

## Pagoda trustees to build more guest houses for pilgrimage season

THE Alaungdaw Kathapa Pagoda's board of trustees want to increase the number of guest houses for pilgrims from across the country.

The pagoda hosts two festivals each year that draw thousands of people who make the pilgrimage from across Myanmar. Currently, Alaungdaw Kathapa pagoda has 45 guest houses with a capacity of about 3,265. At the height of the pilgrimage season, the current housing situation is insufficient, trustees said.

"Some people are sleeping on the road during the pagoda festival season. Some of the pilgrims are over 70 years old. So, it is not good for them to sleep on the road," said U Maung Maung Cho, the vice chairman of the pagoda trustees.

The Pagoda Board of Trustees plan to submit a proposal to the State government and Union ministers to get the land for this religious purpose.

"Then, the trustee will build the building on the land. We also



Pilgrims take elephant ride to Alaungdaw Kathapa Pagoda.  
PHOTO: MYANMAR ALINN

have planned to supply the water and electricity to the building," U Maung Maung Cho said.

"Even though we have donors to construct the building, construction permit is difficult. Currently, we are building the health center for the pilgrims," he added.

The festival of the Alaung-

daw Kathapa Pagoda is held every year from 25 December to 25 April.

The Alaungdaw Kathapa Pagoda is most crowded with pilgrims on the full moon of the lunar month of Tabodwe and in the following month on the full moon of Tabaung.—*Myanmar Alinn*

## 70% of coral reefs along Myeik Archipelago damaged: FFI

ABOUT 70 per cent of the coral reefs along Myeik Archipelago, a part of Taninthayi Region, were damaged by overfishing, according to Fauna and Flora International (FFI).

Illegal and unreported fishing is threatening the natural coastal environment. Declines in the fish population due to overfishing can have an adverse effect on marine biodiversity, destroy the environment and

marine ecology, according to the FFI, an international conservation NGO.

Conservation efforts are being made in prioritised preservation areas to restore coral reefs, said an official from the FFI, which conserves threatened species and ecosystems worldwide, choosing sustainable solutions based on sound science and which take into account human needs.

Because of its natural attractions, marine tourism has gradually developed in the Myeik Archipelago that lies in the Andaman Sea off the coast of southern Myanmar. The archipelago has become a popular destination among international travellers, but the destruction of coral reefs may have a negative impact for the region's tourism development, FFI official said.—200

## MFF to spend Ks600m on nurturing young players via football academy

THE Myanmar Football Federation is set to spend about Ks600 million on developing young footballers through the new Myanmar National Football Academy in Yangon, said its Chief Executive Officer U Phone Zaw Naing.

The target budget will cover costs of food, educational expenses, medical charges, training fees and related expenses.

Selection of talented players for the programme is planned to

start in the second week of March by the MFF, which will choose youths under 11 years of age from the largest 52 cities across the country.

Plans are underway by the MFF to collect population data of young people in townships in collaboration with the Sports and Physical Education Department, with the MFF inviting youths to send their application forms through online, U Phone Zaw Naing said.

The MFF on 17 February launched the football academy established on Waizayanda Road in Thingangyun Township near the MFF's offices.

The total costs of the project reached US\$2.784 million, including the contributions of \$500,000 from the FIFA and \$284,794 from the MFF under the FAP grant.

U Zaw Zaw donated \$1.5 million for the establishment of two artificial turf pitches.—200

## US\$90 million in losses due to attacks on border trade zone

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"The Tatmadaw has opened the door to peace for inclusiveness of the peace process," said General Mya Tun Oo, urging ethnic armed groups to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

Following the Mongko issue, he clarified the Rakhine issue, saying that the military launched area clearance operation in northern Rakhine only after nine police of-

ficers were killed in attacks on border outposts on 9 October. He also disclosed that violent attackers are still holding arms that they have taken from the police outposts and that security forces are discovering improvised explosive devices and home-made guns from attackers in northern Rakhine.

"We need time to bring the rule of law to northern Rakhine. The threat from the drug traffick-

ing is getting bigger," said General Mya Tun Oo, referring to the increase in the volume of drug seizures worth about Ks11.1 billion in 224 cases from 2011 to 2015 to about Ks54.56 billion in 61 cases in 2016.

