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President meets Taninthayi Region administrative, legislative, judiciary officials



President U Win Myint delivers the speech at the meeting with administrative, legislative and judiciary sectors officials in Dawei, Taninthayi Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Win Myint accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Han Zaw and U Ohn Maung, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials left Nay Pyi Taw by Tatmadaw special flight and arrived in Taninthayi Region, Dawei

Town yesterday morning.

The President and party were welcomed by Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myint Maung, Coastal Command Commander Maj-Gen Thaug Htike Shwe, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Aye,

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State Counsellor receives Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of United States of America



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States of America Mr. David Hale in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. David Hale, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States of America, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 10:00 am.

During the discussion, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to the enhancing of bilateral relations and cooperation and rendering of assistance to overcome the challenges faced by Myanmar in its democratic transition including the situation in Rakhine State.—MNA ■

Myanmar reaffirms readiness to take back verified displaced persons based on agreed bilateral arrangement

THE Fourth Meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) on the repatriation of displaced persons from Bangladesh was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 May 2019.

The Meeting was co-chaired by U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Mr. Mahub Uz Zaman, Secretary-Bilateral (Asia and the Pacific) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of

Bangladesh.

At the Meeting, both sides discussed on the arrangements for the safe and voluntary repatriation of verified displaced persons, prevalence of rule of law and security in Rakhine State,

provision of healthcare services and access to education, status of verification for the displaced persons. They also discussed on cooperation with UN Agencies, ASEAN and other partners in the process of repatriation, re-

settlement and reintegration, systematic repatriation of prospective returnees, and collaboration to combat terrorism and extremism.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Civil Service Board clarifies in Pyithu Hluttaw assignment, transfer of public servants

UNION Civil Service Board clarified in Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday on the assignment and transfer of public servants in response to a question raised in the question and answer session. In addition to the question and answer (QNA) session, two motions were tabled and a report on a bill read at the third day meeting of Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session held yesterday.

QNA Session

In the QNA session Daw Nan Moe of Mongton constituency asked the respective ministries' practice on assignment of personnel to development lagging, remote and unstable regions as there seems to be a tradition of assigning personnel close to retirement or had action taken for some misconduct to such regions. Union Civil Service Board member U Saw Valentine explained that there was no need to for President's Office and Ministry of Defence to answer this question separately. As Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of State Counsellor Office and Ministry of International Coop-



Daw Nan Moe. PHOTO: MNA

eration only had office in Nay Pyi Taw so the personnel of these ministries were not assigned to subject regions.

Ministry of Home Affairs had a practice of assigning personnel of 57 years old and above who were close to retirement to regions where they want to settle when they retire. Otherwise reassignments were made for those who had served for more than two years in a post. Locals were given priority in assigning to regions and assignments were determined by personnel affairs meeting decision.

Ministry of Border Affairs assigns personnel on a rotational



U Saw Valentine. PHOTO: MNA

basis with priority given to locals and while exception was made on personnel with family difficulties. Those who were in a post for long were transferred to another post while depending upon available posts, some were reassigned with promotion. The ministry had no practice of assigning/transferring personnel close to retirement or had action taken for some misconduct.

For General Administration Department in Ministry of Office of the Union Government, there were 3 categories of posts and have the practice of transferring from one category of post to another after three-year assign-

ment to a post. For 57 years old and above close to pension personnel, post assignments were on application basis depending upon availability of the posts.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation had a transfer/assignment policy where after serving a designated period, transfer/assignment was made on priority list of posts proposed by the personnel depending upon availability of the post or the nearest one to the proposed post.

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population categorize three posts – urban, rural and remote according to government's designation and personnel were assigned 3 years to urban post, 2 years to rural posts and 1 year to remote posts. The ministry had no practice of assigning/transferring personnel close to retirement or had action taken for some misconduct. If required Ministry of Commerce personnel were transferred with promotion while government designated post allowance were provided.

In Ministry of Education, personnel transfer and reassign-

ments were managed according to their ranks. Transfers and reassignments of primary school level positions were handled by township education office while middle school and high school level positions were handled by district education office and state/region education office respectively. Transfer, reassignment and promotion to middle school and high school heads were handled by Basic Education Department head office depending upon service year, proposal and availability of posts.

Ministry of Health and Sports gave priority to assigning locals and transfer and reassignments were volunteer basis depending upon availability of the posts.

Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations select and assign capable, qualified, young personnel with high possibility of promotion to remote areas. Ministry of Construction had no practice of assigning/transferring personnel close to retirement or had action taken for some misconduct.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Second Amyotha Hluttaw 12th regular session holds third-day meeting

THE third-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session was held yesterday morning at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall where asterisk marked questions raised by five Hluttaw representatives were answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin and a motion tabled. As the first agenda of the day Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than informed the Hluttaw of Amyotha Hluttaw health, sports and culture committee member Tatmadaw representative Brig-Gen Thet Naing being replaced with Brig-Gen Nyunt Swe and obtained the consensus of the Hluttaw.

Asterisk marked questions

In the first asterisk marked question of the day U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 asked if there was a plan to lay 2 miles of concrete road section, 2 miles of gravel surface road section and a 2 miles earth road section of the 19 miles long Pane Ne Chaung-Kyaungswephyu inter-village road in Kyauktaw Township during fiscal year 2019-2020. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin replied that once this road was completed, it



U Kyaw Lin. PHOTO: MNA

would benefit 3 villages with more than 4,600 people in 2,323 households. Fund to construct 1 mile 5 furlong of concrete road and 2 miles of earth road in this road was included in Rakhine State Government fund for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the road sections will be constructed depending upon funding allocation said the Deputy Minister.

U Maung Maung Latt of Sagaing Region constituency 9 on the other hand asked whether there was a plan to construct a new bridge linking Sagaing Region Tamu Township Myoma 13 Ward Nan Pha Lon and Thayagon villages. The Deputy Minister replied that the bridge was on a 6 miles 4 furlong Myoma 13 Ward-Chaung-



U Myint Naing. PHOTO: MNA

netkyi-Usu-Thayagon 6 miles 4 furlong rural road that connect to Tamu-Zedi main road.

The bridge was on priority 1 Class A road and fund for it will be requested in fiscal year 2020-2021 from Sagaing Region government fund and depending upon fund allocation it will be reconstructed as a concrete bridge said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly U Lin Tin Htay of Mon State constituency 4 raised a question on whether there was a plan to surface Kamakay-Kwin-klane-Sepala road section in Mon State, Mawlamyine District, Chaungzon Township with asphalt during fiscal year 2019-2020. The road was a priority 1 Class A road and fund for it will be included in fiscal year 2020-2021

Mon State government fund and depending upon fund allocation asphalt surfacing of the road will be implemented said the Deputy Minister.

Questions raised by U Min Oo of Bago Region constituency 6 and U Min Swe Naing of Kachin State constituency 6 were also answered by the Deputy Minister. Motion to raise the livelihood of rural women through cottage industry

After the asterisk marked questions were asked and answered Dr. Tin Tin Win of Bago Region constituency 5 tabled a motion urging the Union government for relevant departments to cooperate and work together toward raising the livelihood of rural women, enable their participation in the economy, reduced incidence of them leaving home and working abroad and create a good environment for them by providing knowledge, information, technology and investment for home-based works using locally available raw material, create marketable products and market. In tabling the motion she provided details about the benefits and aims as well as remarking on the fact that the motion

would upraise significantly the livelihood of the women in rural area while supporting also the aims of Myanmar Sustainable Development Goal (2018-2030).

