MSME products from Shan, Kayah states exhibited in Taunggyi

Vice President U Myint Swe views handicrafts from Kayah State exhibited in Taunggyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

An exhibit of local products made by local micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) in Shan and Kayah States was opened yesterday in Taunggyi by Small and Medium Enterprises Development Committee (SMEDC) Chairman Vice President U Myint Swe.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice President U Myint Swe called on local MSMEs to seize the opportunity of getting help for technology and market information through discussions with officials of the departments concerned and experts during the exhibition.

"Local MSMEs should prepare to be able to grasp the opportunities brought by the exhibition and to exhibit significant and strong points of their products. Local MSMEs are urged to make the best use this opportunity to attract customers, to find markets, to improve the quality of their products and to improve their creative thinking," said Vice President U Myint Swe.

"The State is giving priority to development of MSMEs and is assisting in promoting human resources, technology transfer and good services and quality of products so that they can produce marketable products which can compete with imported products," he added.

As SME development agency meetings are being held during the exhibition period, practical assistance and support for the development of SMEs in the region could be done through discussions and coordination between stakeholders and MSME businesses. Kayah State and Shan State are agro-based states exporting agricultural products.

The two hilly states also possess cultural heritage and natural beauty that has resulted in some tourism to the area.

The two states possess favourable infrastructure, transportation, sufficient power supply and peace and stability, all necessary for the development of industry and economy, said the Vice President.

MSMEs in Myanmar need to strive for expanding their markets from local to foreign and need to know marketable quality, packaging and design.

The Vice President also urged the MSMEs in Myanmar to apply digital technology in their businesses when they carry out trading and services.

Furthermore, by conducting research, innovation and increasing of sales through cooperation with relevant departments, quality marketable products should be produced. Relevant departments would also assist and support in creating new markets.

Present at the ceremony were SMEDC Vice Chairman Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint, Chief Minister of Kayah State U L Phaung Sho, Chief Minister of Shan State Dr. Lin Htut, members of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) President and members, work committee members, departmental officials, technicians, experts, MSME business owners and officials

The first exhibition and competition jointly organized by MSMEs from Mandalay Region and Kachin State was held in Mandalay on 23 February 2018.

The second exhibition and competition jointly organized by MSMEs from Magway Region, Chin State and Rakhine State was held in Magway on 24 March 2018.

The third was held in Ayeyawady Region in May.

Exhibitions of MSME products and Regional Award competitions will continue to be held state- and region-wise.

In the Regional Award competition, first, second and third prizes will be presented according to business sizes: micro, small and medium.

At the final closing ceremony of the competition, winners of the Regional Awards will be presented with a union-level recognized Regional Award.

With regards to the economy, the State economic policy includes supporting and assisting MSMEs that create jobs and support economic development, in addition to the State privatizing enterprises that could be reformed.

Following the ceremony, Vice President U Myint Swe visited the exhibition and attended a ceremony to open an SME Centre held at the SMIDB Bank in Taunggyi.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Local, foreign media visit Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre

A MEDIA group made up of local and foreign journalists arrived at the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, having traveled from Maungtaw yesterday morning.

While at the Reception Centre, the members of the media gathered news about the work being undertaken to receive returnees, and visited the Myanmar-Bangladesh border bridge. Also, the media interviewed people living near the border of the two countries. In the evening, the media returned from Maungtaw to Sitway.—Thura Zaw ■

Journalists interview security personnel in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: THET LWIN SOE (IPRD)**

Shots fired to prevent destruction of border fence

WARNING shots were fired to prevent destruction a border fence by some people on the Myanmar-Bangladesh border, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

About 200 yards north of the Maungtaw Township Taungpyo (Yar) police post near a mouth of a creek, an estimated 180 ft. long border fence was damaged due to water erosion, and a temporary fence with wooden poles and barbed wire was built.

At 3:30 p.m. on 28 June, about a dozen of people from Bangladesh were seen destroying the fence and security personnel shouted warnings that drove them away.

At 6 p.m. they returned and again began destroying the temporary border fence. When the security personnel again shouted warnings, they shouted back and continued destroying the border fence by sawing the wooden poles. A police officer then fired warning shots with an MA-11 rifle that wounded a person. When the security personnel went to inspect the fence, they found four poles were damaged. The area is being kept under observation so that further incidents do not occur, according to Home Affairs Ministry.—MNA ■

Border fence is seen after being destroyed. **PHOTO: MNA**

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ICRC president holds press conference

Mr Peter Maurer, the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), held a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw following his five-day visit to Myanmar.

Mr. Maurer spoke briefly about what he saw during his trip to Maungtaw and Buthidaung, his discussions with local authorities in Rakhine State, ICRC's readiness for humanitarian aid to the areas, and for long-term assistance to displaced people in Rakhine, Kachin and Shan states.—MNA ■

Mr Peter Maurer, the president of ICRC, talks to media at the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Over 202,000 foreigners visit Myanmar through Tachilek border

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism reported that 202,430 foreign travellers entered the country through the Tachilek border in Shan State in eastern Myanmar, as well as the Mae Sai gate on the Thai border, during the current six-month fiscal year.

Between 1 April and 28 June this year, the Tachilek border hosted the international visitors, including 198,634 day-trippers and 2,106 foreigners who joined the Mongphyat-Kengyung trip, and 1,690 visitors who entered the town with visas.

The majority of visitors came from neighbouring Thailand, China and third-world countries to tour the town's well-known destinations, including Talaw Market, Mahamyatmuni Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda, the ethnic village and Chinese temples on a one-day return visit or overnight trip. The ministry reported that the number of international visitors who entered the country from Tachilek Town in the last week of this month, ending 28 June, exceeded nearly 18,400.

International tourist arrivals from the borders are increasing year by year due to the country's natural scenery, including its highlands, mountains, rivers, forests and animals. The diverse range of culture, traditions and lifestyles of the rural communities in Myanmar are also major attractions.—GNLM ■

Traditional house in Tachilek has attracted tourists. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

North Yamar Dam to irrigate farmlands as of 1 July

THE water from the North Yamar Dam in Pale Township, Sagaing Region will be used to irrigate farmlands in the area commencing 1 July, according to the Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department (IWUMD).

"We will distribute sufficient irrigation water to farmlands through three channels. We stored an adequate amount of water in the dam because heavy rains struck in the area early in the monsoon season. We will be able to circulate water to farmlands in Yinmabin and Pale townships in the summer and rainy season when maintenance work for the main channel is finished," said U Myo Naing, Assistant Director from the IWUMD.

So far, the dam's water level has reached 488.3 ft, he added.—Myanmar Digital News ■

North Yamar Dam in Pale Township which irrigate farmlands in the area. **PHOTO: MDN**

Narcotic drug abuse rampant in 33 townships in Sagaing Region

THE use of narcotics has become rampant in 33 of 37 townships in Sagaing Region, according to Police Captain Ko Ko Naing of the region's anti-drug squad.

About 20 year ago, drug problems were reported in 18 townships in Sagaing Region. As of 2018, it has spread to 33 townships, according to research conducted by Myanmar's anti-narcotics police force.

Regarding the drug problem, Police Captain Ko Ko Naing said, "I am sure that there is no drug production in Sagaing Region. The police are working to crack down on the illegal transport, trafficking and use of narcotic drugs. Under the directive of the President, the police force is working to nab major drug dealers, rather than young drug users."

Police continue to take action against people involved in drug cases, according to the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Myanmar's Ministry of Home Affairs launched the new National Drug Control Policy on 20 February 2018, in an effort to fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The new drug control policy will be implemented with regular evaluations during the five year term.—Win Oo (Zeyataing) ■

VP U Henry Van Thio addresses road safety council

U Henry Van Thio, Vice-President and Chairman of the National Road Safety Council (NRSC), addressed the fourth meeting of the NRSC yesterday at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were NRSC members Union Ministers, the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Mayors of Yangon and Mandalay, Deputy Ministers, state/region ministers for road and transportation, sub-committee secretaries and other officials.

The Vice President said the road and vehicle safety work processes of the NRSC are of great importance for the country as well as for the people.

Because of the leadership of the NRSC and the cooperation and conduct of relevant entities, fatalities and injuries from traffic and road accidents were reduced during the 2018 New Year Thingyan period. Traffic and road accidents could not be foreseen but are preventable.

If drivers and road users follow the vehicle, traffic and road rules, loss of properties, lives and limbs could be reduced significantly. Relevant departments need to systematically encourage the behaviour of more learned and experienced drivers who have the correct outlook on road safety, while private driving schools need good and complete courses with capable and truly experienced driving trainers, teaching guide literature and practical driving lessons.

The NRSC has specified the curriculum, layout, number of training cars and qualification of the trainers in a training school. As per the new specifications laid down, small vehicle driving schools and big vehicle driving schools have been established.

Vice President U Henry Ven Thio addresses the fourth meeting of NRSC in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Organizing an effort to use correct signaling resulted in the majority of the drivers using correct signals, and this will be continued until every driver safely uses the correct signals.

With many people using motorcycles, the drive towards wearing quality helmets is the work that would allow the NRSC Action Plan to be successful. As the NRSC had not specified what a quality helmet is, the NRSC is arranging to invite foreign experts and conduct a Development of Myanmar Motorcycle Safety Helmet Standard Workshop. When a standard is set, it should be within reach of the majority of the people and assure the safety of the users. In addition to this, relevant sub-committees and ministries are urged to bear in mind the suggestions on road safety provided by the Suu Foundation High-Level Panel which are long term work processes that need to be implemented continuously with an aim towards benefiting the country and the people.

Road Crash Database Software provided by the ADB TA-8987 Project will soon be tested, allowing for correct assessments and calculations on vehicle accidents. The Myanmar Police Force that covers the entire country, including far flung and remote places, is urged to use this Road Crash Database Software to obtain correct and complete information.

Work processes established by the NRSC are being implemented by sub-committees as well as state/region NRSCs and all need to raise their efforts to achieve more successes in protecting the properties and lives of the people. While the NRSC is setting up and assessing programs according to the National Road Safety Action Plan, relevant departments that are actually in touch with the people are to make realistic approaches and increase their efforts, said the Vice President.

Next, NRSC Vice Chairman Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe explained and discussed works on eliminating and preventing vehicle and road accidents, actions taken against violators of traffic and road rules, occurrence of traffic and road accidents, information works against vehicle and road accidents, cooperating with the people and students against traffic accidents and programmes conducted according to the law to eliminate vehicle and road accidents.

Afterwards, NRSC secretary Road Transport Administration (RTA) Department Director General U Zaw Min Oo explained works implemented by the NRSC, implementation of the Action Plan and the status of implementing 43 suggestions provided by the Suu Foundation High-Level Panel.

Management sub-committee, education, inspection and enforcement sub-committee, research and health sub-committee and financial sub-committee secretaries then explained the works of the sub-committees and implementation of the third meeting's decisions.

Following this, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and state/region ministers for road and transportation explained road safety works implemented and implementation of the third meeting's decisions.

Later, council secretary U Zaw Min Oo and RTA Department Chief Engineer Daw PhyuPhyu Win explained the Suu Foundation Feasibility Study for Helmet Manufacturing in Myanmar, setting a helmet standard in Myanmar and a study on setting standards for motorcycle helmets.

NRSC members Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Mandalay Mayor Dr. Ye Lwin, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry chief executive officer U Tint Swe and Myanmar Engineering Society Chairman U Aung Myint also provided additional discussions.

In his concluding speech to the meeting, NRSC Chairman Vice President U Henry Van Thio urged continuing the momentum of increased use of motorcycle helmets and seat belts, alcohol testing and taking actions to prevent traffic violations.

He also noted the progress in implementing National Road Safety Action Plan (2014-2020), but said there are still works yet to begin, which relevant ministries and entities should implement as soon as possible within the project period. The Vice President also spoke of the requirements to systematically and regularly inspect vehicles and motorcycles. Relevant departments should conduct Road Safety Audits together, and he urged the establishment of a Road Safety Fund, according to the law. The world's vision on Road Safety "Towards Zero Together" could be achieved only through organizing and participation of the people, said the Vice President. —MNA

Myanmar-Bangladesh border forces commanders hold meeting

A courtesy meeting of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border forces commanders was held in Bangladesh at Cox's Bazar Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) regional headquarters on 28 June. The meeting was attended by a Myanmar delegation led by No. (1) Border Guard Police (BGP) Commander Police Brig-Gen Myint Toe, and a Bangladesh delegation led by BGB Cox's Bazar Regional Commander Brig- Gen SM Rakibullah.

At the meeting, discussions were held about the status of implementing the Myanmar-Bangladesh Home Affairs Minister level meeting agreement, continuing coordinated patrols along the border of the two countries, and the opening of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border liaison office (BLO).

Officials also discussed exchanging information, investigating and exposing the ARSA terrorist organisation and terrorists, removal of CCTV cameras, solar lamp poles and bunkers built on the Bangladesh side, investigating and arresting fugitives, and cooperation in anti-drug operations.

