

“The priority goals of the Union Government I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018)

“Not only in Rakhine State which has received the attention of the world, but in the entire country let us strive collectively for security of mind and body.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of NLD Government on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018)

## Meeting held for Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Maha Thingyan Festival

TO successfully organise the 1379 ME Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival, a coordination meeting of the steering committee and sub-committees was held in Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee meeting hall yesterday morning.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee Chairman, Mayor Dr. Myo Aung attended and delivered a speech.

The meeting was also attended by chairmen and members of the steering committee and sub-committees, Nay Pyi Taw Council member Col Min Naung and U Aye Maung Sein, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee members U Aye Myint, U Min Thu, Daw Sabe Htway and U Min Thein, Permanent Secretary and heads of departments, officials force Nay Pyi Taw command and Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, officials from Nay Pyi Taw Council, Myanmar Radio and Television, Department of culture, Special Investigation Branch, members of Rakhine Cultural group, Nay Pyi Taw Fire

Brigade, Nay Pyi Taw Police, Nay Pyi Taw traffic police and Shwe Than Lwin Company.

First, Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival Steering Committee Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Mayor Dr. Myo Aung delivered an opening speech to successfully organise the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Maha Thingyan pandal.

Next, chairmen and secretaries of sub-committees and meeting attendees explained the status of preparation and works conducted.

In the townships of Nay Pyi Taw, a total of 22 pandals, including the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Maha Thingyan pandal, were being constructed and walking Thingyan will also be organised, it is learnt. The opening and closing of the Nay Pyi Taw Mayor Maha Thingyan Festival will be broadcast live by Myanmar Radio and Television. Rakhine nationals in Nay Pyi Taw are also learnt to participate in the festival with a Rakhine traditional Thingyan pandal.—Myanmar News Agency ■



The coordination meeting to organise the 1379 ME Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Festival held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Officials from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement hand over cash aid to pregnant women, children below two years in Maungtaw yesterday. **PHOTO: AYE MIN THU, KYAW THU WIN**

## Cash aid provided for pregnant women, children in Maungtaw

TO improve their health and nutrition, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement provided cash aid to expecting women and children below two years in Maungtaw yesterday.

Under the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) programme, the ministry's officials and leaders of the villages provided Ks90,000 for six months to each expecting woman and children below two years in Maungtaw.

“For the first time, some 2,180 pregnant women were provided Ks45,000 each for three months, amounting to more than Ks70 million. The current programme is being conducted for two times, Second and Third. Earlier, more

than Ks340 million was provided to 3,878 pregnant women in 73 village-tracts of Maungtaw Township without any discrimination. Health care was also provided to them by the public health department. The aim of the cash programme is to develop the body and brain growth of the child. Our ministry will also participate in receiving returnees. They will be accommodated at reception centres and provided food and other things,” said Ko Kyaw Aung Sein, a person responsible for facilitating the MCCT programme, during the cash aid providing ceremony held in Myoma (east) Ward in Maungtaw.

“I came to receive the cash aid. I am nine months pregnant. This time, I received Ks90,000

for six months. I am grateful to the officials of the health department and the social welfare department for their support. I will use the cash aid for the newborn's development. It is very convenient, as hospitals and clinics are within our reach,” said Ma Khin Soe Soe, a pregnant woman from Maungtaw Myoma (east) Ward.

Under the MCCT programme, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing cash aid in Rakhine State, Chin State and the Naga self-administered zone. The ministry is also providing social welfare facilities, especially to vulnerable persons, pregnant women and elderly persons. —Kyaw Thu Win, Aye Min Thu ■



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko visits Mway Taw Kakku Pagoda (complex) in Kakku Village Tract, near Inle Lake yesterday. **PHOTO: SAI THAN KYAW (TAUNGGYI)**

## Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko donates cash to Mway Taw Kakku Pagoda (complex)

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko donated cash to Mway Taw Kakku Pagoda (complex) in Kakku Village Tract, Kyauktalonegyi Town (near Inle Lake), yesterday morning. The cash donation was for the maintenance of the cluster of pagodas in the Mway Taw Kakku Pagoda (complex).

The pagodas in the complex

were damaged from natural disasters. Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko donated Ks2.5 million to the secretary of the pagoda trustee. Some 1,038 pagodas were damaged, while 399 have already been repaired. At least four are still under repair, while 160 still require the pagoda umbrellas to be hoisted above them. A total of 475 pagodas still have to

be repaired. Also present at the cash donation ceremony were Shan State Minister for Bamar Ethnic Affairs Dr. Aung Than Maung, the Director-General of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Assistant Directors, the State Religious Affairs Director, the Mway Taw Kakku Pagoda trustee and other guests. — Sai Than Kyaw (Taunggyi) ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Mr Lee Sang-hwa, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Korean Ambassador to Myanmar

SENIOR GENERAL Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Lee Sang-hwa at Bayint Naung Guesthouse in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, matters related to the status of the

peace process in Myanmar, co-operation between the armed forces of the two countries in defence matters, and cooperation for the development of Myanmar's agricultural sector and other economic sectors were discussed. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## F-7 jet from Toungoo Air Base crashes during training

THE F-7 jet from Toungoo Air Base Headquarters crashed 3 miles to the west of the airfield after reaching an altitude of some 500 metres. It was conducting a training flight.

