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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 19, 3rd Waxing of Kason 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 6 May 2019

H&T Union Minister inspects tourism services at Yangon International Airport

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung visited the Yangon International Airport, a departmental building in Kyauktada Township, the Myanmar Institute of Tourism and Hospitality, and attended the opening ceremony of the Yangon Weekend Market in Pansodan Township yesterday.

The Union Minister and his entourage first visited the international airport and observed international travelers entering the arrivals hall, the visa-on-arrival services at the airport, and the operation of the News and Information Counter managed by his ministry.

The Union Minister responded to reports from relevant departments and gave instructions, asking them to perform their duties responsibly.

Next, the Union Minister visited a building owned by his ministry on the Sule Pagoda Road in Kyauktada Township. He gave instructions on preserving the building and using it for developing the tourism business.

From there, the Union Minister headed to the Myanmar Institute of Tourism and Hospitality on Bo Soon Pat Road in Pabedan Township. He observed the classes on hospitality in session, practical and theoretical classes, and the ongoing renovation work at the building. The institute was jointly opened by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Luxembourg Development.



Union Minister U Ohn Maung meets with officials of the Immigration Department at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Union Minister also met with officials from Golden TMH Telecom Co. Ltd at the institute. He discussed setting up a high-speed internet connection at the institute, launching classes on

developing the ICT sector, and ways to promote the travel sector. Next, he inspected a tour guide training school opened by his ministry.

In the evening, the Union

Minister gave a speech at the opening ceremony of the Yangon Weekend Market – Pansodan, located between Pansodan Street and Bank Street. The market will be open every weekend.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, regional ministers, and departmental officials attended the ceremony. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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ICOE holds 8th meeting on 3-4 May, issues press release

THE Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) held their eighth meeting from 3rd to 4th May 2019.

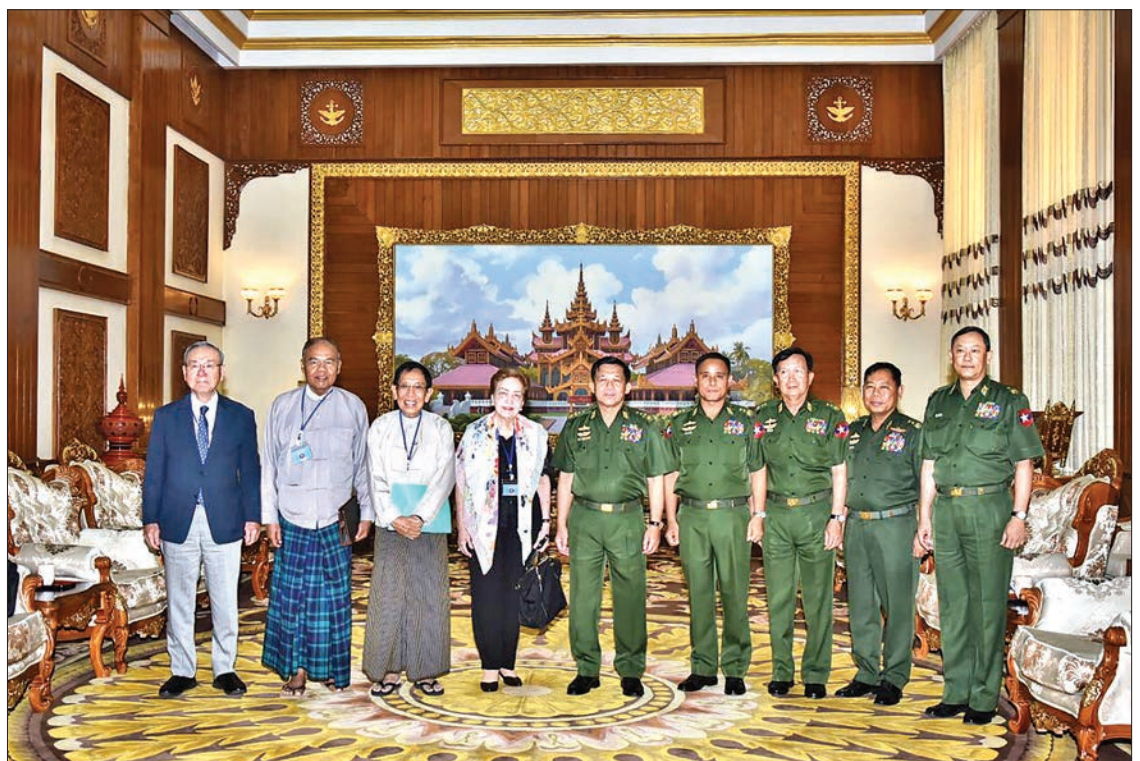
The Commission had a courtesy call on Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of the Myanmar Armed Forces. ICOE welcomed the establishment of the Myanmar Military Court on 18 March 2019. Both sides exchanged views on the events that brought about the evolution of the Myanmar Military Court: i.e. the events of 2017 in Rakhine State, international pressures and the creation of ICOE. The Commission expressed appreciation on the openness and reassurance of full cooperation from Myanmar Tat-

madaw with respect to the issues submitted by ICOE, outcomes of the Military Court deliberations and access to witnesses examined by the Military Investigation Team.

The Commission explained to the Commander in Chief on ICOE's work which is a gathering of data and evidence pursuant to its mandate.

The preliminary report of the ICOE is in the process of being prepared for submission to the President.

Office of the Independent
Commission of Enquiry (ICOE)
Nay Pyi Taw
4 May 2019



Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for a documentary photo together with Independent Commission of Enquiry delegates. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi attends 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Azerbaijan



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi participates in the 5th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue in Baku, Azerbaijan. **PHOTO: MNA**

A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi took part in the 5th World Forum on Inter-

cultural Dialogue from 2 to 3 May 2019 in Baku, Republic of Azerbaijan.

Held with the motto 'Build-

ing dialogue into action against discrimination, inequality and violent conflict' the forum was attended by heads of state/government, ministers and officials of 141 countries and chiefs of international organizations.

The forum examined the critical role of Intercultural Dialogue as an actionable strategy for building human solidarity and helping localities counter the violence and discrimination in diverse communities.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi participated in the ministerial level meeting, in which, he pointed out the crucial role of the education in peace, security, stability, justice, human rights, equality, democracy, natural environmental conser-

vation and poverty alleviation.

Myanmar has adopted the National Education Strategic Plan to reach the goal of sustainable development, provide inclusive and equal educational opportunities, and promote life-long learning process, he said, and added that the country also is realizing its policy of sending all school age children to classes and reducing the drop-out rate. The ministry introduced the KG-12 system and new curriculum suitable for the 21st century to abolish the practice of learning the lessons by heart, to teach manners and civics, vocational education, physical education, art and culture and to encourage innovative ideas, he said.

He also elaborated on trainings conducted for teachers, opening of new schools, extension of learning opportunities, teaching of ethnic languages totaling 54 at schools, non-formal education activities in 81 townships, upgrading of institutions of higher learning, extension of vocational and technical institutes, higher education system that encourages research and development and the opportunities to make the world a better place. At his exclusive meeting with Dr Jeyhun Bayramov, Minister of Education of Azerbaijan, Dr Myo Thein Gyi discussed matters relating to bilateral cooperation in the education sector.—MNA (Translated by TMT) ■

Mingalar Cinemas to open luxury Gold Class multiplex on 9 May

MINGALAR Co. Ltd announced yesterday it will open a luxury multiplex on the 5th floor of the Kabaraye Executive Residence Shopping Mall on Kabaraye Pagoda Road, Mayangon Township, Yangon, on 9 May. The cinema will become the 131st one and 151st screen of the country.

The Mingalar Cinemas Gold Class will have three auditoriums. Cinema 1 would accommodate 60 people, Cinema 2 would seat 29 people, while Cinema 3 would have a seating capacity of 33. They will have high-end and modern single and couple seats.

"This will be the 27th cinema opened by the Mingalar



PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT, YE HTUT

Company and the 48th screen launched," said U Myat Khine Soe of Mingalar Co. Ltd at a media event held at the shopping mall yesterday. U Ye Na-

ing, the Director-General of the Information and Public Relations Department, members of the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, and journalists

attended the event. They also viewed sample 3D movies in Cinema 1. The Ministry of Information works ceaselessly to promote the film industry

in Myanmar. From approving 9 films in 2014, MoI approved 158 in 2017, 133 in 2018 and 35 in 2019 as of now. —Zaw Gyi (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



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)

May we all be able to build the peaceful, modern, prosperous and genuine Democratic Federal Republic which is the dream of the fathers of our independence and which is what our people desire.

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

Myanmar Fire Services Department observes 73rd anniversary



Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe gives salute to the fire brigade yesterday at the 73rd anniversary of the Fire Brigade Day. **PHOTO: MNA**

MYANMAR Fire Services Department must enhance its prowess to stand shoulder to shoulder with its international counterparts, said Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe at its 73rd anniversary yesterday.

At the anniversary held at the MFSD parade ground in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, the Union Minister presented medals to firemen for their outstanding performance.

In his address, Lt-Gen Kyaw

Swe said the MFSD is implementing its four objectives – fire prevention, natural disaster prevention, search and rescue operations and public welfare services.

Based on the prevailing situation and future possibilities,

MFSD needs manpower, equipment power and technological power development for improvement of its structure and core values, he noted.

The Union Minister also explained the aims of the depart-

ment which include the task of protecting public lives and property and capital and assets of the State and conducting search and rescue operations during man-made and natural disasters.

A march-past of the Union Minister by companies and fire-engines of MFSD was followed by the skill demonstrations of firemen.

The Union Minister and wife presented gifts to the firemen of the parade companies. Afterwards, the Union Minister and distinguished guests visited the booths. Also present at the ceremony were the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and wife, the commander of Yangon Command, officers of the MFSD, retired officers, departmental personnel, members of Myanmar War Veterans Organization, donors, artists and invited guests. —MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Dy Minister takes stock of printing of school textbooks

U Aung Hla Tun, the Deputy Minister for Information and the Chairman of the Basic Education Textbook Committee for the 2019-2020 academic year, met with private publishers and discussed the production and printing of school textbooks and assistance required by them.

The meeting was held at 9 a.m. on yesterday morning at Photolitho Printing Press on the Nga Htat Gyi Pagoda road in Bahan township, Yangon.

During the meeting, the Deputy Minister inquired into the printing and production of 110 million schoolbooks for the coming academic year, and its progress so far.

He said it is important that students from every corner of the country get quality textbooks in their hands before the schools open.

Then, the Director-General of the Printing and Publishing

Department detailed the current status of the printing and production of the books and future progression.

Deputy Director-General U Ko Ko Naing also explained school textbook printing and production for the 2019-2020 academic year.

Afterwards, the Ministry of Education and private officials discussed matters concerning the completion of the printing work and other general issues.

Following the discussion, the Deputy Minister talked about the nobility of such work and the responsibility it entails.

He said the number of books being printed will be increased for the coming academic year as more subjects will be added to the curriculum, and that all concerned parties must take lessons from the past and level-up in all aspects.

Later, he inspected the work

in progress at Photolitho Printing Press.

Afterwards, he met with the staff and editors of *the Global New Light of Myanmar*. During the meeting, he stressed the importance of news worthiness,

accuracy, and quality of news reports. He called for collective effort by the staff to attract the interest of not just local, but also international readers. He also asked them to improve the quality of news photos.

The Deputy Minister then discussed administrative affairs. A general round of discussions followed, after which, the minister concluded the meeting.—MNA

(Translated by Alphonsus)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun meeting with editorial team of the Global New Light of Myanmar yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.glnldaily@gmail.com
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‘11th largest’ property expo to be held in Yangon this month

A property expo, touted to be the 11th largest in Myanmar, will be organized by iMyanmarHouse.com from 10 to 12 May at the Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall on U Wisara Road in Yangon.

“The exhibition will be organized in Yangon by iMyanmarHouse.com, which has held similar expos in Mandalay, Taunggyi, and Singapore. More than 50 property companies will participate in the three-day real estate expo. There will be special sales for apartments, and the good news is that apartments will be sold under an instalment system. Officials from banks will come to the exhibition and explain how families can buy the apartments by using their savings accounts. KBZ Bank and YOMA Bank will act as the official banking partners for home loans,” said U Nay Min Thu, the Managing Director of iMyanmarHouse.com.

Golden City is the main sponsor of the expo. More than 10,000 apartment and condominiums from Mandalay, Yangon, Taunggyi, and Patheingyi will be showcased at the expo. While the apartments have been priced



The 11th largest property expo in Yangon being convened. **PHOTO: PWINT THITSAR**

at K20 million, the prices of condominiums will range upwards of K50 million to K500 million. Some apartments will be sold on instalment, with repayment period of 1 year to 25 years.

In addition, U Myat Thu Win, the Chairman of the Shwe Min Thar Foundation, U Ko Ko Htway, the Chairman of Taw Win family company, U Thet Naing Oo, the CEO of Maverick

Real Estate, U Soe Hein SME-BI President, AEA-ASEAN Advisory Board, U Peter, a business consultant with the Aung Thamardi Real Estate Co. Ltd, U Win Naing, the Deputy Director of the Urban and Housing Development Department, U Sai Khun Naung, the Chairman of the Myanmar Real Property Development Association, U Kyaw Sithu, the Sales Director of Gold-

en City, U Myo Myint, Chairman of M.K.T Construction, Maung Kaung Phay, an advocate, Daw Khin Nilar Aung, the Assistant General Manager of CB Bank, U Kyaw Hswar, the MD of Myanmar Art Construction, and U Nay Min Thu, the MD of iMyanmarHouse.com will give talks about the specific aspects of real estate sector.— Pwint Thitsar ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

No more tolls to levy on Monghsat-Tachilek road

‘Wa’ Special Region-2 has stopped the collection of toll on the Monghsat-Tachilek road, which connects Monghsat and Tachilek districts of Shan State (East), beginning 1 May.

“Previously, ‘Wa’ Special Region-2 collected toll near Monghkan village in the Monghtalan Village-tract. We are very glad that they are not collecting the toll any longer. Earlier, we had to pay 100 Thai baht for going to Tachilek and 100 baht on returning from Tachilek,” said a local from Waik ward, Monghsat Town.

The 60.4 miles long Monghsat-Tachilek road was upgraded from an earthen road into an



Officials inspect the technical condition of Monghsat-Tachilek Road. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW (MONGHSAT)**

all-weather road in 1998 by ‘Wa’ Special Region-2. A toll of 5 baht (over K200) was being charged for motorbikes, 100 baht (K4,000)

for small cars, and 1,000 baht (K40,000) for trucks on the road.

“They have stopped collecting toll from 1 May. But, they are

checking vehicles, and this is causing delay in transportation,” said a driver, who uses the Monghsat-Tachilek road daily.

“‘Wa’ Special Region-2 stopped collecting the toll after reaching an agreement with the government.

Under the agreement, no toll will be collected on the road as the government has upgraded the current road.

Depending on the budget, the government will continue to upgrade the road for providing better transportation,” said U Myo Zarni Oo, the road division head of Monghsat district.— Than Zaw (Monghsat) ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Imports of capital goods down 10.4% in seven months

MYANMAR’S import of capital goods in the last seven months topped US\$3.2 billion, down by nearly \$380 million from this time last year, when the imports of the same was \$3.6 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce’s report this Friday.

The total value of capital goods included \$511 million by

the public sector and \$2.8 billion by the private sector. When compared with the same period in the last year, this year’s imports of capital goods by the public sector increased by \$80.7 million, but the private sector’s import of the same declined by \$460 million.

The country spent its \$10.3

billion on importing major groups of products in nearly seven months, including \$3.8 billion worth of manufactured goods, \$1.8 billion worth of consumer goods and \$1.3 billion worth of CMP raw materials.

Myanmar continues external trade with international

countries, including China, India, ASEAN member countries, European states and Western nations and African countries not only maritime routes but also land border points of entry.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

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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.

Residents near Wethe Lake earning good income from lotus fibre production

THE residents of Shanywagon Village near the 800-year old Wethe Lake said they are now generating a good income mainly from production of natural lotus fibre.

Located at Salin Township in Minbu District of Magway Region, the Wethe Lake is naturally covered with lotus plants. Villagers living near the lake have taken up production of lotus fibre as a family business. They mostly rely on the business for their livelihood.

Colourful lotus plants can be found in different parts of the lake. The plants produce a single bloom between March and December.

Earlier, the market saw only the sale of lotus blossoms and seeds. The lotus fibre production business has boomed in the last seven years after lotus fibre



Workers make fiber from lotus stems. PHOTO: NYEIN THU

producers from Inle in southern Shan State entered Salin area and led lotus fibre production by sharing techniques with res-

idents.

Malar Win from the village said lotus fibres have traditionally been extracted within days

while the stems are still fresh. “We cut about three inches of the lotus stems and pull out their spongy fibres by twisting and

hand rolling them on a wooden table. The villagers use about 400 lotus stems to produce one tical of fibre. The fibre is used as a raw material to make the special cloth used for the robes of Buddhist monks,” she said.

Currently, lotus fibre is priced at about K3,000 per tical (0.036 pounds) in the domestic market, while a viss (3.6 pounds) of lotus fibre fetches K300,000. The fibres are sold mainly to wholesalers in Inle area, she added.

U Kyaw Zeya, the head of Salin Township’s Development Department, said the department is continuing to disburse small loans to villagers to expand the lotus fibre production business through the Myaseinyang Kyeywa project.—Nyein Thu ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Overseas trade exceeds \$19 bln, with \$700 mln in deficit

MYANMAR’S overseas trade stood at US\$19.9 billion as of 26 April this 2018-2019 Fiscal Year, up by nearly \$700 million from that of the corresponding period last 2017-2018 FY, when the country’s external trade totalled \$19.2 billion, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

During seven months, the country’s export of domestic products topped \$9.6 billion, whereas its imports of foreign goods exceeded \$10.3 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of \$700 million, which decreased by over \$1.7 billion, as against the same time last FY, when Myanmar recorded a trade deficit of \$2.4 billion.

When compared with last FY, the current import value declined by over \$500 million from both border and non-border trade, however, the current

export valued went up by nearly \$1.2 billion.

Myanmar-international trade is conducted mainly through by maritime route.

The country’s maritime trade declined by \$108 million in comparison with this time last FY, while its border trade rose by \$808 million.

Regularly, Myanmar exports seven main groups of commodities—agricultural, forest, marine and animal products, minerals, manufactured products and other miscellaneous items.

It usually imports four major categories of commodities—capital goods, intermediate products, consumer goods and CMP raw materials.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

High commodity prices push up inflation in March

THE annual rate of inflation in Myanmar, based on the Consumer Price Index, rose to 7.28 per cent in March from 7.07 per cent in February, according to a report released recently by the Central Statistical Organization, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

For the period between April, 2018 and March, 2019, the average inflation rate in April indicated the lowest level of 4.12 per cent, while the rate in March was the highest recorded this year.

In the last 12 months, the year-on-year inflation rate was the highest in October at 8.85 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate in March was registered at 7.92 per cent, while core inflation, which strips out volatile food and energy prices, was 6.18 per cent.

In March, Magway Region recorded the highest inflation rate at 11.06 per cent, followed by Mandalay City at 10.52 per cent, and Mon State at 9.82 per cent. The year-on-year inflation rate fluctuated with a maximum rate of 12.07 per cent in Magway Region and a minimum rate of 3.59 per cent in Kachin State.

Last month, there was a remarkable increase in CPI in the food group, non-food group, household goods and maintenance group, transportation group, other commodities group, clothing, health, education services, recreation and culture, except telecommunications and tobacco and beverages group.

The Myanmar currency strengthened against the US dollar in March, compared with

February. With global gold prices sliding, the price of gold in the domestic market declined. However, transportation costs rose due to soaring fuel oil prices, leading to a hike in commodity prices. Earlier, the inflation rate was calculated based on a 2006 survey. The base year was later changed to 2012. The Central Statistical Organization conducted a Household Income and Expenditure Survey in 82 townships in November, 2012. To reduce the inflation rate, the concerned authorities have been making efforts on the basis of policies on finance, currency, trade, and foreign currency control, in keeping with the second Five-Year National Development Plan.—Htet Myat ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Yangon Investment Forum 2019 to be held at Lotte Hotel

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Investment Forum 2019 is scheduled to be held on 10 and 11 May at the Lotte Hotel, according to the Yangon Region government.

Projects in Yangon Region, which have been registered in the Project Bank under the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan, will be unveiled at the forum.

The commercial hub of Myanmar, Yangon absorbs most of the investments flowing into the country.

“Yangon is the commercial

city of Myanmar. It attracts the largest share of foreign investments. The forum is aimed at increasing existing investments and attracting new investors into the region,” said Naw Pan Thinzar Myo, the Yangon Region Minister for Kayin Ethnic Affairs.

The two-day investment forum will include speeches from high-ranking government officials, presentations by the concerned government authorities on the legal framework for investments, and two panel discussions focusing on Myanmar industry, finance, logistics, indus-

trial zones, agriculture/agribusiness, garments and textiles, and manufacturing.

On the second day of the forum, the organizers have scheduled site visits to the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and the Hlaing Thar Yar Industrial Zone.

Between 1 October, 2018 and 26 April, 2019, foreign direct investment of US\$2.54 billion flowed into the country. Meanwhile, domestic investments exceeded \$306.16 million and K893.9 billion, including expansion of capital. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

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Rakhine State: Focusing on peace and wide-ranging economic development; Encouraging prospective investors to initiate their businesses in region; Strengthening the progress of infrastructure projects

“Additionally, the Rakhine Investment Fair was held from Feb 21-23, 2019 on Ngapali Beach and attracted the attendees of 600 foreigners and locals including investors, diplomats and the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.”

U Nyi Pu, State Chief Minister

By Thi Thi Min
Photos: Tin Tun & Thant Zin Win

STARTING from the inception of the incumbent government, the Rakhine administration has made the development, rule of law and peace the main priorities. U Nyi Pu, State Chief Minister comments: “The State Government is focusing on peace and development of the state. Safety of the people is our top priority. We’re working as much as possible and collaborating with the Tatmadaw, Myanmar Police Force as well as relevant district administrators and locals to make the area as peaceful and stable for residents as possible.”



Sat Yoe Kya Bridge, 1642 feet long, seen in Sittway Township. **PHOTO: MNA**

Investments

There is the Investment Committee chaired by the State Chief Minister to make decisions on both domestic and foreign investments coming in the region. From its inception on 27 Feb 2019, the committee was able to approve 5 businesses, creating 579 job opportunities with K 4222 million invested in industrial companies and K 10051 million in hospitality and tourism industry.

Additionally, the Rakhine Investment Fair was held from Feb 21-23, 2019 on Ngapali Beach

and boasted the attendance of 600 foreigners and locals including investors, diplomats and the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. “There were prospective investors who expressed interest possibly worth US\$ 5.2 billion. These will create a lot of jobs for the people in Rakhine and greatly aid development in the region,” explains the State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

“We have also been building on the infrastructure in the region to be able to host the investments when they come.” As of the end of 2018. There are 72 ho-

tels and guest houses with a total of 2311 in Rakhine. Additionally,

upgrading the Man Aung Airfield to be able to land ATR-72 grade

Additionally, the Rakhine Investment Fair was held from Feb 21-23, 2019 on Ngapali Beach and boasted the attendance of 600 foreigners and locals including investors, diplomats and the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

there are plans to upgrade the Thandwe airport to become an international airport as well as

air vehicles.

Infrastructure

There have been several

bridges built such as the 1920 feet long Kyae Sin Bridge that connects Myay Pone and Min Pyaw Townships as well as the Sat Yoe Kya Bridge that is 1642 feet long. Both bridges cost K8823 million and K11324 million respectively. There is also a new bridge built parallel Yan Maung bridge on the Yangon-Sittway highway and is now 13% complete. When opened, this will replace the old bridge. Japan has donated two Pontoon ships as well to ferry residents across Sittway and Taungup. Furthermore, 51% of the Rakhine State population now have electricity with 386 powered by generators and new 1517 from other renewable sources.

The State Development fund of K 7444 million had constructed quite the infrastructure including 177 concrete bridges, trenches and wells over the course of 3 years. The first phase out of four for the project financed by JICA's ODA loans to distribute water to Sittway Town has also been completed with plans to begin phase 2 underway. Lastly, there has been 36 cyclone shelters constructed with funds from the National Disaster Management Committee as well as 4 more shelters from the Bangladesh government.

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Buthidaung-Maungtaw 66 KV sub-station and Maungtaw 66/11 KV (5) MVA sub-station. **PHOTO: MNA**



The rain paddy field turning a feathery yellow in Ponnagyun Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**



Cyclone shelters are built in areas prone to storm surge including Aung La Pyin Village, Yanbye Township. PHOTO:MNA



The 960 feet-long Darlet Chaung Bridge seen on Minbu-Ann-Sittway Road. PHOTO:MNA

FROM PAGE-6

Health and Education

The State Government was able to construct an additional 479 schools in 2018 including 37 high schools, 40 high school branches, 134 middle schools, 126 middle school and 153 pre-schools and primary schools. More than 1800 school teachers (primary, secondary and high school) teachers were added to the workforce as well. Plan to expand the Sittway Military school is also underway as well in the Sittway Computer University where 500 students are in attendance.