Also during the meeting, discussions were held about conducting border liaison operations. A border liaison office was built in Teknaf, Bangladesh, according to an MoU, and once the permission of Ministry of Home Affairs is obtained, border liaison office operations will be conducted. —MNA

Commanders and officials discuss at the meeting held at Cox's Bazar Border Guards Bangladesh regional headquarters. **PHOTO: MNA**

30 JUNE 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Objective, balanced approach from UN, international community helpful to overcome challenges in Rakhine

SEEING through the narrow lens of human rights of one particular community alone is not helpful in understanding the challenges in Rakhine State.

With the support of the people, the incumbent government has been carrying out the struggle for peace and stability, democracy and development for the past two years.

To solve the Rakhine issue, the government has taken steps to solve the longstanding issue.

There have been accusations that there is ethnic cleansing or even genocide in Myanmar. There were tensions and there was fighting in Rakhine State, but there was no genocide. The term genocide should not be used in Myanmar, nor in other countries, without clear evidence.

Those who returned from Bangladesh claimed that scarcity of jobs, food, and threats from the terrorist organisation Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) were the reasons for crossing over to Bangladesh.

Myanmar, which has a good track record of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur over the past two decades, remains committed to continue to work together with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

The government has already announced that it would take action against perpetrators in accordance with the law where allegations are supported by sufficient evidence.

The Myanmar Government would never tolerate any violation of human rights. Myanmar appreciates cooperation from all friends who understand the issues objectively, and render their support.

Those who had to flee their homes are many - not just Muslims and Rakhines, but also small minority groups, such as the Daing-net, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus.

But, it is regrettable that the international community and the Human Rights Rapporteur overlooked the plight of minorities. Some have gone even further to glorify or advocate the terrorist group which attacked the police outposts and civilians and caused the conflicts.

The Special Rapporteur conveniently failed to mention the heinous terrorist attacks and the brutal massacre of 99 Hindus committed by ARSA in her statement, and this fact showed clear bias and imbalance of the Special Rapporteur's assessment.

The people of Myanmar considered that it would no longer be productive to continue to cooperate with the current Special Rapporteur because of her lack of objectivity and non- compliance with the code of conduct.

Myanmar requested the Council for her to be replaced, expressing regret that Myanmar's request had fallen on deaf ears.

Myanmar, which has a good track record of cooperation with the Special Rapporteur over the past two decades, remains committed to continue to work together with the mandate of the Special Rapporteur.

In its efforts to achieve national reconciliation and peace, democracy and development, Myanmar was happy to engage constructively with the United Nations as well as the international community.

Trading in line with commercial ethics

By Taik Maung

MYANMAR nationals are doing import and export trade with other countries in two established modes such as normal trade and border trade. In other words, the normal trade covers international trade system and stipulated banking transaction. The border trade means doing trade with the bordering countries at border areas in line with the prescribed procedures of the government.

New Myanmar Companies Law

A Myanmar national needs to communicate with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) under the Ministry of Planning and Finance to register the company to enable to do business with foreign country. The Myanmar Companies Law will come into force on 1 August 2018 as per the notification No 4/2018 of the Office of the President vide 6 December 2017 and 22 June 2018 signed by the President of Myanmar.

In the past, two share holders are needed in forming a private company, but the new law allows forming the private company with a single share holder. A private company, not related with the general public company, needs only one director for management. According to the new Myanmar Company Law, foreign partners can invest 35 per cent, and therefore, foreign business partners could be invited more in numbers.

Need to re-register

A company that has less than (30) employees with the maximum ceiling annual income of (50) million MMK has the privilege to enjoy exemption of sending duly audited annual financial statement and also excused for holding annual general meeting. The re-registration is to start rolling on 1 August 2018 through electronic registry system (online), the listing can be done with ease from home and office. As the cash transaction and payment could have to be carried out online, it is most like that bribery and corruption such as tea money culture would be eradicated.

The existing companies will have to re-register during (6) months time slot from 1 August 2018 to 31 January 2019. The companies will be honoured with new registration numbers, and that the newly issued numbers would be the same with the Tax Revenue Numbers issued from the Internal Revenue Department.

