

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Human rights report submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Myo Myint, Aye Aye Thant
(Myanmar News Agency)

The 2016 annual report by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

U Win Mya, the chairman of the MNHRC, said special attention had been paid of the rights of children.

“Supplementary agreements on rights of children or children’s involvement in armed conflicts had been initially signed, but arrangements will be made for further signing for approval. Suggestions will be made to ensure safety on the job and not to lose the rights of labourers, including children in human-resource-oriented productions. If the international agreement on economic, social and cultural rights can be approved and signed successfully, the international community can assume that Myanmar’s stance on the protection and up-gradation of human rights is of great strength.”

U Win Mya spoke afterwards about arrangements to hold discussions and talks on human rights, human rights in combination with media and social websites, the situation on surveys over complaints, receipts of complaints about the Ministries



U Soe Min, U Soe Thein and U Bo Bo Nge take an oath as deputy governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Region and State Cabinets, arrangements for inmates from penitentiaries to further their learning, separate interviews and interrogations with inmates from custodies and prisons, acquisition of advice for Myanmar from the UNHCR, holding workshops aimed at reducing forced slavery and situations included in the special report of the Commission, submitted to the CEDAW Committee.

The report was put on record by the Hluttaw.

At the meeting, U Soe Min, U Soe Thein and U Bo Bo Nge took an oath as the deputy-governors of Central Bank of Myanmar, in

the presence of the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, followed by the announcement that Hluttaw put the appointment of U Set Aung, as Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, sent by the President.

Approvals were made on a bill on petroleum and petroleum products that had been sent back from the President with his conclusions attached, and also on a bill on embankment, which was a disagreement between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

Hluttaw representatives discussed at length the exemption of commercial tax and special commercial tax for some commodities included in the 2017 Union

Tax and Revenue Law.

“It has been found that budget estimates of the Union for tax and revenue of FY 2017-2018 exceeded Ks260,000 million more than that of FY 2016-2017. Budget estimate of the Union for special commercial tax outnumbered Ks87299.941 million more than that of FY 2016-2017. Provided that diamonds and emeralds are to be exempted from the levying of a special commercial tax in the current financial year, it needs to comply with national tax policies and budget estimate of tax and revenue of the Union. National budget deficit for the FY 2017-2018 will be 4.37% of GDP with

the ratio of tax and GDP to be 7.10%. In doing so, it is necessary to consider potential effects over national deficit and ratio of tax and GDP, in advance. We must take notice of potential emergence of bribery and corruption by exempting things of great value from being levied. Diamonds and emeralds are items of value which are out of reach for most people”, said Major Htin Lin Oo, Hluttaw representative from the Tatmadaw.

“The State is collecting taxes over commodities commonly used by the populace, through promulgated laws and rules. Exemption of valuable things from being levied is a question on transparency and justice. A democratic country is spending tax and revenue for expenditure and governmental machinery operation. An internationally standardised tax system must be created for the acquisition of more tax amongst the voluminous unemployment, income inequality and capability of business’s survival.” Following that, U Tun Tun Hein read out the report of the findings and conclusions of the combined drafting committee regarding the State Lottery Bill sent by the Government, and Hluttaw decided to send it back to the Government as sent the committee. ■

NATIONAL

Buthidaung monitors H1N1

The H1N1 virus is being closely watched in Buthidaung, Rakhine State, with educational efforts and ongoing testing being performed, according to a medical doctor of the township hospital.

“As a close-watch measure, severe cases of illness, sneezing, coughing and pneumonia are

being treated and tested to be able to keep them under control. Until now, no cases were found concerning outbreaks that affect the respiratory system. But educative measures are being made including having posters erected to reduce people’s worries”, said Dr. Than Tun Kyaw, of

Buthidaung Township General Hospital.

“H1N1 is a curable disease, not needing to have any worries. Suspected patients will be given medical treatment and watched closely.”

Buthidaung Township hospital is a 50-bed facility where its 157 staff members have been providing medical care. Vaccinations against curable diseases have been administered, and polio patients are being given oral polio vaccines. Though the designated date for oral polio vaccines was originally 21 to 25 July, the programme was started 16 July due to over-population in the region. Medical officials said the effort was met with “100-per cent success”. Also, as a measure against malaria, medicated mosquito nets were provided to local people. —Aone Soe ■



Dr Than Tun Kyaw comforts patient at Buthidaung Township general hospital. **PHOTO: MYO THU HEIN**



Wreckages from Y-8 military transport plane. **PHOTO: MNA**

More wreckage from Y-8 military transport plane crash discovered

Fishing boats discovered a tire and wreckages near where a Y-8 military transport plane crashed into the Andaman Sea on 7 June.

