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State Counsellor delivers speech at 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation at the China National Convention Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who was in Beijing, People's Republic of China (PRC) attended the opening ceremony of the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation held at the China National Convention Centre (CNCC) yesterday morning.

At the ceremony Chinese

President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech and Russian Federation President, Egyptian President, Chilean President, Malaysian Prime Minister, Pakistani Prime Minister and UN Secretary General delivered messages of greetings.

The event was attended by heads of state, heads of gov-

ernment, government representatives and officials from 37 countries. Next State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a High-Level Meeting Session 1 held at the China National Convention Centre and delivered a speech entitled "Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future."

(The State Counsellor's full speech is featured separately on Page 4.)

Later in the evening the State Counsellor went to the Great Hall of the People to attend a dinner hosted by the Chinese President and wife where the State Counsellor was greeted by President Mr. Xi Jinping and wife.

Afterwards the State Counsellor took a commemorative group photo with the Chinese President and wife and other state leaders.

This was followed by a dinner hosted by the Chinese President and wife for the heads of state and heads of governments. —MNA
(Translated by Zaw Min)

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits Kanpetlet Township

VICE President U Henry Van Thio accompanied by Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai, State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bawi, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Hla Maw Oo, state ministers and officials went to newly established Kyin Dway Town in Chin State, Mindat District, Kanpetlet Township yesterday morning.

The Vice President and party were welcomed by the local people in local Chin tradition. The Vice President then attended a meeting with Chin State government members, Hluttaw representatives, state, district and township departmental officials, town elders and local people where the Vice President was welcomed by Kyin Dway Town local youths with a song and a dance.

In his speech the Vice President said Kyin Dway Town was located in a place where the land and weather were good. It was a most densely populated town and had many places that had good economic prospects. Those were the hopes of the town and those hopes were to be implemented together. Kyin Dway Town was designated as a town in 1970 but was reduced to a village tract level under the 1974 Constitution. On 27 December 2018, it was upgraded to a town level by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

This was one of the out-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the meeting with local people from Kyin Dway in Chin State. **PHOTO: MNA**



comes of the good will that the government had for Kyin Dway Town. During the three year period of the incumbent government five village tracts including Kyin Dway was upgraded to a town level with the aim of developing Chin State. The aims of upgrading to town level was to upgrade region, town and village security, rule of law, peace and stability, socio-economic development, economy, health and education.

Road communication was the main requirement of Chin State. Everyone knew that the Union Government as well as Chin State government were doing their utmost toward development of Chin State. Construction of Surbung Airport in Falam Town would be completed

in year 2020 and this was something that this state had not even dreamt of.

Furthermore arrangements were made to construct Lailenpi Airport too. The government was doing the best it can toward constructing new and upgrading schools, hospitals and clinics in the education and health sectors as well as recruiting/employing new personnel required for it. Solar power and mini-hydroelectric power were used to start providing electricity to villages. Arrangements were made to implement the 622 MW Laymyo River hydroelectric project that would benefit to the union level. Upgrading of Matupi to Sami-Paletwa road to an all-weather road had been conducted with might and main as well.

Similarly the Kaladan cross-river bridge Project would be completed by the year 2020. Arrangements were made to implement the Kanpetlet to M'kuiimnu-Sami-Paletwa road as a strategic road and once this was completed it would link up with the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project and products from lower Myanmar would soon be exported to India via Seikpyu-Saw-Kanpetlet-M'kuiimnu-Sami-Paletwa road. This route would be a highly dependable one for not only regional development but also for Myanmar-India trade and cooperation. As such the government was striving towards the successful implementation of this.

Unity and cooperation of ethnic nationals and the peoples were the indispensable basic foundation in striving toward the development and progress of a country. For the benefit of the country, especially in establishing a Democratic Federal Republic, all ethnic national were urged to work hand in hand and cooperate in the best they can with the government, said the Vice President.

Next, town elders submitted requirements for regional development and in return plans for sector wise support and arrangements were explained by state minister for development affairs U Soe Htat, Ministry of Construction Permanent Secretary U Win Tint and Ministry of Health and Sports Director General Dr. Soe Oo.

Afterwards the Vice President and Chin State Chief Minister presented cash donations to town elders for Kyin Dway Town development works. State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bawi, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut

and U Hla Maw Oo also presented cash awards to Kyin Dway Town local youths who had entertained with a song and dance performance.

After the meeting the Vice President and meeting attendees took a commemorative group photo.

Following the meeting officials from the Ministry of Construction explained about the planned route of Kanpetlet-Kyin Dway Road and the Vice President gave advice and comments to ensure coordination.

The Vice President and party then went to the construction site of Kanpetlet Indoor Sports Stadium and at the briefing hall Ministry of Health and Sports Deputy Director General U Tun Myint Oo explained about the construction status and the Vice President gave necessary advice and comments.

The 120x90x36 ft. steel structure indoor sports stadium was constructed by Thura Lin Construction Company at a cost of K 250 million and will be completed on 30 September 2019.

From there the Vice President and party went to 50-bed Kanpetlet People's Hospital where the hospital superintendent explained about the status of hospitals and clinics in Kanpetlet Township, personnel requirements, medicines and buildings status. The Vice President gave necessary comments to ensure coordination.

Afterwards the Vice President inspected the health care service provided in the hospital, encouraged and provided cash support to patients undertaking treatments and inspected the site where a two-storey hospital ward would be constructed.

— MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Vice President U Henry Van Thio views the map showing the strategic road between Kanpetlet and Paletwa. **PHOTO: MNA**

“ We will abolish the red tape that burdens the people and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fiber of our people. We will draw out from our past experiences as a civilian government overcoming various obstacles and hardships, as we work to the best of our ability for the immediate present and head towards the future of a democratic nation that respects human rights and is free from all stains of corruption.

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

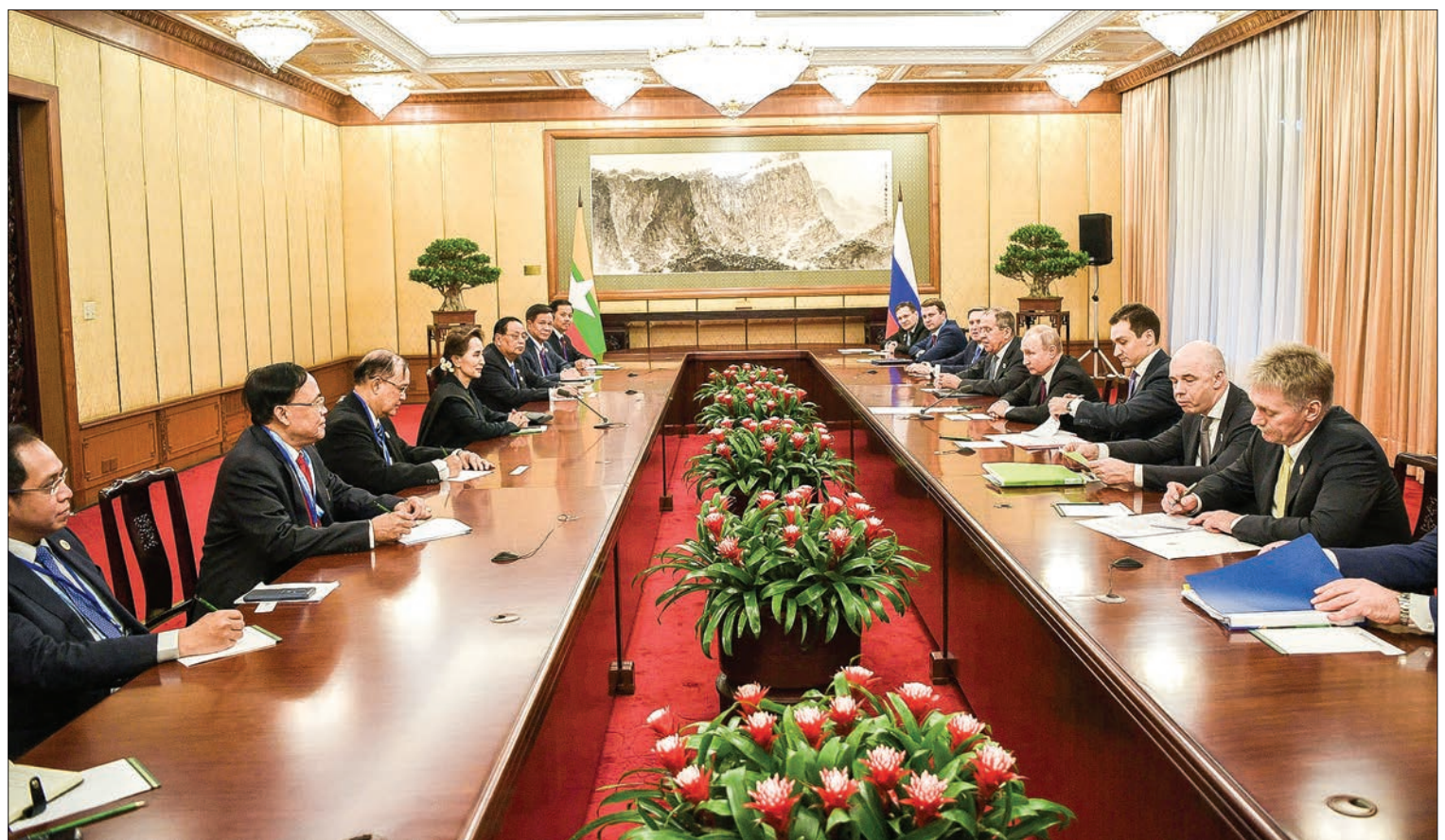
“ We have many opportunities to learn in order to overcome and eliminate the evil legacies of the past and to fulfill the aspirations for the future of the nation. We know how much loving kindness, truth and bravery are needed; how greed, anger and ignorance can impact negatively. We have learnt the importance of having good friends. The most important lesson we learned is the value of understanding and unqualified support of our people.

