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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Ministry of State Counsellor's Office holds its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of establishment



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

**T**HE 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center in Nay Pyi Taw at 6:30 pm yesterday.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi made a speech at the ceremony, and provided the students and school children of staff families with cash and stationaries.

Also present at the event were Union Minister for State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe and wife, Union Minister

for the Office of Union Government U Min Thu and wife, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Soe Win, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and wife, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Ministers U Khin Maung Tin, U Tin Myint, and U Maung Maung Win, the members of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD), and the

Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE), the directors general and officials, the staff members and the invited guests.

In her speech, the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said:

"When I studied the anniversary events, I have noticed a trick of the time. It seemed to be some years ago the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office was founded. But it was just three year. It is not a long-time span. I concluded that the ministry functioned very well, and that

it was felt the time was very long. It has been firmly rooted to get a good foundation. This was due to the efforts of all the staff members at this ministry.

"The Ministry of State Counsellor's Office is largely concerned with the national reconciliation and peace-making efforts. It is the most important tasks of the ministry and the country.

We performed our duties by taking priority on national reconciliation as the most fundamental needs for our country

since we took office.

Therefore, I would like to review the previous milestones of the ministry.

After taking office in 2016, our government unexpectedly encountered Rakhine issue. We formed the NRPC to focus on peace-making efforts of the country.

We have already understood we needed to address Rakhine crisis since it broke out in 2012.

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## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

# Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13<sup>th</sup> regular session holds fifth-day meeting

By Mawsi, Hmwe Kyuzin  
Photo : Htan Phon

THE fifth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning.

MoU on non-convention ships within ASEAN member states

First U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency and U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency discussed in support of Myanmar acceding to Memorandum of Understanding on the Improvement of Safety Standards and Inspection for Non-Convention Ships within ASEAN Member States. Union Minister for Transport and Communication also explained further for the Hluttaw to approve the matter.

Upon obtaining the opinion of the Hluttaw on the matter there was no objection toward it and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval on Myanmar acceding to Memorandum of Understanding on the Improvement of Safety Standards and Inspection for Non-Convention Ships within ASEAN Member

States.

LL PROT 1988

Next U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency, U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region constituency and U Tin Maung Win of Seikkan constituency discussed in support of Myanmar acceding to The Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (LL PROT 1988). Union Minister for Transport and Communication also explained further for the Hluttaw to approve the matter.

When the opinion of the Hluttaw on the matter was obtained there was no objection toward it and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval on Myanmar acceding to The Protocol of 1988 relating to the International Convention on Load Lines, 1966 (LL PROT 1988).

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Annual Report for 2018

Afterwards Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) Chair U Win Mra explained about the commission's ongoing works, completed works and coordination with relevant departments regarding the discussions and



MP U Mya Sein.



MP U Maung Maung Ohn.



MP U Tin Maung Win.

comments made by the Hluttaw representatives on the MNHRC Annual Report for 2018. He then asked the Hluttaw to put the report on record and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw putting on record the discussion and comments made by the Hluttaw representatives on the Annual Report and the explanations made by the relevant union level organizations.

Myanma Communication Corporation Bill

Following this Joint Bill Committee secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe tabled a motion to approve paragraph by paragraph the Myanma Communication Corporation Bill that

the two Hluttaws were in disagreement. After obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval of the Myanma Communication Corporation Bill paragraph by paragraph and announced further that the bill will be handled according to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw law and rules.

Union Legal Aid Board 6-month work report

As a final agenda of the day Union Legal Aid Board 6-month work report was discussed by Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Kyaw Gyi @ U Ohn Khin of Minhla constituency, U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi

constituency, Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency 7, Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency 10, U Myo Naing of Chanayethazan constituency, U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency 5 and U Kan Oo of Salin constituency.

After the discussion Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced that on sixth-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 13th regular session relevant organization will respond to the discussion of the Hluttaw representatives and Hluttaw will put the matter on record. The meeting came to an end after this. ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Pre-negotiations crucial for implementing border economic zone with China

THE third coordination meeting of the Central Committee for the Establishment and Implementation of Myanmar-China Border Economic Cooperation Zone (BCEZ) was held at the meeting hall of the Shan

State cabinet in Taunggyi yesterday.

Firstly, the committee's chairman Dr Than Myint, who is also Union Minister for Commerce, delivered a speech. He said agreements between

Myanmar and China has designated Muse, Shwe Li and Kyae Kaung in establishing the BCEZs. He said while China has nearly completed their tasks in building infrastructure for the three locations, Myanmar has to conduct preliminary negotiations relevant use of land and transportation.

The Union Minister said demarcation of the border of both countries is important in choosing land area. He said it is equally important to ensure no damage is inflicted on villages, wards and townships when constructing road infrastructure, nor to cultural integrity.

The Union Minister said they must ensure the agricultural production and socioeconomic status of the local

residents is not harmed. He said the respective administrative body will need to ensure residents in the project who have to relocate are given the proper compensation for their homes and farmlands and are also given corresponding land in return.

The Union Minister said further negotiations between both countries and coordinating land use on demarcated borders will need to be completed first before calling for expression of interests.

Next, Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung and Shan State Chief Minister Dr Lin Htut explained their respective state's cooperation on border commerce and economic zone projects they are

willing to partake in.

This was followed by Deputy Commerce Minister U Aung Htoo's report on surveying Laukkai's BP125 border post and the border trade camps. The attendees then engaged in discussions on various topics, to which the Union Minister responded and coordinated on with officials.

Later at 2 p.m., the Union Minister attended a meeting with merchants at the office of the Southern Shan State Chamber of Commerce and Industry, where he listened to the merchant's reports and current challenges and responded accordingly. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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## Ministry of State Counsellor's Office holds its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary...

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However, the issue was exaggerated after armed conflicts with ARSA in 2016, causing more challenges. At that time the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office had to handle both peace and national reconciliation. At the start, I emphasized on internal problems to build reconciliation and peace. Therefore, the ministry was unexpectedly engaged in more struggles. We had to make more efforts in further rising issues. The collaborative and team-work efforts of the staff members from this ministry play crucial part in these works.

"I want to express thanks here to my all staff because they had to implement the visions and missions of the leaders who are also taking a leading role with sufficient capacities to manage a department well. Without these staff members, the department will not function systematically.

"Meanwhile, I would also like to suggest to lay a solid foundation in following procedures of civil service employees. Their works reflected our country. They were generated from the country's education, social systems and political situations. These staff members are our citizens. Our citizens are the reflections of our country's status, history and the past events. These situations have in turn impacts on the capacities of the civil service staff. I took a great consideration on the capacity building for them. To be able to perform their duties efficiently, they need good practicing that based on the knowledge they have learnt.

"Basic and university education play a pivotal role in capacity-building of the civil service staff. The senior staff members

who experienced previous admirable systems could hardly refresh in learning. However, the young people have more chances to be supported and more opportunities to be taught. The elder persons could overcome difficulties by their previous experiences in education system and teaching methods. It is also believed that they could develop updated idea based on their experiences and views no matter they saw the problems from any education background.

"It is very optimistic about young generation of our country. First, I am proud of them. Second, I want to encourage them. They are brilliant. They have a brighter future. They should know these advantages to be able to develop motivation and self-confidence. Moreover, I want to give a message that the future of our nation is filled with high expectation. But expectation will come into realize only with efforts. It will not be reached without any work. We will have to fulfill our expectation through our works. In this regard, the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office have taken crucial role to reach the goal of our country. The ministry is fulfilling and implementing the most fundamental and necessary issues for our country.

"I do not mean other ministries are not important. Our ministry need a lot of helps from other ministries such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, as well as health, education and the Attorney-General office. Good-minded persons for the welfare of the State need team-work capacities. The lack of cooperation among the individually capable persons will not



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presents stationaries to a staff at the ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

turn out a perfect result.

"National reconciliation is the work for developing a united strength from diverse idea and thinking. This strength is very necessary for our country. Peace can be made by this trend, like in Rakhine issue. We are finding the best way for the people with different views, hopes and requirements.

"I have often said that our country will surely develop if we consider more about giving to others, rather than taking from them. It is also the same practices in peace making processes. I suggested all the participants in peace-talks to consider about giving first, without focusing on receiving. They should take pride by developing this attitude. Taking opportunities in possible means is not a reason for pride. The Ministry of State Counsellor's Office has taken priority

to develop this attitude in the course of peace efforts. I also advise our staff members to have this mindset.

