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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits Bayon temple at Angkor in Cambodia yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor visits Angkor Wat, Bayon temple; arrives back in Nay Pyi Taw

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her entourage who are on an official visit to Cambodia, arrived in Siem Reap from Phnom Penh at 9:30 am yesterday. They were welcomed there by the Siem Reap Province

Governor Mr. Tea Seiha, and wife and the officials at the Siem Reap International Airport.

They proceeded to the Angkor Wat temple along with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister

of Foreign Affairs Mr. Prak Sokhonn and offered flower, water and candles to Buddha images.

Afterwards, the State Counsellor and her entourage paid a visit to the Bayon temple. **SEE PAGE-2**

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Following the visits to the temples, the State Counsellor

and party attended the luncheon hosted by the governor and wife at the Sokha Resort Hotel.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr. Myo Aung and wife at Nay Pyi Taw Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the party visit Bayon Temple at Angkor Wat in Cambodia yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

After the visit, the State Counsellor and party left for Nay Pyi Taw and they were seen off by Cambodian Minister of Women's Affairs Dr. Kantha Phavi, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia U Myint Soe, Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sok Chea, the governor of Siem Reap, wife and officials.

The State Counsellor and party arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the evening, and were welcomed by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Chief of Myanmar

Police Force Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and wife, Chargé d'affaires, a.i., of the Cambodian Embassy in Myanmar Ms. Dy Yoeun and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.— MNA

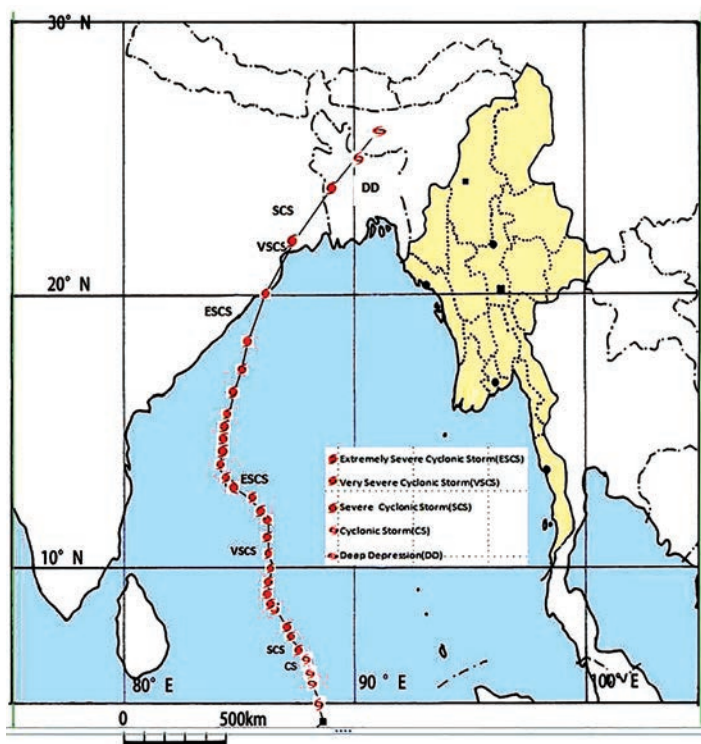
(Translated by Alphonsus)

Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm approaches India

ACCORDING to the observations at 10:30 pm yesterday, the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm "FANI" over the Southwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining Westcentral Bay of Bengal has moved North-North-westwards and intensified into an Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm "FANI".

It is centered at about 260 miles East-Northeast of Chennai (India), 270 miles Southeast of Machilipatnam and 275 miles South-Southeast of Vishakhapatnam. It is forecast to move North-westwards. It is not moving towards Myanmar coasts, the present stage of the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm is coded yellow stage.

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Inle Khaung Daing Luyechun Camp opens



Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing and U Han Zaw and State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut open the Inle Khaung Daing Luyechun vacation camp. **PHOTO: THIHA SITHU**

THE Inle Khaung Daing Luyechun vacation camp for 2019 was opened in a ceremony at the basic education high school in Khaung Daing Village yesterday morning.

Union level ministers and other officials attended the opening ceremony.

Firstly, Deputy Education Minister U Win Maw Tun, State Hluttaw Speaker U Sai Lone Saing, State Social Affairs Minister Dr. Myo Tun, Deputy Director-General Dr. Tin Maung Win of the Basic Education Department and the camp master cut ceremonial

ribbons to formally open the Luyechun camp.

Next, Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Win Khaing and U Han Zaw and State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut unveiled the camp's sign. After that, the Chief Minister delivered a speech and pinned a badge on a Luyechun student representative.

Following this, the Union Ministers, Deputy Minister and State Ministers went about pinning badges on the Luyechun students in the camp.

Afterwards, the ministers and officials handed over sou-

venirs for the opening ceremony to the camp master and Luyechun members from 1964-88 batch.

After the opening ceremony, the Luyechun students looked around the department exhibitions set up for the opening event.

In the afternoon, the Luyechun students started a session on sharing regional knowledge. They will be visiting Inle Lake this morning. —Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn)

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. 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)

Let me solemnly thank all our friends at home and abroad, who have helped us and are still helping us; organizations, business entrepreneurs, people from academia and professionals, and especially our people who have supported and assisted us with understanding and empathy. Those who have helped us once, we should never forget. Those who have helped us again and again are our real friends; they bring fulfillment to our lives.

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

Press Release on Official Visit of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to Kingdom of Cambodia

1. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia from 29 April to 1 May 2019 at the invitation of Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, and arrived back Nay Pyi Taw on 1 May 2019.
2. The Myanmar delegation led by the State Counsellor arrived Phnom Penh International Airport via Kunming, People's Republic of China in the afternoon of 29 April 2019 and welcomed at the airport by Dr. Kantha Phavi, Minister for Women Affairs of Cambodia.
3. In the evening, the State Counsellor visited Myanmar Embassy in Phnom Penh and met with U Myint Soe, Myanmar Ambassador to Cambodia, staffs and family members of Myanmar Embassy and Defence Attache' Office at the Embassy and attended a dinner hosted by Myanmar Ambassador.
4. In the morning of 30 April 2019, the State Counsellor and party attended the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Independence Monument. Then, the State Counsellor laid a wreath at the Monument of Preah Borom Ratanak Kaudh, the Late King-Father of Cambodia.
5. The State Counsellor and party proceeded to the Prime Minister's Office (Peace Palace) and attended the official welcoming ceremony by Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena

- Padei Techo HUN SEN, and held the bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen. During the meeting, the two leaders discussed matters on a wide range of issues pertaining to promoting bilateral relations and cooperation, especially enhancing cooperation in the areas of trade and investment, education, culture and tourism, and expanding cooperation in the regional groupings including ASEAN and Ayeyawady-Chao Phraya-Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy (ACMECS). They also exchanged views on regional and international issues and further strengthening cooperation at the international fora including at the United Nations and Non-Aligned Movement in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter and the Bandung principles.
6. The two leaders also discussed to jointly celebrate the 65th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries in 2020 and to find ways in coordinating between the two sides to be able to sign Agreements on Promotion and Protection of Investment and Avoidance of Double Taxation, and to effectively implement signed Agreements including MoU on Cooperation in Education. They also discussed to exchange of scholarship and to coordinate between the two countries to find ways to link the tour arrangement for significant Buddhist cultural sites including Bagan and Ankor Wat. At the meeting, the State



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with King of Cambodia His Majesty Norodom Sihamoni at the Cambodia King's Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. **PHOTO: MNA**

6. The State Counsellor expressed her appreciation to the Government of Cambodia for its contribution of US\$ 90,000 for the humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State. The State Counsellor extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of Cambodia to visit Myanmar at a mutually convenient time.
7. The State Counsellor also met with Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei HENG SAMRIN, President of the National Assembly and Samdech Vibol Sena Pheakdey SAY Chhum, President of the Senate on separate occasions. They exchanged views on enhancing cooperation in sharing experiences between the two Parliaments, and promoting exchanges of delegation of the two Parliaments.
8. After the meeting, the State Counsellor paid a royal audience on His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boroneath NORODOM SIHAMONI, King of Cambodia at the Royal Palace. They discussed matters to enhance the existing friendly relations and cooperation, promoting people-to-people contact and cultural exchanges and the State Counsellor extended a cordial invitation to the King to visit Myanmar at a mutually convenient time. The State Counsellor also paid a royal audience on Her Majesty NORODOM MONINEATH SHIHANOUK, Queen Mother of Cambodia at the Royal Palace.
9. In the afternoon, the State Counsellor attended the official dinner hosted by Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of Cambodia at the Peace Palace.
10. In the morning of 1-5-2019, the State Counsellor and party departed from Phnom Penh to Siem Reap Province by Special Flight and toured around the Angkor Wat Temple and Bayon Temple in Siem Reap Province together with H.E. Mr. PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. After that, the State Counsellor attended the Luncheon hosted by Mr. Tea Seiha, Governor of Siem Reap Province.
11. The State Counsellor and party left Siem Reap on 1 May 2019 and arrived back Nay Pyi Taw by Special Flight in the evening.
12. It was the State Counsellor's first visit to the Kingdom of Cambodia and she was accompanied by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce and responsible officials.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a meeting with Cambodia Prime Minister Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated: 1 May 2019

Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu attends opening ceremony of Bagan Luyechun Camp

AN opening ceremony of the Bagan Luyechun Vacation Camp was held at the Royal Emerald River View Resort Hotel, Bagan yesterday morning. First, the three Luyechun students (all-round outstanding students) cut the ceremonial ribbon for opening the archway of the camp.

