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Vol. V, No. 352, 14th Waning of Tabaung 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

State Counsellor meets locals from Einme, Pantanaw, Maubin, Nyaungdon





State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the meeting with local people in Einme, Ayeyawady Region, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who was in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, U Min Thu, Dr. Aung Thu and U Ohn Win, met with Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung and region government members at Ayeyawady Region guest house yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the State Counsellor said submissions people should be resolved immediately. Instructions have been given especially for tendering matters to be transparent, feasibility study, design and BQ to be provided fairly to the tenderers. All need to be aware of rules, regulations and procedures to follow in signing MOU.

The worse cases faced were land matters. It needs to be resolved correctly and quickly. Procedures need to be changed to do this. Policies were also setup for schools, received at meetings with the hospitals and clinics. Submis- raising quality in Ayeyawady sion must be made if some re- Region where agriculture was

The worse cases faced were land matters. It needs to be resolved correctly and quickly.

laxations were required due to on-ground situation.

toward increasing yield and

Coordination was required Emphasis must be placed with the Hluttaw to enact required laws prior to collection of land census. Delays in maintaining and reconstruction

of Yangon-Pathein Road and construction of Rakhine-Ayeyawady costal road were to be coordinated between the Region and Union. Municipal or development works were closely linked to the people and it was important to place much emphasis toward it. The Region Chief Minister must take the responsibility to strengthen the cooperation between region government members and departments.

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State Counsellor meets locals from Einme, Pantanaw, ...



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses local populace in front of Bogyoke Aung San Statue in Pantanaw, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

As contact between the people and government was weak, government officials should conduct more outreach activities to provide necessary explanations to the people, said the State Counsellor.

From there the State Counsellor and party accompanied by Region Chief Minister left Pathein by Tatmadaw helicopters and reached Einme town where they met with the local people in Einme Basic Education High School 1 Shwenyilar hall.

At the meeting the State Counsellor said Ayeyawaddy Region was wide and populous. It was a Region very important for the country. Discussion was held with the Region Government for employment of locals and creating job opportunities. The dignity of every person depends on their ability to work. Only when they can stand on their own foot will they be dignified. One of the responsibilities of a government was to provide job opportunities for all.

Ever since our government took over responsibility, we put creating job opportunity at the forefront. A good road transport network and availability of electricity were important for creating job opportunities. It was noted that providing these two allow better possibility of creating jobs. That was why efforts were being made towards improving road transport and to provide electricity. Road transport was a very important matter for our health, education, economy and union spirit. In the same way electricity, education, health and businesses were also important.

Our students were found to be fearless. This was an admirable trait. Children need to be fearless in learning. If they fear to learn the unknown, education would be very difficult for them. It was encouraging to see that youngsters were learning fearlessly. This could be taken as progress.

All need to be responsible toward self. Everyone had rights and responsibilities. Everyone had a choice. Even if there were no choices, at least there was a choice to choose how each of us can set our mind. For our country to progress, each of our people must be the master of their mind. After mastering our mind each of us can think of how to set our mind.

Children must be taught since young to make friends and to be friendly with them. Parents and teachers can teach a lot but a person must have the will to learn in order to learn. Parents and teachers had the responsibility to teach the best

they can. Whether they do or not was to be determined by themselves. Continuously study the relationship between teachers, parents and students. It was observed that the mindset of the entire school will become better only when the mindset of teachers, school head and senior officials above them had a good mindset. This was a fact that determines the capability of the people in the leadership role. In the same way, it was not wrong to say that a government

you go on for the short run but in the long run trust will be lost. Once the trust of the people was lost, it would be very difficult for a government to work. Having the courage to say the right thing was the only way to build trust between the people and the government. During the meetings with the people various subjects were submitted. We will try to fulfill in the best possible way all the honest submissions made. However, we would not be able to fulfill

50 percent of our population to have electricity before the end of this year and this was believed to be achievable.

was responsible for everything.

A government elected by the people must be responsible towards the people and the country. That was the main job of a government. The most important would be trust between the government and the people. That was why we were always cautioning. We repeatedly told not to give promises that could not be kept. Giving promises that could not be kept may let

everything all over the country. This would depend very much on the status of our economic development. We were striving toward economic development and we can say there has been some progress. For example the plan was for 50 percent of our population to have electricity before the end of this year and this was believed to be achievable.

It would not be good for

the country if the government did whatever it wanted to do. A country was not made up of a single region or township. It was required to develop the entire country. Bear in mind that there may be some places that had more requirement than your place. As our country was a union, it must look like a union from the political aspect also. It could not be looked at from only from the economic viewpoint. Providing road transportation and electricity could not be an economic calculation alone. Benefits cannot be calculated as physical, financial, economics. Requirement of the union needs to be considered politically. Requirements of other states and regions need to be resolved too. We will try to fulfill the best we can on the matters raised by the people. We will answer the questions openly, transparently and in a straightforward way.

The Region government has already been instructed to be close with the people. They should be close to the people and cooperate with them. Only then would they have the answers to the questions raised by the people. People should also submit matters truthfully and with goodwill, said the State Counsellor.

Nine matters were raised at the meeting by the people. They covered the following subjects: expansion of Einme township, permission to resettle along Strand Road in Einme Town, expanding residential areas onto village pasture lands and to designate them as residential lands, upgrading Einme-Pantanaw road to an all-weather road, transfer of education personnel to be conducted only after the end of the school year, upgrading Einme Hospital and Ywathit Village hospital and construction of Lugaungkyun station hospital. From outside the meeting five locals raised matters covering farmlands confiscated by the Tatmadaw and Aya Shwe War company, Kangyidaunt Village primary school, agriculture loan, agriculture product prices, improving Yangon-Pathein road, education, confiscation of residential lands in Einme town, storage of liquor and fuel in Einme town, management of municipal personnel, road accident reduction and electricity production.

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FROM PAGE-2

The matters raised were answered and explained by Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Region Chief Minister, region ministers and officials while the State Counsellor also provided additional explanation.

In her concluding speech to the meeting the State Counsellor said the most important point everywhere was to have good communication between state and region governments and the people. Contacts were required to be continuous. The region government was told to go out and meet with the people. Listen to the questions and submissions made. The region government needs to explain to the people the Union Government's policy and how it was conducting its work.

When question and answer sessions were held with the people, the people will get to know not only their side but the other sides as well. We came to the understanding that in some matters we thought the people would know but found out that they still did not know yet. We accept the fact that it was our responsibility to make everything known and to distribute the information in a much wider way. We would set up arrangements so that everyone would know what was happening and what the government was doing.

Thanks for participating in the meeting. May the people in Einme Township be healthy and well and serve hand in hand for the benefit of the country and your township, said the State Counsellor.

The State Counsellor went to Pantanaw Town by Tatmadaw helicopters. In Pantanaw she met with town elders at the Pantanaw guest house and said the meeting was with the town elders rather than the people due to space limitation. Arrangements were made for people outside to raise questions. Questions raised in writing by the people were read. Those questions can be answered by Ayeyawady Region government. It was a joy to see the participation of representatives from the four main religions at the meeting.

Our country has many races, religions and languages. It was a union made of such diversities and differences and it was very important to have understanding, mutual respect and value others. It was repeatedly said that this was the dignity and honor of the country. The



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meeting with residents of Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: MNA

country's honor and dignity was the physical and mental security of all who lived in the country. If we have true physical and mental security, our country had become a country that had attained the required level of development. It was of the utmost importance for the people to understand and respect one another in the same way as the people and the government to have understanding, respect and trust towards one another.

If there was no trust and understanding between a government and the people, the government will face difficulties in successfully implementing projects. A country's requirements did not differ from one place to another. The aims and requirements were the same.

I want to talk about a unique town that I happened to be in unexpectedly and without a plan. Due to weather conditions, the helicopter I was on was unable to fly on and landed in Htamanthi town. We held a meeting there. At that meeting a youth asked what the role of the people was in amending the Constitution. I was much impressed by that question. A youth from such a small town was having much interest in a matter of great importance for the country. That was very encouraging for our country. Mostly our peoples' requirements were basic requirements. This shows that our country still has much to go for development. We were still at a stage where we were unable to fulfill the basic requirement of the people.

The basic requirements were road transport, electricity, health and education. Another important matter that was not found in any other countries was the matter of land. Our country has a variety of strange land problems like land ownership, returning to original owners, using farm lands for other matters. The central government had setup ways to resolve these matters quickly and if the matter drags on, it would not be good for the government and would harm the people as well. Therefore, we were striving towards resolving these matters quickly.

You may submit or ask whatever you want to. Region government, union minister and I will try to answer as much as possible. Whenever I'm out on a trip, a complaint department was opened. There were many complaints and reply will be made if the name and address of the complainants were included in the complaint letter, said the State Counsellor.

