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Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor issued the press release on 27th May on the first returnees from Bangladesh. Following is the full text of the press release.

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

13th Waxing of Nayon, 1380 ME
(27th May 2018)
PRESS RELEASE

The first returnees from the Camps in Cox's Bazaar arrived in Reception Centres

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Bangladesh have signed the Arrangement on Return of Displaced Persons from Rakhine State on 23 November 2017. One of the provisions of the agreement was that action will not be taken against the returnees except for the cases that involved terrorist activities.

In accordance with the agreement, arrangements

have been made to receive the returnees at Nga Khu Ya and Taung Pyo Latwe reception centres. After verification at the reception centres, the returnees are to be housed at the transit camp in Hla Phoe Khaung temporarily.

To implement the agreement, the delegation led by Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye visited Cox's Bazaar in April 2018. Subsequently, Myanmar leader of the Joint Working

Group, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, U Myint Thu visited Dhaka on 17 May 2018. Despite these efforts, the procedures for systematic repatriation are still not yet widely known by the displaced persons. As a result, the displaced persons who no longer find it tenable to continue their stay in the camps in Cox's Bazaar began returning to Rakhine State of their own volition and under

their own arrangements.

These returnees were arrested under the existing laws and some were given prison sentences.

In accordance with the bilateral agreement, the returnees should be properly processed, verified and be accepted without any action being taken against them. In order to implement this process, the President has pardoned 58 persons. These

people were released from prison and sent to the Nga Khu Ya Reception Camp on 26 May 2018. After the necessary verification, they will be transferred to the Transit Camp in Hla Phoe Khaung.

This arrangement concerns only those who have not been involved in terrorism. Effective action will be taken against those implicated in terrorist acts in accordance with law.

Interfaith delegation visits Maungtaw

An 18-member interfaith delegation composed of local and international members of Religions for Peace (RfP) and interfaith group, accompanied by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Cardinal Charles Bo and Rakhine State Minister U Kyaw Aye Thein, visited Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre yesterday.

They flew to the transit centre in a Tatmadaw helicopter, and were welcomed by Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin and other officials.

At the transit centre, Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut and Project Engineer U Tin Soe reported on the readiness for repatriation, plans for accepting returnees and the resettlement plans.

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Members of the interfaith delegation meet Hindus, who were abducted by ARSA terrorists at the Maungtaw District General Administration Department in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Ten investors hold talks with Kayah State cabinet

TEN groups of investors called on Kayah State chief minister yesterday in Loikaw, seeking opportunities for investment in the state.

The investors included two cinema companies, three marble production companies, one company seeking to set up an adventure tourism business in Pon Chaung, one company growing perennial trees, two companies involved in hotel businesses, and one company engaged in mining and agriculture businesses.

The companies called on the Kayah State cabinet, led by Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho, following the Kayah State Investment Forum that concluded on Saturday. The film companies proposed to run cinemas in the state within a year. Ardent Alliance Co. Ltd. proposed to set up an adventure tourism business in Pon Chaung to attract tourists to the natural beauty of Pon Chaung in Bawlake District.

The investors also expressed



A meeting between investors and Kayah State cabinet in progress in Loikaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

their interest in the production of marbles of international standards. They also discussed prospects for hotels and mining businesses in the state.

To promote investment in

Kayah State, the Kayah State Investment Forum was held on Saturday at the State Hall in Loikaw, Kayah State. It was jointly organised by the Kayah State government and the Kayah State

Investment Committee, supported by the Myanmar Investment Commission. The Kayah State government is working to establish an international trade centre.

The main objectives of the

forum are to promote investment in Kayah State effectively and develop a linkage between local businesses, and potential local and foreign investors.

—Sai Nyan Lin Hut ■

SWRR Deputy Minister, Japanese Ambassador visit IDPs in Rakhine

A delegation led by Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama arrived in Sittway Township and discussed the closure of internally displaced persons' (IDPs) camps, resettlement programmes and socio-economic development with those in charge of the camp and residents yesterday morning.

The deputy minister and the Japanese ambassador, accompanied by the Rakhine State development affairs minister, arrived at Thetkeyyin IDP camp in the township and met those in charge and residents. During the meeting, the ambassador said they had met with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who told them to visit Rakhine State, study its real situation, and give



Deputy Minister U Soe Aung meets those in charge of the IDP camps in Thetkeyyin. **PHOTO: MNA**

suggestions on the means to deal with the situation. He said they had conducted field tours in the state to provide humanitarian aid and invited suggestions on the requirements in connection with resettlement and socio-development.

Those in charge and residents agreed to the IDP camps closure programme, suggesting that they be resettled at their original place or built homes in nearby places. They also discussed freedom of movement, continuous provision for food, healthcare services, educational needs, and provision for electricity and transport until after the closure of the IDP camps. Further, they spoke about the pursuance of university education and citizenship.

