

Disaster victims in Haka get new housing

LOCAL authorities in Haka began on 22 December to relocate people who lost their homes in landslides around Chin State last rainy season to affordable houses.

An initial 33 households from two villages moved into new homes allotted to them by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

More households will receive new housing when it becomes available in near future.

Families were selected for relocation through a lottery system.

More than 400 houses are now under construction by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, and

the construction is targeted to be completed within the next few months.

Landslides and flash floods caused severe damage in western Chin State earlier this year, leaving more than 1,000 homes damaged or destroyed, affecting 7,670 people and killing five.

The nationwide death toll from the landslides and floods between June and late August reached 120. Most of the deaths occurred in Rakhine State, where 56 people were killed, followed by 23 in Sagaing and 12 in Mandalay Region, according to data from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—*Hakha IPRD*



A family arrives at their new home in Haka. PHOTO: HAKA IPRD

Appeal to be sought on verdict in Koh Tao murder case

Ye Myint

AN appeal will be brought against the death penalty given to two Myanmar citizens found guilty of a British duo's murder in Koh Tao, Thailand, according to a statement revealing the steps to be taken posted by a director at the Myanmar President's Office yesterday.

Further efforts will be made diplomatically without harming Thailand's sovereignty, independent judgment nor friendship and amity between the two governments and two peoples, the director wrote on his Facebook page "Hmu Zaw". As for Ko Win Zaw Tun and Ko Zaw Lin, the director presented five steps to be taken in accord with the

law and legal system of Thailand. Appeals against the verdicts will be filed with the High Court. The sentences will be amended if the appeals against their convictions are successful, the director wrote, adding that they must appeal within one month.

Committing to the first steps prior to appealing the sentences, the Lawyers Council of Thailand and the Myanmar Embassy and Myanmar Civil Society Organisations in Thailand will have coordination meetings. A 21-member legal committee provided by the Council is set to meet on 11 January, said the director. It is planned that an appeal will be sent to the Supreme Court of Thailand and the Privy Council of Thailand, if necessary, in the hope of further legal action, he added.

On his Facebook page, U Ye Htut, Union Minister for Information as well as presidential spokesperson, also wrote hoping the accused two are able to prove they are innocent of the murder during an appeal process after reviewing the evidences related to the case. The Union minister stated that the government will assist the appeal process in accordance with the law of Thailand while the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand will be in cooperation with Thailand-based Myanmar CSOs.

The two workers were sentenced to death by the Koh Samui Provincial Court for the 2014 murder of the two British tourists—Hannah Witheridge and David Miller—on the island of Koh Tao.

Myanmar Gazette

NAY PYI TAW The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Sein Oo Deputy Director-General Consular and Legal Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Director-General Consular and Legal Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(2) U Myint Thu Deputy Director-General ASEAN Affairs Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Director-General Strategic Studies and Training Department Ministry of Foreign Affairs
(3) U Soe Thein Deputy Director-General Posts and Telecommunications Department Ministry of Communications and Information Technology	Director-General Posts and Telecommunications Department Ministry of Communications and Information Technology
(4) Daw Nwe Nwe Win Deputy Director-General Budget Department Ministry of Finance	Director-General Budget Department Ministry of Finance

34th Pearl Sale event earns more than K4.2 billion

THE 34th Pearl Sale earned more than K4.2 billion (US\$3,195,822) for the sale of 347 pearl lots yesterday through a tender system.

The sale, organised by the Myanmar Pearl Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines, put a total of 276 pearl lots on sale during the three-day event, which started on 22 December.

More than 120 pearl lots were sold on the last day, and more than 220 pearl lots were sold in an open tender on the second day.—*Myanma News Agency*



A gems trader evaluates pearls at 34th Pearl Sales. PHOTO: MNA

Hteik Tan labour dispute to be settled

NEGOTIATIONS to settle a labour dispute between Hteik Tan Myanmar Garment Factory and its employees were held today at Insein Township General Administration Office, according to the Factories and General Labour Laws Inspection Department.

The negotiations were sponsored by the Yangon Region Labour Dispute Settlement Arbitration Council.

More than 200 workers from the factory took to the streets yesterday demanding governmental departments assist in settling the labour dispute as soon as possible. The disagreement arose over workers' November salary and the provisions of the 1936 wages law. — *Zaw Moore*