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Myanmar, China celebrate Paukphaw Friendship Day in Yangon

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Independent Commission of Enquiry, MoU on repatriation welcomed by foreign countries

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President U Win Myint, the State Counsellor, vice-presidents and attendees of the meeting on discussing Rakhine, national security and international relations pose for photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

Meeting held to discuss Rakhine issue, national security, international relations

A meeting to discuss the Rakhine issue, national security and international relations was held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Those at the meeting also discussed the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the formation of an Independent Commission of Enquiry, the Shangri-La Dialogue and related issues, as well as the border and Rakhine State security matters.

The meeting was attended by President U Win Myint, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, vice presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Commander-in-Chief of Defence

Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Vice Senior General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army), Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister for Border

Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Union Minister for the State Counsellor's Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo and Deputy Minister for Office of the President U Min Thu.— Myanmar News Agency

INSIDE TODAY



LOCAL NEWS

Over 153,000 foreigners visit Myanmar through Tachilek border in six months

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BUSINESS

Myanmar-India border trade exceeds \$24 million since April

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Low-pressure zone likely to form in north Bay of Bengal

A low-pressure zone may form over the northern section of the Bay of Bengal since yesterday afternoon, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department said.

Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in the Mandalay Region, as well as in the re-

maining regions and states, with heavy rainfall in the Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, and Rakhine and Mon states, and isolated heavy rainfall in Nay Pyi Taw, the Magway Region, Chin and Kayin states. The degree of certainty is 100 per cent,

said the weather bureau yesterday. Also, a monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and the Bay of Bengal.

The department urged people to heed its daily announcements and be alert to possible flooding.—GNLM ■

Returnees pledge to abide by the rule of law

Following is the interview with returnees from Bangladesh

MYANMAR and Bangladesh signed an arrangement for the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State on 23 November 2017. When they return, according to the repatriation agreement of 1993 signed by the two countries, no action will be taken against those who did not participate in terrorist acts.

Currently, a few returnees who were not involved in terrorist acts have returned to their villages in Maungtau Township, and our news team has conducted interviews with them.

Ima Nur Song
Formerly from Shwezar Village-tract, Shwezar Ale Village
Present - at his home in Shwezar Village-tract

I returned from the other shore. My family has stayed in Bangladesh. I came back to live in my home in Myanmar and I will call back my family. As they are staying in a camp, I'm waiting for them to be included in the list of refugees. I'll be welcoming them. Everything is fine here. After we return to Myanmar, we will abide by the government rules on NVC (national verification card). For my livelihood, I'll continue to work as a fisherman, as I had done before.

Sufra Bi Bi
Formerly from Kanyintan Village-tract, Maung Ni Village
Present - at her home in Kanyintan (Myoma)

I returned from Bangladesh. As I'm from Myanmar, I want to live in Myanmar. I went to Bangladesh for medical treatment. I'll live according to the government rules and laws. I'll have to discuss my family about the NVC. I want the people in Bangladesh to return to Myanmar.

Faruds
Formerly from Myoma Taung ward, Fayzi Village
Present - Kanyintan (Myoma)

Currently, I'm staying in



Ima Nur Song



Ouda Hussan



Nor Gumullah



Sufra Bi Bi



Faruds



Mahmut Ilias



Mahmat Ayud



Mahabi Zul Rahman



Mahmat Jubar

Myoma Kanyintan with my father. I went to Bangladesh to help, and accompany my sister whose hand was broken. She was in a hospital for six days, and after she was discharged we returned to Myanmar. The hospital is quite a distance from the camp, where people who fled from Myanmar are staying. I didn't stay there.

I heard many people are staying there. I also heard that they are being provided support by Bangladesh. I live in Myanmar, and I like it here. I'm the only one who has an NVC. in my family. My father did not apply for it. As I'm staying in Myanmar, I will abide by the rules here.

Nor Gumullah
Formerly from Nyaungchaung Village-tract, Nyaungchaung Village
Present - Nyaungchaung Village

I went to Bangladesh for medical treatment. While taking treatment, I stayed in the Balukhali camp for a couple of days. I stayed at the head of the administration office. I have no plan to go to Bangladesh again. At the refugee camp, I did not have any relatives or friends. I stayed there only for my treatment.

