70th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovid Selection Exam opens

An opening ceremony for the 70th Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovid Selection Examination was held yesterday morning in Vizaya Mingala Dhamma Thabin, Kaba Aye Hill, Yangon. First, Ovadacariya (patron) chairman of Tipitakadhara Tipitaka Kovid selection group, Hninethaya Township Sasana Gonyi monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharaththa Guru Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Pyinyatetha Bhivamsa gave the five precepts to the audience and then the audience listened to the sermons and recitation of paritta by the sayadaws and sanghas. Next, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Mandalay Township, Bhano monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharaththa Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr. Bhaddanta Kumara Bhivamsa delivered a message.

200,000 children vaccinated against Japanese encephalitis in Rakhine State

MORE than 200,000 children between the ages of nine months and 5 years in 17 towns- ships in Rakhine State received inoculations against Japanese encephalitis during the vacci- nation campaign which started on 11 December.

More than 40,000 children in border areas and far-flung areas of Rakhine State were also immunised from the debil- itating mosquito-borne disease.

The vaccination campaign began on 11 December and ran through 20 December.

According to the Rakhine State Health Department, more than 48,100 children from Sittway District, more than 65,900 from Mrauk-U District, 57,900 from Maungtaw District, 39,300 from Kyaukpyu District and 23,000 from Thandwe District have been vaccinated by the department’s mobile medical teams.

The ministry targets a total of 14 million children to get vaccinated during the cam- paign.

The Japanese Encephalitis virus is maintained in a cycle involving mosquitoes and ver- tebrate hosts, mainly pigs and wading birds. Humans can be infected when bitten by an in- fected mosquito.
Dr. Baddhanta Kumarabhivamsa delivers admonition at Opening of 70th Tipitaka Kovida Selection Exam

Following is the full text of the admonition of Sayadaw Dr. Baddhanta Kumarabhivamsa.

**Dr. Baddhanta Kumarabhivamsa**

On behalf of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, I would hereby like to address the admonitory note to the candidates who are going to sit for the 70th Tipitaka Kovida Selection Examination, the Reverend Sayadaws from the Institutes of Buddhist Studies in Regions and States who are accompanying the candidates to provide necessary assistance in taking exam, and devout Buddhist laypersons headed by the Union Government.

According to the Buddhist Canon, during the period of the Buddha Sasana/Era provided rules and regulations, Sasana/Buddha’s Teachings will remain intact. This is the Life of the Sasana.

Vinaya/codes for monks to abide by are in reality the admonitions of our Lord Buddha. Sasana has such codes for monks to follow. Similarly, in human society as well there are the fundamental Five Precepts for human beings to keep, that is, ethics. Had a monk or a lay person kept the rules and regulations, Sasana/Buddha’s Teachings will remain in him.

According to the belief conceived in their minds that Vinaya is the Life of Buddhist’s Teaching and their by-rote-learning, we are well convinced that the candidates are extremely eager to be good at Buddhist Literature. Accordingly, texts for the exams are prescribed for the candidates to easily pass the exam.

The candidates are going to perform the tasks of religious duties in the near future. Being the actual religious guardians of the Buddha Sasana, we firmly believe that you can do well in the exam.

Keeping in your mind that you are the guardians protecting the Buddha Sasana, you are required to take the exams, written and oral, with great rejoicing.

The audience present at the ceremony as well, led by the Union Government, should be pleased and happy to have an access to the ceremony, being those who have been destined to do such a meritorious deeds.

Just because you met with the Buddha Sasana, you—Sangha and Donors have already had the meritorious benefits. Due to the wholesome deeds, may all the candidates do well in the exam, may Myanmar be peaceful and prosperous and all Union citizens gain good merits and ultimately reach Nibanna.—Myanmar News Agency

(Unofficial Translation)

Implementation committee meets on recommendations of Rakhine Advisory Commission

THE committee charged with implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State held a coordination meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, Chairman of the Implementation Committee on recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement said this is the sixth time the committee has conducted a coordination meeting on its work.

Recommendations of the Advisory Commission were made primarily for Rakhine State development and raising the socio-economic conditions of the people of the state. “Making these works a success is striving toward development and it is not the development of Rakhine State only, but the whole country. The recommendations cover 18 sectors and each sector is not a single ministry work, but a multi-ministries work involving three, four ministries and thus involves much coordination in the implementation works,” he said.

