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President U Htin Kyaw, centre, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, third from left, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, third from Right, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, second from right, at the 70th anniversary of Chin National Day celebration. **PHOTO: MNA**

70th Chin National Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

The 70th anniversary of Chin National Day was celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday by President U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin, and State Counsellor Daw Aung

San Suu Kyi.

The State Counsellor pointed out that many contributions have been made by the Chin people, not the least of which was the recent signing of the

Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

“The 70th anniversary of Chin National Day is nearly fourth-thirds of a century. All national races should review

what they did in the past 70 years for their respective regions, states and for our union,” she said.

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Myanmar, Bangladesh border authorities meet

MYANMAR and Bangladesh border authorities met at the Taung Pyo Letwe General Administration Department yesterday morning to discuss repatriation, INGOs and those who have taken up the people on the border between the two countries.

Following an introduction of Myanmar and Bangladesh district-level border authorities, the leader of the Bangladesh group offered to assist in returning the people living on the Zero Line back to their respective homes.

The head of the Bangladesh group also requested joint patrols, and explained that international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) went into the Zero Line area under their own arrangement to provide aid and were not sent by the Bangladeshi government.

The Zero Line is an undeveloped, formerly uninhabited area on the border between the neighbouring countries that has recently become an unauthorised, home for residents who do not want to participate in repatriation, officials said.

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‘BEST BANK IN MYANMAR’

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Pyithu Hluttaw puts on record motion on Rakhine State

By Kyaw Thu Htet,
Mi Mi Phyo
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The Pyithu Hluttaw debated over a motion on Rakhine State and put it on record during a meeting yesterday. Six questions on other issues were raised and answered, while a decision on the Myanmar Investment Rule was taken and approved. The Hluttaw was also informed about extending the terms of 14 Pyithu Hluttaw committees.

During the meeting, a motion tabled by U Aung Thaung Shwe from Buthidaung constituency urging the union government to develop effective plans for northern Rakhine's development and to share them openly with the public was dis-

cussed by U Hla Htun Kyaw of Maungdaw constituency, U Sein Win of Maubin constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt-Col Khin Maung Thant, Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency, U Htay Win Aung, alias U Pyone Cho, of Dawbon constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency, U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, Daw Nan Than Lwin of Hpa-an constituency, U Pe Than of Myebon constituency, Daw Wint Wa Tun of Shadaw constituency, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Major Than Win, Daw Aye Aye Mu, alias Daw Sharmie, of Kalay constituency, U Sai Kyaw Moe of Mongpan constituency, U Lagan Zal Jon of Waingmaw constituency, U Sai Aung Kyaw of Kehsi



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye. **PHOTO: MNA**

constituency, U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency and U Win Myint Oo, alias U Nay Myo, of Nyaungshwe constituency.

In his discussion on the motion, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Re-

settlement Dr. Win Myat Aye said the Smart Garment factory, Khaing Pyi Soe Garment factory and Shwe Kya handloom factory were opened with the government's support in Sittway to help the local ethnic nationals acquire jobs and stay in their region. Some 250 women are already employed in these factories and are staying in their region. Efforts are being made to develop small and medium enterprises and to open larger garment factories.

For the benefit of the local populace, some 48 investment works have been approved, said the Union Minister.

For 50 villages in Kyaukpyu Township, a revolving fund of Ks30 million per village has been set up, and in cooperation with

Caterpillar Company, a course to operate heavy machineries was conducted.

With the support of GIZ (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH), a German development agency, arrangements have been made for local women to attend a sewing course in Yangon.

In addition to these, agriculture courses, welding courses and small electrical appliances repair courses are being conducted. Discussing the security in Rakhine State, the union minister said a safe and secure border fence and security of the territorial waters are the main issues and the damaged border fences were repaired in the 2016-2017 fiscal year (FY).

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Amyotha Hluttaw discusses road upgradation, park construction

By Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw held its 20th-day meeting yesterday at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall, where asterisk-marked questions were asked and answered, two reports read and explained and a motion discussed.

First, U Kyaw Kyaw of Rakhine State constituency (4) raised a question on the plan to upgrade the earthen road up to Balipyin Village on the MraukU-Mahahti concrete road section in Rakhine State, MraukU Township to a gravel road. Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw replied that the MraukU-Mahahti concrete road was managed by the Ministry of Construction's Department of Rural Development, while the earthen road up to Balipyin Village was built by the local villagers. The Rakhine State government has submitted to the Union Government office to include this road under the list of roads managed by the Ministry of Construction, according to procedure. Meanwhile, the upgradation work on 1 mile and 1 furlong of the 4-mile and 4-furlong earthen road was started in the 2017-2018 fiscal year (FY) period, with the Rakhine State government spending Ks35 million. Some 75 per cent of the work has been completed. Once it becomes a Ministry of Construction-managed road, funds will be allocated every FY and it



Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

will be upgraded, explained the Union Minister.