The motion was supported by Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency 2. However U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magway constituency 4 commented that even if the motion was accepted for discussion and was successfully passed, it would be very difficult for the government to implement it and thus serious consideration need to be placed toward this fact.

When the decision of the Hluttaw was taken there were 110 Hluttaw representatives who voted for discussing the motion exceeding the required 40 votes and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's agreement to accept and discuss the motion. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker also announced further for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names. The fourth-day meeting of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw's 12th regular session is scheduled for 8 May it is learnt.—Aung Ye Thwin (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Today at this time, we are witnessing the transformation of an era and a system in accordance with democratic principles. This is just the beginning of the democratic transition. To make this transition process smooth and successful, it is very important for our peoples, government employees and civil servants to change their dogmatic mindset and habits. Those government institutions which are lagging behind in the transformation process will need to be put under tight management controls. The country's weak judiciary system would need to be strengthened. More efforts need to be exerted to stamp out corruption. More efforts need to be exerted to prevent human rights violations. More efforts need to be exerted to crack down illegal drug trade. We need to manage public funds properly so that there is no wastage. Measures need to be taken to return confiscated farmland to farmers and to give compensation to farmers for losses they have suffered in accordance with the law. We also need to improve the socio-economic life of farmers, improve the lives of workers and ensure that students gain access to higher education.

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

Not only in Rakhine State which has received the attention of the world, but in the entire country let us strive collectively for security of mind and body.

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

President meets Taninthayi Region administrative, legislative ...

FROM PAGE-1

Region Chief Judge U Tin Aung, Region Advocate-General U Soe Myint, Region Auditor U Thein Tun, Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Kyi Soe, Region ministers, Hluttaw representatives, region level departmental officials, locals and cultural troupes at Dawei Airport.

The President then met and gave guidance to officials from Region government, Region Hluttaw, Region High Court, region, district and township departmental officials at the Dawei Town Hall.

Speaking at the meeting the President said all were determined to establish the country as a Democratic Federal Republic and meetings like this were being held so that all responsible persons could work together reform and transition works smoothly towards becoming a Democratic Federal Union. Democracy was a system that provided freedom, security and happiness to the citizens. As the country was formed with many ethnic people, a union could not be established without the participation of the ethnic people. Therefore self-determination, self-rule, development of language, literature, culture, tradition and practices of ethnic nationals were to be supported and encouraged.

Establishment of a Democratic Federal Republic would be successful only with the participation of officials from government, Hluttaw and judicial pillars in the reform and transition works. CSOs, NGOs and media need to provide assistance and support in this endeavor and only then can there be success.

In today's age of globalization, the country would not develop, be stable and prosper-



President U Win Myint greets representatives from administrative, legislative and judiciary sectors officials in Dawei, Taninthayi Region yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

ous without reforms. That was why all had the duty to conduct reform with conscious will. Reform was not something to be concerned about. Now was an opportune for the citizens and the country to develop. The country would be stable, peaceful and developed only if there was a democratic administrative system. Only through practicing a democratic system could the country develop. The march towards democracy was for development. In the same way only through establishing a federal republic could our country be peaceful. Only with peace could there be development. Only then could we have the fruits of human rights in states, regions, hills and plains equally without differences. For speedy development and success, all need to support and work hand in hand.

The administrative system that we were heading for has political, economic and social justice. Justice was relevant for

all. Democracy would be firm and strong only through the establishment of a human society that provided justice to all. Democracy had equal status, equal opportunities and equal rights under the law. Democracy would be firm and strong only when there was rule of law. Rule of law, democratic rights and human rights were interlinked. Without rule of law, democracy rights would be lost. That was why rule of law needed to be established. Our administrative system needed to support rule of law. In the same way the administrative machinery must protect human rights. Only then could we reach our goal of democracy.

People are the parents in a democratic system. We are all doing what the people assign us to do. The administrative pillar must be people-centered and serve the people. Our services must be services that serve the people. We all need to perform the duties assigned to us by the

people.

Government funds must be protected from being wasted. Criticizing the government was not attacking the government. Basic mindsets need to be changed in undertaking reform. Without all participating and changing, reform would not be successful. The Union government could only set policy and provide guidance. The implementation part was to be conducted by state and region governments. State and region governments were responsible to implement the policies laid down by the Union government. If the state and region governments were unable to implement, the reform journey would not go far or reach its destination.

The country would develop and progress depending upon the speedy and correct decisions and actions of the state and region governments.

We all needed to follow up on our assigned tasks and must

have responsible persons assigned for all the tasks. They must be managed and supervised where necessary. Only then could the tasks be completed speedily.

We were pushing for the success of reforms so that our citizens could stand tall in the world. Leaders of departmental organizations must guide and instruct their personnel towards changing their mindsets. In addition to this leaders needed to relate well with their personnel. Only then could our reform journey be smooth and would we reach our destination quickly. The foundations of democracy needed to be stable and strong and the sovereignty must be in the hands of the people, said the President.

Next Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myint Maung explained about the Region government's regional development works, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Aye explained about Hluttaw works and Region Chief Judge U Tin Aung explained about judicial works.

In response to the explanations made the President said the Union had set policies on the matter of confiscated lands. Assessments were to be made according to these policies and released land must be returned to the original owners quickly.

In developing travel business in Taninthayi Region care must be taken so that natural environment, coral reef were not destroyed or damaged. In addition to this care must be taken so that wastes, garbage and plastics were not discarded indiscriminately. The islands were the property of the country and only the right to work on it had been granted. So this right must not be abused.

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President meets Taninthayi Region administrative, legislative ...

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The resources of the Region were for the Region and country. Care must be taken so that the fishery resources were not wasted or lost. Resources must be maintained systematically. All were urged to eradicate and prevent drug abuse, assess properly entry/exit at border gates and have a systematic civil administration.

Legislators need to conduct legislative, check and balance works in cooperation and in accordance with prevailing laws, rules, regulations and procedures without overstepping any boundaries. The judiciary sector must promote and protect human rights. Region High Court judges were to inspect detention centres in police stations and courts and prisons to ensure that there were no human rights violations and the judiciary was free from corruption. Evidence must be properly assessed and properly managed in a timely manner so that state funds were not wasted.

We should all perform the historic duties placed on our shoulders and all responsible persons were urged to strive together in collective strength, said the President. After the meeting the President cordially greeted the meeting attendees. Later in the afternoon the President went to the Dawei People's Hos-

pital where the Ministry of Construction Building Department Director General U Thein Zaw explained about the construction of a five storey hospital building.

Later the President inspected the five storey hospital building which was under construction and then met with patients undertaking treatment in the hospital. The President encouraged and provided cash support to the patients. Afterwards the President inspected the road project site where the 2-lane motor road connecting the Dawei Special Economic Zone and Hteekhee on the border with Thailand. At the briefing hall near Khamaungthwe Bridge on Myitta-Hteekhee Road, Ministry of Construction, Road Department Chief Engineer U Myint Han explained about the Dawei Special Economic Zone-Hteekhee road.

The President said that the government was striving toward equal development of states and regions and spoke of the requirement for the project works to be completed on time to full standard, the need for the Region government to prevent waste of funds. He added that stability and peace could only be achieved when regions develop and also spoke about the need to emphasize on regional development works. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Independent Commission of Enquiry Chair Ms. Rosario Manalo in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives ICOE Chairperson

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation of the Independent Commission of Enquiry headed by its Chair Ms. Rosario Manalo at the Bayinnaung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they openly discussed how the ARSA terrorist attacks that occurred in the months of August and September in 2017 were not random incidents and that they were currently believed to be related to the underlying factors of the incidents that occurred in 2012 and 2016.