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

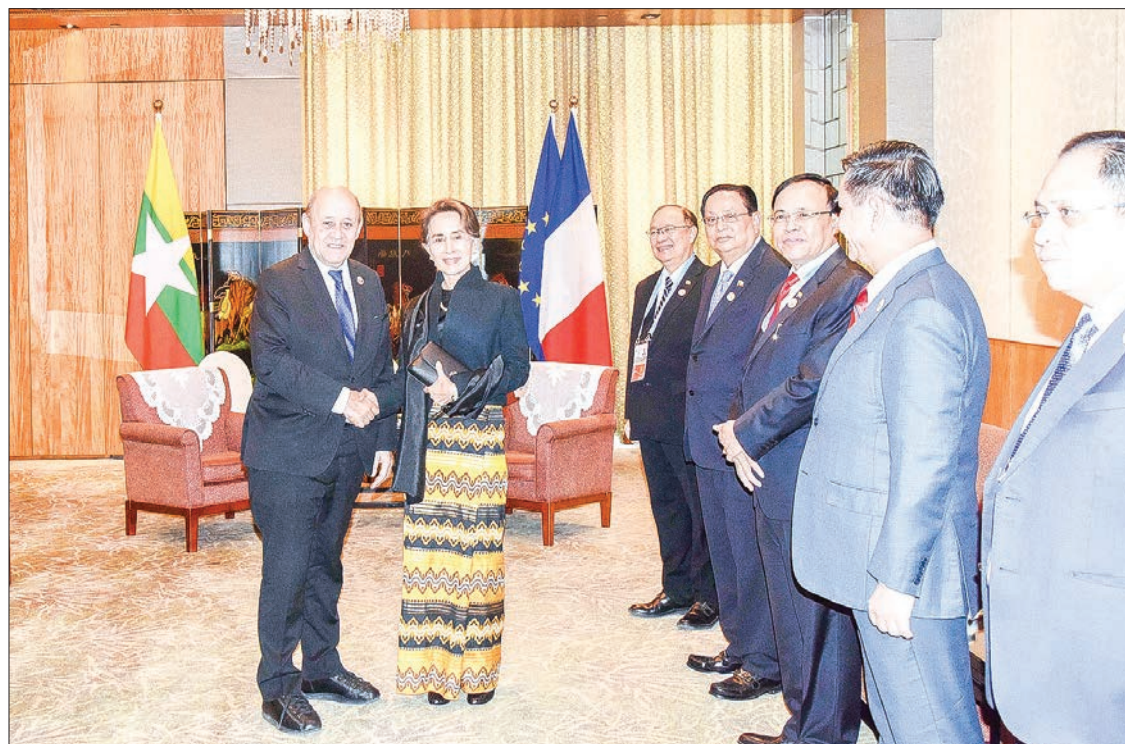
State Counsellor meets separately with French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation President

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi who was in Beijing, the People's Republic of China (PRC), met separately with the French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs Mr. Jean Yves Le Drian and the Russian Federation President Mr. Vladimir Putin yesterday afternoon.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with the French Minister of Europe and Foreign Affairs at the Shangri-la Hotel. At the meeting, increasing Myanmar-France bilateral relations and cooperation, continuing French support for Myanmar's successful transition towards democracy, increasing bilateral trade and investment, increasing cooperation in energy and culture sectors and status of progress in Rakhine State affairs were cordially and openly discussed.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in a meeting with Russia's President Mr. Vladimir Putin while attending the Belt and Road Forum in China. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with the French Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Mr. Jean-Yves Le Drian, while attending the Belt and Road forum in China. PHOTO: MNA

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Electric and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Sett Aung and officials

State Counsellor, Russian President hold talks

Next, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Russian Federation President Mr. Vladimir Putin at the Diaoyutai State Guest House in Beijing.

Matters relating to increasing Russia-Myanmar bilateral relations and coopera-

tion; increasing bilateral trade and investment; increasing contact and relations through the commission formed for government to government; cooperation in communications, air transport, ICT sectors and increasing cooperation in education, health, industry, energy, oil and gas sectors were discussed. Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing and Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Sett Aung and officials. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Statement by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi , State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the High Level Meeting of 2nd Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

(Theme: “Belt and Road Cooperation: Shaping a Brighter Shared Future”)
(Beijing, 26 April 2019)

Distinguished Heads of State and Government, Heads of International Organisations, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen

The keynote speech delivered by Chinese President Mr. Xi Jinping at this morning opening session of the Forum highlighted the comprehensive matters regarding to Belt and Road Initiative such as the need of infrastructure development, peace, prosperity and anti-corruption.

It has been two years since we last met here in Beijing at the First Belt and Road Forum where we welcomed the concept of the Belt and Road Initiative launched by our close neighbour, China. We congratulate President Xi Jinping for introducing his vision for the revival of the ancient Silk Road, which opened the doors of trade and engagement between East and West thousands of years ago.

This Second Forum provides us with the opportunity to deliberate on how we might strengthen existing partnerships in the next phase and how we might achieve high-quality cooperation under the win-win partnership of the B & R Initiative.

Myanmar is of the view that high-quality cooperation can only be assured by building consensus among participating countries in adherence to agreed guiding principles, including the five principles of peaceful coexistence. Furthermore, projects under this Initiative need to be in line with the development plans and priorities of the participating countries. The projects should not only be economically feasible but also socially and environmentally responsible, and most importantly, they must win the confidence and support of local peoples. These aims can be achieved only by convincing the populace of participating countries that the BRI will have a positive impact on their lives.

We are gathered here at a time when the world is confronted with expanding opportunities, rising challenges and epoch-making changes. By strengthening our cooperation and collaboration, opportunities and challenges can be seized and wielded into positive changes for all of us.

We hope that our discussions today will contribute

to the development of partner countries through improvements in infrastructure, enhancement of cultural ties, openness, and inclusiveness, in the framework of a people-centred approach.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

May I now turn to the role of my country in this important Initiative. Myanmar is located as a land bridge between South Asia and Southeast Asia, in close proximity to such large economies as China, India and ASEAN. It has always been our policy to maintain close and friendly relations with all nations, especially with our neighbours. Sharing a border of over 2000 kilometers, China and Myanmar have long valued our special Pauk-phaw relationship and close multi-faceted cooperation.

Even before the introduction of BRI in 2013, Myanmar and China had already concluded MOUs on a number of infrastructure projects, including oil and gas pipelines connecting Myanmar to the Yunnan Province of China.

In view of our geographical proximity, our existing friendly and strategic partnership relations and our firm good neighbourliness with China, Myanmar has embraced the Belt and Road Initiative. At the first BRI Forum, Myanmar and China signed the MOU on Cooperation within the framework of BRI, indicating our commitment to work together to realize the goal of common development in areas of mutual interests, in line with our national plans and priorities.

Two years on, we have completed the signing of the MoU on Jointly Building the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor and also agreed to set up an Economic Cooperation Zone at selected border posts to facilitate trade and investment.

The Economic Corridor will become an important component not only of our bilateral cooperation but also of the Belt and Road cooperation in the regional context, in line with the principles of mutual consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits. The next step will be to identify specific areas of cooperation and the route and mode of the Corridor that these might accord with our National Long-term Development Master Plans and Strategies which are based on the

aspirations of our people as well as the priority needs of our country.

Our Government has been making strenuous efforts to improve connectivity within our own country by placing emphasis on the improvement of our infrastructure, in particular, the constructions of roads, ports and railways, and electrification. We believe that the BRI projects selected in line with our national plan and priorities will contribute to our endeavours for the improvement of much needed infrastructure that will not merely enhance domestic connectivity but also improve cross-border connectivity.

As cross-border connectivity improves, we will need greater support to strengthen our national capacity and border control facilities. Improvement in cross-border connectivity will mean increased trade, tourism, investment and people-to-people contacts. At the same time, we have to be mindful that such positive developments are too often accompanied by negative factors such as illegal migration and drug and human trafficking. To maximize the benefits from improved connectivity, we would need to take steps to minimize the possible negative social and environmental consequences.

Excellencies, Ladies, and Gentlemen

For development to be sustainable, it needs to be clean and green, to ensure an environment that is conducive to healthy growth and living. We look forward to working with our BRI partners to integrate environmental and social concerns into business operations that our world might be richer and more beautiful in all aspects. Health and education, art and culture should be major beneficiaries of our cooperative efforts towards development.

May I conclude by emphasizing the need for peace and stability, if the cherished goals of our BRI are to be realized and passed down as a living, growing legacy for coming generations. We are privileged to be able to gather here today to work in partnership for a better future and I hope that we may be able to make the best of such a unique opportunity.

I thank you.

NRPC, Kachin Humanitarian Group agree on five points for resettling IDPs

THE National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) and a delegation from the Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee (KHCC), led by its chairperson, held a meeting at the NRPC building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Participants included:

On the NRPC side were its members, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung, sec-

retary Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Peace Commission secretary Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo (retired), Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, members of the Kachin State cabinet, Director-General U Zaw Htay and other officials.