The committee plan to meet with advisory groups in the last week of January. In yesterday’s meeting, ministries need to coordinate their implementation works and openly discuss, strength, weaknesses and findings, said the Union Minister.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu attend the implementation committee meeting on recommendations of Rakhine Advisory Commission in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Chairman and Deputy Minister of the committee said when relevant ministries implement the recommendations, it needs to be based on the reality and situation on the ground and in coordination and working together with the (Rakhine) State Government. Preparation for repatriation is being done by the Union Minister, he said.

“Relevant ministries and the State Government will work together so that news media can acquire the correct information about Rakhine State and relay it widely and quickly”, the joint chairman said.

The meeting was attended by: Committee Joint Chairman and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu; Committee Vice Chairman and Deputy Minister for State Counsellor’s Office; Committee Secretary Deputy Minister for Border Affairs; committee joint secretary Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement; and committee members who are officials from ministries. Meeting attendees discussed the status of works done and works not yet completed.

In his concluding speech, the Union Minister asked all to ensure that the news about the works done is widely made known and to work together and in unity with civil service societies in the region. Once there is rule of law, works in the recommendations can be implemented rapidly and people are to be organised patiently so that they have wide-ranging views and have a high-level of understanding, he said. —Myanmar News Agency
200,000 children vaccinated against Japanese encephalitis in Rakhine

FROM PAGE 1

Some infected patients will develop neurological symptoms including tremors, seizures (especially among children), as well as mental status changes and movement disorders. Japanese Encephalitis can be fatal in 20 to 30 per cent of cases and most of survivors continue to have neurologic, cognitive or psychiatric symptoms.

The ministry said the vaccine could not be administered to children suffering from chronic disease, as well as to those who have allergic reaction to any of the component of the vaccine, such as gelatin, gentamyacin, sucrose, human serum albumin and carbamide.

Children who are suffering from tuberculosis, or have low immune system or taking antibiotics, could not be vaccinated.—Win Min Soe/IPRD □

Three types of registration conducted in Maungtaw

THREE types of registration are currently being conducted by the department of Immigration in Maungtaw, according to a department official.

“This process is carried out every year around December 16, and it was formerly known as Drawing, Registration and Approval. As for our department, we have already inspected up to 383 household so far”, he added.

The registration process includes three types; to scrutinise the household lists, to take a family photograph, and to register the housing complex.

“Prior to this process, we had to go on field trips to these areas, which included drawing maps of the villages, and recording the housing complex for inspection”, an official said.

“We have already conducted this process in Shwe Zar Middle Village and Gaung Nyar Village, and now we are doing it in Kappa Kaung Village. All these villages belong to Shwe Zar-tract 12 villages, and we are going to register the rest of the areas near Maungtaw”, said U Zaw Moe Naing, an immigration officer.

In the final stage, the officials concerned scrutinise the household list with the old one, and take a photograph for record keeping. By doing this, we can easily determine the numbers of newborn babies and deceased persons, and the list of displaced people who fled to other country. It aims to scrutinise the growth and decline of the population in this region. Currently, the inspection process is being carried out at the Immigration branch offices in Maungtaw and Butheedaung townships only.—Myanmar News Agency □

Curfew extended in Maungtaw for two months

LOCAL authorities has extended the curfew order in Maungtaw District for another two months for the “security, stability and the rule of law in the district”, according to the Maungtaw District General Administration Department.

The General Administration Department announced the order on Monday to extend the current curfew, which prohibits assembly of five persons or more and prohibits going outside between 6 pm and 6 am.

The order took effect on 25th December. The original curfew was imposed shortly after Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorists conducted coordinated attacks on police outposts in wards and villages in Maungtaw District on 25th August.—Myanmar News Agency □

Illegal pharmaceutical products seized in Maungtaw

Illegal pharmaceutical products on a boat from which several people jumped in order to escape were seized in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State on Saturday night. At about 9:20 pm on Saturday, police saw a boat in the Magee Chaung Creek in Maungtaw Township and attempted to question the occupants, but the five people on board dove into the creek and fled in the direction of Pan Taw Pyin Village.

The police discovered 131,000 tablets, 8,000 pills, 4,000 capsules, 900 2ml-bottles of Pharmaceutical products, one bag, nine men’s shirts, five men’s nether garment, four pairs of trousers, 20 women’s shirts, 20 women’s undergarments, two taqiyah caps and one mobile phone on board.

At about the same time, police saw Zar Phaw Arnmat, 45, of Maung Ni Village, talking on the phone and walking in the dark near the border fence of Ma Gee Chaung Creek. He was detained for interrogation. The seized drugs and clothing were found to be owned by Ho Be of Ka Nyin Tan Village. Ho Be remains under investigation, police said. Police filed a case regarding the drugs and clothing. Authorities are investigating the suspect Zar Phaw Arnmat at Ma Gee Chaung police station. —Myanmar News Agency □

Six kilos of marijuana found in Maungtaw

POLICE discovered about 6.25 kilos of marijuana in a basket left by an unidentified person who fled the scene in Kan Ba Village in Maungtaw Township on Monday evening.

While conducting security measures on the evening of 25th December, police spotted the suspect on a farm in Kan Ba Village. The basket was left by the suspect, who ran away when the police tried to question him. Police have opened a case at the Pyinphyu Police Station and are further investigating the matter.—Myanmar News Agency □
11 power plant projects under way in Yangon

YANGON Region Government plans to develop 11 power plant projects which can generate 4749 megawatt from 2018 to 2014, according to a report in the Myawaddy Daily on 25 December.

These projects are 300-MW East Dagon power supply project (2021-2040), 1470-MW Tawantay-Dala power supply project (2019-2040), 430-MW Thanyin Myothit project (2031-2040), 560-MW Htanta-pin Myothit project, 140-MW Hmawby Myothit project and 160-MW Hlegu Myothit project.

As well as, 330-MW Dala Jetty and onshore power supply project (2020-2030), 100-MW Green Industrial Zone power supply project (2025-2038), 160-MW Jetty and Inland Power Supply Project (2021-2035), 880-MW South Yangon Special Economic Zone power supply project (2021-2035) and 210-MW aviation Industrial power supply project (2025-2030).

And, Insein Railway Station power supply project (2021-2025), advanced housing power supply project (2018-2025) and south Yangon Airport power supply project. —GNLM ■

Two administrators in Ye Tsp face corruption charges

Two administrators in Ye Township, Mon State, are facing lawsuits for alleged involvement in illegally turning farmland into plots for housing.

Following the complaint lodged against U Tun Kyi, former administrator of Kyonnye Village-tract, and U Naung Naung Lin, administrator of Khawar Town, to the anti-corruption commission in Nay Pyi Taw, the commission investigated the case and found that the two administrators allegedly assisted in arranging 15 60ftx40ft plots in a farmland into housing and allegedly taking Ks1.1 million earned from selling the plots. Files were opened against them at Khawar Police Station yesterday and action has been taken against U Naung Naung Lin under the Section 57 of the Anti-Corruption Law-2013 and U Tun Kyi under Section 57/65 of the same law, according to the anti-corruption commission. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives H.E Admiral Sun Jianguo

VICE Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) received H.E Admiral Sun Jianguo, chairman of China Institute for International Strategic Studies (CISS) yesterday afternoon at Bayint Naung Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, matters relating to regional security, preventing terrorist attacks through information exchanges, Rakhine State peace and stability, bilateral cooperation and friendship were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Maungtaw Myoma Market reopens

MAUNGTAW Myoma Market, closed for the past four months as a security precaution, was reopened yesterday morning by market officials, security personnel and shop owners.

The market, Maungtaw’s main shopping area, is now equipped with security cameras, officials said.

“Because of the terrorist attack on 25 August, our market had been closed for security reasons.

As the security situation has improved, we are reopening the market,” said Maungtaw Township municipal executive officer U Oo Shwe Maung.

The 453 shops in the market will be open from 8am to 6pm. About two third of the shops are expected to reopen. Clothing, and household goods are sold said U Oo Shwe Maung.

“The market has been closed since 25 August, 2017. Sixteen CCTV cameras have been installed for security reasons. However, monitors have not been open with security personnel”, said deputy executive officer Daw Ohnma Saw.

The reopening of the market was a long-awaited event for one merchant.

“I am a pensioner. I’ve been selling in this market for 10 years, and we were looking forward to reopening the market.

I can earn extra money by selling in the market, so it is a “mingalar” (auspiciousness) for me that the market is reopening. Gradually, it will become busy and business is expected to become better”, said U Aung Kyaw Zaw, a bookshop owner in the market.

