Senior General attends religious ceremony in Sittway

THE inauguration ceremony of a grand religious building or the Sasana Beikman was held in the compound of Lokananda Pagoda in Sittway, Rakhine State yesterday.

Present on the occasion were eminent Buddhist monks, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, the commander-in-chief (Navy) the commander-in-chief (Air), senior military officers of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of Western Command Brig-Gen Soe Tint Naing, members of Rakhine State cabinet, regional MPs, well-wishers, guests, local elders and local people. The stone plaque and the signboard of the building were unveiled and scented water sprinkled. Monks recited parittas after the congregation received the Five Precepts. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and the congregation offered day meal to the monks. Then the ceremony to donate glass cover for the Buddha Image of Aungsetkyamuni Ordination Hall by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, children and grandchildren was held.—Myanmar News Agency

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donate glass cover for the Buddha Image of Aungsetkyamuni Ordination Hall . **PHOTO: MNA**

National objectives for the 2018, 70th Anniversary of Independence Day

1. All nationalities to collectively preserve and protect non-disintegration of the Union; non-disintegration of national unity; and perpetuation of national sovereignty.
2. To strive hard to draw up a constitution suitable for the Union in accordance with democratic principles and norms for the emergence of a Democratic Federal Union.
3. To strive hard and exert our utmost efforts to implement the peace process as quickly as possible.
4. For all nationalities to work together with the State to achieve the goal of "lasting peace" through political dialogues.
5. By encouraging the private sector which is the main engine of growth for the economy, to collectively exert our efforts for improving and advancing the socio-economic life of the people.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications attends 17th ASEAN TELMIN

Ministers and Deputy Ministers for Transport and Communication from ASEAN countries pose for documentary photo at the 17th ASEAN Telecommunication and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (TELMIN). **PHOTO: MNA**

DEPUTY Minister for Transport and Communication, U Kyaw Myo attended the 17th ASEAN Telecommunication and Information Technology Ministers Meeting (TELMIN).

During the meeting the Deputy Minister discussed the development of the transport and communication sectors in Myanmar, the implementation of Digital Government Strategy and e-Government system by the government of Myanmar, policies and regulations for the cooperation between ASEAN countries, essential Cyber security of the ICT sector along with his advices.

The meeting was held in Siem Reap in Cambodia from 30 November to 1 December and Ministers and Deputy Ministers for Transport and Communication from ASEAN countries, General Secretaries of International Telecommunication Union (ITU), Deputy Ministers and other responsible officials from China, Japan and Republic of Korea attended the meeting.

Change of views on developing telecommunication and information technology of the ASEAN countries, review on previous procedures in 2017, approvals for the upcoming agendas, decisions for the current procedures with ASEAN's dialogue partners: China, Japan and People's Republic of Korea, approving the upcoming agendas of the ITU and ASEAN were discussed in the meeting.

Awarding ceremony for the winners for ASEAN ICT Award 2017 was launched along with Siem Reap announcement.

The Deputy Minister also attended the Asia-Africa-Europe-1 (AAE-1) launching ceremony of submarine cable from South East Asia to Europe along with Deputy Ministers of Cambodia and other information Ministers from ASEAN countries.

The Deputy Minister also met separately with Deputy Minister for Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, H.E Masahiko Tominaga and discussed the promotion of relations and cooperation in the telecommunication and IT sectors between the two countries and postal services.—Myanmar News Agency

Tourists able to visit Ah Myint Old City by land and water routes

TOURISTS are able to visit Ah Myint Old City Heritage Zone not only by cars, motorcycles and bicycles but also by boats along the Chindwin River, according to U Paul Lay, leader of the (Ah Myint Old City) Village.

Ah Myint Village (Ah Myint Old City) Heritage Zone is situated at the east bank of the Chindwin River, Chaung-U Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Division in Upper Myanmar and visitors can study the ancient pagodas of Innwa and Koungbaung eras, murals and architectures of ancient monasteries.

Archaeology and National Museum Department established the Ah Myint Old City as a heritage zone in 2012 and there are 154 pagodas in that zone according to their record.

Before establishing this place as a heritage zone, nearly 40 pagodas were repaired which are now found as new one. After the heritage zone establishment, there was no repair, therefore, the features of those over 100 pagodas could be seen in original. Currently, tourists can visit only a few pagodas as most of the pagodas are in the bushes even though they are not damaged. In this open season (dry season), expecting tourists may visit, our department and the heritage zone maintenance team formed with the villagers are working the cleaning works together, in the places where there are many pagodas closely situated together" said Ko Zaw Lwin Oo, Ah Myint Old City's regional in charge from Archaeology and National Museum Department.

There are eight pagodas which have mural paintings in that heritage zone. They are That Taw Shal Pagoda, Shwe Twin Awung Pagoda, three pagodas at Min Ye Phayar Taik Su, one pagoda at Yadana Min O Chan Thar Phayar Taik Su and two at Ngar Su Tan Phayar Taik.

Among them, only the pagoda of Min Ye Phayar Taik Su is in best condition and the other seven are mostly in damage. According to the drawing styles and pictures, ancient mural painting conversation organization approved that they are the ancient arts of Innwa and Koungbaung eras. — Win Oo (Zaya Taing)

Photo shows archway of Ah Myint town (Ah Myint Old City). **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYA TAING)**