

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar for the Parliaments

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than who was in Viet Nam at the invitation of the Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Madam Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, attended the opening ceremony of the Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar concerning sustainable development under the title "Responding to Climate Change – Action of Legislators to achieve the SDGs" in Gem Center, Ho Chi Minh, Viet Nam in the morning of 11 May.

Present at the event were Chairperson of the National Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Chairmen and Vice Chairmen of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) member countries, IPU President and IPU Secretary General.

In the first part of the discussions, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than gave suggestions regarding legislative tasks, pro-



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than at the Asia-Pacific Regional Seminar. **PHOTO: MNA**

viding checks and balances with government cooperation, representation tasks, and working with and for the people in implementing the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

After the opening ceremony, delegation leaders took a commemorative photo. Later at local standard time 11:15 a.m., they attended a luncheon hosted by Ho Chi Minh Communist Party Secretary Nguyen Thein

Nhan at the Rex Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City.

At local standard time 4 p.m., the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker met separately with IPU President H.E.Mr. Saber Chowdhury and IPU Secretary General Mr. Martin Chungong in a private room at GEM Center and discussed matters relating to improving the role of parliaments and future work to develop a democratic system. —MNA ■

Workshop on Meiktila Lake Development Project

MEIKTILA Lake development project is conducted under the MoU signed between Myanmar and the Netherlands to cooperate in developing water resources of Myanmar.

A workshop on Meiktila Lake development project was held in Wunzin hotel, Meiktila yesterday morning.

At the workshop, Irrigation and Water Resources Utilization Department Director Dr. Zaw Lwin Lwin, Forest Department Township officer U Soe Lwin Thu and township

municipal assistant director U Myo Htet Zaw discussed about important works in Meiktila Lake development project, surrounding areas of Meiktila Lake, importance of Meiktila Lake for the people, work required to be done in the project and work done on cleaning the surrounding areas of Meiktila Lake.

Mr. Luuk Brinkman, project team leader of Meiktila Lake development project from the Netherlands Ministry of Infrastructure and En-

vironment and Mr. Armand Evers, Counsellor Water Affairs-Myanmar at Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs then explained about the cooperation works between the two countries on the project and guidelines drawn up for the project.

Afterward National League for Democracy central committee secretary U Win Htein, district officer U Tint Wai Thone, project team leader of Meiktila Lake development project Mr. Luuk Brinkman, Counsellor Water Affairs-Myanmar Mr. Armand Evers, district Irrigation and Water Resources Utilization Department assistant director U San Min Tun and officials from departments related to the Meiktila Lake development project signed the Meiktila Lake development project implementation committee guideline paper.

The guideline paper and the final stage work processes of the Meiktila Lake development project will be submitted to officials of Myanmar and the Netherlands government at the end of this month. —Chan Tha (Meiktila) ■



The arial veiw of Meiktila Lake. **PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKTILA)**

Ravaged houses in Maungtaw to be rebuilt

THE Administrator of Maungtaw District has announced that the State will rebuild houses in Maungtaw destroyed by violent attacks before the rainy season begins.

The management committee began efforts on 19 March to clear lands, calculate and measure sites for construction of houses, and paving roads in WaPeik Village of KyidanPyin group of villages. The committee has completed land issues and says it will soon begin construction work.

WaPeik Village has 226

households and yesterday morning the committee met with local residents to discuss on relocation matters.

They also urged local elders to persuade families who fled during the violent attacks to return to the village as a list of residing members is quickly needed for submission to the District Office. Locals and the Administration Committee discussed on security, water and electricity for the village which needs to be completed before the rains sets in.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives ICRC president and party



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with the President of the Geneva based ICRC in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, received a delegation led by Mr. Peter Maurer, the President of the Geneva based International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) in Bayitnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting ICRC president mentioned about the desire to increase the relationship and cooperation in different levels of ICRC and Tatmadaw, seeking assistant to visit conflict areas and discussed about cooperating in matters relating to demining, physical rehabilitation and prosthetic hands and legs.

Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing in return explained of the requirement to keep proper records when required humanitarian assistance is provided and to contact the relevant government departments, ministries and commissions formed for which the Tatmadaw will assist in the best possible way. Contact persons will be assigned for relationship in different levels and Tatmadaw will continue cooperating in the demining matter. It is important for proper works to be done. On the matter of prosthetic hands and legs, help should mainly be provided toward wounded personnel of ethnic armed organization and civilians.—MNA ■

A motorboat sinks in Thandwe Townhsip

A MOTORBOAT sank in the Bay of Bengal 2 mile west of Salu Kyun village on 11 May.