Five matters were pre-submitted by the local people at the meeting. They comprised designating an office place for township election commission office, construction of a new Pan Aya Hall, upgrading the entry and exit roads of Shwe Myin Tin Pagoda into all-weather roads, status of U Thant library, upgrading of Pantanaw Town Hospital. From outside the meeting 10 locals raised matters involving expansion of U Aung Zeya

Road in Pantanaw, confiscated lands, farmlands confiscated when Yangon-Pathein road was constructed, fresh water fish breeding pond permits to be granted to the people, education status in Pantanaw and selection of Daw Waw village administrator were raised. Inside the meeting town elders and representatives of the four major religions raised matters

If there was no trust and understanding between a government and the people, the government will face difficulties in successfully implementing projects.

covering renovation and reconstruction of Pan Aya hall and restoring religious buildings.

Matters raised were responded by Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Region ministers and officials. The State Counsellor also provided additional explanations.

In her closing speech the State Counsellor said arrangements have been made to go to all the places we want to go before the rain comes. Today we will go from Pathein to Einme, Einme to Pantanaw and Pantanaw to Maubin. When we go to many places like this, we don't have time at any place. Due to the short time given, we'll try to come again. We'll give more time when we come next time. She then thanked the town elders who came to meet her.

After the meeting the State Counsellor met with Pantanaw local people in front of Pantanaw Town Bogyoke Statue.

At this meeting the State Counsellor said submission and queries made will be responded quickly and correctly. She spoke of the requirement of every citizen's participation in the development of townships all over the country and the need for the people to be confident. She added further to use these correctly toward the development of the country.

The State Counsellor and party then continued on to Maubin Town by helicopters and met with town elders and local people in the Maubin Township General Administration Department meeting hall.

There the State Counsellor said there were no differences in the problems our people were facing. This highlights the fact that we were the same. Being the same, it was important to help one another so that all can come along. If we only look at what we want, progress will be slow. So wherever we go, we must coordinate and find a solution together.

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State Counsellor meets locals from Einme, Pantanaw, ...



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by local residents in Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

FROM PAGE-3

As human beings we have the opportunity to talk to each other and communicate. We have the opportunity to settle differences verbally rather than physically. This was our advantage. If we do things with sympathy, compassion and understanding there's no way we couldn't reach a solution or an answer. Much still need to be done for our country to develop. Our country was weak in development not only in the world but also in the region too. We shouldn't despair because we

for road transport and electricity. As we attain success, we'll reach a stage to achieve more success. We were targeting education and health sector with an aim for the future. We greatly support vocational education system. Vocational education system produces qualified youths required for economic and political development.

The era of university education being the education is over. Parents need not think that their offspring were educated only if they were university graduates. Youth themselves must not think that they are educated only if they

The people also need to respect and abide by the law. If the law was not fair or just, all must strive toward amending it.

were a weak country. With collective strength, we can overcome problems and become a stronger and faster developing country.

Now our country has developed to a certain level. We were able to fulfill to a certain level the people's basic requirement were university graduates. The most progressive and developed countries consider university education and vocational education to be on the same level. Equal opportunities were provided to earn a living. In health, priority was given to basic public health

because if the people were in good health, requirements for higher health care and medical treatments would be reduced. Then, quality health care can be provided

We must not be short sighted

in every sector and must look at the present as well as to the future. Lessons from the past were to be reviewed and learnt. Ayeyawady Region was once called the rice bowl of not only Myanmar but also the world. Today it was no longer at that level of development and responsibility lies with the Union government, region government and the people for Ayeyawady Region to develop again. All need to have this spirit of responsibility and work together hand in hand. Creating situations for people to make submissions and listen to their voices was to bring the people and government closer. Only with this closeness can our country be successful. This could not be done by the government alone or the people alone. Thus both need to do it together hand in hand. And we need to come together in a correct way too. We want to do things correctly and truthfully in a straight forward and stable manner. If we take short cuts and do things wrong way, we may be ok in the short term but we'll have more problems in the long run.

I want to hear the voices of the students and the farmers. Young or old, all were the citizens and people of our country. All need to bear this in mind. Students, elders, farmers, workers, public servants were the people. With a spirit of all being the offspring of the union we should all walk toward our goal hand in hand; in this way we will reach it quickly. Even if the road was rough, we'll overcome it with our collective unified strength. If we were united, even if our road to democracy was long, we'll feel it to be not too long and reach the destination easily, said the State Counsellor.

Seven matters submitted in advanced were raised at the meeting. Those were removing buildings around Independence Monument in the middle of Maubin Town, to use public movement in designating township area, government action toward declining rice and paddy prices, resolving difficulties faced by farmer when China and India stopped purchasing of pulses and beans, bank loan, fish breeding pond permits, road blockage during the raining season and the inability to collect garbage. Locals in the meeting also raised matters covering opening of a Futsal football ground in Kywedon Village Kanthaya beach, education, objection

of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw toward the usage of the word "Student Hluttaw," land confiscation in Palaung Village, Khanaung Village and Mya Koe Su village.

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, region ministers and officials responded to the matters raised and the State Counsellor provided additional explanations.

Delivering her concluding speech the State Counsellor said the law mentioned that if works were not conducted by a certain time, the farmlands were to be released. Thus the people also need to respect and abide by the law. If the law was not fair or just, all must strive toward amending it. All have the duty and responsibility to strive toward amending it and we have the duty and responsibility to accomplish it.

We must exist and stand according to enacted laws. If not our country wouldn't be stable. Maubin also have a lot of land ownership problems like other townships. People need to think about it from all sides. Self-interest and public interest should be in equilibrium. Personal ownership must be respected but people also need to consider the country's development.

If everyone put self-interest and the country's interest at the same level, our country will develop quickly. The government will handle matters for the good of all within the limits of rule of law. People are also requested to strive toward this together with us, said the State Counsellor.

Following the meeting the State Counsellor and party left by Tatmadaw helicopters and reached Nyaungdon Town where she met with town elders and local people in Nyaungdon Township hall.

At the meeting she spoke of telling repeatedly on establishing trust between the people and the government for our country to develop. To do so would require the government to keep their words and deal openly and straightforwardly with the people. The people also need to deal with the government openly, straightforwardly and solemnly. We accept the fact that the people's sufferings were more than that of the government members. We understand that people living in meager villages especially had many requirements and shortcomings. Regardless of the level of requirements and shortcomings, please submit matters truthfully.

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We'll be fair toward the people. We'll give whatever was rightfully yours.

We'll do the utmost toward the development of the people. In doing so, rule of law was the main thing. The majority of the matters raised by the people were related to farmland ownership. Weaknesses from the administration side were found sometimes. Those were the responsibilities of the government and it'll strive toward removing those weaknesses.

Cooperation was very important as development was much required in our country. Cooperation meant within the government, between central and state and region, within state and region, within the people, within organizations, within sector wise levels and as cooperation increases the development rate would also increase.

Myanmar was noted to be very rich in natural resources. The most important and valuable resources were our people. The strength of a country does not depend on the area, size, resources and population. It depends only on the capacity of the people. Our

people need to understand and have it in mind. People must bear in mind to use the individual capacity and strength for the benefit of the country. People have rights granted by the law and these rights were to be used properly for development and progress.

All were urged to emphasize on education as the country needs a lot of educated people. Educated didn't mean to be educated in the university. It meant to be educated in required expertise. Farmers who were experts in agricultures can also be regarded as educated. In the same way a worker with expertise in work who uses that expertise correctly was also an educated person. All must be proud of their profession and they must also be able to overcome their weaknesses.

Our people should take care of the cleanliness of your own neighborhoods. Youth and children also need to be encouraged towards keeping their own neighborhoods clean. Teachers and parents were requested to teach all to be responsible toward the country individually.

She spoke of personally valuing every citizen regardless of their ages. All were recognized

for having their own abilities. Elders and youths need to create a society that mutually values one another. The country was a union made up of many ethnic nationals believing in many religions and speaking many languages. It was established based on mutual understanding. Prior to gaining independence, the founding fathers decided to work together toward independence. This decision was the basic idea of the union. The basic idea of the union didn't mean Panglong Agreement. It meant the Panglong Spirit. Panglong Spirit was the spirit that made the Panglong Agreement. This spirit that will bring us to the goal we aimed for quickly and effectively was the Union Spirit.

We understand the fact that there were weaknesses in the administration and efforts were made toward correcting it. People need to encourage and support us in our efforts and participate with us. The word personnel (wun dan) in Myanmar mean carrying (dan) the load (wun). Becoming a public servant or personnel means carrying the load of the country and they must have the ability, courage and strength to bear the load. We were striving

toward living up to the dignity and name of a public servant.

We were striving toward everyone having equal rights. Every citizen must be educated and healthy. Our people were expected to do things for self as well as for all. We will strive toward this. People are also requested to work together with us said the State Counsellor.

In the meeting matters relating to theft of motorcycles in Nyaungdon Township, increasing the number of police personnel, making the former port of Nyaungdon into an inland port with the help of Netherlands, building a bridge for Sankin Island road transport, improving a playground beside the Martyrs Park, constructing an appropriate vocational school, continuing the construction of people's hospital, raising the allowance of teachers teaching ethnic languages, teaching of ethnic languages during normal school time, confiscated land in Pauktaw Village, Yadana Su Company not turning in a percentage of profit for village development and restarting No. 3 gas station were raised. Raised matters were responded to by Region Chief Minister and officials

while the State Counsellor also provided additional explanations.

In her concluding speech the State Counsellor apologized for not giving the people enough time to raise matters to their satisfaction. However people can raise matter in writing to the government and if the people didn't know the relevant ministry, they can write to the Office of the President. Each matter will be addressed, decided and a reply will be made to the people. To do all of this would need time to a certain level and the people are trusted to understand this, said the State Counsellor. She then thanked the audience.

The State Counsellor and party then left Nyaungdon by Tatmadaw helicopters and reaches Yangon International Airport where she was welcomed by Yangon Region Chief Minister and officials. From there State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and party left for Nay Pyi Taw on a special flight. The State Counsellor and party were welcomed on arrival at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister U Thaung Tun shakes hands with Chairman and Executive President of Trade Link of Canada Hon.Bryon Wilfert. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Thaung Tun meets with Chairman and Executive President of Trade Link of Canada Hon-Bryon Wilfert

UNION Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun received Chairman and Executive President of Trade Link of Canada Hon.Bryon Wilfert and delegation on Tuesday at 2 pm. at the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

Matters relating to Myanmar's economic reform, bilateral trade, investment and economic cooperation were discussed.

The meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.

—MNA ■



The Memorandum of Understanding signing ceremony of Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group (Myanmar) and Religions for Peace-Myanmar being conducted in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Interfaith Friendship & Unity Group (Myanmar) and Religions for Peace-Myanmar sign MOU

INTERFAITH Friendship and Unity Group (Myanmar) and Religions for Peace-Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at Taw Win Garden Hotel, Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

At the ceremony a message sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was first read by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko. Next, the Union Minister delivered a speech explaining about Interfaith Friendship and Unity Group (Myanmar) and Religions for Peace-Myanmar and welcomes the signing of the MOU.

Afterwards the chairmen of the two MOU signing parties explained about their respective future works.

Following the explanations,

honorable patrons of the two signing parties presented donations which were received by the Union Minister who in return presented certificate of honors.

Later, the MOU was signed and Buddhists, Hindus, Christians and Muslims conducted religion wise prayers followed by a concluding speech of the Union Minister. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Press Release No. 13/2019

12st Waning of Tabaung, 1380 ME (1 April 2019)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

- 1. In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint**Department on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
- 2. With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 30 March 2019 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

No	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal actions taken		
	Information received of Maung Nu and Ma Mae Pyar, who live in Paygone Village, Manhae Tract, Indaw Tsp, Sagaing Region.	On 30-3-2019, police searched the house of U Maung Nu, aged 60, son of U Chit Aye, and seized him with		
1		heroin and stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa (Mawlu), Ma Ya (Pa) 14/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Ma Mae Pyar (a) Ma Khin Nwe, aged 32, daughter of U Pyae (a) Maung Pyae, and seized her with heroin and stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters. A case has been opened her with NaMaSa (Mawlu), Ma Ya (Pa) 15/2019 under Section 19(a)/20(a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.		
2	Information received of Daw Htein Mae, who lives beside the Kyauknigone Creek, Mathay Village-track, Bokpyin Tsp, Taninthayi Region.	On 24-3-2019, police searched the house of Daw Htein Mae, but she was outside at that time, and seized her son-in-law Win Zaw, aged 30, son of U Chit Swe and Tun Naing Oo, aged 35, son of U Tun Ko Ko, with speciosa powder. A case has been opened both of them with NaMaSa(KaYaThuRi), MaYa(Pa) 3/2019 under Section 16(C)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.		
3	Information received of selling illegal drugs in Hlwa Sin Village-track, Yamethin Tsp, Mandalay Region.	On 26-3-2019, police searched the house of Maung San, aged 32, son of U Kyaw Thaung, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Ywartan) MaYa(Pa) 2/2019 under Section 19(C) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police seized Min Min Soe (a) Min Soe (a) Min Soe Than Wai, aged 32, son of U Than Wai, with stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa(Ywartan) MaYa(Pa) 3/2019 under Section 16(c)/21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.		
4	Information received of distributing and selling narcotic drugs in Kaw- pauk Village, Mawlamy- ine Tsp, Mon State.	On 29-3-2019, police searched the house of Than Zaw Oo, aged 35, son of U San Tin, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with NaMaSa (Daiwunkyin) MaYa (Pa) 7/2019 under Section 19 (a) of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.		
5	Information received of Daw Aye, who lives in 7 th Street, 3/B Ward, Min- daladon Tsp, Yangon Region, selling illegal drugs.	On 28-3-2019, police seized the house of Daw Aye (a) Aye Aye Myint, aged 62, daughter of U Tun Myaing, and seized her together with Kyaw Myo Win, aged 22, son of U Tin Win Zaw, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened them with MaMaSa (Mingaladon) MaYa (Pa) 23/2019 under Section 19 (a) / 21 of the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.		
6	Information received of selling illegal drugs in wards and towns of Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State.	So far, 16 cases have been opened files as of last weeks, a total of 26 persons, including 23 men and 3 women, had been arresting, together with heroin, stimulant tablets and opium blocks. On 24-3-2019, police seized Zwe Yan Naung, aged 19, son of U Chit San Maung, with stimulant tablets bearing WY letters. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Taunggyi) MaYa(Pa) 11/2019 under Section 16 (c) of the Anti-Naratia Days and Days between Substances Law		

cotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

selling and distributing illegal drugs on the hill- ock of Tract 10, Ward	So far, 45 cases have been opened files as of last weeks, a total of 50 persons, including 46 men and 4 women, had been arresting, together with heroin and stimulant tablets. On 27-3-2019, police searched the house of Jar Gwan Mai (a) Mar Gwan, aged 27, son of U Naw Taung, and seized him with stimulant tablets bearing 88/1 letters and heroin. A case has been opened him with MaMaSa (Kutkai) MaYa(Pa) 35/2019 under Section 19(a) of the Anti-Nar-
	_
	selling and distributing illegal drugs on the hill- ock of Tract 10, Ward 4, Kutkai Town, Shan

- 3. Out of the information sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, so far a total of 586 cases have been opened files as of 30-3-2019. A total of 923 people, including 774 men and 149 women had been arrested with seizures of 5870.22 g of heroin, 73.67 g of ICE, 38704.74 g of opium, 329.6 g of low-quality opium, 18879.27 g of speciosa powder, 7833.19 g of speciosa, 1.5 liters of opium tincture, 228915 stimulant tablets, 6424.22 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 513.26 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 23.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 16 firearms, different kinds of 257 bullets and 1 grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the ministry will report on further exposed cases.
- 4. In addition to the investigations and arrests conducted on drug related complaints mentioned above, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force have also carried out separate investigations on drug complaints, search and arrests at border gates, and searches of vehicles acting upon given information.

During the previous week, multiple arrests were made in the border regions and joint-surveillance gates.

Acting on tip-off, police seized three men with 3845 stimulant tablets, one motorbike on Myitkyina-Myitsone-Sumbrabum road near Lamonzwat Village, Myitkyina Tsp, Kachin State. Police searched the house of a defendant and seized him with 3650 stimulant tablets. A man and a woman were arrested with a seizure of 490 stimulant tablets in Leipyin Village, Phakant Tsp, Kachin State. A man was arrested with a seizure of 528 g of heroin and a motorbike in Simaw Village, Leipyin Village, Phakant Tsp, Kachin State. Upon acting in a tip-off, police seized a woman. Two men were arrested with 48 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Lawdhamma ward, Loikaw Tsp, Kayah State. Six men were seized with 74 stimulant tablets in Khawku Ward. Two men were arrested with 200 stimulant tablets in Zaymathwe Village, Hpa-an Tsp, Kayin State. A man was arrested with 698 stimulant tablets in Ward 1, Myawady Town. A man was arrested with 141 stimulant tablets in Ward 5. Two men were seized with 300 stimulant tablets, 13 g of heroin and 65.32 g of opium in Kyauk Chat Village, Tonzang Tsp, Chin State. A man was seized with 160 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Hlaing Road, Shwepyisoe Ward, Mawlamyine Town, Mon State. A woman was arrested with 162 stimulant tablets in Myaenigone Ward. A man was arrested with 671 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Aungthayar Ward, Thanbyuzayat Town. A seizure of 750000 g of Sodium Cyanide and one motorcarwas seized on the driverless Hiace Car near Mayanchaung Village, Kyaikto Town. A man was seized with 135 stimulant tablets in Myomakanyintan (taung) Village, Maungtaw Tsp, Rakhine State. Three men were arrested with 97705 stimulant tablets in Ywarthitkay Ward. A woman was arrested with 694 stimulant tablets in Pauktaw Tsp. Two men were arrested with 3900 stimulant tablets and one motorbike on Taunggyi-Mongpyin Road, Taunggyi Tsp, Shan State. A man was arrested with 1590 stimulant tablets, 11 g of heroin and 50 g of opium in Ward 2, Panglong Town, Loilem Tsp, Shan State. A seizure of 150 liters of Acitic Acid in the paper container sending to Wan Hai from Lashio was found at the Shanyoma Bus-terminal, Ward 3, Lashio Town. A man driving the motorbike dropped a bag containing 7600 stimulant tablets and drove away when police tried to inspect

I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union

Government which are as follows:

- Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
- 2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
- Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

We face various kinds of internal and external challenges while we endeavor for political, economic and social development of our country. As we are aware of the importance of our international responsibility, we have adopted a path consistent with the needs and situation of our country respecting at the same time the views and opinions of the international community.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

FROM PAGE-6

him in Mannar Village. A man was seized with 1300 opium blocks and a motorbike on Lashio-Tangyan road. A man and a woman were arrested with 300 g of opim on Tantyan-Pansan road. A man was arrested with 2600 stimulant tablets in Sansai (B) Ward, Tachilek Town. A man was arrested with 20000 stimulant tablets and one motorbike at the Mayan check-point. Two men were arrested with 5400 stimulant tablets and one motorbike at milepost 80/4, Nwanghkio Town. A man was arrested with 2800 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Kantkaw Village, and upon acting on tip-off, police found a number of 1600 stimulant tablets and 8 g of heroin in his house. A man was arrested with a seizure of 126000 stimulant tablets, 4829 g of heroin and one motor vehicle on Momeik-Twinnge road. A man was arrested with 780 stimulant tablets, 0.006 g of heroin and one motorbike at Tharagone crossroad, Katha Tsp, Sagaing Region. Two men and a woman were seized with 133 stimulant tablets, 432 g of heroin and a motorbike at the Nabar crossroad, Indaw Tsp. A man was arrested with 428 stimulant tablets in Tonlon Village, Htigyaing Tsp. Three man was arrested with 130 Buprenorphine Tablets in Mawlitekalay Village, Kalay Tsp. A woman was seized with 80 stimulant tablets, 600 g of speciosa powder and 0.4 g of ICE in Shangyaung Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Region. Seven men and one woman were arrested with 1737000 g of ICE and a boat about 20 nautical miles away from Kawthoung Tsp. Two men and two women were arrested with 1760 stimulant tablets, 285 g of speciosa powder and 12 g of ICE in Ayeyeiknyein Ward. Two men were arrested with 121 stimulant tablets in Kayinsu Ward, Thayawady Town, Bago Region. A man was arrested with 1110.44 g of marijuana in Ohntaw 1st Ward, Taungdwingyi Tsp, Magway Region. Two men were arrested with 301 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Pyithayar (Ta) Ward, Meiktila Town, Mandalay Region. A man was arrested with 1198 stimulant tablets and one motorbike at milepost 280/0 on Yangon-Mandalay Road. A man and two women were arrested with 400 stimulant tablets in Mingaladon Tsp, Yangon Region. A man was arrested with 49 stimulant tablets in Ward 5, Lanmadaw Tsp,

Yangon Region, and upon acting on tip-off, two men was arrested with 466 stimulant tablets and 4.5 g of ICE. A woman was arrested with 11 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Aungtaman Street, Ward 19, Hlaingthaya Tsp, Yangon Region. Upon acting on tip-off, policed seized 20 g of stimulant powder, 10 g of ICE in herhouse. Two men were arrested with 348 stimulant tablets and one motorbike in Nyaungpinzay Ward, Zalon Town, Ayeyawady Region. A man was arrested with a seizure of 79 stimulant tablets in Ward 7, Bogalay Town.

There have been four seizures of ammunitions. A man was arrested with 3 stimulant tablets, 01 g of heroin and one percussion lock firearm in Tarlawgyi Village, Myitkyina Tsp, Kachin State. A man was seized with 4985 stimulant tablets, one hand grenade and one motorbike on Hopon-Loilin road. A total of ownerless 14975 stimulant tablets 200 g of heroin, one pistol, 5 mm cartridges and one cartridge case. A man was arrested with 100000 stimulant tablets, 2000 g of ICE, one firearm and one motorbike near Myanmar-Thailand border post 1 Mongton.

There have been 202 cases being opened between 24-3-2019 and 30-3-2019. A total of 272 people, including 238 men and 34 women, were seized with 6333.1474 g of heroin, 1739107.7 g of ICE, 411857 stimulant tablets, 50 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 1168.24 g of marijuana, 417.6 g of opium, 1300 g of opium blocks, 885 g of specopsa powder, 130 tablets of Buprenorphine, 150 liters of Acitic Acid, 750000 g of Sodium Cyanide, three types of firearms, one hand grenade, 9 mm cartridges and one pistol bullet case.

5. To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts

Auto Telephone No. --067-590200Fax Phone No. --- 067-590233

Email Address — <u>antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm</u>

Dr. Pe Myint visits Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis

A MYANMAR delegation led by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint visited Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis Shangdong Province, China, yesterday.

At the movie metropolis, the delegation observed settings including for Space Ship, under water shootings, outdoor shottings at the studios.

During the visit to Digital Lab, they visited sound editing and enjoyed the 3-D 270 Degree film at the Qingdao Sunac Movie Park. They also visited the Movie Market, Skate Park and play-

In the evening, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and party left Qingdao by flight to Beijing.

The Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis is established on 410 acres of land and 30 modern



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and delegation pose for a photo at the Qingdao Oriental Movie Metropolis in Shangdong Province, China. PHOTO: MNA

studios have been constructed since 2013 in the metropolis. Ten are under construction and over 50 studios are targeted to be established in the oriental movie metropolis. The completed studios were inaugurated on 28 April, 2018, and one of the studios is the world's largest studio pavilion (10,000 square meters) including a permanent underwater stage.

Outdoor stage of the studio pavilion is 60 hectare wide and it includes factories which produce shooting equipment and clothes

and edition services. The Oriental Movie Metropolis signed agreements with nine prominent companies from the United States of the America to produce 11 movies.

It is described as the "Movie Metropolis of the East" or "Hollywood of the East", and is the biggest movie production complex in the world, featuring some of the world's largest and most technologically-advanced facilities.

The Oriental Movie Metropolis is also the home to a film museum, movie theaters, shopping mall, resort hotels, parks and international schools. The establishment of the movie metropolis has benefited the China's movie quality, international relations and tourism.—MNA (Translated by TTN)

OPINION ARTICLE 3 APRIL 2019 3 APRIL 2019 THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

A one-sided approach will not help resolve issues

HE problems that people living in a country face are often not that different. They show us that we face similar challenges in our lives, and we are in the same boat, aiming for the same goals. Therefore, we must lend a helping hand to others. But, at the same time, we must remember that a one-sided approach can hinder our progress.

Finding solutions through negotiations is important for all of us. This is because human beings have the ability to communicate and talk through their problems to find solutions and overcome diversity, without resorting to fighting.

We must take a

far-sighted approach to

issues at hand, while tak-

ing lessons from the past

and to solve complicated

issues, there needs to be

cooperation between the

government and the people

fiscation issues are com-

plicated, and the Union

Government is committed

to resolving them properly,

and with compassion and

fairness, as part of efforts

for promoting the rights

and socio-economic life of

ed to the socio-economic

development of the people,

the land management issue

must be settled correctly, in

accordance with the rules

and regulations, laws, and

land which is not utilized

during a stipulated period

shall be released. People

must respect the law. If

they find some laws to be

unfair, they have an obli-

gation to change them. The

government and the peo-

ple must work together to

According to the law,

procedures.

As it is directly relat-

Myanmar's land con-

in the right way.

To develop a region

before making decisions.

Finding solutions through negotiations is important for all of us. This is because human beings have the ability to communicate and talk through their problems to find solutions and overcome diversity, without resorting to

fighting.

To resolve issues, it is important to function within the existing laws, or the country's stability can be threatened. The regions and states have witnessed land ownership disputes coupled with land confiscation issues. As we try to resolve those issues, the people are urged to take a balanced approach, taking into consideration the ownership and the development of the country. With magnanimity, we can find solutions to issues.

We have many weaknesses that we need to address, and we have many challenges to face. However, we have confidence in our collective strength and the capacity of our people to overcome these challenges.

With collective strength and unity, we can overcome obstacles on the rocky road to democracy.

Implementation of the Judicial Strategic Plan and undergoing the reform process of the Supreme Court of the Union

The second strategic plan for the Myanmar judiciary sector has been adopted with the motto "Towards Improving Justice for All"

U Ko Ko Naing, Permanent Secretary, the Supreme Court of the Union.

By Naing Lynn Kyi



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo.

IE Supreme Court of the Union launched its Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II, Nay Pyi Taw, in January 2018, addressing changes not only for judges, but also for participants and members of the media.

The second strategic plan for the Myanmar judiciary sector has been adopted with the motto "Towards Improving Justice for All"; comprising five working spheres prioritizing in three stages.

The responsible members of the Supreme Court of the Union clarified information on the tasks being undertaken on the third year of the incumbent government in their interview with news team.

U Ko Ko Naing, Permanent Secretary, The Supreme Court of the Union.

implementations on the aims and objectives of the Supreme Court of the Union during the third year of the incumbent government.

U Ko Ko Naing: Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) is underway with the motto "Towards Improving Justice for All"; comprising five working spheres prioritizing in three stages under the reform implementation of the Supreme

Court of the Union for the third year during incumbent govern-

With (14) aims and objectives, the plan outlines five year strategic initiatives, actions for year one action plan (2018), a set of priority rank for implementation and key performance targets with time-

Question: Please explain on the international cooperation by the Supreme Court of the Union.

U Ko Ko Naing: In connection with the environmental issue and the climate change topic, the Supreme Court of the Union is cooperating with the Asian Development Bank; the United Nations Environment Programme, and the Asian Judges Network on Environment (AJNE)

The opening ceremony of Asian Pacific Judicial Conference on Environmental and Climate Change Adjudication was held in Nay Pyi Taw. Myanmar hosted the conference on 29 and 30 October

Over 200 participants across Asia-Pacific, including judges and legal stakeholders, academics, litigators, and civil society represent-

- the environmental and climate change challenges faced by countries in Asia and the Pacific, particularly their judiciaries;
- the impact of climate change on vulnerable groups;
- the issues of urbanization, ship-breaking, and waste;
- community action geared towards protecting the environ ment and addressing climate
- · regional and global judi-**Question: Kindly explain the** cial perspectives about the role of judges in dealing with climate change; and
 - the latest developments and challenges in environmental and climate change litigation.

Question: Please explain the training course imparted to judicial officers.

U Ko Ko Naing: The MoU was signed between the National Judicial Academy of India and the



held in Magway during the last month. PHOTO: MNA

Office of Union Chief Justice on Training and Capacity Building Programme for Myanmar Judges and Judicial Officers.

JICA inked capacity development project with Myanmar and signed the Memorandum of Understanding on Judicial Cooperation Between the Supreme Court of the Union in the Extension of Project for Capacity Development

Myanmar judicial officers attend regularly various workshops, conferences and seminars held in the country and abroad.

Judicial officer are dispatched to attend degree courses including Ph D in Australia, UK, Japan, Republic of Korea, and the People's

On 9 October 2014, the Ministry of Law of Singapore and to Singapore for (8) times.

Question: Please tell us about law court buildings and

U Ko Ko Naing: In 2018, new court buildings are commissioned in Tatkon Township; Pathein Township; and Maungdaw District in conformity with the international standard for the convenience of

When the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 73/2015 has enacted the Law Amending the Myanmar Evidence Act (Burmese), more ICT devices are required for the law proceedings at the law courts.

the officers.

Question: Kindly explain the key implementations in 2018.

U Ko Ko Naing: The year 2018 saw the key implementations of issuing relevant by-laws and offering of legal assistance for those who could not afford legal advisors and the formation of assisting teams and centers at various levels.

The legal assistance centers offer free legal services to anyone who has been charged with a crime and cannot afford to hire a lawyer, anyone who is under the age of 18, minorities, and those who are disabled or discriminated against. The main tasks to be carried out in the 2019 have been

Relevant sections would be attached at the law courts for more information and access required by the public, and that the Website of the Supreme Court of the Union is offering yearly law reports, the crime situation, and the reports on commercial abuses, in addition to regular law news.

Question: Please tell us on the services rendered by the law

U Ko Ko Naing: The Website, the Public Relation Department and the Social Media Pages have timely provided information such as that of the date of court ruling; that of the date of case hearing; and other relevant news.

Moreover, the Internet Pages of the Supreme Court of the Union has been linked up with the Asia Judiciaries Portal (AJP) for expanding the information.

Furthermore, the tasks and the activities of the Supreme Court of the Union are being uploaded on the Myanmar National Portal prepared by the Ministry of Transport and Communications along with the news of other central organizations and the ministries.

Plans are underway in creating Websites for the law courts of the states and the regions.

Daw Tin Nwe Soe, Director-General, the Judicial **Supervision Office of the Su**preme Court

Question: Kindly explain the proceeding on the civil suit

Daw Tin Nwe Soe: The launching ceremony on Court-Led

Mediation Pilot Program" was held by the Supreme Court of the Union at Myanmar International Convention Center-2 on 26th February. In accordance with this initiative, Court-Led Mediation Pilot Program are being implemented in Dekkhina District Court, Taungoo District Court, Takkone Town-

ship Court and Taungoo Township

Court on 1st March 2019 in collab-

oration with JICA.

SEE PAGE-10



Photo shows the opening ceremony of the Office of Township Legal Support Team in Hlinebwe. PHOTO: MNA



Officials of Supreme Court of the Union inspect inmates at the Correctional



Photo shows the training course for criminal records management system, crime and criminal tracking in Yangon on 14 March 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**

Judicial Strategic Plan (2018-2022) is underway with the motto "Towards Improving Justice for All"; comprising five working spheres prioritizing in three stages under the reform implementation of the Supreme Court of the Union for the third year during incumbent government.

of the Legal, Judicial and Relevant officers on the Project Phase Two.

Establishment of the Council of ASEAN Chief Justices (CACJ) Secretariat and finalization of CACJ Charter was being carried out and that Myanmar would soon sign CACJ Charter.

the Supreme Court of the Union signed the Singapore-Myanmar Integrated Legal Exchange. With the agreement, the cooperation with Singapore has elevated the capacity of Myanmar judicial officers, and that Myanmar representatives have been dispatched

persons and the law officials in the functioning of the law proceedings. Moreover, a plan is underway

in establishing a Judicial College in upgrading the capacity of the judges. Furthermore, added skills on ICT are also being provided to

the clients including the disabled

Implementation of the Judicial Strategic Plan and undergoing the reform process ...

FROM PAGE-9

This is the leading role of the Supreme Court of the Union in the implementation of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) system in Myanmar as a requirement.

The system included the judges and the legal negotiators, who are to handle cases in accordance with the prescribed manuals of the Code of Civil Procedures. The proceedings are to be kept in discreet as the clients are dealing in persons with each other independently and freely.

As the mechanism resulted with faster result with lesser expenses, both parties are satisfied in this new method of solution. It brings positive results to the advantages of the clients.

Question: Please deal with the hot issues these days, and also on the feedback of the people.

Daw Tin Nwe Soe: Public took interest in some cases as the persons involved are well known and celebrities. Generally speaking, in some cases, the public as well as the security people have a lot of interest when the case is tangled and twisted with heavy offenses. However, some of the cases are quite normal, but the people involved deliberately created and drew the attention of the public. Whatever the nature of cases may be, the courts consider only in line with the existing laws.

When the public pay more attention on some cases, the courts took special care for accurate information and release of news. It arranges meetings and interviews for the interest of the public. In 2019, plans are being made to release news in time over the cases that are in-



Representatives from Union Supreme Court and JICA Judicial and Legal Project exchange notes of the MoU on 11 December 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

terested by the public.

Question: Are the public has more trust and confidence over the judicial system?

Daw Tin Nwe Soe: The main aim and objective of the law courts are to draw the confidence and trust of the people. In this regards, we take opinions from the public at a certain time whether they are satisfied with the result. The coverage involved members of police force, government officials, clients, lawyers, witnesses, and friends. A total of (2866) persons had been asked and consulted in 2018 which happened to be (71) per cent. We have intended and targeted for (75) per cent. However, (56) per cent of the respondents are satisfied with the survey, and therefore, 2018 is much better than the year 2015.

Question: Please tell us about the advantages and disadvantages judiciary on the third year of the incumbent government.

Daw Tin Nwe Soe: The advantage in 2018 is the case disposal percentage that stood at (98) per cent. The year 2017 saw (96) per cent. We are trying to achieve (100) per cent case disposal. The disadvantage is the issue of delayed cases. According to the statistics, (5) per cent remained to be delayed for more than (12) months, and that in the civil suit cases (8) per cent delayed was found for (36) months.

We have also recorded the number of postponement of hearing at the courts. It is found (35) per cent postponement in criminal cases, and (29) per cent in civil suit procedure cases. The reasons of postponement found to be the absent of persons from both sides, and that we are trying our best to reduce the postponement at the law courts.

Question: Tell us about the future implementation tasks.

Daw Tin Nwe Soe: Prior-

Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo poses for a documentary photo together with judges, judicial officers and high ranking officials attended at the Asia-Pacific Judicial Conference on Environmental and Climate Change Adjudication on 29 October 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

announced on 14 February. We will implement the legal cases management program so as to

2019.

manage the legal cases not to lingering, not to lengthening, and finishing them in time. We are now expanding the number of the court of justice that are targeted in the program from 23 townships and districts in 2018 to 48 townships and districts in

ity Actions for 2019 have been

Question: Please explain over the postponement cases.

Daw Tin Nwe Soe: With a view to avoid delay and postpone the cases, all relevant persons from both sides involved in the case must never be absent on the day of hearing. When all the persons appeared as arranged, there would be no postponement of the cases. Therefore, it is very much vital that all people must come forward as arranged by the law courts across the country.

Also in civil suit cases, all the clients from both sides must appear before the courts as arranged by the responsible persons

During the third year period of the incumbent government, the implementation involved such as that of handling criminal cases; that of criminal management planning; that of Pilot Program of the Court-led Mediation in Civil Suits; that of working in accordance with the prescribed laws; that of inspection on prison, cultivation, production, police cell; that of the activities of the lawyers and advocates.

Question: Please tell us on the issuance of lawyer's license to practice law. Daw Tin Nwe Soe: The Supreme Court of the Union has issued (553) licences to Advocate; (1016) licences to Higher Grade Pleaders; and (2065) licences to Intern Lawyers. Actions are being taken against (8) High Grade Pleaders and (14) Advocates. License to practice law have been re-issued to (6) Advocates and (2) High Grade Pleaders.

U Myint Wai, Chairman, Union Legal Aid Board, Nay Pyi Taw, Uttarathiri Township

Question: Please explain the task and work program of the Legal Aid Board.

U Myint Wai: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 10/2016 has enacted the Legal Aid Law in 2016, and subsequently formed the Union Legal Aid Board; State and Region Legal Aid Boards; and Township Legal Aid Boards.

The Union Legal Aid Board has established offices in townships for helping poor people and those who lose legal rights.

We are providing legal assistances to the people who asked assistances in accordance with the legal aid law.

The Union Legal Aid Board conducted pilot tests on ways to provide legal aid to poor people, and rendering legal assistances to them

Question: Kindly explain on the delay in court proceeding.

U Myint Wai: We heard some remarks among the public that there are delays in court proceedings. In fact, when a trial is ongoing at a law court, the situation required the presence of all concerned such as law office personnel, Myanmar Police Force, lawyers from both sides, and the witnesses. The delay of court proceedings is due to the reason of absence of witnesses from the civil side, the administrative side and the departmental side. The departmental side means the prosecuting organizations such as the officials from the Myanmar Police Force, the Forest Department, the Immigration and Population Department.

It is of the view that the delay of court proceeding could be reduced if the public appeared at the law courts without fail, and that is the duty of citizens to stand witness at courts and reduce the delays of proceedings.

Thank you.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

AA abducts eight people working on Paletwa-Mizoram road project

THE AA group has abducted eight construction workers from a private company who were working on the Paletwa-Mizoram road project linking Myanmar and India, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services yesterday.

About 170 AA members came to the road construction site at Twinkin Alaung Village in Paletwa Township on 30 March. They reportedly abducted 13 employees of the Su Htoo San Construction Company and destroyed vehicles being used for road construction.

Of the 13 workers kidnapped by the AA group, five were released around 3 p.m. on 1 April and they have arrived back in Paletwa.

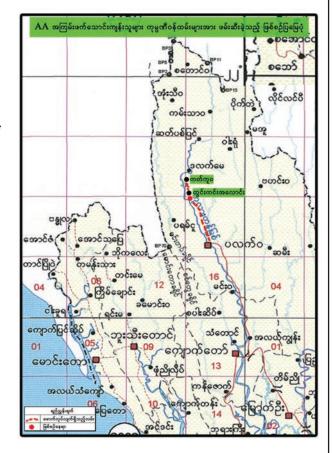
The released workers have been identified as U Wai Phyo of Yilar Village, Paletwa Township, his wife Daw Nu Chay, U Phoe Kyaw and wife Daw Moe Moe Myint from Mawlamyine, and U Zaw Win Ko from Mawlamyine.

They said the AA group arrived at the construction site around 3 p.m. on 30 March and torched one Hilux car, one bulldozer, three motorcycles, and tied them up.

The five workers were released on 1 April and the remaining eight workers are still being held captive.

On 16 March, AA insurgents had torched a vessel carrying steel frames for the Paletwa Bridge project on the same road section.

In a separate incident, the AA forcefully recruited about 200 ethnic people, including 38 students from Katalin and Khamaungwa villages in Thayargon Village-tract in Paletwa Township on 3 February, and reportedly took them to Bangladeshi territory. "The AA has been attacking civilian targets to harm regional stability and disrupt administrative machinery. They



have also forcibly recruited civilians. The security forces are carrying out security operations around areas where such incidents have been reported," according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA / (Translated by AMS)

The Asahi Shimbun Japanese
Leading Newspaper
requirement: fluency in English,
under 35 years old content of
the contract will be consulted
work: interpret, translate,
arrange interviews
09780640884

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF AGRICULTUR, LIVESTOCK AND ARRIGATION DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES

Invitation to apply Type Approval for Vessel Monitoring System - Marine Transmission Unit / Transponder

- 1. Department of Fisheries will issue Type Approval for Marine Transmission Unit/Transponder to be installed in establishing Vessel Monitoring System-VMS in accord with the specific rules and regulations. The Department invites the entrepreneurs and companies who want to apply Type Approval.
- 2. The application shall be submitted as following in accord with the relevant regulations:-

(a) Date of application: 3-4-2019 (b) Date of closure: 30-4-2019 (c) Time for application: from 09:30 to 16:30

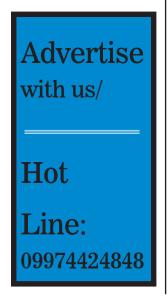
(d) Estimated Announcement

Date for Type Approval: 9-5-2019

3. Application:- The Application form for Type Approval and Conditions for application is available at Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Website; Department of Fisheries Website; MIMU Websites and application is submitted to Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Office Building No. 36 in Nay Pyi Taw.

4. The detailed information was queried to Department of Fisheries (Head Office) with numbers 067-3418530 and 067-3408477.

Type Approval Scrutinizing Committee Department of Fisheries



Transferring Distributor of Registered Pesticide

The distributor of the following pesticide registered by Nissan Chemical Corporation (Japan) is transferred from Marlarmyaing Company Ltd. to Sein Wut Hmon Co., Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can be notified to the Director, Plant Protection Division, West Gyo Gone, Insein within 14 days.

Trade	Active Ingredient	Registration	Registration	Registration
Name	Name	Туре	No.	Holder
Sirius	Pyrazosulfuron-	Provisional	2015-2401	Nissan Chemical
10 WP	ethyl 100g/kg WP			Corporation

Nissan Chemical Corporation 0943142882



CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. (912S/914N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. (912S/914N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 03-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

 $M.V\,AISOPOS\,II\,VOY.\,NO.\,(913W/914E)$

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AISOPOS II VOY. NO. (913W/914E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 03-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (015 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (015 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 03-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw receives UN women representative



PYITHU HLUTTAW Deputy Speaker Chairman of Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development U Tun Tun Hein received UN Women Representative to Myanmar Mr. Nicolas Burniat at the office of Deputy Speaker in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During their meeting, they discussed and exchanged views on matters related to supporting social development, equal rights, peace and development for Myanmar women, women's participation in politics, and capacity-building programme for women by UN Women, and matters prioritise by Hluttaw on women and children's. Also present at the meeting were Secretary of Pyithu

Hluttaw's International Relations Committee U Bo Bo Oo, Secretary of the Women and Children's Rights Committee Dr Daw Kyi Moh Moh Lwin and officials of the Hluttaw office.— MNA (Translated by TTN)

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Reg. No. 4/16344/2019 (21 February 2019)

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Reg. No. 4/1559/2009 (27 February 2009)

In respect of "Alloys of common metal; Anchor plates; Angle irons; Anti-friction metal; Armour plate; Armour plating; Bands of metal for tying-up purposes; Bars for metal railings; Bindings of metal; Bins of metal; Blooms [metallurgy]; Bolts of metal; Bottles [metal containers] for compressed gas or liquid air; Boxes of common metal; Branching pipes of metal; Building boards of metal; Building materials of metal; Building panels of metal; Buildings of metal; Buildings, transportable, of metal; Casings of metal for oilwells; Cast iron, unwrought or semi-wrought; Cast steel; Ceilings of metal; Chromium; Cladding of metal for construction and building; Clips of metal for cables and pipes; Closures of metal for containers; Collars of metal for fastening pipes; Common metals, unwrought or semi-wrought; Containers of metal [storage, transport]; Containers of metal for compressed gas or liquid air; Containers of metal for liquid fuel; Containers of metal for storing acids; Crash barriers of metal for roads; Drain pipes of metal; Duckboards of metal; Ducts of metal, for central heating installations; Elbows of metal for pipes; Fish plates [rails]: Fittings of metal for building; Flanges of metal [collars]; Flashing of metal, for building; Foundry molds [moulds] of metal; Frames of metal for building; Framework of metal for building; Girders of metal; Gratings of metal; Grilles of metal; Guard rails of metal; Gutter pipes of metal; Gutters of metal; Hardware of metal, small; Hoop iron; Hoop steel; Ingots of common metal; Iron slabs; Iron strip; Iron wire; Iron, unwrought or semi-wrought; Ironmongery; Joists of metal; Junctions of metal for pipes; Machine belt fasteners of metal; Manhole covers of metal; Manifolds of metal for pipelines; Materials of metal for funicular railway permanent ways; Molybdenum; Nickel; Nozzles of metal; Nuts of metal; Packaging containers of metal; Penstock pipes of metal; Pilings of metal; Pillars of metal for buildings; Pipe muffs of metal; Pipes of metal; Pipes of metal, for central heating installations; Pipework of metal; Plugs of metal; Poles of metal; Posts of metal; Props of metal; Railroad ties of metal; Rails of metal; Railway material of metal; Railway points; Railway sleepers of metal; Railway switches; Refractory construction materials of metal; Reinforcing materials of metal for building; Reinforcing materials of metal for machine belts; Reinforcing materials of metal for pipes; Reinforcing materials, of metal, for concrete; Roof coverings of metal; Roof flashing of metal; Roofing of metal; Screws of metal; Sealing caps of metal; Sheets and plates of metal; Shuttering of metal for concrete; Sleeves [metal hardware]; Springs [metal hardware]; Steel alloys; Steel buildings; Steel pipes; Steel sheets; Steel strip; Steel tubes; Steel wire; Steel, unwrought or semi-wrought; Tanks of metal; Thread of metal for tying-up purposes; Titanium; Titanium iron; Trellis of metal; Tubes of metal; Valves of metal, other than parts of machines; Wall claddings of metal [building]; Wall linings of metal [building]; Wall plugs of metal; Water-pipes of metal; Wire of common metal; Wire of common metal alloys, except fuse wire; Wrapping or binding bands of metal" in Class 6;

"Axles for machines; Bearings for transmission shafts; Belts for conveyors; Belts for machines; Belts for motors and engines; Boiler tubes [parts of machines]; Centrifuges [machines]; Condensers [steam] [parts of machines]; Control mechanisms for machines, engines or motors; Converters for steel works; Couplings other than for land vehicles; Crank shafts; Cranks [parts of machines]; Die-cutting and tapping machines; Diggers [machines]; Drilling rigs, floating or non-floating; Exhausts for motors and engines; Feeding apparatus for engine boilers; Heat exchangers [parts of machines]; Manifold (Exhaust-) for engines; Metal drawing machines; Metalworking machines; Molds [parts of machines]; Mufflers for motors and engines; Oil refining machines; Pump diaphragms; Radiators [cooling] for motors and engines; Reduction gears other than for land vehicles; Rolling mills; Separators; Shuttles [parts of machines]; Silencers for motors and engines; Springs [parts of machines]; Steam engine boilers; Superchargers; Threading machines; Transmission shafts, other than for land vehicles; Transmissions for machines; Transmissions, other than for land vehicles; Water heaters [parts of machines]; Anti-pollution devices for motors and engines; Drums [parts of machines] " in Class 7; and

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Dated 3rd April 2019

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AGC AUTOMOTIVE

TEMPERLITE

Reg. No. 4/4866/2007 (15.10.2007)

Reg. No. 4/4865/2007 (15.10.2007)

All in respect of "Automobile windows, other automobiles and their parts included in this class; Vessels and their parts included in this class; Aircraft and their parts included in this class; Railway rolling stock and their parts included in this class; Two-wheeled motor vehicles and their parts" included in **International Class 12** and "Unworked or semi-worked glass (not for Building)" included in **International Class 21**.

ASAHI

အဆာဟိ

ASAHI GLASS

အဆာဟိ မုန်

Reg. No. 4/2103/2014 (27.2.2014) Reg. No. 4/2104/2014 (27.2.2014)

All in respect of "Building glass" included in International Class 19.

Reg. No. 4/2105/2014 (27.2.2014)

Reg. No. 4/2106/2014 (27.2.2014)

Dragontrail

Reg. No. 4/9070/2014 (15.7.2014)

Reg. No. 4/9071/2014 (15.7.2014)

All in respect of "Display glass for electronic devices such as mobile phones, mobile data terminals, personal computers, television receivers, digital cameras, videocameras [camcorders] and car navigation systems; Flat panel display glass; Cover glass for solar cells; Cover glass for water heaters using solar cells; Glass substrates for solar cells; Glass substrates for hard discs; Glass substrates for LED lighting; Conductive glass; Lens glass [unwrought or partly wrought material, not for building]; Optical glass; Other processed glass (not for building construction); Glassware for scientific experiments in laboratories; Other laboratory apparatus and instruments; Photographic instruments and apparatus; Cinematographic instruments and apparatus; Optical lenses; Other optical equipment; Telecommunication devices and apparatus; Electronic machines, apparatus and their parts" included in International Class 09.



Reg. No. 4/5486/2015 (30.4.2015)

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Reg. No. 4/16041/2016 (26.12.2016)

In respect of "Chemicals; adhesives [not for stationery or household purposes]; plant growth regulating preparations; fertilizers; ceramic glazings; higher fatty acids; nonferrous metals; non-metallic minerals; photographic supplies; chemical test paper; artificial sweeteners; flour and starch for industrial purposes; unprocessed plastics [plastics in primary form]; pulp" included in **International Class 01.**

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Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Thingyan festival: Chindwin ferries to be halted, but will run in emergencies

ALTHOUGH ferry services on the Chindwin River will be suspended for five days during the Thingyan festival, ferries will be allowed to operate in emergency cases, said U Aung Than, the head of Sagaing Region's Department of Marine Administration.

"Like in the previous years, the ferry services will be halted from 13 to 17 April. We currently have 137 passenger ferries and 602 cargo ships. The Department will allow transportation services in cases where it is necessary, such as a health problem," he said.

Chindwin ferry services are increasing as the Thingyan festival is approaching. The rate of accidents has decreased under strict supervision by regional marine administration groups.

"At present, the number of passengers is increasing as the Thingyan festival is approaching, and the regional marine administration groups are performing their duties. They have



Ferries mooring on the Chindwin River in Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

been directed to inspect vessels to check whether they are carrying life jackets and make sure ferries are not overloaded with passengers. The Department has also asked regional administration groups to stop night ferry

services," he said.

"Surprise checks are being conducted twice a month. Some old rescue equipment has been changed. After several accidents happened, most passengers and ferries began following the rules, but there are still some violations. The checks are being conducted so mishaps don't happen again," said U Aung Than. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by La Wonn)

Strand night market in Yangon to be upgraded, says Pabedan MP

THE night market on Strand Road in Yangon City will be upgraded with the help of a private entrepreneur, said U Than Naing Oo, Hluttaw representative from Yangon Region's Pabedan Township.

"The A 25 Myanmar Development Company has already been granted the project to upgrade the Strand road night market in such a way as not to adversely affect the environment, and to ensure proper collection of garbage, make provision for

an emergency healthcare center, and car parking for the convenience of consumers who bring their own cars," he said.

"As a pilot project, the new system will first be implemented in the Pabedan and Kyauktada townships. The upgrade will be implemented, at a cost of K25 million, by dividing the night market area into two zones," he added.

"The Yangon Strand night market needs to become as crowded as the old one. The company has asked the municipal authorities to grant them permission to upgrade the night market. The new Strand night market has only a few shops. So, we need to upgrade many sections of the night market. The new night market will also include entertainment areas," said Pabedan MP U Than Naing Oo.

In November, 2017, over 1,600 roadside vendors and hawkers selling wares on the ten main roads in Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, and Kyauktada townships

were shifted to open new stalls on Strand Road. "The implementation of the night market project in 2017 cost over K1 billion. Despite spending such a high amount, with only a few vendors left in the night market, it is currently attracting few customers. To remedy the situation, the A 25 Myanmar Development Company has asked the municipal authorities to grant them permission to upgrade the Strand night market," said U Than Naing Oo.—Zwe ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Illegal timber seized in Mandalay, Yangon, Mon, Shan



A truck loaded with illegal timber seized by a combine team.

A combine team comprising staff from forest departmentand enforcement officers seized 109 illegal timber logs weighing 6.7692 tons from a sixwheel vehicle and a hino vehicle at the corner of Shwe Gu pagoda road and Bogyoke road, Madaya Township, Mandalay Region from 29 to 31 March.

Moreover, the authorities seized a total of 394 timber logs weighing 39.5142 tons and one loader, one motar car, and one hand saw in the waterfall mountain, Ye Township, Mon State while authorities

seized 33 teak lumbers weighing 1.4486 tons from Alphard vehicle at mileposts between 0/5 and 0/6, Yangon-Mandalay highway, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region.

Authorities also seized 60 illegal ownerless logs weighing 20.7780 tons in Hsipaw Township, Shan State. Authorities will take legal action against the connected accuses and are conducting the further investigation, according to the Forest Department.—Maung Lu Maw

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Philippines' 1st subway project may face higher cost, delays

MANILA — The Philippines' target of completing construction of its first underground railway within six years may increase the total cost, while acquisition of land for its stations could take longer than estimated, analysts and people familiar with the project say.

The government plans to open the first three stations of the 36-kilometer Metro Manila Subway in 2022, before the end of President Rodrigo Duterte's term in office, with full operations scheduled to begin in 2025 with 15 stations.

The groundbreaking for the 365 billion peso (\$7.1 billion) project, aimed at easing traffic jams in the capital, took place in late February, less than three months before congressional elections in May.

Transportation analysts said that while it is technically possible to finish the subway construction by 2025, it would increase the total cost of the project.

"Technically possible, but more expensive and unnecessary; dictated more by political bragging rights than public interest," said Rene Santiago, president of consultancy firm



Undated photo shows artists' image of a subway station in Manila. The Philippine government plans to complete construction of the country's first underground railway within six years by 2025, but critics say that the schedule is unrealistic and the total cost may increase. Photo courtesy of the Department of Transportation. **PHOTO:KYODO NEWS**

Bellwether Advisory Inc.

Primitivo Cal, executive director of Planning and Development Research Foundation Inc. of the University of the Philippines, agreed.

