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State Counsellor holds public meetings in Nanyun, Pinlebu in Sagaing Region

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the Committee for Development of Rural Areas and National Races, met with local people in Nanyun and Pinlebu townships in Sagaing Region.

During the trip, the State Counsellor was accompanied by Union Ministers U Min Thu, U Ohn Win and Dr Myint Htwe; Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu and U Hla Maw Oo, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials.

After landing at Khamti Airport, they were welcomed by Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing, his government ministers, Hluttaw representatives, town elders, locals and ethnic people.

They later proceeded to Nanyun Township in Naga Self-Administered Zone in Sagaing Region by helicopters.

The State Counsellor and

party were welcomed by U Kay Sai, the Chairman of Leading Body of Naga Administered Zone, officials and Naga people and local ethnic people.

The State Counsellor held a public meeting with the locals in the Community Hall in Nanyun.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor said that transportation is one of the vital necessities for the development of a country, and that the government focuses on improvement of transportations in remote areas. The roads are bad in Nanyun area during the raining season, and that these roads must be upgraded for all year round.

Such poor conditions are still seen in many areas of the country. Good transportation is very important everywhere. The roads must be durable for the rainy seasons. The government is doing its best for for this matter.

Although the country's transportation became developed in the past three or four years, there are still many requirements in this sector. While the country is on the track of development, the people must improve.

People are instrumental in the development of a country. If people have no strong commitment and cooperation, no nation can sustain development. Development of a country can be measured with the living standards of grass root people in that country. The situations of elite groups are not the indicators for development of the countries. The State Counsellor also said people in Nanyun areas are also the reflection of the country's development. Local people have recognized there are many conditions to be developed in this area.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech during the meeting with local people in Nanyun Township in Sagaing Region yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Attorney General's Office
Press Release
13th Waning of Pyatho 1381 M.E

(22 January 2020)

Press Release on the Final Report of the Independent Commission of Enquiry

1. The Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE) was established by the Office of the President on 30 July 2018 to investigate the allegations of human rights violations in Rakhine during the internal armed conflict between Myanmar's Defence Services and the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) in 2016-2017.
2. The Independent Commission of Enquiry has investigated the allegations of human rights violations and related issues following the attacks. The Union Attorney General's Office has received, from the President, the comprehensive report submitted by the Independent Commission of Enquiry to the President with around 450 pages including 31 annexes.
3. The Commission has concluded, based on evidence it has collected, that members and collaborators of ARSA, members of the Myanmar's security forces and civilians committed crimes such as killing of civilians, disproportionate use of force, looting of property, and destruction of abandoned homes of Muslims in Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Rathedaung Townships during the internal conflict in Northern Rakhine, and that the Commission has found particularly serious loss of life in the villages of Min Gyi (Tula Toli), Chut Pyin and Maung Nu.
4. The Union Attorney General's Office will coordinate and cooperate with the relevant departments and organizations to ensure further criminal investigations and, where the evidence is compelling, prosecutions.
5. With regard to criminal conduct described in the report, the Union Attorney General's Office will be providing information on the progress of investigations and prosecutions.

Union Attorney General's Office

UEC, USIP co-organize workshop on prevention of hate speech, fake news, wrong information on social media

THE Union Election Commission jointly organized a workshop with the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) on the prevention of hate speech, fake news and misleading information.

Chairman of UEC U Hla Thein made an opening remark on the workshop, saying the important role of social media in modern communications, its advantages and challenges including hate speech, fake news and wrong information.

He remarked on the needs for prevention of these problems in the country where the social media users have amounted to 21 million in 2020, compared with 7 million in 2015.

The UEC Chairman also called for officials concerned with the General Election and the participants

at the workshop to prevent disputes coming out of hate speech and fake news, as well as the enforcement of code of ethics.

While the UEC is publishing its activities and directives on state-owned media and UEC website, the commission will also effectively use its Facebook page to spread information and voter education for 2020 General Election. The UEC is working together with the Ministry of Information, Myanmar Media Council and Facebook Team for prevention of hate speech, fake news and wrong information.

Mr Jason Tower from the USIP extended greeting at the workshop which will be held until 23 January.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein delivers the opening speech at the workshop on prevention of hate speech, fake news and misleading information in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Rakhine IDPs receive 20,000 relief aid bags from India

INDIA government offered 20,000 relief aid bags, totally worth of US\$235,456, to the internally displaced persons in Rakhine State.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye attended the donation ceremony held at a jetty warehouse in Sittway, the capital city of Rakhine State, yesterday.

The Union Minister expressed thanks for the donations of India government which signed MoUs to provide the \$25 million worth assistance in five years, including construction of 250 houses in



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presents appreciation certification to donor at the handing over ceremony of relief materials for IDPs in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Shwezar, Nantthartaung and Kyeinchaungtaung villages. He added that the 12

project agreements will be signed in this financial year.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu also expressed thanks for the donations.

Indian Ambassador to Myanmar then handed over the donation items and explained assistance of India in education, health and agriculture sectors of Myanmar. The government is also working with Singapore-based the Asian Philanthropy Circle (APC) and Mainly I Love Kids (MILK) to help Rakhine people learn skills and vocational education.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs receives Bangladeshi Ambassador

U SOE HAN, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, Ambassador of Bangladesh to Myanmar, at 10:30 am on 21 January 2020 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the Permanent Secretary and the Bangladeshi Ambassador discussed on matters pertaining to the holding of the Fifth Meeting of Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Working Group (JWG) on the repatriation of displaced persons in Dhaka, Bangladesh. At the meeting, Permanent Secretary reiterated Myanmar's readiness to receive the verified displaced persons in accordance with the MoU between Myanmar and Bangladesh and apprised him of the government's efforts for creating conducive environment for the returnees in cooperation with the partner countries and ASEAN-ERAT team.—MNA

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“I found many school children on the way. It is a good sign for the country. They are the signs for the future of our country. Both schools and school children must be developed. They need higher education standards,” she added, saying that education is required to have capacity for solving difficulties and challenges in life. Despite having knowledge from books, no one is said to be an educated person if they have no capacity to overcome challenges.

The country needs more learned persons, in addition to graduates. Some graduates cannot manage their lives due to weaknesses of the education system, said the State Counsellor. Different countries have different education systems. Myanmar cannot copy all the systems of developed countries.

She also said the less-developed countries can take lessons from the faults of developed nations and avoid their mistakes.

She also shared experiences in the environmental degradation due to illegal gold mines on the way to Nanyun by helicopter.

Although the forests and mountains are natural resources of the country, they are also standing as natural barriers for poor transportation and livelihoods of local people.

The State Counsellor said that while illegal gold mines are prohibited, local people need other livelihoods, reminding that people in every corner of the country are responsible for the development of their lives.

She continued to say recognizing the value of every citizen, services for health and education, and maternal health for pregnant women till the babies reach the age of two years as this period is very important for brain development of the babies. Nutrition is required for both physical and mental development.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe was included in the trip to know about health services for local people. Children could pursue education only when they are healthy.

She also reaffirmed diplomacy lies on the front lines in national defense duty. In international diplomatic relations, the nation must be safeguarded by educated, learned and capa-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for documentary photo together with local people in Nanyun Township in Sagaing Region yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

ble persons.

The State Counsellor added her support to vocational education as some developing countries are facing consequences of incorrect education systems which mainly focused on university education, instead of vocational education. Jobless graduates can also be found in many developed countries because some university degrees do not meet prevailing requirements in the world. It was also found that the countries which can sustain development are the nations that support vocational education and technologies.

While the government is supporting technical and vocational educations, people are found to prefer these educations. However, while some countries traditionally pursue university degrees, their people emphasized on these degrees, and have lesser interest in essential technologies.

The State Counsellor said that all the young people, students and parents to prefer vocational education for livelihoods. Young people in rich countries, such as Germany, Sweden and Switzerland, get the same opportunities as the graduated ones. Some technicians are earning more income than the educated ones. In developed countries, the educated ones do not get more favours than the

technicians.

She concluded that the visit to Nanyun was to witness difficulties of the region and to hear the direct voices of locals although it is not possible to talk

of Hluttaw representatives, civil service personnel and people to the seven villages in Takagwin area, free transportation of rice, fuel oil and construction materials from Tanai and Myitkyina

the restricted areas, cooperation between the local government and its people, friendly relations of local people to the health workers and teachers, mutual respects among different faiths, being proud of own land, responsibility of local people and the government's assistance to the locals.

The State Counsellor and party returned to Khamti, proceeded to Homalin Township by a special flight and travelled to Pinlebu Township by helicopters.

During the meeting with the locals at the Sport Stadium of Pinlebu Township, the State Counsellor said: “I have a strong reason of paying a visit to Pinlebu. The representative of Pinlebu reminded me that many years ago, I had made a promise to pay a visit to Pinlebu. I had made such a promise, so I came here to keep my word because I believe it is very important that we representatives must abide by our promises. Personally speaking, I never make a promise lightly, or casually. I believe that before I speak a word, I must value the word. Especially, concerning the affairs of our people, I never make a promise off-handedly, without considering whether I could really do something for soothing the people or for solving an issue.

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The country needs more learned persons, in addition to graduates. Some graduates cannot manage their lives due to weaknesses in the education system: State Counsellor

with individuals. Some questions in advance will be replied, and the prompt questions will be answered depending on the time available. The questions will be answered by the members of Union government and some others by the State government.

After the speech of State Counsellor, the local people discussed cancellation of Nanyun Township from the area of Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, demarcation of this area with the consent of locals, legitimacy of Pansaung border market close to India, constructions of mini hydropower plant and 50-bed hospital, upgrading local health facility, construction of a school building, free access

townships to Nanyun, cancelling from the list of brown security area, upgrading road, agricultural projects for daily income, employment of school teachers required for 43 primary schools in Nanyun, construction of concrete roads, town hall and community hall for Naga people, and breeding of new fish species.

Union Ministers U Ohn Win, Dr Myint Htwe, local government ministers and Director-General U Ko Lay Win replied the discussions.

The State Counsellor concluded the discussions, making remarks on more interactions between the local government and its people, the needs of permissions for possible access to

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by local people as she arrives in Homalin yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

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I always remind the members of my party, as well as the members of our governing body: As long as they could not keep their word, never say it to our people. Otherwise, we will lose the trust of our people. The moment we lose their trust, it's quite hard to get it restored. If we really want to carry out the duties of the state, securing the trust of the people is the factor of crucial importance for everyone of us.

Without the trust of the people, no governing body or political organization can do good for the country. Some people might underestimate the people. If you excuse my expression, they even look down on the people. They misconceive that they can win the votes of the people if they make a solemn promise that they will fulfil whatever the local people claim for. I'd like to stress the fact that I never belittle our people's power, but I value and respect our people, for I am well convinced that our people have never failed to exercise their prudence in times of crisis.

If there is something we can do for the fulfilment, we will do unflinchingly because the happiness of our people is the happiness of our country. However, there might be some matters

beyond our caliber, and if we just make a soothing promise just to please the people, and do nothing, this would be an insult to the people, which we would never do so. Showing no respect to the people means an insult to the people.

I've come here because, first of all, I hold the natives of Pinlebu, our people of Pinlebu, in high respect.

My second reason is I want to make close contact with my people all over the country. However, that isn't possible in practice. Of course, getting close to all over fifty million people is out of the question. But I'm trying my best. This morning we managed to visit Nanyun, one of the far flung areas of our country. If compared, Pinlebu isn't that far. Not very much isolated like Nanyun. But if we set out from Nay Pyi Taw or Mandalay or Yangon, this region is still hard to reach. Because it is hard to reach, we have managed to come here without fail.

In our mass gatherings, we hope to get informed of the main issues that our people are faced with so that we can try our best to get the problems solved. But this doesn't mean things are settled right away on the very spot. There are challenges of our country. If we all want to solve these challenges, we must

work together.

That's why I always remind our people. You are the one who should start. Our individual performances and endeavours are very important for our country. It isn't the matter of age. Whether you are young or old, you have the caliber to do something for the interest of our country. That's why I'd like you, young and old, including our children and students, to think what we can do for our country.

First of all, I'd like you all to stand united. Only when we stand united can we make progress. To make sure we all are united, we must have the right mindset. We should adopt the positive attitudes towards each other, we should be equipped with the full spirit that we shall join hands and work for the progress of our country. Then our country can make quick progress. If you look at the far-flung areas like Pinlebu, the areas haven't as yet developed as they should have. So what could be the yardsticks of progress? The first yardstick is perhaps how far the local people are living in safe and secure conditions. It is important to be not only physically safe but also emotionally secure, whether you are indoors or you are going outdoors.

Another yardstick is the guarantee for your survival to

start a new day. When the morning comes, you must have a good breakfast, shelter, clothes and food, and if you have a family, education for your children. Thus, it is very important to be emotionally secure. Another thing is the guarantee for jobs. Quite a large number of our citizens remain unemployed.

On the way to Pinlebu, I noticed many young students along the road. This sight always gives me blissful feelings, indeed because this scene proves that our children are eager to learn while their parents are willing to give education to their children. I'd like our children, as well as the parents, to note that education plays an important role in every country. Education is the future of our country. Only if we could produce wise people, there's the guarantee for the future of our country. Here, I'd like to explain a little bit. 'The wise' doesn't mean 'graduates from universities'. Wise people are those who can solve the issues that they encounter in life.

No matter how many graduates we have, if they can't solve the problems they encounter, if they are not equipped with the problem solving skills, this is not the wise. This is just an act of learning or schooling. I'd like our people to be wise, sagacious people so that we can find the

right path to face our life to the best of our abilities.

A country has to go through many epochs, many phases. This country will stand till to the end of the world. And nobody can predict how many issues we will be faced with. In this world, even the wealthiest countries cannot escape from issues. One issue after another keeps on coming, of course. In a developing country like ours, we have our own problems. But we should not remain in despair for this.

I have been to many countries all over the world. I have been to the biggest, richest cities, but I am glad our people have the advantages that the people of those cities do not have. Of course, they have advantages in some aspects while our people have advantages in others. I'd like you not to let go of your advantages. For example, the world has acknowledged, from their records that there is no other country in the world whose people are as generous and ready to share as Myanmar. Even then, our country is included among the least developed countries of the world. Despite being one of the least developed countries in the world, our Myanmar people are at the top of the list of generosity and benevolence in humanitarian aids. I think this reveals the reflections of our loving kindness and generous nature.

What I am trying to say is the will to share among ourselves. This will is I think the most important aspect of our personality for our community. We share the good things we have. Then, if there are any sorrows, there turn up people who share our sorrows. In this world, in life, there's always give and take. If we share our loving kindness, we can stand against the issues, we can make progress and we can build a developed country.

As I have been engaged in politics, some interview me how I face any hardships or challenges, how I overcome my apprehensions about these issues. The best thing about my life is I have a good company of friends and comrades who never fail to show their loving kindness. As long as there are people with comradeship ready to sacrifice everything together, it isn't hard for me to face any hardships.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech during the meeting with local people in Pinlebu Township in Sagaing Region yesterday.
PHOTO: MNA

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My example here is: you have fear and anxiety if you walk alone in the deep forest, but if you have a companion, your worries subside a little. As you all know, walking all alone in the dark is different from waling with your companion. Even if he is a stranger, you feel relieved, don't you? You have a friend, who joins hands with you and who helps you up again when you fall. Then no matter the path lies in darkness, no matter the path is a challenge, you find it more relaxing to walk forward.

Especially, children and youths should adopt this kind of attitude — the positive mentality like compassion and sharing good things among yourselves. Then our country will always make progress and stand in peace and prosperity. If we fail to adopt positive mentality, no matter the country may be rich, our people will not able to enjoy true happiness.

Now I'd like to talk a little bit about politics. Some people think that if somebody wants to do politics, he or she may enroll himself or herself in a political party. But politics is a concern for every citizen. Political affairs are the affairs of the state. The affairs of a country are a concern to all those living in the country, even a concern to those living oversea. If you still have a concern about this country, if you still have some

attachments, you keep on studying, from a far distance, what's going on here, and share the joys and sorrows together.

As you all know, when last month I went abroad and defended the case forwarded to the ICJ, many Myanmar people living abroad came there to support us, to stand with us. In fact, may of them are holding the Myanmar citizenship, but their loving hearts are still with us.

They came because they felt it's time to show their blood brotherhood in times of crisis. It's almost unbelievable because those who gave their support are not millionaires, but they spent their hard earnings, took all the troubles to come and support us. They show they are still in love with Myanmar. If we still keep this kind of attitude intact, our country will reach the status in which the world acknowledges the greatness of Myanmar. For this goal, each and every individual should strive to the best of their abilities.

I'd like the people of Pinlebu to strive to the best of your abilities. Never think this way, Ours is just a little town of no significance. Of course, every town, every village is of great importance. Every individual person living in towns or villages is playing an important role. Keep self-respect intact. Take the right track. A valuable thing will never be cast away in the dust. A stone of no value will be cast away, but never a diamond.

So if you respect and value yourself, you'll take good care of yourself. First, by keeping your virtues intact, this means you respect and value yourself. But sometimes, we may make mistakes. Things may not turn out as you have expected. But never give up your hopes. Every one has the right to strive for your hopes. The key is strive to the best of your abilities, make endeavours. You may fail this time, but keep on trying with

It is only through the collaboration of the local people that, through phase after phase, our country can make progress. So when we receive a warm welcome of our people, we feel very much heartening because there's a strength among the people in unity. It's very heartening to see you all assembling and attending this ceremony actively and unitedly, and you will, I believe, face the issues that our country may encounter.

... when we receive a warm welcome of our people, we feel very much heartening because there's a strength among the people in unity.

a hope in your heart that you will succeed next time. Only then can our country make progress. I often keep on saying, I wish for the progress of our country because our country must make progress. This is an obvious point when you come to a place like this, like Nanyun. There remain many regions in our country that need further development, where we need progressive people. That is why we should help each other. The government alone cannot do everything. Some people may give promises causally, saying that they will do their best, and solve the issues, but do nothing finally.

During our visit, I always encourage the local people to forward questions, on the ground that I'd like to listen to your voices. I am sorry we've come late so we have no much time to read out and answer all the questions coming from the people of Pinlebu. But we will respond to all your questions. You may write to us and send your questions, too. We've opened a centre for complaints.

Wherever I go, we open a centre for complaints. People may or may not make complaints, if they wish. But every letter of complaint reaches our office. So whoever writes a letter of complaint may take it for

granted that his or her letter always finds a reader who reads closely and responds. This kind of trust among ourselves can give us a chance to join hands.