In his opening speech at the event, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu said that the first need for youth is to expand a range of knowledge and wisdom with self-efforts, and the fundamental points included straightforwardness, discipline and having due regards for others.

In addition to this, it was needed to possess rational and



Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, officials and Luyechun students pose for a documentary photo in front of Bagan Luyechun Camp. **PHOTO: MIN MIN**

logical thinking skills besides acquiring intelligence while reading newspapers to keep abreast with the times.

Then Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Soe Than gave a welcome remark

and presented the brooches to the Luyechun Students in Grade 7. Next, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, ministers of the states and

regions, Hluttaw representatives, chair of the educational promotion committee, camp-in-charge officers, supervising teachers and Luyechun students posed for commemorative photographs together.

Following the opening ceremony, the Luyechun students paid a visit to the famous pagodas, including the Shwezigon, the Dhammayangyi, the Sulamani, the Thatbyinnyu, the Bu, the Katawpalin Temple, the Myazedi Stone Inscription and the Lawkananda pagodas.—Ko Min

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

UEHRD holds second coordination meeting for 2019

THE Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) held its second coordination meeting with Task Forces for 2019 at the meeting hall of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on Tuesday.

Speaking at the meeting, UEHRD's Deputy Chairman Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye said he is going to make required confirmation in producers and financial policies related to the untaken tasks in the meeting.

Not only Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement but also the Red Cross provided humanitarian assistances, the Union Minister said.



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye addresses the second coordination meeting of 2019 of the UEHRD at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The humanitarian assistances were also delivered under the UEHRD-Youth Volunteers Program.

The tasks of UEHRD Committee and Committee for Implementation on the recommendations of the Advisory Commission

on Rakhine State are the works needed to be carried out together, he added. According to the inspection teams on Rakhine

issue including ASEAN-ERAT, the main factor for stability and development in Rakhine State is to solve the stagnant social economic problems in Rakhine, taking priority over social harmony.

The functions of ten task forces of the UEHRD Committee are very important for social economic development and long-term conflict free in Rakhine State, said the Union Minister acknowledging the successfully implemented works.

Afterwards, members of the UEHRD Committee discussed their respective sectors, followed by the Union Minister's conclusion speech.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Suspect behind Taunggyi homicide apprehended

THE suspected killer behind the murder of four people at the Myin Phyu Nha Kaung (Two White Horses) traditional medicine house in Taunggyi, Shan State, on 28 April was apprehended the next morning, according to Myanmar Police Force.

The man is identified as Tin Ohn (a) Aik Ohn and was arrested together with almost a viss (3.6 lbs) of gold jewellery and over K700,000 in his possession.

Crime scene

On the day of the incident, Daw Aye Shwe, the owner of the traditional medicine house, was returning from a donation ceremony held at Kamma Htan monastery in Pinlone.

Upon reaching her house, Daw Aye Shwe discovered the deceased bodies of her son-in-

law Sai Say Mon, daughter Ma Nan Kham Hlaing, grandson Sai Pha Pha, and housemaid Ma Aye Moe in their home.

She also discovered that 15 gold jewellery and K4 million (about K155 million combined) were missing and opened a case at Taunggyi police station.

Police pursuit

Police received information from a law-abiding citizen that led to a search for the suspect. Coupled with evidence from the crime scene and successive investigations, police arrested suspect Tin Ohn at his home in Ahtet Myin Kwin village, Kyaukme Township, at 7am on 29 April.

Police from the Special Criminal Investigation department discovered a viss of gold jewellery and K720,000 in the

suspect's home yesterday that may be evidence of his involvement in the crime.

Motive for murder

Initial investigation reveals that Tin Ohn is a drug addict and cousin of Daw Aye Shwe, the owner of the traditional medicine house. Daw Shwe Aye's husband has passed away and they had no children of their own and so adopted one of Tin Ohn's sons from his first marriage.

That son is now married and living separately from Daw Aye Shwe. She is said to have adopted Ma Nam Kham Hlaing 20 years ago as well. Ma Nam Kham Hlaing lives with Daw Aye Shwe and leads the daily operations of the medicine store.

U Tin Ohn is said to have worried that his son would



U Tin Ohn (a) Aik Ohn

receive less inheritance and also about his own financial difficulties. This is said to have motivated him to team up with other unnamed suspects and mastermind the homicide.

The Myanmar Police Force is continuing investigations to apprehend the remaining suspects and recover the stolen items.—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The stolen gold jewellery and money from Myin Phyu Nha Kaung traditional medicine house. **PHOTO: MNA**

Soft loan agreement signed for national electrification plan

SOFT loan agreement for National Electrification Plan in collaboration with the Italian government was signed at the Department of Rural Development on 30 April.

At the event, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu said efforts were made to distribute electricity to the areas outside the realm of main power lines by long and short term implementations.

The department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation launched its first five year project in the 2016-2017 fiscal year and electricity have been supplied to about 9,874 villages.

About 229,000 households and 32,000 public institutions have gotten access to electricity through the solar power system in 2017- 2018 FY.

He went on to say that for the 24 hour electrification in 26

villages, solar power system, mini hydro power plant and bio-fuel-fired power plant are being implemented.

The ministry targeted to supply electricity to 237,000 households and 22,000 public institutions in this fiscal year. So far, loan of US\$68.22 million from the World Bank, contribution of US\$25.26 million from the State and US\$ 6.9 million from the public have been spent for the benefits of rural population.

He added that according to the survey by the World Bank and (ESMAP), solar power system will benefit the rural areas enormously and that about 25.6% of rural households outside the realm of national grid system are targeted to get access to electricity at the end of this fiscal year. He expressed his gratitude to the Italian government for the Euro 30 million loan.



Energy Sector Management Assistance Program Director-General U Khant Zaw and Italian Ambassador Ms. Alessandra Schiavo sign the soft loan agreement for NEP in the presence of Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu. **PHOTO: MNA**

Afterward, Italian Ambassador Ms. Alessandra Schiavo and Country Director of the World Bank Ms. Eilen Goldstein delivered key-note addresses.

The Director-General of the

Rural Area Development Department U Khant Zaw signed the soft loan agreement with the Italian ambassador and with the World Bank's country director for technical assistance.

This soft loan agreement will benefit rural population of 0.48 million in Chin state and surrounding area.—MNA ■

(Translated by Alphonsus)

New four-lane asphalt concrete road opened on Kalaw-Taunggyi highway



Union Ministers, officials and local residents pose on the four-lane asphalt concrete of the Kalaw-Taunggyi highway in southern Shan State. **PHOTO: MNA**

A section of the Meiktila-Kalaw-Taunggyi highway in southern Shan State was upgraded into an asphalt concrete road and formally opened with a ceremony yesterday.

The four-lane road is 48 feet long and covers the Kalaw-Taunggyi portion of the highway. It was completed under the B.O.T system by the highland road construction company.

Attending the ceremony were Union Ministers U Han Zaw, U Thant Sin Maung and U Win Khaing, State Chief Minister Dr. Lin Htut, Deputy Ministers U Kyaw Lin and U Win Maw

Tun, state ministers, Hluttaw representatives, department officials from the state, district and township levels, officials from relevant organizations, local residents and ethnic dance troupes.

U Han Zaw, the Union Minister for Construction, delivered a speech where he said the use of the B.O.T system enables the government to spend funds in other areas such as education, healthcare and other social sectors. He urged the people to respect the rules and pay service fees to maintain the high-quality roads built for them.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Workers' Day observed in Yangon

WITH Myanmar enacting the foreign investment law, workers must acquire modern skills to grab job opportunities that will emerge depending on foreign

fund inflows, said Union Minister for Labour, Immigration, and Population U Thein Swe.

He made the remarks at the annual celebration of the

International Labour Day, also known as May Day or International Workers' Day, at Hline-thaya in Yangon Region yesterday.

About 5,000 workers, including members of labour unions marched towards the Aungmyathar Sports Ground, holding banners of their respective labor unions, to mark Workers' Day.

