PYIDAUNGSU HLUTTAW DISCUSSES MYANMAR'S STAND ON RAKHINE STATE P-2 (PARLIAMENT)

NATIONAL
State Counsellor receives outgoing Malaysian Ambassador
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Union Minister for Education inspects matriculation examination
PAGE-3

BUSINESS
Gold market cool after Chinese New Year
PAGE-5

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Japanese business delegation pose for documentary photo. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

State counsellor, JPN business delegation discuss cooperation

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with a Japanese business delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The 30-member delegation was led by Ken Kobayashi, Vice Chairman of the Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Economic Committee of Keidanren and Chairman of Mitsubishi Corporation Board; and Teruo Asada, Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Economic Committee of Keidanren and Chairman of Marubeni Corporation Board.

At the meeting, they discussed promotion of economic cooperation in the private and public sectors between the two countries and bilateral cooperation in electricity and energy sectors, which play a key role in boosting foreign investments.

SEE PAGE-3

Seven towns in Rakhine State get electricity in two years

ACCORDING to the Rakhine State Chief Engineer's (electrical) Office, seven towns in Rakhine Sate got electricity during the incumbent government's two years of service.

"Ma-Ei was the first town to receive electricity after which Minbya, Gwa, Myebon, Pauktaw, Kamhtaunggyi and Tathtaung towns, a total of seven towns, received electricity within two years," said the Rakhine State Chief Engineer (electrical).

The government is undertaking construction works to provide electricity to Yathedaung, Buthidaung and Maungtaw in 2018, and the works in Yathedaung are planned to be completed by the end of March.

The Rakhine State Chief Engineer (electrical) said, "We have set 31 March as the target for Yathedaung to get electricity. Once Yathedaung town gets electricity, 17 nearby villages will also get electricity. Electricity will be provided to these 17 villages with the (Union) government fund, while eight additional villages will get electricity supply with the Rakhine State government fund. Thus, a total of 25 villages will be covered.

SEE PAGE-6

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses Myanmar's stand on Rakhine State

THE seventh regular session of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its 14th-day meeting yesterday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat submitted to the Hluttaw a report made by the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation that had attended the 137th Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly (137th IPU Assembly).

U T Khun Myat said the invitation to the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation to attend the 137th IPU Assembly and its related meetings was extended by speakers of host country Russia's lower and upper houses and the IPU chairman.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

In every IPU assembly, an emergency item on current international matters is usually included. Of the emergency items sent prior to the 137th IPU Assembly, there was one submitted on Rakhine State by eight Organisation of Islamic Cooperation member countries, including Morocco. On learning about this, the Myanmar delegation prepared a counter-emergency item on Rakhine State to be submitted to the IPU Assembly.

The day's conduct of Myanmar parliament will be submitted to the 138th IPU Assembly to be held in Geneva in March 2018. The Myanmar Hluttaw delegation objected to the entire decision made on Rakhine State in the 137th IPU Assembly. The deputy speaker also added that the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation had immediately responded and clarified on the ethnic cleansing accusation.

A motion was tabled for the Hluttaw to approve and confirm the clear and concise objections made by the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation on behalf of the Myanmar parliament about the discussion and decision made on Rakhine State at the 137th IPU Assembly. The Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker then requested the Hluttaw representatives to discuss clearly and decisively on the report submitted and approve it.

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

Next, a report of the Joint Bill Committee on a bill on the registration of deeds, sent with the remarks of the President, was read by committee member Daw Nwe Nwe Aung.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker then requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the report to register their names.

Later, the Hluttaw representatives discussed the issue of Myanmar signing the memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the ASEAN-Australia Joint Declaration for Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism, sent by the President.

In her discussion, Daw Nwe Nwe Aung of Mon State constituency (2) said the MoU had 10 sections, and the aim was to increase practical cooperation between the ASEAN and Australia against threat from foreign terrorists. Myanmar has enacted the law and rules on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) in 2014 and 2015 and is a signatory to 13 United Nations conventions on terrorism, such as the ASEAN Convention on Counter Terrorism; and the BIMSTEC Convention on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking. Thus, Myanmar should sign the MoU, said Daw Nwe Nwe Aung.

