

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses irrigation facilities and allowance for far-flung areas

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July — The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has been properly maintaining the irrigation facilities around the country and providing agricultural wa-

ter to farmland, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw said at the Pyithu Hluttaw session on Friday.

In addition, the ministry has been carrying out

prevention of salt infiltration and flood and building sluice gates depending on the availability of budget funds, according to the deputy minister.

The government is re-

viewing the list of 110 far-flung townships with ten criteria at region/state level and national levels, Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung told the Pyithu Hluttaw session.

Upper House approves TV and Radio Broadcasting Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July — The Amyotha Hluttaw on Friday approved the TV and Radio Broadcasting Bill sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Earlier in the session, Deputy Minister at the President Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win told the Upper

House that the Yangon City Development Committee would take over a vacant plot designated as parkland in Shwenatha village in Mingaladon Township from the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

MP U Nu of Yangon

Region constituency No 10 asked about construction of low-priced housing on the plot.

U Phone Myint Aung of Yangon Region constituency No 3 asked where there is a plan to allow private entrepreneurs to operate traffic lights in the

municipal area of Yangon. The deputy minister replied that private entrepreneurs will not be allowed to erect commercial billboards in traffic light areas while operating the lights through tender.

Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and

Pyithu Hluttaw

After reviewing the list of far-flung townships, the government will adopt a new rate of allowance for distant areas and will permit government employee to enjoy the allowance.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Session on Friday invited

representatives who would like to debate the Myanmar Red Cross Society Bill and the bill amending the evidence law the bill for manual oil wells and approved the Border Areas and Ethnic National Races Development Law.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Rural Development U Tin Ngwe replied to a query raised by U Aung Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No 2 on upgrading Intaw-Yagyibyin Road in Intaw village, Yenangyoung Township, Magway Region. The deputy minister said the Rural Development Department has no plan to upgrade the 15-mile long road this fiscal year.

The Hluttaw invited MPs to discuss the artifacts preservation bill, the ancient buildings protection bill, the union government law, the attorney-general of the union law, the union auditor-general law, the union civil services board law, the Nay Pyi Taw council law, the union judicial law, and the constitutional tribunal of the union law.—MNA

Myanmar signs Articles of Agreement-AOA for AIIB



Finance ministers and delegates to signing ceremony for article of AIIB pose for documentary photo.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July — Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein, on behalf of Myanmar government, signed Articles of

Agreement-AOA for establishment of Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank in Beijing, People's Republic of China, on 29 June.

Chinese President Xi Jinping held a meeting with finance ministers and delegates from 57 AIIB member countries on establish-

ment of the bank.

At the special meeting, they discussed election of the president for the bank, financial programme and acceptance of new members. A total of 22 Asian countries signed the MoU on establishment of AIIB on 24 October 2014. Coordinators held meetings five times for establishment. At present, the AIIB was formed with 37 regional countries and 20 outsiders.

AIIB, an international financial institution, will contribute to investment and regional economic development in economic infrastructure and other development projects.—MNA

Myanmar Women's Day marked in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 July — Honorary patron of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Khin Khin Win, wife of the president, presented prizes to 2015 ASEAN Women's Entrepreneurs award winner Daw Khaing Zaw and Dr Daw Thet Thet Khaing and SEA Literary Award winner Daw Khin Than Win (Kyu Kyu Thin) at the ceremony to mark the Myanmar Women's Day, here, on Friday.

Honorary Patron Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of

vice president Dr Sai Mauk Kham, also presented prizes to 2014 outstanding police-woman Police Major Khin Lay Myint, Myanmar women's football team and 2013 national literary award (selected short stories) winner.

Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and officials awarded outstanding persons in the photo and short story contest and outstanding women.

They viewed documentary photos and books related to women's affairs.—MNA

For "quality growth" ...

(from page 1)

and traditions that have been handed down over time. After being appointed as Prime Minister in 2012, my first international visit was to the Mekong region. On that occasion, and every time I have visited the Mekong Region since then, I am captivated by wherever I go.

The peace and stability of the Mekong region, which is in a key location for ground and marine transportation, is of great importance to Japan, and I hope that the Mekong countries will co-exist with Japan as partners that hold enormous potential for growth. To date, our predecessors have spared no effort with regard to initiatives in the Mekong region, ranging from peace building to improving regional connectivity. Many people

from Japan have worked on these initiatives, and have transferred capitals, technologies, and experience from Japan to this region. Japan's ongoing efforts in the Mekong region, such as the construction of Economic Corridors, have been making steady progress. Looking at this year so far, Noi Bai International Airport Terminal 2 and Nhút Tân Bridge were completed in the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam in January, and the Tsubasa Bridge was opened in the Kingdom of Cambodia in April. Going forward, Japan intends to provide the people of the Mekong Region with a wide range of experience and technologies in an even more proactive manner.

Cooperation, not only regarding infrastructure development, but also soft aspects is one of the pillars of the New Tokyo Strategy.

Japan intends to proactively cooperate with each country in the areas of cultivating human resources and developing legal systems as well.

The Government of Japan has announced the "Partnership for Quality Infrastructure," and will provide "quality infrastructure investment" in Asia, with a total scale of approximately 110 billion dollars over five years, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The Mekong region will certainly be the top-priority region in this initiative. Let us continue to grow the fruits of these investment activities together.

I look forward to seeing the future of growth in the Mekong region. There is a need to upgrade infrastructure and social systems in order to respond to the expansion of energy demand and increase in automobiles. In order to cope with the pressing issue of the aging of soci-

ety, it is essential to enhance the functionality of health-care and medical treatment services. It will be important to address these numerous challenges in innovative ways. Japan, as an island nation with few resources, has taken on challenges with regard to increasing energy efficiency. Japan has repeatedly dealt with natural disasters such as earthquakes and tsunamis. We would like to share with you our experience in these areas. We hope to realize a "green Mekong," and contribute to quality growth. This is our sincere wish. While Myanmar is taking steps to bring about democratic reforms, bilateral relations between Japan and Myanmar have reached a stage of development anew. Japan, through government-private cooperation, has been providing an assistance to Myanmar for its reform efforts in the country. I am of the view

that it is of vital importance for Myanmar citizens to be able to feel that they will prosper if reforms meet with success. From this viewpoint, Japan has been cooperating with Myanmar to develop the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in suburban area of Yangon and it is exhorting Myanmar to strive to increase job opportunities and bring about economic development. Moreover, socio-economic reforms and internal peace are indispensable to bring about democratization and development in Myanmar. The process of peace talks between the government and armed ethnic groups has reached an important moment and the Government of Japan has determined to provide firm assistance to Myanmar for its efforts to achieve peace in the country, by joining hands with Non-Governmental Organizations. In conjunction with this summit meeting,

the "Japan-Mekong U-15 Football Exchange Programme" was held. In this event, soccer players aged 15 or younger were invited to Japan from Mekong countries, and engaged in exchanges with Japanese players of the same age. These athletes are part of the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games generation. I strongly hope that many, if not all, of these players will return to Tokyo in 2020 as Olympic athletes.

I hope that Japan and the Mekong region can continue contributing to peace and prosperity in Asia and the entire international community, working hand in hand based on the friendship, trust, and cooperative relationships that we have developed up to now over many years. I look forward to welcoming President U Thein Sein and other leaders of the Mekong countries to Tokyo.