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Preparatory meeting for third 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference successfully ends

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Pearls fetch over 2.5 mln euros at 55th Myanmar Gems Emporium

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Friday, 22 June 2018

State Counsellor attends event marking 70th anniversary of Myanmar-Thailand diplomatic relations



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the Thai traditional Masked Dance Performance in celebration of the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Thailand at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-II in Nay Pyi Taw.

The event was also attended by Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat, Union ministers, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, deputy ministers, permanent secretaries, senior military officers, the Minister for Culture of Thailand Mr. Vira Rojpojanarat, and officials of the Thailand Embassy in Yangon.

Before attending the performance, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi viewed wall paintings from Bagan's Maha Sima and photos exhibited by Thammasat University.

The performance was opened with speeches by ambassador of Thailand Mr. Jukr Boon-Long and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, centre, above, enjoys the masked dance performance by Myanmar and Thai dance troupes, right, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA



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Dollar gains, CBM increases exchange rate

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Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor takes part in the 16th Oslo Forum in Norway

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor H.E. U Kyaw Tint Swe took part in the 16th Oslo Forum held in Oslo, Norway from 19 to 20 June.

The Oslo Forum, co-hosted jointly by the Norwegian Min-

istry of Foreign Affairs and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD), was also attended by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Prime Minister of Somalia, the Secretary General of the Organization

for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, as well as the Foreign Ministers of Algeria, Jordan, Oman, and Tanzania.

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State Counsellor attends event marking 70th anniversary of Myanmar-Thailand diplomatic relations

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Mr. Jukr Boon-Long expressed his delight for President U Win Myint's visit to Thailand at a time when the two countries were arranging to celebrate the 70th establishment of diplomatic relations.

An exhibition of artwork, a traditional dance performance, a Thai film festival and traditional Thai cuisine will be offered to mark the 70th diplomatic relations between the two neighbouring countries.

The Ambassador also expressed his delight for the State Counsellor's visit to Thailand after she took office.

He also highlighted the two

countries' similar culture in the Ramayana performance which was staged at the ceremony.

Afterwards, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko said Thailand-Myanmar relations would be expanded and praised the 70th anniversary of establishment of relations between Myanmar and Thailand as a good opportunity to promote the cultural sector between the two countries.

"Commemorative ceremonies like this event between the two countries will foster the mutual understanding and friendship and will bring success to both countries in the future," said the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed by Ambassador of Thailand Mr. Jukr Boon-Long at the event to mark 70th anniversary of Myanmar-Thailand diplomatic relations in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterwards, the masked dance was performed by the dance troupe from Thailand, which was also joined by the Myanmar cultural troupe of the Fine Arts Department.

The performance feature beautiful scenes from the Rakakien, a Thai national epic adapt-

ed from the ancient Hindu epic Ramayana.

After the performance, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Minister for Culture of Thailand Mr. Vira Rojpojchanarat and Ambassador of Thailand Mr. Jukr

Boon-Long presented bouquets to the dance troupes and posed for photos together with the artistes and audience.

The masked dance will be performed at the National Theatre in Mandalay on 23 June.—MNA ■

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor takes part in the 16th Oslo Forum



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe meets with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway H.E. Ms Eriksen Søreide in Oslo, Norway. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

The Union Minister was a panelist, together with the Foreign Minister of Norway in the panel entitled "Myanmar's path to peace and reconciliation."

During his stay in Oslo, the Union Minister held meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs of Norway H.E. Ms Eriksen Søreide and Minister for International Development H.E. Mr. Nikolai Astrup. During the meetings, they exchanged

views on matters related to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries, the peace process as well as socio-economic development in Rakhine State and Myanmar's preparation for repatriation process of displaced persons from Rakhine State. Union Minister also met the Executive Director of the Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, Dr. David Harland.—MNA ■

ICRC President to visit Myanmar next week

AN official visit to Myanmar from the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will take place in the coming week, when he will observe the situation of humanitarian aid given in Rakhine State.

The visit by the head of the ICRC was learnt through a statement made by ICRC (Myanmar) Public Relations Officer Corinne Ambler during a press conference at the Orchid Hotel in downtown Yangon yesterday.

