

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss motion on nationwide greening projects

PYITHU Hluttaw approved a motion yesterday on implementing greening projects nationwide.

At the 2nd day meeting of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session held yesterday, the parliament decided to debate the motion put forward by Dr U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency.

In his clarification, the MP has urged the Union Government to implement the greening projects calling “Green Land Projects” by stepping up efforts for conservation of the forests across the country.

Due to deforestation in the areas covered by forests, Myanmar experienced the worst weather in 2015-2016, standing at 2nd place out of 187 countries in Global Weather Danger Indices, said MP U Aung Khin.

He stressed the need to increase the rates of conservations of forests across the country, to implement the Green Land Projects in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin systematically and as soon as possible, and to extend projects year after year in other areas.

According to the parliamen-



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

tarian who presented the motion, forest coverage in Myanmar dropped from 60% in 1990 to 43% in 2015 and there occurred cutting down forests excessively in the country legally or illegally, burning trees for hill farming, extending farming land, wild fires outbreaks, insects affecting crop production, exploitation of underground resources, building dams and embankments, urban sprawl and deforestation caused by natu-

ral disasters, in the country.

In analyzing the real causes of deforestation, Dr U Aung Khin discussed that increasing population depending on forests must be added to the causes—wrong management on forests for the national economic development and bribery & corruption, stressing the need to appoint more staff.

As regards the question raised by U Myint Ngwe of Kyauk Kyi constituency as to whether

there had been any plans to grant for building 2-storeyed school building measuring (30 ft—90 ft) after demolishing Bayintnaung one-storeyed school building of basic education high school (branch), at Bago ward in Kyauk Kyi township, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Education said, “It has been designated for a primary student to have a space of 12 sq-ft, and for a middle and high school student to have a space of 18 sq-ft each. So space of that school is proportional to the numbers of students. Scrutiny as to whether the school was dilapidated and dangerous enough will be made in accord with the prescription.”

Afterward, Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied to the question raised by U Min Thein of Taungdwingyi constituency as to whether there have been any plans for appointing teaching staff enough for post-primary schools, basic education middle schools and basic education high school schools (branches) across the country, “Ratio of teacher appointed and students is 1:22 at the high school level, 1:28 at the middle school level and 1:24 at primary level.

Presently ratio of teachers and students on the national scale is 1:25. In the academic year 2017-2018, it has been targeted for every school-age child to have an access to learn basic primary education. And tasks for achieving permission of appointing teachers in accordance with the procedures—3 each for post-primary schools, 5 each for BEMS (branch) and 7 each for BEHS (branch) are under way. On receipt of the permission, qualified teachers are to be scrutinized for appointment.”

Then, Dr Myo Thein Gyi replied to the questions raised by U Shwe Hla (a) U Shwe Hla Win of Thingangyun Constituency, U Tun Wai of Phaung Pyin Constituency and Dr Daw Pyone of Inn Taw Constituency. At today’s meeting, informing Hluttaw of upgrading the tenure of the committee for justice and legal affairs, reading the annual report of drafting committee, and reading the report of the law for granting permit for operating the industry of Myanmar coastal and inland marine transportation (amendment) (Bill) were performed. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe is welcomed by Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar Ms Tone Tinnes on his arrival at the reception to mark the National Day of Norway in Yangon on 19 May, 2017. PHOTO: MNA

KIA armed group burn Myat Mandalar Tun bus and give extortion letter to the driver

A KIA armed group numbering about 10 burnt a Myat Mandalar Tun bus travelling from Muse to Mandalay on Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Pyidaungsu expressway at milestone 257 near Khomone village, Muse yesterday afternoon, gave an extortion letter to the driver and retreated toward the east.

No one was hurt in the incident but the luggage and personal effects of the bus passengers were burnt and lost.

The extortion letter said express buses and trucks travelling on Muse-Kutkai Pyidaungsu expressway are to give annual tax to KIO Kutkai

district Battalion No. 9 by 18 May and action will be taken against those who didn’t pay.