They discussed the im-

portance of investigating with hard evidence until the actual truth was uncovered instead of listening to international accusations and reading one-sided coverages. They discussed how an investigation group formed by the Tatmadaw and led by Lt-Gen Aye Win had conducted investigations and had taken action against those who were guilty.

They discussed the formation of the investigation tribunal in accordance with the Defence Services Act and a legal advisory group to continue related investigations, and how convicted perpetrators would have effective action taken against them in line

with the law.

They discussed how Buddhists, Christians and Muslims were living in peaceful coexistence across Myanmar and how the issues that occurred in Maungdaw District were not religious issues but could be the consequences of conflicts between people who live in the region and illegal immigration.

They also discussed how the Tatmadaw would assist ICOE to get the information they sought, according to news released from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Tatmadaw True News Information Team holds press conference

THE Tatmadaw held a press conference at the Defence Services Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The press conference was conducted by Tatmadaw True News Information Team Chairperson Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, Vice Chairperson Maj-Gen Tun Tun Nyi, Secretary Brig-Gen Zaw Min Tun, officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), and attended by media personnel.

The true news team explained about the Tatmadaw's decision to extend the ceasefire with ethnic armed organ-

izations and their efforts for peace, implementing stability in Rakhine State, the Tatmadaw's mobile medical team providing aid to local ethnic people, the Tatmadaw's preparations for natural disasters and to administer rescue operations when necessary.

The team then answered questions raised by the media, according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



The Tatmadaw holds press conference in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

Union Minister receives US Political Affairs Ambassador



Union Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win receives US Under Secy of State Mr. David Hale in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win received the US Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Ambassador Mr. David Hale, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed issues about cooperation between the two countries' militaries, performing peace processes of Myanmar and Rakhine affairs. —MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin receives US Under Secy of State



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin shakes hands with US Under Secy of State Mr. David Hale in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. David Hale, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs of the United States of America, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at 4:30 pm.

During the discussion, they cordially exchanged views on matters relating to the further strengthening of bilateral relations and cooperation, recent developments of Myanmar's efforts in resolving the situation in Rakhine State and providing the assistance by the United States in Myanmar's democratic transition process.—MNA ■

Public Announcement for remonstrations

AKHA National Development Party headquartered at No. 281, Akhazay Road, Weinkyauk Ward in Tachilek, Shan State, registered as a political party in accord with the Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law with the Union Election Commission has submitted an application to change their emblem as described hereunder.

In accordance with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the change of party's emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.

Union Election Commission



Akha National Development Party's Emblem

CBM Governor receives Krungthai Bank's President

GOVERNOR of the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM), U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, received a delegation led by President and CEO of Krungthai Bank, Mr. Payong Srivanich, at the meeting hall of CBM yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed current cooperation processes of commerce and trade between Myanmar and Thailand and potential cooperating processes of Krungthai Bank with the Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung meets with Krungthai Bank's CEO Mr. Payong Srivanich yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar reaffirms readiness to take back verified displaced persons based on ...

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Both sides also deliberated on enhancing cooperation in combating transnational crimes, including drug-trafficking and cross-border related issues, through the existing bilateral mechanisms. Any issues related to repatriation should be resolved with the task force mechanism between the two sides.

Myanmar delegation reiterated that repatriation of verified displaced persons will be based on the bilateral agreements, including the

“Arrangement on Return of the Displaced Persons from Rakhine State” and the “Physical Arrangement for Repatriation of Displaced Myanmar Residents from Bangladesh under the Arrangement on Return of the Displaced Persons from Rakhine State” signed between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Myanmar delegation reaffirmed that only bilateral cooperation will resolve the issues between neighbours and reiterated its readiness to take back the verified dis-

placed persons through the agreed bilateral mechanism.

Myanmar delegation also apprised the meeting on the efforts taken by Myanmar Government to restore peace, stability and development in Rakhine State as well as Myanmar's recent cooperation with the ASEAN and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) in identifying possible areas of cooperation to facilitate the repatriation process.

The date and venue for the



The fourth meeting of the Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 May. **PHOTO: MNA**

Fifth Meeting of the Joint Working Groups will be communicated through the diplomatic channel, it is learnt.—MNA

Kachin State: Striving towards economic development; Turning into region peaceful drug-free state; Preserving of diverse tribes' culture and way of life

"With the third year of the current administration, we were able to build quite a lot of infrastructure including projects for roads and projects for 1442 bridges."

State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung

By Shin Min
PHOTOS: AYE THAN

MYANMAR'S home to snowcapped and highest mountain Hkakabo Razi and country's one of the spectacular displays of ethnic culture and solidarity Manaw festival celebrations, Kachin State is a place filled with wonderful landscapes and rich culture.

The State Administration in Kachin is striving towards economic development, turning into the region into peaceful and drug-free state where cultures of different tribes come together.

The Fight Against Drugs

The State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung comments, "Our priority is to eradicate drugs from the state. Last year, we had 2337 cases with 4225 arrests and 5.2 million grams of drugs, 2.9 million tablets, 245 liters of cocaine liquid and 1147 vehicles and cycles seizures. These add up to around K161 billion. The anti-drug task force also destroyed 161 acres of poppy farms as well."



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi inspects Malikha Suspension Bridge (Machanbaw) in Kachin State. PHOTO: MNA

Rule of Law

"Regarding rule of law, there have been over 138 cases for 10 different types. Out of 1530 cases, we were able to prosecute 1185 cases as well as prevent 4469 cases and prosecute 21 cases out of 23," claims the State Chief Minister.

Regarding electricity, we built the Upper Nam Htwet Hydropower project in Putao and provided surrounding 14 wards in Putao and Ma Chan Baw as well as 23 nearby villages.

Infrastructure

The State Wheel Tax was abolished last year in April. With the third year of the current administration, we were able to build quite a lot of infrastructure including projects for roads and projects for 1442 bridges. "We're in Phase 1 which includes the 90 m Tiyanzut Bridge, 60 m Daruka Bridge and Nam Kham Bridge that's 92 meters long," declares the Chief Minister.

An additional 383 miles of roads and 363 bridges were built in 2018 as well with the K 39 billion budget. Regarding electricity, we built the Upper Nam Htwet Hydropower project in Putao and provided surrounding 14 wards in Putao and Ma Chan Baw as well as 23 nearby villages.

Located 7 miles west of Putao, the hydropower plant is able to provide up to 14.3 KW hours of electricity. Additionally, several villages near the Ayeyawady river were able to get connected to the power grid from power lines drawn in the area by the government.

Furthermore, 288 towers were erected with 513 mobile stations set up for better communication in the area.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Union ministers and Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung cut ceremonial ribbon to open the Maggayza-Mt. Sanlutchat (33 miles 6 furlong) road section in Kachin State. PHOTO: MNA

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Kachin State: Striving towards economic development; Turning into region peaceful drug-free state; Preserving of diverse tribes' culture and way of life



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the Central Committee for Development of Border Areas and National Races, attends the 71st Kachin State Day ceremony held at Myitkyina Sitapu Ward Manaw grounds in Myitkyina, Kachin State on 10 January 2019.

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The Mohnyin Town Bus Terminal cost K9 billion to build and the one in Bhamo Town is being constructed as well. There are also plans in place to have a new train running from Myitkyina-Mandalay," adds the Chief Minister.

