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The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw convenes today in Nay Pyi Taw as it prepares to elect a new president within seven days. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meets today on electing presidential candidate

Presidency vacancy shall be filled within seven days

A MEETING on electing a candidate for the presidency, which was vacated on Wednesday by U Htin Kyaw, will be held today at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting yesterday, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than urged members to submit their names by 23 March to become members of the Presidential

Electoral College, which will scrutinise the vice-president selected by representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw. The president will then be elected from among the vice presidents.

U Htin Kyaw, who resigned from his post in order to take a rest from his duties, was elected by the group of Pyithu Hluttaw representatives about two years ago. **SEE PAGE-2**

Rakhine villages to convert to solar power

AS part of the National Electrification Plan (NEP), 219 villages in Rakhine State will be connected to solar power electricity in the 2018-2019 financial year, said the Rakhine State Rural Development Department.

U Nay Htet Shein, Director of the Rakhine State Rural Development Department, said the NEP will be carried out in 16 townships and 219 villages in Rakhine State and will be outfitted with 11,333 units of solar electricity within the 2018-2019 financial year.

“The NEP’s plan is to provide electricity to areas that are too far from the main power grid, or above 10 miles away from an 11KV power line, or have been unable to connect with the Electricity Department in 10 years’ time,” said U Nay Htet Shein.

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KBZ BANK
STRENGTH OF MYANMAR

‘BEST BANK IN MYANMAR’

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

75 per cent of Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre ready for repatriation

By Kyaw Thu Win and
Aye Min Thu

As the union government prepares to receive returnees from Bangladesh, it has completed some 75 per cent of the construction process at Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre. The project comprises 652 housing units, which will accommodate more than 30,000 returnees from Bangladesh, according to an engineer in charge of the centre.

“The Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre is situated in the Hla Phoe Khaung village tract in the Maungtwaw Township, where the Construction and Infrastructure Task Force has supervised all the successful construction projects. We are building an eight-compartment wooden house for six family members. Also, all the houses are of the same model and will each receive a supply of 500 gallons of water. Besides two electric bulbs and a pair of sockets, the house

contains a toilet and two water pumps. For the convenience of the returnees, arrangements have been made to cook in the kitchen,” the engineer said.

The Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre project began on 13 January 2018, and some 625 houses will be built here. The project is expected to be completed on 31 March 2018, after which some 30,000 returnees can live in the houses.

“This project is aimed at accommodating 30,000 people. Some 75 per cent of the construction has been completed. Efforts are being made to complete all the projects by the end of this month. Formerly, we planned to build on some 640 acres of land in the first phase, but we had to shift to other places due to uneven grounds and hilly regions,” he added. According to the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh, Myanmar has made preparations for the repatriation process and is ready to accept the returnees. ■



The construction of Hla Phoe Khaung Transit Centre expected to be completed on 31 March 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun visits Sarpay Beikman in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Deputy Minister for Information meets staff from Sarpay Beikman, MRTV (YGN)

U AUNG HLA TUN, Deputy Minister for Information, met with civil servants from Sarpay Beikman and Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Yangon, yesterday.

The Deputy Minister first arrived at the Sarpay Beikman office, Printing and Publishing Department in Kyauktada Township. He inspected the bookstore, public library, children's library, and e-library.

The Deputy Minister then met with government officials in the meeting hall and instructed them to conduct seminars and workshops with foreign literary experts, and to be up-to-date with current trends, while developing Sarpay Beikman's own style.

Deputy Chief Editor U Soe Myint Than then gave a presentation on Sarpay Beikman's progress. The Deputy Minister provided advice as necessary and then met with the rest of



Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun addresses the meeting with staff from MRTV, Yangon, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

the organisation's staff.

Later in the afternoon, the Deputy Minister travelled to the MRTV Studio-A on Pyay Road. He met with the staff and told them that MRTV is an important sector that provides people with information, education, and entertainment, and it is important to change with the times to

stay relevant.

This was followed by the different divisions of MRTV discussing the requirements of the sector, to which Director-General U Myint Htwe provided explanations. The Deputy Minister then discussed possible solutions with the staff. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Rakhine villages to convert to solar power

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The townships included in the plan are Ponnagyun, Pauktaw, Yathedaung, MraukU, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Myebon, Maungtwaw, Buthidaung, Kyaukpyu, Yanbye, Manaung, An, Thandwe, Taungup, and Gwa townships. There are 11,333 households in these townships.

The NEP was started in 2016-2017 with support from the World Bank and funds from the Union Government and from the

general public as well.

“The public put in 10 per cent, the State put in 30 per cent, and the World Bank put in 60 per cent of the necessary budget,” said U Nay Htet Shein. He said three types (30W, 45W, 60W) of solar home system units will be installed in households, and this will be done with the public's 10 per cent funds. The State will install units for public facilities such as street lamps, schools, libraries, med-

ical centres, monasteries, religious buildings, and other public places.

In the 2016-2017 financial year, 31,363 households in 549 villages were outfitted with solar power, while public facilities were outfitted with 4,091 units. In the 2017-2018 financial year 4,492 households in 68 villages and 166 units for public facilities will be outfitted with 60W and 100W solar home systems.—Kyaw Thu Htet ■



A rooftop solar home system uses a photovoltaic module to provide power for lights in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: HAN LIN NAING**