholm after a meeting with Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven.

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State Counsellor: UN Rakhine probe would have increased tensions

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"It would have created greater hostility between the different communities," said the State Counsellor.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she would only accept recommendations from a separate advisory commission led by former U.N. chief Kofi Annan.

"I think we should really give the commission a chance to show whether or not they have done their work properly instead of condemning from the beginning," she said.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs released a statement on 24th March following the UN's announcement which stated that the establishment of an international fact-finding mis-

sion would do more to inflame, rather than resolve, the issues at this time.

"It is also not in accord with the situation on the ground and the national circumstances. Given this, and the government's very real and serious efforts to build stability and find lasting solutions, Myanmar has dissociated itself from the resolution as a whole", the statement read.

A number of the UN human rights commission member countries, including China and India, have also dissociated themselves from the resolution or voiced their opposition to the establishment of such a mission.—GNLM and Reuters ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (L) and Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven (R) hold a news conference, at the government building Rosenbad in Stockholm, Sweden, on 12 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Sweden's Foreign Minister Ms. Margot Wallstrom (R) stand outside the Foreign Ministry in Stockholm, Sweden on 12 June 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor meets Swedish Minister for Foreign Affairs

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Ms. Margot Wallstrom, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden met at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Stockholm, Sweden, yesterday

at 11:00 am local time.

Present at the meeting were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister from the Office of the President U Min Thu, Myanmar Ambassador

to Sweden U Kyaw Swa Min and other officials. After the meeting, the State Counsellor attended a luncheon hosted by the Swedish Minister of Foreign Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar's first graders receive first new curriculum in 20 years

MORE than one million first grade schoolchildren will receive new textbooks starting this month based on a curriculum developed by the Ministry of Education (MOE) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) since 2014.

The joint MOE-JICA project, called the project for Curriculum Reform at Primary Level of Basic Education (CREATE), is the first major reform of Myanmar's first grade curriculum in about 20 years.

The textbooks are colorful with many pictures and designed to be accessible and attractive to young children. The textbooks

will be delivered with detailed teacher's guides for each subject.

The CREATE project was developed by 40 Japanese and overseas curriculum experts and more than 60 Myanmar academics.

The textbooks were reviewed and approved by the National Curriculum Committee formed by the National Education Policy Commission.

The new primary education curriculum includes 10 subjects: Myanmar, English, mathematics, science, social studies, morality and civics, life skills, physical education, performing

arts and visual arts. The national curriculum will be taught alongside a local curriculum, which will be developed by each State and Regional Government.

JICA prepared for the introduction of the curriculum by organizing a series of MOE trainings for township, district, state and region education officials. Union ministry officials also attended trainings.

Following these managerial sessions, the educational reformers hosted in-service trainings for teachers across the nation from 23 January to 26 May.

These trainings were of-



Children learn lessons at a school. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY JICA**

fered at the Union level, the state and region level, the township level and school and family level training. The in-service trainings reached teachers from all categories of grade one schools including monastic and private

schools.

The reform group also organized curriculum trainings at Myanmar's education colleges so that it is the basis of teacher training programs in academia.—GNLM ■

119th Philippines Independence Day was held



UNION MINISTER for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu and wife Daw Khin Thida were welcomed by Philippines Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Eduardo E. Kapun-

an at a ceremony to mark the 119th Philippines Independence Day which was held in Novotel Hotel in Yangon at 6:30 pm on 12 June.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Murder in Maungtaw

A man died from injuries incurred after a quarrel with his brother on Sunday in Shita village, Maungtaw, Rakhine State.

An investigation revealed that the quarrel happened at about 10:30am between two

brothers, Ei Mhan Husein and Swe Yauk Tusaung, concerning the plowing of a paddy field. Ei Mhan Husein died as a result of stab wounds to his face, neck and back alleged dealt by his brother.—Myanmar News Agency ■

3.4 mln stimulant tablets seized in Sittway

THIRTY-FOUR lakh stimulant tablets worth Ks6.8 billion were seized at Yay Chan Pyin Port in Sittway, Rakhine State on Sunday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, border guard police stopped and searched a vehicle driven by U Aung Saw Than from Padalake village at about 11:30 am at Yay

Chan Pyin Port. Police discovered the stimulant tablets in hidden compartments beneath the floor of the vehicle.

Upon interrogation, the suspect admitted that U San Aung Kyaw from Ponnagyun gave him Ks4 lakh to drive the vehicle to Myoma Market in Sittway.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Illegal timber caught on Mandalay-Muse highway

THE Yaypu Joint Investigation Force, in cooperation with various government departments, has confiscated timber being transported with no legal documents from Mandalay to Muse between 9 and 10 June.