My family is in Maungtau.

My family members have to apply for the NVC. I work as a daily wage labourer. Now, I'm thinking of opening a shop. I would like to ask those on the other side to return.

Ouda Hussan
Formerly from Kyaukpyinsate Village-tract, Taung Village
Present - uncle's home in Kyaukhlayga Village

I stayed in Bangladesh for two months with four family members. I asked them to come back with me, but they didn't. As I have an NVC, I'll stay here. No one, including the Bangladesh authorities, have asked me to return. I came back of my own volition. Myanmar is better for my life and security.

Mahmut Ilias
Formerly from Shwezar Village-tract, Shwezar North Village
Present - Shwezar North Village

I was detained when I returned from Bangladesh after staying there for five days. I went there on 15 February 2018. My family is in Maungtau.

Now I hold an NVC. The NVC will be helpful. My family does not have it and I don't know why. I pedal a trishaw for a living. At the moment, I don't

have a trishaw, so I'm thinking of driving a taxi for income. If those who fled after the event return, I'll welcome them.

Mahabi Zul Rahman
Formerly from Ngakhuya Village-tract, Taung Village
Present - Ngakhuya Village-tract, Hmowin Village

I stayed in Balukhali refugee camp with my family. As I did not want to continue to live there, I returned. I fled to Bangladesh with my family after the events that happened here. Turkey is providing assistance in the Bangladesh camps. I heard that some other countries are also providing assistance, but I don't know which countries, exactly.

I came back to Myanmar alone. I previously had a shop here, but it was destroyed in a fire. I have no job now. The Myanmar government has provided me with pots, pans, spoons, plates, rice, cooking oil, peas and clothing. I just want to stay in Myanmar. As for my family, it is their wish. My children are attending an Arabic school there. I've already made the NVC.

Mahmat Ayud
Formerly from Shwezar

Village-tract, Shwezar North Village
Present - Shwezar North Village

I stayed in Bangladesh for five days. When I returned here, I was caught. I did not go there to do anything. I went there in the second month of this year. I have a family photo shop in Maungtau.

Mahmat Jubar
Formerly from Alethankyaw village tract, Mawtula village
Present Kanyintan (Myoma)

I was in Bangladesh for two years. I returned from Bangladesh and stayed in Kanyintan village. I'm here for one year now.

At the moment, I'm not doing anything. It is better for me to stay in Myanmar than Bangladesh. When my household list was deregistered, I told the administrator and lived in Kanyintan. I have a card from Bangladesh to stay there. If I didn't have such card, I would be arrested by police there.

Now that I have an NVC, I wouldn't go to Bangladesh anymore. I'm trying to bring my family back from Bangladesh. I want them to come back here.

I have no money or home, so I'm staying with a relative here.

He has a car, so I'm working as a 'spare' (driver's helper). I'm alone and lonely here. If my family returns here, I'll be happy.

Abdu Rahein
Formerly from Oodaung village tract Paskori village
Present - Alethankayw Osmoho village

When the incidents happened here, I went to Bangladesh and stayed in the Bakkhali camp. I had no work there and stayed with my family. Bangladesh authorities didn't tell us to go back. I returned on my own free will.

I'm happy to stay in Maungtau. If I can bring my family back here and start a life here again, I'll be happy. I want them to come back. If we stay in Bangladesh, we have to abide by the rule there, and if we stay in Myanmar, we have to abide by the rules here.

Coordination meeting held for all-round youth development festival

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint attended a coordination meeting in the Mandalay Region government's office meeting hall yesterday afternoon to conduct an all-round youth development festival in Mandalay.

Present at the meeting with the union minister were Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, other region ministers and officials.

In his opening speech at the meeting, Dr. Pe Myint said the coordination meeting was held to successfully convene an all-round youth development festival in Mandalay. The youth festival is being held, with the aim for youth to share among themselves knowledge, skills,

ethics and values, as well as to establish a future Myanmar society based on their views and ideas.