On the KHCC side were Chairperson Rev. Dr. Hkalam Samson, Vice Chairperson 1 Father Paul Awng Dang, Vice Chairperson 2 Father Dr. Peter Khar Aung Too, Vice Chairperson 3 Rev. Kyanmajar Too Shan, sec-

retary Rev. Paul Yaung Too Mai, deputy secretary 1 Father Noel Nawlat, deputy secretary 2 Rev. Maji Bauklar, deputy secretary 3 U Paul Remkali, members U Inshan San Aung, advisor Daw L. Jar Nan and other officials.

UAG's speech

The Union Attorney-General first delivered a speech. He said the NRPC has been continuing its mission of persuading ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) who

have not signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to do so and to provide humanitarian aid to displaced persons. He said this meeting would discuss how to ensure displaced persons in Kachin State to return to their homes safely and with dignity, addressing humanitarian needs in IDP centres, and closing down IDP centres.

The Union Attorney-General said these matters must be given priority as part of the peace

process. He said the NRPC facilitated the systematic return of people in IDP centres which allowed trust to be built with the KIO and KIA in informal talks.

He highlighted the fact that the State Counsellor, who was also chairperson of the NRPC, discussed cooperation on the IDP matter between the Union Government and KHCC during her meeting with the KHCC Chairperson in Myitkyina.

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Senior General meets Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy Vice Admiral Volozhinskiy Andrei Olgertovich receive the salute from the Guard of Honour in Russia.

PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation was welcomed on behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy Vice Admiral Volozhinskiy Andrei Olgertovich in front of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy together with an honor guard yesterday.

Next the Senior General and Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Russian Navy met at a meeting hall and discussed cooperation between the two militaries and navies on military technology and exercises, exchange of naval visits, cooperation in humanitarian matters and exchange of rank-wise visits between the two navies to strengthen friendship.

Afterwards the Senior General and party visited the Admiralty's Verfy shipyard and observed the production and maintenance of submarines.

Later in the day the Senior General and party went to the Joint Stock Company (JSC) STC plant and observed the production of surveillance drones according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

—MNA
(Translated by Zaw Min)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits OJSC Muromteplovoy plant in Murom City



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observes armored fire fighting vehicles in the plant in Murom.

PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF

A Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who is currently in Russia visited the OJSC Muromteplovoy plant in Murom City on the morning of 25 April.

The Senior General and party observed the live-fire demonstration of armored vehicles produced at the plant and inspected the production of armored vehicles and armored fire fighting vehicles in the plant while the plant director general and officials provided necessary explanations.

Later in the evening, the Senior General and party left Moscow by high speed train and reached St. Petersburg where they were welcomed by Russia Federation Navy officials according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order No. 15/2019

7th Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME
(26 April, 2019)

Amnesty Order

AS a gesture of marking the Myanmar New Year and to ensure the peace of mind of the people and taking into consideration the humanitarian concerns, 6,948 prisoners serving jail terms in various correctional facilities across the country have been given unconditional amnesty today under the Sub-section (1), Section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code.

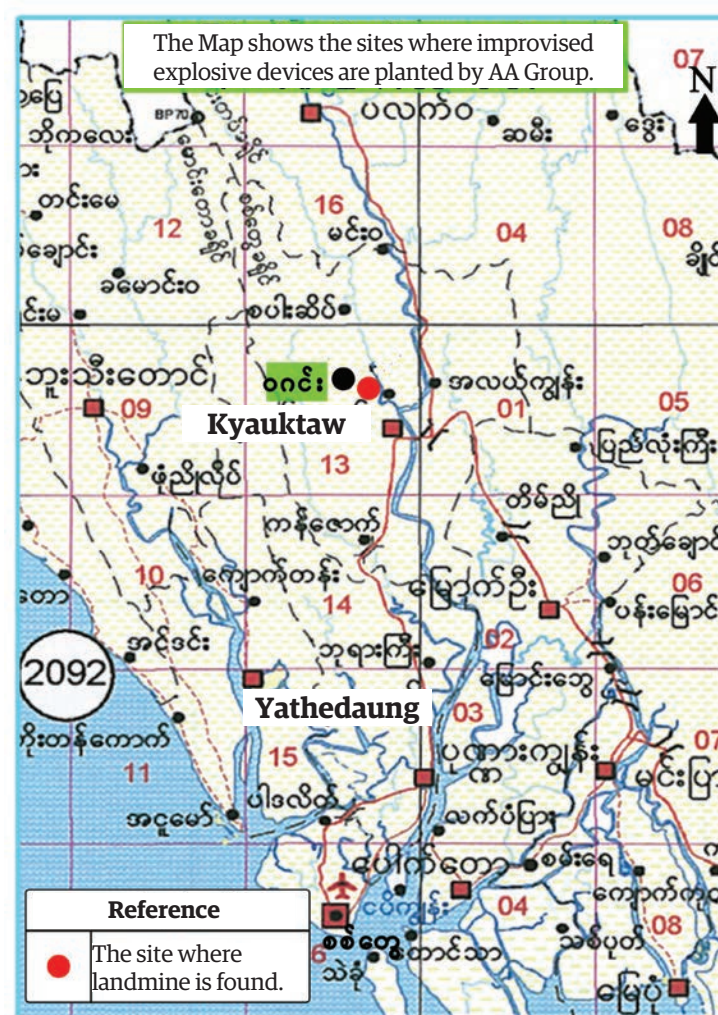
Sd/
Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Two IEDs planted by AA in Rakhine deactivated

SECURITY forces deactivated two remote-controlled land mines planted by the AA group near Kyauktaw in Rakhine State yesterday, according to news released by the military.

Security forces found one remote-controlled improvised explosive device, or IED, on an earthen road leading to Kyauktaw, and cleared the site.

They found another IED and one Samsung mobile phone about 50 metres north of the first site. Since January, 14 landmines planted by AA have been discovered and deactivated in 43 instances in Rakhine State, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services.—MNA (Translated by Tun Tun Naing)



JCC Chairman receives WFD's Myanmar Representative

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development, U Tun Tun Hein, received Daw Saw Thiri Yupar, Myanmar Representative from Westminster Foundation for Democracy (WFD) at the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they exchanged views over promoting the cooperation between WFD and JCC, continuing signing the

MoU, three-year performance for Hluttaw developments provided by WFD, and speeding up for polishing the technical and parliamentary skills courses for Hluttaw's staffs.

The meeting was also attended by members of the JCC U Tin Aung Cho, Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials from Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein receives Daw Saw Thiri Yupar, Myanmar Representative from Westminster Foundation for Democracy in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

NRPC, Kachin Humanitarian Group agree on five points for resettling IDPs

FROM PAGE-4

He requested the other party to openly discuss how to safely resettle IDPs, closing down IDP centres, and suggestions on how the Union Government could provide support moving forward.

The KHCC Chairperson then delivered a speech.

KHCC Chairperson's speech

In his speech, Rev. Dr. Hkal-am Samson expressed his belief that a good solution would emerge from officially discussing how to safely resettle people in IDP centres back to their homes.

He said everyone accepted that matters related to IDPs were intertwined with the peace process. He said local residents fleeing from internal armed conflicts were in search for safer places to live. He said the Kachin State and Northern Shan State have seen a resurgence of IDPs since the 2011 with about a hundred thousand people currently homeless.

The reverend said there were challenges and difficulties as the matter had lasted for eight

years. He said the people strongly desired to return to their homes. He said the KHCC was formed with political leaders and humanitarian organizations on October 2017 to address the IDP issue.

He said they held discussions with relevant subnational governments and international organizations to return IDPs to their homes. He said the members of the KHCC were decision makers from their respective organizations and representatives of their religious associations. He said the committee's processes were already included in the terms of reference.

The reverend said the IDP issue was inextricably linked to armed conflicts so it was important to reduce them and establish a measure of peace that can build trust with the IDPs. Doing so would resolve the matter of resettling them in a short time, he said. He prayed for the Union Government to succeed in swiftly implementing a democratic federal Union longed for by the ethnic people so that the internal

conflicts that have been waging on for 60 to 70 years would finally end.

Discussions commence

The two sides then discussed the NRPC's contribution to the IDPs in Kachin State, helping IDPs return to their homes safely and with dignity, supplying current humanitarian aid to IDP centres, closing down IDP centres and other general matters.

KHCC Chairperson's closing speech

In his closing speech, the KHCC Chairperson said this meeting was immensely beneficial. He said we are all brothers and sisters coexisting in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. He said now was an opportune moment to solidify trust with each other and it was important not to waste this chance. He said they wished to implement the first phase of returning IDPs after meeting with the KIA on 30 April.

He said he believed solving

the resettlement issue would build more trust between everyone and impact later discussions on signing the NCA. He said they understood that the armed conflicts in Kachin State were a result of politics and thus the Kachin people also accepted that it must be addressed in a political manner. He expressed his gratitude for the chance to discuss freely under the NRPC's lead and acquire basic principles.

UAG's closing speech

In his closing speech, the Union Attorney-General said all relevant organizations were working hard to swiftly implement peace in Kachin State. He said resettling IDPs in Kachin State and closing temporary relief camps was a priority for everyone concerned. He said a ceasefire from both sides was essential to return the IDPs to their homes safely and with dignity.

And doing so would allow the people to live in their homes again with confidence, said the Union Attorney-General. He said

the KHCC could only help IDPs when all fighting has ended. He said all relevant organizations need to provide humanitarian aid to ensure that the IDPs safely return to their homes. He added that this meeting was able to designate the tasks the NRPC and KHCC would pursue in the future.

Afterwards, the NRPC and KHCC delegations took a documentary photo together. Director-General U Zaw Htay and the KHCC Chairperson then met with journalists and answered their questions on the meeting.

