

Sayamagyi Daw Zin Khine Foundation awards education stipends to 101 students

THE Myanmar-China Friendship Association held a Sayamagyi (great teacher) Daw Zin Khine Foundation education stipend award ceremony yesterday morning at the Sport Hotel in Yangon.

Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Embassy of People's Republic of China to Myanmar Cultural Counselor Mr. Tian Shanting, Yangon Region Head of Education Office Deputy Director General Daw Khin Mar Swe and Myanmar-China Friendship Association chairman U Sein Win Aung delivered speeches and presented education stipend awards to representatives of outstanding students attending universities across the country. Maung Hein Htat Lin of Yangon Technological University, Yangon Region



Outstanding and education stipend recipient students and officials pose for a documentary photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

then gave a speech of appreciation.

The Sayamagyi Daw Zin Khine Foundation is providing 101 outstanding and education

stipend recipient students from technological universities, universities of medicine and universities of education with a stipend of Ks300,000 per student

for the year 2018. The foundation has been providing education stipends for five years.

Ninety-year-old Sayamagyi Daw Zin Khine was born in Fu-

jian Province, China and was raised in Myanmar, where she obtained a degree from Yangon University. She also passed the nine-part Abidhamma examination and earned many awards. At the invitation of the Chinese government in 1965, she served as a professor in the China Foreign Language Bureau and Beijing Foreign Studies University. She had been working for more than 40 years to strengthen the relations between Myanmar and China. With the support of her students, the Sayamagyi Daw Zin Khine Foundation was formed on 30 March 2013 and has been providing education stipends ever since.

Sayamagyi Daw Zin Khine still serves as the Chinese national reunion association chairman.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Rice listed as main export to Bangladesh through Maungtaw Trade Zone

RICE exports to Bangladesh reached more than 13,400 tons through the Maungtaw Trade Zone, becoming the largest export to the neighbouring country in the ten months of the 2017-2018 FY.

Up to 14 January 2017-2018 FY, 13420 tons of rice had been exported. The first largest export to Bangladesh is rice, while the second is aquatic products, and the third follows instant foods and other manufacturing products, such as sweets, Thanaka, a yellowish-white cosmetic paste made from ground bark, anti-acne cream, blankets, shoes and coffee mix.

"Rice from Buthidaung is transported by truck to Maungtaw port and exported to Bangladesh. Exports were temporarily stopped in September. There are nearly 100 workers in that port. They can also make a good living when a sea route to Bangladesh returns to normalcy", a rice trader said.

"There are about 10 traders in Maungtaw Town, including me. Our main export to Bangladesh is rice and palm jam, dried fishes. Ginger and cosmetics are also being ex-



Workers carrying sacks of rice in Maungtaw Trade Zone, Maungtaw. **PHOTO: AUNG YE THWIN/KO MIN**

ported. A round way to the Bangladesh side is by private rental motor boats, which takes three days. The water way is now favorable and, therefore, we are continuously exporting. We transport about 2000 sacks of rice at one time. As the market is also better, we can earn profits", he added.

Myanmar's main exports to Bangladesh are rice, ginger, silk, cotton, onions, fish, prawns, dried fish, bamboo, cane, and other industrial

goods.

Imports arriving through the Maungtaw Border Trade Zone from Bangladesh have ceased since the violent attacks in October 2016.

The trade zones between Myanmar and Bangladesh mostly rely on the swell and ebb of the river, and the Kanyin Chaung trade zone is being developed to pave way for larger cargo vessels, according to officials. —Aung Ye Thwin/ Ko Min ■

12 hornbills sighted in Chin State

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We have organised committees, appointing four local youths in our camps, for making preservation processes", said U Thein Lwin.

The five-year programmes have already made reports to the Ministry of Natural Resources, Wildlife and Environmental Conservation, an effort suggested by the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), departmental officials and local ethnics.

There were approximate-

ly 20 hornbills sighted in last year's report.

"There were many difficulties while making conservation processes for wild animals in their natural environment. We are also facing the result of illegal hunters and poachers", U Thein Lwin added.

Sign boards have been erected in townships stressing that the hunting and shooting of hornbills is prohibited in Chin State. —Shin Min ■



Rufous-necked hornbill. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Be alert and be aware of terrorists!

WE have all already known that events of sudden armed attacks on border security outposts in bordering areas in Maungtaw district, Rakhine State on 9th October 2016 and 25th August 2017 were manipulated by the ARSA extremist terrorists. The extremists who infiltrated into Rakhine State organized the local Muslims, giving training lessons on terrorist attack methods, and making them launch terrorist activities and sudden attacks on border security outposts. These attacks killed security forces, government servicemen and local people, with many others wounded. It also resulted in most of the local residents abandoning their villages to leave for safer places. Similarly, local Muslims were displaced into Bangladesh.