Five oxen were found at the sea coast by the local security

forces and were assumed from the sunken boat.

The further investigation by the officials is underway. —Myanmar News Agency ■

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Performances for the development of Rakhine



Ramong Suspension Bridge on Minbu-An-Sittway road.

Towards peaceful and developing Rakhine

By Maung Maung Myint Swe

RAKHINE State is a land embellished with all the natural beauties of mountain ranges with lush green forest, sea, rivers, creeks and fertile plain giving an impression to be a masterpiece painting of a famous artist.

Rakhine State originally is an important state of the country as it is situated along the sea coast at the westernmost part of the country bearing strategic and economic significance. Nowadays, the whole state is undergoing the development programmes of Rakhine State's infrastructure including road and bridge constructions and electrification. Soon the Rakhine State will emerge as a developed part of the country with better socioeconomic condition. So, it is likely to say icing on the cake.

Mountain Ranges

Rakhine Yoma mountain range, Mayu mountain range and other mountain spurs are found as barriers for travel and communication between Rakhine and other Regions and States.

Rivers

In the past, accessibility to Rakhine was very limited, airway is the most-frequented

mode of transport to Rakhine State. Lack of good land communication brought about the hindrances and difficulties in flow of goods and consequently slow trade and commerce in the state. The Mayu river, Kalatan river, Lemyo river, Kiswa Nadi river and other many smaller rivers and creeks without strong bridges have become barriers to road transport that engender the slow trading and impediment in developing works.

Three main entrances to Rakhine

The Union government is now building three main roads, Minbu-An-Sittway Road, Pyay-Padaung-Taungup-Kyaukpyu Road, Ngathaing Cyaung-Gwa-Thandwe Road which are the main entrances to Rakhine State and it is crucial to the all-round development of Rakhine State.

Minbu-An-Sittway Road

Minbu-An-Sittway road has been existing for years, however battered road and bridges and slew of bends and curves impeded the speed of travelling taking about 16 hours drive from Minbu to Sittway.

Ramong Suspension Bridge

The cars had to drive very slowly on

Ramong suspension bridge, as it, declining in strength, is not strong enough to support a loaded car. Sometimes heavily loaded cars had to stop at the bridge. With the advent of the incumbent government, the bridges are reinforced with new concrete supports, roads are upgraded and tight bends and curves are mended into gentler bends and curves. Temporary bridges were restructured into reinforced concrete bridges and stone and gravel roads were upgraded into concrete roads.

All weather road for rapid travel and transportation

As Ramong suspension bridge was now 100% fit for use after being upgraded by Japan JFE company and the roads were also repaired, land transportation on Yangon-Sittway road is now smooth and comfortable in all seasons without any delay, taking only 12 hrs. from Yangon to Sittway using Minbu-An-Sittway road.

Minbu-An-Sittway road continues to be upgraded during another 4 year period and then it will take only 10 hrs. from Minbu to Sittway. It is a good news for the rapid development of the Rakhine State.

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Pyay-Pandaung-Taungup-Kyaukpyu Road

That road being the 2nd entrance to Rakhine State is an important one. 6 concrete bridges on that road were upgraded under JICA and ODA aid programme in the first year of new incumbent government. Moreover, Taungup-Maei section and Maei-Alechaung section of the Pyay-Kyaukpyu road were also upgraded to concrete and tarred road with 9 bridges on it.

Upgrading those sections of the road with more bridge facilities leads to the rapid and smooth transfer by land from Pyay to Kyaukpyu and consequently the road will be busier with people visiting and trading between Pyay and Kyaukpyu. Towns and villages along the road will also be able to enjoy socioeconomic benefits by doing relevant business on a busy road.

Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa-Thandwe Road

The third entrance to Rakhine State is Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa-Thandwe road that was built passing through the Rakhine Yoma (Mountain range). As the road was built across the unfavourable hilly and rugged terrain, the quality of road was not up to the expected standard. Difficulties and delays along the road was a common occurrence.

8 Hours for Yangon-Thandwe Journey by car

During one year term of the incumbent government, the Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa-Thandwe road was upgraded, the section between Thandwe-Gwa was paved by tarred layer and the old bridges were replaced by the newly built ones. Now, It facilitates the travel by reducing the travel time from Yangon to Thandwe using Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa-Thandwe road from 12 hrs to 8 hrs. Day trip between Yangon and Thandwe is now possible for the busy travellers. This is a great success for the Rakhine State and the great feat for the Union as well. Rakhine State, once somewhat isolated from other regions and states due to the lack of good roads,

is now open to all parts of the country and the socioeconomic progress of Rakhine State will be seen in near future.

Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa Road will be upgraded

After Ngathaing Chaung-Gwa road is upgraded by World Bank Aid 20 million US dollars, the travel time between Yangon and Thandwe will be only 7 hrs. It will also result in increase in trade volume, number of visitors including foreign tourists. Then the remarkable growth of socioeconomic condition of Rakhine State will be chalked up.

Kyauktaw-Paletwa-Matupi-Haka Road

Kyauktaw-Paletwa-Matupi-Haka Road will be built with target to finish within 5 years. In this project, roads will be tarred and reinforced concrete bridges will be constructed. That means one more road links to other parts of country from Rakhine State and faster economic growth of the State.

The road will bring about the comfortable travel and trading between Rakhine State and Chin State. The road starts from Kyauktaw of Rakhine and leads up to Haka via Paletwa of Chin State. The road will also give access to Kalay of Sagaing Region and Gangaw of Magway Region. The earth work for rough road was already finished with some parts of the road being tarred and construction of some bridges being finished at the end of the first year of new government.

To the whole State

The Kyauktaw-Haka road meets with Pakokku-Gangaw Road at Haka, therefore every part of the Rakhine State becomes accessible, thanks to the expanded new network of roads planned and materialized by the new government. Furthermore, the incumbent government had built all season roads and bridges in every part of the State defeating all the barriers and difficulties so that people can travel by car and communicate easily within the State.



Upgraded Minbu-Ann-Sittway Road.

Sittway-Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaung-Ale Thangyaw-Angumaw Road

The new government has made project planning to build roads in Rakhine State and building Sittway-Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaung-Ale Thangyaw-Angumaw Road is one of the projects targeted to be finished in two years. For the time being cars can drive up to the other bank of Sittway-Ponnagyun-Yathedaung. Buthidaung, Maungtaung and Yathedaung were accessible only by water way.

Bridges built between Yathedaung and Buthidaung

The bridges are planned to be built and finished within two years between Yathedaung and Buthidaung townships. The 658 feet-long tunnel existed on the Buthidaung-Maungtaung road section and as it has been a big obstacle to big trucks, the new roadway by passing the tunnel was searched and built the better road. Nowadays, transportation between Buthidaung and Maungtaung has been easy and can travel all season by car. In the previous years the 50-mile trip from Maungtaung through Ale Thangyaw to Angumaw took 5 hrs. due to the battered road and bridges. Now, it takes only 2 hrs. ensuring to foster the development of Buthidaung and Maungtaung townships.

After upgrading the road network, the townships in the northern part of Rakhine like Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaung will have better communication with other parts of the State and beyond that those townships will have all season access to other regions and states. The Rakhine State will advance its all round development harmoniously with other regions and states.

Over Ks 3600 million from reserved fund

Extended development works on rural roads and bridges including concreting the connecting roads between villages, building concrete bridges and gravel roads are being carried out in 16 townships in Rakhine State with the expense covered from reserved fund of Union Government.

Roads with total length over 1220 miles in Rakhine State

In Rakhine State, 8 roads with total length 514.5 miles under the management of Union Government, 43 roads having total length 71.5 miles under the management of State Government, in grand total 51 roads having 1226 miles have been built.

In 2016-17 FY during one year period of new government, about 14 miles of 18 ft. wide concrete roads, 20 miles of 23 ft. wide concrete road with asphalted coating and 12 ft. wide tarred road, about 17 miles extension of tarred road and building 34.5 miles of gravel road were also built in Rakhine State.

Tawphya Chaung Bridge

As the 1200 ft. long Tawphya Chaung Bridge was built on the road between Ponnagyun and Yathedaung, transfer by cars and trucks can be comfortably made in all seasons from Sittway to Yathedaung passing through Ponnagyun. Industrial Zone is now under implementation at Ponnagyun. So, Tawphya Chaung Bridge will help facilitate the flow of goods and commodities produced from Ponnagyun Industrial Zone to other parts of the States and also to other regions and states.



Panzinchaung Bridge that links Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships in Rakhine State.

