EU, Myanmar sign agreement on deployment of EU mission to observe elections

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The European Union (EU) and Myanmar Friday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the observation of the forthcoming elections planned for 8th November 2015.

The document provides for the deployment of a full EU Election Observation Mission (EOM) in Myanmar as part of the EU’s support to the country’s democratic transition process. The decision to deploy an EOM follows an official invitation extended by the Myanmar authorities and enjoys the support of many other political and civil society actors. At the Union Election Commission (UEC) on Friday, EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia, and Union Election Commissioner in charge of International Observation, Dr. Daw Myint Kyi signed the Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate the deployment of the EOM, witnessed by Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye.

The EU is a leading global actor in election observation and has successfully deployed more than 120 EOMs worldwide over the past decade. The EOM will comprise more than 100 short and long-term observers from many of the Member States of the European Union in addition to observers from Canada, Switzerland and Norway and diplomats from embassies of EU countries accredited to Myanmar. The EOM will remain in Myanmar until the electoral process is completed. Its long-term presence will help provide an in-depth-assessment of the process in line with international standards. The EU provides substantial technical and financial assistance to Myanmar and has earmarked 10 million euros (14.5 billion Myanmar Kyats) to support the country’s electoral process.

Public Health Dept lends a hand to flood victims in Sagaing

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—Emergency response squads from the Public Health Department and specialists from Kalay General Hospital provided healthcare services to local residents in flood affected areas of Kalay Township in Sagaing Region on Thursday.

Wells and tanks were chlorinated, along with other works aimed at improving sanitation levels. Meanwhile, members of the Traditional Medicine Department treated residents in Sagaing region, in addition to those in Chin and Rakhine states and Magway and Ayeyawady regions.

Since the flash floods began in July, the Ministry of Health has responded by opening 149 temporary dispensaries and 189 mobile health clinics. It has also distributed chlorine powder, mosquito nets, water purification tablets and dengue fever test kits to flood affected communities.

Agriculture and Irrigation Ministry outlines bean cultivation trial

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—Myanmar has planted over 200 acres of star bean on a trial basis and has plans to export the crop. Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Friday.

Responding to a question on cultivation of the crop, the deputy minister told the Lower House that farmers had permission to grow the crop, also known as the winged bean.

In other matters, the deputy minister said the ministry was in the process of transferring a plot of land in Mandalay, including a construction site, to the government.

Representatives discussed two bills during the session, passing the bill on roads and bridges.

UEC postpones scrutiny of candidature

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Aug—The Union Election Commission announced Friday that it has postponed the scrutiny of candidate nominations for the upcoming general election, from 18 to 31 August.

It is difficult for incumbent members of parliament to undergo the scrutiny process, the announcement said.—MNA

Dredging targets dengue mosquitoes in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 Aug—The Mandalay City Development Committee dredged drains in Chanayethazan and Mahaungmye townships Thursday to improve the flow of water and reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease.

They cleaned drains along 76th and 81st streets spanning the two townships as part of a campaign to prevent the breeding of mosquitoes that spread dengue haemorrhagic fever.

Secretary of MCDC U Khin Maung Tin and officials inspected progress of the dredging and urged local residents to assist departmental officials with in their sanitation efforts.

Maung Pyi Thu
(Mandalay)

Cinema reopen in Hlinethaya Tsp

YANGON, 20 Aug—The cinema formerly known as Waziya (2) reopened as Mingalar Waziya Cinema on Friday in Hlinethaya Township. It was renovated by Mingalar Company and now features a Christie Digital Cinema Projector, 5.1/7.1 Dolby Digital Surround Sound and screens 2D and 3D films.

The cinema has five screenings a day, can seat 615 people in total and is fully air-conditioned. Ticket prices range from K800 to K2,000.—Yi Yi Thant