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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Employees monitoring weaving machine in Meikhtila, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: CHAN THAR (MEIKHTILA)**

Employers, employees voice objections to proposed minimum wage

By May Thet Hnin

SOME employers and employees are expressing strong opposition to the proposed minimum wage of Ks4,800 announced on 2nd January.

"There were objection reports individually or collectively submitted to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population under the prescribed procedures", said U Naw Aung, the labour representative of the National Committee on Minimum Wage.

Through respective region and state committees, employers and labourers are allowed to oppose the proposed minimum wage within 60 days after its announcement. The government will make negotiations with the employers and workers who can give logical reasons for their opposition.

The employers said they will face difficulties if the minimum wage goes above Ks4,000. But labourers requested that they can do well only with a minimum wage of Ks5,600.

"A bunch of watercress sells for Ks200-300. Additionally, a viss (1.6 kg) of onions fetches over Ks3,000. We can live a normal life only with minimum wages of Ks5,600 on account of increasing commodity prices.

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UEHRD leads preparation to receive displaced persons in Rakhine State

THE Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) is leading the process of accepting and resettling persons displaced by terrorist activities and development works and has prepared three repatriation and assessment camps to resettle ethnic nationals, Hindus and Muslims.

The UEHRD's construction group and Ministry of Construction have been constructing repatriation and assessment camps in Taungpyoletwe, Ngakhuya and Hla Hpo Khaung transition camps. Houses were built in Oh Htane, Myoma East, Kyeinchaung, Taungpyo, Myomichaung, Shwezar, Myo Oo and Four Miles for Hindus.

Houses as well as schools and a monastery for local ethnic nationals were being built by states and regions governments, the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Tatmadaw, the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and donors in Thittonenar Gwa Sone (Mro) village, Khontaing (Mro) village, Zawmatet group, Padaka new village, the Aungsitpyin group beside Taungpyo road, Fawtitaung (Maramar) former village, Thet Taing Nya (Thet) former village, Aungthabyay village, Auk Pyuma and near Khamaungseik town.

SEE PAGE-3

Youth, all-round development and national interest

CHILDREN'S literature festival, exhibition and book fair held in Yangon for three days has come to a close. Similar festivals were held in many places in the country simultaneously. The first day event held in Yangon saw nearly 80000 visitors coming to the festival, with over 90000 visitors coming in the following two days, it was learnt.

Those present at the Yangon Children's Literature Festival amounted to nearly 300000 consisting of students, school children and other interested persons. Over 56000 children in all were seen taking part in various kinds of competitions included in the festival. Generally speaking, at such a time when patterns of social life are changing in accord with advanced technology, people including children are becoming less interested in books and literature. At such a time when children need to achieve all-round development in 5 kinds of strengths it will be of great use for fulfillment of the need to hold children's literature festivals.

These days, most of the people are using social media pages such as Facebook all the time. Thus, habits of reading books and literature are decreasing and most seldom buy literature books. Scenes of enthusiastic visitors coming to the children's literature festival held currently highlights that creation of such events and literary environments can lead children to become more inclined towards literature again.

Literary festivals and children's literature festivals which can arouse habits of reading are the driving force for producing well-qualified people, adults and youths.

Being the jewel-like citizens of the future, arrangements for all-round development of today's children had been implemented more than ever, in the administration of the current NLD government. Those who will shoulder the great burden of the nation will be the developed youths. With a view to gaining access to the advanced learning needed for upgrading the leadership capacity of youths in all sectors of the nation in future, the Union Government has already introduced the youth policy for Myanmar.

In implementing the youth policy successfully, it is of great importance to make children read books on literature and cultivate habits of acquiring knowledge. Holding such a kind of children's literature festival is a good support for the success of the youth policy, hence the need to make collective efforts for the emergence of such events.