By the way, as I could observe the audience before me, there are many children attending this ceremony. So I might say something to these children. I'd like to urge the elderly people to wait from behind, and make the children be educated and wise, not for the sake of individual, but for the sake of our families, our communities and our country. Another thing is take good care of their health. Parents, who are responsible for their health, may provide nutritious food to your children depending on your affordability. But any way feed only the nutritious food, and not the snacks lacking nutrients. For example, I might recommend Phee-gyan banana, as well as peas and beans. Only the nutritious food please.

The children should cultivate the good eating habits. I'd like to raise a warning. Please don't get angry with me, sellers of betel quids. I go against chewing betel. This is my first priority. This doesn't mean I do not care the lives of the sellers of betel quids. I always find a solution for this kind of making a living. Selling betel is still allowed. Otherwise, the sellers and the growers will find it hard for a living. But I warn you that chewing betel is injurious to your health. This spoils the beauty of your teeth. So I'd urge you to chew betel. Besides, spitting the betel liquid makes the environment dirty. Please don't do that.

Another thing is avoid from drinking alcohol. Especially, boys and men. As they grow up, boys might have a taste of drinks. There's no reason to do so. Just a waste of money. It affects your health, too. Smoking is a waste of money. It affects your health, too. I often say, smoking is like burning your notes. Burning the notes is a waste of money, but smoking can affect your health besides a waste of money. So please avoid from smoking.

And another thing is the narcotic drugs. It's very important for our youths. Even if you can give up the drug, it affects your health. So our youths may keep the basic healthy habits. And I'd like to warn you against playing computer games that can get you addicted, like gambling.

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In developing countries, the young people addicted to the games have to seek help from the psychologists.

If you are so much addicted to something, then it becomes a disease. Play the games, but not too much. Our children must be educated, and healthy so that we can hand over our country to the hands of the future generations. Such a boon is quite an extraordinary boon for us. If we can do so, how happy we'd be. The future generations can then feel safe and secure to live such a peaceful life. So youths, take good care of your health, learn education as much as you can. The most important thing is give a helping hand to each other. Love should be there among yourselves. And I'd urge the adults to stand a good model to our youths through cooperation and collaboration.

From my visits, I have noticed some common needs among the places I have visited. For example, road, electricity, healthcare, education, sometimes cultural problems. These I promise we will fulfil to the best of our abilities as soon as possible.

Another thing is the complaints related to administration such as the unfairness and lack of support. For this I take the responsibility. This is the responsibility of the government. I've been stressing the fact that the authorities concerned are responsible for serving the people with love and compassion.

I am so glad that the national rac-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts her portrait from local people in Nanyun Township, Sagaing Region. PHOTO: THET AUNG

es in Pinlebu are living in peace and friendship among yourselves. This is very heartening for us. As you all know, some regions in our country are still lacking peace. Still fighting in armed conflicts.

I'd raise a challenge, and this is if you really have the abilities, you must have power to march towards your goal without resorting to the arms. If not so, you are lacking something. So if you want something, you should try it out with the exercise of wisdom, and not with the means of violence, without hurting

any others. I wish our people to adopt this kind of talent and courage among yourselves.

As I have said earlier, I have been to many countries in the world, as well as the richest cities. But I never felt dejected for having our country remain one of the least developed countries. I always thought there remain many more things to do for our country. I also believe we have the power to emerge from this present situation to the progressive state. So never feel rejected. Never let the thought occur in your mind that yours is just a

little town for every individual citizen is an invaluable asset to our country. Every individual is a hope for our country.

Nobody knows who will come in and support our country at what time. So have belief in yourself. We value you, and you value yourself. I'd like to remind the members of the Regional Government, our administrative body and the Hlut-taw that we should be in close contact with our people. We must go down not only to the township level but also to the countryside, and listen to the voices of our people, fulfil the needs of our people to the best of your abilities so that the people will have trust and respect on the mechanism of our administration. So we will strive on, and I'd urge you all people to strive on.

After the speech of State Counsellor, three students asked for upgrading village roads, fighting against narcotic drugs and routine garbage collecting system, which were replied by the Sagaing Region Chief Minister.

The State Counsellor made remarks on people's participation in fighting against narcotic drugs and the active role of administrative officials in serving the public. The locals also discussed infrastructural developments in the area, and the State Counsellor advised the State government ministers and officials to address the issues.

After the meeting, the State Counsellor and party left Pinlebu for Homalin by helicopters.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin/ Dr. Zaw Tun)

Myanmar, Japan sign Exchange of Notes on 4 projects worth about \$ 1.1 bln



A signing ceremony of Exchange of Notes and Loan Agreements for Four ODA Loan Projects between Myanmar and Japan held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

MYANMAR and Japan signed yesterday the four Exchange of Notes for four loan projects, which will be implemented with the loan worth about 120,915 million Yen, ac-

cording to the Embassy of Japan in Yangon.

The four projects are: Yangon Sewerage System Development Project in Yangon, Urban Development Project for the

reduction of traffic congestion and the damages affected by the flood in Yangon, the Power Distribution Improvement Project in Yangon and Mandalay and Providing

funds to the Regional Infrastructure Improvement Project in Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi Region.

A press release of the embassy stated that these projects are part of the implementation of the commitment of 800 billion Yen private-public assistance, which Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated during the meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in November 2016, within five years.

The exchange of Notes for the projects was signed in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday by Ambassador of Japan Mr Maruyama Ichiro and Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win.

Under the Yangon

Sewerage System Development Project in Yangon which is estimated to cost about 45,900 million Yen, funds will be provided to expand waste water treatment plants, to construct sewer pipes and to improve the living environment of local residents in the central business district of Yangon, where about 10% of Myanmar's population reside.

The second project namely Urban Development Project for the reduction of traffic congestion and the damages affected by the flood in Yangon is estimated to cost about 24,085 million Yen

This project will provide funds to improve drainage, take measures against traffic congestion at level crossings on main roads and Yangon

Circular Railway Road in Yangon, the largest city of Myanmar which has high economic growth.

It is estimated that the third project: the Power Distribution Improvement Project in Yangon and Mandalay to cost about 12,288 million Yen.

This project will provide funds to repair and expand the electricity distribution network to improve the power supply in Myanmar's major commercial cities, Yangon and Mandalay.

The fourth project: Providing funds to the Regional Infrastructure Improvement Project in Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi Region is expected to get funds amounted to 38,642 million Yen.—GNLM

Jade bracelets, other finished jade products see regular sales in Mandalay

JADE slabs are not selling well in the Mandalay Maharaungmyay jade market after the return of Chinese traders to their homes for the Chinese New Year, which falls on 24 January, said traders. However, jade bracelets and other finished jade products are fetching a fair price and are selling as usual in the jade market, they added.

Although finished jade products, including bracelets, sculptures, and beads, are being sold in the market daily, the jade market has been cool in the Chinese New Year. "The market for jade bracelets is normal. But, the jade slabs market is rather cool because

most of the Chinese traders have gone back to their native places to celebrate the Chinese New Year, and most of the shops in the jade slabs market are closed. Jade is selling at a fair price," said U Myo Myint Naing, secretary of the Maharaungmyay jade market committee.

"Most of the traders selling jade bracelets and sculptures are local. They are keeping the finished jade products in the New Year period. They will send them later to Chinese traders via Muse. During the Chinese New Year, the jade market has been cool and some traders have stopped making finished jade products



Jade market in Mandalay is seen with local merchants for finished products. PHOTO: KHINE SATT WAI

from raw jade," he said.

Although the jade market has cooled in the Chinese New Year, there are some buyers in

the market because local traders are purchasing finished jade products, he said. The jade market will return to normal once Chinese

traders return after the New Year in February, he added. —Khine Satt Wai

(Translated by Hay Mar)

SEZs rake in investments of over \$76 mln in current fiscal

FOREIGN investments of US\$76.14 million have flowed into the Special Economic Zones (SEZs), under the Special Economic Zone Law, as of 10 January in the 2019-2020 financial year, according to figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

A total of 115 enterprises from 18 countries and four local

businesses ploughed in \$1.92 billion as of end-December, 2019 in the zones, data on investments by permitted enterprises shows.

Japan has topped the list of foreign investors so far, accounting for more than 35 per cent of the overall investment, followed by Singapore and Thailand. FDI also flowed into the SEZs from the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong,

the UK, Australia, the UAE, Malaysia, Austria, China (Taipei), Panama, China, Brunei, Viet Nam, France, Switzerland, and the Netherlands.

At present, more than 70 businesses are operating in the Thilawa SEZ, and some businesses are beginning to export goods. The SEZ is employing over 20,000 workers, including perma-

nent and construction workers, according to the management committee.

The Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited's annual report for 2017-2018 stated that 97 per cent of Thilawa Zone A and 61 per cent of Zone B have been sold. More than 60 per cent of businesses in Thilawa are domestic-oriented manufacturing enterprises, while 40 per cent are export-oriented manufacturers, according to a press statement issued by the company in June this year.

A company exporting at least 75 per cent of the production in value is registered as a Free Zone investor, and is exempt from paying corporate tax for 7 years from the time it starts commercial operations. Companies such as logistics, which support export-oriented manufacturing, can also be free zone companies. Domestic-oriented manufacturing companies are regarded as

promotion zone companies, and they are eligible for a five-year holiday on corporate tax.

There are other tax incentives for free zone and promotion zone investors on importation of capital goods, raw materials, and merchandise, and consigned goods and vehicles. Further details about the tax system are available on <http://www.myanmarthilawa.gov.mm>.

While the manufacturing sector has absorbed the largest share of foreign investments, FDI has also flowed into the trading, services, transportation and logistics, real estate, and hotel sectors in the past.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones — Thilawa, Kyaukpadaung, and Dawei. Out of the three, Thilawa is leading with better infrastructure and successful businesses. —Ko Htet

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



Thilawa Special Economic Zone. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

Hong Kong investments in Myanmar top \$824.8 mln in Oct-Dec

TWENTY Hong Kong-based companies pumped in US\$824.89 million into Myanmar in the past three months of the current financial year, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Myanmar's power and real estate sectors attracted large investments from Hong Kong firms.

Hong Kong topped the list of investors during the October-December period, and was followed by Singapore, which invested an estimated \$166.8 million in four

projects.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) of \$1.164 billion flowed into Myanmar as of end-December in the current FY. Investments also flowed into the country from Germany, France, India, Japan, Malaysia, the UK, Viet Nam, China (Taipei), and Thailand.

The DICA intends to reach its FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the current FY.

"South East Asian countries see investment potential in Myanmar on account of cheap labor and

business opportunities. Thus, larger entities are likely to enter the country," said U Thant Sin Lwin, Director-General of the DICA.

"We see much investment potential for large companies. We are prioritizing responsible businesses and so, we are taking special care while screening investment proposals," he said.

Large investments are likely to flow into the oil and gas, agriculture, mineral, manufacturing, and industrial estate sectors, he added.

Economic interaction be-

tween Myanmar and Hong Kong has been increasing rapidly. Hong Kong has emerged as the third largest investor in Myanmar, after Singapore and China. Between 1988 and December, 2019, 215 enterprises from Hong Kong brought in foreign direct investment of over \$9 billion into Myanmar, according to official data on existing enterprises provided by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration. —GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Make return of IDPs a success through cooperation

STEPS are being taken to shut down the Kyauktalongyi camp for internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Kyaukpyu Township, in accordance with the tasks prescribed in the National Strategy for the closure of nationwide IDP camps and resettlement of IDPs.

The national strategy envisages that all displaced people at IDP camps return home safely and with dignity and rebuild their life without depending on others.

We do believe that the closure of the Kyauktalongyi camp would be successful if all responsible persons of the committees concerned at different levels are on board in implementing the steps for closing the camp.

As we move to close the camp, we can use the experience gained while closing down two other camps at Nidin in Kyauktaw Township and Taungpaw camp in Mye-bon Township.

The closure of the camps is aimed at enabling all to return to their own places and live peacefully. The main responsibility of those who established the camp, and organizations and entities that supported the camp, including the government, is to enable the people to return to their place of origin and live peacefully and move on.

It is important for everyone to keep in mind that ultimately, they will return to their places of origin and create a stable and development-oriented environment.

The IDPs in Rakhine have been suffering the consequences of conflicts which have also delayed their socio-economic development.

To establish rule of law and bring about socio-economic development in Rakhine State, the state's Stability and Development Committee has carried out tasks through its four working committees since its formation in 2016.

To make the closure of an IDP camp a success, cooperation is required between government departments and committees, local residents, UN agencies, civil society organizations, associate organizations, and residents of the IDP camp.

Security and peaceful coexistence are important issues in Rakhine State, especially when it comes to providing aid to people by building infrastructure in health and education, creating jobs, and allowing freedom of movement. Rule of law and stability are playing an important role in designing projects that would create jobs for displaced people.

All persons and organizations are requested to cooperate in the resettlement of IDPs in the state.

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Commemorating U Thant's 111th and Perez De Cuellar's 100th Birthday

By Dr. Myint Zan

22 JANUARY 2020 is (using historic present tense) the 111th birthday of U Thant, 3rd Secretary-General of the United Nations. U Thant was born in what was then in Pantanaw on 22 January 1909 and passed away in New York, United States on 25 November 1974.

The fifth Secretary-General of the United Nations Javier Perez de Cuellar of Peru was born in Lima, Peru on 19 January 1920 and celebrated his 100th birthday on 19 January 2020. Current (and 9th) Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres (of Portugal) had sent messages of felicitations 'on behalf of all United Nations' on his distinguished and long-lived predecessor's 100th birthday.

In the complimentary sense of the words both U Thant and Perez De Cuellar were 'accidental Secretaries-General'.

U Thant was the permanent representative of Burma (as it was then formally called) to the United Nations when the second United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld tragically died in a plane crash in Ndola, what was then Northern Rhodesia on 17 September 1961.

Even before Dag Hammarskjöld passed away the then Soviet Union was proposing or 'touting' that instead of a single Secretary-General there should be three (or) 'troika' of Secretaries-General, so to speak, one from the West or Western bloc ('First World'), one from the East or Soviet bloc ('Second World') and one from the developing countries ('Third World').

In his posthumously published memoirs View from the UN (1978, Double Day publishing) U Thant recounted how he and the UN members overcame (so to speak) this Soviet proposal. In a secret vote on 3 November 1961 the United Nations General Assembly elected him 101 votes for none-against and with no abstention as the third (initially 'acting') Secretary-General of the United Nations. (For the past 30 years or so in United Nations practice after the UN Security Council recommended a candidate or a person as Secretary-General there were no longer formal taking of votes: the UN General Assembly approved the Security Council's recommendation by 'acclamation'.)

When his first term as UN

Secretary-General (UNSG) was about to end in 1966 U Thant initially stated that he would step down but later on he relented and served a second term. This writer clearly recalls seeing an article in Newsweek magazine with U Thant on the cover. Newsweek wrote that 'delegate after delegate took the rostrum [in the General Assembly of the United Nations] and pleaded the Secretary-General to reconsider [to accept a second term as UNSG]'.

Eleven months before his second term ended in December 1971 U Thant made an announcement on 23 January 1971 that 'un-



Perez de Cuellar UNSG

past unashamedly campaigned for a third term. Only the exercise of veto by the People's Republic of China for a total of sixteen times in the UN Security Council rejecting Waldheim's candidacy prevented Waldheim from serving a third term.

Javier Perez de Cuellar ('Perez') was also, in the complimentary sense of the words 'an accidental Secretary-General' when the UN Security Council elected Perez as Waldheim was finally forced to withdraw his candidacy. The veteran statesman Perez did not seek and definitely did not campaign for the UNSG post. A

Time magazine news report at the time of the election of Perez as the fifth UN Secretary-General in December 1981 stated that Perez have been favorably compared to the 'self-effacing' U Thant. Apart from the first UNSG Trygve Lie, Perez was the only (future) UN Secretary-General present at the 'creation' (so to speak of the UN) when he (as he wrote in Pilgrimage for Peace: A Secretary-General's Memoir published 1995) as a 26 year old officer of the Peruvian Foreign Office attended the first United Nations General Assembly meeting in London in February 1946. Nearly 36 years later on 1 January 1982 Perez became the fifth Secretary-General of the United Nations where he served with distinction for 10 years until 31 December 1991. In his message of felicitations and honor the current UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres praised his distinguished predecessor's involvement with the United Nations going back over 70 years to 1946.

After Perez all of the subsequent UNSGs not only did seek but (except in the case of Kofi Annan) openly and actively campaigned to

get what the first UNSG Trygve Lie has called 'the most impossible job on this Earth' (though definitely not an un-coveted one).

Like U Thant, Perez was requested to stay on for a third-term as UNSG including by then US President George H. W. Bush in 1991 and by other UN members but like U Thant he declined.

In the post UNSG career the paths of U Thant and Perez (they have met each other when U Thant was Secretary-General) diversified. Less than three years after he retired U Thant died of cancer in New York in November 1974 and in his native Burma (later Myanmar) ruling authorities for over 30 years 'ignored' or marginalized him, so to speak, until about 2011. In a speech given in the Burmese language at the United Nations General Assembly around 2013 then President U Thein Sein said 'we will always honor the memory of U Thant'.

Both U Thant and Perez of course have had their own critics. Some of these critiques were quite severe if not savage then mocking and definitely uncalled for and unjustified. A journalist one Rosemary Righter wrote that 'U Thant was invisible Perez would not make waves if he jumped from a boat'. Among many others is Righter aware that when U Thant's son died on 21 May 1962 U Thant was so dedicated to his job and so encumbered with (as he stated 9 years later) 'burdens of office' that he did not attend his own son's funeral?

The graciousness if not magnanimity of Perez can be seen in 1995 during the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the United Nations Then Perez's successor the sixth Secretary-General the late Boutros-Ghali decided not to invite both Kurt Waldheim and Perez, as former UNSGs to New York since Waldheim, as a former Nazi, was barred from entering the United States. Waldheim phoned from Austria to Perez in Peru to verify that Perez too was, like him, not invited. Perez wrote that he 'understood' Boutros-Ghali's decision.

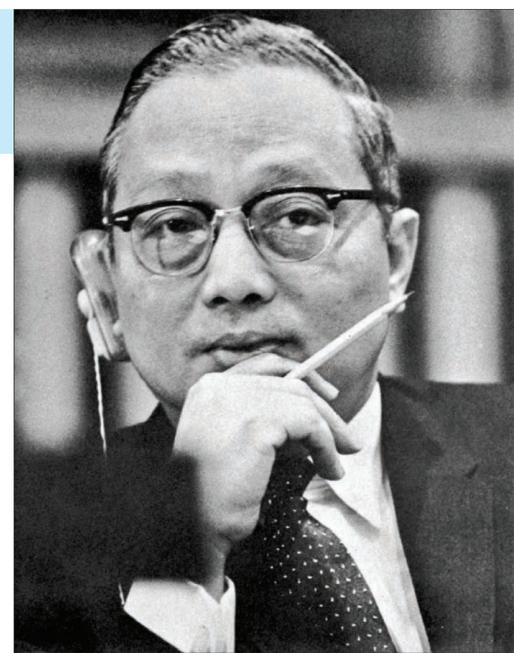
Since 2001 the United Nations University in Tokyo has held the annual 'U Thant Distinguished Lecture'. The first 'U Thant Lecture' was given by a very different personality from that of U Thant at times irascible, if not arrogant then—and as of January 2020—cur-

rent Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr. Mahathir Mohamad. The writer's humble view is that the first U Thant Lecture should have been given by Javier Perez de Cuellar, U Thant's distinguished successor.

