Coordination meeting held to promote literature and culture

A COORDINATION meeting to promote literature and culture was held at the Printing and Publishing Department (PPD) in Theinbyu Road, Yangon yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information invited literary person attending the meeting to discuss their ideas openly. Despite budget limitations, Ministry of Information is responsible for news media development and is doing the best toward this end, said the Union Minister. Afterwards, meeting attendees discussed about the status of literature and culture works, difficulties faced and suggestions on future works and the Union Minister and officials discussed and coordinated on the discussions made.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint.—Myanmar News Agency

Kofi Annan, former UNSG, chairman of Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, passes away

THE former UN secretary general and chairman of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, Dr. Kofi Annan, has died at the age of 80 after a short illness in Geneva, his family and foundation announced on Saturday.

The Ghanaian was the seventh secretary general and served for two terms between 1997 and 2006. He was awarded the Nobel peace prize for his humanitarian work jointly with the UN as an organisation in 2001.

He led the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State which was formed in August 2016. The commission submitted its final report to the Myanmar Government in August, 2017 one year after formation of the commission.

The current UN secretary general, Antonio Guterres, whom Annan appointed to lead its refugee agency, said: “In many ways, Kofi Annan was the United Nations. He rose through the ranks to lead the organisation into the new millennium with matchless dignity and determination.”

Annan was chair of The Elders, an independent group of global leaders working for peace and human rights founded by Nelson Mandela. Gro Harlem Brundtland, the former prime minister of Norway and the body’s deputy chair, said she and her colleagues were devastated by Annan’s death.

“Kofi was a strong and inspiring presence to us all, and the Elders would not be where it is today without his leadership. Throughout his life, Kofi worked unceasingly to improve the lives of millions of people around the world,” she said.

Kumi Naidoo, Amnesty International’s secretary general, said the world had lost a great leader: “Kofi’s dedication and drive for a more peaceful and just world, his lifelong championing of human rights, and the dignity and grace with which he led will be sorely missed in a world which needs these characteristics more than ever.”—GNLM

Drug seized from passenger at Yangon International Airport

A TOTAL of 15,584 pink colour stimulant tablets were seized at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

VIA multi-level security screening system at Terminal 1 Gate 3 checked all departing baggage on international flights and detected the stimulant tablets in the luggage of a passenger against Aung Ko Ko Lin @ Ye Lay under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar News Agency

Yaba worth Ks8 billion seized in Maungtaw Township

RAKHINE State anti-narcotic police seized 2,766,000 Yaba tablets worth Ks 8.298 million near Shwe Zar Bridge, Maungtaw Township on 17 August.

Acting on a tip off, the police approached a vehicle near Shwe Zar Bridge, Maungtaw Township. As they approached, the driver and the assistant of the vehicle fled into nearby Shwe Zar village. The police searched the vehicle and found 55 packs, each pack containing 50,000 Yaba tablets and one pack of Yaba containing 16,000 tablets. The police seized a total of 2,766,000 Yaba tablets worth Ks 8.3 billion.

According to the police investigation, the suspects were identified as driver Ah Bu Kaw and assistant Ar Zee, who lives in Myoma Taung ward, Maungtaw town. The police are still searching for the suspects, Ah Bu Kaw and Ar Zee who managed to escape from the scene.—Tin Tun (IPRD)
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