

## Freshwater fish ponds opened in Maungtaw

FRESHWATER fish ponds in villages in the Maungtaw District that will spur prawn and fish breeding were opened by the regional government using its own budget, according to the official of Fishery Department.

“Now we start freshwater fish and prawn breeding as the state government will provide monetary help to dig fish ponds at the rate of an acre per village in the region,” said U Tun Tin, Deputy Director of Maungtaw District Fishery Department. “Through freshwater fish and prawn breeding sites in the region established last year, we can give breeding methods, freshwater fingerlings; special training courses and other upgrading courses to the villagers as soon as possible. It is expected the freshwater fish breeding will attain remarkable development within three years will follow the breeding level of Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions soon.”

The fisheries department has already dug freshwater

breeding ponds in five villages including Kayemyine village, Shwebaho village, Nanyakine village, Myothit village and Oo Daung village among the eighty-two villages in the region. The ponds were 100 per cent finished and the breeding processes will start when the rain comes. The projects will be extended from five to 10 villages first and then to all villages, according to the local district fishery department.

River catfish, a variety of carp and fish of the Thai Burbus species have already been breeding in freshwater breeding sites in the Maungtaw District. Extended acres for the breeding ponds and new genetically modified species of fishes will be undertaken by the department, according to an official of the department.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn) ■



A worker checks the fish at the fish farm in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT**

## Operating room to be opened at Maungtaw hospital

A modern operation theatre in Maungtaw District Hospital, Rakhine State, will be opened in June, the first of its kind in the region, it is learnt from Maungtaw District Hospital.

The increased level of care will be a much-needed boost to the healthcare of the local people of Maungtaw District, medical officials said.

“Currently there is no patient of special case in this hospital. Only a few patients with common cases of ordinary illness, child-birth cases, cases of child asthma, malaria and tuberculosis are now taking treatment in the hospital”, said, Dr. Soe Aung Than, a surgeon at Maungtaw District Hospital. “We, the doctors here, are providing proper treatment regardless of race and religion. With the aid from the State and NGOs, patients are given necessary medicine free of charge as much as possible. Patients have to buy only medicines which we don’t have in the hospital. We provide care for patients without any prejudice or favouritism.”

Maungtaw District Hospital has one medical superintendent, five assistant doctors, a specialist surgeon, an anaesthesia specialist, an obstetrics and gynaecology specialist and 20 nurses giving 24-hour healthcare to the people of



Doctors gives treatment to a patient at Maungtaw District Hospital. **PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT**

Maungtaw. There are also three hospitals at the village tract level at Alethangyaw, Kyainechaung and Aungthebye villages in Maungtaw District.

Since Thitagu Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nyanissara has donated a generator and accessory instruments for a surgical theatre to the Maungtaw District Hospital, the operation theatre will be opened and advanced medical care will become available to the local people. Modern medical apparatus such as an anaesthesia machine and electronic surgical instruments has been handed over to the hospital. After some renovation of the building, the operation theatre will be opened in June.

“I have been referred to this hospital from Buthidaung hospital

just two days ago. The specialist doctor tells me that I need to undergo an operation. I don’t know when. The doctors are coming every day at 9am for inspection. Buthidaung hospital refers me to this Maungtaw District Hospital to get better administration if I need to undergo an operation.” said a patient.

Maungtaw District Hospital was designated as a 50-bed hospital, but the hospital has regularly handled incoming patients beyond the hospital’s capacity and it is planned to be expanded to a 100-bed hospital. The expansion of the four-storey building is also going to include housing for the hospital staff under the State budget.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alinn) ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife present donation to the Members of the Sangha. **PHOTO: MNA**

## 2nd donation for Buddha Image and a garden held in Kengtung

A CEREMONY to donate cash to establishing a Buddha garden and Abaya Mudra Buddha Image near Pan Kwe Village was held in Kengtung on 13 May.

After Venerable Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kawwida, had delivered a sermon at the ceremony, Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented the donations through the commander of a military region.

The Senior General received the donations of Tatmadaw family (Army, Navy and Air), Kanbawza Company, Max Myanmar Company, IGE Company, Chan Hein Company and Shwe Than Lwin Company and other donors.

The total amount of donation was more than Ks 8497 lakh.

Afterwards, the Senior General and party viewed the model of the Abaya Mudra image and photos of the construction works.

At noon, the Senior General and wife attended the ceremony in Sasana Beikman in Kengtung where rice, cooking oil and money were donated to monks and nuns.

Presiding Sayadaw of Kyaingyin Monastery Venerable Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Bhaddanta Kemasara and other Members of the Sangha attended the ceremony.

Afterwards, the Senior General and wife presented the donations to Kyaingyin Sayadaw and officials from Tatmadaw to other Sayadaw and Buddhist monks.

The ceremony ended with concluding remarks by the Samsara Aye Sayadaw preached and sharing merits for the donations. The total amount of donations for 74 monasteries was 316 rice bags, 504 viss of cooking oil and Ks 162 lakh from the Tatmadaw families.—Myanmar News Agency ■



A gale force wind hit Kani, Sagaing Region, killing two on Sunday. Sagaing Region Government and MPs rushed to the strong wind-hit areas and assisted in evacuation and supply aid to the victims of the disaster.—GNLM ■



Volunteers from governmental departments in An Township deliver water to villagers of Latkwardwe Village. **PHOTO: AN TOWNSHIP IPRD**

## Fighting water shortage in Rakhine

FOR some, the dry season means escaping the oppressive heat by wearing lighter clothing and staying in air-conditioned buildings.

But for many others, it means a months-long, life-saving search for safe drinking water until the rainy season begins.

Across the country, especially in rural areas, communities are receiving aid from the

government, philanthropic organisations, university officials and students to help survive the dry season, during which there is infrequent rain and high temperatures.

Local governmental departments in An Township, Kyaukpyu District, delivered drinking water yesterday to Latkwardwe Village, one of many communities

facing water shortages.

About 1,900 gallons of drinking water were delivered to 665 villagers from 162 households in the village yesterday. Local departments plan to send water to the remaining villages which are facing a water shortage, according to An Township Information and Public Relations Department.—An Township IPRD ■

## Help for fighting drought

AS part of efforts for speeding up the fight against drought, the Emergency Rescue and Social Support Development Organization in Yangon was provided with a 3,000-gallon water bowser on 12th May by the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation.

The tanker is the 40th one provided by the BFM to philanthropic associations to fight the water shortage nationwide.

A volunteer group in

Kyaukpadaung Township was also provided with a 3,000-gallon bowser on 11th May.

The foundation has provided water bowzers to philanthropic groups nationwide to help them supply water to areas that face a chronic scarcity of water during the dry season.

The foundation also donated a 3,000-gallon bowser to Saytanna Shin Philanthropic Group in Tada Oo Township on 9 May.—Thura Lwin (Eco) ■



The 300-gallon tanker handed over to the Emergency Rescue and Social Support Development Organization in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

## Myanmar Heritage in "Memory of the World"

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The gold leaf letter is rectangular in shape having length 55cm and breadth 12cm. The manuscript itself is pure gold leaf on which the letter has been written in Myanmar language. 12 pieces of ruby has been embedded on each end of the gold leaf. King Alaungphaya sent the gold leaf letter to king of Britain on 8 May 1756. The gold leaf letter was put in the ivory casket together with the translated version in English and sent to London, a royal capital of United Kingdom of Great Britain. It had to take about two years to reach the destination and King Jorge II accepted the letter in 1758 and transferred it to the Library of Hanover which, then was the region under the jurisdiction of Great Britain. Hanover was the native land of King Jorge II, that is why he sent gold leaf manuscript to his native land Hanover.

The letter begins with lavishing the glory and epithet of the king describing the splendor and great wealth of the King's State, vast lands of vassal states, immense power of armed forces fortified with great elephant and horse forces and etc. and the letter was ending with strong urging to his own progeny to sustain the amicable and friendly relation

with Great Britain.

According to the golden leaf letter, Myanmar had to allow the East India Co., to open the port station at Patheingyi Port. Before that East India Co., had to station at Haingyi Island a bit isolated from the main land where inclement weather was more liable to occur. It was expected British owned East India Co., was highly satisfied with the provision, but no reply had been received from British government.



Golden Leaf Manuscript sent by King Alaung Phaya U Aung Zeya to the British King 261 years ago was very momentous and invaluable historical evidence for not only Myanmar but also for Britain. The gold leaf letter is of outstanding aesthetic value and it is considered a unique attestation in world history as well as in the history of Myanmar and Europe. The digital copy of the Gold Leaf letter is now shown at National Museum in Yangon. This manuscript is considered to be the only one that has been left undamaged, out of many gold

leaf letters issued by Myanmar Kings.

### Yaza Kumar Stone Inscription

Yaza Kumar Stone Inscription is also known as Myazedi Stone Inscription. The Yaza Kumar Stone Inscription have won the entry in 2015 to the list of the documentary heritage of world significance known as "Memory of the World Programme." Out of many stone inscriptions of Bagan Period, Yaza Kumar Stone Inscription, a prominent documentary evidence of cultural heritage of Bagan was found in two places, one in the precinct of Myazedi Pagoda and another one in the Bagan Archaeological Museum. One of the two stone inscriptions was found near Myazedi Pagoda of Myingabar village, one and half mile away in the south of Bagan. It was in good condition and now had been placed in the Archaeological Museum (Bagan). Another one found near Gubyaukyi Pagoda was broken into three parts, but fixed them intact again and placed in the precinct of Myazedi Pagoda. As the inscriptions on both stones were the same, Professor U Pe Maung Tin considered the one is the copy of the other one.

Yaza Kumar prince, son of King Kyansittha had his men

engrave the letters on the stone in four languages, Pyu, Mon, Pali and Myanmar. The inscription was believed to have been engraved in 1112 AD. The stone was rectangular pillar in shape, hence having four faces that accommodate one language on each face of the stone.

There was a controversy among the historians whether Yaza Kumar was Kyansittha's own son or not, however, most of the historians believed Yaza Kumar was son of King Kyansittha.

The Yaza Kumar Stone Inscription described the same historical account in different four languages on four sides of the stone. It manifested the significant value in linguistics and also the historical accomplishment of King Kyansittha. Moreover, it records the administration, social and economic affairs, literary works of religion, construction of pagodas, the enslavement of villages by royal princes and princesses, respect for parents and meritorious deeds of Bagan Period. Dr. Bladdin of London University had translated the stone inscription into English and published in 1919. U Pe Maung Tin also translated it into Myanmar and published in 1955.

Yaza Kumar Stone Inscription is a quadrilingual

document that rendered the historical, religious and cultural account of Bagan period in four languages, Pyu, Mon, Pali, Myanmar and it was the oldest of all stone inscriptions of that type. Therefore, it has won the recognition to be included in the "Memory of the World" register.

Now, the letter on Bayinnaung Bell which is located on the platform of Shwezigon Pagoda is submitted to be listed in "Memory of the World." The richness of the archaeological heritages indicates the cultural standard of a nation. Therefore, all people have the obligation to passionately love, take value and conserve the nation's cultural heritages that have already been discovered across the country.—(Translated by **Khin Maung Win**) ■

