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Picture

Deputy ministers, JPN Ambassador visit Maungtau

Japanese Ambassador talks to returnees at Hla Pho Khaung Transit Centre during his visit to Maungtau yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY (NEWS ON PAGE-3)**

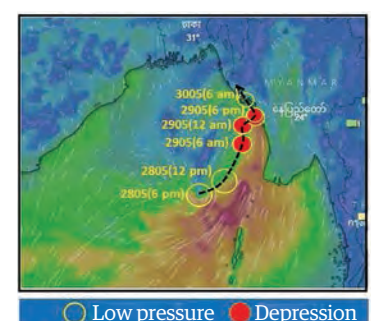
Low pressure area to intensify into depression

THE LOW pressure area over the East Central Bay of Bengal is expected to intensify into a depression during next 18 hrs, according to the observation at 6.30 pm yesterday by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

Further, as per local and foreign weathermen, the weather system is likely to move in north-northeasterly direction and cross near Kyaukpyu in central part of Rakhine coast.

Monsoon is moderate to strong over the Andaman Sea, South Bay and East Central Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy to cloudy elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi regions, Chin State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with regionally heavy rainfall in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Rakhine State, isolated heavy falls in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Region and Kayin and Mon states. Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8 - 14) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts. Monsoon entered the delta area yesterday and is advancing to the Central Myanmar areas today.—GNLM ■



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Lawmakers discuss fiscal deficit for interim period, foreign loans

The 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its fifth meeting for the eight regular session, inviting lawmakers to discuss nomination for Union Minister for Planning and Finance, putting on record the assignment of state minister, appointing members to the Joint Public Account Committee, putting on record the 2017 annual report of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, a discussion by lawmakers on borrowing loan from the Central Bank of Myanmar to cover the fiscal deficit from April to September and explanation about use of foreign

loans by ministries.

President nominates U Soe Win as Union Minister for Planning and Finance

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than submitted to the Hluttaw the nomination of U Soe Win as Union Minister for Planning and Finance, sent by the President.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the appointment of U Soe Htet as Chin State Development Affairs, Electricity and Industry Minister sent by the President.

The bill amending the Early

Childhood Development Law, over which the two Hluttaws were in disagreement, was sought approval paragraph by paragraph. The approval of the Hluttaw was also obtained for the appointment of Brig-Gen Ye Naing Myo to replace Col. Ne Win as Tatmadaw representative member of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Account Committee.

The Hluttaw also announced the putting on record of the discussion of the Hluttaw representatives on the 2017 annual report of the Myanmar National Human Rights Com-

mission and the explanation provided by commission chairman U Win Mra, in response to the Hluttaw representatives' discussion.

Following this, a report on the findings and comments of the Joint Bill Committee on the bill amending the National Budget Law sent by the Union Government was read by committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt, and an announcement was made to the Hluttaw representatives to enroll their names if they want to discuss the report.

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 ■

Dr. Win Myat Aye, U Nyi Pu, Japanese Ambassador discuss Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, and state ministers held a meeting with Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Ichiro Maruyama at the Rakhine State government building yesterday.

The Ambassador said he understood that the repatriation process was difficult and talked of his meeting with returnees at the Hla Pho Kaung transit centre. He added that the returnees told him their main concern was verification of citizenship, freedom of move-

ment, enrollment in education facilities and security.

The Union Minister replied that they were working, in accordance with the 1982 Citizenship Law, to swiftly and accurately issue citizenship status to the returnees.

He said the returnees would have the freedom to legally travel in Maungdaw District, and students would be able to enroll in universities when they have received their NV (National Verification) cards. He added that they were working to ensure there was no discrimination in healthcare and that officials were focusing



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu hold talks with Japanese Ambassador Mr. Ichiro Maruyama in Rakhine yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

on the rule of law to ensure the overall security.

The State Chief Minister then said that his government was collaborating with the Union Government and hoped that the international community

would see the true situation in Rakhine State. He added that there were wrong and potentially harmful rumors going around among the people who fled to Bangladesh, and that there will be continued complications in

the repatriation process if the international community does not relay true and accurate information. He also said the returnees had the right to be free from terrorist threats. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar leading figures, Chinese scholars discuss future of bilateral relations

A SEMINAR on “The China-Myanmar Economic Corridor” was held yesterday at LOTTE Hotel in Yangon, to discuss the future of China-Myanmar relations in the changing world.

During a day-long seminar, a series of panel discussions dealt with topics that include transport connectivity, energy cooperation, and ways to improve people-to-people relations between China and Myanmar. The relationship between economic growth and other priorities, including peace and environmental protection, were also discussed.

Panel discussions were lead by speakers Professor Zhai Kun, Peking University; Professor Li Chenyang (Yunnan University, Head of Institute of Myanmar Studies); Shi Guoqing (Hehai University); Dr. Thant Myint-U, DICA Director-General U Aung Naing Oo; U Win Myo Thu (Managing Director, EcoDev); Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung (Daw Khin Kyi Foundation); and Daw Pyone Kathy Naing (MP, Lower House).

Dr. Thant Myint-U said, “Myanmar’s biggest long-term challenge, together with climate change, will be managing well its relationship with



China-Myanmar Economic Corridor panel discussion held in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

China. This is not a technical issue. It’s about having a vision of how Myanmar can best benefit from being next to the greatest rising power in the world, economically, politically, and culturally.”

Some 35 participants, including 14 Chinese scholars from Beijing, Kunming, and other Myanmar participants, including a mix of scholars, leading business people, government officials, and Members of Parliament, were present at the seminar.

In late 2017, China Foreign Minister Wang Yi proposed to build the economic corridor during his meeting with Myanmar’s State Coun-

sellor and Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi with the hope of maximising revenue for both countries and contributing to the stability of Myanmar and the China-Myanmar border.

The proposed economic corridor will start in China’s Yunnan Province, extend to the central Myanmar city of Mandalay, and then east to Yangon and west to the Kyaukpau special economic zone, forming a three-pillar giant cooperation pattern.

The event is co-hosted by U Thant House and the Yunnan University Institute of Myanmar Studies.—Nanda Win ■

Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population releases performance in April

UNDER the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, labour-related matters were conducted by the Department of Labour, Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department, Labour Relations Department and Social Security Board. During the month of April, they conducted the following labour-related matters.

The Department of Labour signed a total of 19,494 labour employment agreements for 7,453 men and 12,041 women. Township-level dispute settling teams were formed to settle employee/employer disputes and in April 2018; 94 cases were accepted, of which 21 cases were settled amicably, 21 cases were transferred to state-/region-level dispute settling teams and 52 were wage/salary cases and 605 workers were provided with Ks160,885,413.

The Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department was able to provide more than Ks2,200 million in benefits to workers for working on public holidays, cash entitlement in lieu of earned leave, ensuring the earning of leftover wages, and obtaining cash benefits during

casual, medical and maternity leaves. Inspection officials from the department also conducted occupational/worksite safety and health talks with employers and employees from 461 factories and work sites and 257 talks on general knowledge about legal matters.

The arbitration council of the Labour Relations Department resolved 7 arbitration cases and provided more than Ks11 million in benefits to 313 workers.

The Social Security Board ensured the rights of workers in social and medical matters and helped towards providing Ks600 million in social matters and more than Ks57 million as reimbursements for medical treatments. For medical treatments, a total of 7,161 workers (6,580 out-patients and 581 in-patients) were treated in three workers’ hospitals, while 59,117 workers were treated in 151 social security clinics. Doctors from the three workers’ hospitals conducted five field trips to treat 1,480 workers, while doctors from social security clinics conducted 82 field trips and treated 1,618 workers, it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■