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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Authorities check the aid stored for returnees in Maungtaw as the government is ready to launch the repatriation. **PHOTO: MNA**

Camps are ready for repatriation

According to the bilateral agreement made by Myanmar and the Bangladesh governments, the relocation and resettlement programmes will be resumed in Taung Pyo Letwe, Nga Khu Ya and Hla Pho Khaung camps.

The coordination meeting and preparation works are being made by the authorities to accept the displaced people who fled to other places following the terrorist attacks in Rakhine State.

Following are excerpts from replies given by governmental service personnel who are going to perform their duties in this area.

Police Lt-Col Saw Zayar Lin

Security arrangements are being made for the returnees who will come back to the temporary camps in the region. There are two parts to the security arrangements: personal security and location security. We are also making effective plans for the officials concerned who will perform their duties in their respective places and for returnees who are in need of protection.

U Hla Myat Oo, Ministry of Foreign Fffairs

I was assigned to perform my duties as a liaison officer at the Taung Pyo Letwe camp, together with two other officials. Our main duty is to coordinate liaison issues with the Myanmar and Bangladesh governments, according to diplomatic protocol. There are three office staff members from our department at the Nga Khu Ya camp. As for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, I will perform my duties as a liaison officer through the diplomatic protocol.

SEE PAGE-6

MPs discuss fund for the disabled, tax exemption

By Aye Aye Than

THE eighth-day meeting of the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw was held yesterday morning in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall.

During the session, asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, and a bill on invention copyright as well as literature and art copyright were discussed.

Responding to a question raised by Daw Ei Ei Pyone of the Ayeyawady Region constituency 8 on a plan to set up a separate fund to provide full rights as described in the law on the rights of persons with disabilities, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said the National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (NCRPD) was formed on 14 September 2017 with the union government order 70/2017. A work committee on the rights of persons with disabilities will be formed with 15 members, which will include deputy ministers from government organisations, permanent secretaries, directors general and officials from the federation on persons with disabilities.

SEE PAGE-2

Foreign Head of State sends felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

The following is message of felicitations from Foreign Head of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From H.E. Ms. Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic
President of the Republic of Croatia
Dear Mr. President,

On the occasion of the celebration of Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I am pleased to extend most sincere congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of your state and its citizens on behalf of the citizens of the Republic of Croatia and my own.

I avail myself of the opportunity to express hope in further strengthening and enhancing bilateral relations between the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Mr. President, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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Camps are ready for repatriation

FROM PAGE-1

U Ye Htoo, Deputy District Commissioner

For the repatriation process, there are many sub-committees under the supervisory board. Our duty is to combine the administration affairs that are in need of an ongoing process. We will arrange accommodation, transport and food for the returnees by the time they arrive at the camps.

Police Lt-Col Saw Zayar Lin.

U Than Win, Senior Nurse, Taung Pyo Letwe camp.

Wai Wai San, police sub-inspector

My duty is to check the women and their belongings when they arrive at the camps.

U Aung Win Oo, Deputy Director Immigration Department, Taung Pyo Letwe

Our inspection team includes the Myanmar Police Force, CID and immigration departments. After scrutinising their physiological characteristics using the biometric system, the registration process and the national verification process will follow.

U Than Win, senior nurse, Taung Pyo Letwe camp

We will have to provide healthcare services when the returnees fall ill at the Taung Pyo Letwe camp. If necessary, we will send them to the hospital.

U Thaung Shwe, Deputy Director of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Wai Wai San, Police Sub-Inspector.

U Thaung Shwe, Director of Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Our department will render help to the returnees, and plans are being made to distribute longyis, blankets, t-shirts and soaps to men and women, according to their age groups. We will attend to the needs of the respective departments. We are ready to provide household utensils and temporary tents to the returnees. We will try our best to fulfil their requirements and provide humanitarian assistance.

U Khaing Min Naing, Deputy-Superintendent of the Fire Services Department, Maung Taw Township

Being an in-charge person at the Taung Pyo Letwe camp, our duty is to provide safety from fire hazards. We will use a fire engine that can hold 1,600 gallons of water with four fire-fighters. We will try our best to ensure there is no breakout of fire in the camp.

U Win Khaing, Director of Immigration and Population Department, Nga Khu Ya camp

When the returnees arrive, we will have to scrutinise and check the displaced persons on the list. According to the agreement being made between the Myanmar and Bangladesh governments, we will have to scrutinise and check the list of displaced persons. Then, we will collect and record their bio data using biometrics. After that, we will issue national verification cards (NVCs) immediately, according to the standard procedures. After providing the NVC, they will have to be scrutinised for eligibility. We will act according to the rules and regulations prescribed by the department.

U Win Zaw Htay, Deputy Director of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department

We can divide the returnees into two categories: men and women, who are above 12 years. We have already made household arrangements for 1,000 men and 1,000 women. Arrangements have been made to provide electricity, office works and other necessary assistance. We are determined to perform our tasks dutifully.

U Thet Naing, an in-charge-engineer at Hla Phoe Khaung camp

As for the resettlement process, we are operating the CITS programme and planning to build 40 houses at the end of this month and some 100 houses by the middle of February. There are altogether 625 houses for 30,000 people. We are digging artesian wells to secure the water supply and connecting electrical wires to provide electricity with the help of EPC. Moreover, we are paving the way for a smooth transport system.—Aung Ye Thwin, Ko Min

Union Supreme Court sits to hear cases

Union Supreme Court yesterday at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges heard six special criminal appeal cases. —Myanmar News Agency

Ayeyawady dolphins' protection zone to be extended

THE Fisheries Department is planning to extend the dolphin protection zone along the Ayeyawady River to conserve the rare species more effectively.