Responding to a question raised by U Bwe Khane of Chin State constituency (3) on a plan to build a park in Haka Town during the 2018-2019 FY, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myint Tun said the Haka Township Development Affairs Department was arranging to construct a park on a 5-acre plot in Khuasilobo, Haka Town. In the 2018-2019 budget allocation, the park construction has been listed as second priority, and Ks150 million was requested for the park and a reservoir (including the fence around the reservoir). If the budget is allocated, the park will be constructed, said U Aung Myint Tun.

Replying to a question posed by Naw Hla Hla Soe of the Yangon region constituency (10) on relocating the Taungthukone-Yodaya market in the Yangon Re-



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

gion's Insein Township, as waste from the market was causing health and social problems, fire hazards and traffic blocks, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aung Myint Tun said the market came into existence some 30 years ago, and there were some 200 temporary vendors selling along the 1,000-foot-long and 12-foot-wide road. The temporary sellers were allocated stalls in the Bokone market, some 2,500 feet from the Yodaya market, but most of them moved back to the old market after selling their stalls to others. The Bokone market is on a 320x100 square feet plot with six market sheds having 251 shops. (Only) 38 temporary vendors are operating there. Although the Bokone market has a 27x55 square feet open space, this is not sufficient to accommodate all the temporary sellers in Yodaya market. As no other suitable places are

available in the vicinity, there is no plan to relocate the Yodaya market, said U Aung Myint Tun.

However, to prevent health problems and the occurrence of dengue, 323 houses in the area were provided with mosquito nets, mosquito repellents and Abate application. The Insein Township Public Health Department is conducting fogging operations, while the veterinary department is conducting rodent and stray dog control measures. The Yangon City Development Committee Engineering Department (roads and bridges) has also constructed two box culverts and improved the water flow of the 12,000-foot-long Kawthwe creek that flows through the Taungthukone ward, explained U Aung Myint Tun.

Next, the report by the bill committee on the findings and comments about the bill on the registration of deeds was read by bill committee member U Lal Min Htan. The bill on the registration of deeds, approved and returned with amendments by the Pyithu Hluttaw, was then decided by the Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the approval of the Hluttaw.

Bill committee member U Kyaw Kyaw then read the bill committee report on a bill amending the Caste Disabilities Removal Act, returned without amendment by the Pyithu Hluttaw, for the Hluttaw to discuss it, and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker

Mahn Win Khaing Than requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the bill to enrol their names.

Later, a motion urging the government to give priority to the least developed states and regions and to implement the One Village One Product (OVOP) rural development strategy with the relevant ministerial departments, including a budget for it, tabled by Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11) was discussed by U Kyaw Myint Oo of the Mandalay region constituency (10), Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Major Htet Linn, U Mya Min Swe of the Bago region constituency (9), U Than Soe, also known as Than Soe (Economic), of the Yangon region constituency (4) and Daw Shah Mu of Kayah State constituency (5).

In his discussion on the motion, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said there were many things the government needed to do for rural development, and the motion required a long-term plan to implement it. Based on the discussions made on the motion, the deputy minister asked the motion to be put on record.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than then asked to not put the motion on record after the Hluttaw voted 71 for, 106 against and seven abstentions on the motion. The 21st-day meeting of the seventh session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held on 21 February. ■

State Counsellor receives Chief Executives Organization delegation



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with international businessmen of Chief Executives Organization (CEO) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received the (61) member-delegation of Chief Executives Organization (CEO) which is composed of the international businessmen, at 12:00 hours on 20th February 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the State Counsellor discussed Myanmar's efforts on democratization, national reconciliation, peace process and the situation in the Rakhine State. Afterwards, the State Counsellor

answered questions related to investment opportunities and possible cooperation on various sectors such as education, media, health, culture and environmental conservation.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, Deputy Ministers from the Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Permanent Secretary and Senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar, Bangladesh border authorities meet

FROM PAGE-1

"No threat or pressure has been applied. The decision is theirs to make. Where they are staying now is No Man's Land, and thus no one should be staying there. The matters of INGOs providing aid and entering the restricted area of Zero Line are not in accordance with the law and thus they are being informed about it", said U Ye Htut, the Deputy commissioner of the General Administration Department in Rakhine State.

Even though the INGOs were said to have not crossed the river from the other side to provide aid, they were providing aid in an indirect way to people in the Zero Line. Officials from the Myanmar side contended that this should be prevented by the Bangladesh border guard force.

Rakhine State officials said the actions of the residents of Zero Line are politically motivated. People staying in the Zero Line area are being encouraged to return, but were allegedly giving erroneous reports of threats, NVC processes and security problems, Myanmar officials said. Bangladesh would need to persuade them to accept the returnee acceptance process, according to Myanmar officials.

Requirements of the Bangladesh side were being coordinated by Myanmar local authorities, and security matters for the returnees were being arranged, officials said.

After the meeting, the border authority representatives of the two countries went to the Zero Line area, also known as the Non-Construction Zone, and ob-

served the people residing there.

In his explanation to district-level border authorities about people staying in Zero Line, deputy commissioner U Ye Htut said a list was being prepared for those who want to return. Myanmar had repeatedly met with them to return, but they were not cooperating, he said.

In a recent trip to the area, the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs had discussed repatriation with Zero Line residents, but was told they would not accept.

"The people staying in the area did not come from a single village or village tract, so they were invited to send a representative.

