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SOLUTIONS FOR RAKHINE

Gov't welcomes recommendations by Advisory Commission on Rakhine State

THE Union Government welcomed the interim recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State to address the problems in Rakhine State.

Following the commission's press conference in Yangon yesterday, the State Counsellor's Office issued a statement welcoming the recommendations that include a renewed call for unimpeded access for humanitarian groups and journalists to the affected areas in northern Rakhine and for independent and impartial investigations of the allegations of crimes committed on and since 9 October 2016.

"The Government would like to express its sincere thanks to the Chairperson Dr Kofi Annan and members of the Commission for their visionary and constructive approach to the need for stability, peace and prosperity in Rakhine," said the press release. "The Government concurs with the recommendations set forth in the report and believes that these will have a positive impact on the process of the national reconciliation and development," said the press release.

"The large majority of the recommendations will be implemented promptly with a view to maximum effectiveness.



SEE PAGE 2 >> Former U.N. chief Kofi Annan is seen in a video conference in Yangon, Myanmar, March 16, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Health ministry tells nurses to submit their difficulties to MNMC

THE Ministry of Health has asked disgruntled nurses to submit their complaints to the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council, saying that there would be no loss incurred in signing an agreement that requires them to work for the government for three years after graduation.

The remarks came at a press conference at the ministry in Yangon yesterday following protests Tuesday by hundreds of nurses who believe the agreement is unfair.

The priority of the council is putting patient safety and quality

assurance first, which is why the MNMC urges accepting the agreement and to submit their difficulties to the Council, said Dr. Phyu Phyu, the chairperson of the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council at the press conference.

Dr. Phyu Phyu stated that

there is a severe shortage of nurses in government hospitals and a high rate of absence, which prompted the 2015 agreement requiring three years of civil service upon earning a nursing degree/diploma. The MNMC issues Registration IDs to nurses and midwives practicing in

accord with rules and regulations, and issues a 2-year valid license upon entering the workforce. The MNMC maintains a rigorous process in ensuring nurses and midwives receive valid registration licenses and forbids practicing without one. See page 2 >>

KBZ BANK
STRENGTH OF MYANMAR

သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

MPs debate Ks30 billion allocation for sufficient power supply to Yangon Region in summer

HLUTTAW representatives proceeded to discuss an appeal issued by the President on allocating Ks30 billion for supplying adequate electricity to the Yangon Region during the summer in accord with the 2016 Budget Allotment Law.

Similarly, eleven Hluttaw representatives also discussed an appeal by the President on borrowing 23.883 million euros from Germany's KfW Development Bank for the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy in supplying adequate electricity to 416 villages in Southern Shan State.

Afterwards, U Than Soe (Economics) from Yangon constituency (4) discussed an appeal by the President on borrowing US\$200 million from the World Bank under their Development Policy Operation (DPO).

Then Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced questions and topics raised and discussed in yesterday's meetings will be replied and opened for discussion in the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting's 17th day which will be held today.

Ks5.5 billion from President's special fund goes to highway project

Special maintenance work for the new Phaungpyin-Pinlebu Road, an important road for the development of the upper Chindwin River region, that will be constructed using the president's special fund was discussed yesterday in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Members of Parliament discussed the case sent by the president to spend Ks 5.5 billion from the president's special fund under the 2016 Union Budget Law for performing special maintenance work for the 29 mile-long road in Sagaing Region at the 16th day of fourth regular session of second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

"The road which would be constructed is important for the development of the upper Chindwin Region. I support it," said U Tin Maung Win, Member of Parliament for No. 10 constituency in Sagaing Region.

He added that the government needs to upgrade not only the highway but also all the connected roads to be travelled in



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

any season and to execute bridges and roads for long-term use after being upgraded.

"I welcome the implementation of the road because the upper Chindwin can be reached not only by waterway but land route. It should be done for the people who depend only on the risky water transport," said Daw Yin Min

Hlaing, Member of Constituency for Gangaw Constituency.

She highlighted the responsible persons when presenting the road implementation section and pointed out the need to present more details in the implementation plan so that quality roads can be built by responsible use of public money spent.

The speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the recording of cases for the reforming of territorial extension and re-naming, to extend town, quarters and villages in Regions and States sent by the president office, under section 58 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law. —Myanmar News Agency

Government welcomes recommendations by Advisory Commission on Rakhine State



Members of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State at the press conference in which the commission's recommendations for the Rakhine issue were released. PHOTO: PHOE KHWA

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The implementation of a few will be contingent upon the situation on the ground but we believe there will be speedy progress".