Health and Education

To improve the education sector, 125 schools were upgraded with another 134 schools opened with 7 staff housing on a K 10 billion budget. In the healthcare sector, the Myitkyina General Hospital is currently expanding to accommodate more beds than the current 500.

The parks also received additional exercise equipment as well as renovations.

Agriculture, Forestry, Minerals and Foreign Investment

To accommodate the needs of the farmers, the state government introduced 300 acres of farm land using modern technology made available by a K347 million fund in addition to the 615 acres of land made available by the Agricultural Mechanization Department. "We were able to grant K322 million of loans to 30,000 farmers to work on 229,685 acres of land. The Ministry was able to settle 230 cases of land confiscation cases

and return 39277 acres of land to the 1335 original owners according to the policies of our President," comments the Chief Minister. "In 2018, there were almost 100,000 metric tonnes of different minerals and 25345 tonnes of jade extracted. We were also able to catch 1396 tonnes of illegal logs as well." The mining companies, towards the green initiative effort, planted 137,501 trees. In 2018 alone, there were 103 local companies, 4 foreign companies as well as 7 companies with extension of their licenses.

Rehabilitation efforts

The government was able

to support K496 million for 1553 acres that were lost during natural disasters such as flood or pests. There were 4679 households that were affected during natural disasters. There were a total of 25568 people affected with 83 deaths and 82 injured. The government was able to support K313 million total in rehabilitation efforts. The national advisor's office also donated K300 million for Kachin's development. This donation was used towards helping people who are fleeing from war so that they can set up a new life elsewhere. The fund included setting up vocational training or giving initial investments so

people can buy livestock.

Parliament

During 2018, there were 3 regular meetings and one special meeting. "What we are doing is an ongoing process. We are aware of our shortcomings and are constantly trying to improve these weaknesses. Hence, in the coming years, we will continue to work towards increasing the living standards of people within the rest of our elected years. It is an honor to be elected by the people and we will always strive to do better," explains the Chief Minister.

Translated by Myat Thu



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung addresses the opening ceremony of the Kachin State Office of the Legal Aid Board in Myitkyina, Kachin State.



Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung discusses regional development during the meeting with local residents in Mohnyin on 6 March 2019.

Fighting fake news key for strengthening democracy

OFLATE, the number of people using digital platforms has increased. At the same time, we have witnessed the spread of disinformation and fake news, rumors, hate speech, and writings aimed at inciting conflict across the globe, which are threatening the peace and stability of international communities.

Due to poor digital literacy, some agencies have been successful in spreading fake news to promote personal interests at the cost of public interest.

It has been found that fakes news or disinformation is being used to influence voters and groundless accusations are being leveled in international elections.

Such fake and fabricated news is emerging through social media, which is less regulated, and tarnishing the freedom of expression, a basic human right.

The media plays an important role in ensuring free and fair elections for electing representatives who can further the interests of a country and its people.

Elections are an integral part of any democracy. It has been found that fake or fabricated news is being used to manipulate voters, and baseless accusations are being exchanged in elections in countries globally.

The media plays an important role in ensuring free and fair elections for electing representatives who can further the interests of a country and its people. The people have the right to access information through the media so that they can take correct decisions, based on their opinion. It is the duty of journalists to provide accurate information to the people.

We would like to urge all media persons to ensure that democracy takes firm root in our country, and our freedom to write, express, and speak is not lost again.



Reforms of MoI: Embracing motto "To inform, educate and entertain the public"; Acting as a bridge between the Government and general public; Promoting media development and freedom

"Our newspapers disseminate information about the legislative, executive and judiciary pillars who are assuming national duties on behalf of the public. Since these pillars are working for the people, there is the duty to report their tasks and processes to the public."

Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint

By Khin Yadanar, Theint Theint Moe

IN ACCORD with the motto "To inform, educate and entertain the public", the Ministry of Information (MoI) under the civilian government has been carrying on that mission for three years as of now. The following is two exclusive interviews with the Union Minister for Information, Dr. Pe Myint, and Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun on the tasks and accomplishments undertaken by the ministry in its third year of operations.

Dr. Pe Myint (Union Minister for Information)

Q: Can you introduce us with the vision and mission of MoI, seeing as it serves as a bridge between the public and the three pillars of government.

A: The Ministry of Informa-

and of any improvements made during the third year of administration.

A: People used to know MRTV as Myanma Athan and began as a radio broadcasting service. After the television was created, it changed its name to MRTV. Looking back, we can see that this department has undergone changes to stay relevant to the evolving technology of the world. We can see that adapting to the changing technology is important.

I wish to highlight two examples of the MRTV's tasks during the government's third year in office concerning the development of infrastructure, equipment and technology.

Upgrading

MRTV has Studio 1 on Yangon's Pyay Road which used to be the main center for all its work. It has fell into disuse for quite



President U Win Myint delivers the speech at the swearing-in ceremony of Myanmar Press Council in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 November 2018.

(DSNG) vehicles to bring these direct broadcasts to remote regions.

Q: Could you tell us how you helped develop domestic private broadcasting channels.

A: We actually began plans to allow the emergence of new private broadcasting channels two years ago as we aim for the rights and development of private channels. We arranged for five channels to broadcast from within MRTV's broadcasting system. We've evaluated the five work processes for the five channels and they began operating one by one last year.

Q: We'd like to know about the IPRD's successful Children's Literary Festivals and other related events.

A: The Information and Public Relations Department began organizing the Children's Literature Festivals over two years ago and is continuing these festivals in this year with increased momentum.

As of now, we have organized 9 national-level children's literary festival and 57 district-level festivals. We have plans to organize similar festivals at the township

level as well.

There has been increased interest from the subnational governments on this. The Ayeyawady Region cabinet, for example, has

Youth Development Festival in Mandalay. We conducted all-round development for university students including literature and we also hold sports competitions.

An interesting development this year was the filming of some scenes for the Hong Kong action film Line Walker 2 on Sule Pagoda Road right at the center of Yangon.

allotted K3 million as funds for 26 townships in its region to host their own Children's Literary Festival.

Cooperation with other ministries

In the previous year we held national-level festivals at Patheingyi University in Ayeyawady Region, Myitkya University in Kachin State, and Bago University in Bago Region. MoI received cooperation from other ministries in organizing these festivals.

There are other events similar to the children literary festivals that we are expanding on. Last year, we held an All-round

IPRD offices across the country into community centres for local people to congregate at. The community centres organize reading circles and public roundtables as well.

The emergence of public roundtables

Public roundtables focus their discussions on the important affairs, matters and topics of their respective region. We believe there have been thousands of public roundtables held across the country. We wish to proliferate democratic customs, freedom of speech, and a culture of information exchange in the nation.

Q: Please tell us what the Sub-department for Film Promotion has done to develop the film industry.

A: The IPRD is also responsible for developing Myanmar's film industry. To do that, there needs to be movie studios and schools on filmmaking. There needs to be more films and their quality has to improve as well. We need investors to effectively boost the industry.

There is a film development garden in Yangon but the buildings inside are weathered from the elements. We used our limited budget to begin renovating it last year. There are three studios in the garden and they've been completely rebuilt with shooting already done in them. We've also arranged seating for movie artists to be able to convene at

those locations.

Q: How big of an impact do you think the filming of international films in Yangon will have on the movie business?

A: An interesting development this year was the filming of some scenes for the Hong Kong action film Line Walker 2 on Sule Pagoda Road right at the center of Yangon. Securing the rights to film the movie here has let the world know that Myanmar is open and prepared for filming movies like this.

The fact that a movie like this came and filmed here is a definite reversal of the perceived notion that our country is fraught with restrictions and limited freedom. But we have shown that Myanmar is capable of hosting filming on this scale and working here is more relaxed and smoother than people had thought. This immensely benefits our country.

If we can film the natural scenery, mountains and forests in other parts of the country and show it to the entire world then public opinion of our country will gradually increase in a positive direction.

There have been more foreign film crews filming different parts of Myanmar as of late. There are also more collaborations with domestic companies to shoot movies and TV series. We received an offer to build a large movie studio in Nay Pyi Taw.

SEE PAGE 10



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers a speech at the ceremony to launch the 100 Myanmar Classis Book series at the Sule Shangri-la Hotel in Yangon.

Reforms of MoI: Embracing motto "To inform, educate and entertain the public"; Acting as a bridge between the Government and general public; Promoting media development and freedom

FROM PAGE-9

Q: Can you provide a summary of the Printing and Publishing Department's journey in this year?

A: The PPD accepts printing projects from outside and print them with the department's printing machines but it used to focus only on government documents in the past. Government printing matters include the Myanmar Gazette, government documents and electoral lists. The biggest task of PPD by volume now is printing school textbooks. They printed 35 million books submitted by the Department of Basic Education last year. They are now printing 39 million textbooks for the upcoming academic year.

Q: Were there any special tasks your ministry conducted to promote publishing books and develop Myanmar literature in the third year?

A: The PPD also takes care of the publishing part. The Sarpay Beikman mainly deals with developing Myanmar literature. The ministry has been handing out National Manuscript Award for a long time and there are lifetime achievement awards and separate awards for each literature genre. The Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award is awarded to competing manuscripts that have not been published in a book format yet. We take care of printing and publishing for winners of that award.

Q: Can you elaborate on the three volumes of 100 Myanmar Classics series published not too long ago?

A: This is a project we are undertaking with assistance from external experts. There are countless pieces of Burmese lit-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi observes the books displayed at "All Who Can Read Should Read" campaign in Nay Pyi Taw.

erature from the distant past to the modern day that the people should read. We selected literary works from among that ocean of literature and compiled it into 100 Myanmar classics. The first 100 classics are compiled in volumes 1, 2 and 3 and we are working on releasing another set of volumes in the future. We are also planning to release 15 volumes of the Myanmar Encyclopedia in a new format.

Q: Can you please explain about the paper-reading sessions and seminars organized for developing the entire literature sector?

A: We have paper-reading sessions and seminars organized by our departments and we also arrange locations and seating for external literature organizations that wish to organize seminars and their own awarding programs.

The IPRD also has a research group that has its own office space in the PPD's building on Theinbyu Road. They arrange meetings with scholars from Yangon and researchers on all topics from around the world based from that location. They have published their assessments in book formats as well.

Q: Can you tell us what the state-run newspapers have done in the third year period?

A: As the people know, we have the two Myanmar dailies, The Kyemon and The Myanma Alinn, and the English daily, The Global New Light of Myanmar. The two Myanmar dailies are owned by the News and Periodicals Enterprise while GNLM is conducted as a joint-venture with Global Direct Link company. We also have an online media outlet called Myanmar Digital News. It's also a joint venture, we're

partnering with Megalink Advanced Technologies company.

Our newspapers disseminate information about the legislative, executive and judiciary pillars who are assuming national duties on behalf of the public. Since these pillars are working for the people, there is the duty to report their tasks and processes to the public.

Q: What other duties are you performing for the people in addition to reporting on the three pillars of government?

A: Aside from sharing news on the Union Government and other organizations to the public, we also exclusively share news on local news such as the customs and culture of ethnic races, transportation and reforms. We also issue supplements in ethnic languages to assist their development and report on the affairs of Yangon City on the Yangon page

which is connected to the entire country.

We have a Mandalay supplement page for sharing news to Mandalay and Upper Myanmar. We've also opened a youth section where aspiring young writers and literature enthusiasts get a chance to show their work. And then we have two pages of cartoons every week for children to enjoy. With all this extra content, Myanmar newspapers publish 32 pages regularly but can increase to 48 pages on days with lots of supplements.

Q: Could you elaborate further on the online newspaper you've mentioned?

A: News publishers have to adapt with the changes our readers make in accessing information. The evolution of technology required us to launch Myanmar Digital News as an online platform over a year ago and it's operating normally right now.

Q: What future plans are in store for MoI?

A: We will continue to make MoI's main duties more comprehensive. Our main responsibility is to disseminate information to the general public and we will continue to polish our endeavours in that regard.

There's also our duty to provide entertainment to the people and we will continue bettering that sector. The rest of our future plans include letting the officials from the country's pillars and the public interact, ensuring people-to-people communication and exchange of information and ideas prosper, arranging seating and locations for events, conducting roundtable discussions and meetings.

SEE PAGE-11



Former President U Htin Kyaw, wife Daw Su Su Lwin, and Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint look at displayed books during the opening ceremony of Children's Literary Festival in Bago.



The aerial view of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) building in Nay Pyi Taw.

Reforms of MoI: Embracing motto "To inform, educate and entertain the public"; Acting as a bridge between the Government and general public; Promoting media development and freedom

FROM PAGE-10

U Aung Hla Tun (Deputy Minister for Information)

Q: News, information and accessing them is important for Myanmar. How important is press freedom to the development of the media sector?

A: Freedom of the press is important not only for the media sector, but also crucial for the development and stability of a nation. The flow and accuracy of news is very important. Access to information is vital for a fledgling democracy such as our country. Our country has been a stranger to democracy and press freedom for more than 50 years.

Q: How are press freedom and national development related to each other?

A: There are a lot of underlying factors. For one thing, the main duty of the media is bridging the gap between the three pillars of government and the people. Furthermore, the media is responsible for portraying the image of the nation on the international arena.

But the news and media sector needs to be professional in addition to having freedom. They need to carry out the genuine job of the media and adhere to rules of conduct and ethics for media personnel.

Q: What tasks for develop-



Former President U Htin Kyaw, wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Union Ministers, Bago Region Chief Minister, officials and students pose for a commemorative group photo at the opening ceremony of Children's Literary Festival (Bago) in front of the convocation hall of the Bago University, Bago.

ing the media sector were conducted in the government's third year in office?

A: There were numerous things we did in the third-year period. A major accomplishment was organizing the 7th Myanmar Media Development Conference together with our partners IMS and UNESCO.

Q: Do you feel your ministry was able to accomplish as much as you were expecting in the three-year period? And were there strengths and

weaknesses to that?

A: The main necessity in the democratic transition is for the emergence of independent media that has self-control and adheres to the rules of conduct. It's important to maintain professionalism and be independent. There are two sides to being independent. One, you have freedom and no obstacles, and two, you don't need to rely on anyone else.

It's not important who owns it. It can be owned by the private sector, organizations, a single

individual or the government. However, there are certain standards in the world of media. We are still working hard to realize them and we will continue to do so. We have achieved a degree of success though.

Then there are numerous challenges and the sustainability of private media. Some private media, especially print media, need to find methods for sustainability.

Q: MoI is the main medium communicating with the

people and is the fourth pillar of democracy. Do you have any other message you wish to relay to the public?

A: My message is that the media is playing an increasingly important role than from the past. Why? It's because about 50 million people in the country are using handphones and all of them have access to media platforms. Their media consumption has exponentially increased and now we have a new media platform; the social media network called Facebook. It has a host of positives, which I won't need to point out, but also lots of negatives. If it's not used properly then the consequences will be negative.