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Tawphya Chaung Bridge

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Tunyawei Bridge, Panzin Chaung Bridge, Aung Tha Chaung Bridge

Tunyawei Bridge having 450ft. in length was built on the Ponnagyun-Yathedaung road section and it also helps transportation and communication in the State. Panzin Chaung Bridge having the length 960ft. Aungtha Chaung Bridge with 180 ft. length were also built on the road between Yathedaung township and Buthidaung township.

Ohnchaung Bridge

210 ft. long Ohnchaung bridge was also built across the Ohn stream on the road skirting Manaung Island.

Darlet Chaung Bridge

The Darlet Chaung Bridge having 960 ft. in length is being constructed on the Minbu-An-Sittway road. It will be finished at the end of the 2016-17 financial year.

Kyatsin Bridge

1920 ft. long Kyatsin bridge is now under construction and will be completed in 2018-19 FY. It is being built across Kyatsin river and on the road between Myebon township and Minbya township. Once isolated Myebon township will enjoy better communication and trade when this bridge is finished.

Yathedaung chaung Bridge

On Ponnagyun-Yathedaung road section Yathedaung bridge is now being built and try to finish it in two years.

Sai Din Chaung Bridge

Sai Din Chaung bridge is constructed on the road between Yathedaung Township and Buthidaung Township. The bridge is 600 ft. long and targeted to finish in 2018-19 FY.

Sat Yo Kya Bridge

It is in Sittway Township and built across the Sat Yo Kya stream having 1340 ft. in length. It will also be finished in 2018-19 FY. It is an important bridge as it can help in transporting the goods and commodities.

Kisapanadi Bridge

India has committed a pledge to build a new bridge across Kisapanadi River with target to finish in 5 years. When it is

finished, big passenger buses and freight trucks can have more comfortable journey between Ponnagyun and Minbya township.

Kin Chaung Bridge

The old wooden Kin Chaung bridge which was 440ft long and located on Minbu-An-Sittway road. Now it was replaced by a concrete bridge resulting in better transportation and trade.

Tan Hlwe Bridge

600ft. long wooden Tan Hlwe bridge located on the Taungup – Ma Ei section of Yangon – Kyaukpyu Road is upgraded to a concrete bridge. All the vehicles can drive past the bridge reliably.

Upgrading the 12 large bridges

The following above 180 ft. long bridges built of reinforced concrete and iron frames were upgraded.

1. 1216 ft. long Sunye bridge located on Pauktaw-Minbya road.
2. 900 ft. long Sin Khone Taing bridge.
3. 440 ft. long Kin Chaung bridge on Yangon-Sittway road.
4. 600 ft. long An Chaung bridge
5. 360 ft. long Pikauk bridge
6. 480 ft. long Sanmati Chaung bridge on Ponnagyun-Yathedaung Road
7. 400 ft. long Thayupe Pudon suspension bridge on Minbu-An road.
8. 480 ft. long Kwe Cahung bridge on Taungup-Thandwe road
9. 360 ft. long Gelong bridge on An-Tat-taung road
10. 180 ft. long Thedan bridge on Kyauktaw-MraukU-Minbya road
11. 180 ft. long Pegauk bridge on Myebon-Kantha-Kabaing road
12. 195 ft. long Tarong Chaung bridge on Yanbye-Kyauknimaw road

In 2016-17 FY one bridge with length over 180 ft., 14 bridges with length between 50ft. and 180 ft., 193 bridges with length below 50 ft. and associated culbert were constructed successfully.

Airways

Not only the road transport and communication were upgraded for the development of Rakhine State but upgrading of pre-existing airports, building of new airports and extension of new flights were also carried out to ease the travel by air. Construction of New Manaung airport and MraukU airport were started and earth working for runways and entrance road are under way.

MraukU Airport

Tenders were invited from private companies and tenders were selected transparently. Tender winning company has started the construction works and the project is targeted to finish in 2021.

The new MraukU Airport is constructed as the old one was located in the archaeological zone. When it is finished more foreign tourists will visit MraukU and the



Darlet Chaung Bridge on the Minbu-An-Sittway road.



Sittway Airport in Rakhine State.

socioeconomic condition of MraukU will get boosted up in near future.

Manaung Airport

Some extensions and renovations were carried out at Manaung Airport. Runway is extended to 4000ft. in length and 100 ft. in width in order that small plane can land at Manaung airport. One storied building was also built at the airport. Runway is planned to be extended to the required length and breadth to be able to accept the landing of ATR72 plane.

