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State Counsellor meets Indian PM



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, left, meets Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister of India, in New Delhi on Wednesday. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India, at Hyderabad House, the state guest house, in New Delhi on Wednesday evening.

Discussed at the meeting were matters relating to increased bilateral cooperation, completing ongoing border demarcation works, cooperation to overcome cross-border terrorism, cooperation in building road links and transportation, opening of border gates to increase contact between peoples of both countries and assistance from India for Rakhine State development.

“The two leaders had a productive discussion on intensifying bilateral cooperation, including follow-up on key decisions taken during PM’s visit to Myanmar in September 2017”, said External Affairs Ministry spokesman Ravesh Kumar via Twitter.

The State Counsellor is in India to attend the 25th Anniversary of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.—GNLM ■

Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor released the following statement dated 25th January, 2018. Following is the full text of the press release.

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

PRESS RELEASE

THE Advisory Board to the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State headed by Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, met in Nay Pyi Taw

on 22-23 January 2018.

The Board met with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 22 January and Vice President U Myint Swe on 23 January. The Board was briefed by the Chairman of the Committee for Implementation of

the Recommendations on Rakhine State, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, and Union Ministers concerned on the progress of work to date on 23 January.

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NATIONAL

Vice President inspects regional development of Taninthayi Region

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‘BEST BANK IN MYANMAR’

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses age limit for civil servants, pollution

THE 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 7th regular session sixth-day meeting was held yesterday morning in the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) Chairman Dr. Win Thein replied to a question raised by Daw Ni Shwe Hlyan of Thantlang constituency on reducing the age limit criteria in appointing government servants for remote and far-off places.

The UCSB Chairman said the board does not set the age limit criteria in appointing public servants and has no plans to do so. Instead, it selects and appoints public servants according to criteria set by the relevant ministries. These criteria are also dependent on the nature and scope of the work of the relevant ministries. It is more appropriate for the ministries to set the criteria according to their requirements rather than have the UCSB set them. Next, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win responded to a question raised by Dr. U Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency on plans to enact an air-pollution control



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

law to reduce the ill effects of air pollution in Myanmar. The union minister said there are currently no plans to enact such a law, but national air-quality standards were being set and announced, adherence to the standard was being monitored and assessed by the relevant ministries, and the standard was being amended and corrected based on advances in science and technology as well as for the benefit of the people. These efforts will continue to control air pollution, the union minister noted.

Similarly, questions raised by Daw Nan Kham Aye of Nam-

tu constituency, U Toe Thaung of Mongmit constituency and U Nay Htat Win of Sinbaungwe constituency were also answered by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win.

Afterwards, a bill on explosive materials was submitted to the Hluttaw by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and the Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee report on the bill was read by committee member U Zaw Win of Htantabin constituency. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint requested Hluttaw repre-

sentatives who wished to discuss the bill to enroll their names.

A motion tabled by Dr. U Aye Min of Kayan constituency, urging the government to award outstanding government servants with honours, titles, rest, recreation and study tours and foreign (scholarship-based) training to raise the morale and performance of these public servants, was then discussed and supported by U Ne Lin Aung of Mindat constituency, Dr. U Tin Aung of Kyaukse constituency, U Tun Tun Naing of Kani constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Myint Lwin of Twante constituency, U Tin Htway of Waw constituency, U Myint Wei of Gwa constituency, U Tin Ko Ko Oo of Bilin constituency, U Saw Victor Clyde of Thandaunggyi constituency, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Kyaw Thiha and Major Min Zarni Htway, Dr. Daw Thet Thet Khaing of Dagon constituency, U Kyaw Swe Win of Kawhmu constituency, U Win Win of Minbu constituency, Daw Ni Shwe Hlyan of Thantlang constituency and U Maung Maung of Htigyaing constituency.

Responding to the discussion

by the Hluttaw representatives, UCSB Chairman Dr. Win Thein said outstanding public servants were being promoted according to the public servant rule, and the Myanmar Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan (2017-2020) is being implemented by establishing four objectives for the new public servant management system, a practice and system that is merit-based and performance-driven, raising the leadership quality and performance to create people-centric public servants and improving the transparency and accountability of public servants.

The UCSB chairman added that outstanding public servants were being awarded through promotions, advance increments, certificates of honour, awards, titles, foreign (scholarship-based) training, meetings, workshops, seminars, study tours and other means. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker then took the consensus of the Hluttaw and announced the confirmation of the motion.

The 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 7th regular session seventh-day meeting will continue on 26 January. — Thura Zaw ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Lawmakers discusses upgrading Yangon-Mandalay Highway

AT the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 7th regular session sixth-day meeting, held yesterday, Ministry of Construction Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin explained the plan to obtain international loans and special funds under a new programme in addition to the use of union funds to upgrade the Yangon-Mandalay expressway.

Plans are underway to roll out this strategy under a Public Private Partnership programme.

The deputy minister was responding to a question raised by U Lal Min Htan of Chin State constituency (10) on the plan to lay a final layer of asphalt on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway as a priority task before the end of fiscal year 2020-2021.

The deputy minister explained that the Yangon-Mandalay expressway stretches for 366 miles and 3 furlongs; when considering it both ways, it has a total length of 732 miles and 6 furlongs. As of fiscal year 2016-2017, a 25-foot-wide asphalt-concrete section of the road was completed, for a total length of 149 miles

and 5 furlongs. A further 25-foot-wide section of 13 miles and 7 furlongs will be completed in fiscal year 2017-2018. By the end of fiscal year 2017-2018, 569 miles of asphalt-concrete road work will still be pending. Approval from the union government's economic committee has been obtained to complete the addition of a final layer of asphalt, 2.5-meter asphalt-concrete road shoulders on both sides of the road, and an interchange in Bawnetkyi, as well as for the completion of road safety work during the 2018-2020 fiscal year on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway, in the 8 miles to 36 miles section (Yangon-Bawnetkyi section), with loans from Asia Development Bank and the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund. Both of these loans were submitted at the union government meeting. Once the Cabinet approval is obtained, it will be submitted to the Hluttaw, explained the Deputy Minister.

In response to a question by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11) on the plan to upgrade the strategic Yan-

bye-Kyauknimaw (25 miles and 5 furlongs) section to a concrete road, using the union fund in fiscal year 2018-2019, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said the Yanbye-Kyauknimaw road is owned by the ministry of construction's road department and managed by the (Rakhine) state government. It is a smooth gravel-surfaced road. In fiscal year 2017-2018, a total of Ks 967.779 million in state government funds was used to lay an 18-foot-wide road section stretching 4 furlongs in Yanbye, provide gravel surfacing for a road stretching 11 miles and 2 furlongs, construct the 180-foot-long reinforced concrete Thitpote Chaung bridge, complete earth work for the bridge's approach road, lay asphalt on the bridge and construct two wooden bridges.

As the Yanbye-Kyauknimaw road is managed by the state government, no work has been earmarked for completion with the union fund. In 2018, from 1 April to 30 September, an 18-foot-wide and 1-mile-long concrete road

in Yanbye, a 14-foot-wide 2-mile-long gravel road, a 10-foot-long rock-lined approach road and two reinforced concrete bridges are planned for construction using state government capital funds of Ks563.4 million. In addition, in fiscal year 2018-2019, the construction of a 12-foot-wide 3-mile-long road and reconstruction of the 30-foot-long Myebon and 40-foot-long Khamamaung wooden bridges into reinforced concrete bridges are being planned, for which Ks660 million has been requested from the state government fund. The road department has no plans to upgrade the Yanbye-Kyauknimaw road with union government funds; instead, it is requesting the state government fund to upgrade it, explained the deputy minister. An additional question by U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency (4) on the plan to construct a new reinforced two-lane concrete bridge in place of Myaungbwe bridge in Mrauk U Township was also answered by Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin.

Next, the decision of the Hluttaw on a bill to repeal the municipal law, returned without amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw, was obtained, and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the approval of the Hluttaw. The 2017 bill to amend the vacant, fallow and virgin lands management law was then discussed by Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State constituency (5), Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayin State constituency (7), U Thet Naing Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency (2), U Ba Myo Thein of Yangon Region constituency (5), Dr. Win Myint Chit of Bago Region constituency (8), U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi Region constituency (10), U Hla San of Magway Region constituency (1), Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency (11) and U Win Zaw of Kachin State constituency (7).

The 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 7th regular session seventh-day meeting will continue on 26 January.—Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency) ■

State Counsellor office's Press Release

FROM PAGE-1

The Board had the opportunity to visit Rakhine State on 24-25 January to observe first hand the situation obtaining on the ground and to interact with local communities.

The Government is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State to the fullest extent possible and in the shortest time-frame, in accordance with the situation on the ground. It therefore set up the Committee for Implementation of the Recommendations on Rakhine State and established the Advisory Board comprising experienced personalities to get independent and candid advice.

In the course of the discussions in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 January, it became evident that the intent of Governor Bill Richardson, a member of the board, was not to provide advice based on the recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by Dr. Kofi Annan but to pursue his own agenda. In view of the difference of opinion that developed, the government decided that his continued participation on the Board would not be the best interest of all concerned.