"It's possible. But of course, if you split up (the construction into phases), the total cost will increase," he said.

Japan has committed 104.53 billion yen (\$942 million) worth of aid finance for the first phase of the subway project. A Japanese-Philippine consortium will build the first three stations and a depot. A person familiar with the project, speaking on condition of anonymity, told NNA that the contractors "feel it is very difficult to complete the first three stations in three years by 2022."

The contractors will try their best to finish work on schedule by working around the clock and reinforcing resources like equipment and manpower, the person said. Construction of the first three stations would normally take four to five years, while building 15 might take seven to 10 years, the person said. In addition, any delay in the process of securing the right-of-way would push back the construction timeline for the first three stations, he said. If the process goes smoothly, work can start in July or August, he added. The contractors "are now very concerned about the issue of land acquisition being carried out by the Philippine gov-

ernment," the person said. On the political front, some members of the House of Representatives are opposed to the subway route chosen by the government, saying it is the costliest of three options.

The route includes a station in Katipunan located inside Camp Aguinaldo, the country's military headquarters. There are residential areas just outside the base.

Congressman Edgar Erice told NNA that the Katipunan station would affect residents more than the two other options.

Erice said the city council of Quezon City, the area where seven of the 15 stations will be located, might hold a discussion about the impact on residents of the subway construction, possibly after the May 13 general election.

He also said the Katipunan station has lower potential ridership than the other two options.

Once the land directly above the subway line is secured, the government will still have to acquire some properties around the stations, Cal of the University of the Philippines noted.

The government also needs to develop the areas to encourage the use of the rail system, he said. Kyodo News ■

Slain Saudi journalist Khashoggi's children paid by kingdom: report

WASHINGTON — The children of murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi have received multimillion-dollar homes and are being paid thousands of dollars per month by the kingdom's authorities, The Washington Post reported Monday.

Khashoggi — a contributor to the Post and a critic of the Saudi government — was killed and dismembered in October at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul by a team of 15 agents sent from Riyadh. His body has not been recovered.

The payments to his four children — two sons and two daughters — "are part of an effort by Saudi Arabia to reach a long-term arrangement with Khashoggi family members, aimed in part at ensuring that they continue to show restraint in their public statements," the Post said. The houses given to the Khashoggi children are located in the port city of Jeddah and are worth up to \$4 million, the newspaper reported.

Salah, the eldest of the chil-



The houses given to the Khashoggi children are located in the port city of Jeddah and are worth up to \$4 million, the newspaper reported. **PHOTO: AFP**

dren, plans to continue living in the kingdom, while the others, who live in the United States, are expected to sell the homes, the paper said. In addition to the properties, the children are receiving \$10,000 or more per month and may also receive larger payments that could amount to tens of millions of dollars each, according to the report. Saudi Arabia's pow-

erful crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, has been accused of orchestrating Khashoggi's killing, but the kingdom has claimed that the prince was not involved. Saudi Arabia initially said it had no knowledge of Khashoggi's fate but later blamed rogue agents for his death. Its public prosecutor has charged 11 people over his murder.—AFP

Boeing must do more work on proposed 737 fix: US regulator

NEW YORK—Boeing must perform more work on a proposed fix to its 737 MAX aircraft before it can be submitted for review, US officials said Monday, suggesting the planes could stay grounded a while longer.

Additional work is needed "to ensure that Boeing has identified and appropriately addressed all pertinent issues," a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman said in a statement.

"The FAA will not approve the software for installation until the agency is satisfied with the submission," he added.

The FAA statement is the bureaucratic equivalent of a "stop" sign after Boeing officials touted their proposed remedy last week during a media tour at the company's manufacturing plant in Seattle, Washington.

Boeing's 737 MAX planes were grounded globally last month following the second of two deadly crashes to occur in less than five months. Scrutiny has centered on an anti-stall system developed specifically for the planes that has given pilots problems. A preliminary report into the second calamity—the March 10 crash of a Boeing 737 MAX 8 that killed 157 people—will likely be issued this week, the Ethiopian government said Monday.

Boeing last week gathered hundreds of pilots and reporters at its Renton, Washington manufacturing site for a presentation on proposed changes to the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System, which is believed to have been a key factor in the Ethiopian crash and in an October crash of a Lion Air in Indonesia that killed 189 people.

Among the changes, the MCAS will no longer repeatedly make corrections when the pilot tries to regain control, and will automatically disconnect in the event of disagreements between the two "angle of attack," or AOA sensors, the company said last week.—AFP

SPORT

Olympics: IOC head Bach hosts Japanese students from quake-hit areas

LAUSANNE — International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach on Monday hosted a group of students from northeastern Japan to discuss the region's recovery from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster, as well as preparations for the 2020 Tokyo Games.

The five teenage "reconstruction ambassadors" from Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures in the Tohoku region told the IOC chief about the current situation in the area and the role of sports in its revitalization.

One of the students, 14-yearold Keitaro Takano, has been campaigning to repair the image of agricultural products from Fukushima Prefecture. Their reputation has been affected by the nuclear crisis stemming from the earthquake and tsunami disaster.

"The Olympics have attracted attention from all over the world. Mr. Bach has given us his backing, so hopefully we can gain even more support," Takano said.

As Fukushima is set to host baseball and softball at the Olympics, Bach invited the youngsters to attend a game together with him.

Bach said he was impressed by the work that the ambassadors had done in their communities, and was extending the invitation as a sign of his appreciation.

— Kyodo News ■



International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach (4th from L) hosts a group of teenage "reconstruction ambassadors" from northereastern Japan's Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures in Lausanne, Switzerland, on April 1, 2019. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

All England Club hopeful of Chinese boom in lawn tennis

BEIJING — China has as much right as any other country to win a tennis grand slam, and the country's tennis federation is enthusiastically developing junior players.

That's the view of All England Club director Michael Gradon and head coach Dan Bloxham, who were in Beijing last week to promote the organization's Road to Wimbledon project, which aims to introduce juniors around the world to grass court tennis.

"In places like China, where there isn't the same history of tennis [as in the U.K.,]

We need to explain what Wimbledon means, and what differentiates Wimbledon from every other tournament in the world," Gradon told Xinhua, adding that he was impressed by the investment in youth tennis he had seen in China.

"It's great for us that the Chinese tennis federation is showing a real enthusiasm for tennis and Wimbledon. There wouldn't be much point in us trying to take the message of grass courts and Wimbledon to a country that had no interest in tennis or in developing juniors."

China's only Grand Slam winner to date is Li Na, who won the 2011 French Open and the Australian Open in 2014 before retiring later that year. While no other Chinese player has yet matched Li's accomplishments, Bloxham noted that this could be more easily achieved if the country's youngsters had better coaching and more exposure to the sport.

"China has just as much right as any country to win a grand slam," said Bloxham, who also serves as master of ceremonies at the Wimbledon Championships. "If the quality of coaching and opportunity when they're young is good, then when they come to around 20 years old, there will be several players in the top echelons of world sport. There's no real trick; it's just having a good quantity of players in a great environment, and that



GarnineMuguraza of Spain returns a shot during singles third round match against KaterinaSiniakova of the Czech Republic at the 2018 WTA Wuhan Open tennis tournament in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, on 26 September, 2018. **PHOTO:XINHUA**

equals more chance of winning grand slams."

Though there are currently no Chinese men ranked in the ATP's top 200 players, the women's game is faring somewhat better, with five Chinese players inside the WTA's top 100, including Wang Qiang, who last week reached the quarterfinals at the Miami Open. Bloxham believes that the high level of professionalism in women's tennis relative to the men's game should make it an attractive proposition for Chinese players.

"With tennis, men and women play on an equal platform, so young athletes in China are seeing females playing on the same platform as Roger Federer. It's very unusual to have a female sport held at such a high level as [the male equivalent]."

And though no Chinese player has yet won the Wimbledon Championships, Gradon is convinced that such an achievement would do wonders for the popularity of lawn tennis in China.

"You can just imagine how fantastic it would be for China to have a Wimbledon champion. China obviously loves sport, and there are few bigger things in world sport than to win the singles title at Wimbledon. I think that would be great for China and great for Wimbledon."

—Xinhua

Everton probe Pickford bar brawl allegations

LONDON — England goalkeeper Jordan Pickford is under investigation by his club Everton about his alleged involvement in a brawl in Sunderland on Sunday.

The 25-year-old – who shone at last year's World Cup – is believed to have reacted when revellers in a bar directed derogatory remarks at his fiancee Megan, who recently had their first child Arlo.

A video has spread on social media in which onlookers can be heard shouting "Jordan" as a fight breaks out before the man, believed to be Pickford, is dragged away. Pickford had played in Everton's 2-0 away win over West Ham on Saturday before spending a day off in his home city. "The club has been made aware of an alleged incident involving one of our players and we are looking into the matter," the Premier League club said.

Pickford came through the system at Sunderland but joined Everton for an initial £25 million (\$32.6 million) when they were relegated from the Premier League in June 2017. He made his England debut five months later and was Gareth Southgate's first choice at the World Cup and was instrumental in their surprise run to the semi-finals.—AFP