



Seventh 47 member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 14th meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar's highest-ranking Buddhist Monks open annual meeting

THE Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Myanmar's highest-ranking, government-sanctioned panel of Theravada Buddhist monks, convened its annual leadership meeting yesterday at Wizaya Dhamathabin Hall in Thiri Mingalar Kabaye Hill in Yangon.

The body, also known as the First Congregation of All Orders for the Purification, Perpetuation and Propagation of Sasana, or "doctrine," leads

Myanmar Buddhist monks and meets at least annually for three days to confer on matters of concern to the religious community.

The 47-member leadership committee is in charge of the religious affairs.

Yesterday's meeting was led by Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bharmo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa,

Other members of the Committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko were also present.

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dwpitakadhara Bhaddanta Agga Dhama was master of ceremony and read the attendance list.

Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa delivered

the opening address in connection with the religious affairs and unity among the members of the Sangha (the speech will appear in this daily).

Then, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko led a discussion on religious matters.

Donors Maha Tharay Sithu Lt. Gen. Ye Myint (Retired) and wife Dr. Daw Tin Lin Myint and family offered day meals to the committee members. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Peace process to be realized according...

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When we receive the PPST review, we will ask the Government, the Tatmadaw and the political parties to issue a joint review. We will introduce reforms after we have received all the reviews. We will finish the job in the coming August. The review was made with constructive approach and goodwill to ensure a guaranteed peace process and political dialogues,

The NCA implementation review team will be formed with two specially invited persons and the member of the respective groups of the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations. UPDJC vice-chair Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win will take the helm.

It will be formed with 20 members. It will start the reform process in July and release the report in July end. Pu Zin Kyon said, review and reform will start in July. The results will be submitted to PPST in July end. PPST will present the issue at EAO conference. We will finalize the issue within one and a half month. We are planning to hold the EAO conference next month. The review of the political framework and the peace process of the NCA is the effort to proceed according to the NCA and to amend the parts that are against the NCA, according to the press meet. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

Peace Process Steering Team-PPST holds meeting

Peace Process Steering Team-PPST of the eight signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement held a meeting in Chiang-mai in Thailand from 28 June to 2 July. After the meeting, the team released an announcement at the press meet.

The press release said the ethnic-wise, region-wise and subject-wise national level political dialogues, work committee meetings, the second session of the Union peace Conference: the 21st Century Panglong and the advantages and disadvantages of the whole peace process including challenges could be reviewed.

According to the review, the important points including the role of the ethnic states, sharing of power between the Union

and the states, and the joint implementation of the peace agreements which are the main ethnic characteristics must be discussed.

The differences among the government, the Tatmadaw and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations (NCA-S EAO) in their interpretation and understanding of the NCA were noticed. There was effectiveness in observing and implementing the basic principles, views and pledges in connection with the NCA.

But there were weaknesses in the part of freedom, equality and justice.

The broadening of the peace process was agreed with the aim of achieving greater success in

the peace process including the work of implementing the NCA and strengthening views and stance of NCA-S EAO groups.

In view of internal peace and national reconciliation, the PPST will realize a true federal democracy aspired by the entire people through the negotiations of the stakeholders within the scope of the NCP process. The eight signatories to the NCA are Karen National Union-KNU, KNU/Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council), Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, Chin National Front, Pa-O National Liberation Organization, All Burma Students' Democratic Front, Restoration Council of Shan State and Arakan Liberation Party. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees arrived at Sitway

Myint Maung Soe and Aung Kyaw Oo

by cooperation and patience, said commissioner.

Mr. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees arrived at Sitway from Yangon and visited Dapaing Relief Camp. The refugees at the camp made discussions and submitted their requirements relating to education, health and social affairs to the minister.

The visit of Mr. Filippo Grandi and his group to Rakhine is the first time and the success will be met only

The UNHCR met with the families of the refugee camp and inquired about their accommodation, food, education and health condition.

The UNHCR met the Chief Minister of Rakhine State, U Nyi Pu and ministers at the office of State Government in the evening and discussed on wide scope concerning with peace and tranquility and development.—Myanmar News Agency ■