Results of the meeting

The meeting produced 5 points of agreement. First, the NRPC and KHCC agreed that resettling IDPs back to their homes safely and with dignity, they will work in line with the NRPC's policies based on international humanitarian policies with KHCC cooperating on the implantations.

Second, relevant government departments, organizations and stakeholders will support in ensuring smooth negotiations concerning the implementation of tasks for resettling IDPs.

Third, KHCC will provide necessary support and aid in providing food and clothing to IDPs, returning them home, resettling them, and enabling them to take up their former vocations.

Fourth, selecting IDP camps with high likelihood for returning and resettling IDPs and negotiating on pilot programs.

And fifth, the KHCC will take responsibility if negotiations with the KIO/KIA are necessary for returning and resettling IDPs. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Officials from National Reconciliation and Peace Centre and the Kachin Humanitarian Concern Committee discuss the safe resettlement of IDPs in Kachin State at a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MIC approves investment with over 1,100 job opportunities

THE Myanmar Investment Commission approved a project in port and container yard on build, operate and transfer basic from Singapore which is expected to create 1,100 job opportunities.

The amount of US\$ 290.124 million has been approved for above projects which can cre-

ate 1,176 job opportunities for citizens.

The decision came at the MIC meeting (6 / 2019) convened at the MIC office in Yangon yesterday. U Thaug Tun, Chairman of MIC, Dr. Than Myint, Vice Chairman of MIC and eight members attended the meeting.—MNA



Chairman of MIC U Thaug Tun addressing the Myanmar Investment Commission meeting in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Aid reaches victims of hailstorm in Ywangan Township

UNION MINISTER for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye accompanied by Shan State Chief Minister Dr. Linn Htut, Shan State ministers, Danu Self-Administered Zone Leading Committee Chairman and officials went to Shan State Danu Self-Administered Zone Ywangan Town yesterday morning and inspected damages caused to houses in three wards of the town and Inn Kone Nga Hsu Village Tract by hailstones and encouraged the affected local peoples.

Next the Union Minister attended a ceremony to provide supports to victims of natural disaster held at Ba Htoo Hall.

In addressing the ceremony, the Union Minister said the government was striving toward providing rightful supports and rights to the people equally.

The ministry was providing support and assistance to people affected by natural disaster in the fastest possible way and also provides reconstruction and rehabilitation works to attain a better situation prior to the natural disaster. Myanmar has been bearing the consequences of climate change and hail and hailstorms were also the result of



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye encourages victims of hailstorm in Ywangan, Shan State. PHOTO: MNA

it. Therefore, the ministry's Disaster Management Department will provide fund to reconstruct houses, for rice as well as for social support in this ceremony.

As social protection work, information program and cash support to expecting mothers and children up to two years old will be started in Shan State during fiscal year 2019-2020. Children will be cared for through organizing mothers' circle on early childhood care, opening of child day-care centers and kindergartens.

Youth policy was distributed, strategy and work processes established and implemented for the development, progress and subsistence of youth. Social pension for elderlies were provided and initial support for handicapped persons were provided while categorizing of handicaps were made in order to support their subsistence and development. The ministry was also connecting and working together with partner organizations and volunteer civil society organ-

izations on natural disasters and social matters.

Support will be provided to the government's aim of rule of law and socio-economic development only when related ministries, state/region governments, Hluttaw representatives, civil society organizations and volunteer organizations cooperate with the ministry in its works and efforts, said the Union Minister.

Afterwards, township natural disaster management committee chairman explained about

damages and losses caused by hailstorm. Later the Union Minister provided K 156.819 million worth of construction materials for 1,975 affected houses and K 20.7375 million for rice for affected peoples.

The Union Minister also provided K 4.2 million for 170 expecting mothers, K 5.1 million to 170 mothers with new born child not older than 45 days, K 1.404 million for Danu Myay Home for the Aged in Pindaya, K 4.9 million for 7 kindergartens in Pindaya and K 1.4 million for 2 kindergartens in Ywangan which were accepted by officials.

Shan State government and Nyan Gyi Shin Coffee Work also provided K 10 million and K 2.5 million respectively while Shwe Than Lwin Company also provided 10,000 sheets of zinc roof panels.

A local elder spoke words of thanks in return for the provision of supports and assistances.

The cash support provided by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at Shan State Danu Self-Administered Zone Ywangan Town totals K 194.6205 million it is learnt.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Deputy Minister for Information meets with staff at Sarpay Beikman

DEPUTY MINISTER for Information U Aung Hla Tun met with officials at the Sarpay Beikman in Yangon yesterday and discussed improving the quality of books published by it and building editorial capacity.

At the meeting, the Director-General of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise, U Aung

Myo Myint, presented a report to the Deputy Minister about the implementation of a translation project undertaken by the department in collaboration with the National Institute of Information and Communications Technology of Japan.

After hearing the report, the Deputy Minister made some sug-

gestions on developing Myanmar literature, improving the quality of books, bringing about a uniform house style for books, and upgrading the skills of editors. Following the meeting, the Deputy Minister visited the editorial section, library, and the book shop of the Sarpay Beikman.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun holds the meeting with officials at the Sarpay Beikman in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Moving forward with mutual friendship and respect

As we grapple with the daunting task of establishing peace and ensuring sustainable development in our country, we can consider critical challenges as opportunities for gaining true friends who share our belief in equal partnership for achieving these goals.

Friendship based on mutual trust and understanding is important for cooperation. Without mutual trust and understanding, cooperation would not be effective.

International forums and conferences provide an opportunity to reach a common ground to create a better world, and they also serve as platforms for us to reach out to others to find positive and unifying ways of meeting the critical challenges of our times.

Working for our progress, without losing sight of values that strengthen friendship and happiness, has been challenging, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the People to People Connectivity Thematic Forum held at the China National Convention Center on Thursday.

We believe that we can move forward with the help of true friends, who have stood by us and with whom we enjoy mutual trust, understanding, and respect.

There are negative forces everywhere, eroding the foundations of peace. In all parts of the globe, we can see thoughtless dissipation of material and human resources that are necessary for the conservation of harmony and happiness in our world.

Myanmar, a developing country, is facing challenges. For a developing country, confronting a huge challenge is not a small thing. But we can do it, if we unite forces.

We believe that we can move forward with the help of true friends, who have stood by us and with whom we enjoy mutual trust, understanding, and respect.

Overcoming challenges depends on the people's firm determination and efforts, too. Despite the challenges, Myanmar will continue on the path of peace and development.

We are confident that Myanmar will get opportunities to promote cooperation with its true friends through mutual friendship, trust, and understanding at the Second Belt and Road Forum in Beijing.



Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Making policies to further develop the agricultural sector

“We will complete the water system and irrigation channels from South Nawin, North Nawin, We Gyi, and Taung Nyo dams in eastern Bago Region within this year. This will provide enough irrigation to 216,285 acres of farmlands.”

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu

By Thura Zaw
PHOTO: AYE THAN

SEVENTY per cent of the total population of Myanmar are farmers who live in rural areas. As such, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI) amended policies to aid in the development of the agricultural sector and accomplish future objectives that will encompass the entire nation.

The following is an interview with Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu for MoALI on what his ministry had to do in their third year during the civilian government administration in order to reach their goal of raising agricultural development by 2.4%.

Q: Please tell us about the Agricultural Development Strategy (ADS) and Investment Plan.

A: The ADS and Investment Plan (2018-2019 to 2022-2023) was drafted with technical assistance from Asian Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and the Agriculture and Rural Development Sector Coordination Groups – ARDSCG.

The plan was made in line with the second short-term 5-year agricultural policies and tasks (2016), the National Economic Policy (2016), the Framework for Economic Reforms, national-level objectives for future all-round development, the Investment Law, and the National Export Strategy. So, I'm sure it will greatly support Myanmar's economic development.

Q: What does the Department of Agriculture do for developing the agricultural sector?

A: The department carries out duties relating to food security, food safety, increasing the income of cultivators, ensuring high-quality products, and expanding the plantation of crops that can compete in both domestic and foreign markets.

Increased activities

This year, 7,137 acres of rice were planted and yielded 5805620



President U Win Myint gives a speech at meeting 2/2019 of the Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands in Nay Pyi Taw.

baskets of paddy. In relation to Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), they managed to advertise 15 different crops and this year they will open training courses and build capacity. As GAP priority land, they planted 1,558 acres of rainy season peanuts, 325 acres of rainy season sesame, 325 acres of winter peanuts, 65 acres of win-

and successfully developed one village per township as a role model using advanced technologies. The Vegetables and Fruits Research and Development Centre announced the Myanmar organic standards on 26 January 2019 and organized a horticultural fair. The Fertilizer Committee issued 1,197 registrations.

We submitted the Bill to amend the 2012 Farmland Law to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. The Bill to amend the 2012 Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Land with Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 24 and we are working to amend its related by-law.

Q: What assistance has been provided for farmers to receive irrigation?

A: The Department of Irrigation and Water Utilization Management facilitated irrigation from dam water for 1.392 million acres of summer crops and other crops and for 1.23 million acres of monsoon crops in 2017-2018. In this summer, they have provided dam water to 1.41 million acres of summer crops and other crops.

We will complete the water system and irrigation channels from South Nawin, North Nawin, We Gyi, and Taung Nyo dams in eastern Bago Region within this year. This will provide enough irrigation to 216,285 acres of farmlands.

Q: What did you implement to protect against floods?