Due to the events of the armed attacks, Myanmar and its people suffered a lot. On the wrong pretext of the victims taking shelter at the refugee camps in Bangladesh, the international community put pressure on Myanmar. As for the affairs of refugees, it is actually complicated. It can be seen that migrants and terrorist attackers mingled with those in the refugee camps.

Accordingly, we need to be alert and be aware of potential dangers of the ARSA extremist terrorists who are likely to infiltrate into the country, in such a time of implementing the process of repatriating displaced people who are going to come from the neighboring country.

Not only Myanmar but also the countries of the world have a great concern regarding the dangers of terrorists. Very recently, a certain level of peace and stability has been achieved in Rakhine. At the same time it has been heard that ARSA terrorists had infiltrated into the country to fight against the security forces. Terrorists actually made conspiracies to launch terrorist attacks hiding under the disguise of refugees in the refugee camps. Accordingly, the Myanmar authorities demanded Bangladesh to extradite the terrorists involved in the armed attacks.

At the 4th Myanmar-Bangladesh Central Level Meeting on Border Security and Law Enforcement Cooperation held in Nay Pyi Taw on 14th November 2017, Myanmar authorities gave a list of over 1300 ARSA terrorist members with their photos attached, to the Authorities, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It has been learnt that the Bangladeshi authorities have been requested to repatriate the ARSA terrorists for arrest in accordance with the agreement of cooperation on the border area signed in 1980.

At the first coordination meeting of the joint working group of repatriation of displaced people from Rakhine State, current activities launched by ARSA extremist terrorist groups had been officially informed and handover of the criminals had been demanded. Accordingly, we need to be alert and be aware of potential dangers of the ARSA extremist terrorists who are likely to infiltrate into the country, in such a time of implementing the process of repatriating displaced people who are going to come from the neighboring country. ■

By Min La Pyae

“NO one can survive without going food for seven days and without water for one morning,” as the Myanmar saying goes. Whatever it is, water is of great vitality for the survival of human beings. The mountainous Chin State is the land rich in water resources—water from rivers, creeks, and that falling from mountains.

Located in the north-western part of the country, Chin State has an area of 89000459 acres, that is, 13906.97 square miles. To the east Sagaing Region is situated, with Bangladesh and India to the west. Rakhine State is located to the south. Chin State touches the border line of India in the north. Being a mountainous region, Chin State has mountain ridges standing in the middle of the area from north to south as watersheds, which are slightly to the west off the vertical towards the center.

Mount Victoria/Nat Ma Taung/Khonuamthung is the highest one of 10500 feet in height, in Chin State. Kaladan is the longest river, with Bwenuu river, Kaladan, Lemyo and Manipur being famous river in Chin State. Bwenuu river starts in Falam township, flowing toward south between Haka and Htantalam townships. At Htantalam it turns into India. Kaladan River flows into Rakhine State through Paletwa township. Manipur river starts in India and it goes through Tunzan, Titein and Phalam townships, emptying into Myittha river at Kalay.

Though being abundant in water resources, Chin State is a mountainous region, hence the need for the effective use of these resources for acquisition of drinking and farming water and production of electricity. With a view to effective utilization of these water resources and avoidance of wastage, the department of irrigation and water management under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Irrigation is now implementing the tasks of building and renovating dams, embankments, water gates, channels and ditches. Chin State Irrigation and Water Management Department are performing the tasks of making surveys about



A Chin village in the hills. PHOTO: TIN WIN



situations on the ground, building new ones and conservation and renovation works for irrigating farming water in all townships in Chin State, in accord with the regional requirement.

The Office of Chin State Irrigation and Water Management Department started to be opened in Haka on 7th June 1982, initially as the departmental head office, later extended in October 29, 1992 with the Deputy Director taking office. Afterwards, under its control there are opened Haka Office for carrying out irrigation works in Haka and Htantalam, and Falam Office for performing the irrigation works in Falam, Titein and Tungzam townships in 1995-1996.

Mindat Office was opened in 2000-2001 for carrying out irrigation works in Mindat, Matupi, Kanpetlet and Paletwa townships.

Laiva Reservoir in Falam in Chin State is located at 6300 ft above the sea level, to be exact, on the Laiva Creek nearby the village of Talangzarr. Being the type of earth embankment, it has 75 feet height and 20 feet in width. It has 1881 acres of full capacity of holding water. With a view to storing more water at the present year, water gate which can be lifted up and down through hydraulic system had been installed. So, this year more water can be stored more than ever. And, it has been producing up to 600 kilo

watts annually, that is, equivalent to approximately producing 2.8 million kilo watt hours every year. So, these reservoir and dams are actually beneficial to the region not only for irrigating water to farming lands and producing hydro powers.