However this was not done despite time and adequate explanations and arrangements being made", U Ye Htut said.

U Ye Htut said the Myanmar side was ready to discuss repatriation with them at any time. The leader of the Bangladesh border authority asked the people staying in the area to select representatives by village and to discuss the prospect of returning and to provide a list of those who want to return to the deputy commissioner. He explained that their side will provide necessary assistance on the process of accepting returnees.

Afterwards, the two countries' district level border authorities left the Zero Line Area and returned to the office of the head of Taung Pyo Township General Administration Department.

They then inspected the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre, after which the Bangladeshi party returned to Bang-



The District Level Meeting between Myanmar - Bangladesh Border Authorities. **PHOTO: MNA**



Officials of Bangladesh and Myanmar meeting with the people camping at the Zero Line at the Myanmar-Bangladesh border. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

ladesh through the border gate.

Myanmar officials expressed concern about the residents of Zero Line.

"The people staying in the Zero Line area were not going anywhere, and they were spreading false news. They were wait-

ing to be removed or detained by the country's security force in order to create international pressure. At the same time, support was being provided to them so that they could remain in the Zero Line for a long time", said U Ye Htut.

Cooperation with Bangladeshi officials will continue in an effort to resolve the matter of people entering into the Zero Line with an aim of creating political controversy, Rakhine State government officials said.— Myanmar News Agency ■

70th Chin National Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE-1

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed the thanks to the Chin people for signing the NCA, calling for taking the remaining steps towards building a Union which can guarantee peace and security to all the people of the country.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Hlwan, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat and his wife and Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and wife.

Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann and wife, Union Ministers, Union Attorney-General, Union Auditor-General, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, deputy ministers, MPs, departmental heads and Chin ethnic people were also in attendance.



President U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, dignitaries and guests pose for the photo at the 70th Chin National Day held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Traditional dance troupe performs Chin ethnic dance. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

The celebration began with the song "The Beautiful Chin State" sung by ethnic Chin women.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presented certificates of honour to those who assisted in social economic development in Chin State and Chin nationals who earned PhDs in the 2016-2017 academic year.

At the ceremony, a traditional dance troupe from Kanpetlet

Township entertained the guests with Chin ethnic dance.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than presented certificates of honour to Chin ethnic athletes who took part in sports events.

Chin traditional cultural troupes performed traditional dances and songs.

The celebration ended with the of "Taung Paw Khaung Yay

Cho Mya Mya" by President U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and wife and those present at the ceremony.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the importance of the unity of all national races to overcome challenges on the road to a Union that can guarantee security, progress and peace to all the people.

"Our country is rich in natu-

ral resources, but, the treasure of our country is our people. Every step taken by our ethnic people for improving themselves is assumed as the Union Spirit," she said.

She also expressed how she pinned her hopes on the country's youth population between the ages of 15 and 35, which makes up 60 per cent of the total population of Myanmar. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw puts on record motion on Rakhine State

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The authorities are patrolling the border fence and have constructed approach roads, bridges and guard posts. Border fences are being erected since 2009, and the remaining 39.217-mile section will be fenced in the upcoming open season.

The dilapidated border fence that stretches from the mouth of Tone creek to BP 66 is being repaired, the work for which started in September 2017. To increase security, double fences were erected in some places from October 2017 and will be completed in February 2018.

To prevent the infiltration

of terrorists, the area is being controlled by border police patrols and guard posts along the border fence. Joint patrols of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border police forces are being conducted and information on the activities of the terrorists is being shared through various means. To prevent the infiltration of terrorists along the sea route, the Tatmadaw (Navy) is conducting patrols along the Naf River, while the border police forces are setting up guard posts at the mouth of the creek. To allay fears of the local populace, the border police force is setting up a village security post, in cooperation with the

local people.

After the terrorist attacks on 25 August 2017, 129 police posts were regrouped into 95 and four new posts were set up. As of now, there are 11 station offices, 12 police stations, 16 milepost positions, 27 posts at the mouth of the creeks and 95 police posts, totalling 161, to conduct security and rule of law works.

Arrangements are underway to combine the local ethnic national villages into new villages in various places.

To increase access to electricity, the government is arranging for a national grid to reach Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaung via 66 KV

power line and substations are being set up. Yathedaung will get round-the-clock power supply in March 2018, Buthidaung in June 2018 and Maungtaung in December 2018. By that time, the three towns and 27,047 households in the nearby villages will have 24 hours of power supply, said the union minister.

The main aim of the government work in Rakhine State is to keep it free of conflict in the long run and maintain stability and development in the state. The government is implementing the UEHRD union project in accordance with policies and laws. On the matter of returnees, it is systematically implementing the

single bilateral agreement and two bilateral work group agreements between Bangladesh and Myanmar. Humanitarian aids are being provided in accordance with international norms.

The Rakhine State affairs affect the entire Myanmar. Thus, it is important to handle the problems of the people of Rakhine State with care. The union minister explained that the conduct of the government on this matter in the past, present and future was in accordance with the wishes of the people of Rakhine State and requested that the motion be put on record.

The Hluttaw decided to put the motion on record. ■