It can ruin our national image and fan the flames of hatred. There is also the danger of disinformation, fake news, hate speech and fabrications. So, I want to tell the people the ABCs of media information literacy. It's what steps to remember when you looking at a piece of news.

First, look for the source of the news. Who wrote it and what is their intention of writing it? Do they have an address of contact information? Are their accounts fake? There are many instances of people holding more than one account. And you also need to read the entire news. You can't just read the headlines and be done with it.

(Translated by Pen Dali)



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon in front of the Loikaw District IPRD office at the ceremony to upgrade the Loikaw District Information and Public Relations Department library in Loikaw.



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun.

Union Transport Minister receives Japanese Honorary Consul of Myanmar



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung meets with Japanese Honorary Consul of Myanmar Mr. Toshio Nishimura in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, received Mr. Toshio Nishimura, Honorary Consul of

the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Aichi Prefecture, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they dis-

cussed cooperating projects of Myanmar and Japan along with future collaborative plans.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Chinese Embassy donates 5 cars to Peace Commission



Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win accepts the donated cars handed over by Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

THE Chinese Embassy in Myanmar has donated five Volvo cars to the Peace Commission (PC) of Myanmar yesterday, aiming at improving the efficiency of the commission and supporting the peace process in Myanmar.

The car donation ceremony was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) on Shwe Li Road in Yangon yesterday.

Speaking at the event, Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang said that the Peace Commission is an organization which plays an important role for My-

anmar government's peace implementation process.

He said he attended the Second Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation (BRF) together with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

In that tour, leaders of the two countries have reached an agreement on matters related to joint-development in the Belt and Road initiative, which is the path of peace, added the Chinese Ambassador.

The peace implementation processes in Myanmar, particularly, in northern Myanmar is

very important for not only Myanmar's federal Union establishment but also peace and stability at China-Myanmar border area and developing the China-Myanmar Economic Corridor.

He also said they will continually support Myanmar in her peace implementation processes from constructive role.

If the peace implementation is achieved, it will be a historic achievement for Myanmar's democratic transition, bringing benefits and welfares to all ethnic people in Myanmar.

The Ambassador also said to continually strive for peace implementation in Myanmar with great diligence.

Afterwards, Peace Commission Chairman Dr. Tin Myo Win accepted the donated cars handed over by Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang and returned a certificate of honor.

Peace Commission Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw also presented gifts. Present at the event were secretary U Khin Zaw and members of the Peace Commission, Peace Commission Advisor U Hla Maung Shwe, U Thet Naing and officials, and officials from Chinese Embassy in Myanmar.—Ye Khaung Nyunt ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

MNHRC issues press release

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has issued Press Release No. 2/2019 yesterday.

The press release states that security forces were temporarily detaining 275 men out of suspicion in Kyauktan Village, Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State when some of the detainees began shouting and attempted to fight security personnel around 2am on 2 May.

It said security personnel fired shots in defence and dispersed the men to control the situation. Reportedly, 6 men are dead, 8 are injured and 4 are missing.

The MNHRC has urged both the security forces and the AA to exercise caution to prevent unnecessary injury and death of innocent civilians in areas of ongoing conflicts.—MNA ■ *(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)*

Security forces continue to investigate people suspected of ties with AA, release the innocent

TATMADAW security forces and police officers temporarily detained 275 men at the village school of Kyauktan Village, Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, on suspicions of having connections with the AA group.

They began necessary questioning on 1 May.

From this investigation, 126 men were cleared of suspicion, removed from the list of suspects and released in the

sight of village elders on 2 May.

Out of the 275 men originally detained, 126 have been released, 6 are dead, 8 are sent to the hospital, 4 are missing and the remaining 131 are being questioned in accordance with the law, according to news released from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

AA group kills retired Tatmadaw sergeant

A RETIRED Tatmadaw sergeant residing in Pikaukwa (Rakhine) Village of Kyauktaw Township was killed by machete-wielding AA group around 12:30 a.m. on 1 May, according to a military release.

Retired sergeant U Sein Kalar was attacked by about 10 AA members, armed with machetes, while he was at home with his wife.

His wife, who had sustained a head injury, was found unconscious and taken to the Apaukwa station hospital.

Upon interrogation, local villagers said the victim was

not related to any organization.

With the latest incident, the number of civilians killed by AA has reached 11, according to a press release issued by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. Eight people have been injured in AA attacks, and nine have been abducted by insurgents.

AA has been issuing death threats in letters addressed to civilians, and killing them intentionally to damage peace and stability in Rakhine State, according to the press release.—MNA ■

(Translated by GNLM)

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Civil Service Board clarifies in Pyithu Hluttaw assignment and transfer of public servants

FROMPAGE-2

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement gave priority to locals and promotions and reassignments were from a short list prepared. Action for misconducts were taken according to set personnel rules and regulations.

Ministry of Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Eth-

nic Affairs had no practice of assigning/transferring personnel close to retirement or had action taken for some misconduct. Action for misconducts were taken according to Public Servant Law said U Saw Valentine. Questions raised by Dr. U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative Maj. Zaw Win Naing, Daw Soe Nwe Aye of Tada-U constituency, Dr. U Min Thein of YeU constituency, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency and Dr. U Hla Moe of Aungmyethazan constituency were also answered by



Dr. U Sein Mya Aye.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and Union Civil Service Board member U Saw Valentine. Motions tabled for discussion

U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency tabled a motion urging the government to upgrade teachings



Maj. Zaw Win Naing.

in higher education universities and colleges with educational support materials, practical works, field/site visits, research and term paper preparation etc. The motion was supported by U Ye Lwin of Ahlone constituency. U Aung Thike of Seikpyu constituency also

tabled a motion urging the government to increase the teaching of history and geography in middle school level to produce more historians and geography experts on Myanmar. The motion was supported by U Phone Myint Aung of Dai-KU constituency. After the Hluttaw decided to accept and discuss both motions, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motions to register their names.

Report on Myanmar Telecommunication Corporation bill read Next the Hluttaw was

informed about the receipt of Myanmar Telecommunication Corporation bill approved with amendments sent by Amyotha Hluttaw and Bill Committee member U Hpa Tan read and submitted a report on the bill. Afterwards Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to table amendment motion on the bill to register their names. The fourth day meeting of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw's 12th regular session will be held on 8 May.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■ (Translated by Zaw Min)

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NOTICE TO PUBLIC

It is notified to public according to instruction of TRAVELLAND MYANMAR TRAVEL & TOURS COMPANY LIMITED, based at Yangon Region.

TRAVELLAND MYANMAR TRAVEL & TOURS CO., LTD is a travel company performing tour services based at Yangon since 2015 in company registration No. 106472367.

TOUR SERVICES are performed using advertisements on Internet facebook page in name of TRAVELLAND MYANMAR TRAVEL & TOURS CO., LTD. Therefore notice is announced not to use imitated similarly referring to above company name or part of company name directly or indirectly.

If it will not be follow and it will be found that the said company name was used similarly imitated, it is notified to public that it will be taken action according to law.

According to instruction -
Daw Nant Wathone Oo (Serial - 48525) LL.B (Higher Grade Pleader)
No. 24, 1st Floor, feet 50 Street, Hledan, Kamayut (3) Ward, Yangon City
Ph : 09-421167410, 09-962753629

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (006W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (006W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 04-05-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.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

Invitation for Request for Quotation (RFQ)

Ministry of Transport and Communications(MoTC) now invites eligible firm to submit the proposal for **"Radio Planning Tools (Software) and Digital Map (Software)"** as part of the Telecom Sector Reform Project supported by the World Bank's Loan. The deadline for submission of RFQ is June 4th, 2019 by 10:30 AM (Myanmar Standard Time).

