

3MDG Fund plans to hand over 17 new rural health centres to MoHS in May

TO IMPROVE public health services in hard-to-reach parts of the country, 17 more rural health centres being built by the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund will be finalised and handed over in May of this year, according to the 3MDG Fund.

Those 17 health centres have been constructed in the southern, eastern and northern parts of Shan, Kayah and Chin States and Yangon, Sagaing and Mandalay Regions.

This is part of a US\$12 million project to build 82 health facilities with onsite staff accommodations across the country under the leadership of the Ministry of Health and Sports. It contributes to the government

drive towards universal health coverage to ensure that everyone can access the healthcare they need without causing financial hardship.

The rural and sub-rural health centres are financed by 3MDG's donors and designed and implemented by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

The 3MDG Fund officially handed over 15 new health centres in Ayeyawady Region to the Ministry of Health and Sports on 27 February to increase access to services for some of the hardest-to-reach people in the country.

The centres will serve all community health needs, with a particular focus on maternal,

newborn and child health care. The effort will aid in reducing the dangers of childbirth; the number of deaths among women and babies in delivery is currently higher in rural areas than in urban settings.

The centres include areas for childbirth, emergency and waiting rooms, examination rooms, water tanks, incinerator and placenta pit, onsite accommodation for staff, and drug storage facilities. In addition, many sites have environmentally sustainable solar panels, making sure that power is available in emergency situations.

Depending on their size, the centres can treat up to 50 patients a day.—GNLM

Ancient gold-coloured coins found in Rakhine State



Coins found by a resident in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State in early February.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

OVER 40 gold-coloured coins with different designs have recently been discovered by a local woman in Kyaukpyu Township in Rakhine State, according to residents.

Daw Ma Shwe Kyi found 41 coins buried in the ground while she was digging the soil to collect white yams around Theiktaunggyi Mountain near Kanpyinsu Ward in Sanae Town in February. Her spouse, U Maung Khin Shwe, thinks that the coins were made from the time of the Arakanese Kingdom, as he found words written in the Arakanese language on the surface of the coins. The couple wishes to give the coins to the Department of Archaeology National Museum and Library

in MraukU Township to see if they could receive an appropriate amount of money for them.

U San Tun Shwe, a town elder, shared his knowledge of history and said some Arakanese concealed their valuables such as gold jewelry, coins and Buddha statues in the earth when they abandoned their residences during battles in 1784, when the Arakanese Kingdom was conquered by the Bodaw U Waing, the sixth king of the Konbaung Dynasty of Myanmar, after which Rakhine became part of the Konbaung kingdom of Myanmar.

Arakan has a 5,000-year-old language and a rich culture, the elderly added.—Myitmakha News Agency

SSCFM forum held in Mandalay to become smart city

A FORUM hosted by Smart & Sustainable Cities France-Myanmar (SSCFM) was held on Wednesday to further develop the city of Mandalay. The forum was jointly held by the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) and French authorities.

The forum held at Hotel Marvel Mandalay was attended by French officials, businessmen and Yangon City Development Committee Mayor, Deputy Mayor, committeemen and officials.

At the forum, French officials and the MCDC discussed the building of the city.

"This forum is good for Mandalay city. We are sharing opinions and discussing future planning to become a smart city. We have some ideas from the forum to develop Mandalay City. We have planned to implement the project to develop Mandalay with the assistance of France," said U Ye Mon, Vice Mayor.

France's public transpor-

tation system shows the way to choose a commuting option for the public. Also, France has taken into account the environment, which have perfect harmony with weather conditions. "We held the forum in Mandalay to become a smart city. The forum was mainly held for Mandalay City, Mandalay Technological University, municipalities, the Chamber of Commerce Association and Mandalay Engineer Association," said U Ye Mon.—Myitmakha News Agency

Proposal to FIFA to build futsal football court at Thuwanna

THE Myanmar Football Federation will submit a proposal to Federation International de Football Association (FIFA) to build an international futsal football area in the compound of Thuwanna football stadium in Yangon.

The futsal court is targeted to be completed this year and will have a seating capacity of 5,000.

"FIFA has planned to pro-

vide a FIFA forward program to respective countries' football associations.

The futsal ground project will be submitted to the FIFA forward program. We need to have the futsal ground if we want to develop," said U Phone Naing Zaw, the executive of the Myanmar Football Federation.

The Myanmar Football Federation will also submit the pro-

posal to the Ministry of Health and Sports and they will discuss detailed plans for the futsal ground.

Futsal is a variant of football played on a hard court and mainly indoors. It is played between two teams of five players each, including a goalkeeper. The site could potentially attract international tournaments and players to Myanmar.—Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

Sittway-bound passenger vehicle catches fire; 1 dead, 4 injured

A COMMERCIAL bus travelling from Yangon to Sittway caught fire 25 miles from Ohntaechaung village in An Township, Rakhine State yesterday morning, leaving one passenger dead and three injured.

At about 6:20 am, as the Aung Pyaesone passenger vehicle reached milepost the 25 in the vicinity of Kazuukine village, an electrical short caused the vehicle to ignite while on the An-Sittway road. An Township's Fire Services Department dispatched one fire engine and local residents of Kazuukine

village helped extinguish the flames. The fire was successfully put out at about 8:15 am.

Three men and one woman suffered minor burns, while Ma Aye Aye Than, 20, from Ponnagyun Township, Dabeit village, died after becoming trapped in the burning vehicle. Of the 18 passengers onboard, 13 were male and 5 were females.

The vehicle's driver, Kaung Sett Naing, fled from the scene. Regional Police Force is opening a case to take action against him.—MPF

Illegal teaks found in the Pajero

ILLEGAL teaks were seized in a vehicle in Kutkai, Southern Shan State.

At about 10:15 am, 28 February, a combined team involving police members from Kutkai police station, Tatmadawmen and staff from the Forestry Department including the witnesses stopped and searched a Pajero vehicle, vehicle no.7C/xxxx enroute from Lashio to Muse near the Oriental toll gate in Kutkai

Township.

The driver, Thein Htike, from Ywarthitkaly village, PinyinOoLwin Township was seized with 9 illegal close grained teaks 0.5442 tonnes in that vehicle. The owner of these teaks is U Bo Gyi from Mandalay according to the inspection.

The two suspects were charged with the public property protection law by Kutkai police station.—Myanmar Police Force

Illegal teaks seized in Kani

ILLEGAL timber logs weighing over one tonne was seized in western Muhtaw west village, Kani Township, Sagaing Region on Tuesday.

A combined team involving local police members from Kani police station and staff from the Forest Department including the

witnesses searched the house of U Nyunt Win, 42, in Muhtaw village at 3:15 pm on that day and found 12 blocks of timber logs weighing 1.5812 tonnes.

The suspect has been charged with the public property protection law by Kani police station.—Myanmar Police Force



Officials of Forest Department inspect illegal timber logs. PHOTO: MPF

Former head of ten-household found dead in northern Rakhine

THE body of an ex-head of ten-household from Kyeekanpyin Village (South) in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State was found dead yesterday morning and classified by police as a murder.

Nur Kiryin, 35, son of Zarfok Arlong, was taken away by four masked men at 12 pm on 1 March.

Zarfok Arlong searched for

his son and discovered his body with many injuries at around 6 am.

The case was handed over to Pinyinphu Police Station under Border Guard Police Headquarters No. 2.

The body was sent to People's Hospital in Maungtaw Township by police officials. A murder investigation is ongoing.—Myanmar News Agency