Women artists present their works in Mandalay

ARTWORKS created by 38 female artists who completed their studies at the National University of Arts and Culture (Mandalay) were displayed in Mandalay on Saturday. The collective art exhibition titled “Colourful Flower” will run until 25 January, showcasing more than 120 works with a wide range of styles and media through Mandalay Hill Art Gallery located at the base of the Mandalay Hill near the prominent lion statues in Aungmyethazan Township.

Subject matters include still life, traditional arts and culture and Mandalay landscapes. Senior artists around the region including U Zaw Win, U Khin Maung San and Tapawaddy U Win Maung, an archaeologist-cum-historian, and art lovers attended the opening of the exhibition on 21 January. This is the third time a large group of women artists have organised such a collective art exhibition in Mandalay. The art exhibition continues to open for the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Large numbers of nature lovers gather in Sonye Natural Lake in high season

VISITORS to the Sonye Lake are on the rise in high season this year, enjoying the natural beauty of the four-mile-wide lake by riding traditional boats, locals say.

Lotus, water convolvulus, water hyacinth and aquatic herbs thrive in Sonye Lake. The lake, which has a rich diversity of fish, is also a good place to see a wide variety of birds.

Traditional lotus weaving businesses and fish farming are the main pursuits of communities around the lake. Residents living in the surrounding areas of the natural lake and nearby villages mainly carry out manufacturing of lotus robes on a commercial scale. The lotus-based products have been exported to Inlay and Taunggyi areas of Shan State as well as some foreign countries.

A local woman can produce 1.5 ticals of lotus yarns a day. One tical of lotus yarn is worth Ks5,000.

Sonye Lake is situated in Ingon Village, Sonye Village-tract, Sintgang Township, Mandalay Region. The majority of visitors usually take photographs with lotus while visiting the lake by boat. A boat ride costs Ks1,000 per person.

Locals generate a handsome income thanks to the growing numbers of visitors to the lake.—Khin Maung Lwin

Crime NEWS

Three bodies discovered in Maungtaw Township

LOCALS found three bodies buried in an area west of Pada- kar Village in Maungtaw Township on Saturday and informed the police.

Local security forces confirmed that the three bodies found are those of three missing men: Mummad Shawphi; Son- tar Ahmed and Mummad Su- ping. The three men went missing from the village on 20 January.

The bodies were sent to Maungtaw People’s Hospital. A murder case has been opened at the Kyekkyayung Police Station and police are investigating.—Myanmar News Agency

Troops seize illegal timber, weapons in Tarmoenyae

TATMAWW troops seized arms and illegal timber from a vehicle during a surprise check in Tarmoenyae in northern Shan State yesterday.

The police intercepted and searched a Mitsubishi Pajero and discovered one pistol loaded with seven bullets and 740 pieces of sawed timber. The troops will hand over U Sai Kyaw Win, the driver of the car, and U Than Maung, who was a passenger on board carrying the pistol, to Tarmoenyae Police Station, according to the local authorities.—Myanmar News Agency

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Seized timber in Tarmoenyae are confiscated. PHOTO: MNA

IllegaI timber, vehicles confiscated in Mangton, Nangkham Townships

FOUR illegal trucks used for carrying timber, one crane, one car, a truck carrying wood weighing about five tonnes, two vehicles carrying 39 50-gallon tanks with diesel fuel and a Toyota Prado carrying cement were confiscated by local authorities in Mangton Township in northern Shan State.

Troops from the Tatmadaw found the vehicles during an area clearance operation on 20th January.

Similarly, troops of the Tatmadaw found and confiscated one 12-wheeled vehicle carrying 39 tonnes of hardwood and six trucks about 2 miles west of Mongwee Village in Nangkham Township on the same day.

Myanmar has lost an average of 17 per cent of its forests each year from 2010 to 2015, leaving a total of only 45 per cent of the country’s forest cover, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation.

An impending ban on all logging in the country has spurred a flurry of illegal logging. The confiscated vehicles and timber will be handed over to the Forest Department, according to the local authorities.—Myanmar News Agency

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