Attention:

Director General
Posts and Telecommunications Department.
Ministry of Transport and Communications
Office Building Number 2
Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67 3407225
Facsimile number: +95 67 3407216
Electronic mail address: dg.ptd@mptmail.net.mm

The detail information and requirements can be seen in the Request for Quotation (RFQ)and it can be downloaded at PTD Website:<https://www.ptd.gov.mm>.

Tender Committee
Ministry of Transport and Communications

မွန်ဂျီထုတ်လုပ်ရေးကုမ္ပဏီလီမိတက် (ကုမ္ပဏီ)
Moonji Production Company Limited (Company)
(ကုမ္ပဏီမှတ်ပုံတင်အမှတ် ၁၁၇၅၁၀၅၀၆)
မြန်မာနိုင်ငံ ကုမ္ပဏီများ ဥပဒေ (၂၀၁၇) ပုဒ်မ ၃၄၅ နှင့် ၃၄၈ တို့အရ
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MPC observes World Press Freedom Day



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint reads the message from President U Win Myint at the ceremony to mark World Press Freedom Day in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Myanmar Press Council observed World Press Freedom Day in Yangon yesterday, and leaders of the country shared their messages at a ceremony held to mark the day.

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint first read a message from President U Win Myint at the ceremony. Afterwards, the chairman of the Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Kyaing read a message from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Then, MP U Myint Lwin and the Commander of Yangon Region Command, Maj-Gen Thet Pon, read messages from the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, U T Khun Myat, and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, respectively.

Dr. Pe Myint said the objective behind the ceremony was respecting press freedom, and protecting and promoting it.

The Union Minister said a significant issue related with freedom of the press was discussed at the annual celebration of the World Press Freedom Day, and the theme for the 2019 World Press Freedom Day is Media for Democracy: Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation.

"Democracy and media, and a democratic country and freedom of press are inseparable. A democracy provides freedom, equality, and justice," he said.

"While the media pushes for press freedom, it also pays attention to equality and justice. This means that democracy and media share the same goals and values," he added.

The first part of this year's theme for World Press Freedom

Day is 'Media for Democracy' and the second part is 'Journalism and Elections in Times of Disinformation'.

"Disinformation can be considered as fake news. More accurately, it can be defined as providing and distributing information that is not true," he said.

Disinformation is not incidental, but intentional as it involves sending or writing fake news with the intent of tricking people, said the minister.

Fabricated news, fake news, or untrue news is being distributed globally today, said

most significant word of 2016.

Post-truth can be defined as a situation in which people are more likely to accept an argument based on their emotions and beliefs, rather than facts, said the Union Minister.

"Once people begin to believe in and value untrue information, human society will fall under the influence of liars," said Dr. Pe Myint.

Era of fake news poses challenges to journalists in elections

Fake news poses a challenge to journalists covering

He continued to say that the public will obtain information from news media personnel and various news media. The news media and news media personnel will describe their supports and oppositions of policies, parties and organizations based on their stands and belief. Regardless of how many differing opinions and views they may present they'll have the aims of making the public accept their views and oppositions. As long as this was conducted with good faith and honesty, this would be very good.

The public will know news and information from all angles and view points. The public will get to know the country's affairs viewed from different angles and sides. From those, the public will select and choose what they like.

This is being fair and just. This was what required most importantly in a democracy system. For a sustained existence of a democracy system news media personnel need to provide exact facts and information to the public.

Not only in our country but also in the world today there had been an outbreak of vast amount of untrue and fake news. Due to such disinformation when elections were held in countries, there were incidences of the public making decisions that were guided by falsehoods and deceptions. In other words, the votes of the public were stolen through deceptions and lies. Furthermore incitements and instabilities were caused during the election period through distribution of such disinformation, he said.

"Once people begin to believe in and value untrue information, human society will fall under the influence of liars."

—Dr. Pe Myint

the Union Minister.

While the word 'fake news' emerged about three to five years ago, the term is not entirely modern, and has been known in the world and here as well.

"The difference between fake news in the past and today is that the number of false stories is now increasing. With dishonest people producing and distributing it, fake news has become an immense challenge," said the Union Minister.

Fake news in a Post-truth World

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the age of fake news is developing in front of our eyes and used the word 'post-truth' to describe the current situation.

The word 'post-truth' was popular about four-five years ago, and was regarded as the

elections, said Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint.

"Elections can be said to be the lifeblood of a democracy. Free and fair elections are most important in a democracy. A democracy can last only when the people get the opportunity to elect their representatives by taking part in elections," he said.

To strengthen and perpetuate a democracy, people need to be supported so that they can perform their duties properly, and therefore, providing information to the people is vital, he said. It is the duty of the media to provide information related to electoral knowledge, facts about political parties and their candidates, their stance, opinions, policies, history, capacity, and qualifications to the people.

MPC observes World Press Freedom Day

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It was known to all that our country was arranging to hold a general election in 2020. Everyone also knows that during that time the distraction and enticement toward instability through incorrect and fake news can occur. Candidates participating in the election will be affected and damaged by untrue and fake news. They'll be attacked with untrue and fake news. Untrue and fake news will change the views and thoughts of the public, he said.

When the outcome and results of the elections were not as expected by the public, the public's belief in the election system would be reduced. If political parties, politicians as well as political system and election system were affected by the untrue and fake news, the democracy system itself could be on the brink of collapsing and pose dangers for its existence, he added.

While the untrue and fake news affect the democracy system and the country's stability, at the same time, it will also affect the news media too. As untrue and fake news spread the media, the faith and trust of the public toward the media will diminish. In times of disinformation, elections, democracy system were affected while journalism and journalists were also affected.

There had been discussions within the news media circle on how to prevent and obstruct this. There are ways and means and some were seen to doing it. As mentioned earlier when a stage



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and attendees pose for the documentary photo at the ceremony to mark World Press Freedom Day in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

beyond post truth was reached, the situation will have degenerated from ignoring truth to pursuing falsehood. To prevent this, news media personnel need to counter with truth. Care must be taken toward ensuring the truth of the news that they were publishing. In fact this was the main function of news media personnel. The first ethic a news media personnel need to hold on to is to provide true facts and information. Maintaining this ethic would enable the public to know the truth and retain the faith and trust of the public toward the news media. This is how the reconstruction work should be done.

Another thing is to expose the fabrication in the untrue and fake news. As untrue and fake

news come by, there were journalists and media organizations that conduct fact-checking on such news. It was learnt that Myanmar Press Council was starting this now. Furthermore there were also groups and entities doing the same thing in Myanmar. These groups and entities were seen as the one that'll expose and eradicate untrue and fake news.

Another thing is to raise Media and Information Literacy of the public. That is to raise the knowledge and understanding of the public on evaluating the news and information. It is to make the public have Media Literacy and Information Literacy. If these were conducted by news media personnel the danger of untrue and fake news can be overcome.

Further cooperation can be provided by those who are related to election. For true news and information on election to be distributed to the public, those involved in the election matters like election organizing entities, participating parties, election monitoring entities, local and foreign entities must conduct their works in a just and fair manner. When these entities, organizations and groups work together systematically with news media, the important period of 2019-2020 will be successful passed truthfully and justly, said the Union Minister.

Following the opening address of Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun also delivered a key-note speech.

Afterwards, Chairman of the Myanmar Press Council (Hanthawady-U Ohn Kyaing) and Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission U Win Mra also delivered addresses.

Next, U Han Nyunt (Han Nyunt-Law) read a message from Chairman of the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Commission.