Myanmar’s navy and local fishing boat continue to search for wreckage and remains from the Y-8 plane crash.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Rakhine State Government meets with media

Rakhine State matter is no longer a matter of a single state but is becoming a national matter linked to international situations and had to be handled while facing numbers of difficulties and challenges said Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu during a meeting with the media on 31 July explaining about the one year work of the state government. The meeting was held in Rakhine State government office meeting room 1.

The Chief Minister added that the media and the state level departments who are in attendance will already know about the events in the state and media personnel are ex-

pected to raise questions and comments with good intention toward the development of the state.

Before this meeting, the Chief Minister met with people in various townships of the state to explain and held discussion and learnt that people were satisfied with our work. But we were unable to fully accomplish yet said the Chief Minister. However, the state government had conducted its work in accord with the country's government policies and guidelines without corruption and favoritism. The Chief Minister said we are mainly emphasizing on peace and

development of the state and the State Counsellor herself is leading a Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State that includes all union ministers as members of the committee and had successfully fulfilled the people's requirement and conducted developmental works.

The Chief Minister also said the people's requirements were also being met additionally with President's special fund of Ks3.65 billion while Tatmadaw, Myanmar police force, departments and people are working together for peace and stability in the state.

Afterward the media raised questions on stability in Rakhine State, development, education, health, transport, media freedom in acquiring news and state government issuing timely news and the Chief Minister, state ministers and officials provided the answers.

The media meeting was attended by media personnel from Rakhine State based Radio Free Asia (RFA), Eleven Media, DMG, EPA, Roma Time Media, Narinjara News, Rakhine Gazette, MRTV/NRC, and Sky Net. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■



Chief Minister of Rakhine State and state ministers answer to media personnel at the meeting with media agencies in Rakhine. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

Better agricultural methods . . .

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“Most farmers have poor knowledge about using pesticides in a safe and sustainable manner. They are known to mix chemicals with their bare hands. This not only triggers potential health risks, but also pollutes the water and soil, which in turn can contaminate the plants and fish,” said Dr. Ye Tint Tun, Director General of Department of Agriculture. “Hence, it is imperative for farmers to learn how to use chemicals sustainably. MoALI is supporting the implementation of GAP for tomato farmers on Inle Lake so that farming, fishing and tourism continue to provide livelihoods to people of this area.”

As a major cash crop, tomato farming on the lake has triggered increased use of fertilizers and pesticides, having long-term negative impact

on the water quality. In addition to farming and fishing as key local industries, around 252,000 international tourists and 400,000 domestic tourists visited Inle Lake in 2016, thus generating incomes and jobs for local residents. Protecting the lake, therefore, is important for a sustainable growth in tourist arrivals.

The workshop shared experiences of farmers participating in the GAP program to reduce use of chemicals and improve production efficiency through preventive bio products. Tomato buyers highlighted a growing demand for high-quality products among consumers, especially in major supermarkets, where they were ready to pay more for GAP quality produce. At the event, farmers were also introduced to applications that could help them improve financial and inputs management, as well as to financial products

available to support agriculture production in the Nyaung Shwe area.

“Agriculture is an area where Myanmar has a significant comparative advantage with abundant land and water resources. It is vital for these resources to be well-managed to ensure long-term sustainability of this sector as well as to ensure the health and safety of the population,” said Vikram Kumar, IFC Country Manager for Myanmar. “We are pleased to support MoALI's efforts to institute GAP in the Inle Lake area and to support the Ministry at the national level to improve the regulatory environment, standards and use of agriculture inputs for other crops, such as rice and sesame seeds.” The IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets.—GNLM ■



The materials used in making an improvised explosive device in Maungtau. **PHOTO: State Counsellor's Office Information Committee**

IED explodes in Maungtau

An improvised explosive device exploded in a village in Maungtau Township yesterday.

Following the explosion, the security forces went to the scene at Pantawpyin Village in Maungtau Township and inspected the site.

It is found that the explosion occurred the house of Madiparl, 60, while violent attackers were making the IED, according to security forces there.

The explosion left burn and destroyed floor and some burning clothes.

The security forces also discovered two bullets of a pistol, two packs of gun powder, fertilizer which are believed to be used in making IEDs, three detonators, one coil of wire and other materials at the home.

The local police are probing the case.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Swiss National Day was held in Yangon

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe is welcomed by Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Paul Rene' Seger at a ceremony to mark the Swiss National Day which was held in Melia Yangon Hotel in Yangon at 6:30 pm on 1 August.—Myanmar News Agency

Authorities, volunteers team up to prevent H1N1

Lewe Township authorities held a coordination meeting with health officials and civil societies yesterday at the 100-bed hospital in Lewe.

At the meeting, they discussed preventive measures to be taken against H1N1 among the people. Representatives from the civil societies said they would

raise awareness against H1N1 flu joining hands with the health officials and staff, giving priorities to expectant mothers, schools and aged people. The meeting was participated by two representatives of Lewe, 14 departmental officials and doctors and representatives of the CSOs.—Myanmar News Agency ■