Perez de Cuellar was at the helm of the United Nations when quite a few other international events of note and significance occurred. There was the Argentine 'invasion' of Malvinas/Falkland Islands and its recapture by the British naval and marine forces (April to June 1982) which Perez unsuccessfully—though no fault of his own—tried to solve amicably.

Indeed as the winds (or is it drones or missiles?) of war seem to be 'blowing' between the United States 'under Trump' and Iran 'under the Ayatollahs' one is reminded of what then United Nations Secretary-General Perez De Cuellar said when he stated that the 1991 Gulf War (Gulf War I) ('triggered by the late Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iraq and the UN Security Council Resolution 678/1990 authorizing the use of 'all necessary means'—read military force—to evict Iraq from Kuwait) was 'not a United Nations war'.

Contrast this candid statement with—dare I say it—the overrated, in some circles—the late Kofi Annan's equivocation when asked point-blank by a BBC interviewer around 2004 as to whether the 2003 'Gulf War II' was illegal or unlawful. The interviewer had to ask the seventh UN Secretary-General at least twice before Annan replied almost reluctantly, 'shyly' that 'it was unlawful according to the United Nations Charter'. Compared this equivocation of Annan with that Secretary-General U Thant's fairly consistent al-



U Thant (Photo : Wikimedia Commons)

beit polite critiques of the United States' role in the Vietnam war since the mid-1960s leading Readers Digest to call him (in the negative sense of the words) 'a Burmese Marxist'. At the same time in his home country 'other' Burmese Marxists had fairly strongly criticized U Thant for siding with the Americans during the Vietnam war!

Dag Hammarskjöld (posthumously) in 1961 and Kofi Annan forty years later in 2001 were the only UN Secretaries-General who had been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. (On behalf of the United Nations Emergency Forces then Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar accepted the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988).

The young (16 year old) Swedish activist Greta Thurnberg will certainly be (re)nominated for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize. U Thant was nominated for the Nobel peace prize a few times (the Nobel peace prize archives did state the nominees list up to around the year 1967) but he never received the Nobel prize. It is extremely unlikely that the 100 year old Javier Perez de Cuellar would even be nominated by any person or organization for the Nobel peace prize for 2020 though—in this writer's opinion, like U Thant they were—and are—deserving candidates.

It is an honour to give my respectful appreciation and tribute in commemoration of the late U Thant's 111th birthday and Perez de Cuellar's 100th birthday. (Dr. Myint Zan is Professor (retired) Multimedia University Malacca, Malaysia)

2020, 73rd Anniversary Union Day National Objectives

1. All ethnic nationals to preserve and protect for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of National Unity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty.
2. To work on the peace process till success is achieved based on Union spirit.
3. To strive with the collective strength of all ethnic nationals for rule of law, a fair justice system and the security and safety of all citizens.
4. To prevent/protect all people from the danger of narcotic drugs as a national duty and thereby uplift their standard of living.
5. Emergence of a Constitution which will be in alignment with a genuine Democratic Federal Union.

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 21st January, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 22nd January, 2020: Rain will be isolated in Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Shan, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin, Shan and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd January, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 22nd January, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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YRTA to provide free ferry service on Yangon-Cocogyun route at cost of K20 mln

By Nyein Nyein

THE Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) will run a free ferry service between Yangon and Cocogyun, with an allocation of K20 million from its fund, every month, said U Phyo Min Thein, the Yangon Region Chief Minister and the Patron of the transport authority.

He made the remarks at a ceremony to launch the YRTA's Yangon-Cocogyun ferry service on 21 January at the Thakayta jetty of the Five Star Line.

The route is being subsidized using YRTA funds to benefit locals and assigned government personnel, he said.

"The Yangon-Cocogyun ferry service aims to facilitate transportation of locals and assigned government staff. Vacationers and tourists are not being allowed to go to Cocogyun Township for security reasons," said U Phyo Min Thein.

"The six-day Yangon-Cocogyun ferry trip will commence on 21 January, and the



Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and YRTA's officials pose for a group photograph at the ceremony to launch the YRTA's Yangon-Cocogyun ferry service at the Thakayta jetty on 21 January. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

service will be operated once a month. The YRTA will notify next month's schedule," said U Hla Aung, Joint Secretary of the YRTA.

"The YRTA has signed the Thuriya Sandar Win Company for operating the Yangon-Cocogyun round trip at a cost of K20 million. People can travel free of charge, with food and beverage service included. The charges for loads are free for now. Later, the regional government will decide and collect some charges," he said.

"We will charge for goods

loaded on the ship, upon the decision of the cabinet. The YRTA has subsidized this service to ease the transportation difficulties faced by locals," said U Hla Aung.

"The Yangon-Cocogyun six-day route will be operated once a month and so, it will help develop Cocogyun Township," said U Hla Tun, a local.

"Water transport is the sole option for us. The locals are very delighted at the news of the ferry service", he said.

Earlier, the Myanmar Five Star Line had been allowed to

provide ferry services to Cocogyun Township, along with other profitable routes. However, the services were offered only for a short duration.

"Cocogyun is a hard-to-reach place and the service will facilitate transportation," said U Aung Naing from Cocogyun Township Constituency 2.

The service is only meant for locals and assigned government staff. People who wish to go to Cocogyun have to seek approval from the departments concerned.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Programme to provide free digital healthcare to thousands of families

PRUDENTIAL Myanmar Life Insurance Ltd, a leading life insurer in Asia will collaborate with MyanCare, a pioneering telemedicine company, to provide complimentary healthcare consultation through the PRUCare programme to 5,000 families in Myanmar for one year. The programme will be implemented with the help of the MyanCare mobile application.

As a special gesture to recognize and appreciate the efforts of individuals playing a crucial role in helping build the foundation of Myanmar's society, such as teachers, nurses, social workers, security personnel, and janitors, the PRUCare programme will identify 5,000 such persons across the country and provide them and their families free and unlimited voice and video health consultations, facilitated through the MyanCare mobile application, for one year. The

programme will be rolled out in phases in 2020.

Using the MyanCare mobile application, the 5,000 users would be able to set up appointments for themselves and their family members and consult with any of the general practitioners listed on the app. Prudential Myanmar will cover all service fees related to the consultations booked and conducted on the MyanCare app.

"Prudential Myanmar is committed to improving healthcare access for people in Myanmar by leveraging innovative technology solutions. PRUCare, our first initiative with MyanCare, will allow us to recognize people across the country who work tirelessly to support our society and communities. To reduce their stress and financial pressure of seeking medical consultations for themselves or their family members, we will provide quality healthcare consultations at the

click of a button and fully cover the related fees for a one-year period," said Mr. Asit Rath, Chief Executive Officer of Prudential Myanmar.

"This is our first significant milestone that supports our vision of helping people in Myanmar protect their health and grow their wealth and underscores our 'We DO Care' spirit. While the current programme with MyanCare will cater to 5,000 families, we aim to extend this initiative to more families across the country in the years to come. Prudential Myanmar is excited to partner with MyanCare, and we look forward to launching many more innovative offerings jointly in the coming months and years ahead," he added. "MyanCare is proud to collaborate with Prudential to extend the use of the MyanCare mobile application to more people across Myanmar. The imbalance in supply of healthcare

services and workload demand has been a major pain point in Myanmar. As many live far away from adequate healthcare services, they hesitate to meet with doctors due to financial, transportation, and time factors, and only visit the hospital when they have entered the late stages of the illness and their symptoms worsen. Meanwhile, many general practitioners, who get fewer patient visits, face limitations in providing healthcare services. Together with Prudential Myanmar, we are trying to change this, by encouraging people to seek medical help with the use of MyanCare," said U Zaw Min Tun, CEO of MyanCare.

Further updates about the PRUCare programme will be shared in the coming weeks on the Facebook pages of Prudential Myanmar and MyanCare. —GNLM

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MoEE, HISEM sign second phase of National Electrification Project

MANDALAY Electricity Supply Corporation, Electricity Supply Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, and Hitachi Soe Electric & Machinery Co., Ltd. (HISEM), a tender winner for the National Electrification Project (NEP) Phase-II, signed a contract at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing said the first phase of the National Electrification Project (NEP) was begun after a loan of US\$ 310 million was received from World Bank.

The first phase of the national electrification project targeted to electrify a total of 5,080 villages which are located within two miles of the system. Until 17 January, the construction works in 1,891 villages were completed, and among them, 1,091 villages already got access to electricity.

If the first phase is fully completed, some 626,757 households in 5,080 villages will be electrified, the Union Minister said.



Union Minister U Win Khaing (Centre) witnesses the signing between Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation and Hitachi Soe Electric & Machinery Co., Ltd. (HISEM) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

He continued that the second phase of the project aimed at electrifying a total of 4,700 villages which are located within five miles of the system. Therefore, the ministry, after forming a tender scrutinizing committee, invited a tender for transformers, electric poles, insulators, wires, cross arms and other electrical

accessories which are needed for the second phase project in 4,700 villages in accordance with the International Competitive Bidding-ICB policies. That was also the first purchase bidding of NEP Phase-II, U Win Khaing added.

If the second phase project is completed, 539,674 households of 4,700 villages will be electrified.

The 4,700 villages in the second phase project are: 113 villages in Chin State, 42 villages from Mon State, 17 villages in Rakhine State, 201 villages in southern Shan State, 204 villages in northern Shan State, 15 villages in eastern Shan State, 559 villages in Sagaing Region, 576 villages in eastern Bago Region, 785 villa-

ges in western Bago Region, 386 villages in Magway Region, 1,434 villages in Ayeyawady Region, 335 villages in Mandalay Region and 13 villages in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. The Union Minister also highlighted to early manufacture the transformers with the standard quality included at the contract and transporting them to the respective places in time.

Afterwards, U Soe Min Tun, Chief Engineer of Electricity Supply Enterprise, explained the producers for implementation of the project, followed by acting Managing Director U Aye Kyaw and Chairman of Hitachi Soe Electric & Machinery Co., Ltd. U Kyaw Min Tun signing and exchanging the contract.

If the two phases of NEP are fully completed, some 5.5 million people of 1,166,431 households in 9,780 villages will get access to electricity, and the rate of nationwide electricity consumption from national grid will increase 10.72 per cent.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Union Ministers receive delegation of bungee jumping site operator from Nepal

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung received a delegation of the Last Resort which is operating the first bungee jumping site in Nepal on 20 January.

At the meeting, they discussed bilateral cooperation in

tourism services, insurance for visitors, developing bungee jumping sites to support sport-based tourism in Myanmar.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Union Ministers Dr Myint Htwe and U Ohn Maung hold talks with Nepalese bungee jumping site delegation. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Information Minister discusses school books programme

DEPUTY MINISTER for Information U Aung Hla Tun presided

over a meeting yesterday on the processes of printing, publishing

and distribution of over 110 million school books for 2020-2021 academic year. U Aung Hla Tun, also the Chairman of Committee for Accepting and Scrutinizing Tender for School Textbooks, explained the contract between the Ministry of Information and the Ministry of Education to print the school books for 9 million students and 400,000 teachers.

The Ministry of Information will develop 40 million books, and the private printing firms have been commissioned for the remaining 70 million books by inviting tenders in accordance

with the directives issued by the President's Office.

The Deputy Minister called for coordination of relevant ministries and private firms in this process. The committee's Secretary and Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Information U Myo Myint Maung, Joint Secretary-1 and Director General of Printing and Publishing Department U Aung Myo Myint, its Deputy Director General and Leader of Quality Inspecting Team U Ko Ko Naing discussed the committee's transparent scrutinizing process for tenders, inspection of printing

houses to follow tender rules and future plans.

The Deputy Minister made conclusions on the discussions at the meeting which was attended by officials from the Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, the Ministry of Education, and the representatives from the Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association and the Upper Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun delivers the speech at the meeting for printing, publishing and distribution of textbooks for 2020-2021 academic year in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Office of the President

Press Release 3/2020

11th Waning of Pyatho, 1381 ME
(20 January 2020)

Additional statistical bulletin on drug seizures, acting on information

- In order to prevent and eradicate the dangers of narcotic drugs and psychotropic drugs, the Office of the President has formed the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** on 26 June 2018 to systematically accept and respond to reports on drug abuses and other related cases from the general public.
- With orders from the Office of the President, the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department relayed information on reports on drug-related offenses up to 18 January 2020 to the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action, as displayed below:

Sr	Nature of report	Details on seizure and legal action taken
1	Information received of Thant Zaw who lives in Nyaungthabyay Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 January 2020, police arrested Thant Zaw, 43, son of U Than Maung, who lives in Nyaungthabyay Village Mawlaik Township, together with heroin on the road of Aungthabyay Village. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mawlaik)MaYa(pa)1/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
2	Information received of Win Htaik who lives in Taunggon Village, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 14 January 2020, police arrested Win Htaik, 39, son of U Maung Tin, who lives in Taunggon Village, Mawlaik Township, together with heroin in the farm near Nanpyu Village in the same township. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Mawlaik)MaYa(pa)3/2020 under Section 19 (a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
3	Information received of Kyar Min who lives in Thayetkon Village, Phaungpyin Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	Information received of Kyar Min (a) Min Zaw (a) Aye Lwin, who is also a fugitive of MaMaSa (Phaungpyin)MaYa(pa)49/2018 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, returned in his house in Thayetkon Village, Phaungpyin Township. On 14 January 2020, police searched the house of Kyar Min, 53, son of U Than Shwe, and arrested him together with heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Phaungpyin)MaYa(pa)5/2020 under Section 16(c) and 22(b) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
4	Information received of Pauksi who lives in Kyunpin Village, Wuntho Township, Sagaing Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 January 2020, police searched a motorcycle driven by Zaw Min Htaik (a) Pauksi, 26, son of U Nyunt Aung, who lives in Kyunpin Village, on the road of Mawnai-Mawkhar village road, near Mawkhar Village, Wuntho Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets and heroin. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Wuntho)MaYa(pa)7/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
5	Information received of some people distributing and selling illegal drugs in Anawyahta 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 streets in Aungthukha Ward, Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region.	Police have opened two cases and arrested two men together with stimulant tablets in the previous weeks. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Ngway Lin, 20, son of U Maung Myint, who lives in Anawyahta 5 Street, Aungthukha Ward, Kawthoung Township, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets in the same street on 17 January 2020. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Kawthoung)MaYa(pa)10/2020 under Section 19(a) and 20(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
6	Information received of Kyaw Swe who is a captive in Central Prison in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 January 2020, prison officials seized '88/1' stimulant tablets hidden in a curry from Kyaw Myint, who lives in Thochan Ward, Chanmyathazi Township. Those stimulant tablets were sent to Kyaw Swe (a) Mohamad Husein, 51, son of U Hamad Ali, who is a captive in Central Prison (Mandalay), in Aungmyaythazan Tsp, Mandalay Region. A case has been opened against them with NaMaSa(2) (Aungmyaythazan)MaYa(pa)2/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
7	Information received of Daw Aye Cho who lives in Baloutnyunt Ward, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 14 January 2020, police searched the house of Zeyar Min (a) Ko Ko, 25, son of U Aung Min, who lives in Sethsan Ward, Kyimyindine Township, and arrested him and Zaw Lin Thet(a) Ngatay, 19, son of U Kyaw Myint, who lives in Baloutnyunt Ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against them with MaMaSa (Sethsan)MaYa(pa)3/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Daw Aye Cho, 40, daughter of U Tar, who lives in Baloutnyunt Ward, and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with NaMaSa (Sethsan)MaYa(pa)4/2020 under Section 19(a) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
8	Information received of Myat Min (a) Phyu Kyel who lives in Baloutnyunt Ward, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 15 January 2020, police arrested Myat Min (a) Phyu Kyel, 16, son of U Myo Oo, who lives in Baloutnyunt Ward, together with 'WY' stimulant tablets, in Baloutnyunt Ward, Kyimyindine Township. A case has been opened against him with NaMaSa (Sathsan)MaYa(pa)5/2020 under Section 16(c) and 21 of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
9	Information received of Kyar Zan who lives in Weiluwn Ward (south), Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 16 January 2020, police searched the house of Kyar Zan (a) Kyaw Zin Lin, 44, son of U Ko Ko Myint, who lives in Weiluwn Ward (south), Sangyoung Township, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against him with MaMaSa (Sangyoung)MaYa(pa)2/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.
10	Information received of Chit Su, who lives in Myo Oo Ward, Yaksawk Township and Zin Min Chit, who lives in Zawgyi Ward in the same township, in southern Shan State, distributing and selling illegal drugs.	On 12 January 2020, police searched the house of Chitsu (a) Su Yin Mon, 23, daughter of U Myint Thaug, who lives in Myo Oo Ward, Yaksawk Township, and arrested her together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Yaksawk)MaYa(pa)2/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. Similarly, police searched the house of Zin Min Chit, 27, son of U Chit Swe (a) Taut Htein, who lives in Zawgyi Ward, and arrested him together with 'WY' stimulant tablets. A case has been opened against her with MaMaSa (Yaksawk)MaYa(pa)3/2020 under Section 16(c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

- Out of the information sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department, so far a total of 951 cases have been opened files as of 18 January 2020. A total of 1,464 people, including 1,221 men and 243 women had been arrested with 7394.38144g of heroin, 1,347.42 g of ICE, 40,339.02166 g of opium, 661.27 g of low-quality opium, 53230.76 g of speciosa powder, 12097.32 g of speciosa, 2.5 liters of liquid speciosa, 461,603 stimulant tablets, 10310.42 g of marijuana, 0.1 liters of opium tincture, 520.28 g of opium blocks, 60 g of poppy seeds, 55.45 g of crushed stimulant tablet powder, 0.001 g of crushed ecstasy powder, 19 firearms, different kinds of 257 cartridges and one grenade. Efforts for fighting the drug trafficking has been stepped up and the department will report on further exposed cases.
- To seize further drugs and to arrest drugs dealers, people are urged to inform the Ministry of Home Affairs, region and state governments and to inform huge cases of drug trafficking and other suspicious cases directly to the **Drug Activity Special Complaint Department** of the Office of the President via following contact numbers:

Contacts:

Landline No. — 067-590200
 Fax Phone No. — 067-590233
 Email Address — antinarcotics@presidentoffice.gov.mm

Historic Trump impeachment trial to begin in earnest

WASHINGTON (United States)—US President Donald Trump's historic impeachment trial begins in earnest Tuesday in the Senate, with Democrats calling for his removal from office and Republicans determined to acquit him—and quickly, if possible. Four months after the Ukraine scandal exploded, and 10 months before Americans go to the polls to decide whether to re-elect Trump, the 100 members of the Senate will gather at 1:00 pm (1800 GMT) with Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts presiding over the trial. The lawmakers, sworn in last week as jurors, will decide if Trump abused his office and obstructed Congress as charged in the two articles of impeachment approved last month by the lower chamber House of Representatives. The articles state that Trump tried to pressure Ukraine into interfering in the 2020 election to help him win, and then he tried to thwart a congressional probe of his behavior. It will be only the third time a president has endured an impeachment trial, after Andrew Johnson in 1868 and Bill Clinton in 1999. Part of the scandal centers on a July 25 telephone call in which Trump pushed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky to announce an investigation of former Vice President Joe Biden, Trump's potential opponent in the November vote.—AFP ■

Asia steps up checks as China virus kills six, infects nearly 300

BEIJING (China)—Asian countries on Tuesday ramped up measures to block the spread of a new virus as the death toll in China rose to six and the number of cases jumped to almost 300, raising concerns in the middle of a major holiday travel rush.