Kofi Annan also recommended that Myanmar should allow the Muslim communities of Rakhine State to return to their villages and ultimately close down camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

More than 120,000 people have been living in what were meant as temporary shelters for IDPs since bouts of communal violence roiled the state in 2012.

"It's really about time they close the camps and allow the people in the camps, particularly those who have gone through the

(citizenship) verification process, access to freedom of movement and all rights of citizenship," Annan told Reuters by telephone from Geneva. Hundreds of displaced people, whose return home would be feasible and safe, should be moved back "immediately, as a first step and sign of goodwill," the panel said. "The Government of Myanmar will be happy to cooperate with the Advisory Commission in its endeavours to assist us in finding viable and sustainable solutions to the complex situation in the Rakhine State," said the statement from the State Counsellor's Office released yesterday.

In related news, the European Union yesterday called for the

United Nations to send an international fact-finding mission urgently to Myanmar to investigate allegations of torture, rapes and executions by the military against the Rohingya Muslim minority.

The UN is scheduled to vote on the resolution on March 23-24.

If adopted, the Council would "dispatch urgently an independent international fact-finding mission" to Myanmar to investigate violations "with a view to ensuring full accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims".—GNLM/Reuters contributed to this report

(Excerpts from the Interim Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State will be covered in tomorrow issue.)

Health ministry tells nurses to submit their difficulties to MNMC

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Those who fail to follow the agreement must pay Ks400,000.

The MNMC has the right to issue announcements, promulgations, rules and regulations under MNMC Section (52)-subsection (B). Which is why a recommendation letter similar to a license is being issued along with Registration IDs, and from the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) point of view the compulsory three-year service agreement will assist in opening opportunities for working in other ASEAN countries.

Various universities and training schools currently have over 9,000 trainees in attendance. Director General Dr. Myint Han of Health Department for Healing explained on the agreement signed by nurses to serve as public servants after their three years of study. They will be issued a nursing license and nursing ID card upon signing and allowed to

practice in private hospitals and clinics outside of the government working hours. There is also a high attrition rate among licensed nurses and various complications in appointing to regional and state hospitals.

Professor Dr Thet Naing Win, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Sports, said that the Ministry of Health and Sports has been performing its duties of upgrading the standard of the whole populace's health, protecting medical expenses of the people from being too high, providing more health care services towards the people as much as possible, by laying down better health policies. The State has granted larger budget allotments year after year.

Nationwide, there are 1,123 hospitals, with a nursing staff of 37,704 needed, but only 20,683 employed -- leaving 17,021 nursing positions vacant. —Myanmar News Agency

(D D) Those who are admitted to Nursing University must attend till the end of the academic year. After graduation from the University, all the graduates shall have to sign an agreement to serve at least 3 years in the time of necessity for the country.

(E E) Those who fail to follow the agreement must indemnify Ks400,000 and have action taken against them according to existing law.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits PyinOoLwin



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits office of Immigration and National Registration Department. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio visited and inspected the Dhoe Kwin coffee mill and other private coffee plantations and also inspected the implementation status of the New Yadanabon City in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday morning.

U Ye Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA) explained to the delegation

led by U Henry Ven Thio in the reception hall of the mill how the MCA was founded and achievement of market share, how they were doing quality control, marketing, exporting to other countries and cooperating with foreign partner organizations.

Next, U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as a Head of the Lead-

ing Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion, looked around the quality testing of the coffee beans, grinding of the coffee bean samples and coffee fruits by machines, storing of the coffee beans in the warehouse and drying of the coffee beans by drying machine in the mill.

After that, the delegation led

by the Vice President visited the coffee garden of Pwint Kaung and Khin Nwe Yi Co., Ltd. and manager of the garden explained about planting of the coffee fruits, annual yield of coffee fruits from the garden, growing of multiple crops, market conditions and better quality accessing methods.

During the visit of the Vice President to the coffee plantations, he said planting of coffee could not only provide better weather conditions but also aid in getting more foreign income to the country; for that reason it was necessary to upgrade and maintain the quality of coffee products by drawing up systematic schemes.