To build up the health-care workforce, the State Government employed 200 more healthcare professionals from doctors, dentists to mid-wives. Additional professionals have also been dispatched to 183 hard to reach villages as well as 2 rescue camps for vaccinations efforts. Under the social security system, the State was able to support 17857 old age residents as well as 9748 people with disabilities.

Agriculture and Trade

To protect villagers from confiscation of land, 13388 acres of farmland were returned to 4143 farmers with additional 14720 acres of other types of land distributed as well. Thirty-one military departments have also returned 2582 acres of land which have been redistributed to the respective actors. The Myanmar Agricultural Bank have also loaned up to K 84342 million to farmers for crops and farm equipment. Between April and September 2018, the State was able to export over US\$ 13.7 million against US\$1 million imports.

Rule of Law

In Rakhine, there are 17 police stations in towns, 25 in villages and 33 outposts. There were 201 drug-related case arrests in addition to seminars being held and pamphlets distributed to educate the side-effects and other dangers of drug usage.

Seven cases of trafficking were shut-down with 10 other cases regarding illegal Muslims crossing into the country through Rakhine State Government. "We have been putting extra effort and resources into these cases and the task teams are showing wonderful results. We performed better in cracking down such illegal activities of smuggling illegal migrants, drug and human trafficking. The special task forces are producing wonderful results as well," notes the State Chief Minister.

Repatriation Efforts

Under the authority and expertise of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) committee, there have been several camps set up to welcome back Myanmar citizens who had to leave the country to escape war and other attacks. A total of 1109 houses have been built with 892 in progress by the State and Union governments for returnees. Another 217 houses are seeking donors as well.

Additionally, there are 413 houses in several villages for Hindu households and 419 for Muslim households. There are 31 centers for repatriation in Maungtaw and 11 in Buthidaung. Between 13 April 2018 and 28 Jan 2019, the centers welcomed a total of 177 returnees.

Development of the State

In the State Chief Minister's meetings with the people, he announced that the State have supported K 221 million in development efforts. U Nyi

Pu, State Chief Minister, further notes, "Rakhine is a very special state. No matter how hard a situation may be, if the Rakhine people got together, no doubt it can be overcome." In a

region filled with rich culture, support from the Union as well as beautiful landscapes and other natural resources, Rakhine's success in quite the near future.

(Translated by Myat Thu)



The colorful plantation seen in Minbya Township, Rakhine State. PHOTO:MNA



Newly built Taungup-Maei-Kyaukphyu concrete road. PHOTO:MNA

Disaster preparedness is key

AN 'extremely severe' cyclone, Fani, made landfall in Odisha, India yesterday. Faced with the most extreme weather system in the last two decades, the Indian authorities evacuated over a million people to safety and kept rapid response teams on standby to aid rescue efforts.

The authorities in Odisha, which is perhaps India's most disaster-ready state with developing manpower, infrastructure, and skill sets for disaster preparedness, have managed to restrict fatalities to low single digits.

Fani brought back memories of another cyclonic storm, Nargis, which struck the Ayeyawady Delta in 2008. Nargis caused severe and widespread damage in the towns and villages of the southern Ayeyawady Delta and the commercial city of Yangon.

While disaster preparedness must begin at the level of the general public, the ministries, region, and state governments must take the leading role in all such efforts to reduce losses.

Taking lessons from Nargis, the local authorities in the Ayeyawady Delta have constructed many cyclone shelters and disaster preparedness teams are on the alert to quickly respond to possible disasters today.

The increased occurrence of natural disasters can have a huge destructive impact. The country has faced changes not encountered in the past, and even more upheavals are expected in the future.

Despite the decreasing temperature these days due to Fani, we are not out of the woods yet. Isolated heavy rain caused by the storm can lead to flash floods and landslides in hilly areas.

The summer season has not yet ended, and the temperature is expected to increase again.

Floods and landslides are not new to Myanmar in the rainy season.

As disasters are expected to become more regular and can affect all people, without discrimination, the public has an obligation to respond to them. With extreme weather phenomena increasing due to climate change, there's a need to constantly expand disaster management capacities.

While disaster preparedness must begin at the level of the general public, the ministries, region, and state governments must take the leading role in all such efforts to reduce losses.

The recent storm underscores the fact that the local people and the authorities must remain alert to disasters during the rainy season.

We must keep a close watch on weather updates and warnings. It pays to be prepared all the time. Preparedness remains our best weapon against the worsening climate conditions.

We must take heed of warnings to prevent deaths this year and in future rainy seasons.

CHIN STATE: Enacting policies promoting agro-businesses; Making steady progress in regional development efforts; Allowing regional products to access other corners of country

"The State Government is working towards food security and reduced poverty by 2020-2021 fiscal year by creating more businesses and employment opportunities."

Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai

By Nandar Win

IF CHIN State had to be described in two phrases it would be 'peace' and 'serenity', said the State's Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai.

The Chief Minister also said, "There are no major conflicts in Chin State. It is peaceful and filled with peace and captivating sceneries of mountains and forests. We have Khaw-nu-soum, an ASEAN heritage mountain, Bungtla waterfall, and Rhi lake. The weather is always cold and the terrace farms are pleasing to the eyes."

Chin State is located in the northeastern edge of Myanmar. It borders with Sagaing Region, Magway Region, Rakhine State, India and Bangladesh. Thus, Chin State is geographically advantageous for conducting border trade.

Therefore, the State Government is working towards food security and reduced poverty by 2020-2021 fiscal year by creating more business and employment opportunities.

Policies

The State Government is enacting policies that will develop agriculture and livestock businesses that will boost regional development. The policies will make better infrastructure, develop MSMEs, sustainable development of nature, and other beneficial matters.

Objectives

The State Government has numerous objectives such as forming new terrace farms, conducting organic farming and planting more crops that bring in income. They will perform more livestock tasks that are better in line with the needs of the state. Better transportation within the state and beyond and increasing MSMEs for each home to increase their income.

Other objectives include generating more electricity, more urban municipal development, developing the human resource, education, healthcare and other services. Reducing unemployment and poverty rates



President U Win Myint (Left) inspects the construction of Surbung Airport project in Falam, Chin State on 21 February 2019. PHOTO: MNA

and increasing job opportunities. Attracting more domestic and foreign investments, promoting research into socioeconomic

to 2018-2019 FY, the Rural Road Development Department implemented the Sa At-Te Kyoh-Mhun Hlwa-Kyawt Thae-Lian

K1,222.0755 million to construct 6 offices, a staff residential building, a trade route and 3 water ducts on it.

The Union Government is implementing the Emerald Green Project in its third year of governance for 221 villages and 135 units using K4,050 million in assistance. The Village Development Project is underway and will use K918 million for developing 136 villages.

The State Government is enacting policies that will develop agriculture and livestock businesses that will boost regional development.

development of Chin State, and increasing border trade.

Tasks of the three pillars

The legislative pillar of Chin State has ratified the Local Project Law (3/2018), Budget Law (2/2018), Municipal Affairs Law (4/2018), Microfinance Law (5/2018) and Budget Allocation Law (1/2019).

The executive pillar upholds its duties from the subnational level down to the village level and works closely with the judicial pillar to administer fair justice in line with existing laws.

Regional development

The Chin State Government emphasized developing the relatively weak infrastructure of the State. From the 2016-2017 FY

Nhar-Reedhorda to a 21/6-mile gravel road, built 2 concrete bridges, 40 water ducts, 2 embankments, 3 road fortifications, and 1 canal using K3,077.950 million.

Rural Development Department

From 2016-2017 FY to 2018-2019 FY, the department used K2,724.1112 million from state funds and Union support funds to carry out 76 spring projects, 13 lakes and 76 other projects.

In 2018-2019 FY, the department conducted the NEP (ICB-III) for 317 solar villages and used allotted budget for 10 electrification projects. They constructed 324 rural houses using K1,134 million.

From 2016-2017 FY to 2019 FY, the department used

From 2016-2017 FY to 2018-2019 FY, the department used funds from the state budget for implementing rural development projects in Tiddim, Tonzang, Falam, Haka, Thantlang, Mindat, Kanpetlet and Matupi townships.

Department of Roads

The department maintains 8 national roads and 25 subnational roads and implemented concrete roads, gravel roads, reinforced walls, 4,254 water ducts and grass plantations.

Terrace farming project

In 2017-2018, officials planted 79,140 acres of rice and 42,689 acres of corn and achieved 48.61 per cent of adequate food supply.