The Tatmadaw columns are clearing the surrounding area where the incident oc-

curred and are following the retreating armed group. The Tatmadaw endeavor to protect the people and safeguard the regional security it is learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■



The bus burnt by KIA armed group as a warning for extortion money. PHOTO: MNA

Correction

Please read “Lt-Gen Perry Lim, Chief of Defence Forces of Singapore Armed Forces” in the caption of the news story “Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces” on page-2 of May 18 Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.—GNLM

One killed, one abducted in Buthidaung Township

ONE village head was killed and another one has been abducted in Kyaungtaung Village in Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State yesterday.

Noru Salam, who is a head of the 10 households in Pazu-

nchaung Village, was abducted by 50 masked men around 3 am and killed in a field in front of his house.

His body was found with cuts.

Meanwhile, about 20 men

from the same group abducted Mozi Rahman, the head of the 100 households.

The group left for Gantaru Village along with Mozi Rahman, according to villagers. —Myanmar News Agency ■



A fish farm by Inn Pauk Wa Co Ltd in Rakhine State, which mainly does prawn and fish breeding in its abundant rivers and lakes. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Economic opportunities in Rakhine State

RAKHINE STATE is rich in natural resources. It has many rivers, lakes, ponds and is connected to the ocean. Good ports exist and as improvement to road links are being made, trade, local and foreign investments are increasing. The government is emphasizing on investment and trade in order to increase production in agriculture products as well as manufacturing and to increase job opportunities for locals by not only increasing local trade but also external trade with foreign countries.

Sittway Port

Sittway port is constructed with investment from India and was completed in 2017. Once the port is in operation 3,500-4,000 tons can be transported between Sittway and Paletwa while up to 20,000 tons can be transported from Sittway to Kolkata.

Kaladan Multi-modal project

Dredging was done throughout the Kaladan River from Sittway to Paletwa. Implementation of the inland water transport portion of the Kaladan multi-modal project will begin in 2017. The project directly connects by sea the Indian port city of Kolkata with Sittway in Rakhine State.

Sittway to Mizoram

A transport route from Sittway to India's Mizoram State via Kaladan River and road will be opened. Due to the Kaladan multi-modal project, the distance between Kolkata and Sittway reduces the previous land route by 1,328 km. The new route will also

increase trade between Myanmar and India.

India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway

Building of a road from India's Mizoram State to Paletwa will greatly support the development and trade in Rakhine State and Chin State. Rakhine State will have a rapidly increasing foreign investment and trade when Kaladan multi-modal project is combined with the trilateral highway linking Moreh in India to Measot in Thailand via Mandalay and Yangon.

Prawn and crab breeding is a successful business in Rakhine State and many local and foreign investors had invested in it.

Ponnagyun industrial zone

Ponnagyun is the nearest town to Sittway and 40 minutes on an all-weather-road is all it takes to travel. Process of setting up an industrial zone in Ponnagyun is underway. Ponnagyun industrial zone is on 1,833.15 acres of land situated right beside the Yangon-Sittway road.



Workers prepare prawns in a cold storage factory. PHOTO: MNA



Workers sort out prawns before processing. PHOTO: MNA

Variety of businesses

A variety of businesses, factories and workshops will be in the Ponnagyun industrial zone. In addition to textile plants, garment factories, electrical parts factories, consumer good factories, foreign and local investors are showing interest to invest more. Due to close proximity to road, rails and the Kaladan River,

land and water transport is very convenient and Ponnagyun industrial zone will develop rapidly.

Job opportunities

Once construction is completed, job opportunities for local youth will be created and unemployment reduced. The industrial zone will also develop MraukU Township and Kyauktaw Town-

ship adjacent to Ponnagyun.

Prawn and crab breeding

Prawn and crab breeding is conducted with foreign investment near Ponnagyun beside the Ponnagyun-Sittway road. Prawn and crab breeding is a successful business in Rakhine State and many local and foreign investors had invested in it. The products were exported abroad as well as being locally distributed.