It is known that, the quality of PyinOoLwin coffee meets the world standard and 19,000 acres of coffee plants had been planted around PyinOoLwin Township.

Later, U Henry Van Thio and party visited the National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden, the fossil museum and saw many species of plants and flowers of the garden by vehicles.

Next, the Vice President visit-

ed the Public Service Office where he delivered a talk saying that Public Service Offices have been opened all round Myanmar and instructed public service personnel of the office to be dutiful, to provide effective service to the public, to gain their confidence and trust and not to get involved in bribery and corruption.

After that, the delegation also visited the New Yadanabon City planning area and looked around the complex of the city by vehicles. When they arrived at the main building of the Yadanabon Teleport, U Aung Kyaw Oo, Director of Urban and Housing Development Department explained about the aims of the project, payment of compensation for the confiscated lands, how land has been allocated to the IT companies, the proposed Master Plan, the acreage allotment for various phases of the plan, and other details of the plan. Then a representative of the entrepreneurs explained about difficulties they were encountering.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Provisions provided to returning families in Maungtau

A ceremony to provide provisions to families returning after going into hiding from Maungtau's Oohsaykya village was held yesterday morning in the village's BEHS School.

Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Htein Lin gave a speech

at the ceremony.

Afterwards Chairman of Maungtau District Management Committee Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut explained on the reasons for providing provisions, with Senior Field Coordinator from UN-HCR Mrs. Marco reviewed on the collaborative processes conducted

with the government. The State Minister and officials then distributed provisions to the twelve families, which consists of 106 people.

The provisions included 1 bag of rice, 2 viss of salt, 2 viss of oil, and 2 viss of chick peas to each family.—*Aye Mya (Mandalay), Aye Min Thu*



An official gives provisions to one of the returning family members. PHOTO: MNA

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Arms missing from Aungzan police outpost recovered

MILITIA troops were able to recover a BA-63 rifle, the last of three weapons stolen by 5 assailants who attacked the Aungzan police outpost in Aungzu area of Maungdaw Township on 11 March.

Two BA-94 guns with their cartridges missing, two of the three arms that were stolen, were found near the Waylataung creek near

the 42 milepost near the border on the same day of the attack at 5pm. The Aungzan militia was led by a temporary Aungzu Area Chief and recovered the two guns while pursuing the assailants.

The remaining BA-64 was discovered with 15 bullets and cartridge intact by two Boristayli villagers in a bush two miles

to the East of their village. Boristayli lies on the opposite side of the border, Northeast of border outpost No. 42. The two villagers who discovered the gun were able to report to the border outpost with border police receiving the arms and ammunition near the borderline at 9am.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Notice issued for combined fleet exercise in Coco Island

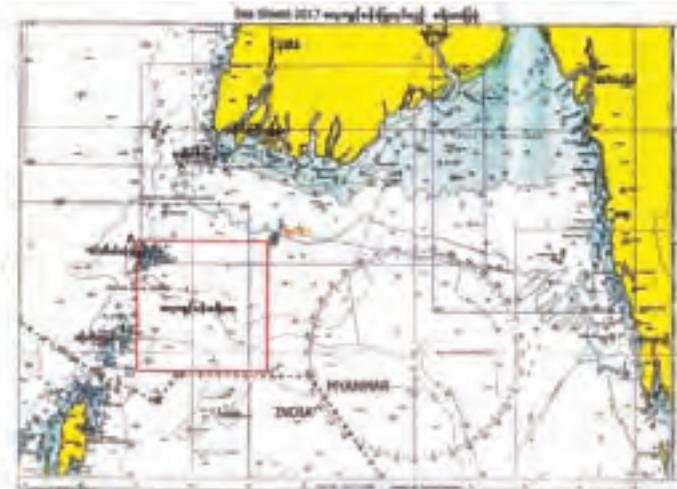
THE Myanmar navy will conduct military exercises off the coast of Coco Island from March 23 to 31, according to official notification.

The area has four points — A, B, C and D, where A is between North Latitude 15 degrees 00 minutes and East Longitude 93° 30', B is between North Latitude 15° 00' and East Longitude 94° 40', C is between North Latitude 13° 50' and East Longitude 94° 40' and D is between North Latitude 13° 50' and East Longitude 93° 30'.