She said ICRC President Peter Maurer will visit Rakhine State as part of his official

visit to check on Myanmar Red Cross and International Red Cross activities including food administration and healthcare provided by mobile clinics. He will see what other aid is needed and what assistance can be provided for the rainy season, she added.

Maurer will also meet with national leaders in Nay Pyi Taw during his visit and will travel to IDP camps in Cox Bazar in Bangladesh after Myanmar.

ICRC (Myanmar) reports that the Red Cross has provided humanitarian assistance to over 180,000 people across 130

villages since the 25 August 2017 violent attacks in Maung-taw District in Rakhine State.

The ICRC has established permanent offices in Sittway, MraukU, and Maung-taw in Rakhine State, providing humanitarian assistance to victims of violent attacks and natural disasters since 2012.

The ICRC provides unbiased humanitarian assistance to victims of terrorist attacks or other causes, while taking a neutral stance, with 16,000 staff members in over 80 countries around the world.—Min Thit (MNA) ■



ICRC members visit to provide humanitarian assistance to victims of terrorist attacks and natural disasters in Rakhine State. **FILE PHOTO: ICRC**

Stop hate narratives, focus on how to resolve the long-standing issues in Rakhine State

WHEN we think about the long-standing Rakhine issue, we should go back a couple of centuries. The Union Government has explained repeatedly to international communities that a government cannot solve a centuries-old problem in a few months. It is a complicated problem that cannot be resolved overnight.

To solve this complicated issue, we should not rush. It is risky for anyone to go headlong into a problem without considering all the various aspects involved. We need time and space to solve such things.

The State Counsellor explained to the United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner on Wednesday that the confidence building between the communi-

ties requires patience and time, and the United Nations needs to support those efforts.

Everyone concerned must be positive and committed to the process of reestablishing trust and confidence.

Fear and hate were rooted in Rakhine, a region where there is very little prosperity and very little security. Therefore, the Union Government's new administration has carried out efforts for the rule of law and development in Rakhine State since it took office.

The government is also looking for long-term solutions to the Rakhine problem.

The mistrust between the two communities has existed for a long time. The incidents in 2012 deteriorated the situation,

and the terrorist attacks by the ARSA terrorists in 2016 and 2017 further worsened the problem.

People do not dare to commute in Rakhine State due to the lack of security, not because of the lack of freedom of movement.

This is one of the reasons the Government has been focusing on rule of law and development in Rakhine State.

The hate narratives from outside the country have driven the two communities in Rakhine State further apart. Today is the time for international communities to focus on how to resolve the issue with a forward-looking approach. ■

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

Upper Namhtwam hydropower project to benefit Putao residents

By Pyin Du War

Putao

Putao, the northernmost town in Kachin State, is renowned for its green rainforests, icy mountains and crystal white waters, but not for its access to electricity because of its remote location and distance from the power grid.

But that will soon change with an ambitious hydropower project that will provide much-needed electricity.

The consumption rate of electricity in Myanmar is increasing by at least 15 per cent each year, and it is estimated that Myanmar will consume about 4,531 megawatts of electricity by 2020-2021. Currently, the annual total electricity production is 3,189 megawatts, with 1,342 megawatt still needed.

That's why arrangements are being made to produce 439 megawatts from three power plants for the year 2018, 750 megawatts from four power plants for the year 2019, 260 megawatts from three power plants for the year 2020, 971 megawatts from five power plants for the year 2021, and 891 megawatts from five power plants for the year 2022. These power plants can produce 15 per cent from hydro power production, 18 per cent from



power plants based on Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO), 30 per cent from power plants using Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), and 5 per cent from solar power plants.

Power generation in Kachin State

Kachin state has become the major electricity-produc-

ing region in Myanmar, and in Putao Township, which is remote and far away from the national grid, a 3.2MW upper Namhtwam hydroelectric plant is under construction. Posco Daewoo is investigating the possibility of setting up a 5MW Solar Power Plant on Manaung Island. In other states and regions, a mini-grid

is constructed and power distributed through 32 mini hydroelectric plant projects and a solar power plan.