A: We conducted 493 sluice, drainage and overflow drain pro-

We have now produced new species that will increase crop production and raise the income of farmers and is suitable for their region. We were able to increase the income of farmers, which is a major accomplishment.

Dr. Aung Thu

ter sesame and 83 acres of winter sunflowers.

The MoALI gave 1,538 GAP training classes, 1,383 seed production classes, 1,075 seed protection technology classes, 1,383 other technical classes, and conducted 26,280 cultivator discussions.

Expanded tasks

The ministry has issued 253 GAP certificates as of February

Q: Could you tell us what is being done concerning the right to own land?

A: As of now, we have issued Form-7 to 6,028,090 farmers for a combined land area of 25,206,274 acres. We issued Form-7 for 246,309 acres belonging to 59,548 farmers this year. Over the three years, we issued 967,101 Form-7 to 215,190 farmers.



Shwe Hlan Bo River Pumping Station irrigates the farmlands Singaing Township.

Q: What has the ministry been doing to produce high quality crops?

A: We have conducted research into breeding new species of crops that can produce the best results in the region where they will be planted. So far, we have produced 8 new species of rice and a specie each from maize, sunflower, peanut, pigeon peas, wheat and sugar cane.

We have now produced new species that will increase crop production and raise the income of farmers and is suitable for their region. We were able to increase the income of farmers, which is a major accomplishment. We upgraded the Zalatt Agricultural Research Garden in Sagaing Region into a regional-level advanced research garden this year.

We held 76 farmer education seminars, technical courses, and observation and practical fairs. The farmer channel broadcasts agricultural news, questions and answers, documentaries, and 70 short series.

Q: Tell us about the Cooperative Department.

A: Cooperatives are businesses based on the people. Every member needs to know the re-



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu

quirements for their collective business, society and culture. They need to know the objectives themselves. Cooperatives will guide the people through a democratic procedure for equality.

Q: What has the Cooperative Department done in the three-year period?

A: There are now 40,518 cooperatives as 654 new ones were established in the three-year period. We strive for the emergence of high-quality departments as

opposed to increase quantity. It's not easy but hopeful to reach our goal within a set period.

There are 54 cooperatives in 119 townships that provide farm assistance services in addition to 140 other services. There are 166 cooperatives that provide seeds and provided K2,673.585 million in loans for 12,313 acres for seed production. They have also provided K26,625.001 million in loans to upgrade 87,002.8 acres in 168 townships.

SEE PAGE-12

Kayin State Government driving fast with development

“The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, has therefore, set up a social security system starting 2018-19 financial year to give social security for families starting from K500 per day, that can be collected every 3 months.”

Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint.

By Shin Min
Photos: Aye Than

WITH mountain ranges as a backdrop, waterfalls along with the numerous limestone caves, Kayin State continues to be one of the leading tourist attractions for both local and foreign travelers. Kayin is divided into 4 districts with 7 townships, 11 towns, 376 village tracts with 2097 villages. There are 1.5 million residents who are Kayin, Mon, Bamar and PaO. The past year has been successful for the Kayin State government in various aspects.

Tourism

Kayin is rich in picturesque natural landscapes with its mountains and waterfalls. The government made sure to take advantage of this resource. From 16 hotels in 2015, there are now 28 hotels with almost 100 rooms with 15 more hotels that are yet to be expanded. Addi-

tionally, there is now an evening cruise every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday departing from Hpa-an's Shwe Yin Myaw Jetty at 5 pm for a one hour boat ride along the Thanlwin River.

Transportation

Myawady is one of the most crossed land-border points for trade. To make transportation to and from smoother, the Myanmar-Thai friendship bridge No. 2 was opened March 19th 2019. During the current administration's term, 91 per cent of the roads to be built has been finished with the rest planned for the coming 2 years. There is an additional fund from the Union of K237 million for further construction and renovations of roads and bridges as well.

Distribution of Electricity and Coastal Zone Management

In the past 3 years, there have been 1050 villages who were given access to electricity either through the national grid, solar power, diesel or small-scale hydro power. Over last year alone, 1241 households in Kamamaung gained access. For villages that are further from the union grid, there have been MoUs signed with 5 private companies for distribution. For example, the Sule Tech Solutions Co., Ltd and MREF Power Co., Ltd were able to produce 400 KW from a Hybrid Micro-System Solar firm to 400 households with K250 per



Kayin State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation inspects farmers tilling the field.

unit starting February 4th. In the 2018-19 financial year, there were K310 million of funds dedicated to erosion control management that built over 1000 feet long of erosion control walls.

Peace Efforts

There is a US\$30 million fund from Japans' Ministry of Foreign Affairs to utilize towards helping families who gave up arms for peace set up their life in the Union. Within the first roll out of construction, it built: 750 houses, 7 schools, 2 clinics, 1 hospital and 2 bridges. The second round built 1700 houses, 27 schools, 8 clinics, 30 wells, 6138 solar panels and 6 projects for increasing access to water.

Health

According to the 2014 census, the area was highlighted for its lack of resources for mothers and children. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, has therefore, set up a social security system starting 2018-19 financial year to give social security for families starting from K500 per day, that can be collected every 3 months. This has fund up to K7.3 billion for over 14532 expectant mothers and 4478 children.

Sports

Within the financial year 2018-19, the state has renovated, from the K256 million fund, the indoor stadium flooring, the athletes residences, expanded

another gym as well as built more bathrooms and wells for public use. The Myawaddy football field also received proper fencing.

Natural Disasters

There have been landslides annually due to heavy rain, especially from July to September in Hpa-An, Hlaing Bwe, Kaut Ka Yeit, Kyar Inn Seik Gyi and Pa Pun townships. The floods have destroyed 20 houses along with 55 houses damaged and the resulting landslides buried 22 houses and 53 schools with an estimated K81 million damage. A total of 32292 acres of rice paddies were destroyed with only 19955 recovered.

SEE PAGE-11



A photo exhibition in Kawkareik presents the Kayin State Police Force's educational materials on reducing crimes.



The opening ceremony of a job fair at Zweekabin Hall in Hpa-an, Kayin State.

FROM PAGE-10

The Ministry of Livestock, Agriculture and Irrigation was able to provide, in collaboration with the State government, up till 12,000 baskets of crops to make up for the lost yield. Due to the destruction of roads and bridges from floods, the State received 3721 million kyats for rehabilitation efforts from the 2018-2019 funds from the National Disaster Management Committee. Additionally, there were emergency buildings constructed so that the residents can take shelter during floods and landslides. The buildings are also equipped with life vests and fiber motor boats.

Collaboration with International Organizations

With the help of the World Bank in the 2018-19 financial year, there were central public projects initiated and carried out in 73 village tracts in Hlaingbwe Township, 53 in Kawkareik, totalling up to 259 villages. Other INGOs that are working in collaboration with the State includes World Vision, International Organization Migration(IOM), Norwegian Refugee(NRC), Community Development Association (CDA), Lutheran World Federation (LWF), Advertiser Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), AAR (Japan), Save the Children, Malteser International, Action Aid Myanmar,

UNHCR, Mercy Corps, MHDO, Local Resource (LRC), Peace Winds Japan (PWJ), UNICEF, Help Age International, IFDA, Pact Myanmar, Swisscontact and Essential Health Project. These organizations and the state government accomplished several projects throughout the year from building low-cost housing, toilets, clinics, small loan businesses and financial literacy workshops.

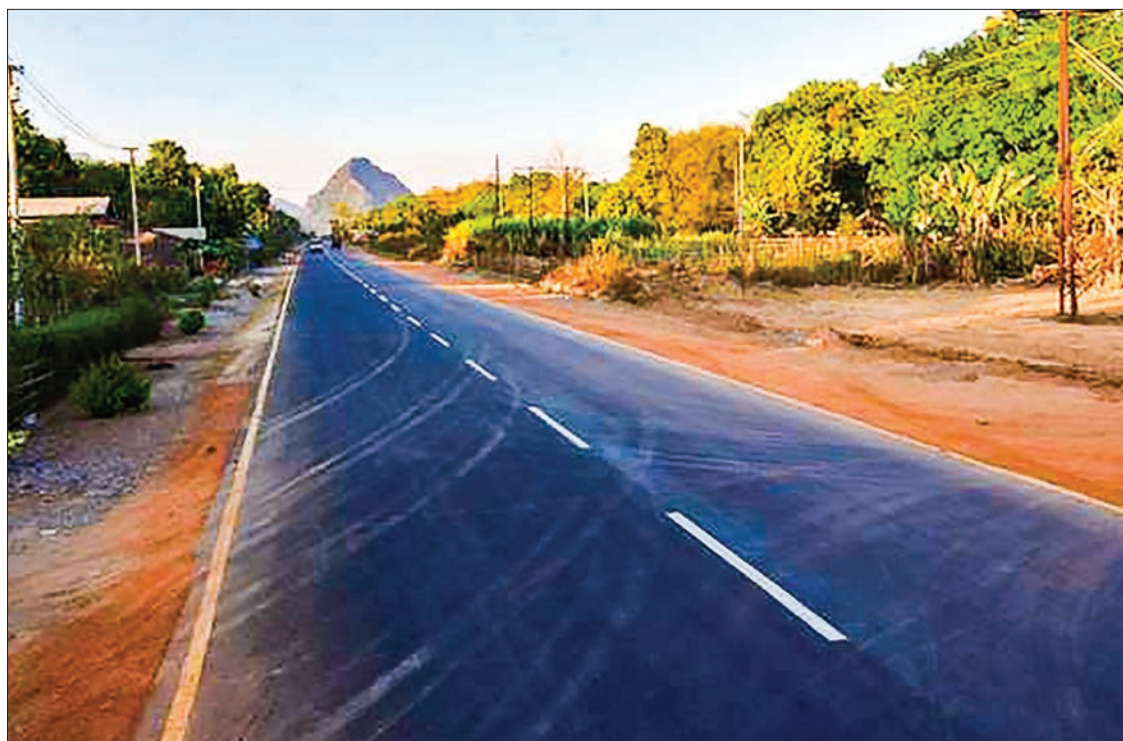
Rule of Law

Rehabilitation efforts for drug addicts are underway. There is a center that is set to build near Hpa-an industrial area for rehabilitation on 6.34 acres of land. The hospital and clinics in the state has also helped 350 addicts in the past year towards recovery.