Domestic and foreign organizations who wished to collaborate on planting elephant foot yam, grapes, avocado, mulberry, orange and coffee were invited. Officials are now searching for markets to sell the produce.

Irrigation projects

The State Chief Minister said they used K1,926.83 million from the Union budget to establish the Agricultural Science School in Falam and was opened in February 2017. The school conferred diplomas to 40 students within

2018-2019. Opening the school enables Chin people to gain theoretical and practical experience concerning agriculture and this will develop the agricultural sector of Chin State, said Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai.

Bridge Department

In the third year of the State Government's administration, the

Department of Bridges used allotted funds from the Union budget to construct the Litvar Bridge, Thitar Bridge (1), Sayaw Bridge and Mwalzam (Branch) creek bridge. They also used funds from the State budget to construct the Thitar Bridge (2), Chi Chaung Bridge, a steel reinforced concrete bridge on Yayzwa-Lai Lin Pi Road, another on the Haka-Matupi road, and 4 more similar bridges on the Matupi-Paletwa road.

Despite its natural beauty, Chin State suffered from a shortage of tourists and investors mainly due to its poor infrastructure. But now, the Department of Civil Aviation is working on the Falam Airport (Surbung) and has reached the construction phase for the runway. The project was initiated in 2015 and is slated for completion by 2020.

"If I had to point out the most prominent and important project for Chin State then it has to be the Surbung airport construction," said State Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai. He said the airport is located on a mountaintop 10.5 miles from Falam and 47 miles from Haka.

The Chief Minister said that the airport, once completed, will become the main air route into Chin State and will bring in an increased number of visitors and

tourists in a short amount of time and will also allow regional products and local residents of Chin State to access other corners of the country.

Urban Planning Department

The department constructed 19 buildings with a total of 138 rooms for civil servants in Chin State during the three-year period.

State Development Oversight Office

During the three-year period, the office used border development funds from the State and the Union to implement dirt roads, gravel roads, asphalt roads, concrete roads, road expansions, maintenance, unsurfaced off-roads, cycle roads, concrete bridges, civilian and vehicle suspension bridges, maintaining bridges, civilian and vehicle wooden bridges, concrete water ducts, concrete canals and embankments.

In the healthcare sector, they organized the construction and renovation of hospitals, clinics, healthcare departments and upgrading them. They also carried out tasks for constructing staff residences, water supply and electric supply.

SEE PAGE-10



Manipur multi-purpose dam is situated on Manipur River in Falam Township, Chin State. The dam is the biggest tributary of Myitha River. By implementing the project about 80,000 acres of farmlands can be provided with irrigation. PHOTO: MNA

CHIN STATE: Enacting policies promoting agro-businesses; making steady...

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Education

A basic education high school, 9 basic education middle schools, 12 kindergartens, 7 staff residences, a preschool, a hostel, brick walls and embankments were constructed.

State Education Officer

From October to September of 2018-2019, the State Department of Basic Education utilized K14,070.703 million from its related working groups and departments to conduct projects and tasks in Kanpetlet, Tiddim, Tonzang, Thantlang, Paletwa, Falam, Mindat, Matupi and Haka townships.

Livestock

A center for livestock breeding and veterinary care and a multifunction breeding farm was established during the third year of the Chin State Government's administration.

Energy sector

The State Government conducts such tasks as constructing hydropower stations, linking transmission lines, power plants, and hydro and solar powered systems for regional development.

The Department of Co-operatives in Chin State has sold one DS3510 tractor and nine DT100N tractors to ten co-operatives in five townships with an installment plan.

To transition to a mechanized agricultural system and upgrade farmlands, Chin State provided K279.600 million to 511 members of 14 co-operatives in



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes an exhibition showcasing Chin traditional artifacts and costumes in Kanpetlet, Chin State on 27 October 2018 . PHOTO:MNA

4 townships between 2016-2017 FY to 2018-2019 FY to develop their 932 acres of farmlands.

Haka Township was selected for development tasks as a role model for other townships in Chin State in the 2018-2019 FY. And from within that township, the Kun Kyone Agricultural Co-operative, Sein Pan Pyar Wholesale Co-operative, and Haka Township Co-operative were chosen for a K80 million loan to improve themselves as multi-development role models. The three co-operatives receive monthly visits from the State-level Oversight Group and the Township-level Oversight Group.

Natural disaster risk management

Chin State suffered 27 natural disasters between October 2018 to 25 February 2019. They received K12.884496 million in support and K56.362000 million for IDPs fleeing from conflict zones.

Collaboration with humanitarian organizations

The Chin State cabinet has collaborated with affiliated organizations, CSOs and humanitarian orgs such as UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, IOM, GRET, WV, LWF, IRC, SCI, MRCS, MCWA, MAAF, Save The Children,

3MDG Fund, KMSS, GREEN, HRC, CARD, CAD, AYO, COLDA, ACRD, CMA and CSO Network on healthcare, natural disaster prevention, regional development, loans for employment opportunities, newborn and child health, food security and others.

The State cabinet has also used the Recovery Credit program of the World Bank to renovate the Kalay-Falam-Haka road and is cooperating with CSOs and humanitarian orgs on the matter.

“Chin State's transportation infrastructure is drastically improving. The roads to Haka, Falam, Thantlang, Matupi and Kanpetlet are now linked with concrete roads for better transportation. Communications-wise, 49.732% of the population are using mobile phones,” said Chief Minister Salai Lian Luai.

The apparent development of mobile phone communication technology and the Internet has made it easier for the public and civil servants to gather knowledge and be updated on the political, social, military and climate news of the world, said the Chief Minister.

Long-term projects in Chin State include the Kaladan River Project, Paletwa Industrial Zone, Bon Zoan Industrial Zone and Kaing Kam Industrial zone.

The Chief Minister also mentions the vast potential for investment in the state's hotel and tourism sector; infrastruc-

ture construction projects, mining, cotton and traditional weaving. “I invite all prospective investors to Chin State,” said the Chief Minister. “Please, come visit Chin State. Explore it. Try investing in it. And try conducting business with it. The Chin State Government takes full responsibility for you to do business peacefully and efficiently.”

Contribution to peace process

The Chin National Front explained the discussions of the Third Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong to local people at a discussion held at the TBC Christian Hall in Thantlang, Haka District, from 21 to 23 August 2018. There were 130 local people interested in politics who attended.

Successful reforms

The municipal committees at the district/township levels work closely with the Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands and has successfully reduced unwanted issues for the public. They have also improved the basic needs and living standards of the people.

The Chin State Government follows the policies and procedures set by the Union Government and will continue to work towards regional development with added momentum.

(Translated by Pen Dali)



Vice President U Henry Ven Thio inspects systematic plantation in Chin State. PHOTO:MNA

Rural water distribution facility commissioned in Rakhine

A water distribution pipe from Kanthaya Dam was inaugurated at Kanthaya Village in Gwa Township yesterday, with an address delivered by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu.

The facility was jointly built by Rakhine State Government and UNDP-Myanmar with the aid provided by the Japanese government.

Japanese Embassy Counselor in Myanmar Mr Kazuyuki Takimi and Peter Batchelor, UNDP Resident Representative for Myanmar, also gave speeches.

Techno Roys Engineering Co., Ltd transferred the water distribution facility to Rural Road Development Department.

Then the Chief Minister and his cabinet members and donors formally launched the water distribution system, which supply potable water to a station hospital and four villages from the dam.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu formally opened a village-to-village road in Taungup Township, Rakhine State, on 4 May.

The 3.5-mile long and 20 feet wide earth road was jointly built by Rakhine State Government



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu poses for a group photo together with officials from UNDP Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

and UNDP-Myanmar with the aid provided by the Japanese government. The Chief Minister also met with local people after the road opening ceremony.

At the ceremony the Chief Minister, Japanese Embassy Counselor in Myanmar Mr Kazuyuki Takimi and Peter Batchelor, UNDP Resident Representative for Myanmar, gave speeches.

Then Khaing Yaza Tun Company transferred the documents to Rural Road Development Department.

In the morning, the Chief Minister met local people at Gwaychaung village monastery in Thandwe Township. The township administrator explained the regional development undertakings in detail. Locals presented requirements for regional development. Officials fulfilled the requirements through coordinated efforts.

The Rakhine State government presented K 5 million for Gwaychaung Dam and K 1 million for the village library respectively. —MNA ■

Ministries to hold press conferences on third year of administration

THE Union Ministries will be holding separate press conferences on different days on their journey during the third year of the civilian government's administration. The press conferences will all be held at Office No. 7 at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

The schedule for the press conferences is as follows:

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Border Affairs, and the Office of the Union Auditor-General on 9 May.
2. The Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and the Ministry of Industry on 13 May.
3. The Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Ministry of Education, and Nay Pyi Taw Council on 15 May.
4. The Ministry of the Office of the Union Government, Ministry of Construction, and the Central Bank of Myanmar on 17 May.
5. The Ministry of Information, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism on 21 May.

6. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of International Cooperation, Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, Office of the Union Attorney-General, and the Union Civil Service Board on 23 May.

7. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence, and the Ministry of Health and Sports on 27 May.

8. The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of Commerce, and the Ministry of Planning and Finance on 29 May.

9. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on 31 May.

All domestic and foreign media agencies wishing to attend the press conferences can register by sending their name, agency, and contact information to e-mail of the Sub-department of Domestic/Foreign Relations and Information at ir:psomoi2015@gmail.com. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Nay Pyi Taw commemorates 73rd National Fire Service Day



The 73rd National Fire Service Day ceremony being convened in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Nay Pyi Taw Council Fire Brigade celebrated the 73rd National Fire Service Day at the premises of Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Attending the ceremony were Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife Daw Khin Saw Mu, Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, members of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, Hluttaw repre-

sentatives, department officials from the subnational level, firefighters and other officials.

Firstly, attendees saluted the State Flag and the fallen firefighters, and then recited the four oaths.

The Nay Pyi Taw Council Chair then delivered a speech.

Next, the firefighters demonstrated how to extinguish a fire at a gas station and how

to save people trapped in vehicles in a car accident and extinguishing the flames. The Hazmat Vehicle Respond Team demonstrated how to reduce danger at a leakage of sulfuric acid, the CBRNE rescue procedure, and then sprayed coloured water.

The ceremony then began the awarding event with Dr. Myo Aung conferring cash prizes and honorary certificates to the male firefighters who took part in the parade and demonstrations, Daw Khin Saw Mu conferring the awards on the female firefighters participants, and Maj-Gen Myint Maw conferring awards on reserve firefighters with over 25 years of service and those who have received the Model Civil Servant Award.

Afterwards, Dr. Myo Aung and his wife, Maj-Gen Myint Maw and officials observed the exhibits on display. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Australia's Foreign Affairs Deputy Secretary arrives in Myanmar

Mr. Richard Maude, Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and his delegation landed in Yangon yesterday to attend the 3rd Coordination Meeting between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar-Australia, which will be

held in Nay Pyi Taw on 7 May.

The Deputy Secretary and delegation were welcomed by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Australian Ambassador Ms. Andrea Marie Faulkner at the Yangon International Airport. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Delegation led by Mr. Richard Maude, Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade arrives at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thai King Rama X set for first grand procession since coronation

BANGKOK (Thailand)—Thai King Maha Vajiralongkorn will be carried on a golden palanquin through Bangkok's historic heart Sunday, a second day of coronation rituals which will bring the public up close to their powerful monarch. The Thai coronation that started Saturday was the first in 69 years, a once-in-a-lifetime ceremony where Vajiralongkorn was anointed with holy water and placed the tiered golden Great Crown of Victory on his head. Early Sunday, the king bestowed royal titles on family members who crawled to his throne as he sat next to his new Queen Suthida. Thailand's monarchy is wrapped in ritual, protocol and hierarchy all orbiting around the king, who is viewed as a demigod.

In the afternoon, Vajiralongkorn will emerge from the palace as soldiers in conical red hats carry-

ing tiered umbrellas and royal standards flank the hourslong procession.

"I will be here to save a spot at 5 am," Kanha Kitvej, 80, told AFP the day before, as she watched soldiers march by the royal palace. But the scorching heat may keep others away. "I won't go today because I'm afraid that I will faint due to hot weather," said a woman in her mid-60s. Roads in Bangkok's old quarter have been closed down for the seven-kilometre (four-mile) procession, when the king will pass by crowds dressed in yellow—the royal colour. Vajiralongkorn ascended the throne in 2016 after the death of his beloved father Bhumibol Adulyadej.

For many Thais, the procession is a chance to see the king in a country where the wealthy monarchy is the focus of reverence and veneration. Criticism of the royal family



The Thai king's coronation started on Saturday, and is the first in 69 years. PHOTO: AFP

in Thailand is guarded by harsh lese majeste rules that carry up to 15 years in prison. All media must self-censor and the country's lively social media platforms were subdued during the coronation.

The ceremonies have hewed close to traditions

underpinning the Chakri dynasty, which has ruled since 1782. But coronation contained a few surprises, such as the investiture of Queen Suthida, whose unexpected marriage to Vajiralongkorn was announced only days before. The king and queen stayed the night in the royal

residence, where a Siamese cat and chicken were placed on a pillow as part of housewarming rituals.

They moved to a throne hall Sunday morning where the king in white uniform bestowed the royal titles, including on 14-year-old Prince Dipangkorn

Rasmijoti, who knelt in front of his father as he was anointed with water.

The teenager is the king's son from his third marriage. He has six other children, including four sons from two previous wives. Queen Suthida, Vajiralongkorn's fourth wife, sat by his side during the ceremony as uniformed officials assisting the ceremony moved around on their knees. Though present on day one, the king's older sister Princess Ubolratana did not participate.

The king thwarted the political ambitions of Ubolratana in a royal command in February that torpedoed her attempt to run for prime minister with a party opposing Thailand's junta, which seized power in a 2014 coup. Election results from the disputed March poll are expected to be announced this week. —AFP ■

Maduro rallies military as Venezuela opposition appeals to troops

CARACAS (Venezuela)—Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro urged his troops Saturday to be "ready" for potential US military action, as a limited number of opposition supporters marched on military barracks in a bid to win the armed forces' support.

The small turnout for the Saturday marches—with participants in the hundreds, not the thousands—is another setback for opposition leader Juan Guaido, following a failed military uprising earlier in the week.

Maduro on Saturday instructed the military "to be ready to defend the homeland with weapons in your hands if one day the US empire

dares to touch this territory, this sacred earth." Underscoring the continued military support for his socialist regime, Maduro delivered his televised address from a base in northwestern Cojedes state—where he appeared alongside his defense minister, Vladimir Padrino, and in the presence of more than 5,000 troops. The United States has refused to take the threat of military action off the table in its push to oust Maduro—although it so far has limited its campaign to ramping up sanctions. Guaido's cause gained renewed support on Saturday from US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, who issued

a video address to the Venezuelan people, telling them: "The time for transition is now."

"You can hold your institutions, your military and their leaders to the highest standards and demand a return to democracy," Pompeo said in the message. "The United States stands firmly with you in your quest."

National Assembly head Guaido, 35, has branded Maduro a usurper over his controversial re-election last year, and in January declared himself acting president, plunging Venezuela into a political crisis that deepened its already grave economic woes.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1101 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1101 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 06-05-2019 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (916S/918N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC SEOUL VOY. NO. (916S/918N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 06-05-2019 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 ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1009 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1009 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 06-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (917S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO. (917S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 06-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

N. Korea tested rocket launchers and 'tactical guided weapons'

SEOUL (South Korea) —North Korea's state media said Sunday that leader Kim Jong Un had overseen a rocket and tactical guided weapons test, after the drill Saturday raised concerns Pyongyang was escalating provocations with US nuclear negotiations deadlocked. The North last carried out a missile test in November 2017, before a rapid diplomatic rapprochement saw tensions ease on the peninsula and a series of summits.

A return to missile launches would be likely to infuriate US President Donald Trump, but the North's official KCNA news agency shied away from the term in its report, saying Kim had ordered a "strike drill" involving "long-range multiple rocket launchers"—



The North last carried out a missile test in November 2017, before a rapid diplomatic rapprochement saw tensions ease on the peninsula and a series of summits. PHOTO: AFP
which are not targeted by UN sanctions resolutions—and unspecified "tactical guided weapons". Seoul's defence ministry said Sunday an analysis of the launch indicated Pyongyang had tested "240-

mm and 300-mm multiple rocket launchers and a new type of tactical guided weapons with a range of around 70 to 240 kilometres" (45 to 150 miles). The United States and North Korea have been

at loggerheads since the collapse of a Trump-Kim summit in February, when the two sides clashed over sanctions and the extent of Pyongyang's concessions on its atomic arsenal.

But despite the latest sabre-rattling from Pyongyang, Trump insisted that a breakthrough was possible. "Kim Jong Un fully realizes the great economic potential of North Korea, & will do nothing to interfere or end it," Trump tweeted. "He also knows that I am with him & does not want to break his promise to me. Deal will happen!"