Price of sunflower oil rises in oil market due to increased local consumption

THE price of sunflower oil from NyaungU Township has gone up in the oil market due to increasing local consumption, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily. Sunflower oil is richer in nutrients than other bean and sesame oils. Sunflower oil is mostly used for fried vegetables, and can be less expensive to use when cooking. Therefore, the demand for sunflower oil has increased.

"There are many sunflower oils which were imported from foreign countries. But people only consume local sunflower oil. Local sunflower oil is in high demand in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Yangon regions," said U Sai Naung, an edible oil trader.

Recently, the price of local sunflower oil was Ks 4,300 per viss in the local oil market, while sunflower oil imported from abroad was selling for Ks 9,000 to Ks 12,000 for four viss.—GNLM■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits seawater prawn breeding plant in Myeik, Taninthayi Region. PHOTO: MNA

Vice President inspects regional development of Taninthayi Region

VICE President U Henry Van Thio departed from Yangon by air yesterday morning and arrived in Myeik township of Taninthayi region.

He and his party were accompanied by Deputy Minister for Defense Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo and other officials.

The group inspected the plot of land selected for the construction of the Modern Fish Auction Market, One Stop Service office, seawater prawn breeding plant, cold-storage factory and plywood factory in Taninthayi Region.

Next, they visited the Modern Fish Auction Market in Myeik, where they were welcomed by U Hla Than, the President of the Thaninthayi Fishery Association. U Hla Than described the set-up of the Myeik Private Company Limited Corporation and the on-going project; the number of fishing boats; the annual fishery-product exports; the number of fish, prawns and soft-shelled crabs being bred and the amount of seaweed grown; details of modern fishery auctions; the road project of Htone Kha-The Phyu-Maung Taw and the Myeik Highway Transport

Station. The Vice President said they should present these details to the departments concerned, according to the standard procedure.

The group then looked around the Myeik One Stop Service and continued to Katalu Village, where they inspected the local fishery industry.

Next, the Chairman of the Pyae Phyo Tun International Co., Ltd., gave a briefing about the 415 acres assigned to the prawn-breeding project and the condition of exports to the Vice President and his party.

Chairman of Pyae Phyo Tun

International Co., Ltd., Dr. Aung Lwin clarified matters relating to the dockyard, plywood industry, fishery exports, palm oil and rubber plantations, sea-view condo construction, the fish auction business, employment for the locals and regional development.

Next, the group inspected the cold storage unit of a 1000-tonne factory, fish and prawn exports and the breeding of soft-shelled crabs.

Later, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and his party inspected the industrial zone from their vehicles. _Myanmar News Agency

Some 200 travellers daily visits Rih lake, Chin State

SOME 200 travellers, both foreigners and locals, have recently visited Rih lake every day.

Rih Lake, also known as Heart Shape Lake, is 2,966 feet above sea level in Chin State, according to the U Zodahar, the manager of Rih Yaykantha hotel in Chin state.

The lake is located in

the north of Reh Khaw Da, a small town that lies near Myanmar's northwest border with India.

The lake receives most of its visitors from India, along with some Myanmar people. But this year, authorities noted that many local travelers have also arrived.

In 2016 and 2017, Rih lake received some 150 visitors per day. But during this New Year season, the lake received some 200 travellers per day. Recently, authorities built the Rih viewing site for travellers to take photos of the area, he added.

The famous Heart Shape Lake is 832 acres wide, 2.5 miles

long and has a 3-mile circumference. It is over 50 feet deep. The lake is full throughout the year and turns a reddish color each December.

Over 20 vehicles per day arrive at the Rih lake area. It has seen increasing visitors this year, compared with last year.—Zo Hay Hsar ■



Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with European Union Ambassador Kristian Schmidt in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives EU Ambassador

Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union, yesterday

day morning at the Hluttaw affairs building in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, matters relating to the right cooperation process in Rakhine affairs and the country's peace process,

as well as investment and economic cooperation between the European Union and Myanmar, based on an understanding of Myanmar's culture, were discussed.—MNA ■

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko attends second coordination meeting on filming Bogyoke Aung San's biopic

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko attended the second coordination meeting on the filming of Bogyoke Aung San's biopic, at the ministry's office, yesterday morning.

The union minister said, "Our primary aim is to successfully film the biopic of our national hero, General Aung San.

"Concerted efforts should be made to make this film successful because it involves our national pride and glory.

"As we discussed in the previous meeting, artists, government servants and supporters may hold different points of view, and we should all aim for mutual understanding to prepare for unexpected reactions. I also believe that cooperation is essential to address this matter.

"As for the officials of the Myanmar Motion Picture Association, preparations should be made to request the concerned ministry's assistance prior to

starting work on this film.

"We would like you to discuss the plans and suggestions involved in the process.

