

Greening project to benefit Rakhine people



Deputy Director U Thein Lwin inspects chain link weaving in Payarpaung Village, Kyauktaw Township. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

THE Myaseinyaung Kyeywa project, a rural greening project covering 124 villages in Rakhine State, will be launched in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), according to Rakhine State Rural Development Department.

Of the 124 villages, 50 are from Buthedaung, Maungtau and Yathedaung townships, and the project will be imple-

mented with a six-month budget.

"We are going to implement the project in Buthedaung, Maungtau and Yathedaung townships during a six-month period in the 2018-2019 FY.

However, the said three townships will be left out in the one-year budget, which covers 74 villages from 11 other townships," said U Nay Htet Shein

of the department.

"The government will provide a fund of Ks30 million for each unit of the project. It is not a loan, but a revolving fund. Normally, a unit has 80 villages," he added.

Priority will be given to villages that are poor and have the potential for farming, according to the rule of law. The funds



Homemade candles in Kyar Ma Tauk Village, Sittway. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**



Flower garden in Thein Tan Village, Sittway. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**

will be used for farming, fishery, rural electrification, production and vocational programmes.

In every village, an elected village committee will use the funds to disburse loans to the villagers. It will fix the loan amount, interest rate and rules.

Union-level, region-/state-level, district-level and township-level action commit-

tees and regulatory bodies will be set up to run the project systematically and prevent corruption or other misconduct.

The interest rate will be between 0.5 and 1.5 per cent. "It is much lower than market rates, which range from 5 to 10 per cent," he told reporters.

The project covers 17 townships of Rakhine State. ■

Tourists to be digitally tracked in Mandalay Thingyan

INTERNATIONAL tourists spending time in Mandalay during the Thingyan Festival will be recorded digitally said Assistant-Director U San Yu of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism (Upper Myanmar Sub department-Mandalay).

Using digital technology can effectively record the number of foreign tourists so that the tourism sector can be developed consistently.

The Sub department will also distribute key chains to tourists in areas they often visit to take record of their numbers manually.

"If we can know the exact number of tourists that come in then we can build the necessary buildings and facilities for them and also effectively plan promotions for them," said U San Yu. The data will be collect-



Tourists participating in Thingyan Festival. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

ed and categorized based on their country, age, and gender orientation. "We have to make sure our traditional ways are not lost as we modernize the tourism industry," said U San Yu.

"In countries with successful tourism sectors, they've managed to keep their traditions so it attracts tourists who want to see this preserved culture," he said.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house) ■

COZY WORLD park opens in PyinOoLwin

COZY WORLD recreational park was opened near Anisakan Airport in PyinOoLwin on 24 March.

Construction of the park began in October 2017 on the 5 acre plot of land. The park includes a waterslide, rope bridges, fields of strawberries, dragon fruits, grapes and other flowers said Ko Chan Nyein Aung, the owner.

"I want children to play around freely and for families to spend time together," said

Ko Chan Nyein Aung. He said there are plans to expand the park in the future if it is successful. He said all the fruits are organic and he allows visitors to pluck some but he sells more by the kilo. Entry fees to COZY WORLD are prices at Ks500 and opens everyday from 9am to 6pm. As commemoration of its opening, the park will have free entry for all of April.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house) ■



COZY WORLD park in PyinOoLwin, entry free for all of April. **PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**