



A donation ceremony to 10,000 monks for the first time held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

For first time, rice and provisions donation held for 10,000 monks in Nay Pyi Taw

TO achieve peace, stability and development, as sought by the people, as well as to prevent dangers, a rice and provisions donation ceremony for 10,000 monks was held yesterday afternoon, for the first time, in Nay Pyi Taw at Uppatasati Pagoda.

The ceremony was attended by aged and eminent Sayadaws, State Ovadacariya (patron) Sayadaws, State Sanghamahanayaka Sayadaws, Tipitakadhara Sayadaws, Uppatasati Pagoda Trustee Board Ovada-

cariya Sayadaws, state, district and township level Sanghanayaka Committee member Sayadaws, sayadaws from Zeyathiri, Zabuthiri, Pobbathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Ottarathiri, Pyinmana, Lewe, Tatkon, Taungoo and Yamethin townships and sanghas.

The donation ceremony was held at 2 p.m. Attending the event were Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, officials from governmental departments, companies, civil society

organisations, parahita (welfare) organisations, well-wishers and the public.

In addition to this, in the field at Uppatasani Pagoda a successful completion ceremony was held for the January 17 to 20 non-stop recitation of paritta and Patthana Pali by 900 sanghas, in which devotees took the nine precepts from State Ovadacariya Sayadaws and State Sanghamahanayaka Sayadaws, donated offerings and shared merits. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General welcomes Russian Minister of Defence



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Russian Army General Sergei K. Shoigu in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, welcomed Army General Sergei K. Shoigu, Minister of Defence of the Russian Federation, at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

As part of the ceremony, the Commander-in-Chief and the Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation took the salute and inspected the guard of honour, and were then introduced to high ranking armed forces officers of the two countries.

Also, they held talks on exchanges of visits between the two armed forces, cooperation in training and technology, and

potential areas of cooperation.

Afterwards, a ceremony was held to sign a military cooperation agreement between the two countries, as Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Myint Nwe and Lieutenant General Alexander V Fomin signed a military cooperation agreement between the two countries, in the presence of Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Minister for Defence of the Russian Federation.

Later, the Senior General hosted a luncheon in honour of the Minister for Defence of Russian Federation and his delegation. — Myanmar News Agency ■

UCSB Chairman inspects conduct of civil service entry-level officers in second stage written test

UNION Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman Dr. Win Thein, accompanied by Yangon Region Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, Forest and Energy U Han Tun, Civil Service Selection and Training Department Director-General U Kyaw Soe and officials, inspected the conduct of the civil service entry-level officers second stage written test held at Landmadaw Basic Education High School No. (1) Yangon yesterday morning.

The 10 July 2017 guiding remarks of the State Counsellor, made at the launch of the Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan, called for recruiting the most qualified and best people for the civil service through a merit based system.

The Union Civil Service Board has since put in place a screening test, which includes Myanmar, English and general knowledge written tests, instead of the written test system which

was used previously. This was done to meet two of the four priorities included in the Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan. The two priorities are priority no. 2 on Merit Based selection and promotion, and priority no. 4, to be responsible and transparent. An announcement was made by the Union Civil Service Board to select 480 officer positions for 11 ministries and departments, and

a screening test was conducted on 16 December 2017.

The 2,493 who passed the screening test were to next take the second stage written tests. The second stage written tests were held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Magway and Mawlamyine test centers on 20 and 21 January, where 2,325 will be taking the test. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Dr. Win Thein visits the civit service entyr-level test in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Aye Tha Aung, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, inspects Mandalay Region Hluttaw



Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung inspects Mandalay Region Hluttaw in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Yesterday afternoon, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung inspected the Mandalay Region Hluttaw.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo, Deputy Hluttaw Speaker Dr. Khin Maung Htay, Regional Hluttaw Representatives and departmental heads explained the

process of Hluttaw.

Also, the Mandalay Region Hluttaw Speaker explained the implementation of the Hluttaw process and other matters.

Afterwards, the Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker explained Hluttaw matters and discussed Hluttaw affairs. — Myanmar News Agency ■