Crab breeding with foreign investment in Kyaukphyu is providing jobs for local youth.

Salt water Tiger Prawn

Currently there are a total of 9,635 person conducting fish and prawn breeding on 156,538.64 acres of land in Rakhine State. Majority is prawn breeding and Tiger Prawn is mostly bred. Myanmar Sustainable Aquaculture Program (MYSAP) is implemented in cooperation with European Union and German state-owned organization GIZ and from 2016 to 2022 financial support and technical cooperation will be provided.

Agriculture and livestock zones

There are plans for an agriculture and livestock zones in Kyauktaw Township. Kisapanadi River flows through Kyauktaw Township where the weather is fine. Geographically, it is a flat plain area that had many good lands suitable for agriculture.

Local and foreign investors are interested in an agriculture zone with a huge land area and a livestock zones from which meat, fish, milk, and eggs can be produced.

SEE PAGE - 6



The Kaladan project on the Kaladan River will connect Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State, and the Mizoram in India. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Economic opportunities in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE -5

If the agriculture and livestock zones could be implemented, it will provide job opportunities for local rural youths as well as support regional development. Ground survey for Kyauktaw agriculture and livestock zone was conducted. Efforts are made toward implementation and once this is successfully done, economical agriculture and livestock businesses will flourish and raise the economy of Rakhine State from that sector.

Agriculture Science (Kyauktaw)

Once the Agriculture Science (Kyauktaw) school is completed, graduating youths will be able to utilize their knowledge effectively toward the development of the region as well as the entire State.

Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Deep Sea Port Project

Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpyu Deep Sea Port projects are underway in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State. Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone is implemented in the vicinity of Thaing Chaung road junction in Kyaukphyu Township.

Ground works are being started and because of the special economic zone, there'll be increase in investment and trade in Rakhine State resulting in a rapid development of the economy.

Kyaukpyu Special Economic

Zone Management Committee and CITIC Group, the tender winner to implement the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone, were holding discussions for project implementation and project works will start soon.

More than US\$ 3 million worth of aquatic products exported through Maungtaw.

200,000 jobs in Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone

Once the works on Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone are implemented, about 200,000 jobs for locals will become available. As it will develop Rakhine State's trade and investment, efforts are made to implement it speedily.

100,000 jobs in Kyaukphyu Deep Sea Port

Construction of a deep sea port in Made Island, Kyaukpyu Township will start this year with foreign investment. Once the project is completed, it will be the driving force to develop the trade and economy of the entire Rakhine State and would provide

job for about 100,000 local youth.

Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpyu Deep Sea port projects are important for Rakhine State development and the government is pushing hard for speedy implementation.

During the first year of the incumbent government, discussions were held with tender winning company in order to start the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone and Kyaukpyu Deep Sea port projects

Internal and external trade

In conducting internal and external trade, Rakhine State is linked with the entire country by road in order for the unhindered flow of commodities day or night. External trade is with Bangladesh and is cooperating to increase and improve trade between the two countries.

In order to balance trade, attempts are made to increase the export products of Rakhine State such as agriculture produce, foodstuff, fresh and dried fish.

More than US\$ 3 million worth of aquatic products exported through Maungtaw.

During the fiscal year 2016-2017, the most exported products through Maungtaw trade station are varieties of dried fish, sea water prawn and fresh fish totaling 3,539.18 tons that is worth US\$ 3.946 million.

Sittway trade station

At the Sittway trade station 2,101.5 tons or US\$ 2.278 million

worth of dried and fresh fish were exported.

Combined with Maungtaw trade station, a total of 5,640.68 ton or US\$ 6.224 million was exported.

Mingan Port

Trade between Bangladesh and Sittway is conducted through Mingan Port in Satkyao creek.

With place to store goods and convenient berthing spots for vessels, Sittway trade station Mingan port is very convenient for commerce.