Sittway Airport

Sittway Airport was also upgraded by extending the runway from 6000 ft. to 7500 ft. and the width having 150 ft. the same as the old one. Before the extension, the original runway can be used only by ATR 72 plane and now Airbus 320 and Embraer 190 will be able to use the extended runway.

The new building was built at Sittway Airport in 2016-17 FY and the building to accommodate the VIP lounge was also built.

Kyaukpyu Airport

The runway was extended from 4620 ft. to 7500 ft. so that Airbus 320 and Embraer 190 can land at the airport.

Thandwe Airport

The airport busy with foreign travelers was also upgraded by paving 4 inches thick asphalt layer on the runway which is 8000 ft. long and 100 ft. wide. The airport building was also upgraded with some ex-

tensions and the new Flight Control Tower was also built at the Thandwe Airport.

Flights

As the number of travellers to Rakhine State is rapidly increasing, the number of airlines and flights are also rising. Air KBZ, Air Mandalay, Golden Myanmar, FMI and Man Yadanabon airlines are operating the flights from Yangon to Sittway. National Airline and Golden Myanmar Airline are taking flights from Yangon to Kyaukpyu. National Airline has the daily flight from Yangon to Thandwe whereas it flies 2 days a week from Yangon to An and three days a week from Yangon to Manaung. Due to the increased airlines and flights to the Rakhine State, journeys between Yangon and Rakhine State becomes more convenient. Thus, the airlines are supporting the socioeconomic development of the Rakhine State.

Water transportation

Water transport of Rakhine State will be improved as Japanese government gifted 3 water vehicles to be used in Rakhine State.

New water vehicles from Japan

The first vehicle from Japan was received on 29 March 2017. The second one will arrive in May 2017 and the last one will arrive in December 2018.

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Water crafts in Rakhine State

In Rakhine State 14 water crafts including both motorized and non-motorized, 77 private-owned freight vehicles, 700 water vehicles with engine of above 20 HP, 800 vehicles with engine of below 20 HP are under operation for passengers and goods transport.

Retaining Walls to prevent river banks from erosion

Dredging sand banks and constructing the retaining wall to prevent river banks from erosion were carried out in Taungup of Thandwe township, Yathedaung, Kyauktaw township, Minbya township, Manaung township and Yanbye township.

Expertise in water transport and water vehicles and service staffs of water vehicles are undertaking inspection works for the safety of passengers and goods transported by water vehicles. Signboards with educating propaganda for the safety passengers, goods and vehicle itself were also set up at the ports of the rivers in Rakhine State.

Projects for railway lines

The section of Sittway-MraukU railway line which is the part of the project of constructing 299.25 miles long Minbu-An-Sittway Railway Line has been built and presently construction on Sittway-Yechanbyin, Kwantaung-Yotayoke, Yotayoke-Kyauktaw rail lines totaling 54 miles in length and 6 miles long Yechanbyin-Kwantaung section have been finished.

From Sittway to MraukU

The construction works on rail lines are continuing and when finished people will be able to make a day trip between Sittway and MraukU providing a comfortable journey for the locals and foreigners as well.

Communication sector

21 auto-exchange stations, 22 microwave stations, 19 CDMA 450 stations, 2 CDMA 800 stations, 184 GSM/UMTS stations were already constructed. Only 297 mobile towers were built in 2015-16 and additional 479 mobile towers were constructed in one year term of the incumbent government. Fiber cable lines are also extended from 1959.80 km to 3303.22 km that can facilitate the telephone communication throughout the Rakhine State.

Building for Meteorological Radar

Rakhine State is a coastal region and accordingly more prone to cyclone than other inland areas. Therefore, the building for meteorological radar that can detect the location, strength and the possible track of moving storm or cyclone in precision was built at Kin village, Kyaukpyu township under the aid program of Japanese government.

Automatic Meteorological Instruments

The meteorological radar station has made daily announcement on the weather and storm condition. Automatic meteorological instruments have been installed at the meteorological stations of Sittway, Kyaukpyu, Thandwe and Gwa and detect the real time meteorological condition of the country. Earthquake instruments are also to be installed at Gwa township this year by the assistance of Indian Government.

Hotel and Tourism

As an endeavor to promote the hotel and tourism in Rakhine State, 3 new hotels and guest houses in Kyaukpyu and 2 guest houses in Sittway, totally 5 hotels and guest houses consisting of 193 rooms were given license to be opened.

