

Senior General meets families of Myanmar Embassy staff, military attaché in Russia

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who was in Russian Federation at the invitation of Army General Sergei K. Shoigu Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation met with staff and families of Myanmar Embassy and military attaché at the Myanmar Embassy on 18 June evening.

Afterward, the Senior General gave foods and gifts to the families of Myanmar Embassy and military attaché.

The Senior General and party then tour Moscow to view the developments and took a ride on a subway train from Smolenskaya station to Ploshchad Revolyutsii station. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gives gift to the families of Myanmar embassy and military attaché on 18 June. **PHOTO: MNA**



Shwedagon Pagoda crowded with pilgrims in Yangon. **PHOTO: KO KO ZAW**

Thais top list of foreigners who make pilgrimage to Shwedagon Pagoda

By Zaw Min Latt

Of the 615,940 foreign pilgrims to the Shwedagon Pagoda in 2016, Thai nationals were the most numerous, according to the office of the board of trusteeship of the Shwedagon Pagoda.

In 2017, 78,054 overseas pilgrims visited the pagoda in January, 77,062 in February, 64,005 in March, 40,789 in April and 36,674 in May.

An admission fee of Ks8000 is collected from each foreign visitor.

With the aim of allowing visitors to comfortably pay pilgrimage to the pagoda, terrazzo plates are being replaced on the platform around the pagoda,

with shade trees planted for greening the Singuttara hillock.

For added security at the pagoda, it has been learnt that taking candid photos and film shooting by drones are strictly prohibited in the vicinity of Shwedagon Pagoda.

The Shwedagon Pagoda, which enshrines four sacred relics of Lord Buddha, was built by King Okkalapa on the Singuttara hillock some 2,600 years ago.

The staff of Kakusandha, the water filter of Konagamana, a piece of the robe of Kassapa and strands of hair from the head of Gautama Buddha were enshrined in the pagoda on the full moon day of Tabaung

month 103 ME, by King Okkalapa, Taphussa & Bhallika two brothers and the people in a holy ceremony.

Later, consecutive kings of Okkalapa dynasty renovated the pagoda, which resulted in its present height of 326 feet, most of it gilded with gold leaf.

Religious ceremonies are held at the pagoda in their respective month, like Abhidhamma Holy Day and Lighting Festival in Thadingyut, the Tazaungdine Festival and the robe weaving festival in Tazaungmone, recitation by monks and the awarding ceremony for outstanding monks, Ovadapatimauk Holy Day and the competition for cooking the best delicious glutinous rice. ■

The event of rainy season tree cultivation held in Maungtaw

THE event of rainy season tree cultivation was held in Maungtaw to resist natural disasters and to create green and fresh environment.

By cooperating Maungtaw Township's Department of General Administration and Department of Forestry, the event of rainy season tree cultivation was held near Waytharli village, (0/5) mile stone in Maungtaw Township at 8 am on 19 June.

"The event of tree cultivation is held in Maungtaw Township every year in the rainy season.

The cultivated trees are conserved by the respective

villagers.

To resist the natural disasters, related departments and villagers have been growing trees in our region every year", said U Ba Tin, officer from the Department of Forestry.

Nearly 120 people including residents of Maungtaw Township and the staff of the Department of General Administration and Department of Forestry cultivated the trees.

In that event of tree cultivation, 50 teak trees, 50 xyliadolabriliformis, 50 Mahogany trees, 100 manjusha trees and 150 eucalyptus trees were grown.—Min Thit(MNA) ■

Cash donated for families of Y-8 plane crash victims

UNION Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu donated Ks 25 Lakh yesterday for victims of the crashed Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane on 7 June.

At the ceremony held at the Ministry of Defence, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepted the cash donations.

Similarly, Chairman of Marga Land Mark Co.Ltd, Mr. Stephen Suen, U Thein Aung (retired Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Re-



Marga Land Mark Co.Ltd Chairman accepts the appreciation letter from Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

gion) and Daw Khin Htay Myint and family donated Ks 200 lakh and Ks 50 lakh respectively for the victims of the plane crash,

which was accepted by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win. —Myanmar News Agency ■