

Plan to make Emerald Green Project in Maungtaw region

THE Emerald Green Project, organized by Department for Rural Development, promotes increased living standards and a heightened socio-economic status for local residents in Maungtaw region.

Initially, the Department for Rural Development was to operate the project in only two villages beginning in the 2014-15 fiscal years, and later the project was to be extended to 29 villages during the 2017-2018 fiscal years. Under the Emerald Green Project, many sub-committees, such as the financial sub-committee and township supervisory committee, were formed to provide and supervise assistance to local people in this region. The committee offers small loans of up to Ks 300 lakhs to residents, in order to raise living standards.

According to interviews with local people, it was learnt that this project has helped the development of social and living standards in a number of ways.

U Aung Tha, a local farmer said, "I can expand my business with the help of cheap loans by farming and raising cattle on a manageable scale in my village." Also, Ma Thuzar, a local woman, said "I received a loan of Ks 500 lakhs, set up a shop in my village, and now can support my family." U Aye Aung Kyaw, from the village, added, "I did odd-jobs before, and could not earn enough money to support my family, but later I could plant beans and peas in the vegetable garden with the help of cheap loans." He added that he has already paid back the loan.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Schools reopened in Maungtaw

Due to the terrorist attacks of 25 August in Maungtaw region, 424 out of 650 basic education high schools, middle-schools and primary schools were closed.

As stability has been restored in the region, 82 schools in Maungtaw Township, 172 schools in Buthidaung

Township and 10 schools in Yathedaung Township, totaling 264 schools, were reopened and students were seen to be attending the schools.

Also, 112 schools in Maungtaw region will soon be opened, though 48 schools remain closed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Workers harvest rice in Maungtaw with the use of harvestors. PHOTO: MNA

Monsoon paddies of displaced harvested systematically

Rakhine State Government has formed a supervising committee for harvesting monsoon paddies for displaced people in Maungtaw region, which began harvesting on 26th October. It was learnt that there were a total of 6766 acres of paddy harvested, as of 12 December.

In harvesting monsoon paddies in Maungtaw region, there were 242 acres in Myo Thagyi village tract, 155 acres in Ohndaw village-tract, 360 acres in Kanpu village tract, 479 acres in Kyaung taung village-tract, 480 acres in Alei Than

Kyaw village tract, 203 acres in Nwayontaung village-tract, 144 acres in Wacha village-tract, 209 acres in Thandar village-tract, 339 acres in Myin Lut village-tract, 15 acres in Kyikanpyin village-tract, 29 acres in Thiho kyun village-tract, 110 acres in U-dong village-tract, 182 acres in Longdon village-tract, 332 acres in Aung Sitpyin village-tract, 165 acres in Sabeigone village-tract, 370 acres in Thabyaetaw village-tract, 186 acres in Zaw Matek Village-tract, 521 acres in Doe-tan village-tract, 280 acres in Ywathit-K village-tract,

331 acres in Kyauk Pandu village-tract, 280 acres in Tat Oo Chaung village-tract, 290 acres in Duchiyartan village-tract, 15 acres in Thayay Konetan village-tract, 343 acres in Thawun chaung village-tract, 155 acres in Ngakhura village-tract, 85 acres in Inn-din village-tract, 45 acres in Thinbawgway village-tract, 222 acres in Cheinkharli village-tract of Rathedaung township, 77 acres in Koetangauk village-tract and 96 acres in Thabyuchaung village-tract in Buthidaung township.—MNA ■



Ownerless 95,000 stimulant tablets seized in Maungtaw

Local police seized stimulant tablets worth Ks1,900 lakh from a house owned by Swe Huak Husein in Maungtaw Township on 10 December. Acting on a tip-off, security forces inspected Ngakhuya village. Police discovered 95,000 WY/R stimulant tablets in an unoccupied house. While Alalthankyaw security forces were patrolling

the entrance of Thanda village on the evening of 9 December, police searched a suspicious looking man named Mammud Juba, 27, of Mawtula village. It was found that he fled while a survey was being taken in 2016. Police have taken action against him under the immigration law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

Rights commission meets Muslims in Maungtaw

A Myanmar human rights delegation met with Muslim villagers gathering at a beach in Maungtaw to leave for Bangladesh, offering assistance to them for living in peace.

At the meeting, members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission asked if their rights were violated in Myanmar and their obstacles and reasons why they decided to leave for the neighboring country. The delegation members pledged to provide

assistance to them if they want to live in peace in Myanmar.

Following the meeting, the members of the commission visited Kaingyi Village where Mro ethnic people, who fled from their villagers, are sheltering.

The new village of Kaingyi is under construction for Mro ethnic villagers, with 50 new houses constructed by Yangon Region Government, 64 houses by Bago Region Government and a school by Taninthayi Re-

gion Government.

They also visited the Muslim village of Pantawpyin (Middle) village and inquired the situation including the rule of law, education, health and livelihood of local villagers.

At the beginning of the trip yesterday, the delegation led by U Yu Lwin Aung and Dr. Myint Kyi, members of the commission, camps in Maungtaw where Hindu people are sheltering.—Myint Maung, Zeyar ■

Two men held for Taka notes possession

TWO men were charged for allegedly possessing of ninety 500-notes of Bangladeshi Taka yesterday in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. Police discovered the Taka notes in a car which was driven by Mau Ju Ahlu from Maungtaw Township. Another man namely Shawphi Armout, who was on board, was also arrested by the police.—Myanmar News agency ■



Senior General calls on Nepal President, Nepal Prime Minister and Defence Minister

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal called on President of Nepal H.E. Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari at Presidential Hall, Kathmandu on the evening of 11 December.

