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State Counsellor leaves for Sydney

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to attend ASEAN-Australia Special Summit

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left for Sydney, Australia yesterday to attend the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit at the invitation of the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.

The State Counsellor was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Charge d'Affaires of the Australian Embassy Mr. Jeremy Peter Kruse and other officials.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is accompanied by Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and departmental officials.—MNA ■

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at Yangon International Airport on her way to Sydney yesterday to pay an official visit and to attend the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit. **PHOTO: MNA**

136 villages in Rakhine to be supplied with water

AUTHORITIES in Rakhine State have made arrangements to supply water to 136 villages that could face a shortage of water this summer.

"We have earmarked 6 million gallons of water to supply to the villages", said U Nay Htet Shein, Director of Rakhine State Rural Development Department.

Department officials visited the villagers recently and distributed hotline telephone numbers to the villages so that they can carry out quick responses to solve the water crisis when it occurs.

"Once they contact us, we will supply water to them. So far, no village has contacted us," he said. The villages suffered a drought last summer.

Lakes on which the villagers relied upon for drinking water dried up last summer.

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KBZ BANK
STRENGTH OF MYANMAR
'BANK OF THE YEAR IN MYANMAR 2017'
Awarded by Financial Times (The Banker)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe receives Norwegian State Secretary Foreign Minister

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe received Ms Marianne Hagen, Norwegian State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, yesterday at the meeting hall of the State Counsellor's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views and discussed Rakhine State affairs, the peace process and humanitarian assistance.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe welcomes Ms Marianne Hagen, Norwegian State Secretary of Foreign Affairs, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

136 villages in Rakhine to be supplied with water

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Every township in Rakhine State has a water purifier, and mobile water purifiers are also ready to supply water to the villagers.

"Rural Development Department is working for supplying water to rural areas and the department is also working together with UNICEF and Japanese International Cooperation Agency-JICA," said U Nay Htet Shein.

Currently, the Rural Development Department and UNICEF are installing water supply pipes with water purifying systems to homes in villages.

The department spent more than Ks1 billion from the Union budget on 126 water supply projects in 128 villages in Rakhine State in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The projects includes 52 tube wells, 71 lakes, one water supply facility from a spring and two other projects.

More than Ks205 million was spent on 52 water facilities including sinking tube wells and lake upgrades in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. More than Ks240 million funded by the State were spent on building 44 water facilities in the same fiscal year.—Kyaw Thu Htet ■

Water supply system is installed in villages in Rakhine.
PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING

Students return home after sitting for the matriculation examination in Maungtaw, Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

Matriculation examination in Maungtaw concludes

THE MATRICULATION examination at three examination centres in Maungtaw area was concluded successfully yesterday.

The examination started on 7 March 2018, with the last paper on history concluding yesterday. The three examination centres were Basic Education High School (B.E.H.S) (1) in eastern Maungtaw, B.E.H.S (1) in western Maungtaw and B.E.H.S (2) in Maungtaw.

"Students took the examination at all the three centres peacefully. The Myanmar Police Force and officials from the related ministries, as well as parents, guarded the students outside the centres. On the compound, teachers and officials from the education department took full responsibility for the security of the students. Nurses and medical officers were also assigned duty near the examination centres to provide immediate healthcare assistance in case of an emergency.

"No unusual cases were reported during the examinations, and they were held without problems in Maungtaw," said U Khin Aung, head of the Maungtaw Township Education Department.

Some 189 of the 690 registered students were marked absent on the first day of the examination. On the second day, some 213 were marked absent, while some 666 registered students were allowed to sit for the English paper examination. A total of 231 students from the 648 permitted students were absent for the mathematics examination. Some 600 students sat for the chemistry test paper, while 225 students were absent. Some 227 students were recorded absent for the physics paper examination, while 597 students sat for the test. Some 633 students were confirmed present for the biology and economics test papers, while 246 were absent. Forty students took the geography and history subject tests, but 15 were absent.—Kyaw Thu Win/Aye Min Thu ■

Myanmar-Bangladesh commanders meeting

A Myanmar-Bangladesh battalion commander-level meeting was held in a briefing hall on the Myanmar side near the Myanmar-Bangladesh friendship (Taungpyo Letwe entry/exit) border bridge at border post 31/1 yesterday.

The meeting between two border guard forces of Myanmar and Bangladesh. Photo: Information Committee

At the meeting, matters relating to movement and activities of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorist group, an ethnic Mro national from Myanmar wounded by a landmine between mile post 55/56 on the Bangladesh side, occurrences along the border between the two countries, people living near the border line, transfer of five Bangladeshis who drifted into Myanmar territorial waters after their boat broke down, arrangements to conduct joint patrols and exchange of news and information in a timely manner were discussed, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■