“Our workers are urged to work hard to keep abreast with other countries, where the competition has become intense due to new technologies,” said the Union Minister. “Our workers must promote the image of our factories, which can meet re-

gional and international standards,” he added. The ceremony yesterday began with a message from President U Win Myint, which was read out by U Win Shein, the Director-General of the Department of Labour.

To improve the socio-economic condition of the people, the government has been carrying out reforms, amending and drafting laws concerning labourers, through tripartite meetings between representatives of employers, employees, and the government, said the Union Minister.

At the ceremony, Yangon Region's Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, President of the Confederation of Trade Union Myanmar (CTUM) U Maung Maung, Yangon Region Minis-

ter for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs and Labour Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, Vice Chairman of the Labour Affairs Committee of the National League for Democracy U Kyaw Htwe, an officer from the International Labour Organization (Yangon), General Secretary of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Aung Kyi Soe, and representatives of organizations concerned with labour affairs delivered keynote addresses.

The 7th celebration of Workers' Day was organized by the CTUM. Workers enjoyed the entertainment and games at the ceremony, and visited CTUM booths displaying labour activities.—Zaw Gyi ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*



Workers hold banners of labour unions and march towards Aungmyathar Sports Ground in Hline-thaya. **PHOTO: PHOE KHAR**

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Nine US firms explore partnership in areas of trade, investment in Myanmar

By Aye Yamone

THE representatives of nine American companies, led by the US Ambassador to Myanmar, Mr. Scot Marciel, met with Myanmar entrepreneurs to discuss cooperation in trade and investment in the country at the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce (UMFCCI) and Industry office on 30 April.

The nine companies whose representatives took part in the meeting were Chevron, Earth Networks, ITW Welding Singa-

pore, Xylerm Water Solutions, Astrophysics, Visa Myanmar, Fedex, GIS, and Arizona Tools Company.

At the meeting, UMFCCI chairman U Zaw Min Win said Chubb Life (USA) has been granted permission to operate an insurance company in Myanmar.

The US Ambassador to Myanmar said the business meeting held at the UMFCCI would provide good opportunities to entrepreneurs from both countries. The representatives from the nine American companies

came to Myanmar for the first time for the meeting, and they visited the Thilawa Special Economic Zone to explore opportunities for investment.

A total of 40 Myanmar entrepreneurs from the energy, oil and natural gas industry, water purification industry, information and communication technology industry, telecommunications, media, hotels and tourism, printing services, agriculture, livestock and fisheries, construction industry, banking industry, automotive industry, footwear industry, and trans-

portation industry attended the business meeting.

UMFCCI vice chairman Dr. Maung Maung Lay said that US companies are interested in exploring investment opportunities in Myanmar. "The potential investment in trade may amount to US\$1,000 million. Myanmar has been undertaking reforms to turn itself into a developed country.

In this regard, it is of paramount importance to get foreign companies to invest in Myanmar," he said. ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Special coffee zone set up in Thandaunggyi Township

COFFEE will be cultivated on 5,000 acres of land in Thandaunggyi Township, Kayin State, as part of a special coffee zone project, according to the state's Agriculture Department.

Officials said there are also plan to cultivate lychee, pomelo, avocado, rambutan, orange, durian, mangosteen, star anise, green tea leaf, and cardamom at the Shwenyaungpin orchard owned by the Thandaunggyi Township's Agriculture Department.

"We have inspected land preparation work for 5,000 acres of coffee farms and provided the necessary assistance," said U Than Htike, the head of the regional Agriculture Department.

"Five thousand acres of coffee farms have been registered under a special coffee zone project. The project aims



Ripe Coffee berries plucked off the tree in a farm in Thandaunggyi.

to fulfil the market demand in Thandaunggyi Township, produce value-added coffee, and create jobs for residents," he said.

"Coffee researchers and technicians are also required to cultivate quality coffee plants in Kayin State. At present, local farmer groups and coffee asso-

ciations are working together on the project. Coffee farms will be extended by using pedigree coffee seeds based on Thandaunggyi's weather, geography, and the requirements of growers," he added.

"Two types of coffee beans are being cultivated in Thandaunggyi region, depending

on the land. For instance, the Bawkali region is located 3,000 feet above sea level so, highland coffee beans are cultivated in the region, and lowland coffee varieties are being cultivated in Laketho and Thandaunglay regions as they are situated at an altitude below 3,000 feet. Good quality coffee can be exported if this project is successful," said U San Lwin, a coffee grower from Thandaunggyi township.

Expansion of cultivation is also a means of import-substitution, according to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Coffee grower groups need to be established for exchange of technical knowledge, and necessary support from concerned departments is required to produce value-added coffee products.—MYANTRADE ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Bonded Warehouse system set to provide boost to industries

THE Customs Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance, and the DaNa Facility, a UK aid funded programme, today launched the Developing Customs Bonded Warehouse system to introduce Customs officers and relevant stakeholders to the potential of a bonded warehouse system in supporting local industry, and to highlight the key components of a bonded warehouse programme in Myanmar.

Bonded warehouses are specifically designed to support industry, particularly those which import high value

and/or high import duty goods. Through bonded warehouses, these industry sectors will have the ability to defer their import duties and taxes until they themselves find customers willing to buy the goods or identify export markets, meaning that they can improve productivity and better manage their cash flows.

This system allows for exported finished goods to be more competitively priced in regional and global markets as this export pricing does not include embedded duty and tax charges. This system also enable to export through such an enhanced

competitive process brings in important income for the country. The significant cases are found in the garment exporting countries, where shorter lead-time is a competitive factor. Therefore, it will be a case for Myanmar.

"The Customs warehousing business has improved accompanied with increased job opportunities. Especially, opportunities for CMP manufacturing could increase in areas such as delivering goods to customers in real time, saving costs of transportation and manufacturing, allowing higher competitive ca-

pacities to enter international markets. Additionally, trade with neighbouring countries would be more developed if customs and bonded warehouses are situated at border points," said U Aung San Tun, Deputy Director General of the Customs Department.

Bonded warehouse systems not only streamlines international trading process and contributes to the transformation of key industries such as garments and other manufacturing, but also creates an environment conducive to linkages between SMEs and large multinational and local firms.—GNLM ■

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Clamping down on spurious inputs can keep farmers away from poverty

MYANMAR is an agro-based country. More than 70 per cent of the country's population is residing in rural areas, and most rural people are relying on agriculture for their livelihood.

To develop the country, we need to work to improve the socio-economic life of the rural people in every possible way.

To help farmers, the incumbent government has increased the amount of agricultural loans and is providing assistance to farmers in land preparation. The government has also been lending agricultural machinery and allowing farmers to buy machinery on instalment.

The government has also set the basic price of rice, the staple food of Myanmar, at K5,000 per basket so that growers do not suffer losses.

Meanwhile, the standard of inputs, such as pesticides, fertilizers, and seeds, has become an important factor in the production of quality crops.

Pesticides, fungicides, herbicides, crop seeds, and topsoil are available in the market when the growing season draws near.

We would like to urge the authorities to step up efforts to investigate spurious inputs in the market before they reach the farmland, at the request of farmers.

At the same time, businesses and organizations interested in trading agricultural inputs must follow the set procedures. For instance, those engaged in seed trading need to apply for a seed recognition certificate and then apply for a business license. A business license permits traders to only deal in crop seeds they

have obtained a certificate for. Only if they meet these requirements can businesses produce and distribute crop seeds, in accordance with the Seed Law.

Businesses seeking to import pesticides have to submit a sample product to the license verification board, which sends it to a laboratory for testing whether the sample meets the set standards. If all requirements are met, then a license is issued along with a permit from the Department of Agriculture.

The department also inspects every import shipment to see if it matches the specifications of the sample product submitted during the examination.

Shipments are only allowed to leave ports and enter the market after passing these inspections.

Farmers can send a product they are suspicious of to the local agriculture department, in accordance with the rules and regulations.

If the product does not match prior standards, then the matter can be relayed to a relevant committee for further action.

Ministry of Defence: Tatmadaw's endeavour for upholding "Our Three Main National Causes"; Fulfilling its national defence duties; Participating in national development works

"The Tatmadaw personnel were also undertaking tough trainings like other militaries as instructed by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in order to respond to any dangers including natural disaster that may befall on the country and its citizens."

Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win

BORN of the independence struggles, Myanmar Tatmadaw (Armed Forces) had been steadfastly performing the duty of national defence through the successive governments' terms. In doing so, it pays special attention to emergence of strong, efficient and patriotic armed forces which can defend the nation and its citizens competently.

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win attended a 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM), and 5th ADMM-Plus and related meetings from 19 to 20 October 2018 in the Republic of Singapore. The delegation shared views with other delegations on defence, safety and humanitarian support matters to aid in international and regional development, security and stability.

Similarly, a Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win attended an 8th Beijing Xiangshan Forum from 2018 October 24 to 27 in Beijing, People's Republic of China to discuss and share future defence cooperation involving all nations to support the understanding of world's security matters, assessing views on handling challenges, regional peace, stability and development.

Ministry of Defence and United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UN CTFMR) signed an

agreement on a plan of action for prevention of military recruitment of underage children on 27 June 2012 and a 13-member committee was formed. During the third one year term of the government, the government of Myanmar and UN CTFMR met twice in the Ministry of Defence and once in Yangon. Monitoring visits were made to two infantry regiments and two non-combatant units. Multiplier courses on preventing recruitment of children were conducted by Military Commands and were attended by 1,520 officers and 6,163 other ranks. The courses were conducted Military Command wise once every two months. Tatmadaw personnel found to have been recruited before reaching the age of 18 years were also being released from military duty according to Tatmadaw rules and regulations. 75 were released back to their parents or guardians on 31 August 2018 and a further 32 were released back to their parents or guardians on 31 March 2019. To prevent enlistment of under 18 years old and bone X-ray method was used to determine their ages. Using this method prevents recruitment of 1,636 under age recruits during the third one year period. And it had prevented unusual recruitment of under aged recruits during the third one year period.

Myanmar Tatmadaw in cooperation with UN CTFMR was following to the letter the Plan



Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win poses for a photo together with ministers from other countries at the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers' meeting in Singapore on 19 October 2018.

of Action agreement to increase the momentum of preventing military recruitment of minor children.

Tatmadaw agreed to a request by CTFMR on using the National Campaign Materials again and materials were aired from state-own TV, radios and newspapers starting from 9 May 2017. Tatmadaw was ensuring that there were no recruitment of under aged recruits for any reason and was cooperating fully with CTFMR for removing it from the list of countries using child soldiers.

A standing order had been issued for the Tatmadaw to respond and provide necessary assistant without waiting for any instruction or order whenever a natural disaster occurs. The Tatmadaw personnel were also undertaking tough trainings like other militaries as instructed by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in order to respond to any dangers including natural disaster that may befall on the country and its citizens. Whenever national calamities like fire, storm, flood and inundation, earthquake etc. strikes in Myanmar, Tatmadaw provides timely rescue and rehabilitation works while families of Tatmadaw personnel also provide victims

with cash, foods and consumer goods.

Tatmadaw provide security and helped evacuate 214 households to safety when there was a fire outbreak in nine states and regions. Help cleared four monasteries and 46 houses and provide relief assistance worth K 4.9 million. Tatmadaw also pro-

vide security and helped evacuate 979 households, cleared six monasteries and 96 houses in a fire outbreak in eleven states and regions while relief assistance worth more than K 2.6 million was provided.



Ceremony to hand over former child soldiers to their parents was held in Yangon on 31 March 2019.

and regions causes damages to religious, government and private buildings and houses. Tatmadaw helped evacuate 2,241 households, helped clear and repair 950 pagodas, 112 monasteries, 115 schools, 9 hospitals, 5,999

houses while transporting more

than 19.5 tons of relief goods by Tatmadaw (Air Force) planes and helicopters in three sorties and providing more than K 156 million worth of relief assistance. Due to heavy rains, flooding and inundation occurs in 13 states and regions. Tatmadaw helped evacuate 18,347 households, helped clear and repair two pagodas, 12 monasteries, 21 schools and 91 houses. Tatmadaw (Air Force) planes and helicopters flew six sorties to transport more than 6.91 tons of relief goods and provided more than K 115 million worth of relief assistance. During the three year period heavy rains causes flooding and inundation in 14 states and regions. Tatmadaw helped evacuate 30,198 households, helped clear and repair 30 pagodas, 87 monasteries, 73 schools, six hospitals and 1,182 houses. Tatmadaw (Air Force) planes and helicopters flew 47 sorties to transport more than 133.91 tons of relief goods and provided more than K 252 million of relief assistance. When there was a collapse of a spillway in Bago Region, a train was left stranded by overflowing waters. Tatmadaw transported 50 train personnel and 1,209 passengers between Bago Region Yedashe Town and Swa Railway Station by 18 City Buses. Debris and silts covering a school was also cleared as well as affected roads.

15 Tatmadaw (Navy) vessels also conducted search and rescue of 159 persons affected by natural disaster. When the Myaungmya Suspension bridge collapse, between 14 April 2018 to 1 April 2019, two Navy landing craft helped transport 555,237 persons in 12,432 trips. When there was flooding in Mon State and Bago Region Tatmadaw (Air Force) planes and helicopters transported more than 6.9 tons of relief supplies. In addition to this, for the ease of travel of locals and departmental officials in remote and difficult to travel areas, Tatmadaw (Air Force) planes and helicopters flew 116 sorties to transport 6,479 persons and transports 4.48 tons of cargo.

Coastal hospital ship Than-lwin and inland water hospital ship Shwepazun with four support vessels conducted five treatment trips and provided health care treatments to 39,352 patients. From 5 September 2018 to 30 January 2019 mobile medical teams provided help care treatments to 14,222 patients. During the three year term health care treatments were provided to 441,482 patients out of which 2,998 patients were transferred to Tatmadaw hospitals for further treatment. Tatmadaw medical specialists provided health care and health education services in 22 townships of Chin State and Naga region.



Service personnel of the Tatmadaw load relief aid onto a military helicopter to send to flood victims in Mawlamyine and Ye Townships.

Tatmadaw medical corps and Indian Army Medical Corps were serving as joint chair of ADMM (ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting)-Plus Experts' Working Group on Military Medicine (EWG on MM) for three years. Myanmar's ADDM-Plus EWG on MM hosted the 2nd ASEAN Military Medicine Conference (2nd AMMC) from 17 to 21 February 2019 in Melia Hotel, Yangon.

University Training Corps (UTC) was formed in 1952 as a reserve force and by 1988 it was expanded to UTC 1, UTC 2 and UTC 3. In academic year 2018-2019 the corps numbered UTC 1, UTC 2, UTC 3, UTC 4 and UTC 6 and trained 4,379. During the three year term a total of 15,995 were trained. In 2018 a total of 1,850 teachers and students

were given additional training at Tatmadaw training schools. Starting from 2016 to date a total of 4,904 teachers and students were given additional training at Tatmadaw training school. Advisory Committee had appointed 16 teachers of the Corps as honorary gazetted officers between 2014 and 2016. In academic year 2018-2019 arrangements were made to appoint 12 more teachers of the Corps as honorary gazetted officers.

Furthermore during 2019 a total of 302 students from University for Development of National Races (Ywathitgyi) were given basic military training at UTCs. Arrangements were made to

provide basic military trainings to students from Degree College for Development of National Races (Yangon and Sagaing) during academic year 2018-2019. From 2015 to date a total of 9,460 students from these education institutes were provided with basic military trainings.

The Tatmadaw, upholding "Our Three Main National Causes" (Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and Perpetuation of sovereignty), was performing its national defence duties and participating in the national development works and the works of Military of Defence during the third one year period was hereby presented.

(Translated by Handytips)



Tatmadaw healthcare services providing medical treatment free of charge to local people.

Magway Region: Making cities and towns more developed and safer for its residents; Taking strides in infrastructure works; Ensuring the stability of the region

“The regional government upgrades classrooms regularly to develop the education sector. In 2018-2019, they opened 47 basic education high schools, 143 basic education high branch schools, 417 basic education middle schools, 187 basic education middle branch schools, 148 post primary schools, 85 primary schools and 27 primary branch schools.”

Magway Region

By Mawsi
Photo: Khant Maw Oo

THERE have been many noticeable changes and improvements in the third year of administration by the people's elected government. The governing body of Magway Region has been striving for the uniform development of the people's livelihoods and regional stability since over the course of three years.

Historical milestones

The regional government's efforts to improve the lives of its citizens and speed up regional development and stability has solid undeniable historical milestones.

The Department of Roads handled 2,187.544 miles of road in the region and 454.460 miles were implemented by six private companies under the B.O.T system.

There are five districts and three special road and bridge groups under the regional road department. They carry out tasks such as constructing new roads and bridges, maintaining and upgrading existing ones in line with the available funds from the Union and regional budgets.

From the 2016-2017 FY to 2018-2019 FY, they received K15,070.544 million from the Union budget and K169,677.52 million from the regional budget. The department performed such tasks as paving bitumen roads, asphalt concrete roads, expanding roads, laying new layers on existing roads, paving reinforced roads, building bridges and concrete culverts.



Ohk Poe Creek near Nham Khar village in Gangaw Township, Magway Region, undergoing reinforcing and renovations.