Every country and government strives towards the development of its youth, who will formulate and create the destiny of their country. Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung said 26 per cent of the population in Myanmar were aged between 15 and 29. The Mandalay all-round youth development festival will be held with the aim of supporting the youth fully to acquire skills and knowledge.

All the necessary support and assistance will be provided for a successful festival, said the chief minister.



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses at the meeting for all-round youth development festival in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

Also, Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Ye Naing explained the work processes to hold an all-round youth development festival.

Following this, the attendees discussed the youth festival, and the union minister and

region chief minister also joined in the discussion.

The all-round youth development festival (Mandalay) will be held in Mandalay for three days, and discussions reviewed activities for literature, sports, arts, information technology, education and information pro-

grammes, and job fairs.

The all-round youth development festival (Yangon) was held in Yangon University from 1 to 3 December 2017. This year, the youth festival (Mandalay) will be held with pomp and ceremony. — Mandalay Sub-Printing House ■

Returnees pledge to abide by the rule of law

FROM PAGE-6

Zahid Hussein
Formerly from Myinlut Town, Shida Ward
Present - Alethanyaw Village

I went to Bangladesh after the incident here, and returned after a month. My relatives and siblings were here, and I returned to meet with them. In Bangladesh, I stayed in the Tankhali camp. As I just returned, I have no work. I'm staying with a relative. I use a boat to cross back to Myanmar from Tankhali village. When I was there, I didn't know of the agreement reached by the two countries. My family is in Bangladesh. If this side is ready, and they are willing to come back, I'll welcome them.

Solyusalem
Formerly from Tawlya village tract, Zula village
Present - Kanyintan village

I was in Bangladesh for six to seven months. I stayed in the Musoni camp. My daughter is here in Myanmar, so I returned. Previously I was in construction work and it was quite good. It is convenient to stay here. I came back here via Gawduthara. Bangladesh authorities are not urging us to return to Myanmar.



Abdu Rahein



Zahid Hussein



Mahmut Sweyus



Solyusalem



Mahmat Zabir



Nassar Ullah

I now have an NVC. I knew when I was in the Bangladesh camp that if I'm to stay here, I'll have to abide by the laws here. I already submitted an application to bring back my family. We will abide by the laws here. It is better for us to stay here, rather than Bangladesh. If allowed, I'll bring my family back.

Nassar Ullah
Formerly from Thu Oo La village tract, Kanpyin village
Present - his home is in Thu Oo La

I did not tell my parent when

I came back here, and sneaked away. In Bangladesh, I stayed in the Jamtoli camp. I have no work now. Before all of this, I was a carpenter. If the state allow, I want to call back my family. I returned from Bangladesh without anyone asking me to do so. There were no announcements or notifications in the camp informing us about the procedure and process to return. I now have an NVC. I'll ask my family to make applications for the NVC. Rice and pots were provided in the Hla Phoe Khaung Transit centre. My biggest wish is to see my fam-

ily. If they come back, everyone will be happy.

Mahmut Sweyus
Formerly from Thu Oo Lavillage tract, Kanpyin village
Present - his home is in Thu Oo La

When area clearance was conducted after the terrorist incident, we fled out of fear. But it was not good there. So I returned on a small fishing boat, without my parents knowing.

In Bangladesh, I was in a camp called Jamtoli. As it is not my country, it was not con-

venient. I worked as a carpenter for a living. I returned back alone and I'm ok here. I want to call back my family. I didn't hear or know about any plans for us to come back here. There were no notices or notifications. I stayed in a camp for seven and a half months. I accept and agree to return according to procedures. I want to make an NVC for my family

Mahmat Zabir
Formerly from Thu Oo Lavillage tract, Kanpyin village
Present - his home is in Thu Oo La

When the terrorist incident occurs, I fled to Bangladesh with my family out of fear. But I'm not happy there. I'm happy in Myanmar. I stayed in the Jamtoli camp while I was in Bangladesh.

In the past, I was a farm worker. Now I have no work. My family is still in the Jamtoli camp. If permitted, my family is ready to come back. I came back from Bangladesh, and along the way I went out through Lamtabali village.

The Bangladesh government is not urging or encouraging us to return. I did not know about the procedure for returning when I was in Bangladesh. I had no time to make an NVC for my family.—News Team ■