The State Parliament members, committee members, department heads and other representatives are working with other respective governments to help solve complaints and concerns from the public. They also receive consultation and advice from other law experts and local authorities as well.

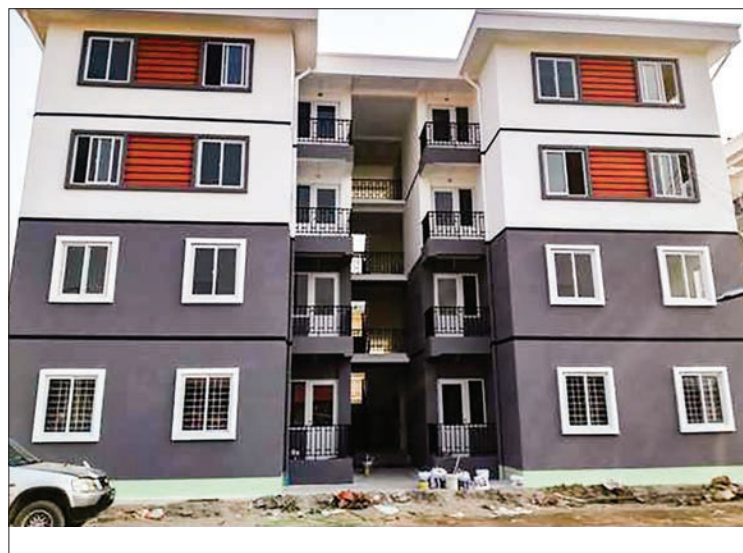
The Kayin State government is putting their best efforts into developing the State's financial and physical structure and hope to continue this forward together with the people of the State and the Union.

(Translated by Myat Thu)



The Eindu-Zarthabyin road expanded and paved with nylon concrete.

Rehabilitation efforts for drug addicts are underway. There is a center that is set to build near Hpa-an industrial area for rehabilitation on 6.34 acres of land. The hospital and clinics in the state has also helped 350 addicts in the past year towards recovery.



A residential building for retired persons in Kayin State.



A training course for farm workers in progress.



A farmer demonstrates a rice planting machine to students from State Agriculture Institution (Zwegabin).



Police explain about crimes and the danger of narcotic drugs.



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint presents cash assistance to a pregnant woman in Kyar Inn Seik Gyi.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation: Making policies to ...



Photo shows farmlands irrigated by Khapaung Dam in the area.

FROM PAGE-9

Q: What has the Small-Scale Industries Department accomplished?

A: Their main duty is to help develop small scale industries, weaving businesses, traditional crafts and artisans and vocational businesses. They do this by spreading technology

and skills where necessary.

We have conducted 366 short-term vocational courses from 2018 to April 2019 and 1,145 courses in the three-year period. This has allowed the people to set up their own businesses, increase their income and create more job opportunities.

We have registered 6,889 small-scale industries in the

three-year period and conducted chemical tests on products 9,257 times.

We have organized the Small-Scale Industries Product Fair, Myanmar Lacquer Fair, Traditional 10 Artisan Skills Product Fair, and fundraising events eight times in the states and regions. We have also expanded microfinance services to eight townships.

Q: What have you accomplished in the livestock sector?

A: The Livestock Breeding & Veterinary Department collects data on the number of livestock and issued an evaluated list on 10 January this year.

The department checks and issues health approval certificates for exporting livestock and cooperates with the Ministry of Commerce to implement good livestock breeding practices and finding new markets. This has generated US\$539.266 million.

Q: What has the Department of Fisheries accomplished?

A: The department accompanied the research vessel Dr. Fridjog Nansen to discover breeding spots, spawning points and the appearance of microplastics in the flesh of fish.

Export of fishery products from April 2018 to February 2019 has generated US\$649.245 million. We have cooperated with the Ministry of Education to open classes that teach about the fishing industry and include practical courses in Yangon University. Furthermore, we have completed building the necessary infrastructure to open the Twantay Marine Institute in Twantay Fishery Department, Yangon Region.

Q: Could you tell us what the Department of Rural Development has achieved?

A: We cooperated with UNICEF to provide access to clean drinking water in rural

areas. We drew a programme for rural water supply and investment and conducted 1,051 water access projects in 989 villages. This has benefitted 708,000 people. We will continue about 2,209 water access projects in the 2018-2019 fiscal year.

Q: Do you have anything else you wish to say to our readers?

A: We will continue to work in line with the components of the Agriculture Development Strategy which include increasing the capacity for administration and skills, raising production and increasing income of farmers, and promoting competitive skills.

We will continue to work amongst our staff and with other relevant individuals and organizations through perseverance, determination, unity, innovation and good communication as we head towards the future together with all the citizens of Myanmar.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

Sri Lanka says wanted extremist died in hotel attack

COLOMBO (Sri Lanka)—An extremist leader considered a central figure in Sri Lanka's Easter suicide bombings died in the attacks, the president said Friday as the police chief became the latest figure to quit over the failure to prevent the massacre.

With the country still on edge, heavy security was put in place for Friday prayers at mosques, but authorities revised down the bombings' toll to 253 dead from 359, saying some badly mutilated bodies had been counted twice.

President Maithripala Sirisena told reporters that local extremist Zahran Hashim, believed to be a key player in the attacks, died in one of the blasts at three packed churches and three luxury hotels used by foreign tourists.

"What intelligence agencies have told me is that Zahran was killed during the Shangri-La attack," he said. He said Hashim led the attack against the hotel and was accompanied by a second bomber, who has been identified as Ilham Ibrahim. Authorities had been on a desperate hunt for Hashim after the government named his group, National Thowheeth Jama'ath as perpetrators of the attack. Hashim, who founded the NTJ, appeared in a video released by

the Islamic State group when it claimed the strikes. He is seen leading seven others in a pledge of allegiance to the IS chief. With the country on the defensive over ignored foreign warnings that attacks were likely, police chief Pujith Jayasundara became the second major resignation.

Sri Lanka's top defence ministry official Hemasiri Fernando stepped down late Thursday and the inspector general of police has also tendered his resignation, Sirisena announced, insisting that security institutions must "take responsibility." "The defence secretary (Fernando) and IGP must take responsibility for the security failure," Sirisena said. "That is why I asked them both to resign before I hold a disciplinary inquiry." The government has faced recriminations over its failure to prevent the attacks despite receiving warnings.

Indian intelligence shared several warnings about planned attacks with Sri Lankan authorities, an Indian source told AFP, but the information was not given to ministers, in what Colombo has called a "major" lapse. The military has poured troops into the streets to bolster police as they search for suspects using newly granted powers under a state of



Soldiers stand guard outside a mosque ahead of Friday noon prayers in Colombo as many Muslims fear retaliation for the Easter Sunday attacks. PHOTO: AFP

emergency. At least 74 people are in custody so far, including a man believed to be the father of two of the bombers.

Suspect photo blunder

Police on Thursday released the names and photos of six wanted suspects — three men and three women. But in an embarrassing blunder they later admitted the photo accompanying the names of one of the female

suspects was incorrect. The photo was in fact of an American Muslim activist. Police say however that the name of the wanted suspect is correct. Nationwide, security remained tight, including at mosques in the country ahead of weekly Friday prayers.

Sri Lanka's Muslim Affairs Minister Abdul Haleem on Thursday urged mosques to cancel Friday prayers in solidarity with the Catholic church which has

announced it is suspending all public services over security fears. Muslim communities have also expressed fears of a backlash after the attacks, so it was not immediately clear how many people would gather at mosques for the Friday afternoon prayers.

At the Shaikh Usman Waliullah Shrine and Masjid, a Sufi mosque in Colombo, only a handful of worshippers had arrived by midday on Thursday. —AFP ■

North Korea's Kim says US acting in 'bad faith'

VLADIVOSTOK (Russia)—Kim Jong Un has accused the US of acting in “bad faith” in talks on its nuclear arsenal, North Korean state media said Friday as he left Russia following his first summit with President Vladimir Putin.

Kim's armoured train departed the Far Eastern port city of Vladivostok a day after talks that saw Putin back the North's need for “security guarantees” in its standoff with the United States. The official Korean Central News Agency reported that Kim told Putin the US had adopted a “unilateral attitude in bad faith” at a summit with US President Donald Trump two months ago in Hanoi.

“Peace and security on the Korean peninsula will entirely depend on the US future attitude, and the DPRK will gird itself for every possible situation,” Kim was quoted as saying.

The Kim-Trump summit broke down in late February without a deal, after cash-strapped Pyongyang demanded immediate relief from sanctions but the two sides disagreed over what the North was prepared to give up in return.