Earlier in the day, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief met separately with Nepal Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Sher Bahadur and Defence Minister Mr. Bhimsen Das Pradhan.

Later in the day, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party attended a dinner hosted by Chief of Army Staff of the Nepali

Army Gen. Rajendra Chhetri and wife at the general's residence.

Yesterday morning, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party visited Lumbini Garden, Lumbini where the Lord Buddha was born and donated cash for the maintenance of Lumbini Garden. They then went to Panditarama Lumbini International Sasana Beikman and viewed the places where devotees practiced meditation.

Next, the Senior General and party pay homage to Lawka Manisula Pagoda and then arrived to Myanmar Shwekyauung monas-



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends a dinner hosted by Chief of Army Staff of the Nepal Army Gen. Rajendra Chhetri at the general's residence. **PHOTO: MNA**

tery where homage was paid to chief monk Ashin Wateza Nanda and offerings made. From there, the Senior General and party

went to Kapilvastu District where the ancient city of Kapilavastu (Kapilavit) existed and viewed the area. The Senior General and

party then went on to Pokhara, the second biggest city of Nepal and toured the city. — Myanmar News Agency ■

23 developmental projects to be carried out in Maungtaw Township

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has allocated Ks 100 million of the developmental funds for each township across the country to be carried out the developmental tasks. "The allotted fund will be spent on implementation of 23 developmental projects throughout the township" said Amyotha Hluttaw Representative U Kyaw Kyaw Win for Maungtaw Constituency.

Construction of 11 roads and 7 bridges, two water supply projects and other three developmental projects totaling 23 developmental projects will be implemented with the use of the allotted fund, he added.

The decision was made at the meeting between Maungtaw Township Administrator U Myint Khaing and the Hluttaw representatives at Maungtaw General Administration Department this morning.

The MP went on to say that the developmental fund was allocated in 2017-2018 fiscal year. Maungtaw area needs to be promoted the developmental works and respective department is striving for the rehabilitation in the area.

Likewise, the Hluttaw also makes efforts to implement the development works yearly. — Myanmar Digital News ■

Japan, Myanmar groups band together to develop affordable housing

Construction industry associations from Japan and Myanmar are joining forces to develop affordable housing in the Southeast Asian country.

A pilot project will start in Myanmar's commercial capital Yangon as early as next month to build apartments designed for a family of four, showcasing Japan-made building materials.

The Japan-Myanmar Association for Industry of Housing and Urban Development recently signed a memorandum of understanding with the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association to carry out the pilot project.

The Japan-Myanmar group, formed in 2014 by construction firms, building materials makers and housing and property developers to contribute to Myanmar's construction and housing industries, will finance the project and provide necessary materials.

Construction will begin next month in the northern part of Yangon and a total of six units of two types — apartments and duplexes — for low- and middle-class families, are scheduled for completion in autumn.

The two industry groups plan to introduce Japan's construction expertise as well as

building materials and components for construction of modern apartments at affordable prices in one of the fastest growing economies in Southeast Asia.

Myanmar's population is expected to grow from the current 60 million to 90 million by 2040. The government is in the throes of providing affordable houses ranging in prices from 20 million kyat to 35 million kyat (\$14,700 to \$25,750) for low- and middle-income families while enhancing urbanization in major cities, the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association says. — Kyodo News ■

Distribution of postcards marking the 43th Rakhine State Day begins

THE postcards marking the 43th Rakhine State Day that will fall on 15 December are being distributed to the local people in the townships of Rakhine State as of today.

Under the guidance of the Information and Public Relations Department, the townships and districts IPRD staff

are distributing the postcards to the local people. The postcards were being distributed at Myoma market, bus station, jetties, airport and public areas. Moreover, the posters are erected at the public areas and the motorway inter-sections. — Myanmar Digital News ■

69 bailey bridges on Myanmar-Indian highway to be upgraded

SIXTY nine bailey bridges on the Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu section, along with a new friendship bridge over Parhe Creek, Tamu Township, will be upgraded, using reinforced-concrete bridges, according to the Sagaing Region Road Transport Administration Department.

The Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu section is located on the Myanmar-Indian friendship Highway in Sagaing Region.

The Myanmar-Indian friendship Highway is also a

part of Asian Highway (AH 1), connecting India, Myanmar and Thailand.

The work on reconstruction of bridges began on 1 December and is targeted to be completed in three years. The bailey bridges on Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu section of Asian Highway (AH 1) will be upgraded using reinforced-concrete bridges, with the aid of India.

"All the bridges to be rebuilt are located in the Kalewa-Kyigone-Tamu section in Kalewa, Kalay and Tamu town-

ships, and will be carried out with the aid of India, including a new bridge over the Parhe Creek, which flows through Tamu Township as a friendship program. Ground measurements have been carried out since 1 December and will be completed in three years", said an official from Sagaing Region Road Transport Administration Department.

The new bridge is located 93.6 miles (milepost) from Kalewa Township. — Win Oo (Zayar Taing) ■