

## **Press Release**

### **Myanmar handed over 159 verified Bangladesh nationals among those rescued by Myanmar**

1. On 10 August 2015, Myanmar officially handed over additional verified 159 Bangladesh nationals among the boat people rescued by Myanmar in May 2015. The individuals were handed over to Bangladesh side at Myanmar and Bangladesh border after the flag meeting in Taung Pyo (Let We'). The 159 Bangladesh nationals were planned to handover on 30 July 2015, however, it was postponed due to adverse weather condition.
2. A team led by U Saw Naing, Deputy Director, Maung Taw District Immigration Officer from Myanmar handed over the 159 Bangladesh nationals to the Commending Officer of No. 17 Border Guard Battalion of Cox's Bazar and his team. Police Colonel Myo Swe and Police Lieutenant Colonel Kyaw Tay Za from Police Border Guard of Myanmar observed the event together with Mr. Mahbubur Rahman, Consul from the Bangladesh Consulate in Sittwe and his team member. The No. 17 Border Guard Battalion of Cox's Bazar brought the 159 persons back at 13:30 hrs to Bangladesh.
3. A total of 501 verified Bangladesh nationals rescued from the two boats have been repatriated to their place of origin, Bangladesh, on four different occasions. Authorities in Bangladesh continue to verify the remaining persons from the two boats rescued. The remaining boat people will be handed over to the country of origin upon completion of the verification process.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

**Nay Pyi Taw**

**10 August 2015**

\*\*\*\*\*