SEE PAGE 6

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw joint bill committee holds coordination meeting

A JOINT bill committee coordination meeting on the National Tax Bill was held in the second-floor meeting hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw building D, yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was attended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker; Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee Chairman U Aye Tha Aung; Joint Bill Committee and Public Account Joint Committee deputy chairmen, secretaries, joint secretaries and committee members; Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win; 11 Hluttaw representatives who discussed the bill in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw; Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission members; officials from the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Home Affairs, Union Attorney General's office and the Central Bank of Myanmar; businesspersons from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry; businesspersons and officials from the Myanmar Construction Entrepreneur Association; 20 representatives from among the highest income tax and commercial tax paying business persons; and officials from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's office.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung delivers the speech at the coordination meeting of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Japanese business Federation Vice Chairman in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives Japanese business delegation

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received a Japanese delegation, led by Ken Kobayashi, vice chairman of Japan Business Federation (Keidanren), at the Pyithu Hluttaw building's Zabuthiri Hall yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the improving Japan-Myanmar friendship and economic cooperation, increasing the momentum of investments for the development of Myanmar and the legislative works of the Hluttaw.

The meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairmen, and members and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office. – Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

State Counsellor receives outgoing Malaysian Ambassador

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received outgoing Malaysian Ambassador to Myanmar His Excellency Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman who completed his tour of duty in Myanmar on 12 March 2018 at 11:15 am at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor to visit Australia

At the invitation of the Hon. Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will leave for Australia in the near future to pay an official visit and to attend the ASEAN-Australia Special Summit to be held in Sydney.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear cases

Chief Justice of Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo, along with other Union Supreme Court judges, sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning to hear six special civil appeal cases, and pass judgments on six special criminal appeal cases and four special civil appeal cases — Myanmar News Agency ■

Press conference on Rakhine State to be held on 14 March

A press conference on the situation in Rakhine State, including the assessment and reception of returnees, will be held at the Ministry of Information hall at 2 p.m. on 14 March. Both local and foreign media have been invited to attend the conference. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for Education inspects matriculation examination

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi inspects the examination centres in Pyinmana Township Basic Education High School No. (3). **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 2018 matriculation examinations are being held at 1,742 examination centres, including 21 foreign and 1,721 local centres, since 7 March.

Of the 741,676 registered candidates, some 694,371 sat for the chemistry subject test yesterday, while 47,305 failed to show up. The attendance percentage for the chemistry subject test was 93.62.

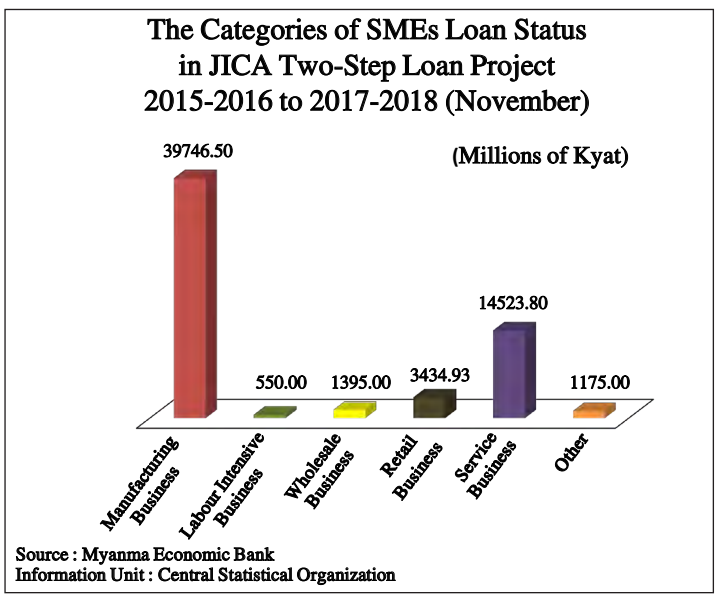
Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, accompanied by Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations Director General U Myo Nyunt, Department of Basic Education Acting Director General Dr. Aung Naing Soe, deputy director generals and other officials visited the examination centres in Pyinmana Township Basic Education High School No. (3), Lewe Township Basic Education High School (Thawuthti) and Basic Education High School No. (5) Alar yesterday morning and inspected the holding of the examination there. In Nay Pyi Taw, there were 44 examination centres, where some 22,862 students registered for the examination. Of these, some 21,400 students took the chemistry examination, while 1,462 were absent. As such, 93.61 per cent of students took the examination yesterday. — Myanmar News Agency

State counsellor, JPN business delegation discuss cooperation

FROM PAGE-1

The two sides also discussed matters related to the infrastructure and human resources development sectors in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Thar Oo, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Tateshi Higuchi and other officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Seven towns in Rakhine State get electricity in two years

FROM PAGE-1

Electricity to Buthidaung and Maungtaw is targeted to be provided by the end of June and December, respectively. By the end of 2018, all of Maungtaw will have electricity."