Aircraft and helicopters have been warned against flying under an altitude of 15,000 feet above sea level, and the ships, big and small, cargo motorised boats, fishing vessels and motorized sampans have also been warned for their safety against cruising, anchoring, fishing and deploying

fishing equipment and apparatus within the five-mile radius of the above mentioned areas where the

combined fleet manouvres are taking place.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Outlined area of the navy's fleet exercise near the Coco Island. PHOTO: MNA

Over 5,500 students in Mandalay unable to sit for matriculation exam during this academic year

MORE THAN 5,500 students across Mandalay Region failed in one or more subjects in their matriculation examination, an important step for admission into university, according to Mandalay Region Education Office.

The nationwide matriculation exam for 2016-2017 academic year started on 8 March and ended on 15 March. However, students of arts subjects continue to sit for exams in the sub-

jects of history and geography.

The region education office said that nearly 100,000 students of all subjects took the examination. A total of 3,734 students studied arts-science subjects and over 1,800 learners of science subjects failed to take the examination due to illness or other reasons. Dr Soe Myint Tun, deputy director-general of Mandalay Region Education Office, said the authorities opened 180 exam

centres in the region. Two centers were opened for two patients at the Mandalay General Hospital and 11 inmates at Ohbo Prison as the numbers of registered students this academic year have increased.

Last year, the education authorities opened 165 exam centres for 91,688 students across the region. More than 32,551 of them passed the exam. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Sea turtle conservation in Rakhine so far unsuccessful

Sea turtle conservation is not succeeding in Rakhine State because local people are still catching sea turtles, according to Fisheries Department.

Rakhine local residents perhaps do not know the precarious future of the sea turtle and are violating the prohibition of the fisheries department, which can affect the reproduction of sea turtles.

“The sea turtle is one of the spices of animals that is nearly extinct. So, I want to request of fishermen that if they find the sea turtle, please release it into the river. We do not allow digging for

the sea turtle eggs. But the local people are still digging,” said Dr. Nyunt Wai, the state head from Fisheries Department.

One out of one thousand sea turtles from an egg survives, according to the researchers.

“If we have to point out the extinct animals, we will point out the sea turtle in Rakhine state. Previously, we can find many of the sea turtles in Rakhine state. Then, female sea turtles become scared to come out on to the island to lay eggs. We also do not catch the sea turtle exclusively. Sometime, the sea turtles are caught in the fishing

net. Then, the sea turtle dies inside the fishing net. If fishermen find a live sea turtle, they are released into the sea,” said a fisherman from Myebon township.

The female sea turtles come to the beach to lay eggs at night. The sea turtle lays between 60 and 200 eggs. Then they cover their eggs with sand and return to the sea. The sea turtles mostly lay their eggs at Ngapathon island and Kyaungthayar from Myebon township and, west Phayonkar and east Phayonkar from Pauktaw township in Rakhine state. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar to establish 750,000-acre community forest this year

THE FOREST Department plans to develop about 750,000 acres of community-owned forest plantations throughout the country this year, its spokesperson said.

U Bo Ni, director of the department, said that the aims of the establishment of community-managed forest plantations are to reforest and prevent desertifi-

cation, boost production of forest products for socio-economic development of residents and conserve the natural environment.

The department established more than 340,000 acres of community-owned plantations across the nation last year, mostly in Shan State. Locals may improve their earnings from the commercial sale

of forest products manufactured from the community-managed plantations, said U Ye Khaung, from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The forestry authorities hope to develop up to 2.27 million acres of plantations by 2030 as a part of its 30-year National Forestry Master Plan. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Reduced deposits for four Mandalay toll gates tender

MANDALAY City Development Committee (MCDC) have reduced deposits for four Mandalay toll gates tender in 2017-2018 fiscal year, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee.

Four Mandalay toll gates are Shwekyin, Shwekyetyet, Htonbo and Aungpinle gates. Last fiscal year, the tender deposit was 50 per cent for the price of the Ks140,000 tender. Some of the businessmen found it hard to participate because of the high deposit. So the MCDC has reduced the deposit payment to 25 per cent. The tender will call for four toll gates to collect wheel taxes and

tolls starting 20 March. The tender deposits have to be paid three days ahead before the tender event. The application form for tender can be bought for Ks 50,000 starting 14 March.

Daily tolls for vehicles will range Ks150 per tonne for 20-tonne vehicles and Ks300 per tonne for over 20-tonne vehicles. The wheel tax will be Ks50 for a motorbike, Ks100 for a trailer, Ks200 for a vehicle under two tonnes, Ks300 for vehicles between two and three tonnes vehicle and Ks500 for vehicles over three tonnes. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Waste-to-energy plant slated for early April

THE country's first-ever waste-to-energy plant being established in Yangon's Shwepyitha Industrial Zone is expected to be commissioned into service early next month, said Factory Manager U Kyaw Soe Win.

Since 2015, the project has been implemented using US\$8 million contributed by the Yangon City Development Committee and \$8.2 million by the Japanese Future Engineering Cooperation Agency.

After completion of the project, the new plant will generate 700 megawatts the mos. Of them, 300 mega kilowatts will go to Yangon residents through national power grid and the rest will be used for operational

process of the plant.

The regional MPs have already inspected the plant to ensure that fly ashes produced from the plant will not damage the natural environment or endanger humans.

The new incinerator can produce five tonnes of ashes when it burns 60 tonnes of waste materials. The plant can also emit half a tone of ash from chimney smoke.

The waste collection in Yangon is estimated at over 2,000 tonnes per day.

The YCDC has collected garbage from every township and disposed of them to designated areas in Shwepyitha, Hlawga in Mingaladon, Dagon Seikkan and Dala townships every day. —200

Crime NEWS

Maungtaw villager found dead

A VILLAGER from Punt, Maungtaw township was discovered dead with knife wounds on the side of Taungpyo-Kyainchaung road yesterday morning. Tandarmyar, 59, left to attend to cattle on the morning of 14

March. When he didn't return home, family members and the village chief filed a missing persons report to Taungpyo police station.

A security force went on a search expedition and discovered

Tandarmyar dead near Pazunkan Lake on the side of Taungpyo-Kyainchaung road yesterday morning with incised wounds to the head and neck. The investigation into his death is ongoing. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Four more car accidents occur on Ygn-Mdy Highway

A TOYOTA van driven by Soe Naing Oo hit a guard rail on the road-divider as he fell asleep between mileposts 113/3 and 113/5 at 2:15 am on Thursday on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. The vehicle was en route from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw. The collision with the guard rail caused the vehicle to overturn and plunge into a ravine on the right side of the road.

Six passengers on board were not injured, but the vehicle was slightly damaged. Phyu Highway Police filed a case against the reckless driver under section 279 of the Penal Code.

Similarly, a gray Honda In-

sight driven by Rajuu plunged into the drain when he lost control en route from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw at milepost 113/7 at 8:45 am on the same day. Fortunately, the driver was not injured.

Likewise, a micro bus driven by Myo Min collided into a Probox driven by Soe Hlaing Htay from behind and the latter overturned when the driver lost control. No one was injured on board the Probox but three passengers aboard the micro bus were injured in the accident, but not seriously. The victims were taken by Phyu Police Station's vehicle to Pyu General Hospital to receive medical treatment.

Moreover, a light truck driven by Naing Oo hit an aluminum safety rail and overturned en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay as he fell asleep at 9:50 am on the same day between mileposts 302/5 and 302/6 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

Out of seventeen passengers including the driver on board, eleven passengers suffered minor injuries. The injured persons were taken by car from Theegon highway police station to Meiktila General Hospital to receive medical treatment. Police from respective townships filed charges against the reckless drivers. —*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*

Maungtaw villager missing

A LOCAL resident living in Sintaung Village, Maungtaw went missing on Sunday after he left his home at around 5pm.

Mamad Rozi, 21, was preparing to take a shower when he received a phone call and left his

home in area 5 of Sintaung Village, Maungtaw. He did not return home.

The Ngarkhuya Area Police Station has included Mamad Rozi to their missing persons list. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Vehicles overturn on Ygn-Mdy Highway



Highway policemen inspect at the overturned vehicles. PHOTO: MPF

A GRAY Nissan AD van driven by Aung Kyi Min crashed into the back of a light truck driven by Hein Htet Aung en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay at 10:30 am on Wednesday. The collision caused the two vehicles to overturn on the right side of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway near milepost 230/0.

As the vehicles overturned, a passenger aboard the van and two passengers aboard the light truck were injured. The injured victims were taken by car from Phayataung Highway Police Station to the 1,000-bed Nay Pyi Taw Hospital. Highway Police have taken action against the reckless driver. —*Than Oo (Lemyethna)*