

THAILAND

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PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

State level ceasefire committees to be formed in Kayin and Mon states

Mizzima, 28 June 2016

Union level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JCMC) members have discussed forming state-level committees in Kayin and Mon States, state media reported on 28 June.



Saw Isaac Po, JMC-U vice chairman 1, said that work to form JMC-S in Kayin and Mon States are expected to begin on 29-30 June,

A two-day meeting is currently underway to discuss formation of JCMCs in Kayin and Mon States and Bago Region, work to be done on JCMC-Technical Secretariat Centre (TSC), the budget for the implementation of the JCMC process for three years, the formation of working committees to develop work programs and a JCMC database, and public participation in the

monitoring process and demining, the report said.

Link: <http://www.mizzima.com/news-domestic/state-level-ceasefire-committees-be-formed-kayin-and-mon-states>

Myanmar's Military to Cooperate With Stakeholders at Panglong Peace Conference

Radio Free Asia, 29 June 2016

Myanmar's military commander-in-chief has vowed that the country's powerful military will cooperate with government negotiators and armed ethnic organizations to ensure the success of Aung San Suu Kyi's 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference in August.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing made the comment during a meeting Wednesday in the capital Naypyidaw with the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST)—leaders from the eight armed ethnic groups that signed a nationwide cease-fire agreement (NCA) with the government last October—said Arakan Liberation Party leader Saw Mra Razar Lin, who was among the attendees.

Min Aung Hlaing also welcomed armed ethnic groups that did not sign the NCA to



participate in the conference, she said. These ethnic armies had previously been excluded from talks.

Link: <http://www.rfa.org/english/news/myanmar/myanmars-military-to-cooperate-with-stakeholders-at-panglong-peace-conference-06292016161235.html>

Suu Kyi, NCA groups agree to start 'Second Panglong' in August

Democratic Voice of Burma, 28 June 2016

State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and representatives of eight ethnic armed groups that signed last year's Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) decided at a meeting today to start new, more comprehensive peace talks — dubbed the "21st Century Panglong Conference" — no later than the last week of August.



"We mainly talked about organizing the upcoming peace conference. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the ethnic leaders discussed on principal a suggestion to convene the dialogue no later than the last week of August," said Hla Maung Shwe, the secretary of the Panglong preparatory sub-committee 2, who was at the meeting.

"We also discussed means of including ethnic armed groups that have not yet signed the NCA, as well as the role of civil society organizations and political parties in the talks," he added.

Link: <http://www.dvb.no/news/suu-kyi-nca-start-second-panglong-august/67648>

Myanmar ethnic summit to be held before Panglong Conference

Xinhua News, 10 July 2016

An ethnic summit of Myanmar will be held in northernmost Kachin state on July 26 in preparation for the government-sponsored 21st Century Panglong Ethnic Conference planned for late August, local media reported on Sunday.

The three-day summit is to be held in Mine Kyar Yan controlled by the Kachin Independence Organization (KIO).

The decision was adopted at a meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, on Friday involving representatives of eight signatories and other non-signatories to the Nationwide Cease fire Accord (NCA).

The non-signatory armed groups are represented by the United Nationalities Federal Council's (UNFC) Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN).

The committee decided to allow the NCA non-signatories to join the Panglong Conference to ensure access for them to political dialogue.

Link: http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-07/10/c_135501866.htm

LAW AND GOVERNANCE

State Counselor's Office Behind Govt's Agenda: Minister

The Irrawaddy, 28 June 2016

The State Counselor's Office has been behind some of the government's most important initiatives—from prisoner releases to peace in Arakan State, according to an interview on Monday with Minister Kyaw Tint Swe.

The State Counselor position was created in early April to give National League for Democracy party leader Aung San Suu Kyi, who is barred from the presidency, greater political influence. In mid-May, Kyaw Tint Swe was appointed the head of the State Counselor's Office, a Union-level ministry with a staff of 200.



In an interview Monday with the state-run Myanmar News Agency, Kyaw Tint Swe revealed that his ministry is behind the release of political prisoners and student activists and the President's Office reform. It also played a role in transforming the Myanmar Peace Center into the National Reconciliation and Peace Center, as well as the formation of the Implementation Committee for Peace, Stability and Development of Arakan State and the organizing of the 21st Century Panglong Conference, a peace summit with ethnic armed groups set for late August.

Link: <http://www.irrawaddy.com/burma/state-counselors-office-behind-govts-agenda-minister.html>

ECONOMICS AND DEVELOPMENT

Early Childhood Education subject to be added for KG students

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 30 June 2016

THE Yangon University of Education is planning to add early childhood education subject for kindergarten students according to Prof. Dr Aye Aye Myint of the Yangon University of Education.

KG teachers will also have to learn teaching methodology related to the new subject for KG teaching. It is known that some teachers are teaching KG students without having attended teachers' training courses on preschool education.

"This can have evil effects on the children. So, we will conduct an early childhood education diploma course", the professor said.

The course will begin in the second semester of this academic year. There may be an entrance exam depending on the number of applicants, it has been learned.

The curriculum of the course has been prepared by the US Open Society Foundation (OSF), which will also provide teaching/ learning aids. In addition, OSF will hold a discussion with course attendees. The course will be opened as a Human Resources Development (HRD) Diploma course in collaboration with UNICEF, NGOs and academics, it is reported.