Afterwards, Ms. Min Jeong Kim, Resident Representative of the UNESCO, read a message from the United Nations Secretary General Mr. Antonio Guterres.

In the afternoon session, representatives concerned read messages Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Journalists Network, Myanmar Press Union, Myanmar Writers Union, Myanmar Cartoonists Association, Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association and Myanmar Media Development Centre.

At the ceremony, the Myanmar Press Council issued a declaration for the World Press Freedom Day.

About 100 countries celebrated the World Press Freedom Day was observed yesterday providing a platforms for multiple actors to exchange on current issues concerning with challenges of press in elections and prospects of media's cooperation in peace and integration.

The main celebration of World Press Freedom Day 2019 took place in Addis Ababa, from 1 to 3 May 2019. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Price of mung bean up K80,000, pigeon peas costing K140,000 more post Thingyan

By Nyein Nyein

THE beans and pulses market has seen a surge in prices after the Thingyan festival, with mung beans getting costlier by K80,000 per ton and pigeon peas by K140,000 per ton, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary, Myanmar Pulses, Beans, and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association.

The prevailing prices of beans are K845,000 per ton for mung bean FAQ (fair and average quality) and about K1 million for mung bean SQ (special quality). Old pigeon peas are priced at K970,000 per ton, while freshly harvested pigeon peas are fetching K1,080,000 per ton.

"Prior to the Thingyan Festival, mung beans were priced at K760,000 per ton. The price



has now increased to around K845,000. Similarly, pigeon peas were priced at just K830,000 per ton, and are now fetching K970,000 per ton," said U Min Ko Oo.

India, the main buyer of Myanmar beans and pulses announced an import quota of 150,000 tons each for mung beans

and green grams, and 200,000 tons for pigeon peas. Following the announcement, the prices of mung beans and pigeon prices are likely to continue their upward trend, according to the association.

"India declared an import quota in March, and licences will be sought by April-end. However,

there is still no official directive stating when the import of pulses will start. The price of pulses in the domestic market will also rise to a certain extent if there is steady demand from India," said U Min Ko Oo.

This year, the acreage of mung beans and pigeon peas has declined, and so, the yield is expected to fall. Only 50,000 tons of pigeon peas are likely to be produced, while mung bean production is estimated at over 300,000 tons, according to the pulses market.

At present, in addition to India, Myanmar's beans are purchased by Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Dubai, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan, and European countries. But, the volume of demand from these markets is small.

"The Ministry of Commerce has been conducting a series of discussions to sell Myanmar's beans under government-to-government agreements. Additionally, the ministry has been exploring more external markets," said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

India's move to restrict importation of pulses in August, 2017 has severely affected growers in Myanmar.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, over 1 million tons of mung beans, pigeon peas, and green grams were shipped to foreign countries. But, Myanmar earned only US\$713 million from their export owing to a drop in price, according to data from the Ministry of Commerce. ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar's Nay Thway Oo claims gold at Asian Billiards Championship 2019



Nay Thway Oo trains prior to the Asian Billiards Championship 2019 in Chandigarh, India. **PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN**

NAY Thway Oo of Myanmar won the gold medal at the Asian Billiards and U-21 Snooker Championship 2019, which was held in Chandigarh, India, by beating Thailand's Praput Chaithanasakun by a decisive 6-2.

sakun by a decisive 6-2.

The championship was divided into two parts: billiards and snooker.

Nay Thway Oo faced Praput Chaithanasakun for the second time in the finals. The two players had met in the group stage, when Nay Thway Oo had defeated the Thai player.

In the final, Nay Thway Oo beat Thailand's Praput with a terrific score of (101-68), (94-101), (101-5), (102-50), (10-101), (100-0), (100-87), and (100-25).

Thailand's Praput was the popular choice for winning the match as he had managed a win against billiards star Pan-kaj Advani. Nay Thway Oo shaped his victory by scoring big in each and every match in the championship. Five players represented Myanmar at the billiards and snooker events. Chit Ko Ko took the third place in the billiards championship. There were no victories for Myanmar in the snooker event.—*Shine Htet Zaw (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)* ■

State, Region Chess Championship held in Nay Pyi Taw



Players at the Myanmar traditional Chess freelance event at the Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE State and Region Chess Championship being held at the Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw entered its fourth day yesterday. The championship began on 30 April and ends on 7 May.

The competition was attended by Deputy Minister for

Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein, Deputy Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department U Tun Myint Oo, and the chairman of the Myanmar Chess Association, and the chairman of the Myanmar Chess Federation, U Maung Maung Lwin, and officials from

the Sports and Physical Education Department.

The tournament has been divided into two events: Chess and Myanmar traditional Chess.

In the men's event of the Chess competition, 53 players from different states and regions participated for the U-21 event, while another 53 participated in the freelance event. Forty-three players from different states and regions participated in the women's event of the Chess competition. A total of 47 players took part in the Myanmar traditional Chess competition.

The Chess Championship is being held at the Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw, and anyone can watch the matches free of charge, according to the organizers of the competition.—*MNA* ■ *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)*

Lethwei event to be held in Hpa-an on Sunday

AN event titled 'Karen Spirit' will be held as part of the World Lethwei Championship (WLC) at the Chit Tu Myaing Park in Hpa-an, Kayin State, on 5 May to showcase Myanmar Lethwei, according to the WLC.

The match will be broadcast live on the Canal Plus Myanmar Channel from 6:30 p.m. (Myanmar Standard Time), and the door for the match will be opened at 3:30 p.m., said a source with the WLC.

The event will have several bouts featuring Myanmar Lethwei fighters and foreign fighters.

In the main event, Myanmar's Mite Yine will take on Cambodian fighter Morn Samet in the feather-weight class.

In the co-main event, Kyaw Zin Latt will fight Germany's Burutlek Petchyindee in the welterweight class.

In the middleweight class, Myanmar's Thway Thit Aung will take on Ireland's David Mccarthy.

In the light welterweight class, Aung Aung Htoo (Myan-



The lethwei main event : Mite Yine vs Morn Samet will be seen at the Lethwei event named Karen Spirit. **PHOTO: WLC**

mar) will fight against Saw Min Min (Myanmar).

In the light welterweight class, Aung Hein (Myanmar) will fight Thway Thit Aung (Myanmar).

In the lightweight class, Than Zaw (Myanmar) will face Hein Tun Aung (Myanmar).

In the welterweight class, Min Htet Kyaw (Myanmar) will compete against Ba Htein (Myanmar).

In the women's bout in the light flyweight event, Eh Eh (Myanmar) will take on Huynh Ha Huu Hieu (Viet Nam).—*Lynn Thit (Tgi)* ■

Shan United head to Mawlamyine for match against Southern Myanmar

THE Shan United F.C., also known as the Shan Warriors, left for Mawlamyine, Mon State, yesterday morning for an away match against Southern Myanmar F.C., according to a statement issued by Shan United.

Seven football officials are accompanying 18 players from Shan United for the match, said a source with the football club.

Of the nine matches it has played so far in the tourney, Shan United has managed 4 wins and 5

draws. It is now placed in the 3rd position with 17 points. Meanwhile, Southern Myanmar F.C. is placed 10th with 7 points from 2 wins, 1 draw, and 6 losses from 9 games.

The match between Southern Myanmar and Shan United will start at 4 p.m. on Sunday in Mawlamyine, the home turf of Southern Myanmar. The match will be streamed live on MySports' Facebook page, according to the Myanmar National League.—*Lynn Thit (Tgi)* ■