The US leader did not elaborate on Kim's promise. During Saturday's drill Kim urged his troops to remember "the iron truth that genuine peace and security are ensured and guaranteed only by powerful strength", KCNA said.

The state-run Rodong Sinmun newspaper on Sunday carried 16 photos of the weapons test on its front page, including a pic-

ture of a grim-looking Kim clutching his binoculars in an observation post as well as several images of projectiles shooting skywards.

Broken promises?

Trump proclaimed that the North Korean nuclear threat was over after the two sides' historic first summit in Singapore in June, when Kim pledged to work towards "complete denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula". The two have since disagreed over what that means, but Trump has insisted the leaders remain close even after their follow-up meeting in Viet Nam broke up without a deal or even a joint statement, and that Kim would maintain his moratorium on long-range missile and nuclear tests. —AFP ■

Smart tech the new tool for African farmers

DAKAR (Senegal)— How do you manage the trick of feeding school children better and at a lower cost? How do you count the number of mangoes on your farm so that you get a fair price? And what's a clever-

olution unfolding in Africa," says Pascal Bonnet, a deputy director of CIRAD, the French Agricultural Research Centre for International Development. "Around the continent, there are excellent

"There's a huge need for this," Thiam said, showcasing her work at an agri-tech conference in Dakar last month. "Today, between 25 and 50 percent of the cost of school meals goes to intermediaries, but schools have limited budgets. If you shorten the supply chain, canteens can bring down the cost of meals and offer the children more varied menus."

Her one-stop platform draws on a databank of crop production and schools to match potential demand with supply. It group-purchases to lower the cost for schools and in a final flourish organises the transport of the goods, with operations monitored in real time.

Counting by mobile

A project called Pix Fruit, meanwhile, aims to help farmers who have until now estimated their mango crop by counting the fruit on a bunch of trees and then extrapolating for the whole plantation. This rough-and-ready method has considerable room for error.—AFP ■



Reaping the benefits of smart tech. PHOTO: AFP

but-cheap way for a farmer to cut down his irrigation bill? Agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa may have the image of relentless toil and low productivity, but experts say new tech is changing the picture. Farmers, crop buyers and other sector professionals have started to harness smart gadgets and crunch numbers to improve productivity, reduce costs and smooth out wrinkles in the markets, they say.

'Digital revolution'

"There's a digital rev-

researchers in information technology—digital agriculture is a real opportunity for qualified young Africans." The idea of directly linking farmers to consumers, cutting out wholesalers and stores is a familiar story in Europe and North America. Awa Thiam, a 28-year-old telecoms engineer, is following suit in her native Senegal. The company she founded, Lifantou, connects school canteens with farming co-operatives with the help of big data.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Yangon Region Government
Yangon City Development Committee
Notification No. 32/ 2019
14th Waning of Tagu, 1381 M.E.
(3 May, 2019)

Notification of Cut-off Date for Yangon Urban Mass Rapid Transit (YUMRT) Project

- In exercise of the powers conferred by section 67 and 336 of the Yangon City Development Law, this is to notify the public of the Cut-off Date of Yangon Urban Mass Rapid Transit (YUMRT) Project.
- The Ministry of Transport and Communications (MOTC), in collaboration with Yangon Region Government (YRG) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), is implementing the Yangon Urban Mass Rapid Transit (YUMRT). Phase I of East-West Line of YUMRT, (Hlaing Thar Yar – Parami) will be implemented as a priority. It will be 18 kilometers in length, starting from Hlaing Thar Yar Station, travelling along Yangon-Pathein Road, and crossing the Hlaing River, then along Parami Road, ending at Parami Station. The required width of road is 29 meters for Yangon-Pathein Road and 22 meters for Parami Road.
- The affected area of the YUMRT project will be as the followings;
 - 54.36 Acres (22 Hectares) from Hlaing Thar Yar Station for the construction of YUMRT Depot;
 - 14.5 meters width at each side from the center of YUMRT alignment along Yangon-Pathein Road;
 - 11 meters width at each side from center of YUMRT alignment along Parami Road.
- It is officially announced that 6 May, 2019 (3rd Waxing of Kason, 1381 M.E.) is the Cut-off Date so that to the affected areas in article 3 of this notification are to be acquisitioned and supported by Yangon Region Government for resettlement.
- According to the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Policy of JICA and standard practices of international monetary organizations, the survey for project area will be conducted tentatively from 6 May 2019 to 30 June 2019. COD is to be defined as the first date of conducting survey as per above-mentioned standard practices.
- This is hereby announced that there will be no compensations, resettlements and grievances for the matters, such as renovation and expansion of existing buildings, construction of new buildings, transfer of land ownership and sales of land after COD in the affected area in article 3 of this notification.

Sd./-
Maung Maung Soe
Chairman (Mayor)
Yangon City Development Committee

ASEAN level natural heritage Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary

Wut Yi Khin (Bago)

Heading to Meinmahla Island

I paid a visit to Bogale in January 2019 together with writer Dr. Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) to give talks about danger of narcotic drugs and raising knowledge about education and health matters at the invitation of Bogale Township Administrator U Aung Zin Oo.

After the talks, we were transported to Meinmahla Island in order to observe an ecosystem of mangrove forest.

We took about three hours along the way to Meinmahla Island by speed-boat. I would like to express thanks to those who explained facts about the Flyway Site Network of Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary.

Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary

Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary established in 1994 is located on 52.78 square miles (33,336 acres) of land in Bogale Township of Pyapon District in Ayeyawady Region. It is com-



Various sizes of crocodiles seen on Meinmahla Island.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

bined with two environmental conservation areas of Ayeyawady Region.

The wildlife sanctuary prevents inflow of seawater which may cause damage to farmlands of Ayeyawady Region where paddy cultivation and production is the main business in the region and causing of landslides, controls silting process, gives shelters as habitat for aqua creatures which are the second important



Various species of mangrove plants thriving in Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

product in the region and contributes to reduction of climate change.

Various kinds of ecosystems such as mangrove forests, muddy forests, grass and sandbanks can be seen in the wildlife sanctuary which is home to various species of biodiversity. It is a single area of naturally conserving *Crocodylus porosus* which is a species of crocodiles with habitation in the area mixed with fresh water and seawater. Moreover, the wildlife sanctuary is habitats for otters, hyenas, boars, monkeys, various snakes and mangrove forest birds.

Ramsar Site

Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary was designated as the ASEAN Heritage Park on 18 December 2003 and as Ramsar Site in 2017.

In fact, the sanctuary is of importance for conservation of biodiversity as rare species of migratory birds arrive in the Ramsar Site on the island yearly. That is why the sanctuary was

set as national level sanctuary.

Meinmahla Island and Phuket Island

On the way to Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary by speed boat, I received a call from my husband residing in Bago. While talking about my trip and similarities of mangrove forests between Meinmahla Island and Phuket Island of Thailand to the husband, I remembered my experience on the trip to Pukhet.

At the floating restaurant on Phuket Island, we had a lunch with meal of roasted lobsters. The restaurant was built on the timber logs. Female workers from the restaurant were Myanmar. So I asked a female worker at the age of my daughter, "Didn't you fear the events in tsunami?" She replied, "There was not much damage this side at that time. But, damage was worse at seaside areas of the island."

Mangrove forests thrived along the beach of Phuket Island similar to that of Meinmahla Island. The floating restaurant was

built near the corner of island where nipa palm plants, mangrove plants and others thrived. Hence, I thought the restaurant was free from impacts of tsunami. It proved that mangrove plants could prevent tidal waves.

Breeding farm of crocodiles in Cambodia

I also remembered breeding farms of crocodiles on my trip to Cambodia. When we paid visits to the crocodile breeding farms in Cambodia, we paid entrance fee to the officials.

Our Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary is more beautiful than a similar sanctuary of Cambodia. Such a sanctuary can catch interest of globetrotters. I have experience on my trip that foreign travelers viewed happy moves of crocodiles in Cambodia at moonlit nights by binoculars. Those foreign tourists spent nights in Cambodia to view moves of crocodiles. Although lodging buildings are ready to admit foreign tourists on Meinmahla Island, better facilities to

Myauktaya Pagoda (100- monkey pagoda)

On the way, we paid homage to Myauktaya Pagoda built by U Nu. As it is very famous, the Buddha Pujaniya festival is held on a grand scale in the month of Tabaung (around March) yearly. During the period of festival, local people and those from four corners of the nation arrive there by boat to pay homage to the pagoda on a grand scale.