"I tried a lot for the welfare of our civil service staff. They are also advised to work better for the development of our country. Success will gain momentum through mutual cooperation. We could enjoy our lives more and more from the development of our State. Some might admire the employees of well-developed countries. However, our country need a lot of capable employees. The State Counsellor concluded her speech, saying that every generation could not get opportunity to bring the fortune of the State. We are getting this chance. We should take this advantage. Bringing the fortune of the country would develop more satisfaction and could lead the one's luck to a better trend.

After the speech, the State Counsellor presented cash and stationaries for the university students and school children from the families of staff members of the ministry for 2019-2020 academic year.

Then, the State Counsellor posed documentary photos with the Union ministers and their wives, the deputy ministers, the members of UEHRD and ICOE, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and wife, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, the directors general, the staff members of the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office, the staff members of Department of Policy Affairs and the staff members of the Department of Union Peace Formation. Then, the State Counsellor had dinner together with the attendees to the third anniversary event. — MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## Chin, Rakhine states cabinets discuss sending aid for IDPs in Paletwa Tsp

A COORDINATION meeting to provide food and aid to people fleeing conflict in Paletwa Tsp, Chin State, was held at the State Cabinet meeting hall in Sittway yesterday.

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, first delivered opening remarks where he highlighted the urgent need to send aid through Kyauktaw, Sittway in Rakhine State to Paletwa as infrastructure issues in Chin State can delay timely delivery.

He said they have arranged to provide monthly supplies of basic food for IDPs based on received statistics. He added that they are constructing temporary shelters for IDPs in Rakhine State as well. He urged attendees to discuss collaboration with the Rakhine State government to discover the best route to provide aid to Paletwa.

Next, Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai talked on the importance of supporting people fleeing from conflict areas and flood areas, how his con-

stituents have to purchase rice from Rakhine, and cooperation to ensure better transportation of the basic commodity.

Following this, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung reviewed MoSWRR's donation of three months' worth of rations, children's school uniforms and tarpaulin sheets, the Ministry of Border Affairs' donation of two months' worth of rations and stipends for students of the Border Ethnic Youth Development Training School, and the Chin State cabinet and local res-



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye attends the coordination meeting for providing aid to IDPs in Paletwa Township. PHOTO: MNA

idents' proposed support.

The attendees then discussed on possible future co-

operation on the matter. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

# Three pillars hold workshop on Right to Information Bill

REPRESENTATIVES from three estates— legislative, the administrative and the judiciary— organized a workshop at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information yesterday to discuss the draft law of Right to Information.

In his opening remark, Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, said that people have sounded a clarion call for the emergence of Right to Information Law as they have felt that it is necessity in a democratic state.

Out of nearly 200 countries in the world, over 100 states have enacted this law despite some differences in practicing it.

The Union Minister also remarked the essence of democracy is concerned with public participation, while the administration need to take responsibility and accountability for transparency; in this regard, the undertakings of respective pillars should be informed to the public.

He also noted people are dispersing the acquired information by taking advantages of



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint poses for the photo together with attendees at the workshop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

modern technology and social media, although the freedom of speech was related just with media persons in the past.

“All the state departments will require a certain division or a focal person to release information for public after the Right to Information Law has been enacted,” the Union Minister said.

“Types of information are to be classified either for general

public or for a specific department.”

The Union Minister also concluded the law could help the government gain public trust as an administration with democratic practices, transparency, responsibility and accountability.

Then, U Ye Naing, Director-General of Information and Public Relations Department, updated Myanmar media devel-

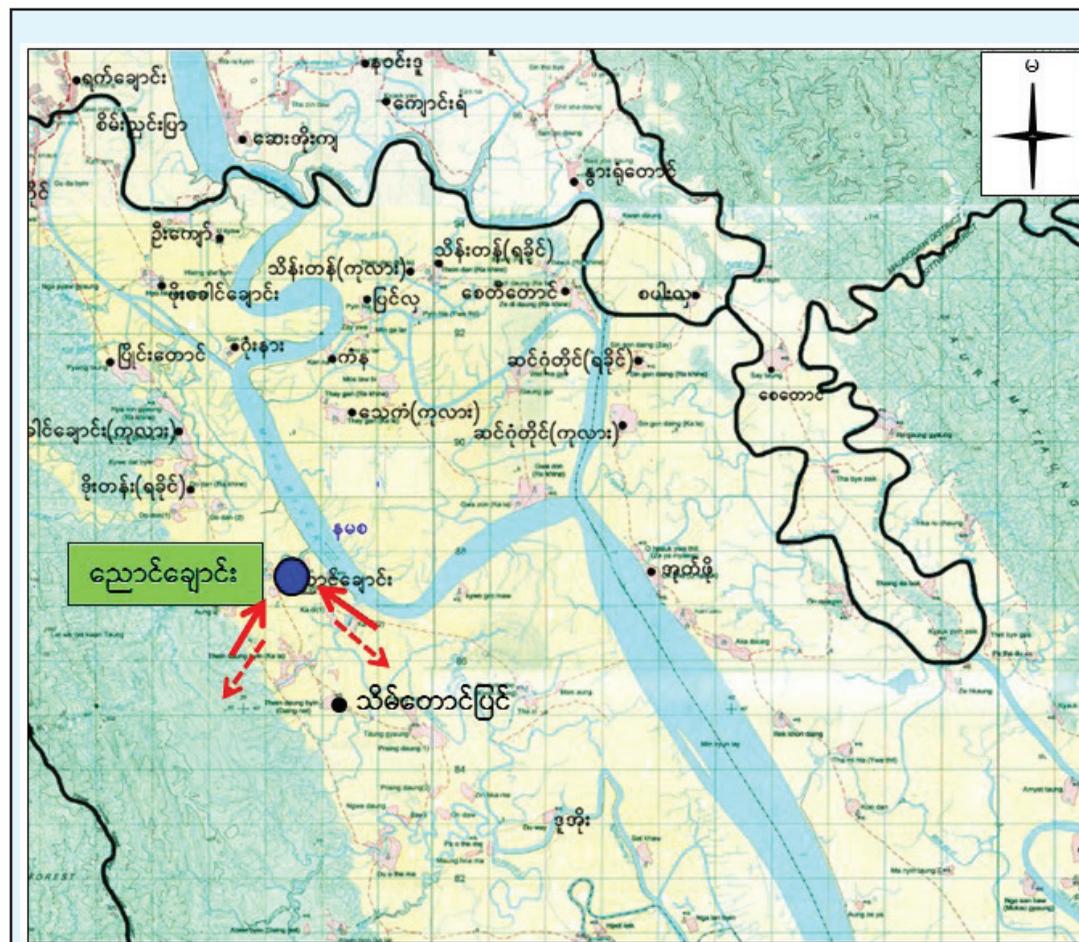
opment and the draft of Right to Information Law.

The representatives from the three estates discussed the bill, regarding its advantages, disadvantages and provisions for amendment, followed by the suggestions from Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Myint Lwin, Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Aung Thein,

Director U Zaw Min Aung from the Supreme Court of the Union, Deputy Director Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun from the Directorate of Public Relations and Psychological Welfare under the Office of Commander in Chief (Army).

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun made the conclusion remark of the workshop.— MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)



## AA/ARSA combined group fires on Border Police station in Buthidaung Township

A BORDER Police station in Nyaungchaung Village, Buthidaung Township where a company of Border Police Force was stationed to conduct region security and rule of law works was attacked by AA/ARSA combined group yesterday morning about 4:15 am.

AA/ARSA combined group fired on the Police Station with light and heavy arms from southeast and southwest. The Police Station returned fire and a Border Police mobile company came in support of the station and blocked the attacking forces and the AA/ARSA combined group retreated to the southwest and east.

During the firefight two Police personnel were slightly wounded and when the area around the po-

lice station was inspected 3 bodies of AA personnel dressed in sports wears, one M-22 assault rifle, one M-79 40 mm grenade launcher, 8 magazines, 40 bullets, two 40 mm rounds for the grenade launcher, 17 hand grenades, 6 improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and 13 backpacks were found. Inside the backpacks were sports wears, syringes, medicines and medical equipment and raincoats. Villagers reported that the retreating AA/ARSA group was seen carrying their wounded on stretchers. The attacked station remains under the control of the Myanmar Police Force, according to its news release.— MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Malaysia Police Force arrests militants supporting, aiding ARSA terrorist group

THE Star Online newspaper, a Malaysia daily, reported on 10 July that Malaysia Police Chief Detuk Seri Abdul Hamid Bador arrested four foreign militants.

