Parliamentarians discuss national planning bill

THE 13th regular session of the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued on its 31st day session yesterday, with parliamentarians holding discussions on projects set to be implemented in the fiscal year 2016-2017 in accord with the National Planning Bill.

U Tin Hay Aung of Yezyagyo constituency supported the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development in its policies and plans for the 2016-2017 FY.

In her discussion, Dr May Win Myint of Mayangone constituency stressed the need of funds for emergency aid as most has been used to respond to natural disasters that occurred in previous years.

Dr Nandar Tin of Zabuthiri Constituency asked authorities concerned to reconsider the situation of the Pharmaceutical and Foodstuff Industries under the Ministry of Industry if its income is equal to expenditure.

U Than Lwin of Chaung constituency called for the formation of an Energy Commission that can lead the country to reaching its GDP targets in the energy sector.

In his discussion, U Win Than of Thabaung constituency called on officials concerned to continue seeking ways and means to supervise the projects and protect them against possible crises if the Parliament is informed of the country’s financial situation every two years.

Next, the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw announced that parliamentary approval will be sought on the National Planning Bill 2016-2017 as of 18 January.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Peace Conference continues for fourth day

THE Union Peace Conference continued into its fourth day in Nay Pyi Taw with representatives from seven stakeholder groups discussing five topics.

Questions raised on the third day were replied to and individual presentations were made.

Representatives from the respective stakeholder groups prepared papers for submission on the final day of the conference.

According to sources, three representatives each will be chosen for the submission of papers on each of the agenda items to the conference.

Stakeholder groups of the government and the Parliament are set to send two representatives each while the Tatmadaw, ethnic armed organisations and political parties are set to choose three for the submission of papers.

One representative each is set to represent stakeholder groups of ethnic minorities and other invitees.—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Fisheries Federation seeks redrawing of Fishing Law

A SUBMISSION for the redrawing of the Breading, Salt and Freshwater Fishing Law will be made to parliament during the term of the new government, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

“We will make a submission to parliament for the drawing up of new legislation for the current salt water fishing law, freshwater fishing law and the fish breeding law during the term of the new government.” said the executive chairperson of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, U Han Htun.

After the decentralisation of decision making powers to State and Regional parliaments during the term in office of the current government, the longevity of granted freshwater fishing licenses has decreased from five years to one year, resulting in an increase in the number of fishermen and the gradual extinction of fish species.

The case for the requirement of a new law to prevent the extinction of fish species comes after the current practices of electrical fishing techniques in freshwater fishing enterprises, and the use of fishing nets with small holes in sea angling have been deemed to be having an adverse effect on fish numbers.

“In the past, fish were caught with nets that measured holes one inch in width. Now however, the width of holes in fishing nets is just one quarter of what they used to be. As a result, all kinds of small pregnant fish are being caught in the nets, depleting the numbers of fish in the ocean. There is a need to re-analyse the current law in order to mitigate such actions.” explained the deputy chairperson of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, Dr. Toe Nandar Tin.

According to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, the main objectives for redrawing the fishing law that will be included in the submission to parliament are the demarcation of shoreline and deep sea fishing areas; permission to be granted for the construction of fish breeding activities within irrigation channels; to take effective legal action against those who carry out electric fishing practices, as well as those from abroad profiteering from fishing in illegal waters.

It is known that the current Breading, Salt and Freshwater Fishing Law was enacted back in 1994.—Myanmar News Agency

Aung San Suu Kyi and her team welcomes Sam Rainsy and other leaders of the Cambodia National Rescue Party to meet her at her house in Yangon yesterday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives ROK Ambassador

THE speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) received Mr. Lee Baek-Soon, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the call were U Hla Myint Oo, chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee, U San Shwe Aung, member of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and officials from Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—Myanmar News Agency

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann welcomes Mr. Lee Baek-Soon, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA