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People celebrate Buddha Day nationwide



Buddhists pour water on a Bodhi tree in Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon as part of Buddha Day traditions on the full moon of Kason. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

PEOPLE celebrated Buddha Day, which falls on the full moon day of Kason, by pouring water on Bodhi trees at the pagodas nationwide in Myanmar

yesterday.

Buddhists observed the Eight Precepts, meditated and performed meritorious deeds on this day of great religious significance. The Kason festival of

pouring water on Bodhi trees is among the 12 festivals held in their respective months.

The full moon of Kason is significant, because it was on this day that Gautama Buddha

received His prophecy from Lord Buddha Dipankara. He was also born on this day, attained Enlightenment and entered Nirvana.

On this auspicious day, peo-

ple pour water on the Bodhi tree, the same species of Bodhi tree in Gaya, India, under which He gained enlightenment more than 2,500 years ago.

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Poisonous smoke from garbage fire to be controlled in three days

AUTHORITIES announced yesterday that the smoke from the garbage fire in the western outskirts of Yangon would be controlled within three days.

"After reviewing the ground situation, we adopted a new strategy and divided the

garbage into four zones. We launched an operation against smoke in the first zone today," said U Myat Thu, Deputy Director-General of the Fire Services Department.

"We met with success today. We have targeted to con-

trol the smoke in the remaining three zones in three days," he added.

A combined force of firefighters, Tatmadaw men, staff of the Yangon City Development Committee and some 900 volunteers will participate

in the fight against the poisonous smoke from the garbage fire with the use of Bio Foam and water.

Authorities have adopted a new strategy to control the smoke from the garbage, though 90 per cent of the garbage fire in

the western outskirts of Yangon is under control.

"Experts from ASEAN and Thailand are here, and they also agreed with the new strategy," said U Maung Maung Soe, Yangon Mayor.

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We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.

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



Let us strive collectively for the emergence of a just and free nation – a nation which will guarantee equal rights and equality, a nation which practices a pure ideology.

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

Poisonous smoke from garbage fire to be controlled in three days



A back hoe clears a path through the garbage dump for firefighters to reach afflicted areas. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**



Firefighters douse the garbage dump with bio foam and water to extinguish the underground fire. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

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The fires started at a garbage dump in Hlinethaya on the afternoon of 21 April and burned

for several days, causing health hazards in nearby areas due to the smoke and carbon monoxide emitted by the fire. Five clinics

have been set up nearby villagers to provide healthcare to the people and about 60 ambulances are also being used to send patients

to the hospital when necessary.

“Four patients including a three-year old child received treatment today for smoke inha-

lation,” said Dr. Thida Soe, Medical Superintendent of Hlinethaya Township People’s Hospital.—Zaw Gyi ■

Second meeting for Rakhine State image promotion film

A MEETING was held in the MRTV on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday to discuss production of a film that depicts the beauty of Rakhine State and its people.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said he wishes for the plot of the film to reveal the scenic beauty of Rakhine State, the sincerity and the socio-economic status of its people, promote Rakhine State’s image and display positivity of Myanmar as a whole.

This was followed by discussions on screenplay and the film production process by U Ye Naing Director-General of the Information and Public Re-

lations Department, Patrons of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Bagyi Soe Moe and U Aung Lwin, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization Chairman U Zin Wine, Shwe Than Lwin Media Co. Ltd CEO U Zaw Thet Maung, Forever Group CEO U Win Maw, Mingalar Co. Ltd Chairman U Zaw Min, Directors Zinyaw Maung Maung, Maung Myo Min, Nyi Nyi Htun Lwin and Zaw Myint Oo, and Myanmar Music Association General Secretary U Zaw Htoo Aung.

The meeting discussed hosting of the competition for documentaries promoting Rakhine’s image and similar future events.