The four foreign militants arrested include two Myanmar nationals. The two were a 41-year-old Muslim man arrested on 24 June in Sungai Petani, Kedah and a 25-year-old Muslim man

in Alor Setar arrested on 3 July in Alor Setar. The second man worked as a teacher in a madrasah in Bukit Pinang. Both were reported as supporters of ARSA.

The two militants were being scrutinized whether they are Myanmar nationals, according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits India Eastern Naval Command

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in Visakhapatnam, India under the invitation of India's Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa was welcomed with a guard of honor at Eastern Naval Command Headquarter by Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain on the morning of 25 July.

Afterwards Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and FOC-in-C of India Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain met in the Eastern Naval Command Headquarter meeting room.

During the meeting status of increasing friendship between

the two militaries and status of cooperating in training were discussed.

Next the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party were explained about naval matters by an official from India Eastern Naval Command Headquarter. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services said the security of the territorial waters couldn't be conducted by a single country and would require the cooperation of the two countries with adjacent territorial waters.

Later in the afternoon the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party visited Bharat Dynamics Limited where anti-submarine torpedoes were produced. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services raised questions on matters of interest and



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing accepts a souvenir from FOC-in-C of India Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain in Visakhapatnam, India. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

then inspected the production of torpedoes in the factory.

In the early evening the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party visited Thotlakonda Buddhist Complex on

Bheemunipatnam hill 15 km. away from Visakhapatnam.

Later in the evening the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and party were hosted to a dinner by FOC-in-C of In-

dia Eastern Naval Command Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

## 19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC concludes in Nay Pyi Taw, takes steps forward for 2019-2025 plan on preventing, fighting transnational crimes, terrorism

THE 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes and its Related Meetings-19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC was held from 23 to 26 July in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by senior officials from 10 ASEAN nations and representatives from partner countries China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada, EU, India, New Zealand, Russia and US and UNODC, totaling 250

personnel. On 23 July, ASEAN senior officials held 16 meetings focusing combating terrorism, trafficking in persons, arms smuggling and cyber crimes.

On 24 July, 19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC and its related meetings held at the Horizon Lake View Hotel, with key-note addresses by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Aung

Win Oo.

Among the three pillars of ASEAN, combating the transnational crimes is the main task for providing security and stability to the ASEAN community. In this task, ASEAN member countries host the AMMTC and SOMTC alternatively.

Myanmar hosted the 12<sup>th</sup> AMMTC meeting in 2018.

The 19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC Meeting

came to Nay Pyi Taw this year after the 9<sup>th</sup> SOMTC meeting in 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Charter of the ASEAN has urged the member countries to preserve the peace, security and stability in ASEAN region and to boost the regional's resilience through promoting the cooperation in the areas of politics, security, economy and socio-culture.

As the transnational crimes are spreading the ASEAN's objective and basic principles, senior officials of ASEAN meet every year to discuss preventing and fighting 10 forms of transnational crimes such as terrorism, trafficking in persons, money laundry and cyber crimes.

The 19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> July, with 24 agendas, and the meeting was presided over by Deputy Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Myo Swe Win of the Myanmar Police Force.

At the meeting, the senior officials discussed issues including arms smuggling, terrorism, human trafficking, cybercrime, wildlife and timber illicit trading and suggestions made by working groups.

They also discussed the SMOTC Plans for 2019-2021. The senior officials also discussed and made suggestions on drafting the Term of Reference-ToR for preventing and combating the transnational crimes and on establishing a data base system.

From 25 to 26 July, ASEAN's senior officials also held separate meetings with ASEAN dialogue partners: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Canada, EU, India, New Zealand and US over cooperation in SOMTC and aid programmes.

They also held a meeting with representatives of the Philippines which will host the 20<sup>th</sup> SOMTC in 2020.

As a separate programme, they discussed the issues related with trading of ancient cultural artefacts and management border areas in ASEAN region.

At the 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crimes and its Related Meetings-19<sup>th</sup> SOMTC, the senior officials exchange views and discussed the 2019-2025 plan for preventing and fighting terrorism, cyber crimes and extremism. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)



Officials make public statements during a press release of the 19<sup>th</sup> Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime and its Related Meetings in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Union Minister U Min Thu meets with Ambassador of Switzerland

UNION Minister for the Office of Union Government U Min Thu received Ambassador of Switzerland to Myanmar Mr Tim Enderlin at his ministry in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to reform of General Administration Department, people-centred good governance, decentralization, promoting the capacity of public servants of GAD, and bilateral relations and collaborations with Switzerland.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

Union Minister U Min Thu meets with Swiss Ambassador Mr Tim Enderlin in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Egypt Embassy celebrates 67<sup>th</sup> National Day in Yangon

THE Egyptian Embassy in Myanmar hosted a reception to celebrate the 67<sup>th</sup> National Day of Egypt in Chatrium Hotel, Yangon, yesterday. The Union Minister for Education, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, and wife attended the event.

At the opening ceremony, the national anthems of Myanmar and Egypt were first played, followed by opening remarks from Egyptian Ambassador Mr Khaled Mohamed Abdelrahman

Abdelsalam and the Union Minister. They next took documentary photographs with the guests who were then treated to the dinner reception.

The event was graced by other foreign ambassadors stationed in Yangon, diplomats, UN representatives and invited guests. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Egyptian Ambassador Mr Khaled Mohamed Abdelrahman and attendees pose for a photo at the reception to mark 67<sup>th</sup> National Day of Egypt in Yangon yesterday.

**PHOTO: MNA**

## Some classes suspended at schools in Pwintbyu, Moenyo due to flooding

SIX schools in Pwintbyu Township, Magway region, have to be temporarily closed yesterday because of flooding by the Ayeyawady River, according to the Pwintbyu Township Education Department.

The total number of schools closed due to the flooding has reached 14, said the education department.

The authorities are making

arrangements to help ensure that the studies of school children from the 14 schools are not disrupted, said U Nway Wint Kyaw, Head of Pwintbyu Township Education Department.

Ayeyawady River forces eight schools to close in Moenyo

The level of water in the Ayeyawady River has crossed the

danger mark since 25 July in Moenyo, Bago Region,

On 25th July, the water reached 54.85 ft, over two ft above the danger mark.

The education department would make necessary arrangements for studies of the over 340 school children when the water recedes so that their studies can not be disrupted.—IPRD ■

(Translated by KZL)



Basic Education Primary School in Pwintbyu Township. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

## Myanmar Post issues special commemorative stamp for month of Wagaung



MYANMAR Post of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, which monthly releases a series of postage stamps and covers marking the images of Myanmar traditional festivals and seasonal famous flowers, will issue a special commemorative postage stamp of denomination K200 to mark the month of Wagaung depicting its symbols of Sarye-tan pwe (lot-casting) and Khatta flower (crinum amoenum).

The sale of the special stamp will be launched at post offices in states and regions at 9:30 am on 1 August 2019 (1<sup>st</sup> waxing of Wagaung 1381 ME).

As a special programme, Central Post Offices of Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay will stamp post mark and date on the commemorative stamps and First Day Covers bought on 1 August 2019.—MNA

(Translated by TTN)

## Thai companies eye Myanmar's printing industry

By Aye Yamone

THREE Thai-based companies have shown interest in investing in Myanmar's printing industry, said Ms Walikar Apayasiri, Counsellor for Commercial Affairs of the Royal Thai Embassy in Myanmar. She made her remarks at the Thai-Myanmar Business Matching on Printing and Packaging Innovation 2019, organized by the Thai embassy's Commerce Affairs Office and held at the Hotel Novotel on Thursday.

"Two or three of 22 Thai companies which joined the event are interested in the printing sector. They also went on an inspection tour of a leading printing company in Myanmar", said Ms Walikar Apayasiri.

Introducing high quality products and machinery will help improve Myanmar's printing industry.

The leading 22 Thai-listed companies participating in the innovation event are leading suppliers of converting equipment,

chemicals and consumable supplies, solution providers, inkjet services providers, manufacturers of printing machinery, distributors and retailers.

Myanmar's printing businesses can match Thailand's investors in technology, but their equipment is still lacking", according to the Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association. "It will provide good potential to the industry if they come to invest in Myanmar. However, local businesses are also required to coop-

erate to compete against them. Fair taxation plays a crucial role in fair market competition against foreign companies. If banks can ensure fair lending, it will provide fair competition among them. If not, local businesses might be unable to compete", said U Min Han, President of the Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association.

Additionally, most local printing and publishing enterprises can only afford to operate second-hand machinery from Japan.

Therefore, the country needs to improve the banking sector.

There are more than 1,200 printing and publishing businesses, with most of them based in Yangon. The Thai-Myanmar Business Matching on Printing and Packaging Innovation 2019 seeks to link Thai businessmen with Myanmar counterparts, promote investment, support joint ventures and partnering between the two countries, and exchange ideas among them. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Myanmar fishery industry needs to weigh all options to meet EU market demands

By Aye Yamone

AS 25 per cent of Myanmar's cold storage have been exported to European Union markets, all stakeholders in the supply chain are required to ensure that Myanmar fishery products meet EU market standards, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

At present, there are more than 120 cold-storage facilities in Myanmar, and Myanmar Fisheries Department, MFF and Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association have been working to ensure that these cold storage facilities meet the rules and regulations of the EU countries.

"We need to mull over the various possibilities to gain more market share in the EU. We have to analyze the market to understand their tastes and the market climate", said U Win Kyaing, General Secretary of MFF.

Earlier, only fish caught in the wild were permitted to be exported to the EU market, and were only sold to ten EU countries, including the UK, Italy, France, Cyprus, the Netherlands, Sweden, Greece, Belgium and Germany.

Starting 1 May, however, Myanmar's farmed fish and prawns became eligible for export to the EU. Yet, Myanmar currently ships only rohu to the EU market, while tilapia, vannamei whiteleg shrimp, and large perch are in high demand.

In a bid to meet EU import standards, fishery products must be produced by only those hatcheries that comply with Good Aquaculture Practices (GAQP).

MFF is working together with fish farmers, processors and the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to develop the GAQP system.

The EU imposed economic sanctions on Myanmar in 1997 and in 2012, and reinstated GSP preferences for Myanmar's wild caught fish and shrimps. However, it gave permission to export farmed fish and prawns in May, 2019.

"As some of Myanmar's cold storage facilities are now eligible for export to EU markets, we need to grasp this opportunity and have to farm those fish and prawns demanded by EU markets", U Win Kyaing pointed out.

The EU constitutes 10 per cent of Myanmar's fishery exports. From 1 May onward, Myanmar's farmed fish, including rohu, mrigal, catla, carp, tiger prawn, whiteleg shrimp, tilapia, striped catfish, soft shell crab and barb, are able to be sold in the EU.

There are 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country. Myanmar exports fishery products to 40 foreign countries, including those in the European Union, China, Saudi Arabia, the US, Japan, Singapore, and Thailand.

Myanmar exports US\$20 million worth of fish to EU markets, with an estimated volume of 10,000 tons in the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year.

Some 568,227 tonnes of fishery products, worth \$717.7 million, were exported during the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, according to MFF statistics. ■ (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## Myanmar needs packaging techniques for high productivity



Tasty samples of food packaging design displayed at Thai-Myanmar Business Matching on Printing and Packaging Innovation 2019 in Yangon. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

THAI-Myanmar Business Matching on Printing and Packaging Innovation 2019, held at Novotel Hotel on Thursday, was the first packaging exhibition sponsored

by the Thai Embassy in four years.

At the event, Ms Walikar Apayasiri, Counsellor for Commercial Affairs from the Royal Thai Embassy in Myanmar,

noted that packaging plays a crucial role in production and innovation, as well as in improving production rates.

"Twenty-two Thai companies had been invited to display their packaging techniques in this event. I hope this event will provide opportunities for Myanmar businessmen to link with them", she added.

The Myanmar market still needs cups, bowls and bags, as seen in packaging used by KFC and Starbucks restaurants. Quality packaging products are still required in the market.

Thailand has a sophisticated packaging industry. Myanmar's productivity will develop if Myanmar collaborates with neighboring Thailand's printing and packaging companies, noted officials. — Myint Maung ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

## Contractors join with Real Estate Association to sell over 10,000 apartments

By Aye Yamone

OVER 10,000 apartments developed by the Myanmar Licensed Contractors Association (MLCA) will be sold by the Myanmar Real Estate Services Association (MRESA). The MLCA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with MRESA in February, 2019 to sell their apartments.

"We have a plan to sell more than 10,000 units from MLCA, as per on MoU we agreed to. We will also sell apartments and condominiums developed by other

contractors. Furthermore, we will join foreign projects launched in Myanmar to sell more units", said U Khin Maung than, chair of MRESA. Those companies listed in MRESA will hold sales expos if the contractors or real estate developers ask real estate agencies to sell their apartment units, condominiums and housing projects that are partially or completely developed.

Additionally, they also provide rental services to customers who bought apartments from

them. At present, apartment units worth K30 to 100 million are being sold in the real estate market. In addition to the Yangon market, other regions and states also experience similar market conditions. Those apartments offering home-loan plans are selling well. The member companies of MLCA have not yet disclosed those lists of units that MRESA has sold. The real estate service draft law has been submitted to the Pyithu Hluttaw. (Translated by EMM)

## Myanmar ready to resolve Rakhine issue based upon agreement with Bangladesh

**I**N ORDER to accelerate the repatriation process, Myanmar will dispatch a team of high-level officials, accompanied by representatives of ASEAN and the AHA Centre to Bangladesh, to explain to the displaced persons about preparations that have been made for their return.

Myanmar has already provided Bangladesh with the village-wise list of verified displaced persons, separated into seven groups for smooth repatriation, which reflects Myanmar's readiness to accept the voluntary return of displaced persons to Myanmar in a safe and dignified manner.

The main obstacle for the repatriation is the presence of hardline groups inside Bangladesh who do not want repatriation, but want to increase international pressure to create a so-called "Safe Zone" to advance their political agenda.

Hence, Bangladesh should make returnees ready, family-wise and village-wise, for repatriation from those verified lists, and repatriation of the first batch of verified displaced persons to Myanmar should follow the bilateral agreements between the two countries.

If both neighbours follow the arrangements, repatriation can be a success.

The main obstacle for the repatriation is the presence of hardline groups inside Bangladesh who do not want repatriation, but want to increase international pressure to create a so-called "Safe Zone" to advance their political agenda.

Myanmar is taking firm steps to resolve the Rakhine issue.

But steps, including building trust and harmony between the two communities in Rakhine State, takes time and space, since the Rakhine issue is a complex one.

It is both a political and economic issue, involving cross-border irregular migration since colonial time, along with poverty, and a lack of rule of law and security.

There had also been a deep rooted history of tensions, mutual mistrust and fear between the ethnic communities of Rakhine and the migrant communities. It will take time to educate both communities to live harmoniously, as people of different faiths are living in peace and harmony throughout Myanmar.

Religious edifices of different faiths stand side by side in many cities in Myanmar. It is of utmost importance to try to understand different narratives, the historical facts and complete information about this communal conflict before making a judgement on the issue.

Myanmar is creating a conducive environment for the returnees, in cooperation with UN agencies and our ASEAN team. The trilateral MoU with UNDP and UNHCR was extended last May, and access has been given to over eighty villages in Rakhine State during their four rounds of field assessments.

In these efforts, we would welcome willing partners who sincerely wish to see a sustainable resolution of the issue. Myanmar stands ready to resolve the issue with the cooperation of Bangladesh, based on the previously reached bilateral agreement.



# The road to helping Myanmar migrant workers

Interviewer : Maw Si  
PHOTO : HTEIN NAN NAW

We have appointed five labour attachés in Thailand, two in Malaysia and one in South Korea to ensure our citizens receive the full rights of the respective country's labour laws, can work in relative safety, and are protected from human trafficking.

U Win Shein  
Director General, Labour Department

**W**ITH other countries in the region having better wages due to their higher economic development and advanced communication technologies contributing to their social networking platforms, an increasing number of Myanmar citizens are searching for jobs overseas.

The following is an interview with U Win Shein, the Director-General of the Department of Labour; where we cover his department's tasks in ensuring the rights of Myanmar's migrant workers.

**Q: Could you tell us what are the leading factors causing people to find employment overseas?**

**U Win Shein:** Migration has

advantages to working abroad, there are a variety of challenges and hurdles as well. These advantages include those that benefit the individual, such as a wider range of employment choices and sufficient income, and those that benefit their home country, such as raising national GDP through sending money back to one's family, thus collectively providing social security to the family.

But the pitfalls of migrant workers are the dangers of being trafficked, having your wages cut through brokers, lack of security and having to work in hazardous conditions.

Only a few people who are either professional in a certain field



U Win Shein

Korea for work.

**Q: Could you give us an update on the progress of ensuring the migrant workers have full rights and protection.**

**U Win Shein:** The Union Government has enacted migrant worker policies and is conducting prioritized management tasks concerning their welfare. They're also revising or legislating laws that reflect the requirements of the current situation and negotiating with relevant countries on these matters.

We have appointed five labour attachés in Thailand, two in Malaysia and one in South Korea to ensure our citizens receive the full rights of the respective country's labour laws, can work in relative safety, and are protected from human trafficking.

In the countries we're unable

to send labour attachés, we coordinate with the Myanmar embassy there for these matters.

To give an overview, we are helping our citizens working in Thailand through the guidance of the Ambassador there and in cooperation between the five labour attachés and CSOs like FED, MWRN, JACBA and the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation (MOEAF).

Myanmar workers who have applied for social welfare

They can also contact the department's Facebook page, 'Safe Migration' or contact the complaint mechanisms in Nay Pyi Taw (067-430184, 067-430284), Yangon (01-650089, 01-650187) or the migrant worker branch department (067-430183, 067-430185).

They can also contact the Myanmar embassies and labour attachés in Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea through via their phone number, Viber and Line accounts.

**Q: Could you please elaborate**

with both the necessary citizenship documents and the Thai government-issued TR-38 temporary residential card between 10 March 2014 to 31 May 2019.

We opened One Stop Service Centers in Mai Sei, Maw Sot, and Ranong on 10 March 2014 for Myanmar workers who still had valid temporary visas to have their work permit extended. When the center was closed on 30 June 2016, it had helped 575,544 workers.

We opened a Temporary Data Collection Center at the ordinary



Officials provide aid to families of returnees at a handover ceremony near Myanmar-Thailand border.

Our citizens can also contact the Migrant Resource Center (MRC), Department of Labour and employment offices in their respective state or region to ask about the essential facts of the country they are going to work in or to consult on difficulties they are facing.

become an important aspect of today's world as people search for better income, higher living standards and more fulfillment in their lives.

While there are numerous ad-

or skilled technicians are capable of finding work in developed countries, such as Japan or Singapore. The rest who have average or below the necessary skill level go to Thailand, Malaysia and South



Myanmar Government is stepping up safeguards against pitfalls of migrant workers.

in Thailand can receive medical treatment at any government clinic or hospital there, in addition to other rights outlined in their social welfare law.

Social welfare does not cover those working in the agriculture and fishery sectors nor for domestic helpers, so they have to purchase hospital cards but they will still receive the same medical treatments.

Our citizens can also contact the Migrant Resource Center (MRC), Department of Labour and employment offices in their respective state or region to ask about the essential facts of the country they are going to work in or to consult on difficulties they are facing.

**on what you have done for the Myanmar workers in Thailand.**

**U Win Shein:** We opened temporary visa centers for undocumented Myanmar workers in Thailand from 2009 to July 2013 and helped 1,680,556 workers get fully documented.

On 10 March 2014, we helped workers who have finished their four-year entry visa, have the necessary citizenship documents and used up their temporary visas by opening an ordinary passport issuing office at the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok. We have issued ordinary visas for 88,285 workers as of 31 May 2019.

The office issued ordinary visas for 125,799 Myanmar workers

passport issuance center in Samut Sakon province on 15 March this year, as it has the highest concentration of Myanmar workers there.

Our two countries have also negotiated and opened nine centers in Samut Sakon 1 and 2, Samut Prakan, Mae Sei, Mae Sot, Ranong, Chiang Mai, Nakhon Sawan and Saung Kalaw. We have sent mobile teams to areas with the highest number of Myanmar workers and issued certificates of identity (CI) to them. We have issued 1,099,586 CIs between 3 March 2017 to 30 June 2018.

**To be continued**

Translated by Pen Dali



## Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 26<sup>th</sup> July, 2019)

**BAY INFERENCE:** According to the observations at (18:30 hrs M.S.T today, the low pressure area over the Northwest Bay of Bengal and adjoining coastal area of West Bengal still persists. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Bay of Bengal and moderate over the Andaman Sea.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2019:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Regions, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with regionally heavyfalls in Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kachin and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Rakhine Coast. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (9-11) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Rakhine Coast and about (4-8) feet off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Generally strong monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2019:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2019:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2019:** One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND:** Rain or thundershowers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon Region and scattered in Mandalay Region.

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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.

## More tourists visiting new tourism destination of Ruby Land

WITH the opening of a new tourist destination in Mogok, Ruby Land in Mandalay Region, the number of local travelers and tourists has increased, said U San Yu, the Assistant Director of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (Mandalay).

Previously, tourists were not allowed to visit the Mogok Region. However, the Mandalay Region Government now permits tourists to visit Mogok Town, using the Mandalay-Madaya-Thabeikkyin route beginning in the third week of September, 2018, with an aim to develop the tourism sector.

Moreover, the regional government opened new tourist destinations, such as Kyauk Pya That, Pan Lin and Bamed villages in February, 2019. Mogok town has long been famous for its gemstones, especially rubies and sapphires.

Mogok's 800<sup>th</sup> anniversary was celebrated to pro-

Photo shows the view of Mogok which is also known as Ruby Land. **PHOTO: MAUNG THA**

mote tourism development. Due to the permission of the Mandalay regional government, local travellers can also visit Mogok Town, as well as some villages, to observe the natural resources and ethnic cultures.

Authorities are also making arrangements to open the natural waterfall. Currently, the number of tourists, as well as local travellers, has been increasingly visiting Mogok region.

With the management of

tour agencies, over 1,300 tourists and over 5,000 local travellers visited Mogok region between October 2018 and the third week of July, 2019.

—Min HtetAung (Mandalay Sub-printing house) ■ (Translated by Hay Mar)

## High demand drives up price of palm trees in Ngathayauk Tsp



Photo shows palm trees in Ngathayauk Tsp.

**PHOTO: KO HTAIN (NGATHAYAUK)**

PALM tree growers are thriving in Ngathayauk Township,

NyaungU District, because of the popularity of using palm

trees as building materials, said U Kyaw Swar from Htanngge Village.

Although Ngathayauk Township grows a variety of palm trees, there are fewer palm tree climbers, as many leave for their jobs overseas.

Therefore, palm tree growers sell palm trees to be used in house building, cowshed shelters and materials to produce other accessories.

Earlier, the price of palm trees fetched K12,000 per tree, but has now more than doubled to K25,000 per tree, said U Kyaw Swar.

It takes over 20 years to grow a palm tree for harvesting. Moreover, a palm tree can produce only 10 leaves per season.

All parts of palm trees are useful, including palm fruit and milk as cow food, branches for chairs, tables, baskets and fences, leaves for shelters, and buds for doll and bead making.

The price of palm trees has risen, as more of the public uses palm materials for building homes, and its branches for fence materials, said U Kyaw Swar.—Ko Htain (Ngathayauk) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

## Forms distributed for purchase of over 60 school buses

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) has distributed purchase request forms for 66 school buses, so far this year, for transporting students in Yangon Region, said U Hla Aung, Joint Secretary of the YRTA, at a press conference held on Wednesday.

"As of 22 July, requests for 13 applicants for 15 buses have been forwarded to the Yangon Region government, and those of the remaining 20 applicants

for 21 buses are still under scrutiny", said U Hla Aung.

Applications for school buses, along with information about the importer company, the respective schools' approval, and certificate from the Road Transport Administration Department regarding bus specifications, have to be submitted to the YRTA. The school bus operators will be allowed to participate, if they meet 12 guidelines set by the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The Yangon Region government has initiated a school bus transport plan and has purchased 200 buses, of which 102 are currently serving 12 schools, said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw, Managing Director of the YRTA. The 102 school buses are transporting 1,946 students.

"The number of students wanting to use school bus services is rising. We are collecting data. We will provide services after drawing up the route," said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw.

The Yangon Region gov-

ernment's school bus scheme aims to create a systematic school bus system, instead of allowing a market-based system, said U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of the Region.