Additionally, the roads department acquired funds from the department for developmental affairs and used them on paving 120/5.62 miles of roads, building 682 bridges, conducting 367 water-related projects and other 76 miscellaneous tasks.

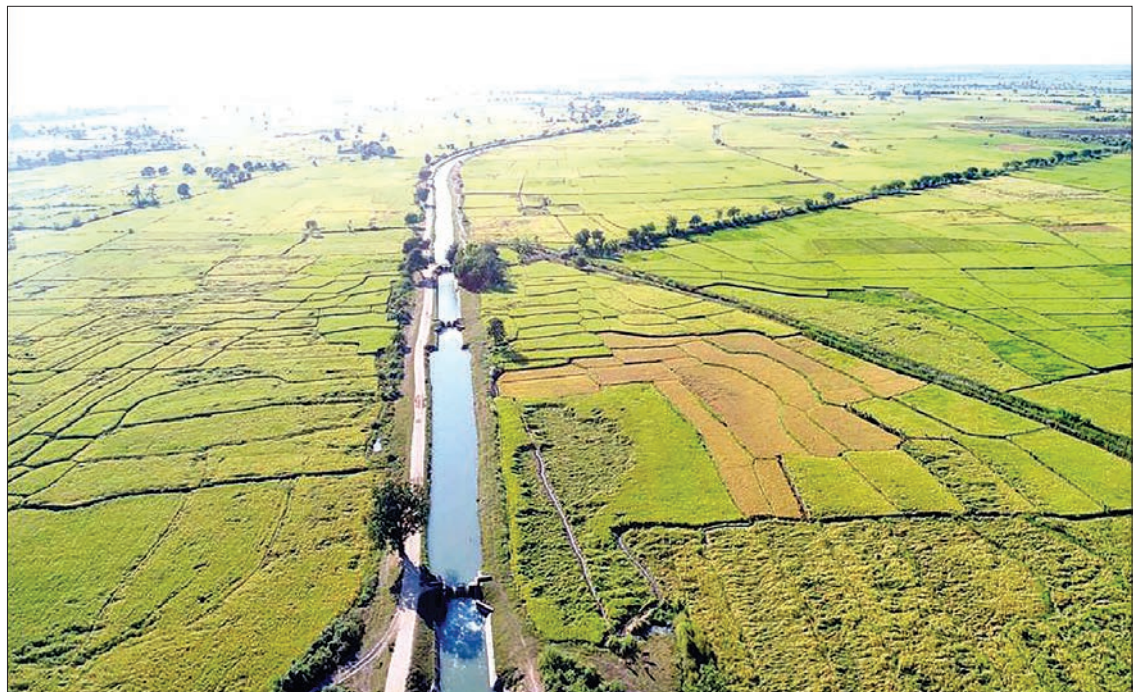
They also used a tender system to pave 2/4.25 miles of roads, funds from the regional government for 17/2.27 miles of roads, 181 bridges and canals, 19 water-related projects, and 36 other tasks. Using the tender system, they also built 66 bridges and canals.

Natural disasters

The regional department for water resources and development of bodies of water used K450 million from the 2018-2019 FY's Union budget to dig shoals. They carried tasks to ensure smooth flow of bodies of water and preventive measures for bank erosion using K1,552.91 million from the regional funds, K340.938 million from the general excess funds, and K380.42 million from the tax dividend funds. They also used K90 million from the natural disaster fund and K3,136.75 million from the regional funds to conduct preventive measures for bank erosion.

Positive results

The regional cabinet has collaborated with the Ministry of Construction to build roads and bridges that will support the region's development. The transportation infrastructure was upgraded over the course of three years and has resulted in lesser



Mezali diversion dam's canal irrigates the farmlands in the area.



A reservoir near Wintgabar and Kyaung Gon villages in Ngaphe Township, Magway Region, undergoing renovation.

traffic accidents, cost-effective and time-saving travel, increase trade and other benefits.

The Agricultural Mechanization Department contributed to the agricultural development of Magway Region. In the 2016-2017 FY, they formed 100 acres of irrigated cultivation for Ko Yan Taung-tract in Myothit Township and 200 acres of irrigated cultivation for Kalar Par village-tract in Minbu Township using K175.75 million from the regional budget. To help farmers own more agricultural machinery, the regional government has arranged for purchasing schemes from government departments and

private-cooperation sales. In 2018-2019, government departments sold 26 large tractors, 566 mechanized tillers and 2 combine harvesters.

The Department of Irrigation and Water Management began repairing the Yesakyo-Tamartan embankment in 2018-2019 FY using K100 million. They have currently finished 35 per cent of the work.

They have conducted 45 maintenance tasks in the first six months of 2018 using K1,058.976 million from the Union funds. In 2018-2019 FY they used K2,120 million to begin work on 116 tasks and have completed 76 of

them so far.

Ongoing tasks

The Agricultural Mechanization Department also used K569 million from the Union budget in the six-month budget period of 2018 to build approach portions, crest portion walling to RL-560' and approach portion walling up to RL-540'.

In the 2018-2019 FY, they will use K750 million from the Union budget to repair spillway No. 2, approach portion walling. They began work on the spillway on 15 December 2018 and are carrying out coffer dams, basins and drainages.

SEE PAGE-11



Ingone canal in Ingone Village, Pwintbyu Township under construction.



Rock lining underway along the embankment wall of Mahn reservoir in PinU Village, Ngaphe Township.

FROM PAGE-10

Concerning the construction and maintenance of dams and rural reservoirs, they used K4,217.489 million in the first six months of 2018 to undertake 184 tasks. They used K5,572.921 million in 2018-2019 FY for 187 tasks. They also used K593.0204 million from the tax dividend fund for 24 tasks and K30 million from the disaster fund for 1 task. Out of the 212 tasks they are handling, 57 tasks have been completed so far.

The regional government delegated the task of increasing spillways in the Kyee-ohn-kyee-wa dam in 2018-2019 FY to an external company. They used K250 million from the Union budget to expand 200 feet of the 450 feet of spillways by lowering RL-340' by 4 feet to RL-336'.

Implementations

The Department of Rural Development's responsibilities involve developing the education, healthcare, society and businesses of the people and regulating better trade flow. In the first six months of 2018, they implemented 7 miles and 5.18 furlongs of rural trade routes and built 3 rural trade bridges using K204 million.

In 2018-2019 FY, they used K770.876 million to implement 21 miles and 5.9 furlongs of rural trade routes and build 12 rural trade bridges.

Furthermore, they used K4,587.8189 million for rural water supply tasks from 2016-2017 FY to the six-month budget period of 2018. Using that fund, they implemented 443 tasks in 431 villages, benefitting 319,210 people from 66,388 households. They performed 123 rural water supply tasks for 123 villages in 2018-2019 FY using K2,360.604 million from the allotted budget.

In the electric power distribution sector, the regional government used K10 billion from their budget in the first



Tawmon lake near Tawmon Village, Thayet Township under renovation.



Nga Chin dam near Nga Chin village in Seikpyu Township under renovation.

six months of 2018 to implement 103.83 miles of 11KV transmission lines, 100 11/0.4 KV transformers, and 47.871 miles of 400V transmission lines benefitting 104 villages. They constructed the 66/11 KV 5 ampere Thayet substation to convert from a 6.6 KV system to a 11 KV system.

Upgrading and expanding

The regional government upgrades classrooms regularly to develop the education sector. In 2018-2019, they opened 47 basic education high schools, 143 basic education high branch schools, 417 basic education middle schools, 187 basic education middle branch schools, 148 post

primary schools, 85 primary schools and 27 primary branch schools. They also carried out numerous developments for the healthcare sector in 2018 FY by constructing three-room residential buildings for the Department of Traditional Medicine in Myaing Township which was completed on 16 August of the same year. They also constructed an embankment for the traditional medicine department of Yenangyoung Township and provided fencing for a similar department in Htilin Township.

Support provided

For the township rural

health departments and sub departments in Magway Region, the regional government used K1,711.761 million in 2018-2019 FY to purchase pharmaceuticals. And with the programme provided by the Public Health Department, the regional government was able to supply 2,745 mobile tablets to various doctors and medical personnel across the townships of Magway Region so that they can be up-to-date with the latest medical news and discoveries.

The regional government elevated two rural health sub-departments to department status in 2018 and opened 14 new

sub-departments as well.

In the 2018-2019 FY, the regional General Administration Department used K15 million from its allotted budget for rural development projects by submitting to the regional government so as to approve the proposals from districts for development. The regional government expanded and rearranged 29 villages in 2018.

There are couple of noteworthy cases concerning illegal drugs in the third year of the Magway Region government administration. From 23 to 27 January 2018, the regional government collaborated with the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force, relevant departments and NGOs to uncover and destroy 55.8 acres of poppy plantations in Ngaphe Township of Minbu District and Thayet Township of Minhla District. From 3 to 9 December 2018, they eradicated 18 acres of poppy plantations of the same two townships. And from 21 to 27 January 2019, they eradicated 28.14 acres of poppy plantations from the same two townships.

Visible change

The efforts of the Magway Region Government to make the region more developed and safer for its residents is visible and their accomplishments are plain for all to see. The regional government has made strides in agriculture, electric power, transportation, water supply, healthcare, education, rule of law, communal safety, and the rights and protections granted by existing laws on the people.

The reforms, improvements and achievements made by the people's government are the fresh new steps towards establishing a peaceful and prosperous nation with sustainable peace. It won't be long till we all reach our shared objective in the future.

(Translated by Pen Dali)

16 Indian commandos killed in fresh election violence

MUMBAI (India) — A suspected bomb attack by Maoist rebels killed 16 Indian elite commandos on Wednesday, police said, the latest incident of election-time violence in a decades-long insurgency.

“Maoists attacked a team of commandos travelling in a private vehicle to inspect an earlier attack. So far 16 men have died,” an official at police headquarters in the western state of Maharashtra told AFP.

“More teams have been sent to site for rescue and combat operations,” said the officer, who did not want to give his name.

India is holding elections and attacks by Maoist rebels, who are active in several states, often spike as the country goes to the polls. A second police official put the death toll in the latest incident in the Gadchiroli region of Maharashtra at 15.

“Maoists torched over 30 vehicles in Gadchiroli today at 12.30pm (0700 GMT). In another blast, 15 security officers were killed and rescue operations are ongoing to ascertain the damage,” Gadchiroli police official Prashant Dute told AFP.

Indian forces have been fighting Maoists rebels for decades in several areas, in an insurgency that has killed tens of thousands. The Maoists are believed to be present in at least 20 Indian states but are most active in Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar, Jharkhand — and Maharashtra. India’s nationwide election began on 11 April and runs until 19 May. Last weekend rebels opened fire on Indian police, killing two constables and wounding a villager in the central state of Chhattisgarh, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported. One constable and an assistant constable died at the scene and the villager, shot in the chest, was taken by local residents for treatment, PTI reported.—AFP ■

Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm approaches India

FROM PAGE-2

Position of Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm, center pressure and wind

Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “FANI” is located at Latitude 13.3 degree North and Longitude 84.7 degree East, centre pressure of Very Severe Cyclonic Storm is 964 hPa and maximum wind speed near the center is 100 miles per hour at 10:10 pm yesterday.

During next (36)hrs forecast

It is forecast to move Northwestwards and then recurve North-Northeastwards to ODISHA Coast during next (36)hours.

General caution

Under the influence of the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “FANI”, rain will be scattered to fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Thainthayi regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon

states with isolated heavy falls in some areas within next (72)hours commencing tonight.

Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40-45)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (10-13) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Advisory

Under the influence of the Extremely Severe Cyclonic Storm “FANI”, people should be alert to possibilities of danger and avoid going with domestic flights, trawlers, vessels and ships off and along Myanmar Coasts.

Andaman Sea and in Bay of Bengal

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 2nd May, 2019: Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Taninthayi Region, fairly widespread in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, scattered in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states and isolated in the

remaining regions and states with isolated heavyfall in Ayeyarwady and Yangon regions. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40-45)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (10-13) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in Lower Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd May, 2019: Likelihood of Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%)

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd May, 2019: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%)

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 2nd May, 2019: Partly cloudy.—GNLM

Emperor Naruhito declares succession to throne in ceremony

TOKYO—Emperor Naruhito declared his succession to the Chrysanthemum Throne in a ceremony Wednesday and pledged to fulfill the symbolic, non-political role in accordance with the postwar Constitution.

His enthronement after Tuesday’s abdication by his 85-year-old father former Emperor Akihito—the first by a Japanese monarch in 202 years—marked the start of Japan’s new imperial era, named Reiwa.

The 59-year-old is the first emperor to be born



Emperor Naruhito inherits imperial regalia, seals in ceremony. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

after World War II and to have studied overseas. With his enthronement, his wife Masako, 55, an Oxford- and Harvard-educated former

diplomat, became empress.

“In acceding to the throne, I swear that I will reflect deeply on the course followed by his majesty the

emperor emeritus (Akihito) and bear in mind the path trodden by past emperors, and will devote myself to self-improvement,” said the emperor in his first speech after his enthronement.

“I also swear that I will act according to the Constitution and fulfill my responsibility as the symbol of the state and of the unity of the people of Japan, while always turning my thoughts to the people and standing with them,” he said during the “Sokui go Choken no gi” rite. The ceremony at the “Matsu no Ma” state-

room in the Imperial Palace was attended by some 260 people, including the heads of the government, legislature and judiciary as well as other imperial family members.

Following the emperor’s speech, as a representative of the people, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe congratulated Emperor Naruhito on his enthronement and pledged to create a “bright future” that is peaceful and full of hope by respecting him as a symbol of the state.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (013N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (013N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of 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.

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THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (16/2019)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr No.	Tender No.	Description	Remarks
(a)	DMP/L-205(18-19)	Spares for SJS Serva (TPB600) Cementing Unit (7) Groups	Ks
(b)	DMP/L-206(18-19)	Spares for SK200-8 Kobelco Excavator (46) Items	Ks
(c)	DMP/L-207(18-19)	Spares For Cooper Well Servicing Unit (35) Items	Ks
(d)	DMP/L-208(18-19)	Spares for Cat G 3412 Gas Engine (5) Items	Ks
(e)	DMP/L-209(18-19)	Radial Bearing for N-69 Swivel (3) Nos	Ks
(f)	DMP/L-210(18-19)	3 ¾” Tri Cone Rock Bits (3) Items	Ks
(g)	DMP/L-211(18-19)	Mechanical Accessories (3) Groups	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal (www.moe.gov.mm) as from 2 May 2019. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **14:00 pm on 3 June 2019**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time – **3-6-2019, 14:00 pm**

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph No. + 95 67 – 411206

Local gold price likely to continue declining trend, say traders

By Nyein Nyein

WITH gold prices witnessing a downward trend in the global market, the price of gold is likely to continue its slide in the domestic market, said U Myo Myint, the chair of the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

Gold is currently priced at K1,037,000 per tical (0.578 ounce) in the domestic market, he said.

“Gold is sliding in the global market. As the domestic gold price is related to global prices, it is also declining,” said U Myo Myint.

If the downward trend in global gold prices continues, the domestic gold price is likely to remain

on the low side as well, he added.

“Global gold prices have dropped by US\$1 per day. So, the domestic gold price will also fall a bit,” said U Myo Myint.

In the second week of April, global gold prices reached above US\$1,300 per ounce. At present, they have declined to \$1,279, said traders. In addition, the gold market is cooling off, they said,

With global gold prices increasing, the local gold price hit new peaks in 2019. It reached K1,050,000 per tical between 17 and 29 January, above K1,060,000 in the period from 30 January to 7 February, above K1,070,000 from 8-18 February, and


above K1,080,000 from 19 to 21 February. Then, the price gradually declined to reach the current level of K1,037,000.

Local gold price touched a low of K1,043,400 on 1 January and a high of K1,061,000 on 31 January. It hit a low of K1,058,400 on 2 February and a high of K1,087,300 on 20 February. In March, the lowest level of K1,048,600 was recorded on 30 March, and the highest level of K1,069,000 was seen on 21 March. In the past month, the gold price reached a low of K1,037,200 on 24 April and a high of K1,054,700 on 11 April, according to gold traders. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Sales women work at a jewelry shop in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

**MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE**
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
(2 May, 2019)
NOTICE FOR FILING RETURN OF INCOME, ANNUAL SALARY RETURN AND ANNUAL COMMERCIAL TAX RETURN