Upper Namhtwam hydro-power project

The Namhtwam hydro-power project is located on the Namhtwam Creek seven miles southwest of Putao. Putao and

Machanbaw townships are difficult to reach by road, and there was only a small hydro-power station built in 1987 which can generate 200 KW of power. The Upper Namhtwan hydropower project was built for electrifying Putao and Machanbaw Townships in Kachin State, and will initially deliver 800 KW to its targeted areas, according to the Department of Electric Power under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The facility will have the capacity of generating 3.2 MW when finished, and will be able to light four quarters and other villages in Putao and Machanbaw Townships. Seventy per cent of the construction process for the project is finished, and almost 100 per cent of Voestalpine machineries ordered from Austria have arrived.

The Department of Electric Power said that it planned to implement the hydropower project because 200 KW is only enough to electrify a single ward. Therefore, this upgrade

project was necessary. Surveys were conducted in Putao region from March to June in 2014 by the department's engineers.

Authorities have made efforts to work on the water control gate and machineries. Four generators, each of which has the capacity of generating 800 KW, will be installed, and will be able to generate 3.2 MW in total. This hydropower project will generate electricity using water flow, and will include one concrete spillway at 141 feet in length, and 41 feet wide. It will have one concrete tunnel inlet at 7,546 feet long, 12.6 feet wide and 10 feet high. The upstream reservoir is 98.6 feet long, 29 feet wide and 50 feet high. It has a 132 foot long, 5 foot wide steel pressure shaft. There is also one power station that is 132 feet wide, 29 feet wide, and 50 feet high. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy aims to produce more electricity and distribute sufficient electric supply to local residents in the region.

Putao is a picturesque town situated in a valley between snow-capped mountains 1,429 ft above sea level and 210 miles north of Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin state, which is rich in exotic nature and culture. Putao has a monsoon-influenced humid subtropical climate with very high amount of precipitation throughout the rainy season.

Many orchid lovers are attracted by the so-called "Black Orchid" that can be found in the mountains east and west of Putao.

It is one of the destinations where tourist can observe the natural and cultural heritage of northern Myanmar. The climate, environment, culture and topography make Putao a popular destination in Myanmar tourism. For adventurers and nature lovers, trekking and hiking around Putao is paradise. ■

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 30/2018

9th Waxing of First Waso, 1380 ME
21 June, 2018

Appointment of Shan State Security and Border Affairs Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262, Sub-Section (a) 2 Sub-section (b) (e) (f) and article 264, Sub-section (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a), Sub-section 2 (b) (f) (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Colonel Naing Win Aung, Shan State Security and Border Affairs Minister, has been returned to unit to perform the original military duties and replaced with Col Hla Oo, the Office of the Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) who has been appointed as Shan State Minister of the Security and Border Affairs.

Sd/ Win Myint
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Notification 48/2018

9th Waxing of First Waso, 1380 ME
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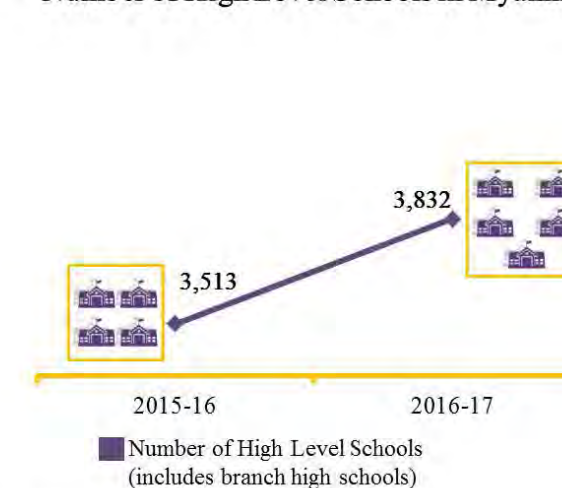
Myanmar Companies Act enacted

Myanmar Companies Act takes effect in accordance with the Myanmar Companies Act 1, section (b) on 1 August 2018, 5th Waning of Second Waso, 1380 ME.

Sd/ Win Myint
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Number of High Level Schools in Myanmar



Source: Ministry of Education
Information Unit: Central Statistical Organization