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Chin State residents urged to cooperate for development

Vice President U Henry Van Thio has urged local authorities in Chin State to give priority to effective prevention of poaching and conservation of natural environment before the development of ecotourism.

He made the remark during his visit to Khonumthung (Nat Ma Mountain) National Park in Chin State yesterday.

He also urged authorities and locals to cooperate in the conservation of wildlife and flora and fauna, as the park contains many of the world's endangered species, including birds and orchids, and to educate the local people about environmental conservation.

Afterwards, the Vice President arrived in Khonumthung (Nat Ma Mountain) National Park where Director General of Natural Resources and Environment Department Dr. Nyi Nyi Kyaw gave a presentation. State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai and Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin provided additional explanations.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and party went on to Mindat Township Aye Sakhon Village, where they were greeted by traditional dances of the local people.

Final examinations for basic education schools underway

Students leave a school after sitting for the second day of final examinations in Yangon Region basic education schools. The examinations held during the 2017-2018 academic year are the final examinations for 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 7th and 9th grades.

PHOTO: ZAW GYI (ARTICLE ON PAGE-6)

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Picture

Gov't will effectively carry out rehabilitation of displaced people: Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye

THE Government is planning to establish the Department of Rehabilitation in order to effectively carry out the comeback of the

displaced people in the country. Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye made

the remark at the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw in his answer to a question raised by an MP, adding that the

efforts of the new department would also be helpful for the peace-making in the country.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Gov't urged to speed up implementation of mechanized farming system

THE seventh session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held its 15th-day meeting yesterday morning, where questions on the farm sector were asked and answered, the Myanmar Historical Commission bill tabled, and a discussion was held on a motion urging the government to establish one-acre plots for the rapid implementation and success of a mechanised farming system.

First, six Hluttaw representatives, U Than Soe of Thazi constituency, Daw Mi Kun Chan of Paung constituency, U Sai Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, Dr. Daw Khin Nyo of Dedaye constituency and U Kyaw Soe of Bamauk constituency raised questions, which were answered by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

Next, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko tabled a motion on the Myanmar Historical Commission bill and the Pyithu Hluttaw bill committee read and explained its report on the bill.

The Hluttaw speaker then



U Than Soe. PHOTO: MNA



Daw Mi Kun Chan. PHOTO: MNA



U Sai Kyaw Moe. PHOTO: MNA



Daw Cho Cho. PHOTO: MNA



Dr. Daw Khin Nyo. PHOTO: MNA



U Kyaw Soe. PHOTO: MNA

requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to table an amendment to the bill to register their names.

A motion urging the government to accelerate the establishment of one-acre plots for the rapid implementation and

success of a mechanised farming system was debated by several MPs.

In his discussion on the mo-

tion, U Hla Kyaw said the government had developed more than 62,300 acres of systematic farmlands from the fiscal years 2011-2012 to 2017-2018. The work for developing systematic farmlands includes water egress/ingress channels and creating a level one-acre rectangular field, which is costly. Depending on the farmland situation, these works cost from Ks1.2 to Ks2 million per acre. As farmers are unable to incur the expenses, the government is establishing such farmlands free of cost. Because of the high acreage of farmland areas, it will be difficult to incur these costs in the long run. Based on the experience of implementing systematic farmlands so far, the priority is to get the consensus of farmers who own small plots to develop an area. Even if there is a consensus, there are some who are against this, and they need to be persuaded, replied the Deputy Minister.

Hluttaw then agreed to put the motion on record and keep the matter under observation. —Kyaw Thu Htet ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Gov't will effectively carry out rehabilitation of displaced people: Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye

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“The rehabilitation works would be carried out as projects,” said Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, “the department would join hands with local authorities, private businessmen, state governments and the Union Government to bring about creating job opportunities and emerging of border trade zones.”

He replied the question asked by U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State Constituency-11 if the Union Government has a plan to aid the displaced people fled from their homes due to armed conflicts.

The seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 15th-day meeting in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, and a bill and a motion were discussed.

Questions by U Kyaw Thaug of Sagaing Region constituency (1) and U Mahn Law Mung of Chin State constituency (8) on natural resources



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye. PHOTO: MNA

and environmental conservation matters were answered by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win.

Next, a bill on the registration of deeds, approved and returned with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw, was discussed by U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency (6).

Later, a motion by U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency (9), urging the government to prevent the destruction and loss of natural resources in



MP Daw Myat Thida Tun. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar as a national duty, was discussed by Dr. Khun Win Thaug of Kachin State constituency (11), Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency (5), U Khin Mg Win of Sagaing Region constituency (7), U Mahn Law Mung of Chin State constituency (8), U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi constituency (7) and U Khin Win of Magway Region constituency 2. The 16th-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw is scheduled for 9 February.—Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency) ■

Union Election Commission discusses 2020 election prospects

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) used the first day of a two-day meeting, in Nay Pyi Taw's Grand Amara Hotel yesterday, to discuss the draft version of UEC's strategic plan for 2018-2021, as well as the election process for the 2020 general elections.

Attending the meeting were UEC Chairman U Hla Thein; UEC members U Aung Myint, U Soe Yel, U Tun Khin, U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing and U Than Htay; members from state- and regional-level election commission; members from the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), and members from the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance.

U Hla Thein gave the opening speech and said that on the first day of the meeting, attendees will review and discuss the UEC's strategic planning for 2018-2021, and on the second

day, they will discuss the electoral process for 2020 in detail.

The UEC has interviewed and discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the 2015 general election and 2017 by-election processes with international and domestic election watchdog groups, ministry officials, civil societies, political parties, and regional and state-level election commissions. The UEC and IFES used the data from the survey and compiled the 2018-2021 strategic plan for elections. The strategic plan has 11 chapters and details step-by-step procedures for the 2020 election.

U Hla Thein asked for feedback from the attendees on each chapter of the strategic plan. This was accomplished by dividing the attendees into three groups to go over the chapters.

The meeting will continue on the second day today. —Myanmar News Agency ■