The joint investigation force apprehended a six-wheeled truck on 9 June and three small vehicles on 10 June, all illegally transporting timber from Mandalay to Muse. Confiscated from the vehicles were 57 logs of tamalan weighing 4.6792 tons and 14 logs of various padauk wood or rose wood weighing 0.6558 tons. The Customs Department announced that the estimated value of the confiscated timber is around Ks



Illegal timber seen on a truck on Mandalay-Muse highway. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

52.7092million.

The Customs Department was able to cooperate with Yaypu Joint Investigation Force and prevent 13 cases of illegal trading of Ks 131.4358mil-

lion worth of commodities on 11 June and cooperate with Mayanchaung Investigation Station and prevent 8 cases of illegal trading of Ks 18.5million worth of commodities. — 001 ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Qatar Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Qatar Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Hassan Bin Mohamed Rafei Al Emadi at

the Hluttaw Building (I-11) in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 June.

During the meeting, the Qatar Ambassador said that Qatar is stable and peaceful, Myanmar nationals in Qatar are safe and have food securi-

ty. Qatar will correctly resolve the situation while friendly nations are helping with understanding and Qatar is doing its part for world peace and security. — Myanmar News Agency ■

One illegal emigrant arrested in Maungtaw

ACTING on a tip-off, a man was arrested on the road of Maungtaw-Agnu in Maungtaw Township in Rakhine State as he illegally went to the bordering

country on 11June.

A man named Murmud Eislam from Parseik village has been cancelled from nation's household lists since 20 July

2005 as he illegally emigrated from Myanmar. The suspect was being filed and announced as a boarder displaced emigrant.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Historical data from Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda

FROM PAGE 8

The town near it must have acquired its name Shwe Taung Myo [Golden Hill town] from the name of the hill. In pre-war days this town was famous for producing Shwe Taung longyi for men's nether wear-silk material of light brown colour with gold square pattern. Long lasting washable and fit for daily wear as well as for special occasion. In the post war period another name of both domestic and foreign fame the name of noodle food Shwe Taung Khauk Swe. Special wheat noodle with coconut milk and chicken curry seasoned with other appetizing ingredients. At the Trade Expo held in Osaka and Tokyo, Japan

in 1965-6 entrepreneurs from Shwe Taung town introduced Shwe Taung Khauk Swe at the Expo. It gained popularity with the visitors. Since then Shwe Taung Khauk Swe retains its popularity not only in Myanmar and Japan but also in other foreign lands.

Successive renovators and repaires of this pagoda date back to as early as King Dwattabaung of Pyu Period of Myanmar history. He was the King of Sre Kestra city Kingdom. He made his two chief queens Vishnu and Sanda Devi to send out their kinsmen in quest of the long forgotten and lost Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda. They found it and recovered it

from the jungle and restored it to its glory by repairs and renovations 182 Sacred Buddha relics kept in a gold container studded with 9 precious gems were enshrined in the stupa, with three stupa shaped covers each swallowing the other respectively-gold, silver and cement concrete. The cement concrete stupa was 15 cubits in height. The lands upon which the shadows of the stupa fell at the time of sunrise and sunset were turned into glebe land and donated to Buddhist religion by King Dwattabaung. The revenue collected from the areas around the Shwe Nat Taung hillock were donated for the maintenance of the pagoda and

for the holding of the annual pagoda festivals.

In Bagan Period, the son of King Narathihapate King Thihathu, the Lord of the city Pyay carried out the will of his royal father. He sold out the ruby ring of the father to repair and renovate Shwe Nat Taung Pagoda, raising its height to 44 cubits. King Tabin Shwehti of Taungoo who founded the second Myanmar Empire repaired and renovated the Shwe Nat Taung Stupa and gilt it with gold.

In Konbaung Period, the son and crown Prince of King Bodawpaya [Badon Min] Thiri Maha Dhamma Vizaya Thiha Thura on his return from Rakhine State bringing Maha Muni

Buddha Image to the capital Amarapura, visited Shwe Nat Taung Stupa and fully gift it with gold. He also built in the precincts of the Pagoda gold gilt spired halls, covered corridors, ascending steps and a grand prayer hall with traditional designs and decorative arts.

Right now, at the time of the writer's visit, the pagoda is 64 cubits high, [without the decorative umbrellla].

With its decorative umbrellla it is 80 cubits high 17 minor stupas surround the main stupa, 15 gold floral stands, 14 gold umbrellas, 15 assembly halls including three storeyed halls are found on the spacious pagoda compound.