AT the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s 6th session, 6th day meeting held yesterday, the Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo said that Seafarers Identity Document (SID) could board and disembark ships, obtain hospitalisation and clinical treatment in emergencies, transit to join ships and return home without requiring an entry visa. As SID would be beneficial for the country as it can be issued by several countries and does not require any monetary input. The SID is a standardised, internationally recognised document that makes it easy to enter into member countries with ease, added the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister explained about Myanmar rectifying and signing the Seafarers’ Identity Documents Convention (Revised), 2003 (No. 185) sent to the Hluttaw by the President. Furthermore, the Deputy Minister explained about Myanmar rectifying and signing the 2001 International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Oil Pollution Damage, which was also sent to Hluttaw by the President.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker then announced that Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss these matters should enroll their names.

Next, Union Ministers and deputy ministers explained the basic principles and policy for Hluttaw representatives in a bill on Pyidaungsu additional budget allocation for the 2017-2018 fiscal year. On the second day of submitting the additional budget allocated in section 12 of the report, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win said that when the ministry’s notice for an additional budget allocation request was sent to departments and organisations, the departments and organisations were asked to request for additional budget allocation for commercial tax, income tax, fund for the government, expenses required due to changes in foreign currency, special fund, SID actually required, travel expense, pension and interest payments only. They were advised and managed to request additional budget allocation for insufficient capital expenditures on matters included in the 2017-2018 fiscal year national planning law; matters that can be completed within this fiscal year; matters on which the President Office and Union Government offices has permitted to request for additional budget allocation and permission will be granted as much as possible after said the Deputy Minister.

Foreign aid acquisition and obtaining foreign loans were allocated to increase yearly but were found not to meet the annual targeted amount. On this description, it was found that there were delays due to different procedures of the loan organisation and Myanmar.

Furthermore, set-standards to be followed were being drawn and in the following fiscal years, speedly receipt and utilization of foreign aid and loan will be monitored and managed. On the matter of reducing the deficit of state own business enterprises in section 25 of the report, out of 44 factories under Ministry of Industry and Ministry that were temporarily shut down due to being economically unfeasible, two study groups were formed with free and independent experts, government and Hluttaw representatives to conduct a study on 28 factories to see whether to continue operation with the permission of economic affair committee.

While the Ministry of Planning and Finance is requesting the highest additional budget allocation, only 21.72 per cent is for the ministry while 72.89 per cent is nationwide expenses such as expenditures on interest, aid, tax share allocation to states and regions, expenses and debt expenses said the Deputy Minister.

At the present a policy-based budget system is practiced to prepare the budget. Internationally various systems of budgets such as policy-based, performance-based and a system of allocating budget based on success were seen to be used. In Myanmar budget reform is being undertaken in stages and will be changed gradually based on achieving the aimed results said the deputy minister.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing said in 2018-2019 fiscal year electricity supply and administration department will conduct a 230KV Mawlamyne-Ye Dawei power line and sub-station projects with ADB loan to distribute electricity to towns in Mon State and Taninthayi Region.

A 66KV Thanbyuzayat-Ye power line project is allocated to be started in 2018-2019 fiscal year for earliest distribution of electricity to Ye town. A group consisting of officials from ADB and the department were already conducting preliminary work project and the loan agreement will be signed in 2018. Ministry of Electricity and Energy will effectively utilise the requested 2017-2018 fiscal year additional budget allocation explained the Deputy Minister. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo said the additional budget allocation requested was more than 10 per cent of the initial request because the concrete laying of export import vehicle inspection ground in Muse (100) mile trade zone was conducted with Yuan 10 million assistance of People’s Republic of China and Ks1,950 million, the equivalent of 10 million Yuan was included. This makes the additional budget allocation request to be more than 10 per cent of the initial request.

If this amount is omitted, the additional budget allocation request is Ks386.7 million and is only 2.91 per cent of the ministry’s initial request. Wailing of Maungtaw and Lweje trade stations during this fiscal year for security reasons is also included in the additional budget allocation request.

Net profit of Myanmar Citizens Bank increased to Ks 7.82 billion in 2016-2017. However a profit share of only Ks 3.12 billion was given because expenses were incurred for hiring foreign experts to be competitive in international banking with other banks, raising infrastructure and CORE Banking works.

Furthermore, once it becomes a listed company, profit sharing is equally provided and profits from the Ministry of Commerce’s share in the bank had declined explained the Deputy Minister. Union Minister for Industry U Khin Muang Cho, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun and Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin also explained about the policy in joint bill committees assessment report, basic principles, policy of Hluttaw representatives in the bill on Pyidaungsu additional budget allocation for 2017-2018 fiscal year. — Myanmar News Agency

Rakhine State Gov’t prepares to build repatriation camps for refugees

Rakhine State Government launched preparation for construction of buildings where refugees returned from Bangladesh would be scrutinized.

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and its cabinet members along with developers, who will construct the infrastructures, visited the Ngakhuya and Thunghyolatwe areas in Maungtaw yesterday, inspecting the sites chosen for building the infrastructures.

Following the trip, they went to a new village construction for Mro ethnic people in Thitonnar Gwason Village-tract in Maungtaw Township being implemented by the Ministry of Border Affairs and the Department for Development of National Races.

During the trip to conflict areas in northern Rakhine, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State ministers and developers visited an area where a new village for Hindus which was destroyed by ARSA terrorists in late August.

More than 70 households would be provided with a 40ft-60ft house each in the new village of Ohheitn for Hindu families. During the trip, State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu urged the developers to create job opportunities for local Mro ethnic people in constructing houses.

He also urged Mro ethnic people to actively participate in establishing housing for the local people. The Rakhine State Chief Minister also held a meeting with the developers over establishing repatriation camps for refugees who fled to Bangladesh as their houses were destroyed by ARSA extremist terrorists. — Nay Htet Khunaw