Local people are engaged in fishery tasks of catching fish and prawn. Those fisherpersons cook meals aboard the boats. In my presence, the administrator said, "What do you use diesel or petroleum as fuel for your boat? If you cook aboard the boat, you all may face danger." It was because a woman cooked a rice pot with the use of charcoal stove in the boat.

Educative tasks

The administrator pointed to latrines on the bank of river. He said, "It is not easy issues we face. We tell somebody not to cook near the generator of boat and share knowledge about unclean water and clean one. Moreover, we disseminate knowledge about danger of crocodiles to the locals as well as distribute pamphlets about such danger to the locals."

We the two writers knew advantages of mangrove forests explained by the Township Administrator aboard the speedboat. I would like to urge my friends to observe Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary. Natural geographical conditions such as mountains, jungles, lands and waters of the country are genuine beauties. Myanmar has plentiful of natural heritages with genuine beauties.

The ASEAN Environmental Ministers' Meeting approved the ASEAN level natural heritage parks in 2003 for the first phase in order to upgrade country-wise natural conservation areas in ASEAN countries to meet the set standard of the world. Six ASEAN heritage parks including Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary were designated on 18 December 2003.

16-year lass

I deeply prayed that may Meinmahla Island wildlife sanctuary which was set as an ASEAN heritage park, dubbed as 16 years old lass, be reliable for the motherland Myanmar with more and more beauties in 2019.

Translated by Than Tun Aung



be provided by the government can attract foreign travelers who were on the visits to the island to know pleasant and beautiful Myanmar more than Thailand and Cambodia. Consequently, the State as well as local people can earn increased income.

Domestic dried shrimps

While on Meinmahla Island, we stayed at sentry posts. We saw cyclone shelters donated by Japan with some 500-person capacity on the island. Local authorities arrange motorized boat service and local guides for observation of visitors. We stopped at the mangrove nursery camp.

Local authorities served us with fried shrimp salad together with sap of coconuts as marine products are plentiful in the region. Although one viss of dried shrimps was valued at some K40,000 in major cities and populous towns, we were satisfied with eating plentiful of dried shrimps. However, we noticed that remaining items of means were expensive.



Sagaing Regional Govt. to create waterfall resort in Kani Township

By Kyaw Htike Soe

A WATERFALL near Saphogyi Village in Kani Township, Sagaing will be created as a public relaxation area, according to a source from the regional branch of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism.

Accompanied by regional lawmakers and officials from the DHT and the Electricity Supply Enterprise, Sagaing Regional Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Oo made a field trip to the waterfall to evaluate whether it can be established as a resort for visitors, said U Aung Thu Oo, Deputy Staff Officer from the DHT's regional branch.

"The waterfall is about 37 miles from Monywa,

the region's commercial city. Road transportation to Kani from Monywa is convenient for the visitors. But the waterfall is located about two miles away from Meedin Village so holidaymakers will face poor road transportation. The regional minister visited there to instruct concerned officials to repair the damaged road section. Presently, only residents and government employees go to the waterfall to relax their physical and mental stresses," he added. Officials from the line departments will conduct a feasibility study to improve road transportation in order to attract local and foreign travellers to the waterfall.



PHOTOS: Ko Min (Indaw)

Myanmar selects players for U-15 girls' football team

TWENTY-three outstanding players have been selected for the Myanmar U-15 girls' football team, according to a statement released by the Myanmar Football Federation.

Team Myanmar is preparing for the ASEAN Football Federation U-15 Girls' Championship 2019 in Chonburi, Thailand. With the tourney scheduled to start on 9 May, the squad was selected yesterday.

Three goalkeepers — Lucia Year, Yin Yin Moe Naing, and May Oo Khin — have been selected for the tourney. Eight players, including Phyu Phwe, Mary Oo, Paing Phyo Hsu, Moe Pyae Pyae Maung, Khin Phone, Phyo Phyo Wai, and Khin Htay Kyng have been selected as defenders. The team will have eight midfielders — Htoo Theingi Naing, Aye Htet Htet Paing,



The Myanmar U-15 girls' football team undergoing technical training. PHOTO: MFF

Sandar Lin, Nan Cho Hmwe, Daisy Aung, Than Than Soe, Phyar Myar Moe Moe Ayg, and Kyal Sin.

The forward line includes

four star strikers: Zin Moe Pyae, Yu Ya Naing, Su Myat Noe, and Wai Hnin Phyo.

The team will be led by head coach Daw May Thu Tun, Daw

Marlar Win and Daw Maw Maw War will be assistant coaches, and Daw Moe Moe War will be the goal coach, said a source with the MFF.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Yadanarbon coach is MNL coach of the month for April



Yadanarbon head coach U Aung Kyaw Moe (right) receives the prize for the 'coach of the month'. PHOTO: MNA

U Aung Kyaw Moe, the head coach of the Yadanarbon F.C.,

has been named the Myanmar National League coach of the

month for April.

Under U Aung Kyaw Moe's guidance, Yadanarbon has won each and every game in April to retain its first place in the standing table.

A prize-giving ceremony was held yesterday in Yangon, during which the Manager of the Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) awarded a cash prize of K100,000 to the Yadanarbon head coach.

While U Aung Kyaw Moe was also named the coach of the month in February, this is the first time he has received a

prize in this season of the national league.

U Aung Kyaw Moe is also responsible for Yadanarbon's performance in the General Aung San Shield. The team beat three-time champions Ayeyawady in the second round knockout recently. U Aung Kyaw Moe played professionally for the Yadanarbon F.C. He has played in the Myanmar National League as well as on the national team as a midfielder. He was adjudged the 'Man of the Match' in the MNL Cup Grand Royal 2009. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Unique bush sport draws Australia's top outback horseriders

ROCKHAMPTON (Australia)—Decked out in cowboy hats, brightly coloured shirts, jeans and boots, thousands of Australian countryfolk packed out a vast campground this weekend to cheer on competitors in the unique outback sport of campdrafting. Campdrafting—one of just three sports recognised as originating from Australia—involves a cowboy or cowgirl riding their horse while guiding a bullock around a course in a yard, often at a fast pace.

"It's totally unique. It's the best feeling you'll ever have," Tony Ward, 61, a retired competitor who has been taking part in campdrafts for decades, told AFP

at the Paradise Lagoons Campdraft in central Queensland state just outside Australia's beef capital Rockhampton.

"There is nothing better than breeding your own horse and training your own horse (and getting a high score)."

Campdrafting harks back to the early days of Australian frontier culture in the dusty outback, where drovers on horseback had to muster cattle spread across vast unfenced plains.

Eager to show off their skills and horsemanship to other ranchers, the stockmen created the bush sport of campdrafting in the late 1800s in the outback in eastern Australia, with the contests

spreading across the vast continent. Today, tens of thousands of people flock to campdrafts, with the four-day dawn-to-dusk Para-

dise Lagoons extravaganza one of the biggest on the calendar with up to 12,000 competitors and spectators. —AFP ■



Campdrafting involves a cowboy or cowgirl riding their horse while guiding a bullock around a course. PHOTO: AFP

High-stakes Folau 'anti-gay' hearing extended to third day

SYDNEY (Australia)—Israel Folau's high-stakes code of conduct hearing was Sunday extended to a third day after a weekend stalemate amid reports the star fullback rejected a lucrative settlement to end his row with Rugby Australia over homophobic comments.

The tribunal was initially scheduled for just Saturday, but stretched into a second day and will now resume on Tuesday after hours of legal jousting seemingly failed to find a resolution.

Rugby Australia said on Saturday that no further witnesses were expected to be called after Folau, Wallabies coach Michael Cheika, and the governing body's chief Raelene Castle all gave evidence.

But Castle was questioned again on Sunday, along with NSW Rugby chief Andrew Hore, Rugby Australia said.

It came as Sydney's Sunday Telegraph reported that a Aus\$1 million (US\$700,000) offer was made to Folau last week in a bid to avoid the tribunal, which experts have warned could lead to appeals and potentially a long and costly court battle.

But the devoutly religious player instead opted to fight a decision by the governing body to terminate his multi-year, multi-million-dollar deal after he posted on social media that "hell awaits" gay people, following a similar tirade last year.

The offer equated to just one year of his four-year contract.

The three-member panel, chaired by employment law expert John West, will decide what punishment, if any, is appropriate—ranging from a fine to a suspension, or the sack.

Folau was expected to argue that Rugby Australia did not include a social media clause in the contract he signed this year and his posts were merely quoting the Bible. The governing body would reportedly counter that even if there was no clause, he seriously breached its broader code of conduct and inclusion policy.—AFP ■