A search and rescue team from Toungoo Air Base found the remains of the aircraft between Kyunkone Village and North Ye Kyi Village near Taungoo. The pilot, Major Arkar Win, was able to eject from the plane and deploy an emergency parachute, after which he was taken to a military hospital in Toungoo for treatment of the wounds he



**PHOTO: MNA**

suffered while ejecting from the plane. However, he succumbed to the injuries shortly after be-

ing treated at the hospital. An investigation is being conducted into the crash. — MNA ■

## Isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers expected in Bago, Taninthayi regions

Isolated to scattered rainfall or thundershowers are expected in the Bago and Taninthayi regions, as well as in Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states, as it is slightly cloudy over the North Bay and West Central Bay, and partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Ben-

gal, according to the Myanmar Daily weather report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday evening.

The forecast for Yangon, Mandalay and the neighbouring areas for today is isolated rain or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 100

per cent, while the forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and the neighbouring area for today is rainfall or thundershowers, and the degree of certainty is 100 per cent. Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar's waters. The wave height will be some 3-5 feet off and along Myanmar coast. — GNLM ■

## New homes, support for Muslims

THE Maungtau Township administrator presented new houses, food and utensils to Muslim households in the Maungtau region Pantawpyin Village Tract, Ywathit Village, yesterday afternoon.

Some 22 Muslim households from this village were provided with new houses, necessary provisions such as rice, cooking oil, food, clothing, blankets, mosquito nets, kitchen utensils such as pots, cups and plates, and solar lamps in Ywathit Vil-

lage by Maungtau Township Administrator U Myint Khaing and a delegation. The village administrator and other families accepted the gifts.

Pantawpyin Village had been burnt in a terror incident. Later, the government cleared the land, and the Yangon Region government constructed 22 new houses. Each house has a sturdy fence around it, a bedroom, kitchen, bathroom, toilet and a hand-powered water pump. — Kyaw Thu Win, Aye Min Thu ■



**PHOTO: KYAW THU WIN, AYE MIN THU**

## Yangon Investment Forum 2018 to be held in May

By May Thet Hnin

In a bid to boost foreign investments, the Yangon Investment Forum 2018 will be held on 9 May, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

He made the announcement during the 16th regular meeting of Vice President U Myint Swe with Myanmar entrepreneurs last Monday at the office of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

“The Yangon region government receives enquiries from foreign investors, and some are heavy enterprises with many affiliated companies. We will focus on those enterprises within three years,” said U Phyo Min Thein.

The forum will provide information about customs regulations, tax relief or exemption. Also, existing investment sectors and other investment opportunities will be revealed.

“We will suggest new industrial zones and provide information on the labour market situation. The effort to enhance foreign investments is the first priority of the Yangon region government,” he noted.

The Myanmar Investment

Law and Myanmar Companies Law have been amended in the incumbent government's period. Moreover, the new Myanmar Investment Law will provide tax relief to investors depending on the developments made in the regions and states. Investors in remote areas can enjoy a tax break of seven years.

U Aung Naing Oo, director-general of Myanmar Investment Commission, said the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) will organise the investment forum.

Currently, 60 per cent of foreign investments are made in the Yangon region. Mandalay attracts 30 per cent of the investments. Other regions and states obtain only a small portion of the investments, according to statistics released by DICA.

There are more than 5,800 foreign enterprises in Myanmar, with capital mostly flowing into the manufacturing sector. This is followed by the real estate and other service sectors.

Investments worth US\$5,300 million were made in the country, as of a month prior to the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Singapore is the largest investor in Myanmar.

## 72 villages may face water shortage in Mandalay

THE Mandalay Region Rural Development Department is planning to provide water to 72 villagers in 13 townships, which could face water shortage problems, said U Aye Min Naing, Assistant Director of the Rural Area Development Department.

Last year, the Mandalay Region Rural Development Department spent Ks7.2 million to provide water to 98 villages. This year, the department submitted a proposal to the union government on the budget for the local people.

“Previously, we dug for groundwater in some villages. However, the groundwater seems to have dried up. We will distribute water to the villages through fire engines, water container vehicles and private vehicles. This year, the Mandalay Region government

will dig water ponds,” said U Aye Min Naing.

The department has collected data of the villages that could face water shortage this year. These are six villages in Thabeikkyin Township, three villages in Kyaukse Township, seven villages in Tada-U Township, one village in Myitha Township, four villages in Meiktila Township, 10 villages in Ma Hlaing Township, three villages in Wundwin Township, 11 villages in Thazi Township, one village in Myingyan Township, five villages in Ngatogyi Township, nine villages in Pyawbwe Township, one village in Nyaung U Township and three villages in Kyaukpadaung Township. The Mandalay region government dug 43 water ponds by spending Ks352.6 million in the 2017-2018 fiscal year.—Khine Sat Wai



in  
Picture

### Unexpected thunderstorm hits Yangon

Residents clear havoc in Yangon after the Thunderstorms, lightning, isolated heavy rainfall, and gale-force winds hit the city. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (NEWS ON PAGE 1)

## Rakhine Government receives US Senate Committee member, party

The Rakhine State Government received a US delegation, led by Charlotte B. Oldham-Moore, senior professional staff member of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, at the State Government's office in Rakhine State yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to the

resettlement of returnees, the status of preparation at the reception and transit centres for the returnees, international aid for reconstruction works, monthly information gathering trips by local and foreign media to Maungdaw region, the construction of houses for people in the IDP camps, and the aid provided by the United Nations

(UN) and the international non-governmental organisations (INGO) in the state.

During their visit to Rakhine State, the US delegation also met with representatives of political parties, officials from the UN and INGO, and Muslims in Thet Kal Pyin Village and Aung Mingalar Ward.—Tin Htun (IPRD) ■



The US delegation, led by Charlotte B. Oldham-Moore are seen at the meeting with Rakhine State Government in Sittway, Rakhine yesterday. PHOTO: MNA