Nations across the Asia-Pacific region stepped up checks of passengers at airports to detect the SARS-like coronavirus, which first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan.

Fears of a bigger outbreak rose after a prominent expert from China's National Health Commission confirmed late Monday that the virus can be passed between people.



The discovery of human-to-human transmission comes as hundreds of millions of people are criss-crossing China in packed trains, buses and planes this week to celebrate the Lunar New Year. **PHOTO: AFP**

Authorities previously said there was no obvious evidence of person-to-person transmission and animals were suspected to

be the source, as a seafood market where live animals were sold in Wuhan was identified as the centre of the outbreak.

But the World Health Organization (WHO), which was concluding a fact-finding mission in Wuhan, was still being cautious, saying

at a briefing in Geneva that “not enough is known to draw definitive conclusions about how it is transmitted”. Spokesman Tarik Jasarevic warned though that “more cases should be expected” both in China and in other countries.

Hundreds of millions of people are criss-crossing China this week in packed buses, trains and planes to celebrate the Lunar New Year with relatives.

Almost 80 new cases have been confirmed, bringing the total number of people hit by the virus in China to 291, with the vast majority in Hubei, the province where Wuhan lies, according to the National Health Commission (NHC). —AFP ■

Scoping of EIA Study of M9 Appraisal Drilling in Block M9, Offshore Myanmar

PTTEP International Limited (PTTEPI) plans to drill an appraisal wells in Offshore Block M9 with purpose to prove the boundary and characteristic of the reservoir. This appraisal drilling campaign will support the Zawtika Gas Field Project by maintaining gas supply for future energy requirements. The campaign will include the drilling of up to seventeen (17) wells in Block M9 which is located in the Gulf of Mottama, Andaman Sea, approximately 300 km from Yangon and 195 km west from Dawei, Taninthayi coastal zone.

In accordance with the Myanmar EIA procedure (2015), PTTEPI is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) study to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity. PTTEPI with support from third-party consultants AECOM (Thailand) Limited (AECOM) and E-Guard Environmental Services (E-Guard) are currently undertaking Scoping of the EIA Study for the Project to define project description, study area, potential environmental and social impacts and relevant stakeholders.

More information about the proposed activity can be found on PTTEP's website: www.pttep.com

Questions, comments or suggestions can be informed to PTTEPI by contact the following phone number +95 (1) 652700 within 14days after the announcement.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU 0111 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HALUS VOY.NO. (KHLU 0111 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May. 09251022355, 09974424848

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACITA VOY.NO. (060 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACITA VOY. NO. (060 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (043 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ISEACO GENESIS VOY.NO. (043 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OSLO TRADER VOY.NO. (002S/004N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OSLO TRADER VOY.NO. (002S/004N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-1-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Mandalay Region's FDI inflows reach nearly US\$ 4 billion

By Kyaw Htike Soe

THE Mandalay Region Investment Committee (MRIC) gave the nod to two Myanmar citizen-invested projects at the monthly meeting on 14 January, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) under the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. The MRIC granted investment projects were valued at almost K6.962 billion, creating up to nearly 280 jobs for Myanmar citizens.

The MRIC has so far approved 79 foreign direct investment projects from 16 countries including US, Japan, China, Thailand, Singapore, Hong Kong, Netherlands and France in Mandalay Region and 179 domestic proposals since its creation. The foreign investors have pumped US\$ 3.97 billion into Mandalay Region's manufacturing, electricity generation and service sectors, while local entrepreneurs injected more than K5260 billion in the infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture and other service sectors, the MRIC said. About 60 per cent of foreign direct investment came to Yangon Region and around 30 per cent of total FDI flowed to Mandalay Region



Mandalay Region Investment Committee (MRIC) meeting (1/2020) was convened at the Mandalay Region Government Office on 14th January, 2020. U Zar Ni Aung, acting chairman for MRIC and Regional Minister of Electric, Energy and Construction, U Myat Thu, Committee Member and Regional Minister of Planning and Finance and five members attended the meeting. The meeting approved Myanmar Citizen Investment two projects for Hotel sector. The amount of kyat 6961.447 million have been approved for those projects which will create 278 job opportunities for Myanmar citizens. **PHOTO: DICA**

while the remaining regions and states received a small share of total capital inflows, according to the figures issued by the DICA.

Majority of FDI went to the industry, agriculture, real estate and manufacturing sectors, said an official the DICA's Mandalay branch. Countries such as China, Japan, France and Republic of Korea invested in 79 projects, the DICA said. Most of the investments came from China, followed by Singapore and Hong Kong. The DICA officials speculated that skyrocketing FDI inflow

into Mandalay Region contribute to the creation of job opportunities for local people, thereby increasing their income and lifting their socioeconomic status. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) said that the region is expected to attract more FDI in the years to come. Mandalay Region has been viewed by most foreign investors as Myanmar's top tourist spot. Mandalay Region has also long been touted by local authorities as a promising investment destination.

Meanwhile, foreign coun-

tries are pouring capitals into the Myotha Industrial Park in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region. Some foreign enterprises have already started operations in twelve sectors in the industrial park. The DICA has been giving the green light to the foreign companies wishing to put investments in the Myotha Industrial Park City which is jointly developed by the Mandalay Regional Government and the Mandalay Myotha Industrial Development (MMID) with the aim of establishing over 100 factories in the industrial park

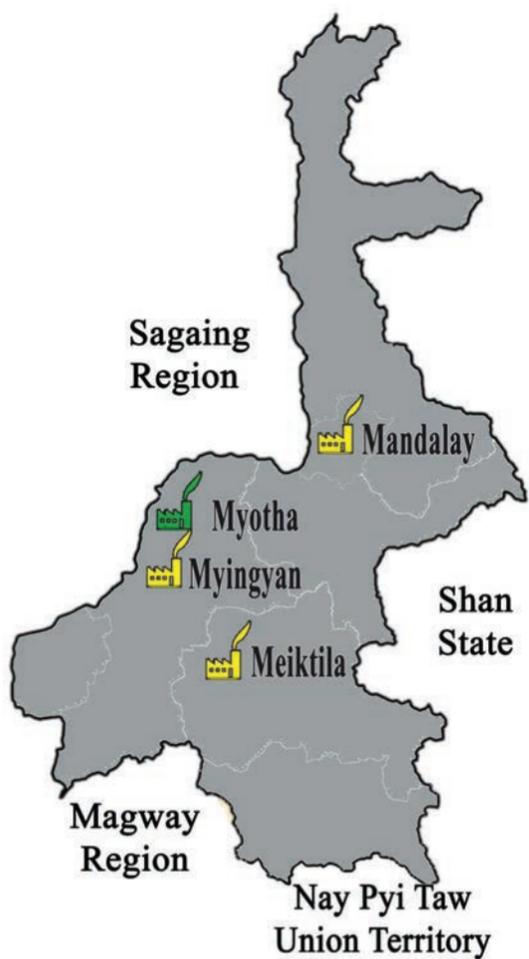
within three years. Foreign direct investments worth over US\$ 600 million have been channeled into the industrial park since its establishment, according to the DICA. A Chinese automaker built a car assembly factory in the industrial park with an investment amount of US\$ 30 million.

The plant aims to manufacture ten models of seven types of high quality vehicles to be sold not only in local market but also foreign countries at reasonable prices. It is capable of producing 5,000 cars annually and employs



Entrance of Myotha Industrial park. **PHOTO: GNLM**





Industrial zones in Mandalay Region. PHOTO: MMRD

130 staff including 110 Myanmar citizens. The industrial park was first developed in time of the previous government and the project is now being implemented under the supervision of the local government. Construction of the project began in 2013 on 260,000 acres of land and around 12,000 acres, or 4.6 per cent of land space is used by factories. The DICA has been cooperating with the local government to woo FDI into the region and organizing seminars, investment and business forum. The local government is also making all-out efforts to turn Mandalay Region into an

investor-friendly area. The MIC permitted 21 foreign investment projects worth US\$ 1146 million in the region while Myanmar citizen's capitals in the region amounted to K1889.13 billion in the financial year 2017-2018. Investments from foreign countries in the Mandalay Region declined to US\$ 528 million while Myanmar citizen's investments in the region were valued at K172 billion in the fiscal year 2018-2019. FDI inflows into Mandalay Region so far totaled US 3.97 billion while Myanmar citizen investment volume reached over K5,260 billion.