Regarding the alleged human abuses, he pledged the Tatmadaw would take serious action if evidence of abuse are found.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Judicial ethics are to be conformity with international norms: Union Chief Justice

THE 3rd meeting on drawing and implementing judicial ethics took place at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an opening address by Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo.

The union chief justice said judicial ethics were drawn up with the aim of materialising a fair and unbiased judicial system and standardising that system as moral ethics for the judges and judicial officials. He continued that judicial ethics are to be in conformity with international norms and standards and the Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct, urging them to strictly abide by the law. Those en-

gaged in the judicial sector need to provide necessary support in order to undertake important points that should include ethics and to release comprehensive judicial conduct.

The greetings by Danish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Peter Lysholt Hansen and UNDP's Country Director Mr. Peter Batchelor followed. The two-day event was jointly organised by the Supreme Court of the Union, the Embassy of Denmark in Myanmar, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).—*Myanmar News Agency*

## 9<sup>th</sup> grade final exams wrap up in Maungtaw

EXAMINATION centers in schools all over Maungtaw Township conducted the last day of final exams for 9th grade yesterday, with 338 students taking the exams in Maungtaw B.E.H.S(2).

"Today is the last day of the 9th grade exams. We were able to raise exam scores due to cooperation between the teachers and volunteers and this has helped produce exceptional students from our school," said Headmistress Daw Hla May Thein of Mangtaw B.E.H.S (2).

"My name is Mg Min Myat Thein from 9th grade class (A). I studied persistently since the beginning of the year so there was no difficulty answering the exam. I want to thank my teachers and everyone who helped

me pass the examination and I hope for the success of everybody taking 5th and 9th grade examinations all over the country."

"My name is Ma Phoo Pyae Sone. I was able to answer all 6 days of the examination well. If you started studying since the beginning of the year then you will not face much difficulty. Transportation is back to normal again after all the recent unrest. I pray that everyone is able to answer the exams with no difficulty."

Similarly teachers in Maungtaw Township are working hard to ensure that students are able to take the University Entrance Exams coming March 8 with no difficulties.—*Aye Mya (Mandalay), Aye Min Thu*

## Crime NEWS

### Fire destroys monastery and house in Maungtaw

TWO fires destroyed a house and a monastery in Pharwutchaung village in Maungtaw on Monday.

According to the investigation, a fire broke out in a house owned by Anta Hsaung and spread to a neighbouring house and a shop at about 3pm at Pharwutchaung

in Maungtaw.

Another fire broke out at Hteetayar monastery near the six-mile inspection gate at 5pm the same day.

The fire started from a candle on the shelf of a Buddha image and destroyed a zinc-roofed building.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Fire fighters pull out the fire at monastery in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

# LOCAL Business

## Domestic gold price soars to record high of Ks903,500

WITH the global gold price turning upward, the domestic gold price reached a record high of Ks903,500 per tical on 27th February for the second time in four months, according to the local gold market.

The domestic gold price hit a record high of Ks903,500 per tical on 4th Oct 2016. With the global gold price rising as of 23rd February, the gold price rose to a high of above Ks895,000 per tical in the domestic market and it reached over Ks900,000 on the evening of 24th February. The domestic gold price remained on

the rise, with the price of Ks902,400 on 25th February and Ks902,00 on 26th February. The gold price continued to soar to Ks903,500 on the afternoon of 27th February, it is learnt from local gold and jewellery merchants.

The global gold price rose against the decline in the US dollar index on 24th February, with a price of US\$1,257 per ounce at closing time on 24th February. The gold price on 20th February was US\$1,235 per ounce in the global market, whereas it jumped to US\$1,258 on 27th February, it is learnt.—*Ko Htet*



An employee prepares gold jewellery in the counter at a shop in Yangon on 15 February 2017. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Efforts for permaculture to be widely practiced

EFFORTS will be exerted so that the permaculture is widely practiced across the country in order to reduce the cultivation cost with the use of biomass and resource recycling, said Dr Thet Khaing, a project manager of Farmer to Farmer Project.