The State Government started the project in 1990-1991, finishing it 1994-1995. At present, daily water supply for the 50000 of Falam populace is underway. Moreover, plans for village irrigation which will be beneficial for rural residents are being laid down

and implemented. Arrangements are being made to irrigate 11100 acres of farming lands by carrying through pipes, water falling from mountains. There had 99 plans altogether been implemented including Laiva dam project—37 in Haka district, 43 in Falam district and 18 in Mindat district.

With a view to greening Mt Rone in Haka the tasks of re-digging the revolution lake, decorating it with gravels, digging channels, embankments and installing water gates had been completed in 2017. The department of irri-

gation and water management no 3 construction team is implementing construction of ground reservoir of 500 ft in length and 75 ft in height for the acquisition of drinking and farming water for the local people in the village of Thek-ee in Htantalam township, expecting to be finished at the end of the FY 2017-2018. Upon completion of it, practices of high land farming will be systematically replaced from the practice of farming land rotation system.

Due to the torrential rains in 2015, many villagers in Chin State suffered a lot. So, the construction of embankment along Kwi and Hsan Nwei Creeks in Khaingkam, Titein township. Chin State government is sharing knowledge to local residents, concerning emergence of terrace farming and yearly planning.

To sum it up, the Department of Irrigation and Water Management, Chin State has been making concerted efforts to implement the acquisition of water for drinking and crop cultivation and for distribution of power supply in the region by performing the tasks of maintenance dams and reservoirs, building new irrigation channels and carrying out regional development, for the benefit of the local residents under the guidance of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and coordination of Chin State Cabinet and Chin State Parliament. ■

*Translated by
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Kaladan River in Chin State. PHOTO: MOE NWE

Beneficial Irrigation in Chin State, the Land of Taungzalal

Positive growth forecasts, but access to credit and skills gaps a concern, results reveal

THE latest edition of the Business Barometer: Myanmar Survey by the global research and consultancy firm Oxford Business Group (OBG) suggests that decision-makers remain both broadly upbeat about the country's economic outlook and aware of the challenges ahead.

As part of its survey, OBG asked dozens of high-level executives from across the country's industries a wide-ranging series of questions on a face-to-face basis aimed at gauging business sentiment. The results of what represents the Group's second country survey are now available to view on OBG's Editors' Blog at: <https://oxfordbusinessgroup.com/blog/patrick-cooke-obg-business-barometer/ceos%E2%80%9999-mixed-scorecard-myanmar-during-nld%E2%80%999s-second-year>.

In a sign of the growing role that the private sector is playing in Myanmar's development, more than half (58%) of participants said they believed that less than 20% of business in their sector came from public spending.

However, OBG's survey also highlighted the challenges that businesses face when looking to borrow, with three-quarters of respondents describing access to credit as difficult or very difficult. The results reflect sentiments that were also expressed in the Group's first survey, published at the end of 2016, in which a considerable number of interviewees cited credit terms offered by local banks as onerous and restrictive.

Asked which skills they felt were most in need within the workplace, 30% of executives surveyed in 2017 cited leadership, followed by engineering (14%), business administration (8%), and research and development (8%). Respondents noted a link between the lack of leadership skills among employees and the country's education system, which many described as underfunded and failing to prioritise critical thinking.

OBG also asked executives which external event they felt would have the greatest impact on Myanmar's short-to-medium-term growth. In response, almost 40% felt that a multiple Fed rate hike would have the biggest effect on economic expansion, largely because of fluctuations this could cause in the value of the Kyat.

Respondents were upbeat about Myanmar's prospects for economic expansion, with 63% saying they expected GDP growth for the next 12 months to fall somewhere between 5% and 7%. However, while noting the country's advantages and potential, they also highlighted the need for improvements to be made to its business climate.

Commenting on the results in his blog, Patrick Cooke, OBG's regional editor for Asia, said that while plenty of goodwill and optimism had been evident following Myanmar's landmark general elections in 2015, ongoing violence in Rakhine State and a confusing regulatory framework risked weighing on investor confidence.

“While investors undoubtedly recognise the innate potential of a 54m-person market with significant natural resources strategically situated between China and India, some are delaying investment decisions until there is more regulatory clarity,” he said. “The need for further improvements to be made to the business climate is backed up by the fact that 59% of respondents characterised transparency for conducting business as low or very low in comparison to the wider region.”

Cooke noted that concerns raised among respondents in OBG's first survey almost one year ago about access to affordable credit and skilled labour were once again to the fore, despite the passing of a new Financial Institutions Law in 2016 and the launch of a National Education Strategic Plan.

He added, however, that Myanmar's “significant inherent advantages” meant the country was still on track to be the fastest-growing economy in ASEAN in the coming years.

“The keys to success lie in the creation of a clear and transparent regulatory environment for attracting investment and financing the real economy, while also ensuring the country capitalises on its position between the emerging superpowers of China and India without becoming beholden to either,” he said.—Oxford Business Group ■