In his response, the deputy

minister thanked them for their frank discussions, pointing out the need to adopt short-term, as well as long-term programmes, for their requirement. He said the state government was compiling data for the continuous pursuance of higher education, explaining his knowledge of national identity card holders national registration cardholders, national verification cardholders and citizenship applicants among the residents. The deputy minister assured cooperation of relevant ministries in dealing with their requirements, in accordance with the law.

The ambassador said he would find the means to deal with the matter, in accordance with the existing laws of Myanmar, through cooperation between the Myanmar and Japanese govern-



Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama shakes hands with a resident of Bawdupha IDP camp. **PHOTO: MNA**

ments, and generate jobs.

The deputy minister, the ambassador and the delegation visited Daungdokka and Bawdupha camps in Sittway and discussed their closure and resettlement, as well as the socio-economic

development undertakings.

In the evening, the delegation visited Nidin camp in Kyauktaw and discussed the resettlement of camp residents at places adjacent to the former villages. —Myanmar News Agency ■

We will abolish the red tape that burdens the people and eradicate corruption and bribery that plagues all levels of society as we work to strengthen the moral fiber of our people. We will draw out from our past experiences as a civilian government overcoming various obstacles and hardships, as we work to the best of our ability for the immediate present and head towards the future of a democratic nation that respects human rights and is free from all stains of corruption.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

May we all be able to build the peaceful, modern, prosperous and genuine Democratic Federal Republic which is the dream of the fathers of our independence and which is what our people desire.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)



U Myint Swe presents cash assistance to a Hindu woman. **PHOTO: MNA**



Members of the Interfaith delegation meet locals at the Mro ethnic village. **PHOTO: MNA**

Interfaith delegation visits Maungtaw

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The interfaith delegation raised questions on the plans for the resettlement of returnees at their original places, the aid provided to them, plans for assisting them in settling down in their original places when they return, the situation of the Islamic community who fled and have been living in peace, and raising awareness for peaceful coexistence and harmony between the various communities. The officials replied to their queries.

During their visit to Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, U Soe Tun, deputy director of the administration of the reception centre, and U Ko Ko Thaw, direc-

tor of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, briefed them on the facts about the centre, citizenship verification process, registration and the issuing of the national verification cards. The officials also explained the immigration works and measures taken for the displaced people to access information on NVCs.

The delegation visited the office of the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, where the NVC issuing works, biometric programme, rehabilitation and healthcare services are being carried out.

Later, the interfaith delegation, led by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Cardinal Charles Bo, went to the office of the local

authorities and met the Hindu families who were abducted by ARSA terrorists. At the meeting, they enquired about their security, healthcare, livelihoods, the terrorist attacks they experienced and their need for development. Later, RfP Chairman U Myint Swe presented cash assistance to the Hindu families.

The interfaith delegation also visited Pantawpyin Village, where administrator of Pantawpyin Village-tract U Annawah briefed about the construction of the Pantawpyin new village and the socio-economy of the villagers.

The members of the delegation enquired about the situation of academic education in

the basic education schools, the religious Lessons provided at the Islamic schools and harmony between the various communities.

The interfaith delegation also visited Kainggyi Village of the Mro ethnic people and observed the situation of food safety, education and prospects for living

in harmony between the different communities.

Later, the delegation flew back to Sittway in a helicopter. The interfaith delegation arrived in Sittway on 26 May to visit the reception centres and to meet the local people in Maungtaw. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Members of the Interfaith delegation visit office of the Immigration Department in Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre. **PHOTO: MNA**

Participation in Japanese travel fair discussed

UNION MINISTER for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung met Senior Vice-chair of Myanmar Restaurant Association (Central) Daw Tin Mar Myint, Chair of Myanmar Restaurant Association (Mandalay Zone) Daw Khin Saw Oo and its members on 26 May.

The union minister said restaurants played a major

role in developing the tourism industry in Myanmar.

A standard restaurant needs cleanness, hospitality and skilled services. Restaurants should make preparations for the Tourism Expo Japan to be held in September this year, under the sponsorship of Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA), and the Myanmar tra-

ditional food festival to be held during the Manuha Pagoda festival in the same month.

The participants presented their plans to take part in the festivals.

The hotels and tourism ministry, Myanmar Restaurant Association (Mandalay Zone) and tourist agent from Switzerland offered a dawn meal to 200

members of the Sangha at the foot of Mandalay Hill yesterday morning.

The Swiss tourist agent arriving on 22 May in Myanmar, under arrangement with Diethelm Travels Company Limited, visited Yangon and Bagan, offered provisions to members of the Sangha in Mandalay, studied chinlon sports, and offered

day meals to nuns in Sagaing. They will leave Myanmar today.

During his meeting with the Swiss visitors, the union minister explained the stable situation of tourism destinations in Myanmar and the economic and social development undertakings of the government. —Myanmar News Agency ■