Russia has called for the sanctions to be eased, while the US has accused it of trying to help Pyongyang evade some of the measures—accusations Moscow denies. Just a week ago, Pyongyang demanded the



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un told President Vladimir Putin the US had acted in 'bad faith' at his summit with Donald Trump, KCNA said. **PHOTO: AFP**

removal of US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo from the stalled nuclear talks, accusing him of derailing the process. On Thursday, Putin emerged from the meeting saying that like Washington, Moscow supported efforts to reduce tensions and prevent nuclear conflicts.

Visit cut short?

But he also insisted that the North needed “guarantees of its security, the preservation of its sovereignty”.

It was “what the North has been saying all along” said Kim Keun-sik, professor of North Korean Studies at Kyungnam University, adding that Putin's support for Pyongyang's stance was the “biggest prize” Kim won in Vladivostok. Putin flew on to

another summit in Beijing the same day, while Kim stayed in Vladivostok and had been due to take part in a series of cultural events.

But the mercurial North Korean kept officials in suspense about his post-summit plans.

A wreath-laying ceremony was delayed by two hours on Friday morning, with an honour guard kept waiting and the red carpet rolled up. Kim eventually showed up and the wreath was laid. Solemn music played as he stood, hat in hand wearing a black double-breasted waistcoat.

Russian media had reported that Kim would be visiting the city's aquarium and seeing a ballet, but the visit was apparently cut short. Kim instead turned up at the train station in the afternoon and, after a final

departure ceremony with a military band, boarded his train and left around 3:30 pm (0530 GMT).

Regional governor Oleg Kozhemyako told journalists that Kim had also been to a restaurant that his father had previously visited. The North Koreans ate Russian food and listened to “traditional Russian folk songs that they know very well and love,” Kozhemyako said.

“He promised to come back, he liked the city, he liked the region; we tried to do everything,” Kozhemyako said

The summit saw both leaders saying they were looking to strengthen ties that date back to the Soviet Union's support for the founder of North Korea, Kim's grandfather Kim Il Sung. —AFP ■

Singapore's citizen unemployment rate grew slightly

SINGAPORE—Singapore's Ministry of Manpower announced on Friday that the country's seasonal adjusted citizen unemployment rate inched up slightly from 3.1 per cent in December 2018 to 3.2 per cent in March 2019. Meanwhile, the overall unemployment rate and the resident unemployment rate held steady this March at 2.2 per cent and 3 per cent, respectively, according to the advance release of the Labour Market Report for the first quarter of 2019.

Singapore's employment, excluding foreign domestic workers, increased by 12,000 in the first quarter of 2019, compared to 14,700 in the previous quarter and 400 in the year-earlier period. The ministry said the employment growth in the first quarter of 2019 was mainly in services sectors, such as community, social and personal services, administrative and support services, professional services, financial services, and transportation and storage. —Xinhua ■

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No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration No
1	Dami	Azoxystrobin 200g/l +Difenoconazole 125g/l	Provisional	P2018-4370
2	Hex	Hexaconazole 10%SC	Provisional	P2018-4346
3	Metar	Metaldehyde 6% GR	Provisional	P2018-4343

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2	BNS Ame A	Ametryn 80% WDG	Provisional	E2018-4342

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M.V RATANA THIDA VOY. NO. (134 W/E)

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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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING
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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 SHIPPING
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Sagaing's Saphogyi waterfall set to be new tourist spot

SAGAING Region's Directorate of Hotels and Tourism plans to develop the Saphogyi waterfall in Kani Township as a tourist destination to attract local and foreign travelers.

The waterfall is located at Saphogyi Village in the Maedin Village-tract of Kani Township, along the Monywa-Yar-gyi-Kalewa highway road. Twinma Lake is within easy reach of the spot.

Sagaing Region's Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Oo, regional representatives, officials from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, and other concerned officials visited the waterfall to discuss the necessary arrangements to boost tourism, said U Aung Thu, the head of Sagaing Region's Direc-

torate of Hotels and Tourism.

"Located at a distance of 37 miles from Monywa, Saphogyi is the nearest waterfall from the township.

The Saphogyi waterfall is two miles from Maedin village in Kani Township. There is smooth transportation from Monywa to Kani Township. The Government is planning to ensure good road access first, and then, it plans to develop the Saphogyi waterfall as a leading resort.

Locals and visitors from nearby areas are currently visiting the waterfall," he said.

The Sagaing Region Government and concerned officials will inspect transportation facilities for visitors, he added.—Ko Min (Indaw) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)



Locals and visitors from surrounding areas visit the Saphogyi waterfall. **PHOTO: KO MIN (INDAW)**

Geographical Society team makes 8-day 'snow to sea' trip

A TEAM from the Geographical Society of Myanmar travelled from Nagmon in Kachin State to the Bayintnaung cape in Kawthoung Town of Taninthayi Region this month, covering the journey of the distance of 2,800 miles in eight days.

The 40-member expedition team started their 'Snow to Sea' trip spanning from

North to South of Myanmar on 17 April, and reached their destination at 6 a.m. on 24 April. They made the trip in 18 4WD cars.

Upon reaching the Bayintnaung Cape, they were welcomed by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Khin Zaw, Taninthayi Regional Hluttaw representative U Nay Tun,

officials, and members of the Kawthoung Cycling Club.

The Geographical Society of Myanmar was founded with the aim of observing and researching the lifestyle of the ethnic people across Myanmar, and the country's specific natural features, such as rivers, forests, wildlife, weather, and other geographical features.

The society conducts research and applied research programs at higher education institutions, and undertakes practical projects in collaboration with global universities and experts, according to the group's leader, Dr. Kyaw Zaya Myaing.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

K600 mln compensated to farmers for Tarlay side road construction project

THE General Administration Department of Tarlay Town in the eastern Shan State compensated over K600 million to 94 farmers for farmland and crops for Tarlay side road construction project on 24 April at the General Administration Department in

Tarlay Town, the eastern Shan State.

At the ceremony, the regional representatives, U Myint Naing, administrator of the Tachilek District Farm Management Committee, related officials and farmers attended.

U Myint Naing paid the farmland compensation depending on the acres to the 94 farmers who had been removed from their farmlands for road construction project. Moreover, he said that they made many times of inspection and negotiations with

the farmers to compensate for construction project. After the land compensation was handed over to the farmers, they are planning to start the Tarlay side road construction project in Tarlay Town.—Myint Mo (Tachilek) ■ (Translated by La Wonn)



Electric fire destroy Withurama monastery in Shwebo Township. **PHOTO: CHIT SAN**

Short-circuit fire occurred at monastery in Shwebo

AN electrical short-circuit fire broke out at the Withurama monastery in Shwebo Township, Sagaing Region, on 26 April around 1.50 a.m., according to the report.

Officials from Shwebo District Fire Service Department, 40 firefighters, 33 policemen, 15 members of Red Cross Society, five people from Rescue Organization and 150 residents extinguished the fire with six fire engines.

The fire was brought out under the control at 2.13 a.m.

and totally put out around 2.40 a.m.

The fire was initiated from an overheated meter box inside the monastery and the blaze was spread to the adjacent building.

The electric fire engulfed two buildings in the monastery.

The total losses are estimated over K3.7 million.

Action is being taken against U Myint Kyaw, 42 under Section 285 of the Penal Code by the Shwebo Township Police Force.—Chit San ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Myanmar spends \$1.2 bln on import of CMP raw materials

IMPORTS of raw materials used by CMP (cut-make-pack) businesses crossed US\$1.2 billion between October and mid-April, an increase of more than \$210 million from the corresponding period of the previous fiscal, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the last FY, Myanmar spent \$1

billion on imports of CMP raw materials from partner countries.

During the week from 12 through 19 April, the country bought CMP raw products worth more than \$19.7 million, an increase of almost \$5 million from the same period in the previous FY, when CMP imports were pegged at \$14.7 million.

CMP is one of the four major groups of import products. In Myanmar, garment factories as well as businesses manufacturing bags and slippers primarily operate under the CMP system. The garment industry mostly imports raw materials from Japan, South Korea, and some European countries and exports finished products to those coun-

tries.

Besides CMP raw materials, Myanmar also imports capital goods, intermediate products, and consumer goods from countries in Southeast Asia, Asia, Africa, Europe, and America.

As of 19 April in the current fiscal, Myanmar has imported capital goods worth \$3.15 billion, intermediate goods worth \$3.65

billion, and consumer goods worth \$1.8 billion, totalling \$8.6 billion. Barring CMP raw materials, imports of capital goods, intermediate goods, and consumer products have declined by over \$826 million compared to the previous fiscal. —Khin Khant ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Units at Kyan Sit Min housing project to be sold in May

AROUND 180 units at Part-1 of the Kyan Sit Min low-cost and affordable housing project in Hlinethaya Township will be put on sale in May. Buyers will be given the option of availing home loans and paying for the units in instalments, according to officials with the Department of Urban and Housing Development.

Only those buyers who have an account with the Construction, Housing, and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID Bank) and have deposited the prescribed savings amount can avail the home loan facility.

Currently, about 3,042 people have deposited over K3 million in their savings accounts with the CHID bank. Buyers will have to register with the Urban and Housing Development Department under the Ministry of Construction between 22 and 26 April.

“We will be selling 180 flats at Kyan Sit Min housing project Part-1. Interested buyers will have to make a 50-per cent down payment for the affordable flats, and a 30-per cent down payment for the low-cost is ready to sell



Kyan Sit Min low-cost and affordable housing in Hlinethaya.

PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE

to the public apartments. The remaining amount can be paid in instalments by taking out a home loan,” said an official from the Department of Urban and Housing Development.

Depending on the number of apartments that remain unsold, interested buyers who have registered their names will be assigned flats through a lucky draw system on 3 May. The department will announce the list of buyers on 29 April.

