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SUNDAY SPECIAL



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The endangered golden deer species is found in Myanmar, mostly in Chatthin and Shwesattaw Wildlife sanctuaries. **PHOTO: MNA**

Golden deer population in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary increases

THE golden deer population in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary in Kantbalu Township has increased from 728 last year to 889 in 2018, said an official from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forest yesterday.

The Rucervus eldii (golden deer) census was conducted in the sanctuary by officials of the ministry, wildlife conservation-

ists and volunteers from 28 to 30 March in the three zones of the sanctuary.

The golden deer is a rare species of deer found in Myanmar, mostly in the Shwesattaw and Chatthin wildlife sanctuaries.

The number of golden deer was on the decline from 2014 to 2016.

To conserve the endangered species, the staff of the ministry created a salt field for them during the rainy season, planting rice and corn, and constructed small reservoirs in accordance with plans for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

During the survey, the conservationists also discovered

trees being illegally cut and forest products being smuggled, said the official.

Myanmar environmental conservation and forestry organisations, along with local residents, are advocating for the prevention of the extinction of golden deer at the Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary.

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Ethnic minority rights in Rakhine reviewed

A WORKSHOP on the rights and freedoms of ethnic minorities in Rakhine State was held yesterday at Thazin Hall in Sittway Town, Rakhine State.

Speaking at the workshop, Deputy Minister of the Office of the State Counsellor, U Khin Maung Tin, Vice Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State, said the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State suggested that authorities review regional orders and instructions on the rights of ethnic minorities in accordance with the law.

U Khin Maung Tin yesterday urged representatives of the Mro, Khami, Daing Net, Chak-kama, Chin, Maramargyi and Kaman ethnic minorities to give suggestions in the workshop's group discussions.

He also stressed the need for rights and freedom to be in conformity with the law, as stability plays an important role in development Rakhine State.

The deputy minister suggested a review of the rights and freedoms of the ethnic minorities from the points of security and the rule of law to be able to establish a road map for their rights.

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Ethnic minority rights in Rakhine reviewed

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At the workshop, officials of the Rakhine State Legal Office, Rakhine State General Administration Department, Rakhine State Ethnic Affairs Ministry and Rakhine State Immigration and National Registration Department discussed the regional orders, rules, rights of ethnic minorities and citizenship rights.

Representatives of the ethnic minorities participated

in group discussions and presented the common agreement on their rights. The workshop was held by the Reception and Resettlement Committee of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Rakhine State Government.

The outcomes of the workshop will be submitted to the Committee on Implementation of Recommendations on Rakhine State.—Myo Myint ■

Golden deer population in Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary increases

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The sanctuary is located between Kantbalu and Kawlin townships in Sagaing Region.

The deer, which live in groups, are being overhunted by deer hunters.

The sanctuary in upper Myanmar was established in 1940, when some 1,000 deer lived in the area.

The sanctuary is now on a 66,273-acre forest reserve operated by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation

and Forestry. There were some 3,000 deer in the sanctuary between 1995 and 1996, when the population was tracked using radio signals.

The vegetarian mammal's scientific name is *Cervus eldithamin*.

The sanctuary is also populated with 360 other species of mammals, including barking deer, wild cats and wild boars, 1,235 species of birds and 360 species of reptiles.—Aung Win Nyein ■