Currently, the Ayeyawady dolphin protection area is 72 kilometres wide, extending from Mingun to Kyauk Muang in the Sagaing Region, as designated in 2005.

The department is planning to extend it by another 118 kilometres from Hti Kyauk in Katha District of the Sagaing Region to Shwegu in Bhamo District of Kachin State.

"We agreed at the meeting in Mandalay to establish a new protected area, which will extend for another 118 kilometres.

The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Irrawaddy Dolphin Conservation Group are cooperating with us," said U Myin Zin Htoo, Deputy Director of the Fisheries Department. According to the latest survey, there are some 68 dolphins in the protected area. The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has been developing community-based tourism in six villages in the protected zone, in cooperation with the WCS and the ministry of agriculture, livestock and irrigation.—GNLM

Three baby Ayeyawady dolphins seen in Ayeyawady Rriver. **PHOTO: WCS**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends Swamkhan Pagoda donation and consecration ceremony

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife donate offertories to Sayadaws at the golden robe donation ceremony. **PHOTO: MNA**

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla attended the golden robe donation (application of gold) ceremony to Swamkhan Pagoda and the consecration ceremony of the pagoda in Kengtung, Shan State (South) yesterday morning. The event was graced by Sanghas led by Kyineyin Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaja Bhaddanta Khemasara. Together with the Senior General were Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior Tatmadaw officers from Commander-in-Chief (Army) office, Commander of Triangle Command, departmental officials and invited guests.

First, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and those who are in attendance took the five precepts from Kyineyin Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaja Bhaddanta Khemasara, listened to the sermon and recitation of parittas from the Sayadaw and the Sanghas.

Next, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and wife presented the Swamkhan (Swamtung) Pagoda and offertories to Kyineyin Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadaja Bhaddanta Khemasara. Afterwards, Tatmadaw senior officers donate offertories to the Sayadaw and Sanghas. Ashin Pariyattidarika from Swamkham monastery presented the document of honor to Commander-in-Chief and a picture of the Swamkham pagoda.

Afterwards, Sayadaw and Sanghas consecrates the Swamkham Pagodo after which Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, wife and members offered soon to the Sayadaw and Sanghas it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency

Ceremony in honor and remembrance of lawyer U Ko Ni and taxi driver U Nay Win

A CEREMONY in honor and remembrance of National League for Democracy legal advisor lawyer U Ko Ni and taxi driver U Nay Win was held yesterday afternoon in Taw Win Rose Hall, Bahan Township.

First the union flag was saluted and then Bogyoke Aung San and the fallen martyrs were saluted. Monks, peoples and students who had fell throughout the successive fights for democracy were saluted and an eight seconds of silence was observed in honor and remembrance of lawyer U Ko Ni and taxi driver U Nay Win.

Next, on behalf of the event organizing committee (committee member) U Tun Kyi explained about the reason for holding the event and read the biography of U Ko Ni and U Nay Win.

Afterwards, leaders of the four main religions delivered speeches in honor and remembrance of the two men.

U Tun Kyi reads the biography of U Ko Ni and taxi driver U Nay Win at the ceremony in honor and remembrance of U Ko Ni and taxi driver U Nay Win. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

Message sent by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was then read by event organizing committee member Daw Ohnma Aye.

This was followed by speeches of US Ambassador Scot Marciel and peoples from all strata that were in attendance.

Former political prisoners and people from all strata who cherish truth and justice jointly organized the event with an aims for the development of truth and justice, acceptance and respect of differences, development of love for the country based on the people, aversion against terrorists and terrorism, unity of all religions and to live together peacefully.

The event was attended by leaders of religions, ambassadors and diplomats from embassies in Yangon, people from all strata and people who want justice and truth it is learnt.—Zaw Gyi ■

U Han Thu presents credentials to President of Sri Lanka

U Han Thu, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka on 23 January 2018, in Colombo.—Myanmar News Agency ■

MoI donates 50 Set Top Boxes to Kawthoung

AS part of efforts for disseminating knowledge to the local people in Kawthoung Township, Myanma Radio and Television of the Ministry of Information donated 50 Set Top boxes to Taninthayi Region Government yesterday.

At the donation ceremony in Kawthoung, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint handed over Set Top Boxes to Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Le Le Maw.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint hands over Set Top Boxes to Taninthayi Region Chief Minister Dr. Le Le Maw. **PHOTO: MNA**

A suspicious person caught dead near Maungni Village, Maungtaw Town

SECURITY personnel were conducting security operations near Maungtaw Town, Maungni Village at 7 p.m. on 26 January when they found three suspicious persons. The three fled through the gap cut in the border fence and a shot was fired against them. One was killed and two fled. Upon investigation of the scene, a 20 inch long ax, a hammer, a 9 inch knife, a chisel, 10 inch long screwdriver, a syringe, a scissor, a 13 inch knife and a hinge were found in a plastic bag. Investigation is conducted to identify the body and the body was sent to Maungtaw Hospital it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Villager murdered in Buthidaung Township

A 71-year-old man from Ngetthay Village in Buthidaung Township was found dead in a nearby forest on 20 January.

The man was found with lacerations on his neck and head.

The man, identified as Mawlawi Ali Husaung, had left home to visit U Hla Pe Village at around 11 am on 20 January and had not returned by afternoon, said his wife.

She then started searching for her husband and found his body in the forest.

The body was sent to Buthidaung Hospital.

His wife has registered a case at the Nyaungchaung police station, and the local police are investigating it. — Myanmar News Agency ■