The apartments in the five-storeyed buildings are priced between K10.2 million and K14.2 million, depending on the floor. The homes are available in two sizes — 484 square feet and 522 square feet.

In addition, the project has larger flats, measuring 650 square feet, which are priced between K21.4 million and K27.4 million, depending on the floor.—Myint Maung Soe ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Border trade value reaches \$ 5.5 bln this FY

BORDER trade between Myanmar and its four neighbouring countries has reached US\$ 5.5 billion from 1 October to 19 April this fiscal year, up by \$420 million matched against the same period last fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade value included \$3.9 billion in exports and \$1.6 billion in imports. Compared with last FY, export earning went up by \$556 million, while the import value declined by \$89.4 million. Last year between 1 October and 19 April, border trade was valued at \$5.05 billion.

Myanmar is trading with her neighboring countries—China, India, Bangladesh and Thailand. Sino-Myanmar border trade is carried out through Muse, Lwejel, Kanpiketee, Chin Shwe Haw and Kengtung gates while Myanmar is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed.

The country's border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sit-tway and Maungtaw as well as Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, HteeKhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

Among all the gates, the Muse border gate sees the largest volume and value of

total border trade, with an estimated value of over \$2.7 billion, followed by HteeKhee with \$1.2 billion and Myawady with \$484 million.

Myanmar mainly export agricultural products, animal products as well as forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country.

Currently, some 80 per cent of the country's external trade is carried out via sea routes.—Zwe ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Women earn extra income in tamarind harvest season

WOMEN workers, particularly from arid zones, employed at a wholesale centre in Nay Pyi Taw said they have cause for cheer this tamarind season as they have been able to generate more income for their families.

Women are working as day labourers in Tatkon Township in the Nay Pyi Taw council area, collecting ripe tamarind from trees growing in the wards and villages across the township and getting it ready for the market.

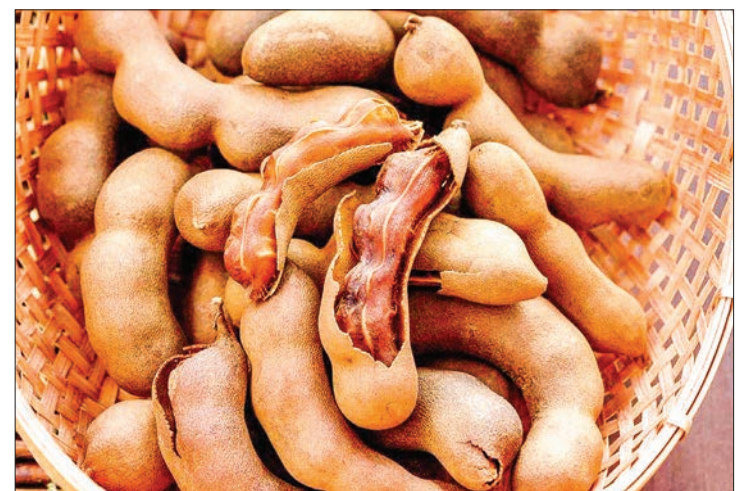
About 40 women are currently employed at the Shwe-myintmo Wholesale Centre in Tatkon Township, said one woman labourer from Kantha village. With demand at wholesale centres on the rise, women engaged at such es-

tablishments are generating extra income for their families, she said.

“We are from Kantha village in the Byaingin Village-tract. We are currently involved in the production of ripe tamarind. Our major work is peeling tamarind pods and removing the hard shells by hand. A skilled worker can produce 50-60 viss (540-716 pounds) of ripe tamarind a day and earn about K6,000 as wages,” said another woman worker.

Fresh ripe tamarind produced in Tatkon is mainly sent to the Yangon market.

Tamarind is one of the country's export products, and enjoys a demand mostly in Thailand and Singapore.—Tin Soe Lwin ■ (Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Newly harrvested tamarinds. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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Myanmar bags three golds at International Karate Friendship Tournament 2019

THREE young Myanmar athletes won gold at the International Karate Friendship Tournament 2019, held on 20 and 21 April in Tokyo, Japan, according to the International Karate Organization (Myanmar).

Seven athletes from Myanmar, led by trainer Shihan U Min Lwin, participated in the competition. Three young athletes, Seng Let Aung, Ja La, and San Mai Nu picked up gold medals for Myanmar at the event.

Seng Let Aung won in the 5-year-old boys and girls category, Ja La took the first place in the 8-year-old boys' category, and San Mai Nu grabbed the first position in the 7-year-old girls' category.

A total of 1,700 athletes from 40 countries, including host Japan, karate powerhouse Russia, Hungary, and Poland participated in the meet.

Myanmar's gold medalists will now participate in the World Youth Tournament 2019, which will be held on 22 November.

Speaking about the team's success at the meet, Shihan U Min Lwin said: "We are on the right track. It's a result of the combined efforts of all ECS, BCS, DOPS, Senseis, Senseis, Kohais, and parents in the various states and divisions of Myanmar."

"From this experience, IKO MYANMAR has also learnt a lot about improving our fighters performance and preparing them for future IKO International Tournaments," he said.

"Lastly, I would like to stress that although IKO MYANMAR will do its utmost to make our members stronger in IKO International Events, one must not forget that Kyokushin karate is Budo karate. If all our



Three young Myanmar athletes seen with their gold medals at the Karate Friendship Tournament 2019 in Tokyo, Japan. **PHOTO: IKO (MYANMAR)**

focus goes into winning tournaments, we will become limited to sports karate," he said.

"Sports karate is just a fraction of Budo karate. Our main

aim is to make ourselves physically, mentally, and spiritually stronger day by day, and making our members ideal citizens, and in working to make our society

and country a better place to live in," he added.

He then thanked the supporters of the IKO Myanmar team.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Myanmar striker San Thaw Thaw celebrates her goal during the AFC U-19 Women's Qualifiers against Uzbekistan at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

AFC Qualifiers: San Thaw Thaw leads Myanmar to victory against Uzbekistan

A header off a free kick scored by San Thaw Thaw helped Myanmar beat Uzbekistan at the AFC U-19 Women's Championship Thailand 2019 at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay yesterday.

Myanmar lined up with goalkeeper Zu Latt Nadi, Naw Htet Htet Wai, Captain Zune Yu Ya Oo, Nant Zu Zu Htet, May Phu Ko, San Thaw Thaw, Nwe Ni Win, Moe Ma Ma Soe, Lin Myint Mo, Pont Pont Pyae Maung, and Phyu

Phyu Win. Myanmar dominated the match from the start, and its victory hinged on a goal scored by young striker San Thaw Thaw in the first half. San Thaw Thaw scored the first and only goal in the match at the 41st minute.

The second half of the match proved to be as exciting as the first, with frequent attacks by both teams. Uzbekistan upped their game in the second half, as they needed a win to advance to

the next stage. But, Myanmar's defence line and keeper Zu Latt Nadi put up a strong fight. Uzbekistan failed to convert their goal chances, and the match ended 1-0 in favour of Myanmar.

In an earlier match of the Qualifiers, Australia routed Nepal 11-1 at the same venue.

After yesterday's win, Myanmar is more confident of advancing to the next stage of the tourney.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Week-9 national league matches begin today

THE Week-9 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League 2019 will start today, and are scheduled to take place in Yangon and other major cities across Myanmar.

Rakhine United will face Hantharwady United at the Waitharli Stadium in Sittway today. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV and MRTV-4 Channels, according to the MNL.

The same day, another much-anticipated match has been scheduled between Sagaing United and Magwe F.C. at Monywa Stadium in Monywa. Meanwhile, Zwegapin United

will play against Chinland F.C. at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

On 28 July, the defending champions of the national league, the Yangon United F.C. will take on Dagon F.C. at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. The same day, Yadanarbon F.C. will face Southern Myanmar F.C. at the Mawlamyine Stadium in Mawlamyine, the home stadium of Southern Myanmar. Another match will feature Ayeywaday United against Shan United at the Patheingyi Stadium, and the match will be broadcast on MRTV.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Neymar headlines returning cast as PSG target French Cup

PARIS (France)—Paris Saint-Germain's pursuit of a fifth successive French Cup title will be bolstered by the return of Neymar and Edinson Cavani from long-term injuries for Saturday's showdown with Rennes at the Stade de France. Brazil star Neymar made his first appearance since January 23 as a second-half substitute in Sunday's 3-1 win over Monaco as PSG celebrated clinching a sixth Ligue 1 crown in seven years. Cavani also returned to action, coming on for the final 17 minutes, as PSG's famed front three—which has accounted for 78 goals this

season—were reunited after months apart. Coach Thomas Tuchel admitted he "worried" for PSG's prospects after they blew a third chance to wrap up the league at Nantes last week, but the German struck a more positive note after watching his team belatedly seal the title.

"Our objective is clear: to win the double. We have to win on Saturday," said Tuchel, who is also set to welcome back Angel Di Maria after six weeks out. "The French Cup is very important to us, and we hope to clinch it and leave nothing for the others," added goalkeeper Alphonse Areola,

his thoughts echoed by defender Marquinhos. "A title is always about honour and pride. We all know what our goal for the season is, and that's to win a maximum number of titles for the club," said the Brazilian. Anything less than a domestic double for PSG, attempting to lift the French Cup for a record 13th time, would cast further gloom over the Qatari-backed club after their latest European failure. But Gianluigi Buffon expects Rennes, who enjoyed their best ever run on the continent this year by reaching the Europa League last 16, to present a tricky test.—AFP ■