In the morning before the



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the meeting for the production of a film that will portray Rakhine State’s scenery and honesty of the people. **PHOTO: MNA**

meeting, Dr. Pe Myint visited the MRTV Yegu Transmitter Site on Waizayandar Road in Mayangone Township. MRTV Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint Aung explained

the daily operation of the site to the Union Minister and the Union Minister then instructed on natural disaster and fire prevention to be put into consideration for the site.

The Union Minister then inspected the construction of the transmitter, media related buildings and staff residences in the compound. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Holy religious objects hoisted atop Botahtaung Pagoda

A consecration ceremony and the hoisting of the golden umbrella, vane and diamond bud atop Botahtaung Pagoda in Botahtaung Township, Yangon, was held yesterday morning.

The attendees received the Nine Precepts from Yangon Region Thanlyin Minkyaung Monastery Sayadaw of Bhaddanta Sandima Bhivamsa.

The members of the Sangha recited the parittas.

The congregators, led by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Natural Resources

and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and wife, and donors handed over the diamond bud, the vane and the golden umbrella, as well as of fertories. The Amyotha Hluttaw deputy speaker, union ministers, the Yangon Region chief minister and wife, the Yangon Region Hluttaw speaker and regional ministers and donors conveyed the diamond bud, the umbrella and the vane around the pagoda clockwise. The religious objects were then fixed with the pagoda before the members of the Sangha consecrated the pagoda.

—Myanmar News Agency ■



Buddhist devotees attend the consecration ceremony and the hoisting of the golden umbrella, vane and diamond bud atop the Kyaikdayap Sandaw-U Pagoda in Botahtaung. **PHOTO:MNA**

UEHRD needs cooperation from communities, INGOs to make its works a success

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye has stressed the role of international organizations working in Rakhine State in making the undertakings of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State-UEHRD a success.

Speaking at the meeting with governmental officials working for stability and socio economic development in Rakhine State, MPs and representatives from communities in Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye conveyed the feeling of ethnic community in Rakhine State saying that ethnic

communities considered the works of international organizations are unfair.

In his capacity as the Vice Chairman of UEHRD, the Union Minister said UEHRD is working for resettlement and rehabilitation of the displaced persons, for improvement of their socio economy, and for making Rakhine State free from conflicts.

To achieve stability and socio-economic development in Rakhine State, security at border areas is important, he added.

“Despite challenges for security at the border, cooperation from ethnic people of Rakhine, Daing Net, Khami, Maramargyi, Thet and Kaman and Hidus and Islamic communities is required,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

“Not only Islamic community there, but also ethnic minorities and Hindus are facing obstacles,” said the Union Minister.

“Free movement means travelling with documents and following local instructions and respecting the rule of law,” said the Vice Chairman of the UEHRD.

He also urged the media to release reports with accuracy and fairness, and to clearly understand what the authorities meant.

He also stressed the need to distribute the outcomes of the discussion of representatives from the government and different communities in Rakhine State after the meeting.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Rakhine Chief Minister tours Maungtaw District



Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Union Minister U Khin Maung Tin inspect a temporary housing at a reception camp in Maungtaw. **PHOTO:MNA**

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister of Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin and state ministers visited Kainggyi Village, Maungtaw Township, on 28 April, where houses for the Mro people are being constructed.

The funds for the construction were donated by the Yangon region and Bago region governments.

Of the 56 houses donated by the Yangon region government, 40 have been completed, and of the 64 houses donated by the Bago region government,

some 18 have been completed.

The chief minister and his entourage visited the finished houses in Pan Taw Pyin Village and checked on the Muslim residents there. The entourage also inspected the temporary residence for returnees in Hla Pho Kaung transit centre and the construction status of houses in Oh-Htein Village.

The chief minister and his entourage then inspected the preparations being made for the repatriation process at Hla Pho Kaung transit centre and Nga Ku Ya reception centre yesterday.—Myo Myint ■



Dr. Win Myat Aye addresses the meeting of government officials, MPs and representatives of communities in Rakhine State, and foreign dignitaries in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**