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Women walk past the cyclone shelter in Kungyangon which was striken by Cyclone Nargis in 2008. The government yesterday instituted a programme that places higher priority on risk management and preparedness over natural disaster response. **FILE PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Towards a resilient Myanmar

Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction-MAPDRR-2017 launched

THE Union Government launched the Myanmar Action Plan on Disaster Risk Reduction-MAPDRR-2017 yesterday, assuring that the plan will play a key role in boosting risk-proofing investments in Myanmar.

Speaking at the ceremony to launch the MAPDRR-2017, Vice President U Henry Van Thio said the plan will also cover not only natural hazards but also man-made accidents through a people centred and inclusive approach focusing on managing risks rather than managing disasters.

"While our country is accelerating multiple complex transitions towards a democratic society, peace and stability and development, disasters can knock down all the efforts that we have made by far in a few minutes," said U Henry Van Thio.

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WFP, Rakhine Govt discuss aid for N-Rakhine

WORLD Food Programme and Rakhine State Cabinet held talks yesterday over delivering humanitarian aid to the people in conflict areas in Rakhine State.

At the meeting held at the office of the government in Sittway, officials of WFP asked the cabinet to assist the UN agency in delivering aid to those in need of help in Rakhine State and in travelling to areas which are not easily accessible.

U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State said, "Situations changed a lot after the deadly attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists in northern region of Rakhine State. For this, measures are being made for the peace and stability of northern Rakhine after assessing actualities on the ground."

He also reiterated that the government provided security to diplomats and independent journalists who visited the northern Rakhine recently.

"We are ready and willing to cooperate with any kinds of organizations that will come to discuss for the help in the tasks further to be performed," said U Nyi Pu.

U Kyaw Aye Thein, Rakhine State Minister for Finance, Revenue, Planning and Commerce asked WFP to purchase rice produced in Rakhine State and to distribute to the people. Further meetings will be held between the two sides for long-lasting cooperation between them. —GNLM

Depression makes landfall in India

By Sandar Soe

A depression over the Northern area of Bay of Bengal and adjoining coastal areas of Bangladesh and West Bengal crossed near Kolkata in India, according to yesterday's announcement of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH).

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department stated that the low pressure area has intensified into a deep depression during the morning of Monday before entering Kolkata.

Meanwhile, the weather department announced yesterday that a tropical depression existing in South China Sea is centred at the sea distanced about 265 miles away from southeast of Vin, Viet Nam and will continue to travel in west or northwest direction.

Based on observations made at 10:00 hrs on 9 October, the weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the North Bay and East Central Bay. Monsoon is weak over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

According to the weather forecast within 24 hrs, rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread along Taninthayi and widespread along Rakhine coastal. The state of the sea will be slight to moderate and wave height will be about (3-6) feet in along the Coast.

The outlook for subsequent two days, there is likely to have increase of rain in most parts of Myanmar, said the Meteorology and Hydrology Department. ■

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talk with Norwegian Ambassador Ms. Tone Tinnes. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Border Affairs receives Norwegian Ambassador for bilateral cooperation

Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung received Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Ms. Tone Tinnes at the meeting hall of the Ministry yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed about the development of ethnic people in border regions and issues related to development of human resources, matters related to cooperation between UN and non-government organisations, cooperation of Norway's government in peace process being implemented by the government of Myanmar, terrorist attacks in Maungtaw, Rakhine State and philanthropic works for local people in that region.

They also discussed about implementation processes according to the recommendations of Rakhine State investigation commission, bilateral cooperation in repairing for infrastructures and buildings that were destroyed by terrorist group, potential aid by international organisations, to get sustainable peace and development of Rakhine State and matters relating to increased bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits the plantation of the local battalion in Pyinpon Gyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

SG Min Aung Hlaing inspects Pyinpon Gyi military area and Tatmadaw vocational trainings

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services with officials yesterday went to recruitment and resettlement depot in Pyinpon Gyi and inspected livestock kept, DYL swine, dairy cows and Novogen Brown chicken kept for eggs, animal feed factory, Green House sweet cucumber plantation, storage and package for seeds.

Next the Senior General and personnel met with military officers from Bago and Pyinpon Gyi military area at the sports hall of Pyinpon Gyi military area.

After the meeting, officers from military areas were presented with books by Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, foods by the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and sports equipment by the Commander-in-Chief (Air) respectively.

Then, the Senior General and personnel arrived in Tatmadaw vocational training camps and viewed hotel and motel training course, printing label, dying and printing work course, glass painting, ceramic painting and barber training course. After that, the Senior General and personnel viewed photos displayed in the showroom and handmade products of the trainees.

The Tatmadaw vocational training camp conduct 19 types of vocational trainings and in addition to military personnel, personnel from Myanmar Police Forces are also attended the trainings it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Prayer Ceremony of inter-faith group to be held in Mandalay

Members of the inter-faith group discuss plan for holding prayer ceremony in Mandalay. **PHOTO: TIN MAUNG**

According to the chairman of Mandalay Region's NLD, prayer ceremony of the inter-faith group will be held on Tuesdays every week at the Manaw Rammam Square Ground situated at 62nd Street, Maha Aungmyae township, Mandalay as of 10 October.

With a view to responding to hatred, pressure and destructive forces with loving-kindness from the people, prayer ceremonies of multi religious organisation are to be held under the leadership of National League for Democracy on the nationwide scale. As for the Upper Myanmar, negotiations will be made with Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay regions. The Mandalay Region Chief Minister will take responsibility for Upper Myanmar. Holding such ceremonies is attributed to our desire to disclose our intention that we always stand together with our State Counsellor who is facing pressure in international sphere but who determines herself to overcome all difficulties, without any hatred, prejudice, grudge and anger. As known by all, our State Counsellor addressed at the dinner party in Brunei, "Fire cannot be extinguished by fire, apart from water. Likewise, hatred cannot be removed by hatred, except for loving kindness."

Our State Counsellor is as if teaching the people and taking us to the destination. What we are experiencing will be overcome with the force of people in the country. We want to show people's strength in the country. We want our people and the whole world to know aims, objectives and ideas of our leader. Under the programme, those who profess Buddhism, Christianity, Islam, Hindi and Bahai faiths will lighten candle lights for one hour. On Tuesdays every week throughout October, prayer ceremonies will be held. Prayer ceremonies of the inter-faith group will be held in Mandalay on October 10,17,24 and 31 at 6 pm at Manaw Rammam Square Ground on 62nd Street, Maha Aungmyae, Mandalay. —Tin Maung (Sub Printing House) ■