In the current academic year, school buses which meet the 12-point guideline issued by RTAD have been allowed to operate in the region. While new school buses are being imported, old school vehicles are still operating. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

## 14,381 scholars sent abroad in three-year period

BY the permission of the Education, Health and Human Resource Development Committee and Scholarship Selection Committee, Union-level institutions, Union ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Council and State/Regional government have granted scholarships to study abroad. The following table illustrates the yearly scholars sent between April 2016 to June 2019.

No.	Academic Year	Types of Classes				Total
		Non-Graduate Class	Graduate/ Diploma Class	Master Degree Class	Doctorate Class	
1	2016, April to December	2,563	39	202	181	2,985
2	2017, January to December	3,714	43	498	196	4,451
3	2018, January to December	4,212	51	398	173	4,834
4	2019 January to June	2,017	6	54	34	2,111
<b>Total</b>		<b>12,506</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>1,152</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>14,381</b>

A total of 14,381 scholarship students from 54 departments from Union level organizations, Ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Council and State/Regional governments have been sent to 70 foreign countries.

Out of 14,381 students, 12,506 students were sent to ordinary classes, 139 students were sent to graduate and diploma classes, 1,152 students were sent to Master Degree classes and 584 student were sent to PhD classes.

There were 2,941 students sent to India, 2,776 students were sent to Republic of China, 2,160 students were sent to Japan, 1,742 students were sent to Thailand, and 939 students were sent to Republic of Korea.—MNA

## N Korea fired new guided weapon as warning against South: state media

PYONGYANG — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un oversaw the “demonstration” firing of a “new-type tactical guided weapon” on Thursday to send a warning to South Korea against holding a joint military drill with the United States next month, state-run media reported Friday.

The report came after Pyongyang fired two missiles from its east coast into the Sea of Japan on Thursday morning that Seoul says were a new type of short-range ballistic missile that flew about 600 kilometers.

The test was aimed at sending a “solemn warning to the south Korean military warmongers who are running high fever in their moves to introduce the ultramodern offensive weapons into south Korea and hold military exercise,” the Korean Central News Agency said.

North Korea has long called



Photo taken at Seoul station on 9 May, 2019, shows people watching a television screen reporting on North Korea — after the country fired two unidentified projectiles thought to be short-range missiles. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

on the United States and South Korea to halt joint military drills, which Pyongyang regards as rehearsals for invasion.

Seoul should stop “suicidal” acts such as the introduction of

ultramodern weapons and military exercises, Kim was quoted as saying by the news agency.

The report said the missile’s specific features of the “low-altitude gliding and leaping flight

orbit” would make it hard to intercept, and characterized the guided weapon system as “newly deployed for operation.”

Kim said North Korea’s “development and possession of such state-of-the-art weaponry system is of huge eventful significance in developing our armed forces and guaranteeing the security of the country by military force,” according to KCNA.

The news agency also quoted Kim as saying, “We cannot but develop nonstop super powerful weapon systems to remove the potential and direct threats to the security of our country that exist in the south.”

North Korea recently said that it may reconsider its suspension of nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests if the United States and the South go ahead with joint drills as planned in August. —Kyodo News ■

## Iran frees nine Indian crew from seized tanker: India govt

NEW DELHI — Iran has freed nine of 12 Indian crew from a Panama-flagged tanker seized on July 14, India’s foreign ministry said Friday.

Iran had accused the MT Riah ship of smuggling contraband fuel when it was detained, amid mounting tensions between the Iranian government and Britain and the US over shipping in the Strait of Hormuz.

The TankerTrackers online

oil shipment website reported that the MT Riah crossed into Iranian waters on July 14 and stopped transmitting signals shortly after.

India’s foreign ministry did not give details of the release of the nine men.

It left 21 other Indians in Iranian detention however, including three others from the MT Riah and 18 from the British-flagged Stena Impero tanker which was

captured by Iranian forces last week. The Stena Impero and its 23 crew have been impounded at the southern port of Bandar Abbas for allegedly breaking “international maritime rules”. The vessel is at the heart of the showdown between Iran and Britain.

Apart from the 18 Indians, there are three Russians, a Latvian and a Filipino on the ship.

India announced on Thursday that its diplomats in Iran

had been given access to Stena Impero crew. “All 18 Indian crew members on board are safe and doing fine. Will continue to push for their early release,” junior foreign minister V Muraleedharan said on Twitter. Images from inside the ship released by Iran on Monday showed some Indian crew sat around a table, chatting and smiling. Two members could be seen cooking in the ship’s kitchen.—AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Hong Kong protesters rally at airport to ‘educate’ visitors

HONG KONG — Thousands of Hong Kongers, including flight attendants, held a rally in the airport’s arrivals hall on Friday to “educate” visitors about the demonstrations currently gripping the international finance hub as it braces for another weekend of protests.

The cavernous hall is usually filled with excited friends and relatives waiting to greet loved ones as they make their way out of one of the world’s busiest airports. But on Friday visitors were greeted by a sea of black-clad protesters chanting anti-government slogans, holding banners and handing out flyers — the information desk plastered in a tapestry of colourful sticky notes. —AFP ■

#### Cambodia shows site of alleged ‘secret deal’ with China on naval base

REAM — The Cambodian government took dozens of reporters to see a naval base on the country’s southwestern coast on Friday, in a bid to dispel suspicions that Cambodia and China have entered into a secret agreement to allow Chinese forces exclusive access to part of it.

Speaking at Ream Naval Base in Preah Sihanouk Province, Defense Ministry spokesman Chhum Socheat told some 70 local and foreign reporters, “You are all here and you see with your own eyes whether any part of this naval base is for the Chinese?”

“We have nothing to hide. Cambodia is a small country and this area is also small, while satellites can view everywhere,” he said, while suggesting an ulterior motive behind the “baseless allegation” of a secret deal concluded with China.

Also Friday, Defence Minister Tea Banh accused The Wall Street Journal, which last week reported on the alleged deal, had the “bad intention” of undermining peace and security in Cambodia and in the wider region.—Kyodo News ■



FILE PHOTO : Capitol Hill in Washington, DC. PHOTO: AFP

## US House passes 2-year budget deal to raise spending, suspend debt ceiling

WASHINGTON — US House passed a budget deal Thursday that will boost overall spending levels and suspend the federal debt ceiling for the next two years.

The agreement, struck between the White House and Congress in a bipartisan fashion Monday, covers fiscal years 2020 and 2021, and would raise overall spending levels by 320 billion US dollars above the strict limits set in 2011.

It would also suspend the federal debt ceiling until 31 July, 2021, preventing the United States from defaulting on its payment obligations. The Treasury Department has estimated that a potential default could have happened as soon as early September.

The passage of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019 in the House by a vote of 284-149 came one day before lawmakers in

the chamber leave town for the summer recess.

“This agreement was reached and it will meet the needs of the people whom we are honored to represent,” House Speaker Nancy Pelosi as she advocated the passage of the bill during a debate before lawmakers cast their votes. The Democratic congresswoman led the Congress in negotiating the deal with Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who represents the administration in the talks.

The Senate’s recess starts on 2 August, giving the upper chamber additional time to vote on the measure. If passed by the Senate, the proposed bill will be sent to President Donald Trump’s desk for signature.

Trump tweeted earlier in the day urging House Republicans to support the deal, which is not yet a law

until the president signs on it. Trump applauded the agreement, saying it “greatly helps our Military and our Vets.”

Representing a significant bipartisan compromise, the bill will see the budget cap for discretionary spending rise to 1.37 trillion dollars in 2020 and 1.375 trillion dollars in 2021. It includes parity between increases in defense spending and domestic, non-defense outlays, a priority for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat. While Democrats managed to clinch 77.4 billion dollars in “offsets” for spending increases — down from the original White House proposal asking for 150 billion dollars — Republicans can boast the victory of securing more defense spending in the agreement — 738 billion dollars in 2020 and 741 billion dollars in 2021. 0—Xinhua ■

## Macron to meet Britain’s Johnson to discuss post-Brexit ties: French minister

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron will receive Britain’s new Prime Minister Boris Johnson here soon to discuss the relationship between the two countries after Brexit, French European Affairs Minister Amelie de Montchalin said on Friday.

While stressing there was no question of renegotiating the Brexit deal, de Montchalin told state-run France 2 television that Britain will “remain a partner after the Brexit.”

The French minis-



French President Emmanuel Macron. PHOTO: AFP

ter said the divorce deal agreed between former British Prime Minister Theresa May and the European Union (EU), which Britain’s parliament had rejected three times, showed how the separation should be carried out.

“What I would like to do in the coming weeks is that we can go through this stage and negotiate, calmly ... how to work afterwards. What is still to negotiate is the future relationship,” the minister said.

In his first speech as prime minister, Johnson on Wednesday pledged to bring Britain out of the EU by 31 October, saying “no ifs, no buts.” He warned that there would be a hard Brexit if the EU refused to renegotiate the withdrawal agreement.—Xinhua ■

## Maltese Armed Forces rescue 76 migrants

VALLETTA — A group of 76 migrants have been rescued by the Armed Forces of Malta and disembarked at the naval base on Thursday afternoon.

The boat that the migrants travelled in was in distress within the Maltese

search and rescue region, and the Maltese Armed Forces brought them to the naval base at around 6 pm.

The migrants, all men, claimed to be from South Sudan, Guinea and Ghana, according to the Armed Forces of Malta.

This is the second time in July that a vessel with migrants has arrived on Maltese shores.

Earlier this month, 44 migrants, including a baby, were brought to Malta after they were rescued at sea.—Xinhua ■

### HINDU FAMILIES WILL OFFER WASO ROBES AND SOON TO THE STATE SANGHA MAHANAYAKA SAYADAWS & STATE PARIYATTI SASANA UNIVERSITY (YGN) SAYADAWS

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh (H.Q) and Hindu Families has Organizing a Donation Ceremony to offer “Soon”, Waso robes to the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Sayadaws and State Pariyatti Sasana University Sayadaws at Kabaye Hill “Mogok Soon Sar Kyaung” on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> August 2019 from 9:00 a.m. onwards.

Hindu Families and well wishers are cordially invited to participate and offer their Donations in this ceremony. Well wishers may contact for contribution to Ph: 09-450010762, 09-5179532, 09-25422233, 09-5124646, 09-5165001, 09-975691999 and further information.

Sanatan Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh (H.Q)  
No. 227/229, 37<sup>th</sup> Street, Yangon.

### Transferring Distributor Registered Pesticides

Distributor of the pesticide, Storm BB (Flocoumafen 0.005% w/w Bait) with provisional registration number P2017-2769 registered by BASF Myanmar Limited is transferring from Golden Lion High Tech Agricultural Co. Ltd. to Bavita Company Limited. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Co-Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayintnaung Road, West Gyogon, Insein Township, Yangon within 14 days.

BASF MYANMAR LIMITED  
Phone; 01544041

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (043 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-07-2019 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

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (023W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (023W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27-07-2019 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.

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151years old Pakhan Gyi Ancient Monastery. PHOTO: MAUNG THA (ARCHAEOLOGY)

# Heading towards Pakhan monastery

By Maung Tha (Archaeology)

**W**E were late to observe petrified sal fossils dubbed as stone dragon by local people as we took a short time in visiting Hsingaung Hill on Myaung-Pareinma motor road on the way from Myinmu to Pakokku. After greeting friend U Pho Shwe residing on the hill, we came back to Myaung along Pareinma road. Afterwards, we drove along Mandalay-Monywa road and turned left before arriving in ChaungU and then passed through Hsinbyushin Bridge crossing Chindwin River to be able to proceed to Pakokku.

At Myaing junction, we turned left from the road and arrived in Pakhangyi of Yesagy Township in the evening. The areas under the title of Pakhan are still located as Pakhangyi and Pakhanng in Yesagy Township of Magway Region as well as Pakhanng in Sale. Pakhangyi is 10 miles from Yesagy and 17 miles from Pakokku.

Currently, Pakhangyi Village-tract formed with Nagatwin, Myaukpyin, Thetywa, Pyithaya, Taungminkyang and Ywatha villages is home to more than 3,700 people of 733 households at 677 houses. Local people are engaging in agricultural tasks.

In line with the Kawilekkhana Thetpon Treatise (Kavilekkhana spelling treatise) compiled by Seinta Kyawthu title recipient U Aw mentioning “four hundred recruits, name of town, calling it Pakhan”, Pakhan was an area of recruiting 400 troops for the royal army in the reign of ancient Myanmar kings. At that time, Myanmar did not have the permanent armed forces. However, towns across the nation were classified at different levels to recruit troops for the royal armed forces. In tradition, towns based on population needed to recruit troops ranging from hundreds of thousands to hundreds.

Pakhangyi Village in Yesagy Township was famous in Myanmar history because it was related to matters concerning U Yan Way, who was a Court of Counsellor for Pakhan. He was a court of counsellor

esteemed by even King Mindon. The court of counsellor built a monastery decorated with architectural works in Konbaung era in Pakhanng. The monastery in Pakhanng was built of 332 posts in measurement of about 12 feet in circumference. As such, it was named with mathematical numbers in Myanmar alphabets “Sein

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Granary Counsellor U Po Toke built and donated Pakhangyi Monastery as residence for Abbot U Guna, a teacher in his childhood, in 1230 Myanmar era (around 1868 AD).

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Si Kyaung Taing Lone Hmat”.

As U Yan Way built the monastery as his hall, some persons who envied him submitted to King Mindon on arrangements of U Yan Way to rival the king for the throne. People in successive eras said that at a time when King Mindon himself visited Pakhan-

ng monastery due to information but U Yan Way donated the monastery to the religion with sharing merits gained in order to remove suspicion of the king.

On arrival at Pakhangyi Village on Yesagy-Pakokku road, we firstly entered Pakhangyi Sithushin Pagoda on left side of the road without proceeding to

nathakha kept in the Gandakuti Chamber of the pagoda outside the iron rods of the chamber. We knew the chamber where the Buddha images are being kept is closed at 4 pm every afternoon. These Buddha images were made of Tharekkhan wood in the reign of King Alaungsithu.

The well-wisher for Pakhan Sithushin Pagoda was Min Sithu, elder brother of Ko Gyi Kyaw (Min Kyaw Swa) which was paid respects by those who believe spirits. In the reign of King Theingo in Bagan era, the two brothers Min Sithu and Min Kyaw Swa arrived in the region of Pakhan and established Pakhan City. In 480 Myanmar era when King Alaungsithu ruled Bagan empire, Sithushin Pagoda was built in Pakhan City for public obeisance. Sithushin Pagoda has a Buddha image placed on 11 elephant statues.

After paying homage to Sithushin Pagoda on the hillock, we descended to Yesagy-Pakokku motor road. We then strolled

Pakhanng, five miles from Pakhangyi. It is known that the area was called East Moat, Nyaungsin Ward. When we arrived at Sithushin Pagoda at over 5 pm, we had only chance of paying homage to four Buddha images namely Sithushin, Shinmataung, Myatpaungmyinzu and Dekkhi-



since 1992.

The monastery was built with long lower posts and it has been installed with five ladders. Two brick ladders can be seen in front of the monastery. We ascended the monastery from the left side ladder and paid homage to the abbot upstairs. The disciple who is maintaining the monastery conducted us round the

of the monastery and transported teak logs to Pakhan through Chindwin River. He spent K54,672 on transport of timber logs and construction of the monastery, with Myanmar alphabetic marking "Kwan Thee Ta Lone Pho" in mathematical numbers. The alphabets representing digits in Myanmar language must be counted back. As per the infor-

Token was appointed as Hmankin Counsellor.

The monastery was built with the use of 254 teak posts. Number of teak posts was counted in Myanmar alphabets with Kyaung Myet Ywe. Generally, girth of posts was between six feet and four inches and seven feet and two inches each. Top of the posts was 30 inches in di-

works and masterpieces of lower flowers. Myanmar language dictionary defines Marabin as the walls which take place from the floor to the roof at the royal palace.

The monasteries built in Konbaung era have been preserved till today. Among them, significant ancient monasteries built of wood are Sale Yokesone Monastery, Bagaya Monastery, Pakhangyi Monastery from Pakhangyi and Golden Palace in Mandalay. As two ancient monasteries have been in Pakhan region, although the monastery in Pakhangyi is in almost original conditions, the monastery in Pakhan remains posts and brick stairways only.

Despite having information about displaying stone inscriptions, ancient palm leaf inscriptions, ancient coins, earthen pots and cups, Buddha images, ornamental backdrop in the reign of King Mindon, spears, swords and long and short helmets of ancient royal soldiers at the archaeological museum in Pakhangyi, we missed chance to visit the museum on our arrival because it was time of closing the museum. However, I remembered a message of my friend to observe a rare, ancient betel box displayed at the museum.