Maungtaw Myoma Municipal Market was opened in 1998, with clothing, food and household goods from Sittway and Buthidaung. ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and officials observe Kan Thar Yar International Hospital in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA
Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring Resort crowded with visitors

THE Nay Pyi Taw Hot Spring Resort Camp was crowded with visitors during the holiday season.

The hot spring resort camp opened in 2010 with three regular bungalows and one sauna. Recently added were two duplex sauna rooms added to two outside sauna ponds for males, two outside ponds for females, three recreation halls and separate dressing rooms for men and women. The hot spring is located along the Nay Pyi Taw-Pinlaung Highway near Taunggyi village, Pinlaung Township, Taunggyi District in Shan State. From mile post number 24/4, the resort camp can be reached after taking a one-mile and 6-furlongs long road. The resort is located 1,500 feet above sea level, making for stunning views of the natural beauty of the surrounding areas.

The entrance fee to the resort is Ks100 per person, Ks500 per motorbike and Ks2,000 per car. The hot spring charge is Ks20,000 for per night in a bungalow.—Tin Soe Lwin

Over 600 houses to be constructed by UEHRD in Rakhine State

OVER 600 houses will be constructed more by the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development (UEHRD) for the implementation of rehabilitation in Rakhine State, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on Sunday.

“For the implementation of rehabilitation in Rakhine State, we have already received the permission to construct the houses in Taung Pyo Lat Wah and NgakyaY villages. Moreover, we also have permission to construct about 625 houses in Hla Pho Khaung village for the around 30,000 household members,” said Professor Dr Aung Tun Thein, Chief Coordinator of UEHRD. Currently, 40 local companies have been invited for the tender to construct more houses in Hla Pho Khaung village. The project will be implemented very soon.

“We will implement the project as soon as possible. We will give priority to the local companies to construct those houses. If they cannot finish the project, we will invite the companies from the middle part of Myanmar. Even those companies cannot handle the project, we will invite the companies from Yangon Region,” said U Kyaung Taung, patron of the construction group of UEHRD’s nine working committees. Currently, Taung Pyo Lat Wah and NgakyaY villages’ construction project are still under construction. So far, Taung Pyo Lat Wah village construction project has been completed 90 per cent and its will be completed very soon, it is learnt.—GNLM

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And, Insein Railway Station power supply project (2021-2025), advanced housing power supply project (2018-2025) and south Yangon Airport power supply project.

Myanmar generates electricity mainly from hydropower, natural gas and coal. It is expected that hydropower generation will account for 53 per cent and thermal power generating for 47 per cent this year.—GNLM

Nine Chinese nationals repatriated from Myanmar for illegal gold mining

NINE Chinese nationals were transferred to Lashio from Tachilek by air yesterday evening for repatriating from Myanmar.

Nine Chinese citizens namely Mr. Lin Qingxing, Mr. Yu Jiangjun, Mr. Tan Shie, Mr. Deng Zhengxiu, Mr. Liu Shengmin, Mr. Chen Aoshuang, Mr. Hou Youxian, Mr. Xiao Hongliang and Mr. Zhou Gouliang were sent to Lashio Airport by local immigration officials led by U Aung Hlaing Win, a deputy staff officer from Mongbynat Office of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population. They were handed over to local Chinese authorities through Muse border gate under the supervision of an immigration office in Northern Shan State.

The deported Chinese nationals were arrested for illegal gold mining near a village in Tachilek Township, Eastern Shan State on 10 April 2017.

They were released from prison yesterday after they served six months imprisonments with hard labour under a verdict made by Tachilek Court.—Myanmar Digital News

One man arrested for transporting guns on Mae Sai-Tachilek border

ONE man was arrested in Tachilek, Eastern Shan State for transporting two guns through Mae Sai Creek yesterday.

Local police force led by Police Inspector Ko Ko Oo seized two barrelled-guns and a gun case from a man identified as Kya Yaw, son of U Yaw Tu of Ponseik Village in Kong Tung Township who crossed illegally Mae Sai Creek while they were on patrol. The weapons possessors confessed that the guns were taken from an unknown man in Mae Sai, Thailand.

He has been charged with possession of two guns by Tachilek police station.—Myanmar Digital News

Kya Yaw detained due to transport guns on Mae Sai-Tachilek border. PHOTO: MNA