



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than (Left) meeting with H.E Mr Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary, at the Office of the Communist Party. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw in Vietnam

Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw who has been in Vietnam on an official visit, met with the prime minister, the chairman of the national assembly of Vietnam and visited Vietnam's parliament.

On Monday, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw and party went to the Mausoleum of Vietnamese National Leader Ho Chi Minh to pay tribute.

They also visited the home in which Ho Chi Minh resided, signing the record guest book and posing for a documentary

photo. The Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw then went to Vietnam National Parliament to meet H.E Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, chairman of the national assembly of Vietnam. In the meeting, matters on inter-exchange of friendship trips, cooperation in multiple sectors on politics, economy, agriculture and livestock breeding, strengthening friendship between the two countries and making bilateral cooperation more successful were discussed.

Later in the afternoon, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw

met with H.E Mr Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Vietnamese Prime Minister, and discussed bilateral friendship and cooperation.

The Speaker also met with H.E Mr Nguyen Phu Trong, Vietnam's Communist Party General Secretary, at the Office of Communist Party. Afterward touring the Vietnamese Parliament, Mahn Win Khaing Than and party were hosted with a dinner in their honour by H.E Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan at the Vietnam National Parliament. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Peace Music Festival competition to be held

A nationwide, months-long Peace Music Festival in which contestants will compete for prizes for the best peace-related songs will be held starting next month.

The event is being held in honour of the peace process effort and the country's advance toward democracy, officials said.

"We have been arranging to hold the singing competition with the intention of national reconciliation, internal peace, successful build-up a federal democratic union nationwide", a responsible official from MRTV said. "There will be competitions held at three stages in 10 cities. Three preliminary winners each will be selected from each township and 5 others who are referees' favourites—35 in total. Among them ten will be selected and then seven of them will be given consolation prizes. The first, second and third place prizes will go to the remaining three." The first stage of PMF will be held in 10 cities—Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyaing, Patheingyi, Taunggyi, Lashio, Myitkyina, Sittway and Kalay from June to August at a city every week.

During the second stage of the competition, 35 contestants



who pass audition tests — three each from 10 cities and five of the audition test board members' favourites — will be allowed to compete in the final stage.

During the final stage, 10 selected songs for 10 contestants to sing will be composed by well-known composers. A Music Live Show will be held featuring famous vocalists performing solos, duets and group entertainment. The last three winners will receive the largest prizes.

It has been targeted to award 300 lakhs for the first prize winner, 200 lakhs to the second prize winner and 100 lakhs to the third prize winner, with seven consolation prize winners to be awarded at 30 lakhs each.

The final selection will be held in Yangon and events of competitions will be broadcast live.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Osaka chamber of commerce to help attract SMEs to Japan-backed Thilawa

Japan's Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry has agreed to help attract small and medium-sized companies to the Japanese-backed Thilawa Special Economic Zone near Yangon, in addition to the multinational companies already present there, by establishing small rental factory spaces, the zone's operator said Tuesday.

The OCCI comprising businesses in western Japan around Osaka and the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry have signed a memorandum of understanding to establish rental factory spaces of 500 to 750 square meters in rental factories in the zone, Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Ltd. said in a statement.

The 2,400-hectare economic zone already has nine rental

factory spaces of 1,500 square meters, of which seven are now occupied.

The latest move "adds diversity to the tenant base" and is "expected to further boost Thilawa SEZ's contribution to Myanmar's economy," MJTD said.

The economic zone, located southeast of Yangon, has proven to be successful since it officially opened for business in 2015, with more than 95 percent of its Zone A already occupied.

A total of 78 companies, of which 39 are from Japan, have opted to locate their production, assembly or logistic facilities in Thilawa, with total investment amounting to over \$1 billion, according to earlier release from MJTD. Of the 78 companies, 24 have already started their operations. The expansion of Zone B is slated for completion by the

middle of next year and is expected to create up to 40,000 new jobs.

Thilawa SEZ is a joint-venture involving major Japanese trading firms Mitsubishi Corp., Marubeni Corp. and Sumitomo Corp., which jointly hold a 49 percent stake. The rest is held by the Myanmar government and nine local companies.

MJTD President Takashi Yanai said in the statement that the OCCI and its members "were impressed with efficient governmental procedures, quality of infrastructure and robust pollution control measures at Thilawa SEZ." "Indeed, many interested parties have asked for flexibility in the amount of space they could lease in Thilawa SEZ," he said, adding that the MoU "provides the flexibility that will benefit all small and medium-size companies."—Kyodo News ■

Illegal immigrant and human trafficker caught in An Township

An illegal immigrant and a human trafficker were caught yesterday morning in Pepadon Combined Inspection gate in An Township, Rakhine State.

A motorcycle heading toward Minbu was stopped and inspected at Pepadon combined Inspection Gate in An Town-

ship, Rakhine State. The driver Thiha Phone Myint of Sittway was found to be transporting Ma Bu Tu of Thechaung village, Sittway Township illegally to Yangon and both were arrested and action was taken under the immigration act.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Thailand's Nation TV to film Myanmar Puppetry

Thailand's 24-hour news television channel, Nation TV is set to film and broadcast a documentary on Myanmar's Yoke the' puppets, and will feature Htwe Oo Myanmar puppet group in Yangon. The documentary will include interviews, a history on the refined art of puppetry and a puppet show. Puppets lovers all over the world have shown much

interest in Myanmar puppets for a few years now. "We are very proud that a foreign media will be studying and documenting about Myanmar puppets," said U Khin Mg Htwe from Htwe Oo Myanmar puppet group. Htwe Oo Myanmar puppet group regularly conducts puppet shows in the country as well as tours abroad.—200 ■