

UNFC willing to seek ways for reaching agreement on remaining points

THE United Nationalities Federal Council-UNFC would keep on seeking other ways for holding a meeting between the leaders of the two sides as part of efforts for signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA.

UNFC made this remark in its announcement released following the two-day meeting of the committee which ended yesterday in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

“... regarding the peace process, the DPN and the Peace Commission held negotiations over the nine points, and to achieve answers for

the remaining points, UNFC would continue to seek ways for holding a meeting between the leaders of the two sides,” said the statement.

During the meeting, they reviewed the works of UNFC and current measures taken by the Delegation of Peace Negotiation of the UNFC and discussions between the DPN and the Peace Commission over nine points proposed by the UNFC.

“The nine-points proposed by UNFC were aimed at signing the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. We review outcomes of every meeting. UNFC and Peace Commission also re-

viewed the latest development of the nine-points,” said U Tun Zaw, Member of the Central Committee of the UNFC.

“New Mon State Party (NMSP) and its central committee made a decision to sign the NCA. But, they did not say definitely when they will implement the decision. NMSP is a member of the UNFC. They made the remark to sign the NCA under the flag of UNFC,” he added.

The nine-points proposed by the UNFC have been discussed for more than 17 months between the DPN and the PC. — Ye Khaung Nyunt



United Nationalities Federal Council-UNFC members seen during the meeting in Chiang Mai. PHOTO: MNA

Rakhine State Chief Minister conducts field visit

RAKHINE State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, along with Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs Dr. Chan Thar and Rakhine State Minister of Agriculture, U Kyaw Lwin, as well as state level and Maungtau district level officials, made a field visit to the villages and police stations in Maungtau Township to assess the regional peace, stability and development works in the area.

The Rakhine State chief minister and officials first visited Mawyawadi Village, where they instructed the farmers to sell their harvested rice to buyers as soon as possible.

Next, they met with ethnic villagers in Thinbawkwe for whom they had some words of encouragement. They then went to Inndin Village and instructed the officials concerned on area security, regional peace and de-



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu makes a field visit in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

velopment.

Later, they inspected the Angumaw-Maungtau road section being constructed under the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development programme.

The chief minister and

his party then visited the Thawunchaung Police Station and Kotankauk Police Station, inspected the houses built in Kotankauk Village and met and encouraged the local populace, after which they left for Sittway via Angumaw. — Ne Win Tun, Zeya ■

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye receives Bangladesh Ambassador



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye shakes hands with Bangladesh Ambassador Mohammad Sufiur Rahman. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye received Bangladesh Ambassador to Myanmar Mohammad Sufiur Rahman in Maykhalar Hall at the Union Minister's office yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, matters related to preparation for the systematic repatriation of returnees; the construction of modular houses with the assistance of Japan and China; and the status of the shutdown of three relief

camps for displaced persons in Kyaukphyu, Yanbye and Pauktaw Kyeinnipyin were discussed. Myanmar also shared information on discussions held with camp leaders at the Sittway Thakkaypyin and Myebon relief camps regarding the closure of the camps, coordination with the Rakhine State government, and reductions in the legal and social limitations to allow freedom of movement for people staying in relief camps. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Technical Training School (Hpa An) conducts courses

THE Ministry of Border Affairs' Education and Training Department and Bridge Asia Japan (BAJ) are jointly conducting construction course no. 7, electrical course no. 7, vehicle and engine repair course no. 6 and welding course no. 5 for ethnic youths at the Technical Education and Training School in Hpa-an).

An opening ceremony for the courses was held at the school yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Kayin State Minister of Security and Border Affairs Col. Myo Min Naung and Ministry of Border Affairs' Education and Training Department Director General U Thein Htay Oo

delivered opening speeches, and BAJ country representative Akiko Mori explained the courses.

The ceremony was attended by state government members, department heads, BAJ staff and trainees. Of the 90 trainees, 20 had signed up for the construction course, 20 for the electrical course, 30 for the vehicle and engine repair course and 20 for the welding course. The courses started yesterday and will be held until June 22. Training uniforms and accessories, board, lodging and a travel allowance for the trainees will be provided free of cost by the department. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Prize awarding ceremony for sports competition winners in Children's Literature Festival (Yangon)

By Zaw Gyi

A FOOTBALL and tote-see-toe (a traditional children team game) competitions were held as part of the sports competitions in the Children's literature festival, exhibition and book sales Yangon jointly organized by Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education and Yangon Region Government. A prize awarding ceremony for the winners of the competition was held yesterday afternoon at the festival venue Basic Education High School No. (6) Botahtaung (Saint Paul) football ground.

The ceremony was attended by Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing, Yangon City Development Committee secretary Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, Botahtaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Myint Myint Soe @ Daw May Soe, officials and invited guests.

Winner, runner-up and third placed teams of high school level under-16 football competition Yangon West District Team (A), Yangon East District Team (A) and Yan-



Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint presents the trophy to Yangon West District team. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

gon South District Team (B) respectively were presented with prizes by Yangon Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint.

Winner, runner-up and third placed teams of middle school level under-13 football competition Yangon East Dis-

trict Team (A), Yangon South District Team (B) and Yangon West District Team (B) respectively were presented with prizes by Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing.

Winner, runner-up and third placed teams of high

school level under-16 tote-see-toe competition Yangon West District Team (B), Yangon North District Team (A) and Yangon North District Team (B) respectively were presented with prizes by Yangon City Development Committee secretary Daw Hlaing Maw Oo

while winner, runner-up and third placed teams of middle school level under-13 tote-see-toe competition Yangon East District Team (B), Yangon West District Team (B) and Yangon North District Team (A) respectively were presented with prizes by Botahtaung Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Myint Myint Soe @ Daw May Soe.

Teams members for football and tote-see-toe competitions were selected from basic education schools in Yangon Region townships and were made into district level teams A and B which compete in the district level competitions.

The knock-out phase of the competitions were held on the first day, semi-final matches on the second day and the final and third place competitions on the third day of the festival and prizes were awarded after the competitions were completed.

Similarly, in the afternoon, winners of the debate, paper folding and painting competitions held on the morning of the third day were awarded prizes by relevant officials in the Aung San Hall at the venue of the Children's Literature Festival (Yangon) it is learnt.

US Embassy condemns ARSA attack on Myanmar security forces

US Embassy is learnt to have issued a statement yesterday on the ARSA attack on Myanmar security forces in Rakhine State Maungtaw region on 5 January.

The statement says: We condemn ARSA's January 5 attack on Myanmar security forces in northern Rakhine State, and we express condolences to the injured and their families.

This act of violence only serves to further undermine peace and security in northern Rakhine State and the region.

We continue to urge all parties to ensure their rhetoric and their actions

contribute to establishing the conditions for the safe, voluntary, and dignified return of all those who have been displaced by violence to their places of origin.

According to a news release by Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office a vehicle carrying a sick patient from Taungpyo to Maungtaw was attacked by about 20 ARSA extremists terrorists from a hill between Kyun Pauk Su Village and Trane (Mro) Village with IED and small arms around 10:10 a.m. on 5 January.

Two security personnel and a civilian was wounded it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency

Long-term upgrading of Twantay Canal project to cost Ks9,000 million

THE long-term upgrade work on the Twantay Canal will cost Ks9,000 million, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Erosions occur on the banks of the canal every year, especially in winter, destroying houses and farmlands, according to the local residents.

“The government has allocated a budget for the long-term upgradation of the canal. We will implement the project within a year or two. We are also conducting surveys systematically,” said U Myint Lwin, a Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Twantay Township.

A master plan has already been drafted. Although the canal is temporarily being conserved with gravel-filled retaining walls, it does not work well. Therefore, the Township General Administration Department and MPs are discussing a plan to temporarily upgrade the canal.—GNLM

Construction zones to be established in 15 townships

The Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will designate 15 townships in the Yangon Region municipal area as high-rise construction zones, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The YCDC decided to design-

nate specific zones as high-rise construction areas after it found that high-rise projects were not abiding by the law and had poor security and low quality.

Some five-to seven-storeyed buildings are being built in wards with 10-foot wide streets in some

townships. In a bid to carry out the systematic designation of high-rise construction zones, the YCDC conducted surveys on land utilisation, in cooperation with the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.—GNLM