"Kyeintali is still in the dark. Plans are underway to construct a sub-station and power lines to Kyeintali. Later, it will be Manaung (town). Manaung is in the sea (on an island), so we are trying to find ways to provide electricity there. It will be difficult for the national grid to reach Manaung. Right now, we are providing electricity to Manaung with a generator. Again, Kyeintali is close to Gwa. The power line can go down from Thandwe. Kyeintali is already in the pipeline. It is in the five-year programme," said the chief engineer.

The chief engineer added that within a year or two, Rakhine State would develop rather quickly in the electricity sector. "Seven towns are already getting electricity in two years. Compared with the whole country, this is rather quick. Of the big towns in Rakhine State, only Kyeintali and Manaung remain to be connected," he said.

As there are more areas with electricity in Rakhine State, there is a requirement for more electrical staff. If the locals can do the job, it will be more convenient, as this job requires 24 hours of duty.

If there is power failure or a blackout, be it day or night, rain or shine, they have to work on it. People from the region should work for the region's people, said the chief engineer.

Electrician works at electrical power station in Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

In the six-month budget of the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY), the improvement of power lines in Rakhine State will be taken up, and in the one-year budget of the 2018-2019 FY, the laying of new power lines is being planned. — Kyaw Thu Htat ■

Nutrition campaign planned for children below 2 in Maungtaw District

THE staff of the government's health department in Maungtaw District is being trained to provide nutrition and console children below two years of age in the state.

The staff of the health department is participating in a four-day training programme, jointly conducted by the Ministry of Health and Sports and other related departments, with the assistance of the World Health Organisation at the Maungtaw People's Hospital.

Some 4 per cent of the children aged under five are suffering from malnutrition, and they make up 14 per cent of the country's total population.

"This training is part of the government's efforts to fight malnutrition in the country," said Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, medical superintendent of the Maungtaw People's Hospital.

"On completion of this training, the staff will know how to treat children suffering from malnutrition, and they can advise mothers on how to give nutritious food to children and console them," said Daw Phyu Phyu Win from the Maungtaw District Public Health Department.

Mobile medical teams are providing health care services to all communities in Maungtaw District without discrimination.

According to the Myanmar socio-economic life and health report 2015-2016, 7 per cent of the children's population aged five is suffering from malnutrition.—Myanmar News Agency■

Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein delivers the speech at the nutrition campaign in Maungtaw District. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tatmadaw reopens Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road

TATMADAW columns were seen clearing Kachin State, Tanai region, Kaungyapa area, since 15 November 2017, as the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) armed groups were conducting illegal gold and amber mining operations, destroying the natural surroundings and the ecosystem.

On 28 January, KIA countered this by blocking the Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road by forcing workers to dig ditches on the road, destroy the bridges and road repairing and maintenance machineries, attack the Tatmadaw convoys conducting routine administrative works, disrupt the flow of regional commodities, triggering a rise in prices and food shortage, thus affecting the local people and public servants in Putao District.

The Tatmadaw columns started clearing the area along the road from 16 February and had eight engagements. The Tatmadaw Air Force transport planes also airlifted food and supplies to the local people and public servants in Putao District on 28 February, 1 and 7 March. The Ministry of Construction's public work groups also repaired the roads and bridges on the Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road on 5 March. As the security situation improved, the flow of commodities returned to normalcy, reducing prices, according to news received from the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief's office. —Myanmar News Agency■

Construction workers repairing roads and bridges on the Myintkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road, Kahin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discusses ...

FROM PAGE 2

U Zaw Thein of Wakema constituency, Daw Htu May from Rakhine constituency (11), U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Papun constituency and U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency also discussed the matter.

In his explanation on the matter, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe said the signing of the MoU will allow the exchange of information on terrorists, help obtain support and assistance on technology and methods to expose the activities of terrorist organisations and their background history, and increase active participation in the work against terrorism not only in the region but in the international sector as well.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker announced the agreement and confirmation of the Hluttaw on signing the MoU after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw. The Hluttaw representatives then discussed the US $360 million loan from Asian Development Bank and ASEAN Infrastructure Fund for the development of roads in the Greater Mekong Subregion by the Ministry of Construction, sent by the President.

Regarding three projects to be implemented with US$360 million, MP Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin Constituency suggested to prevent corruptions in the projects to be able to gain the quality infrastructures.

The loan from the ADB to be spent on upgrading the four-lane Yangon-Mandalay Expressway is enough to upgrade the road meeting the international standard, said Daw Cho Cho .

"The road is being used by more than 10,000 cars per day and experiencing accidents daily.

The consequences of bad quality on which anyone can not complain transparently has affected the people causing deaths on the road," she said. Ten MPs also discussed the issue. —Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant ■