



ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်ဆိုင်ရာနေ့စဉ်သတင်းအကျဉ်းချုပ် Daily News Brief on Rakhine State Affairs

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Ready to begin repatriation: Government

Naypyitaw January 23

Myanmar is ready to launch the repatriation despite a delay announced by Bangladesh authorities.

Under the agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, repatriation was slated to begin on 23 January.

“We are ready to accept the first batch of returnees today as agreed, because under the agreement with Bangladesh, we must start the repatriation within two months and today is the day we slated to launch the repatriation,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement at the press conference in Nay Pyi Taw on 23 January.

Myanmar has prepared two reception camps on its side of the border to take back up to 300 people per day.

“We have heard the news that the Bangladesh side is not ready. As we have not received any official word, we contacted the Bangladeshi Embassy in Yangon and they said they have many steps to be taken,” U Kyaw Tin, Minister of International Cooperation, told reporters in Nay Pyi Taw.

Under the Physical Arrangement for Repatriation signed by the two sides in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 January, Myanmar would will receive verified returnees at TaungPyoLetwe and Nga KhuYa reception centres, while adding Hla Pho Kaung as a transit camp for the returnees.

“The governments of the two countries are trying to solve this issue, but some are trying to complicate this issue so that they can get international attention,” said Union Minister U Kyaw Tin. He also said that Myanmar sent forms to be filled out by returnees with the help of UNHCR and Bangladesh signed an agreement with



UNHCR to carry out the repatriation process on their side and they need to take time to carry out several steps on the ground.

“The repatriation is targeted to be accomplished within two years, or, it can finish before the two-year time frame, or it can take longer than the set time,” said Dr. Win Myat Aye.

Regarding access to Rakhine State by reporters, Union Minister U Thaung Tun said journalists would get freedom of access to information, but safety is considered first in conflict areas and authorities are managing the situation there so as not to create unnecessary problems.

Seventeen journalists will soon go to Rakhine State along with the Rakhine Advisory Board, he added.

—MNA, The Global New Light of Myanmar

The Advisory Board and the Committee hold meeting

Naypyitaw January 23

The advisory board for the implementation of recommendations on Rakhine State, led by Prof. Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, former deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Thailand, and the committee for implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State, led by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, met in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Nay Pyi Taw, on morning of 23 January.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe said the stability, peace and development in Rakhine State depends not only on the people of Myanmar but the entire human society, especially the two societies in Rakhine State. With regard to the events in Rakhine State, the country had formed an inquiry commission, led by Vice President U Myint Swe, and an advisory commission on Rakhine State, led by former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. In addition to this, a committee for the implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State, led by Dr. Win Myat Aye, was also formed. Suggestions and support of the advisory board for implementation of the recommendations on Rakhine State are also welcome, said the union minister.



Next, Prof. Dr. SurakiartSathirathai, leader of the advisory board, said the members of the advisory board included people from the political and economic sectors. The advice and experiences of the advisory board will be provided to the committee. This will be an opportunity to exchange experiences on Rakhine State events, and the advisory board will be able to work together with the committee, said the leader.

The advisory board and the committee then discussed the status of implementing recommendations on Rakhine State.

—MNA, The Global New Light of Myanmar