The awareness campaigns and courses of permaculture, the development of agricultural ecosystems

intended to be sustainable and self-sufficient. will be conducted in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Mandalay regions for farmers and those engaged in agriculture and livestock so that they can adopt this system. The plan will further proceed to the rural areas, it is learnt. This system was developed in Australia based on agroecology, which utilise biowaste and household waste recycling to treat farmland.

The system includes techniques such as intercropping trees, mixed farming, planting perennials, water harvesting, and resource recycling. Using natural resources, the practice of permaculture can reduce the cost of fertilizer and pesticide. Permaculture is successfully practiced in Australia, Kenya, Serbia and Ethiopia.—*200*

## Earthen utensils industry facing extinction in Rakhine

PRODUCTION of pottery became obsolete in Rakhine State because people preferred using industrial products, according to Rakhine State craftsmen.

“Today, people are using the industry products, so pottery handicrafts businesses are almost extinct. Hundreds of pottery handicrafts businesses closed.

Currently, only five pottery business are producing based on the water pots,” said U Kyaw Shwe from Kyaukpyu. About 10 years ago, there were about 55 pottery business in Yanbye island. The finished pottery products were exported to Yanbye island, Minbya and Myebon townships.

“People from towns

and rural regions are not using the handicraft products, they only use the plastics, steels and ceramics. We are selling for a few people who are using the pots for offering on the altar and drinking water,” said Daw Khin Thein Shwe, a seller of the handicrafted pottery from Kyaukpyu.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Shrimp larvae to be bred in Ayeyawady and Rakhine

FIVE million shrimp larvae will be experimentally bred in Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State, according to a local shrimp farming association.

If the experimental farming brings forth a fruitful result, it will help reduce the trade deficit and fulfil the requirements of local consumption, said an offi-

cial from the association.

Marine Genetics will farm five million larvae of shrimps under the name of Best Burma PL. In the shrimp farming process, the biosecurity, management and aeration techniques will be shared with local businessmen. The black tiger shrimp, a native species, is farmed extensively

in the country but has been known to be prone to disease. The new white shrimp larvae has been imported from Thailand at a high price. Specific Pathogen Free (SPF) white shrimp are being experimentally bred in order to be free from pathogenic organisms in the local shrimp farming sector, it is learnt.—*200*

## FMI share price jumps to Ks19,000

THE share price of First Myanmar Investment on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) surged to Ks19,000 at closing time on 28th February, according to stock trading data of YSX.

The high share price resulted from FMI's investment seminar held on 4th February by U Thein Wai, FMI's executive chairman, in order to discuss FMI's current businesses and its future direction. The share price rose to Ks15,000 on 15th February, then FMI's share price climbed up to

Ks17,000 on 27th February from 16,000 on 24th and 15,500 on 23rd Feb.

FMI share price hit its highest mark of Ks41,000 on 29th and 30th March 2016, whereas the price hit a low of Ks15,500 per share on 25th Nov 2016. FMI share price turned to a downward trend in December, plunging down to Ks13,500 per share on 30th Dec 2016, it is learnt.

Currently, there are four companies trading shares on YSX; FMI, Myanmar Thailawa SEZ Hold-

ings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB).

On 28th Feb, a total of 24,112 shares worth Ks 237,308,600 were traded on YSX, with the stock trading volumes of 3,125 from FMI, 17,290 from MTSH, 287 from MCB and 3,410 from FPB. The share prices at the closing time were Ks19,000 for FMI, 4,300 for MTSH, Ks8,800 for MCB and Ks30,500 for FPB respectively, according to the official figures of YSX.—*Mon Mon*

## For Rent / For Joint Venture

Cordially invite entrepreneurs ( foreign / local ) who are interested in industry, warehouse, industrial land, showroom and government grant-land at the following locations:

1. Coffee mix manufacturing industry: building and warehouse (Hlaing Tharyar Industry Zone)
2. Warehouse at industrial land (Shwe Pyi Thar Industrial Zone)
3. Thirimon (Bayintnaung) Plaza (3 storey & rooms space) Mayangone Township
4. (1) Area government grant-land, Banyardala Street, Tamwe Township (good location)
5. (0.5) Area government grant-land, Banyardala Street, Tamwe Township (good location)
6. (8) Area government grant-land, Mingalardon Township near Alpine and Pepsi industries (Pyi Road)

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