2 tourism licenses in Sittway and another 2 tourism licenses in Thandwe were already granted in the tenure of previous governments. The incumbent government has issued one more tourism license in Sittway. Moreover, a pre-permission for building a hotel in Ngapali Beach was given in one year time of incumbent government.

Building of Religious Congregation Hall (Dhammayone)

In the first year term of new government a religious congregation hall was built in Maungtaw at the expense of 250 million kyats including money donated by well-wishers.

Furthermore, an ordination hall in Mawrawaddy monastery was built expending 100 million kyats. Repairing the Yadana Manaung Stupa which had been damaged by earthquake was also finished during one year term of new government. Some religious buildings including praying hall were constructed in Chongchaung monastery in Myebon township of Rakhine State.

Building Dams, Canals and embankment

Irrigation and related works including dredging the lake in Sittway, constructing network of canals and drains to supply necessary water for summer paddy in Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships and repairing embankment in Ngamanye islet of Myebon township were implemented in one year period of new government spending 2132.923 million kyats from Union Fund.

Moreover, building small dams blocking the valleys in Myebon, Yanbye, Minbya and Taungup townships, building dams and embankments in Ponnagyun, Yathedaung, Minbya, Myebon, An, Yanbye and Sittway townships and embankments deterring salt water intrusion, water storage embankments in Sittway, Pauktaw, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw, Minbya and Myebon townships were implemented by State Government Fund. Those undertakings are much beneficial to the local farmers.



Meteorological Radar in Kin village, Kyaukpyu township, Rakhine State.



The dredging sand banks.

Building Border Fence

The 10 mile of 40 mile long border section between Tone Chaungwa and Angumaw is targeted to be fenced in along the border with Bangladesh with allotted budget 12875.672 million kyats in 2016-17 FY. Moreover, border guard stations, bridges and 69 places of the border fence are being repaired.

Deterring illegal trespassers, prevention of drug trafficking and scrutinizing the national identification and registration cards are also being carried out.

More Schools Are Constructed

In Rakhine State, during one year period of new government, opening and upgrading the schools were carried out. 11 State Basic Education High Schools, 12 affiliated SBEH Schools, 7 State Basic Education Middle Schools, 79 affiliated SBEM Schools, 167 Post-State Basic Education Primary Schools, 19 SBEP Schools and 29 affiliated SBEP Schools, 324 schools in total were upgraded. 1332 State Primary School teachers were also appointed. Government Technical Institute (Kyaukpyu), Government Technical Institute (Thandwe) and Government Technical School (Sittway) were opened to promote the vocational technology in Rakhine State.

Sittway University, Taungup College and Kyaukpyu Education College were opened and in the time of new government Taungup College was upgraded to Taungup Degree College.

Hospitals, Dispensaries

In health sector, hospitals, dispensaries and rural health centers are regularly providing health care to the people. Comprehensive Health Care Program is planned and is now being implemented so as to make people from far and wide

including people from Maungtaw District accessible to health care. As there are 3.3 million people in Rakhine State, one 500 beds hospital, five 100 bed hospitals, fifty two below 50 bed and below hospitals, 121 rural health centers, 558 rural health sub-centers are established to have a wide coverage in public health care.

Electricity Supply

In the endeavor to supply more electricity in Rakhine State, during one year period of time Ma Ei sub-station, Taungup sub-station, Kyaukpyu sub-station, Ponnagyun sub-station and Minbya sub-station were constructed and Taungup-Ma Ei, Taungup-Phone Nyo, MraukU-Minbya, Athoke-Gwa, Ponnagyun-Yathedaung-Buthidaung-Maungtaw 66 KV electric lines, 66 KV Kyaukpyu-Kyaukpyu (SEZ) electric line no.1, 66 KV Kyaukpyu-Kyaukpyu (SEZ) electric line no.2, 230 KV Mann-An electric line, 33 KV Minbya-Myebon electric line and 33 KV An-Kan Htaungyi are still under construction.

Due to the above undertakings of new government in one year period 55 villages including Ma Ei, Taungup, Kyaukpyu, Minbya and MraukU will be able to use electricity in the near future.

The Land that will flourish with Infrastructures soon

The utmost effort of the incumbent government in developing the Rakhine State has to be highly appreciated. Infrastructures, such as roads and bridges were constructed and electricity was supplied to the hilt of their capacity. Rakhine has primarily been endowed with natural resources which in combination with added infrastructure will bring about the emergence of developed State. —Translated by Khin Maung Win ■