- Filing Return of Income**
 - All taxpayers, including companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, cooperative societies, associations of collective farming, individuals (excluding salary-earners), associations formed by individuals, organizations or associations registered and formed under existing law, chargeable under Income Tax Law within the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, are required to file their return of income, whether or not a profit was made during the period. The return must be completed properly and signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the return. It must then be filed with the relevant Township Revenue Office or Medium Taxpayers Office 2 or 3 in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by these offices in the case of returns personally filed.
 - At the time of filing the return, taxpayers who are not registered with the Large Taxpayers Office or Medium Taxpayers Office 1 are also required to submit a financial report for the relevant year, prepared from books of account kept in accordance with the Income Tax Regulations.
 - Taxpayers registered with the Large Taxpayers Office or Medium Taxpayers Office 1 are required to self-assess their tax liability and file a return of income to the relevant office in person or by registered mail. In filing the return of income, instructions mentioned in the return should be followed carefully. The filing of annual financial statements is not required.
 - A penalty not exceeding 10% of the tax due may be charged if there is a failure to file a return of income.
- Annual Salary Return**
 - Those taxpayers who earned income from “Salary” within the year are not required to file a return of income.
 - Employers are required to file an Annual Salary Statement for their employees with their respective Township Revenue Office.
- Annual Commercial Tax Return**
 - Any person chargeable under the Commercial Tax Law within the year 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, including development committees, cooperative societies, individuals, organizations or associations formed by individuals, companies, partnerships and joint-ventures (except State-owned economic enterprises), carrying out any of the following economic activities are required to file annual return of production or services:
 - Domestic manufacturing and distribution,
 - Importing,
 - Trading,
 - Providing servicesThe return must be completed properly and signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the return. It must then be filed to the relevant Township Revenue Office, Large Taxpayers Office or Medium Taxpayers Offices 1, 2 or 3, in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by these offices in the case of returns personally filed.
 - A penalty of 10% of the tax due will be charged if there is a failure to file the return within the stipulated time, without sufficient cause.
- Deadline for filing returns**

1 July 2019 (Monday)

Note:

According to the Tax Law, the last date for return filing is 30 June 2019. This is a Sunday and a gazetted holiday. The Limitation Act, therefore, has effect to move the deadline to the following day, 1 July 2019.
- Where to obtain return forms**

Return forms are available free of charge at Township Revenue Offices, Large Taxpayers Office or Medium Taxpayers Offices 1, 2 and 3. They can also be downloaded from IRD website (<http://www.irdmyanmar.gov.mm>).
- Enquiries**

Enquires may be made at the relevant IRD offices mentioned in this notice. In addition, they may be directed to the Naypyitaw Tax Service Unit, Building No (46), Internal Revenue Department (Ph: 067-3430533, 067-3430522) or the Yangon Tax Service Unit, No.59/61, Ground Floor, Corner of Merchant Road and Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township (Ph: 01-378370, 01-378372) or the Mandalay Tax Service Unit, 65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets, Aung Mye Tharzan Township (Ph: 02-4030192).

Internal Revenue Department

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (137 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BANDA VOY. NO. (137 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (917W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (917W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/T.M.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 MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (007 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MITRA BHUM VOY. NO. (007 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 02-05-2019 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

How to operate companies after establishment

By Maung Ti Kar
Myanmar Companies Law

The Myanmar Companies Law signed by the President which was released on 6 December 2017 came into force starting from 1 August 2018. The new company law comprising modern procedures and improvements in legal affairs being exercised in the international community set up the harmonized framework which is clear and transparent for companies. Companies at home have opportunities for easily abiding by the company law because of easing procedures. Hence, the new law is more effective not only for companies but for relevant governmental departments which take responsibilities for controlling the companies. Significantly, as the new law consists of full text of provisions on corporate management affairs which were not included in the old law, the law



PHOTO: Ye Htut Tin (NLM)



Daw Mya Thuza, Joint Secretary of the Myanmar Investment Commission met with Mr. Yang Congli, General Manager of Tianjin PAUWAY Power Equipment Co., Ltd. on 23rd April, 2019 in Yangon. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters relating to the investment. **PHOTO: DICA**



U Thant Sin Lwin, Acting Director General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration met with Mr. Ou Yang Ding Yi, Managing Director of China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd and his team on 23th April 2019 in Yangon, and cordially discussed matters relating to the investment. **PHOTO: DICA**

contributes a great deal towards creation of connections between businesses of Myanmar and international business firms. Moreover, the law reduces burdens of rules and regulations for small- and medium-scale enterprises as well as cuts the cost in practising the law.

MyCO

A new online registration system namely Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) was established together with the new company law in order to ease the processes of setting up the company for businesspersons in Myanmar. As such, all the businesspersons who have experienced in applying the MyCO show

their satisfaction. Foreign businesspersons praised that MyCO was much better than online registration system of some regional countries. Thanks to MyCO, a total of 11,658 new companies could be registered from 1 August 2018 when the MyCO was launched to the end of February 2019. Moreover, a total of 46,377 companied

aged by the government in uplifting the position of Myanmar in the Doing Business Report yearly issued by the World Bank.

Registrar and Regulator

Some people ask that if companies have registered in easy processes, how the company registration office will regulate them to correctly operate their businesses and how to tackle increasing number of compa-

“A new online registration system namely Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) was established together with the new company law in order to ease the processes of setting up the company for businesspersons in Myanmar.”

which took registration under the old law were re-registered through the online system. That is why 58,035 companies in total have been registered through the online facility so far. With regard to the statistics on yearly registration, new record of registering the companies was remarkably set within seven months by breaking the old record with 9,286 companies registered in 2017-2018 fiscal year. Active registration of companies through the online was based on modernity of new company law and clearness and ease of MyCO which remarkably cut work procedures, duration of procedure and cost for registration of companies. Such a plan will contribute much towards the tasks being vigorously encour-

nies doing misdeeds. Actually, it was found that the majority of questioners do not really understand the duty and authority of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (Registrar) which handles the company law and the role of relevant governmental departments (Registrar) which controls businesses of registered companies under respective laws.

The company means a business group which is formed with share-holders with or without limitation of liability under the relevant company law. In fact, a company is a separate group which is set up under the law. Legal vocabularies related to economy define the company as “Legal or Judicial Person”

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DICA DIRECTORATE OF INVESTMENT AND COMPANY ADMINISTRATION
Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO)

HOME MYCO GUIDES COMPANY SEARCH HELP CREATE AN ACCOUNT LOGIN

WELCOME TO MYANMAR COMPANIES ONLINE (MyCO)

Using MyCO you can register your company and find information on all companies that are registered in Myanmar.

- Search and access details of companies all over Myanmar
- Register your company
- Purchase official company documents and extracts

Searching for companies in MyCO is simple and free. Simply use the Company Name or Registration Number in the section below to start.

To learn more about registering your company, please click the Register a Company link on the menu above to view How To Guides. To learn more about submitting a filing to change the details of an existing company, please click the Change Company Details link on the menu above to view How To Guides.

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and human being as “Natural Person”. It means a company has the rights of possession, the rights of living and the rights of arguing the cases in a court of law similar to that of a human. The DICA scrutinizes and controls things whether the companies abide by provisions of the company law or not. That is why the DICA is taking responsibilities for registering the companies as well as controlling the company law. On the other hand, the DICA can be dubbed as immigration for companies because immigration department scrutinizes the citizens to be able to issue the citizenship scrutiny cards.

If a registered company starts a business, it needs to seek permission order, licence and permit from relevant governmental organizations under the provisions of the respective law as well as operate tasks of business under the supervision of relevant governmental organizations in line with the law. For example, one wish to operate hotel services, one must seek licence for hotel at the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Likewise, one wants to carry out export and import businesses, one need to apply for hospital licence from the Ministry of Health and Sports. So also, one wishing to operate security services must seek permission order from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Only when they get such permission orders and licences, will they have to initiate their businesses. Registration at the DICA is not to allow operation of a business but it helps emerge a company under the law. The majority of people seem the business can be operated after taking registration at the DICA but it is untrue. With regard to the issue of a company related to security services spreading in the social media, it is necessary to apply for

the permission order from the Ministry of Home Affairs at first, and only when it receives the permission, can it launch the business. However, the Ministry of Home Affairs has not received the application for the business yet. And, the ministry has not given permission to it yet.

Who will take action against companies doing misdeeds? Somebody ask that at a time when the events emerge that some companies doing misdeeds in the economic arena break the laws, how will the DICA take action against them? Actually, the relevant governmental organizations which handle relevant laws will take action against the companies which broke the laws. Only when the companies break the company law, will the DICA take action against them under the provisions of the company law. On the other hand, relevant government organizations will take action against a citizen who violates the law. “The immigration” cannot take action against such citizen although the Immigration issued the citizenship scrutiny card to him. So also, relevant governmental organizations must take action against the company which breaks the law. However, if members of the Board of Directors from the company fail to duty and qualification of BOD members prescribed in the company law, the DICA will take necessary action against them under the company law. Moreover, if those BOD members commit dishonest activities, they can be prosecuted to face separate penalties sentenced by the court.

New era of Myanmar with modern law

Enacting and practising the modern company law

ASLEEP IN JESUS

U LORENZ THAW (Age 83 years)

Sayagyi U Saw Lorenz Thaw (Retired Principal of Pa.an College) be loved husband of Sayama Naw Mary Thein and father of Saw Nay Tha Thaw + Naw Hsar Moo and grandfather of 3 grand daughter, passed away to his heavenly home on the 1st of May 2019, at 5:50 am, at his residence (No- 4/A), David Shwe Nu Road, Ward (2) Mayangone Township Funeral Service will be held in the Thamaing Kayin Baptist Church (David Shwe Nu Rd) on the 3rd of May at 9.am, after which the commital service will be at the Yangon Kayin Baptist Cemetery at Htein Pin.

All friends and relatives please accept this as the only Intimation.

means that the government lays a sound foundation for development of private sector. In fact, the company law brings development to all companies which are systematically operating the businesses under the law. However, companies in operating relevant businesses need to take registration through MyCO with ease, quick and clear facilities. And then, as it is important that these companies must exactly and correctly carry out their tasks under relevant laws in respective business fields, I would like to urge these companies to contact relevant departments for seeking permit if necessary.

Translated by Than Tun Aung

Financial services reforms to take centre stage in 2020 report on Myanmar

A NEW report by the global research and consultancy firm Oxford Business Group (OBG) will map out Myanmar’s ongoing efforts to open up its economy to the outside world, and the legislative and regulatory reforms that are being implemented to accommodate the nation’s plans.

The Report: Myanmar 2020 will shine a spotlight on the ongoing liberalisation of the financial services sector, including opportunities that are fast becoming available to foreign insurance players following the implementation of the new legislation that paves the way for joint ventures. The life segment, which now allows 100% foreign ownership to a limited number of firms, will be a specific focus. Elsewhere, the impact of recent moves to allow foreign banks to engage in wholesale banking services and trade finance for the first time will be explored, alongside efforts to ease access to credit, such as allowing lenders to offer higher interest rates for borrowers unable to meet strict collateral requirements.

Meanwhile, the latest report will analyse the impact of the new Companies Law on boosting foreign direct investment by allowing international firms to acquire a



stake of up to 35% in Myanmar companies without changing their status as a local entity. Other changes set to be explored include amendments to the withholding tax system which are expected to enhance the business climate for international firms based in Myanmar by enabling them to operate more efficiently.

Kelvin Chia Yangon has signed a further memorandum of understanding (MoU) with OBG for its forthcoming publication. A longstanding partner, the legal firm will help the Group to research and

produce the Law Chapter of The Report: Myanmar 2020.

Khin Leimar Ban Aye, Principal Legal Manager, Kelvin Chia Yangon, said she looked forward to teaming up once again with OBG and helping investors that are keen to discover more about Myanmar’s opportunities navigate the country’s changing legal framework.

“Oxford Business Group has a well-established track record of providing the most accurate and informative research on Myanmar’s economy,” she said. “In

this era of liberalisation, when information is of a premium, we are thrilled to be working with the Group’s analysts and shedding light on this fast-emerging economy.”

Mila Dimitrova, OBG’s Country Director for Myanmar, agreed that Myanmar’s latest efforts to boost investment by overhauling the corporate framework had heightened the need for business leaders to ensure they were up to date on the laws and regulations governing their sector ahead of the decision-making process.

“Myanmar’s plans to reposition itself as an outward-facing economy are taking shape, bolstered by a far-reaching reform programme and growing interest from an investment community keen to discover more about the country’s many untapped opportunities,” she said. “Kelvin Chia Yangon’s experts have an in-depth understanding of the evolving economic landscape here and their analysis has undoubtedly strengthened our coverage of the country over the years. I’m delighted to have their input once again as we begin work on this important report.”

The Report: Myanmar 2020 will mark the culmination of approximately 12 months of field research by a team of analysts from Oxford Business Group. It will be a vital guide to the many facets of the country, including its macroeconomics, infrastructure, banking and other sectoral developments. OBG’s publication will also contain contributions from leading representatives across the public and private sectors.

The Report: Myanmar 2020 will be produced with Kelvin Chia Yangon, the Myanmar Investment Commission; Win Consulting and Parami Energy. It will be available online and in print.—OBG



Shan United suffer big loss against Ceres Negros

IN the Group G match of the AFC Cup, held at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday, Shan United were trounced 5-0 by the Philippines club Ceres Negros.

Shan United made a big change for the match, using both experienced and new players. The decision resulted in some slips in the defence and the midfield, and cost the team the match.

Shan United lined up with goalkeeper Phone Thitsar Min, Zaw Lin Oo, Htike Htike Aung, Maycon, Ye Min Thu, Aung Showthar Maung, Shwe Ko, Sa Aung Pyae Ko, Hein Phyo Win, Htet Phyo Wai, and Gustavo.

Ceres Negros striker Maranon scored a hat-trick for his team, which boosted the team's confidence.

Shan United made an all-out effort from the start, but it was clear that the young players

needed more experience to create goal chances.

Taking advantage of a weakness in Shan United's defense, striker Maranon scored the first goal at 38 minutes. Five minutes later, the Ceres team earned a penalty shoot, and Maranon managed to score once again.

The first half ended 2-0 in favor of Ceres.

The Philippines club kept up the momentum in the second half, with Maranon landing the third goal at the 71st minute. The team scored two more goals quickly. Carlos Alberto scored at the 80th minute and Jose Elmer netted the winning goal at the 85th minute.

The Ceres Negros football club's tally now stands at 15 points from all wins. Shan United is still placed at the bottom of the table, with no wins at the group stage. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Shan United's Sa Aung Pyae Ko (white) attempts a header during the Group G match of the AFC Cup at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNL**

Myanmar Judo Federation head returns after getting Kodokan 3rd Dan Belt



Myanmar Judo Federation President U Tun Tun is welcomed by officials at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

U Tun Tun, the President of the Myanmar Judo Federation, arrived back in Yangon yesterday after receiving the Kodokan 3rd Dan Belt from the Kodokan Judo Institute in Nobeoka City, Japan.

The President of the Kodokan Judo Institute, Mr. Haruki

Uemura, presented the 3rd Dan Belt to U Tun Tun, who has been striving for the development of Judo in Myanmar.

MJF vice president U Aye Kyi, secretary Daw Thi Thi Shein, and officials received U Tun Tun at the Yangon International Airport.

U Tun Tun, vice president U Oo Khaing, U Min Thien from the international cooperation sub-committee, and U Zaw Tun from the finance sub-committee visited Tokyo and Nobeoka in Japan from 21 April to 1 May. The objective for the visit was the development of Myanmar Judo, and cultural exchange between the two nations.

The Myanmar Judo Federation was established in 1958, and observed its 61st year in 2019. During his 13 years as the President of the federation, U Tun Tun has led and helped the Myanmar Judo Federation win many gold, silver, and bronze medals. Therefore, U Tun Tun has been awarded an honorary Judo Belt, and appointed as a Kodokan member.—Myint Maung Soe ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

General Aung San Shield: Win Naing Soe helps Yadanarbon win against Ayeyawady

THE Mandalay-based Yadanarbon F.C. has advanced to the quarter finals of the General Aung San Shield 2019, after beating Ayeyawady United 2-1 at the Aung San Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

Both teams lined up with key players for the match. Ayeyawady United's lineup included goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Phyo and Captain Thina Zaw, while Yadanarbon F.C. lined up with Win Naing Soe, Myat Kaung Khant, and Captain Ye Ko Oo.

The two teams launched attacks and counter-attacks from the start, with stable play in the first half, which ended with no goals scored.

The second half was more lively with new tactics in set formation.

The icebreaker for the match was scored by Yadanarbon. Win Naing Soe landed the goal beautifully at the 63rd minute.

But five minutes later, Ayeyawady scored an equalizer thanks to Thiha Zaw.

There was to-and-fro play with attacks by both teams till the final whistle. The score stood at 1-1 in the 90-minute play, and the match went into overtime to decide the result for the next stage.

There was equal play in the first half of the overtime, and the result remained unchanged till the end. But, in the second overtime, Win Naing Soe scored the winning goal for his team, securing their place in the quarter final of the tournament.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

Fernando Alonso makes '24 Hours of Le Mans' his endurance swansong

PARIS (France) — Fernando Alonso will quit endurance racing after June's '24 Hours of Le Mans', which he won last year; the Toyota team said on Wednesday.

The Japanese team said Alonso, who twice won the F1

world championships with Renault in 2005 and 2006, had set himself fresh motor sports targets.

The 2020 Dakar Rally in Saudi Arabia is thought to be high on his agenda after he tested the Toyota

Hilux in South Africa alongside 2009 Dakar champion Giniel de Villiers. The 37-year-old Alonso who raced F1 until last season is widely viewed as one of the top talents of his generation, and enjoys global star status after

racing 312 Grand Prix, winning 32 of them.

"I have enjoyed being part of Toyota Gazoo Racing, but this chapter is ending," Alonso said in a press release on Wednesday.

"Winning the Le Mans 24

Hours is one of the highlights of my career as part of my triple crown challenge," said Alonso, who races the Indy 500 later this month in his triple crown (Monaco GP, Le Mans and the Indy) bid.—AFP ■