Literary festivals and children's literature festivals which can arouse habits of reading are the driving force for producing well-qualified people, adults and youths. Generally, it may be assumed that such events are just literary moments held across the nation. Now, we have known that this is the strengthened foundation of great firmness. Accordingly, the youths taking active participation in the children's literature festivals will definitely be the ones who are required to shoulder the national burden, hence the need to build up their skills, knowledge and leadership capacities through literature. ■

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to **dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com** with the following information: **(1)** Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), **(2)** Real name and (if different) your penname, **(3)** Your level of education, **(4)** Name of your School/College/University, **(5)** A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, **(6)** A color photo of the submitter, **(7)** Copy of your NRC card, **(8)** Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Performances of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission

By Su Thet Hmu
[Mayangone]

Members of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) meet ethnic Mro people in Aungthabyay Village in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

ALL human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Every individual can enjoy equal rights and freedom, without segregation. No one shall be subjected torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State. Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person. These are all described in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Formation of MNHRC

With a view to upgrading fundamental rights of Myanmar citizens and protecting human rights, MNHRC was formed in September, 2014, consisting of 11 members whereas the commission started to run its operation with the chairman, vice-chairman and five other members, 7 in all, starting from 6th October 2016. The commission is made up of 5 departments—department of up-gradation and education of human rights, department of protection of human rights, legislative department, administration department, international relation department and management and finance department. Performances of the MNHRC include making trips across the nation for educational sharing, dealing with letters of complaints and issues, making surveys on the ground, if there happened in the areas, important matters and inspecting penitentiaries and custodies.

Upgrading education and process of protection

In the year 2017, MNHRC made talk shows on sharing educational knowledge in 15 townships including Puta-O, Machanbaw, Kawlin, Wuntho, Maiyaung and Maisat. In the National Defense University as well, subjects on human rights had already been conducted to high-ranking Tatmadaw officials for four times. Similarly, trainings on human rights were conducted in other military institutes and camps. In the year 2017 similar trainings were conducted to police officers in Yangon and Magwe Regions and Kachin State.

Educational talk shows were held in the Ministries, 40 ministries in 2015 and 34 ministries in 2017. In the Central Institute of Civil Services as well, a total of over 30000 staff were given trainings for 72 times. Workshops for region and state-level officials were also held in 7 states in 2014, 7 regions and Union Region [Nay Pyi Taw] in 2015 and 4 districts in 2017.

Village and ward-based workshops

In 2015 village or ward based workshops were held for 14 times, with 2 workshops held for officers of penitentiaries. In 2017, 2 workshops were held for women's organizations, one workshop on human rights on children in co-sponsorship with the Education Ministry and similar workshop for City Development Police Forces.

In 2016 8 penitentiaries and 5 inmate labor camps—13 in all were inspected, with 28 prisons and 24 inmate labor camps inspected in 2017. In inspecting penitentiaries, Buthidaung prison was inspected for three times.

Inspection of penitentiaries

While inspecting the prisons, inmates were allowed to frankly submit their difficulties and violations of human rights in the back of prison staff. As a result, 320 from prisons and 133 from labor camps—453 reports had been tendered. In 2017 48 police custodies, 45 custodies of courts of justice and 12 custodies in hospital were inspected.

Investigation on the ground situation

According to complaints as well as information from news media and posted in social media such as face-book the commission made surveys on the ground for investigation. In 2017 23 on-the-ground-investigations were made, with 16 complaints included. Very recently, the commission managed to rescue two children tortured by the victim's father in Danubyu, just upon receipt of the news posted in face-book.

Making trips to Rakhine State for investigation

MNHRC made 16 trips to Rakhine State for investigations on the ground due to the complaints, inspecting two more times in Maungtaw region, Rakhine State in 2017 according to the needs. During the first trip, the commission studied as to whether national ethnic people or Bengalis were being violated of human rights, finding out that Mro, Khami, Daingnet and Hindus were atrociously slaughtered by terrorists. Concerning this, news and information were made known to the people.

During the second trip to Sittwe, Buthidaung and Maungtaw in December, 2017 the commission studied situations on the arrangement of accepting Bengalis who would return from the neighboring country and refugee camps accommodating Hindu nationals who did not yet go back to their original locations. In addition to this, the commission visited the safer sites for building new housing estates for Mro, Daingnet and Khami nationals whose house were burnt down by terrorists.

Cases mostly complained to the MNHRC

In 2016, a total of 611 letters of complaints were received by MNHRC, with 414 letters of complaints received in 2017. Out of them, 276 complaints were to be submitted to the respective Ministries. 112 letters included letters with unclear descriptions of the cases, some to be dealt with through judicial channels and some involved with personal matters only. 3 cases were found to do nothing with human rights, with 3 others drawn from suing in courts of justice.

Cases mostly complained to the MNHRC were cases of land ownership. Some cases were cases of trespassing on land as residence without permission, cases of being removed from lands and confiscation of lands in Kayin State. One case was that an injured inmate at the labor camp complained to the commission over the failure to give medical treatment concerning his injury from the authority concerned at the camp. As regards this, the Ministry arrested the authority concerned, it was learnt. The commission managed to hospitalize the victim.

Advantages and disadvantages among 2016-2017 performances

Compared to previous years, progress had been made to considerate extent. Inspections of penitentiaries in 2017 were made three times of what was done in 2016. Inspections of inmate labor camps were made nearly five times, with inspections of custodies at courts of justice nine times and inspections of custodies at hospitals two times made respectively.

In 2016 the commission had chances to meet 115 inmates only whereas it could meet 453 inmates in 2017. Regarding surveys the amounts of trips increased up to four times—6 trips in 2016 and 23 trips in 2017. In answer to the announcements in radios, TVs and newspapers that complaints can be sent to the commission, people trust in the commission more than ever, acquiring cooperation from Union Ministries and Region and State Governments.

Complaints can be sent

If any became a victim of human rights violation he can tender a letter of complaint to MNHRC. If a citizen became a victim of civilian rights entrusted by the Constitution or a victim of human rights described in the universal declaration of human rights or a victim of human rights included in the agreement of women's rights on sex segregation, agreement of human rights on children and agreement of human rights on the disabled persons, the person in question or by proxy can send a letter of complaint to the following address—chairman, MNHRC, NO/27, Pyay Road 6 ½ mile, Hlaing township, Yangon in person or email address—protection@mnhrc.org.mm describing the following facts:

1/ complainant's name, address and contact numbers [line ph or mobile ph]
2/ complainant by proxy [describing in detail about the victim [if needed- photos, video file or audio file and other evidences attached]
3/ affidavit letter and signature

Complaints not to be investigated by the Commission

-Cases sued in a court of justice
-Cases under trial/appeal in a court of justice
-Cases in which final decrees had been decided by a court of justice.

Characteristics of human rights

Human rights are concerned with every individual, being inborn rights of people. Human rights can neither be divided nor separated. And, human rights are co-related with each other. ■

(Translated by Khin Maung Oo)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order 4/2018

10th Waning of Pyatho, 1379 ME
11th January, 2018

Resignation of Bago Region Ministers approved

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 264 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 52 (b) of Region or State Government Law, following Bago Region Ministers have been permitted to resign of his own volition from the positions.

(1) U Kyaw Min San, Bago Region Minister for Natural Resources, Forests and Environmental Conservation
(2) U Maung Maung Lwin, Bago Region Minister for Development and Social Affairs

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Public Announcement for remonstration

PEOPLE Life for Development Party that had been allowed to set up as a political party headquartered at No. 23, first floor, at the corner of U Aung Myat Street and 123th Street, Golden View Tower in Mingalartaungnyunt Township, Yangon Region, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 16 November 2017, along with the following party's name, flag and emblem.

In their application they mention that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement. — Union Election Commission

Flag of People Life for Development Party,
Emblem of People

Life for Development Party