

Officials meet to plan malaria elimination in region by 2030

THE Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe separately received World Health Organization (WHO) Southeast Asia Regional Director Dr. Poonam Khetrapal Singh, Asia-Pacific Director Dr. Shin Young-Soo and the Asia Pacific Leaders Malaria Alliance (APLMA) Board Chair Ms. Ruby Shang yesterday morning at the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting of the senior officials of the Malaria Elimination in Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) by 2030 was held in the Grand Amara Hotel at 10 am, where the Union Minister said the occurrence of malaria was reduced to 86 per cent while fatalities were reduced to 91 per cent in GMS over the past five years.

Based on the WHO Global Technical Strategy and Strategy for Malaria Elimination in

the Greater Mekong Subregion, Myanmar has drawn up and conducted the National Malaria Elimination Project. The projects need to be systematically conducted by responsible persons and partner organisations. Although occurrence of malaria has declined, it is still occurring in remote and border areas and among migrating people.

Afterwards, the Union Minister, WHO Southeast Asia Regional Director, Asia Pacific Director, officials from GMS countries discussed about Malaria Elimination in GMS by 2030.

The Director General of the Ministry of Health and Sports read the “Ministerial Call for Action to Eliminate Malaria in the Greater Mekong Subregion before 2030” on behalf of GMS countries, followed by discussions in support made by representatives from Cam-

bodia, the People’s Republic of China, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. Two regional directors from WHO, representatives from APLMA, Civil Society Organisations, Asia Development Bank, USAID and the Global Fund also spoke in support.

In the evening, a signing ceremony for “Global Fund NFM-2 Grant Agreements (2018-2020)” was held and Global Fund Interim Executive Director Dr. Marijke Wijnroks, UNOPS Asia Regional Director Mr. Sanjay Mathur, Save the Children Country Director Mr. Michael McGrath, representatives from Civil Societies representatives Daw Nwe Zin Win signed the agreements for US\$130 million from the Global Fund to prevent and treat HIV/AIDS and US\$94 million provided for TB treatment, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency