THE Union Government welcomed the interim recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State to address the problems in Rakhine State.

Following the commission’s press conference in Yangon yesterday, the State Counsellor’s Office issued a statement welcoming the recommendations that include a renewed call for unimpeded access for humanitarian groups and journalists to the affected areas in northern Rakhine and for independent and impartial investigations of the allegations of crimes committed on and since 9 October 2016.

“The Government would like to express its sincere thanks to the Chairperson Dr Kofi Annan and members of the Commission for their visionary and constructive approach to the need for stability, peace and prosperity in Rakhine,” said the press release. “The Government concurs with the recommendations set forth in the report and believes that these will have a positive impact on the process of the national reconciliation and development,” said the press release.

“The large majority of the recommendations will be implemented promptly with a view to maximum effectiveness.”

Health ministry tells nurses to submit their difficulties to MNMC

THE Ministry of Health has asked disgruntled nurses to submit their complaints to the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council, saying that there would be no loss incurred in signing an agreement that requires them to work for the government for three years after graduation.

The remarks came at a press conference at the ministry in Yangon yesterday following protests Tuesday by hundreds of nurses who believe the agreement is unfair.

The priority of the council is putting patient safety and quality assurance first, which is why the MNMC urges accepting the agreement and to submit their difficulties to the Council, said Dr. Phyu Phyu, the chairperson of the Myanmar Nurse and Midwife Council at the press conference.

Dr. Phyu Phyu stated that there is a severe shortage of nurses in government hospitals and a high rate of absence, which prompted the 2015 agreement requiring three years of civil service upon earning a nursing degree/diploma. The MNMC issues Registration IDs to nurses and midwives practicing in accord with rules and regulations, and issues a 2-year valid license upon entering the workforce. The MNMC maintains a rigorous process in ensuring nurses and midwives receive valid registration licenses and forbids practicing without one.
Government welcomes recommendations by Advisory Commission on Rakhine State

**MPs debate Ks30 billion allocation for sufficient power supply to Yangon Region in summer**

HLUTTAW representatives proceeded to discuss an appeal issued by the President on allocating Ks30 billion for supplying adequate electricity to the Yangon Region during the summer in accord with the 2016 Budget Allotment Law.

Similarly, eleven Hluttaw representatives also discussed an appeal by the President on borrowing $200 million from Germany’s KfW Development Bank for the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy in supplying adequate electricity to 416 villages in Southern Shan State.

Afterwards, U Than Soe (Economics) from Yangon constituency (4) discussed an appeal by the President on borrowing US$200 million from the World Bank under their Development Policy Operation (DPO).

Then Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Thet announced questions and topics raised and discussed in yesterday’s meetings will be replied and opened for discussion in the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 4th Regular Meeting’s 17th day which will be held today.

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Ks5.5 billion from President’s special fund goes to highway project

Special maintenance work for the new Phaungyin-Pinlebu Road, an important road for the development of the upper Chindwin River region, that will be constructed using the president’s special fund was discussed yesterday in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The Members of Parliament discussed the case sent by the president to spend Ks 5.5 billion from the president’s special fund under the 2016 Union Budget Law for performing special maintenance work for the 29 mile-long road in Sagaing Region at the 16th day of fourth regular section of second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

“…The road which would be constructed is important for the development of the upper Chindwin Region. I support it,” said U Tin Maung Win, Member of Parliament for No. 10 constituency in Sagaing Region.

He added that the government needs to upgrade not only the highway but also all the connected roads to be travelled in any season and to execute bridges and roads for long-term use after being upgraded.

“I welcome the implementation of the road because the upper Chindwin can be reached not only by waterway but land route. It should be done for the people who depend only on the risky water transport,” said Daw Yin Min Hlaing, Member of Constituency for Gangaw Constituency.

The speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced the recording of cases for the reforming of territorial extension and renaming, to extend town, quarters and villages in Regions and States sent by the president, under section 58 of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law. —Myanmar News Agency

**Photograph**

Members of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State at the press conference in which the commission’s recommendations for the Rakhine issue were released. PHOTO: HWE WIN

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The implementation of a few will be contingent upon the situation on the ground but we believe there will be speedy progress”.

Kofi Annan also recommended that Myanmar should allow the Muslim communities of Rakhine State to return to their villages and ultimately close down camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs).

More than 120,000 people have been living in what were meant as temporary shelters for IDPs since bouts of communal violence roiled the state in 2012.

“It’s really about time they close the camps and allow the people in the camps, particularly those who have gone through the citizenship verification process, access to freedom of movement and all rights of citizenship,” Annan told Reuters by telephone from Geneva. Hundreds of displaced people, whose return home would be feasible and safe, should be moved back “immediately, as a first step and sign of goodwill,” the panel said. “The Government of Myanmar will be happy to cooperate with the Advisory Commission in its endeavors to assist us in finding viable and sustainable solutions to the complex situation in the Rakhine State,” said the statement from the State Counsellor’s Office released yesterday.

In related news, the European Union yesterday called for the United Nations to send an international fact-finding mission urgently to Myanmar to investigate allegations of torture, rapes and executions by the military against the Rohingya Muslim minority.

The UN is scheduled to vote on the resolution on March 23-24. If adopted, the Council would “dispatch urgently an independent international fact-finding mission” to Myanmar to investigate allegations of “with a view to ensuring full accountability for perpetrators and justice for victims” —GEM/Reuters contributed to this report

(Excerpts from the Interim Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State will be covered in tomorrow issue.)

Health ministry tells nurses to submit their difficulties to MNMC

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Those who fail to follow the agreement must pay Ks400,000.

The MNMC has the right to issue announcements, promulgations, rules and regulations under MNMC Section (52)-sub-section (B). Which is why a recommendation letter similar to a license is being issued along with Registration IDs, and from the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) point of view the compulsory three-year service agreement will assist in opening opportunities for working in other ASEAN countries.

Various universities and training schools currently have more than 3,600 trainees in attendance. Director General Dr Myint Han of Health Department for Healing explained on the agreement signed by nurses to serve as public servants after their three years of study. They will be issued a nursing license and nursing ID card upon signing and allowed to practice in private hospitals and clinics outside of the government working hours. There is also a high attrition rate among licensed nurses and various complications in appointing to regional and state hospitals.

Professor Dr Thet Naing Win, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Sports, said that the Ministry of Health and Sports has been performing its duties of upgrading the standard of the whole populace’s health, protecting medical expenses of the people from being too high, providing more health care services towards the people as much as possible, by laying down better health policies. The State has granted larger budget allotments year after year.

Nationally, there are 1,123 hospitals, with a nursing staff of 37,704 needed, but only 20,683 employed — leaving 17,021 nursing positions vacant. — Myan- mar News Agency

(D) Those who are admitted to Nursing University must attend till the end of the academic year. After graduation from the University, all the graduates shall have to sign an agreement to serve at least 3 years in the time of necessity for the country.

(E) Those who fail to follows the agreement must indemnify Ks400,000 and have action taken against them according to existing law.
Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits PyinOoLwin

Vice President U Henry Van Thio visited and inspected the Dhoe Kwin coffee mill and other private coffee plantations and also inspected the implementation status of the New Yadanaon City in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday morning.

U Ye Myint, Chairman of Myanmar Coffee Association (MCA) explained to the delegation led by U Henry Ven Thio in the reception hall of the mill how the MCA was founded and achievement of market share, how they were doing quality control, marketing, exporting to other countries and cooperating with foreign partner organizations.

Next, U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as a Head of the Lead- ing Committee for Farmers Rights, Protection and Interests Promotion, looked around the quality testing of the coffee beans, grinding of the coffee bean samples and coffee fruits by machines, storing of the coffee beans in the warehouse and drying of the coffee beans by drying machine in the mill.

After that, the delegation led by the Vice President visited the coffee garden of Pwant Kaung and Khin Nwe Yi Co., Ltd. and manager of the garden explained about planting of the coffee fruits, annual yield of coffee fruits from the garden, growing of multiple crops, market conditions and better quality accessing methods.

During the visit of the Vice President to the coffee plantations, he said planting of coffee could not only provide better weather conditions but also aid in getting more foreign income to the country; for that reason it was necessary to upgrade and maintain the quality of coffee products by drawing up systematic schemes.

It is known that, the quality of PyinOoLwin coffee meets the world standard and 19,000 acres of coffee plants had been planted around PyinOoLwin Township.

Later, U Henry Van Thio and party visited the National Kandawgyi Botanical Garden, the fossil museum and saw many species of plants and flowers of the garden by vehicles.

Next, the Vice President visited the office of Immigration and National Registration Department. PHOTO: MNA

Provisions provided to returning families in Maungtaw

A ceremony to provide provisions to families returning after going into hiding from Maungtaw’s Oohsaykya village was held yesterday morning in the village’s BHES School.

Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Colonel Hein Lin gave a speech at the ceremony. Afterwards Chairman of Maungtaw District Management Committee Deputy Commissioner U Ye Hutt explained on the reasons for providing provisions, with Senior Field Coordinator from UNHCR Mrs. Marco reviewed on the collaborative processes conducted with the government. The Vice Minister and officials then distributed provisions to the twelve families, which consists of 106 people.

The provisions included 1 bag of rice, 2 viss of oil, 2 viss of salt, 2 viss of chick peas to each family.—Aye Mya (Mandalay), Aye Min Thu

Arms missing from Aungzn police outpost recovered

MILITIA troops were able to recover a BA-63 rifle, the last of three weapons stolen by 5 assailants who attacked the Aungzn police outpost in Aungzn area of Maungdaw Township on 11 March.

Two BA-94 guns with their cartridges missing, two of the three arms that were stolen, were found near the Waylataung creek near the 42 milepost near the border on the same day of the attack at 5pm. The Aungzn militia was led by a temporary Aungzn Area Chief and recovered the two guns while pursuing the assailants.

The remaining BA-64 was discovered with 15 bullets and cartridge intact by two Boristayli villagers in a bush two miles to the East of their village. Borista lies on the opposite side of the border, Northeast of border outpost No. 42. The two villagers who discovered the gun were able to report to the border outpost with border police receiving the arms and ammunition near the borderline at 9am.—Myanmar News Agency

Notice issued for combined fleet exercise in Coco Island

THE Myanmar navy will conduct military exercises off the coast of Coco Island from March 23 to 31, according to official notification.

The area has four points — A, B, C and D, where A is between North Latitude 15 degrees 05 min, 00 and East Longitude 93º 30´; B is between North Latitude 15º 00 min and East Longitude 94º 40´; C is between North Latitude 13º 50´ and East Longitude 94º 40´ and D is between North Latitude 13º 50´ and East Longitude 93º 30´.

Aircraft and helicopters have been warn against flying under an altitude of 15,000 feet above sea level, and the ships, big and small, cargo motorised boats, fishing vessels and motorized sampans have also been warned for their safety against cruising, anchoring, fishing and deploying fishing equipment and apparatus within the five-mile radius of the above mentioned areas where the combined fleet manoeuvres are taking place.—Myanmar News Agency

Outline of the area’s fleet exercise near the Coco Island. PHOTO: MNA
Over 5,500 students in Mandalay unable to sit for matriculation exam during this academic year

MORE THAN 5,500 students across Mandalay Region failed in one or more subjects in their matriculation examination, an important step to enter university, according to Mandalay Region Education Office.

The nationwide matriculation exam for 2016-2017 academic year started on 8 March and ended on 15 March. However, students of arts subjects continue to sit for exams in the subjects of history and geography.

The region education office said that nearly 100,000 students of all subjects took the examination. A total of 5,500 students, studied arts-science subjects and over 1,800 learners of science subjects failed to take the examination due to illness or other reasons.

Dr Soe Myint Tun, deputy director-general of Mandalay Region Education Office, said the authorities opened 180 exam centres in the region. Two centres were opened for two patients at the Mandalay General Hospital and 11 inmates at Obhio Prison respectively. A number of registered students this academic year have increased.

Last year, the education authorities opened 165 exam centres across the region. More than 32,551 of them passed the exam.

—Myitmakha News Agency

Sea turtle conservation in Rakhine so far unsuccessful

Sea turtle conservation is not succeeding in Rakhine State because local people are still catching sea turtles, according to Fisheries Department.

The local people catch sea turtles for their eggs. The sea turtles are a source of food to locals.

The female sea turtles come on the island to lay eggs. The sea turtles are caught in the fishing net. Then, the sea turtle dies inside the fishing net. If fishermen find a sea turtle, they throw it into the sea.

—Myitmakha News Agency

Myanmar to establish 750,000-acre community forest this year

THE FOREST Department plans to develop about 750,000 acres of community-owned forest plantations throughout the country this year, its spokesperson said.

U Bo Ni, director of the department, said that the establishment of community-owned forest plantations are to reforest and prevent desertification of the country, boost production of forest products for socio-economic development of residents and conserve the natural environment.

The department established more than 340,000 acres of community-owned forest plantations across the nation last year, mostly in Shan State. Locals may improve their earnings from the commercial sale of forest products manufactured from the community-managed plantations, said U Ye Khang, from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The forestry authorities hope to develop up to 2.2 million acres of forest planted by 2030 as a part of its 30-year National Forestry Master Plan.

—Myitmakha News Agency

Crime

Maungtaw villager found dead

A VILLAGER from Punti, Maungtaw township was discovered dead with knife wounds on the side of Taunggyo-Kyainchau road yesterday morning. Tandarmyar, 59, left to attend to cattle on the morning of 14 March. When he didn’t return home, family members and the village chief filed a missing persons report to Taunggyo police station.

A security force went on a search expedition and discovered Tandarmyar dead near Puran-Kan Lake on the side of Taunggyo-Kyainchau road yesterday morning with incised wounds to the head and neck. The investigation into his death is ongoing.

—Myanmar News Agency

Four more car accidents occur on Ygn-Mdy Highway

A TOYOTA van driven by Soe Naing Oo hit a guard rail on the road-divider as he fell asleep between mileposts 113/3 and 113/5 at 2:15 am on Thursday on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway. The vehicle was en route from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw. The collision with the guard rail caused the driver to lose control and plunge into a ravine on the right side of the road.

Six passengers on board were not injured, but the vehi- cle was slightly damaged. Phyu Highway Police filed a case against the reckless driver under section 279 of the Penal Code.

Similarly, a gray Honda In

Reduced deposits for four Mandalay toll gates tender

Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) have reduced deposits for four Mandalay toll gates tender in 2017-2018 fiscal year, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee.

Four Mandalay toll gates are Shwekyin, Shwekettiyet, Hoinbo and Aungpinle gates. Last fiscal year, the tender deposit was 50 per cent for the price of the Ks140,000 tender. Some of the businessmen found it hard to participate because of the high deposit. So the MCDC has reduced the deposit payment to 25 per cent. The tender will call for four toll gates to collect wheel taxes and tolls starting 20 March. The tender deposits have to be paid three days ahead before the tender event.

The application form for tender can be bought for Ks 50,000 starting 14 March.

Daily tolls for vehicles will range Ks150 per tonne for 20-tonne vehicles and Ks300 per tonne for over 20-tonne vehicles. The wheel tax will be Ks50 for a motorbike, Ks100 for a lorry, Ks200 for a vehicle under two tonnes, Ks300 for vehicles between two and three tonnes vehicle and Ks500 for vehicles over three tonnes.—Myitmakha News Agency

Waste-to-energy plant slated for early April

THE country’s first-ever waste-to-energy plant being established in Yangon’s Shwepyitha Industrial Zone is expected to be commissioned into service early next month, said Factory Manager U Kyaw Soe Win.

Since 2015, the project has been implemented using US$8 million contributed by the Yangon City Development Committee and $8.2 million by the Japanese Future Engineering Cooperation Agency.

After completion of the project, the new plant will generate 700 megawatts of electricity. The plant will generate power to go to Yangon residents through national power grid and the rest will be used for operational process of the plant.

The regional MPs have already inspected the plant to ensure that fly ashes produced from the plant will not damage the natural environment or endanger humans.

The new incinerator can produce five tonnes of ashes when it burns 60 tonnes of waste materials. The plant can also emit half a tone of ash from chimney smoke.

The waste collection in Yangon is estimated at over 2,000 tonnes per day. The YCDC has collected garbage from every township and disposed of them to their designated areas in Shwepyitha, Hlawga in Mingaladon, Dagon Seikkan and Dala townships every day.

Crime

Maungtaw villager missing

A LOCAL resident living in Sintang Village, Maungtaw went missing on Sunday after he left his home at around 5pm.

Mamad Rozi, 21, was preparing to take a shower when he received a phone call and left his home in area 5 of Sintang Village, Maungtaw. He did not return home.

The Ngarkhaya Area Police Station has included Mamad Rozi to their missing persons list.—Myanmar News Agency

Vehicles overturn on Ygn-Mdy Highway

A GRAY Nissan AD van driven by Aung Kyi Min crashed into the back of a light truck driven by Hein Htet Aung en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay at 10:30 am on Wednesday. The collision caused the two vehicles to overturn on the right side of the Yangon-Mandalay Highway near milepost 2300.

As the vehicles overturned, a passenger aboard the van and two passengers aboard the light truck were injured. The injured victims were taken by car from Phayaung Highway Police Station to the 1,000-bed Nay Pyi Taw Hospital. The police have taken action against the reckless driver.

—Than Oo (Lemyethna)