



Employees work on a production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya, Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Over 100,000 employees needed for garment sector

THE garment sector in Myanmar has developed as the EU has lifted economic sanctions, potentially opening up 100,000 jobs in the garment sector, according to Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

“Previously, there were only 300 garment factories in Myanmar. Now, there are over 400 garment factories in Myanmar thanks to the lifting of economic sanctions,” said Dr. Khin Maung Aye, chairman of MGEA.

“Currently, Myanmar garment factories are manufacturing clothing of export quality to fulfill the demand. Garments are exported upon EU lifting of sanc-

tions. So, we need more employees,” said Daw Khin Khin Nwe, general secretary of MGEA.

The EU ended Myanmar economic sanctions during the incumbent government period in October 2016.

“Currently, five garment factories are being opened per month. And, there are 1,000 employees working per factory,” said U Myint Soe, chairman of MGEA.

Myanmar garments are mainly exported to the EU, Japan and South Korea. In 2015, 10 per cent of export products were from the garment sector. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

New elephant sanctuary to be established in Maungdaw District

RAKHINE State government is arranging to establish an elephant sanctuary on one million acres of land near Mayu mountain range, the natural habitat of the large mammals, in Maungdaw District in Rakhine State.

The move aims to protect wild elephants residing along the mountain range by creating a safer place for them, with the authorities waiting to get approval from the Union government, said U Kyaw Lwin, Rakhine State

Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry and Mining.

The tasks of bush clearance on the targeted lands have been done under the arrangement of the local government.

The elephant population has been on decline because of illegal hunting, illicit smuggling of teak and hardwood and deforestation in the district. Sometimes the wild animals trespass near human residences in search of food.

Residents around the project

areas worry about their future. U Maung Htwee, one of residents, said thousands of local people rely on the forests along the mountain range for their daily survival.

The new elephant sanctuary will be the largest wildlife conservation area in Rakhine State. Local authorities have already established over 443,000 acres of sanctuary along the Rakhine mountain range.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Historical museum to be built at the University of Medicine 1 (Yangon)

A HISTORICAL museum will be built in 2018 at the University of Medicine 1 in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region, said professor emeritus Dr. Nyunt Thein of the University of Medicine 1.

“We have already submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Health and Sports to grant us a plot of land to build the historical museum.

Currently, authorities are discussing this matter. If we are granted a plot of land, we will form a committee and collect what is necessary for the museum,” said Rector Dr. Zaw Wai Soe of the University of Medicine 1.

“Upon completion of the museum, I will request former students and teachers to send the

old photographs and documents to Rector Dr. Zaw Wai Soe and Administration and Finance head Daw Khin Swe Win.” The University of Medicine 1 was established on 2 February, 1927. The University of Medicine 1 comprises three campuses: Lanmadaw campus, Pyay Road campus and Thaton Road campus.—200

Azolla moss replaces Napier grass to reduce animal feed costs

DAWEI township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department will experimentally plant Azolla moss instead of Napier grass to reduce the cost of animal feed in Dawei township, Tanintharyi region.

Azolla moss, which was tested at the Ngwesin Pearl dairy farm at Badama Myothit, Mingaladon township, Yangon was deemed successful, so arrangements are being made to grow the seed at the Ngwesin Pearl dairy farm.

“Growing Azolla moss can reduce the cost of animal feed. And Azolla also includes more vitamins than Napier. It is more cost-effective

for the livestock breeders, particularly for the cow breeders. So, we are planting Azolla moss on a test run,” said Dr. Thein Zaw Min, the staff officer from Dawei Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department.

Napier grass contains protein, minerals and vitamins totalling between 12 and 17 per cent, while Azolla moss has 25 per cent of the same nutrients. Napier grass has to be mixed with 60 ticals of supplementary food such as bean, sesame, corn and rice in order to make cow feed, whereas Azolla moss has to be mixed with only 15 ticals of supplementary food.

Azolla moss is a highly reproductive plant and thus easy to grow. Currently, Azolla moss is planted in Dawei, Thayetchaung towns and Ahlaedaw village in Dawei district. Azolla moss is mostly grown inside a pond.

If the growing method of Azolla moss is successful, the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department will distribute seedlings to farmers and livestock breeders free of charge.

Azolla moss is the kind of the plant that can be used as animal feed not only for cows but also for the chickens and ducks.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crabs raised in Minbya, Myebon and Pauktaw on a manageable scale

CRAB farming on a manageable scale is being conducted in Minbya, Myebon and Pauktaw Townships in Rakhine State, which abound in freshwater, saltwater and rivers, according to local fishermen.

Previously, local fishermen were catching crabs from rivers. Now, local fishermen cannot catch crabs over 100 grams because of over-fishing.

“The local people are farming the crabs. They are farming the small crabs inside small ponds. If the crabs grow bigger, they catch the crabs. Previously, crab farming tested last year proved to be successful. So, we will raise the crab farming this year. Crabs farming is usually successful in salinated areas. Crab farming can make a net

profit,” said U Zaw Min, a fisherman from Minbya township.

Local fishermen are searching for small crabs from the rivers and creeks in Rakhine state. Local fishermen bought small crabs for Ks50 or Ks100 per crab and started farming with the small ponds.

“We prohibit catching under 100 gram crabs. But, they are still catching. The local people catch around 30 or 40 gram of crabs. Currently, the local people are farming the crab in townships. It is good,” said Dr. Nyunt Wai, head of state Fisheries Department, Rakhine State.

The crabs are selling for between Ks500 and Ks2,000, depending on the size and weight.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

40 killed, 115 injured on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway accidents this year

FORTY people died in traffic accidents along the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway over the first 65 days of this year, with 115 individuals sustaining injuries, according to highway police.

There were 80 road traffic accident cases reported between 1 January and 6 March of this year.

A total of 36 cases occurred in January on the expressway, resulting in the deaths of 12 people and injuring 65 others. In February, the number of cases declined to 25 but the death toll increased to 22, with 37 others injured.

Six people died and 13 individuals were injured in motor

accidents on the road between 1 and 6 March, according to the highway authorities.

The deaths and injuries were due to failure to abide by traffic safety rules and regulations by both drivers and pedestrians, said a police officer, urging drivers to follow the rules to wear seat belts that prevent ejection from the vehicle during a crash.

To reduce road-related deaths and injuries, police are accelerating traffic rule enforcement efforts throughout the nation, with the hopes that the number of car accidents will decrease.—200