Maungtaw trade station

Millet was exported to Bangladesh from Maungtaw trade station. Cement, clothing, hand pumps and plastic goods are imported from Bangladesh.

Up to 13 March in the fiscal year 2016-2017, US\$ 4.352 million worth of trade was conducted through Sittway trade station and exceeded the monthly planned average trade amount by 54.396%.

Up to 13 March in the fiscal year 2016-2017, trade through Maungtaw trade station exceeded the monthly planned trade amount by 66.542%.

Trade in fiscal year 2016-2017 exceeded by 0.271% the trade in fiscal year 2015-2016.

Thazin Myay Trade Centre

Thazin Myay Trade Centre was established in Sittway on 8 August 2016 to support economic development in Rakhine

State, connect local businesses with foreign businesses and share news and data.

Enquiries can be made on economic and trade news and data

Thazin Myay Trade Centre responds to queries on economic and trade news and data, arrange discussion for business and trade, educate on economics, and arrange business meetings and discussions.

Establishment of Thazin Myay Trade Centre results in more meetings between Rakhine State Government, local and foreign businesses that in turn become a driving force for trade and investment.

In fact, some of the businesses who were in earlier meetings are already starting their works in Rakhine State.

Interest to invest in hotel, energy and mineral resources

Foreign businesses and companies are interested to invest in hotel, energy and mineral sector of Rakhine State and are already conducting discussions.

Kanyinchaung Trade Zone

Kanyinchaung Trade Zone is constructed as economic and trade zones are important for the success of trade and investment. The incumbent government pushed for the construction of Kanyinchaung Trade Zone in Maungtaw district.

SEE PAGE-7

Economic opportunities in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE -6

Construction of a modern marketplace

For regional development, Kanyinchaung Trade Zone and a modern marketplace were constructed in Kanyinchaung, Maungtaw district. In the trade zone there are cold storage, warehouse, fuel station, motel, restaurants and some were already constructed.

Two concrete jetties

Construction of two concrete jetties in Kanyinchaung Trade Zone was completed at the cost of Kyat 16.44 million. A 420 ft. long earth approach road is at the final stage of completion. A store and a sale rooms were already constructed in Kanyinchaung Trade Zone. Once the Kanyinchaung Trade Zone is completed, commerce, trade and development works will succeed rapidly in Maungtaw District.

Border trade

Border trade with Bangladesh is conducted mainly through Sittway and Maungtaw trade stations. In order to increase and ease trade, Myanmar-Bangladesh Joint Commission on Trade was formed and meetings were held regularly.

Construction of Kanyinchaung Trade Zone and a modern marketplace will also support the increase in trade.

Sharing of trade data

Bangladesh is interested to import the natural gas, oil, mineral, marine and agriculture products of Rakhine State. Discussions were held to issue certificates/documents to ease loading and discharging goods at Bangladesh ports. Process is underway to exchange trade data regularly in order to balance the trade between the two countries.

Offshore gas field

Rakhine State is a coastal region and in the Myanmar territorial water off Rakhine State, there are a number of gas fields. In addition to these offshore gas fields, offshore oil exploration blocks also existed. Oil and gas

resources are nature's gift to Rakhine State.

Investment by foreign companies

Foreign companies are investing and producing oil and gas and the incumbent government is inviting more foreign investment as well as assisting the work of the companies already in Rakhine State.

Marble extraction and processing

Foreign investment conducted under the permission of the Myanmar Investment Commission in Rakhine State is in the mining sector. Myanmar Simco Song Da Joint Stock Co., Ltd. is investing US\$ 18.147 million in a marble extraction and processing project in Nayputaung quarry, Taungup Township, Rakhine State.

Exploration and production

In the Rakhine State energy sector Statoil Myanmar Private Limited and Conoco Phillips Myanmar E&P Pte. Ltd. is investing US\$ 323.65 million under the Foreign Investment Law to conduct oil and gas exploration and production.

Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte. Ltd., and BG Exploration & Production Myanmar Pte. Ltd. is also investing US\$ 290.1 million for gas exploration and production in Rakhine offshore.

Total investment of more than US\$ 10 billion

During the Fiscal Year 2016-2017, 27 projects in energy sector, one project in mining sector and one service sector project invested a total of US\$ 10.259483 billion in Rakhine State.

Hotel sector

From 1 April 2016 to end March 2017, 5 hotels and guesthouses with 193 rooms were granted permission to invest and there are now a total of 49 hotels and guesthouses with 1,540 rooms.

The newly permitted hotel and guesthouses are 2 guesthouses in Sittway with 30 rooms, a hotel and 3 guesthouses in Kyaukphyu with 93 rooms.



A fish pond is being dug with the use of heavy machinery in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG THANT



Thriving rice field in Sittway, Rakhine. PHOTO: MNA

Development in travel sector

As travel sector develop in Rakhine State, existing hotels and guesthouses are given permission to extend and added 16 rooms in Sittway and 53 rooms in Ngapali.

Ngapali beach

From 1 April 2016 to end March 2017, permissions were granted to build a 12 room hotel and a high-end guest house in Ngapali beach.

Ngapali beach is world-famous beach where local and foreign companies had interest to invest in hotels.

Alethanyaw beach and Kyaukpandu beach

Hotel business owners are interested to develop and invest in Alethanyaw beach and Kyaukpandu beach.

As travel business develop in one of the ancient cultural heritage site MraukU, a workshop was held with local and foreign entities to develop the hotel sector and was able to attract foreign investment.

Foreign companies are showing keen interest in constructing new hotels in MraukU Township.

Finland and Sweden companies

Ha Nam CMC Co., Ltd of Finland is planning a hotel service and Ziba Hotels and Resorts Co., Ltd of Sweden is investing

Foreign companies are showing keen interest in constructing new hotels and Mrauk U region.

State during the 1 April 2016 to end March 2017 one year period. Drawing up plans for local and foreign investment in the travel business will result in increasing investment in the travel sector.

Investment sectors

Now, foreign and local companies are making 10 investments in the hotel sector, 5 investments in the livestock breeding and marine sector, 2 investments in the construction sector, one in the production sector, one in other sector totaling 19 investments amounting to Kyat 111.3116 billion. During the first year of the incumbent government, up to February of fiscal year 2016-2017, 3 foreign companies and 136 Myanmar companies registered and started work.

Local companies

126 local companies invested during the fiscal year 2015-2016. In fiscal year 2016-2017 136 local companies invested bringing up the total by 10. Once all the different businesses develop, not only the socio-economic condition of the people of Rakhine State improves, it will also support the economic development of the whole country. ■

to build a hotel. Another Swedish company D n A Hotels and Resorts Co., Ltd. is planning on investing in hotel business. To achieve growth in the travel business through creating new tour sites, site surveys were conducted to Rathedaung and Pauktaw Townships in northern Rakhine State and Gwa and Manaung Townships in southern Rakhine

Religious titles conferred on monks who passed Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examinations

A CEREMONY to honour 90 monks who passed the 69th Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examinations organized by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was held at the Mahapasana Cave in Thiri Mingalar Kaba-Aye hillock in Mayangon Township, Yangon yesterday.

First, the congregation led by Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay received the Five Precepts given by the Moe Kaung Monastery Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta Thudhama Sarabimwusa. Afterwards, the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko read out the reports on religious affairs.

Vice President U Myint Swe presented the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida titles and certificates to the outstanding Members of the Sangha. Then, Union Minis-



Vice President U Myint Swe presents the Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida title and certificate to an outstanding Member of Sangha. PHOTO: MNA

ter for Information Dr Pe Myint and Union Minister for Religious

Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister

U Phyo Min Thein and officials presented religious titles and

certificates to the outstanding monks.

During the ceremony, the congregation led by the Vice President and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay donated offertories to the Sayadaws.

The Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida selection examinations have been held in Myanmar for the last 69 years. In fact, the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination is quite different from other religious examinations because the candidates have to take 33 days to sit for this examination.

Up to now, only fourteen outstanding members of the Sangha have been presented the Title of Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida within the 68 years' duration of the Sacred Tipitakadhara Tipitakakovida Selection Examination. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Pazundaung night market to be opened

THE Pazundaung night market will be opened with nearly 140 shops in the 10th Ward of Pazundaung township this month, according to an official from Pazundaung township Municipal Affairs Committee.

The Pazundaung night market spans Bo Myat Tun Road,

Mahabandoola Road, Anawaraha Road to Botahtuang Pagoda Road. The municipal committee will allocate shops to old shopkeepers under a lucky draw system. The committee plans to open the morning market from 6am to 11am and the evening market from 3pm to 11pm. The

night market will be opened with 138 shops, each shop measuring 8 square feet. "We are trying to open the Pazundaung night market this month. There are nearly 140 shops to be opened at the night market", said an official from Pazundaung township Municipal Affairs Committee.—200

Drugs seized near village bridge in Maungtaw

POLICE forces patrolling near the entrance to Taungpyoletwe in Maungtaw Township seized psychotropic drugs on 17 May. A Toyota Hilux passen-

ger vehicle was stopped near the bridge entering Taungpyoletwe at 6pm and a search of the vehicle revealed 950 R-psychotropic drugs worth Ks1.9

million were seized from Mahamad Ahrat. A case has been opened in Taungpyoletwe police camp for further investigation. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Solar power units to be installed in Kayin state

SOLAR power will be installed in five townships of Kayin state under the National Electrification Project (NEP), it is learnt. Authorities from Kayin state will install 11,772 units of solar power to 143 villagers from Hpa-an, Hlaingbwe, Kawkareik, Kya-in-Seikkyi and Thandaunggyi townships in Kayin state. The authority will also install 924 units to the public buildings of the villages free of charge.

Under the NEP project, the authority will install 2,062 units of solar power at 23 villages in Hpa-an, 1,063 units of solar power at 11 villages in Hlaingbwe, 6,197 units

of solar power at 73 villages in Kawkareik, 1804 units of solar power at 29 villages in Kya-in-Seikkyi and 316 units of solar power at seven villages in Thandaunggyi.

Moreover, the authority will install 156 units of solar power at primary schools, middle schools and high schools, 35 units of solar power at the village health care centre, 18 units of solar power at religious building, 715 units of solar power at the lamp posts during this month. To install the solar power in the villages, 60 per cent of the value of one unite will be provided by the government, 30

per cent by the World Bank and only 10 per cent by the public. The public can install the any solar power system among the tree systems. People can pay for the installation of solar power with installment system. For type 1, People have to pay Ks 9,000 for the first installment and Ks 10,000 for the second installment. For type-2, People have to pay Ks 15,000 for the first installment and Ks 15,000 for the second installment. For type-3, people have to pay Ks 21,000 for the first installment and Ks 24,000 for the second installment.—200

Senior General attends ACDFIM dinner



SG Min Aung Hlaing and wife receive commemorative gifts following the 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defense Informal Meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attended a formal dinner at the Sofitel Hotel hosted by Philippine Army's Commander-in-Chief General Eduardo M. Año and his wife on 18 May following the 14th ASEAN Chiefs of Defense Forces Informal Meeting (ACDFIM).

At the dinner, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Lt-Gen Salvador Melchor B. Mison Jr delivered the welcoming

speech.

The Senior General and entourage enjoyed the formal dinner with other ASEAN military leaders and their delegations.

The Army Band of Philippines Armed Forces (Air) provided music and entertainment at the dinner.

Yesterday, the Senior General met with embassy staff, military attache staff and their families. —Myanmar News Agency ■