New Quick Access Loan to drive business growth for KBZPay agents and merchants

A NEW short-term financing product named KBZPay Quick Access Loan has been launched to help KBZPay agents and merchants improve their cash flow so they can better serve customers and grow their businesses. With the aim of driving financial inclusion, Quick Access Loan is available to all KBZPay Partners who can access instant credit of MMK 300,000 without the need to provide collateral, guarantors or application fees. There is further potential for KBZPay Partners to increase their credit limit up to MMK 2,500,000. The loan application takes a few minutes at any KBZ Bank branch and successful applicants will be able to draw down from the line of credit according to their needs using the Quick Access Loan function in the KBZPay Partner App.

The Quick Access Loan product was developed to address a growing need to support KBZPay Partners who were facing cash-flow issues. This meant they faced challenges facilitating 'cash-in', 'cash-out' and Peer-to-Peer (P2P) transactions for KBZPay customers as these require agents and merchants to have sufficient funds stored in their KBZPay mobile wallet. Quick Access Loan offers flex-

ibility to KBZPay Partners as interest is only charged daily on the amount of credit they draw down, and repayment can be made at the convenience of the Partner. The repayment can be made after one day, and must be made within one month.

Since the pilot launch of Quick Access Loan in May 2019, close to 2,917 KBZPay agents and merchants have received loans totalling MMK 1.66 billion. As a result, they have seen their revenues grow due to the increase of KBZPay transactions they were able to facilitate for customers. KBZPay agents and merchants are growing their revenues as they earn fees for facilitating phone top-ups, domestic remittance, along with cash in and cash out transactions.

Said U Soe Ko Ko, Head of Agent Banking, KBZPay, "Many of our 270,000 KBZPay agents and merchants across Myanmar run businesses which need short-term financing that is quickly available. With our Quick Access Loan, we offer our partners a "financial cushion" for growth and working capital management.

We are seeing an increase in KBZPay agents and merchants applying for Quick Access Loan and we hope to help thousands

of our partners to run their businesses smoothly and to serve their customers in the best possible way. As they increase their KBZPay transaction volumes, our partners not only earn more transaction fees, but they will also be eligible to borrow larger amounts so they can scale their growth. After all, the success of our partners' businesses is also our success."

Application and Terms of KBZPay Quick Access Loan

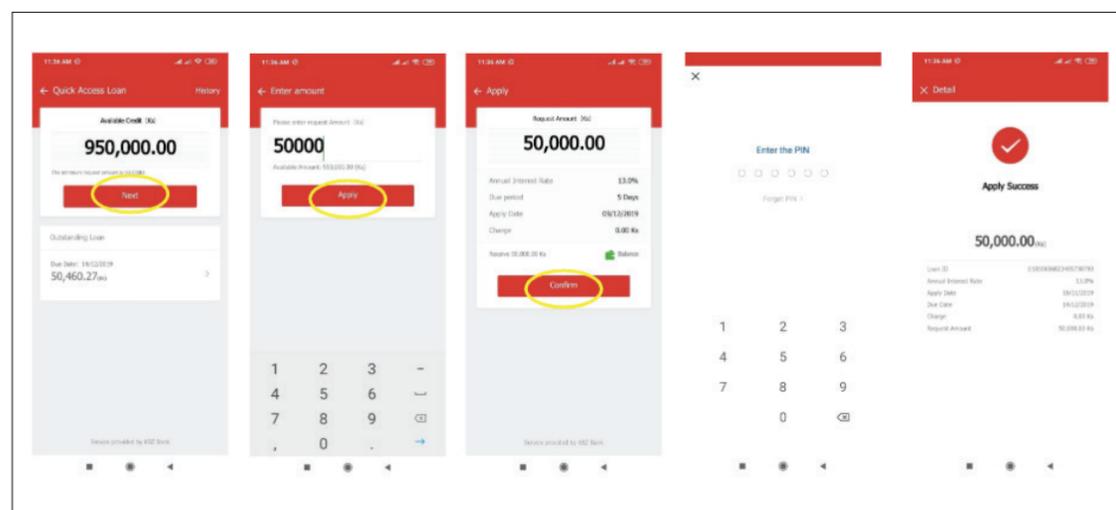
KBZPay agents and merchants can visit any of KBZ Bank's 500 branches to apply for Quick Access Loan free of charge.

They will need to fill up an application form with the requested loan amount and provide proof of identity as a partner of KBZPay. The loan amount disbursed will be determined based on the amount and volume of KBZPay transactions facilitated by the applicant in the past.

Provided the loan check is positive, the line of e-credit provided is one year with a monthly repayment schedule. The interest rate is 13 per cent, applied only to the e-credit amount used. The eligible loan amount will increase as agents and merchants increase their monthly transactions and repay their loans on time.—GNLM ■



MyoTha Industrial Park. PHOTO: GNLM



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MFF accepts application forms for Sports Visitors Programme

MYANMAR Football Federation is accepting application form from community coaches to participate in Sports Visitors Programme - Introduction to Sports organised by the MFF and Embassy of the United States in Myanmar.

A total of 14 community coaches, seven men and seven women coaches, will be selected from the applicants, and will be sent to the United States in March 2020.

The criteria for the candidates are those who are aged between 20 to 50 years old, those who have attended and succeeded the courses of Grassroots or Premier Skills or MFF License, those who have one year experience as a coach in village/ward's teams, those who can communicate in English to a certain level, and those who have PowerPoint Presentation and leadership skills.

The community coaches with above qualifications could send their application forms to the Grassroots department of Myanmar Football Federation before deadline of 5pm on 27 January.

The programme is aimed at studying the sports activities at villages of the US and making developments in the regions through sports by applying the knowledge from the trip.

The program will be from 28th March to 11th April 2020 in the United State of America.

The application form for the programme can be downloaded at https://www.mediafire.com/.../Sports_Visitors_Program_For.../file. — Kyaw Khin

MFF Futsal League: VUC's De Carvaiho Junior top scorer after Week-14

DE Carvaiho Junior (Jersey No.8) of the VUC F.C. was the top scorer at the end of Week-14 of the MFF Futsal League with 22 goals to his credit, according to the league's website.

He was followed by Thiago Mora De Oliveira (Jersey No.9) of VUC in the second place with 17 goals, Aung Zin Oo (Jersey No.13) of VUC in the third place with 17 goals, Htet Wai Nyein Chan (Jersey No.10) of OnDoctor in the fourth place with 15 goals, and Aung Myo Tun (Jersey No.17) of Dream Team in the fifth place with 15 goals.

Nyein Min Soe of VUC was in the sixth place with 14 goals, Naing Lin Tun Kyaw of VUC in the seventh place with 13 goals, Ye Min Khant of MIU in the eighth place with 13 goals, Myo Myint Soe VUC in the ninth place with 12 goals, and Hein Htet Aung of GV in the tenth place with 22 goals. — Kyaw Khin

Barca considering signing a striker, says Setien



Barcelona's Spanish coach Quique Setien gestures during the Spanish league football match between FC Barcelona and Granada FC at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 19 January 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

MADRID (Spain) _ Quique Setien said on Tuesday that Barcelona are considering signing another striker before the end of the January transfer window to replace the injured Luis Suarez.

Suarez is unlikely to play again this season after undergoing surgery on his knee earlier this month, which has left Barca short in the centre of their front three. Lionel Messi played more centrally in Setien's first game against Granada on Sunday but the Argentinian prefers to play off the right. Antoine Griezmann thrived down the middle for Atletico Madrid but offers less of a direct, physical presence than

Suarez, who has scored 14 goals in 23 appearances this term.

"We are considering it," said Setien, when asked if Barca would buy another forward in January. "We are talking about that but we still have to think about it a bit more, it's not an issue that worries me too much.

"I'm worried about the match tomorrow and the match against Valencia. It's an issue that the sports department will consider in more depth."

Barcelona face Segunda B side Ibiza on Wednesday in the Copa del Rey when Setien could rest key players, including Messi.

"I have more or less planned

an idea for him but I have to see what happens in training and see how we can make a competitive and balanced XI," Setien said.

Ousmane Dembele has resumed training this week after recovering from a hamstring injury and the Frenchman's return in the coming weeks would be a major boost to the team's attacking options.

"Dembele is an important player without a doubt," Setien said. "He's an extraordinary player, who hasn't had much consistency but for sure he will be an important player for the club and we are sure he will help us a lot." — AFP ■

West Ham's Anderson ruled out for a month



West Ham United's Brazilian midfielder Felipe Anderson reacts after missing a chance during a English Premier League football match on 10 January 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON (United Kingdom)— West Ham manager David Moyes will be without injured Brazilian winger Felipe Anderson for a month.

Anderson missed last weekend's draw against Everton after suffering a back injury when he fell awkwardly in a defeat against Sheffield United earlier

in January.

Moyes revealed on Tuesday that Anderson is set to be absent for longer than first expected.

"Felipe's got a problem with his back, which looks like it's going to keep him out for about four weeks," Moyes said.

Ukraine winger Andriy Yarmolenko has also been ruled out until February but the Hammers could be boosted by the return of forward Michail Antonio, who has been missing since December with a hamstring issue. "Michail Antonio is getting closer to fitness but Yarmolenko is the best part of three weeks away. We could do with getting them back," Moyes said. — AFP ■