

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

# Two new signatories become members of NCA

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the inclusion of two recent signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) yesterday, which had received the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's first approval on 8 December 2015.

The New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU) signed an agreement to ink the NCA on 13 February 2018. Their signing must be approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, said U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney-General, during a clarification at the union parliament yesterday, in his capacity as a member of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre on behalf of the union government.

Earlier, the NCA between the government and eight ethnic organisations, signed on 15

October 2015, was approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 8 December 2015.

Paragraph 26 of the NCA, which came into effect on 15 October 2015, mentions that the agreement shall be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, in accordance with the rules to seek approval.

In the meeting yesterday, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also approved part-1 of the Union Peace Conference 21st Century Panglong, signed by leaders of the groups that attended the conference on 29 May 2017.

Following this, Secretary of the Joint Bill Committee Dr. Myat Nyana Soe submitted the findings and remarks of the committee about the Union Tax Bill 2018.

After the clarification,

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than invited the MPs to participate in the debate over the bill in the next meetings.

The union parliament also approved the National Planning Bill for six months, starting from April 2018.

Following some objections to the extension to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, the issue was put to vote, and it was approved with 295 votes in favour and 179 against.

Later, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe urged the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to approve the memorandum of understanding between ASEAN and Australia for cooperation in fighting international terrorism, sent by the President.



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

During the latter part of the meeting, the MPs debated over the issue submitted by the Ministry of Construction on borrowing

15 billion Japanese yen from the Japan International Cooperation Agency. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker pays obeisance head of Shwekyin Sasana Sayadaw

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint paid obeisance State Ovadacariya patron Sayadaw, the head chairman of Shwekyin Sasana Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatta Guru Bhaddanta Vizawta yesterday afternoon in the meeting hall of the Hluttaw.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint welcomed the chairman of Shwekyin Sasana Sayadaw and donated offertories. Afterwards, the chairman of Shwekyin Sasana Sayadaw administered sermons. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and delegation pay homage to Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharatta Guru Bhaddanta Vizawta yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

## Meeting held for implementing development in Rakhine

THE Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State held its meeting at the office of the Ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister and Committee Chairman Dr. Win Myat Aye said the committee will closely follow the recommendations of the advisory board to provide long-lasting solutions to problems in Rakhine State. He noted Rakhine State was facing obstacles to its development, human rights,

security and equality. The union minister said if these hardships are resolved, then lasting peace will be possible in Rakhine.

The union minister said that Rakhine was being given priority because it was one of the least developed states; however, the development of human rights is being pursued equally throughout the country. He said the union government is drafting laws and amending the existing ones to ensure equal human rights for all. He said the government is working to accelerate the na-

tional verification process and rehabilitation of the afflicted people. He said all the responsible ministries should announce their progress and plans to the public to improve transparency.

The union minister said he had discussed with the Ministry of Home Affairs about reducing travel restrictions in Rakhine State, in addition to national verification cards for people living there.

Dr. Win Myat Aye said youth volunteers had successfully conducted four Union Enterprise

for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development surveys and donations in Rakhine and will conduct the fifth one soon. He said work on the border fence was almost completed and improved security measures were being undertaken. He said returnees to Rakhine need to be carefully checked and development plans in the state must be conducted in a transparent manner.

The first report on the progress in Rakhine has been announced to the public, and these

reports will be given once every four months, he said. He then invited the public and other ministries to provide feedback on their progress.

Later, U Soe Aung, joint-secretary of the implementation committee, explained the tasks completed from the previous meeting and discussed further plans with the attendants. Next, the various ministries explained their processes in Rakhine State, followed by a collective general discussion. —Myanmar News Agency ■