"Our ministry will fulfill all your needs and requests and will provide any necessary assistance to the best of our ability.

"I would like to urge all of you to perform your tasks during this film-making process with a conscientious spirit."

Following the union minister's remarks, Joint-Secretary of the film committee U Lu Min revealed the progress of the film.

Director U Min Htin Ko Ko Gyi explained the stages of making the biopic and the on-going process. Next, Joint-Secretary of the Myanmar Motion Picture Association U Sein Thauung discussed the cooperation between the ministry and his association.

Following the discussion of the sub-committee's suggestions, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko concluded the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

A Brief Study on Anti-Corruption Drive in today's World

FROM PAGE-9

The following are the best 9 countries in the world at fighting corruption.

9. Denmark: 5.27 — In 2015, Denmark was voted the most transparent country in the world by Transparency International, and it scores highly in the World Economic Forum's analysis. It is the lowest ranked of four Scandinavian countries on this list.

8. Singapore: 5.27 — The city-state of Singapore is one of the most highly developed nations in Asia, and has made huge efforts to fight corruption, spearheaded by its Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau.

7. Switzerland: 5.32 — In Switzerland, companies can be criminally prosecuted and ordered to pay a fine of up to Swiss Franc 5 million for acts of corruption committed by individuals working on its behalf.

6. New Zealand: 5.36 — According to Hong Kong's Independent Commission against Corruption "New Zealand does not have any one single agency tasked with fighting corruption." "Rather it has a number of agencies that focus on the different

elements in the fight against corruption."

5. Norway: 5.39 — "Corruption does not represent a constraint to trade or investment, and administrative corruption and petty bribery are almost non-existent. The Norwegian Penal Code criminalizes active and passive bribery, trading in influence, fraud, extortion, breach of trust and money laundering," according to Generative Adversarial Networks (GAN's) business anti-corruption portal.

4. Finland: 5.42 — Finland has consistently ranked as one of the world's least corrupt countries. However, a recent report from the Police University College asserted that corruption increased 10 per cent from 2011-2014.

3. Sweden: 5.50 — Corruption in Sweden is policed by the country's National Anti-Corruption Unit, part of the Swedish Prosecution Authority. In the Scandinavian state, corruption is defined as "the abuse of power" by any official.

2. Japan: 5.57 — Japan is one of the least corrupt countries in the world, however, according to

Generative Adversarial Networks "there is a traditional practice (known as amakudari) of assigning retired government officials to top positions within Japanese companies. Amakudari employees are particularly common in the financial, construction, transportation and pharmaceutical industries."

1. Luxembourg: 5.62 — Luxembourg tops the World Economic Forum's ranking despite recent revelations in The Guardian that former prime minister, and current European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker "spent years in his previous role as Luxembourg's prime minister secretly blocking EU efforts to tackle tax avoidance by multinational corporations."

The author have the opportunity staying in Singapore for about three months, and really and truly in love with the corrupt free environment and society.

Therefore, the writer takes the liberty to share as the third aspect on the fight of corruption in Singapore. How Singapore fought corruption or 4 regulatory steps to a successful state

In the mid-50s the British

left Singapore (British colony back then) and Singaporeans were left with weak legislative framework, almost uneducated population, low wages, opaque economy, endemic corruption and quite vague prospects. Lee Kuan Yew, together with his party "People's Action" won the election, and became the symbol of the fight against corruption, the slogan of which was: "You want to fight corruption? Then, be ready to send to jail your friends and relatives".

1. The anti-corruption campaign consisted of 4 elements, the first of which was the establishment of a strong independent service for the fight against corruption.

Denying officials' immunity: All officials and their families were deprived of immunity. Agents of the Bureau of Corruption Investigation (BCI) had the right to check bank accounts, property, not only belonging to the officials, but also their children, wives, relatives and even friends.

2. Live within your means: The second element of the anti-corruption program in Singapore was the introduction of a

"presumption of guilt agent" of the government, any governmental department or a public state organization.

3. High Salary as a guarantee of integrity: After enactment of the first 2 elements, the third element was to increase the salaries of officials. Lee Kuan Yew claimed that civil servants should be paid the highest wages because they deserve it, representing a decent and honest government. If they are underpaid, they may be tempted to engage in corrupt practices.

4. Mass Media Factor: The fourth element stands on the formation of independent, objective media, covering all found cases of corruption. The officer caught in excessive costs, bribes, immediately becomes the "hero" of the front page.

These were the four regulatory steps that turned a poor state with no natural resources into one of leading economies in the world in less than 40 years.

In conclusion, the writer wishes "the Anti-Corruption Commission" of Myanmar all the success aspired by the people of our country. ■