

Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner meets IDPs in Rakhine State



Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut meets IDPs near the mouth of Mho Win creek, in Maungtaw Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

YESTERDAY, Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut and other officials visited IDPs from Yathedaung and Buthidaung townships who fled their homes after the 25 August 2017 terrorist attacks and are temporarily settled near the mouth of Mho Win creek to cross into Bangladesh.

The officials inquired the reasons for fleeing their homes, why they want to cross over to Bangladesh, the difficulties they are currently facing and their needs and their requirements. Officials discovered that initially a total of 666 residents from 15 villages in Buthidaung and 2 villages in Yathedaung had taken up temporary shelter in the area but 210 of them had already left for Bangladesh leaving 456 people behind. The IDPs claim that scarcity of jobs,

food, and threats from ARSA terrorists are the reasons for crossing over to Bangladesh.

U Ye Htut assured the IDPs that authorities responsible will do all they can to provide security and they are collaborating with NGOs to provide weekly and monthly humanitarian aid to villages in afflicted areas. He said District and Township Administration Committees have issued special documents to allow workers to travel within workplaces in Buthidaung and Maungtaw.

The IDPs replied that Hluttaw representatives and Muslim leaders have discussed matters with them to relocate back to their hometowns but they are voluntarily leaving for Bangladesh where their relatives are already settled.—Hein Htet Zaw ■

Peace Commission, KNPP hold unofficial meeting

THE Peace Commission and the Karen National Progressive Party-KNPP held a meeting in Yangon yesterday, discussing the ethnic armed organization's role in political dialogues and military affairs.

"This is an unofficial meeting and both sides discussed openly. They (KNPP) agree to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA and to take part in the peace process," said U Zaw Htay, Director-General of the Union Peace Implementation Department.

Good results are expected to be achieved in an unofficial meeting between the two sides,

he added.

The two sides also agreed yesterday to hold the upcoming official meetings as soon as possible.

"We discussed how we will hold the political dialogues, negotiations over military affairs and development works for Kayah State," said U Khu Oo Reh, Vice Chairman of KNPP.

The two sides also discussed the role of KNPP in the Joint Monitoring Committee on ceasefire and the role of international observers in the ceasefire agreement, he added.

KNPP also proposed to hold an official meeting in Loikaw, the

capital city of Kayah State.

KNPP signed the state-level bilateral agreement six years ago. Yesterday's meeting is the first ever meeting between KNPP and the new government.

The official meeting is expected to be held in late March or early April.

Yesterday's meeting was attended by Dr. Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the Peace Commission, Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw, Secretary Lt Gen Khin Zaw Oo (Ret), Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo and officials of the Peace Commission while KNPP delegation was led by Khu Oo Reh.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Nationwide matric exams begin

Matriculation exams began all across Myanmar yesterday and Maungtaw, Rakhine State also peacefully participated with other States and Regions.

More than 788,000 students registered to take the matriculation exams which began yesterday. In Yangon Region, more than 111,800 students registered for the exam.

Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut inspected the three examination centers in Maungtaw Township and met with the township Education Officer to discuss plans in place for smooth matriculation exams for students.

U Khin Aung, the township education officer, said that a total of 78 per cent of students in the township have taken the



Students return home following the end of the first day of matriculation examination in Maungtaw. **PHOTO: RAMANYA**

first day of the exams while the rest of the students have not. Last year, over 2,000 students signed up for the matriculation exams but only 1,200 students actually took the exams while

700 neglected to participate. Even though not a lot of students participated this year the number is a significant increase from last year.—Hein Htet Zaw ■

19th ASEAN-COCI successfully held in Yangon



The second day meeting of the 19th ASEAN-COCI Subcommittee on Information Meeting held at Sky Star Hotel in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE second day meeting of the 19th ASEAN-COCI Subcommittee on Information Meeting was held at Sky Star Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning.

Chairpersons and members of the Subcommittees on Information from respective ASEAN countries, departmental heads and producers and officials from ASEAN Internal Affairs attended the meeting.

The participants discussed issues on the Information sector for the upcoming 20th ASEAN-COCI Subcommittee on Information Meeting that will be held in the Philippines, funds for

ASEAN's Culture, and exchanging colorful and educated ASEAN TV programmes for showing to each ASEAN country in turn were discussed.

After the meeting, Chairpersons and representatives from ASEAN-COCI visited the Myanmar Gems Museum on Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, the Secretariat on Theinphyu Road and then they visited Shwedagon Pagoda.

As the meeting was successfully finished, chairpersons and representatives will go back home today.—Myanmar News Agency ■