Nullifying from the registration list

Those companies failed to re-register will be nullified for the existing list, and therefore, it is vital to submit registration during the stipulated time frame. Detailed procedures and requirements for registration for companies are available at www.dica.gov.mm web portal. Even though a company has already been registered, one could not enter into actual trade business. A company needs to apply export and import business registration and that it must be applied at Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce.

All relevant companies such as Limited Companies (including foreign companies), Joint Venture Corporations, Joint Venture Company Limited, Cooperative Society Limited that are already registered under the existing laws namely Myanmar Companies Act, 1950 Special Company Act, and Cooperative Society Law may have to apply export and import registration permits.

Basic Primary Reading Text Book

The companies wishing to do business on export and import must submit application online in the form available at http://www.myanmartradenet.com.mm with ease.

Validity of the license will be granted for five years in continuity from the date of issue.

When a company has established its business and acquired export and import license, then it could start trade with foreign countries. However, before moving into real business, the company must be equipped itself with the sufficient knowledge regarding existing laws, trade orders and directives issued from relevant ministries. For instance, it would be wise enough to read September 2012 Export and Import Law issued from the Ministry of Commerce.

A company trying to engage trade business with a foreign country must read thoroughly as a basic fundamental text book on Export and Import Law. The very basic knowledge on the controlled and restricted commodities for export and import must be clearly understood and remembered.

Ready to be examined

There are different categories of items for export and import. The commodities and items for export and import could be categorized as (1) names of commodities and items endorsed by relevant ministry and eventually approved for export and import by Department of Trade under the Ministry of Commerce; (2) names of commodities and items that do not require endorsement from the relevant ministry but necessitate the export and import permits; and (3) names and commodities that do not require permits or license from the Department of Trade, but need export and import declarations from the Customs Department.

There are three different treatments for different items.

When a company needs detailed clarification on the procedures, one can view at the official website at www.moc.gov.mm uploaded from Ministry of Commerce. The items could also be viewed in English as well as in Myanmar at www.myanmartradeportal.gov.mm which is called treasure bank of Myanmar Trade information.

A person could be recognized as a real knowledgeable businessman after studying the topics such as the needy commodities and items, the directives issued from various departments, required application forms, prescribed rules and procedures, notifications and declarations, trade statistics, and the laws and the working procedures.

One could be proud of it

A person may merely know the laws and working procedure, but he could not be termed as an ethical businessman. The ethical and moral businessman is sure to abide in accordance with existing laws by complying that of paying tax in full to the state, never ever breach the rules by exporting and importing controlled and restricted commodities, engaging only in fair and just competitions among the associates and business circle, have sympathy and empathy over working class by fulfilling humanitarian duties according to laws. The author would like to conclude that a person who values and abide the ethical norms and engages in fair trade could be termed as person who could take pride of himself.

The author wishes more ethical businessmen develop and grow in all states and regions in the country to fill in the proper taxes to the treasury of the nation in uplifting the lives of the population.

Translated by UMT (HK)

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the proposed appointment of Mrs. Alessandra Schiavo as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mrs. Alessandra Schiavo was born in Naples on 12 October 1969. She graduated in Political Science in 1991 and pursued her Ph.D at Leiden University in the Netherlands in 1992. She joined the Italian Foreign Service in 1993. From then until 2014, she served in various capacities at different departments of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at Italian Embassies and Consulate General in Tel Aviv, Brussels and Hong Kong. Since 2015, she has been serving as Diplomatic Advisor of the Government representative responsible for Foreign Trade and Investment Attraction at the Italian Ministry of Economic Development.—Myanmar News Agency

အဂတိလိုက်စားမှုကို နှစ်နာသူကဖြစ်စေ၊ ကိုယ်တိုင်ပြောင်ထွေ့ရသူက ဖြစ်စေ တိကျသေချာသော သက်သေအထောက်အထားများဖြင့် ပေးပို့တိုင်ကြားနိုင်ပါသည်–

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Rain to increase in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin State

There is a likelihood of an increase in rain in the Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State as the monsoon weakens over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal, according to yesterday's Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The forecast for Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and neighboring areas for today is a 100 per cent chance of isolated rain or thunder showers, and an 80 per cent chance of isolated rain or thunder showers in Mandalay and neighboring areas.

The weather outlook for the weekend is scattered rain or thunder showers in Nay Pyi Taw and the Mandalay Region, with fairly widespread rain in the Yangon Region.

Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar's waters, with wave heights of (3- 7) feet along the Myanmar Coasts —GNLM

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