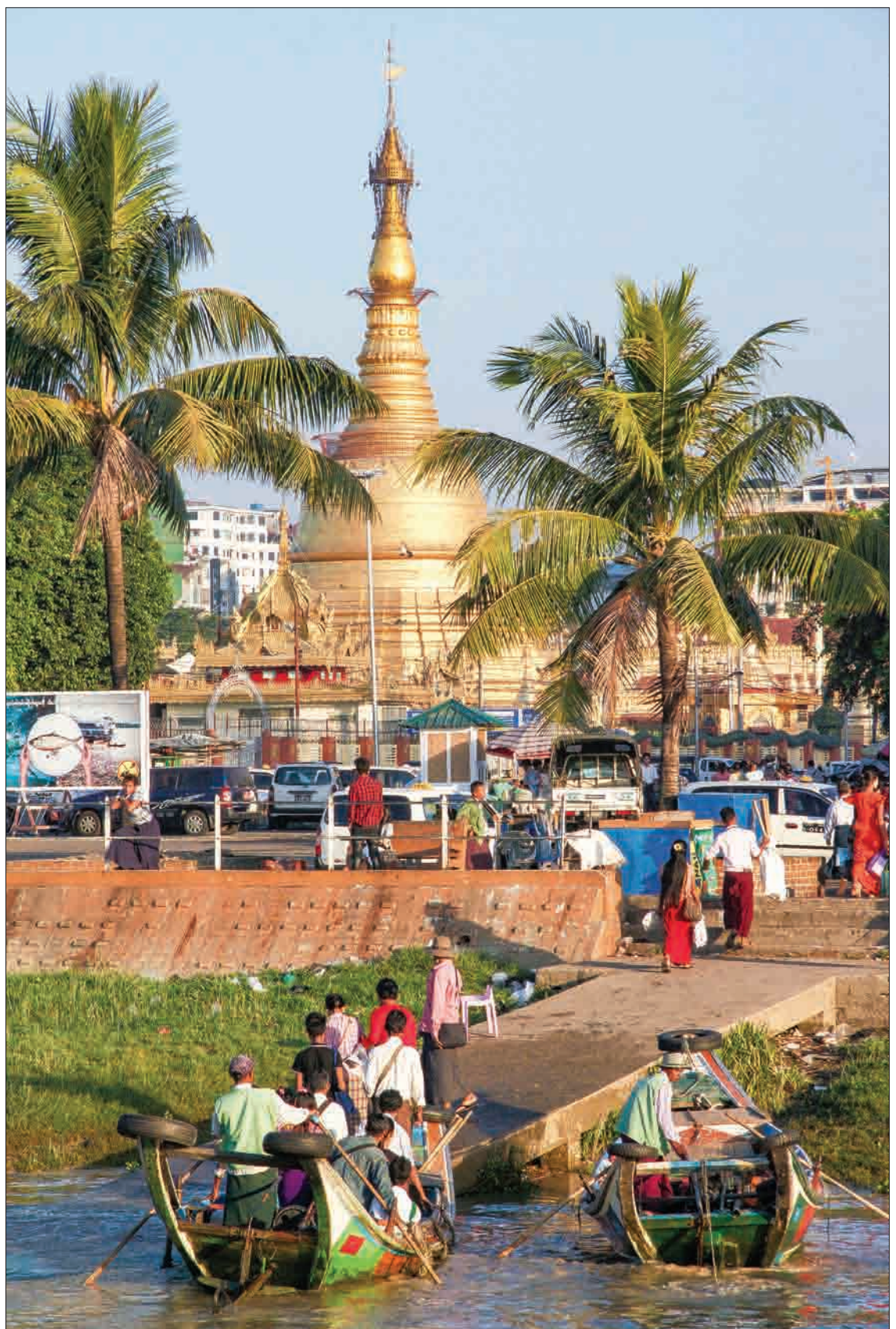
Apology Notice

MRTV would like to apologise to the public concerning the broadcasting of the President's dinner for taking up office on 6 April.

MRTV and subsequent channels had originally planned to broadcast the events before dinner first, broadcast the news, and then continue broadcast of the

performances at the dinner event.

However MRTV only broadcasted events before dinner and did not broadcast the performances after the news. We would like to offer our heartfelt apologies, as we have heard that the public was disappointed of these incidents.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Botataung jetty is crowded with commuters and travellers, especially during rush hour. PHOTO: NYIZAW MOE

Construction of pedestrian overpass underway near Botataung Pagoda in Yangon

A pedestrian overpass is being built near Botataung Pagoda in Yangon, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

“The pedestrian bridge project was started on 1 April 2018. It is being constructed near the entrance of the pagoda precinct and will connect the old and new Strand roads. The digging for the foundation started recently.

The bridge is being constructed by Mya Thet Tin Construction Company under the supervision of the Yangon

City Development Committee (YCDC), said an official from the engineering department (Road and Bridge).

The overpass is being constructed to prevent accidents, because the junction is always crowded with pedestrians and vehicles.

Earlier, overpasses in the Yangon Region were constructed by the YCDC, but from 2017, the bridges are being constructed by private entrepreneurs.

“The road is used by the

local people who come from the other side of the Yangon Region, as well as by those visiting the Botataung Pagoda.

The place is crowded with pedestrians and container vehicles that use the road daily. Therefore, the construction of the overpass will ensure the safety of our people,” said U Nyi Nyi Tun, owner of a snake shop near Botataung Pagoda.

The Botataung pedestrian overpass will include escalators, and is expected to be completed by June.—GNLM ■

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