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Special meeting on Rakhine issue held

A special meeting on the issue of Rakhine was held yesterday at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was opened by the President U Htin Kyaw who made opening remarks.

Vice President (1) U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Maungdaw Region Investigation Commission explained about the work of the Commission.

The security situation in Maungdaw Township and the

measures taking to strengthen the security of the area was explained by Vice Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander in Chief of the Defence Services and Commander in Chief (Army). The Union Min-

ister for the Ministry of State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe reported to the meeting the status of implementation of the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine and the National Security Ad-

viser U Thaung Tun reported on the measures taken by the Government with regard to the Fact Finding Mission set up by the Human Rights Council.

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Thailand delays new labour act after 6,500 Myanmar workers return

THAILAND has delayed the enforcement of the Management of Foreign Workers Act for four months in order for foreign workers to come into compliance, according to the Labour Department.

The move came yesterday after negotiations between U Maung Maung Kyaw, the Director-General of the Labour Department, and officials of Thailand at a meeting in Yangon yesterday.

More than 4,000 Myanmar migrant workers returned yesterday and about 2,500 workers on Wednesday after Thailand's labour act went into effect.

Thousands of undocumented migrant workers from Myanmar and Cambodia fled from Thailand, prompting officials from Myanmar to engage in negotiations with its neighbour.

Workers from Myanmar and Cambodia, make up the backbone of Thailand's manual labour force. Many industries, including a multi-billion dollar seafood sector, are heavily reliant on foreign workers.

Undocumented migrants are sometimes subject to exploitation by employers and cases of forced labour have been found by the media and Thai-



Myanmar migrant workers arrive at the 999 border gate in Myawady yesterday as they returned from Thailand.
PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (MYAWADY DISTRICT IPRD)

land's foreign trade partners.

Under the decree that officially went into effect on 23 June, an employer who hires an undocumented foreign workers faces a fine of up to 800,000 baht (Ks31.92 million).

The penalty has some businesses scrambling to fire undocumented workers or get them registered.

"Some employees are scared, because they employ illegal workers. Even though we

aren't rounding these workers up, they are still scared about the hefty fines," Pornchai Kunttee, deputy commissioner of the Immigration Bureau, told Reuters.

"There will be an impact to

the economy because foreign workers are an essential part of the workforce," he said.

Thailand's government says it has made legalising foreign workers a priority to help businesses. **SEE PAGE-3**



Special meeting on Rakhine issue is held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Special meeting on Rakhine issue held

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The meeting was also attended by President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, Deputy Commander in Chief of the Defence Services and Com-

mander in Chief of Army Vice Senior General Soe Win, Union Ministers Lt. General Sein Win, Lt. General Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and National Security Advisor of the Union Government U Thaung Tun.

The meeting concluded at 4:15pm.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor receives ambassadors of Thailand, South Africa, Mexico separately



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Mr Jukr Boon Long, Thailand Ambassador. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mr Geoffrey Quinton Mitchell Doidge, Ambassador of Republic of South Africa. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mexican Ambassador Mr. Nathan Wolf Lustbader. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Jukr Boon Long, Thailand Ambassador to Myanmar at 10:30 am, Mr. Geoffrey Quinton Mitchell Doidge, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa at

10:30 am and H.E. Mr. Nathan Wolf Lustbader, United Mexican States Ambassador to Myanmar at 11am, separately at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

In meeting with Thailand Ambassador, matters on up-

grading Myanmar-Thailand bilateral cooperation were cordially discussed. At the meeting with Mr. Geoffrey Quinton Mitchell Doidge, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of the Union of Myan-

mar with residence in Bangkok, they exchanged views on the matters related to strengthening of the friendly relations and promotion of cooperation between the two countries and democratic transition, national reconciliation and peace process of Myanmar.

During the meeting with Mr. Nathan Wolf Lustbader, Ambassador of the United Mexican States, they cordially discussed matters relating to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Mexico.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Thailand delays new labour act after 6,500 Myanmar workers return

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“During the 120-day suspended period, Myanmar migrant workers should obtain the necessary documents to work in Thailand,” said U Aung Myo Thant, a labour attorney at the Myanmar embassy in Thailand.

In addition, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission sent a letter yesterday to Thailand’s National Human

Rights Commission requesting help for Myanmar migrant workers who are currently facing difficulties in obtaining documentation.

After the law came into effect, Thai police began making arrests of people with insufficient documents. Although Myanmar authorities would not comment on the new law, they have requested Thailand’s NHRC to protect the human

rights of Myanmar migrant workers and their families who are currently in Thailand.

News media had earlier published pictures of workers crossing a border river from Thailand back into Myanmar, carrying bundles of belongings in plastic bags.

Reuters reported last month that, despite a Thai crackdown on human trafficking, people-smuggling across

the Thai-Myanmar border is on the rise as people arrive in search of jobs.

This week, the United States kept Thailand on a trafficking watch list, saying it did not meet the minimum standards to end human trafficking.

Thailand defended its efforts to stop trafficking and urged U.S. officials to visit and see its efforts. —GNLM, Reuters ■

U Tha Aung Nyun presents credentials in New Zealand

U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to New Zealand, presented his Credentials to Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy GNZM, QSO, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief in and over the Realm of New Zealand on 28 June 2017, in Wellington.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■