Link: https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/30_june_16_gnlm

Monthly stipends increase for needy students in Mon State

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 30 June 2016

Students from low-income families in Mon State are to have allowances increased; 4000 students including 797

primary students, 2,285 middle-school students and 691 high school students from 159 basic education schools in Paung Township.

The programme was first launched in 2012 in three townships including Kyaikhto, Belin and Paung in Thaton District.

“With the financial assistance of the World Bank and well-wishers, we can increase the amount of stipend for each student this academic year (AY),” said Daw San San Aye, education officer of Paung Township.

Authorities offered Ks 4,000 each to primary student, Ks 5,000 each to middle school students and Ks 6,000 each to high school students last AY. Higher allowances are offered to older students as they are at higher risk of leaving school to join the work force.

“Students with or without parents from poor background are eligible for the programme,” she added. The amount will be increased from Ks 4, 000 to Ks 5,000 for primary level student, Ks 5,000 to Ks 8,000 for middle level students and Ks 6,000 to Ks 10,000 for high school students.

Link: https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/30_june_16_gnlm

Over 900 migrant households apply for documentation in Thanbyuzayat Tsp

Mon News Agency, 28 June 2016

Over 900 migrant households have applied to register for residency identification in Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State, as the government plans to issue them permanent residency papers as part of the 100-day project. The household documentation project is part of the union government’s 100-day project and primarily aimed at Bamar ethnics from Pegu and Irrawaddy divisions as well as other central regions in Burma.



“Household documents, as per the 100-day project, are issued to those who have settled from other areas. There are two kinds of household documents. One is for permanent residency and the other is for temporary residency. We only gathered a list of temporary residents. However, we will issue household documents to those who have settled here,” said U Soe Min Latt, chief of Immigration Department in Thanbyuzayat Township, in a recent interview with MNA.

On June 10, about 16 Mon associations, Mon monks and various individuals sent a signed petition letter to the Mon State Chief Minister demanding a review and withdrawal of the household documentation project.

Link: <http://monnews.org/2016/06/28/900-migrant-households-apply-documentation-thanbyuzayat-tsp/>

Kayah state provided with K100 ml fund for disaster preparedness

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 1 July 2016

KAYAH State, which experienced deadly landslides in November last year, was provided with a disaster preparedness and response fund by a philanthropic organization Wednesday.

The establishment of the K100 million-fund in Kayah State came after the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation's establishment of such a fund in Rakhine and Chin states as well as in Sagaing and Magwe regions recently.

"The establishment of the fund is aimed at assisting a quick response to disasters by authorities," said Daw Ei Ei Khaing, KBZ's bank branch in Loikaw, at the ceremony in Loikaw to hand over the cash to the Kayah State Government.



Link: https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/1_july_16_gnlm_44760f4e8e0b3c

Sports Colleges to open in Monywa and Loikaw

Myitmakha News Agency, 23 June 2016

The Ministry of Health and Sports has revealed plans to open Sports Colleges in both Monywa, Sagaing Region, and Loikaw, Kayah State.

"Sport Colleges in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi have been opened to nurture a new generation of athletes for Myanmar's Sports Federation.

Plans are also in place for the opening of two more colleges, in Monywa and Loikaw."said Dr Myint Htway, Union Minister of Health and Sports.

He added that the expansion was primarily in the name of raising the standards of sport in Myanmar. A total of 302 students from Mandalay's Yadanarbon and Yangon's Dagon Universities are studying sports this academic year. Both these universities offer B.Sc in Sports that was first offered at the Ministry of Health during 2013-14.

Link: <http://www.myitmakhamedia.info/sports-colleges-to-open-in-monywa-and-loikaw/>

Kayin State provided Ks100m for disaster preparedness

The Global New Light of Myanmar, 5 July 2016

Kanbawza Bank's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated Ks100m to Kayin state for disaster preparedness and regional development goals, according to a press release. It claims, much like its other donations, that the fund found it difficult to deliver aid last year during disasters due to poor infrastructure.



This fund will help improve that. Learning from this situation, Chairperson Daw nang Lang Kham of BFM arranged to establish such a fund in region and states for preparedness and quick respond to disasters.

Chief Minister for Kayin state Daw nann Khin Htwe Myint accepted the donation handed over by U Bo Bo Wai Maung, an official from BFM. The foundation has also established such a fund in

rakhine, Chin and Kayah states and Magwe and sagaing regions.

Link: https://issuu.com/myanmarnewspaper/docs/5_july_16_gnlm

LAND AND PROPERTY

More confiscated land returned to rightful owners

Mizzima, 27 June 2016

More than 6,400 acres of confiscated land in Ayeyawady Region has been returned to its rightful owners with Vice President U Henry Van Thio calling on authorities in regions and states to speed up work in order to release remaining lands, state media reported yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion in Pantanaw, Ayeyawady Region the Vice President in his capacity as chairman of the Central Review Committee on Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands said the government is making systematic efforts to ensure transparency in order to hand over confiscated land back to farmers.

However, he added that in some land confiscation issues farmers should wait a certain time as the work needs to be carried out in conformity with existing rules and regulations of the land law, according to the report.

Link: <http://www.mizzima.com/news-domestic/more-confiscated-land-returned-rightful-owners>

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