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Pope Francis arrives at Yangon International Airport on 27 November 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Pope in Myanmar

Pope Francis arrived Yangon at 1.20 pm yesterday by special flight. The leader of the Roman Catholic church was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Union Minister for

Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, regional ministers, U San Lwin, Myanmar's first Ambassador to the Holy See, Archbishop Paul

Tsang in-Nam, who based in Bangkok as both Vatican Nuncio to Thailand and Apostolic Delegate to Myanmar, Daw Kay Thi Soe, Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training

Department, Cardinal Charles Bo, Archbishop of Yangon, John Saw Yaw Han, Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Yangon and Catholics.

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6th JICM on NCA held

3rd meeting of Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong to be held in last week of January, 2018

STATE Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre gave a welcoming speech at the 6th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA held at 10 am yesterday at the NRPC in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the meeting were Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army), U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, Union Attorney-General, U Tun Tun Oo, Dr Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, Hluttaw Representatives, Tatmadaw high-ranking officers, Deputy Ministers, leaders of eight ethnic armed groups, signatories of NCA, JICM representatives and invited guests.

In her opening address, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the need to have the spiritual courage to dare find the right solution for peace, saying that the peace process needed the spiritual courage to reach the goal of peace while the physical courage is necessary to dare face with enemies in the battle field.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Pope in Myanmar

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Pope Francis was welcomed by members of ethnic minority groups in traditional dress at Yangon International Airport, people including children waved Vatican and Myanmar flags and wearing T-shirts with motto

of the trip “love and peace, as his convoy passed the crowd at several roadside points along the Pyay Road and Bogyoke Aung San Road.

More than 150,000 people have registered for a mass that Francis will say in Yangon on Wednesday, ac-

ording to Catholic Myanmar Church spokesman Mariano Soe Naing.

During his trip, Pope Francis will meet President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, cabinet members, diplomats, religious leaders and Catholics.—MNA ■



Photo: MNA



Photo: Reuters



Photo: MNA

Pope Francis is welcomed by members of ethnic minority groups in traditional dress at Yangon International Airport, people including children wave Vatican and Myanmar flags as he arrives in Yangon on 27 November 2017.



Photo: MNA



Photo: MNA



Photo: Reuters

Senior General meets Pope Francis

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing greeted the Pope Francis, who has been in Myanmar on goodwill at the St. Mary's Cathedral at Thein Pyu Road in Yangon yesterday evening.

During the meeting, Senior General expressed his welcoming word for Pope's visit and went on saying that all the religious teach to stay in peace, unity and justice and there is no religious discrimination in Myanmar. Freedom of religious is also prescribed in Myanmar and Myanmar's Tatmadaw as well. Tatmadaw is carrying out the tasks for maintaining peace and the desire of the Tatmadaw in peace and

stability of the entity and he stressed that there is no discrimination among the ethnic races in Myanmar. Pope Francis also expressed his delight for warm welcome of Myanmar when he arrives in Myanmar and having the chance to meet with Myanmar's respective religious leaders. He also talked about possible development of political sector of Myanmar by obeying the respective faith. He went on that interfaith mutual respect can lead to nations's wealth and prosperity. Pope said that he was glad to hear the news of peace keeping process in Myanmar and he prays for the peace and prosperity of Myanmar.—MNA

Rakhine State MPs calls for more transparency of govt's works

Rakhine State Government should be more transparent on his resettlement and rehabilitation works in northern Rakhine, said MPs of the Rakhine State Hluttaw yesterday.

Rakhine State Cabinet members led by Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye clarified the MPs of Rakhine State Hluttaw about the government's undertakings to socio-economic development in Rakhine State.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye also explained the undertakings of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State-UEHRD, stress-

ing the importance of coordination and cooperation between the Union Government, Rakhine State Government, the Hluttaw and the people.

He continued to say that local businessmen and partnership and friend countries will join with the UEHRD as part of efforts for effectively implementing the socio economic development in Rakhine State.

They discussed budge and time schedule for rehabilitation works, cooperation of the local people, resettlement of villagers, repatriation of refugees, plans for development of youths and plans of the government of assisting for ethnic villagers from conflict areas to move to Maungtaw if they wish.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister inspects preventive measures against riverbank erosion in Ayeyawady Region



Accompanied by Regional Minister for Road Transportation U Win Htay and Director-General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems U Tun Lwin Oo, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung inspected preventive measures against riverbank erosion in the Ayeyawady Region.

On his arrival at the riverbank erosion prevention worksite in Laymyethna Township, the Union Minister was informed about

the work in progress and ongoing programs. Next, the Union Minister and party proceeded to two villages in Danubyu and Nyaungdon Townships where preventative measures against riverbank erosion are being undertaken.

According to the statistics from the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, more than Ks 8.6 billion will be spent for carrying out preservation measures for riverbank erosion in 2017-2018 fiscal year.—MDN ■



New Yangon Water Bus jetties will be constructed by YRTA. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

New Yangon Water Bus jetties to be opened

The Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) is making arrangement to construct new Yangon Water Bus (YWB) jetties near Bandula Bridge, Dawbon Township and Shwepyitha bridge, Hlaingthaya township, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

“Currently, Yangon Water Bus is operating Insein-Botahtaung route. Later on, authorities are planning to operate between Bandula

bridge- Shwepyitha-Hlaingthaya and Aungzayar bridge. The authorities are also planning to run along the Nga Moe Yeik creek. The long-term project will be implemented next year,” said Dr. Maung Aung, the secretary of the YRTA.

Water bus fare will be Ks300 for one route but no need to pay the cash. Any pay card will be available at the jetties.

Currently, YWB is operating between Insein and

Botahtaung with stops at Shwepadauk-Kyeemyindaing-Lanthit-Pansodan jetties. The boat will run between 6:00 am to 8:00pm. Yangon Region Government wants to reduce Yangon's traffic congestion by developing water transportation. Many commuters also took Yangon Water Bus on the opening day.

Now, Yangon Water Bus is running daily for 19 rounds between Insein and Botahtaung.—GNLM ■

Maungtaw authorities hold talks with local companies over resettlement and rehabilitation

To speed up the rehabilitation and resettlement in Rakhine State, local authorities in Maungtaw and local companies held a meeting yesterday in Maungtaw.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed ways for working together for putting the state onto the path to stability and development.

At the meeting, Maungtaw

District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut explained the government's efforts for implementing the humanitarian aid, rehabilitation and resettlement in Rakhine State.—News Team ■

Seven trapped, four injured in coal mine blast

Seven are still trapped in a coal mine in Minbu as a pipe used for injecting oxygen into the tunnel of the mine exploded yesterday.

Four, including two Chinese nationals who were injured in the blast were taken to a hospital.

The blast happened at the depth between 200 ft and 250 ft of the tunnel.

Rescue teams are at the scene to save the trapped miners.—Than Naing Oo (Ngaphe)



Rescue teams at the coal mine to save the trapped miners in Minbu, Magway Region. PHOTO: THAN NAING OO (NGAPHE)