After visiting all places of Pakhangyi monastery, it was evening. Thus, we all proceeded to Pakokku, 17 miles from the monastery. Actually, we were not satisfied with observation of Pakhangyi Monastery. I remember grandeur of ancient wooden buildings with significant decorated works across Myanmar where plentiful of teak forests are thriving in successive eras. As a result, the ancient monasteries built of a large number of teak posts dubbed as 100-post monasteries can be seen in some rural areas till today.

Among them, as a more than 150 years old monastery built of over 80 teak posts in Myinni Village of Ywathaya Village-tract in Thegon Township, Bago Region, was destroyed by fire on 14 December 2015, it was a great loss for ancient works.

As Myanmar's ancient cultural heritage buildings with high value of culture including Pakhangyi Monastery have been preserved as much as possible till today, we have opportunities to observe them. Such a move is a high prestige of Myanmar people in preserving buildings of forefathers in the time of new generations.

Translated by Than Tun Aung



Antique wood carving sculptures. PHOTO MIN HTET AUNG(MAN SUBPRINTING)



Photo: Maung Tha (Archaeology)

along the way to Pakhangyi Monastery in Nagatwin Ward from the old west moat after passing the motor road. The wooden monastery decorated with architectural works in late Konbaung era that we saw from the motor road was of grandeur and magnificence in sunray of evening. The over 100 year old ancient monastery is located at southwest corner of the walls of Pakhan City. We have heard that the walls of Pakhan City were very broad among those of ancient cities in Myanmar. The Department of Archaeology and National has been preserving Pakhangyi Monastery

monastery. Pakhangyi Monastery was built with a chamber of Buddha statue, Sanu hall, Dhamma preaching hall and refectory. We viewed round the monastery along the wide warrantor. Sanu Hall is defined as a building to connect two main buildings at monasteries or royal palaces.

Granary Counsellor U Po Toke built and donated Pakhangyi Monastery as residence for Abbot U Guna, a teacher in his childhood, in 1230 Myanmar era (around 1868 AD). With the permit of King Mindon, the counsellor cut teak logs from the king's forest to use them in construction

mation, Pakhangyi Monastery was built in a two-year period.

U Po Toke stayed at the monastery of Abbot U Guna's monastery. In adult, he became a captain of boat. At a time when King Bagan and prince Mindon confronted each other, U Po Toke provided the boat and commodities as the military rations to prince Mindon by estimating the future prospects. When King Mindon thronged the royal palace after holding up the victory over King Bagan, King Mindon responded to benefits of U Po Toke with appointing him as granary counsellor. Later, U Po

ameter. The highest post of the monastery was 90 feet long. While visiting the monastery, as the disciple of the monastery showed two large posts with smell of sandalwood at a place, we tasted the smell. The disciple explained that two sandalwood posts were used in construction of the monastery.

The monastery was shaped with 24 sections in length and 12 sections in width. As such, the building of monastery had 23 rooms in length and 11 rooms in width.

The chamber of the Buddha image at the right top of the monastery was placed with seven tiers. The main building at the left side was constructed with three-storey terraced roof. A Buddha image made in Yadanabon era was kept on the throne in the chamber. Wooden beams and purlins used at the monastery were sown timbers with measurement of 24 inches in breadth and eight inches in thickness. Hence, these beams and purlins were fitted at the teak posts through mortises.

The ceiling of Sanu hall was decorated with flowers in arts and crafts. However, we saw some parts of damage at floral arabesques on the ceilings. The posts and walls as well as Marabin of the monastery were decorated with magnificent arts and crafts, floral arabesques, diamond shape



## Week 18 MNL matches to be broadcast live on free-to-air channels

THE Week 18 matches of the Myanmar National League will be broadcast live on free-to-air channels, according to a statement issued by the league.

Week 18 will feature numerous matches, including Shan United and Southern Myanmar FC. Magwe F.C. will take on Chin Land FC at 4 p.m. on 27 July at Thuwunna Stadium. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV.

Meanwhile, Shan United will take on Southern Myanmar F.C. at Taunggyi Stadium at 3.30 p.m. on the same day, and the match will be broadcast live on Fortune TV.

Another match scheduled

for 3.30 p.m. will pit Ayeyawady United against Zwegapin United. The match will take place at Pathein Stadium in Pathein, and seen on Mizzima TV.

There are also matches scheduled for Sunday. Yadanarbon United will play Rakhine United at 4 p.m. on Sunday at Mandalay Thiri Stadium, as well as on MRTV.

Also Sunday, Dagon FC will face Hantharwady United at Thuwunna Stadium, and be streamed live on My Sports Facebook Page.

Sagaing United will also take on Yangon United on Sunday, and can be seen on Mizzima TV.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■



Ayeyawady United goal keeper Kyaw Zin Phyoo (black) tries to palm the ball during the Shan United's strikers (white) attack in their Week-17 match of Myanmar National League at Taunggyi Stadium. **PHOTO: SUFC**

## New coach Torsten Spittler to manage Myanmar U-15 team in AFF tourney



New head coach of Myanmar U-15 national football team Torsten Frank Spittler. **PHOTO: MFF**

THE new coach of Myanmar U-15 team, Torsten Frank Spittler will head the team in the upcoming AFF U-15 Boys Championship 2019 in Chonburi, Thailand from 9 to 27 August. Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has signed German football coach Spittler for a two year contract period.

Spittler, 58, managed the Bhutan national football team since 1 October 2016. He was also head coach of the Nepal national team in 1999.

He started his career as a youth coach before becoming an assistant coach for the Germany Under-16 national team.

Spittler has been the football technical di-

rector in Mozambique. He was named Talent Development and Performance Expert for the Oman Football Association in October 2015.

He was the Perak FA manager for the 2000 season. He also worked as coach and technical director for football in various countries, such as Nepal, Yemen, Sierra Leone, India and Canada, in conjunction with German Foreign Office, German Football Association and Bavarian Football Association.

Upon Spittler's arrival, former Myanmar U-15 head coach Koga will take over the assistant coach position, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Arsenal stars targeted by 'knife-wielding car-jackers'

LONDON — Arsenal footballers Sead Kolasinac and Mesut Ozil fought off knife-wielding car-jackers in a terrifying ordeal in London captured on video circulated on social media.

In the footage, the Premier League club's Bosnian defender Kolasinac is seen leaping from the vehicle to confront the masked aggressors, who had pulled up alongside the car on mopeds in the city's leafy Golders Green district on Thursday.

Both attackers appeared to brandish knives at the 26-year-old Kolasinac. The Daily Mail reported that the incident happened close to a Turkish restaurant. "Ozil looked absolutely terrified, as anybody would after being chased by men with knives," financial worker Azuka Alintah, 36, told MailOnline.

"He looked like he was running for his life. And I suppose he was. I saw him disappear into the restaurant with the motorcycle guys on his tail," he said.

"They didn't take off their helmets and were all in black, wearing long sleeved tops in this hot weather. They stood out," he added.

Yasmin Tahsiner, the joint owner of the restaurant, told Sky News that the two footballers are regular customers and were pursued by the robbers for "10 or 15 minutes".

The Daily Mail said that after fending off their assailants the

players then chased the robbers "for more than a mile".

"We have been in contact with both players and they are fine," said a spokesman for Arsenal.

Police confirmed that they had responded to reports of an attempted robbery.

### Rise in knife crime

"It was reported that suspects on motorbikes had attempted to rob a man who was driving a car," a spokesman for London's Metropolitan Police told AFP. "The driver, along with his passenger, managed to get away unharmed and travelled to a restaurant in Golders Green, where they were spoken to by officers.

"There have been no ar-

rests. Enquiries continue."

Some media reported that Amine Gulse, Ozil's wife, was also in the car.

Kolasinac and German midfielder Ozil are not the first footballers to be targeted on London's streets.

In 2016, Andy Carroll, a former West Ham player, was threatened at gunpoint on his way home from training.

There has been a sharp increase in knife crime in Britain in recent years, particularly in the capital. Over 5,500 people were injured or killed by knife crime in London in the 12 months to October 2018 — a record level.

Newly-installed Prime Minister Boris Johnson has promised to recruit 20,000 extra police officers across Britain.—AFP ■



One witness said Ozil looked "absolutely terrified" during the incident. **PHOTO: AFP**