

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds second-day meeting

By Myo Myint,
Myothu Hein

THE second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session held its second-day meeting at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday.

At the meeting, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the Hluttaw had approved the second amendment to the Civil Services Personnel Law and the Explosive Materials Bill.

Next, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced the Hluttaw's approval for the proposed appointment of U Tin Maung Myint as a member of the Constitutional Tribunal of Myanmar.

The Hluttaw also agreed to the matter of reorganising Vice Chairman (2) in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee after the agreement of the Hluttaw was obtained.

Later, the Hluttaw representatives from Tatmadaw Col. Myint Han, Col. Khin Maung Tun and Lt-Col. Hla Naing, U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho of Dawbon constituency, Daw Nam Kham Aye of Namtu constituency and Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region constituency 3 discussed the matter of putting on record Recommendation 205, the Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience Recommendation, sent by the President. Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe also discussed and explained the matter after which the Hluttaw put the matter on record.

Following this, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin explained that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was utilising Ks319 million from the emergency fund of the 2017 Union Budget Law, and the Hluttaw announced the matter would be



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

put on record.

The Hluttaw also approved the reorganising of National Education Policy Commission, sent by the union government, after it was explained by Ministry of Education Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun. In his explanation to the Hluttaw about the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission 2017 Annual Report, chairman U Win Mra said the commission was conducting more works annually, and the cooperation of the government, union ministries and the state/region governments was required. It was observed that some departments responded to the commission after they were informed about the complaints received about them.



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe. **PHOTO: MNA**

State-owned and private media were also asked to investigate and expose human rights abuses, allowing the commission to respond to them in a timely manner. The Hluttaw then requested the Hluttaw representatives who

wanted to discuss the report to enrol their names.

The Protection of Wildlife and the Conservation of Natural Areas Bill, sent back by the President with remarks, was discussed by U Maung Soe @ U Soe Thein of Taninthayi Region constituency 10, and the Hluttaw's approval was obtained after the bill committee tabled a motion.

With no one objecting to the motion, the Hluttaw announced its approval for Myanmar to adopt the third protocol to amend the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement, sent back by the President.

The third-day meeting of the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's eighth regular session will be held on 22 May. ■

Third meeting held for Rakhine State documentary

A THIRD MEETING to produce a documentary depicting Rakhine State's beauty, richness of natural resources, and its simple, honest and friendly local ethnic nationals was held at the meeting hall of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) on Pyay Road in Yangon yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Patron of the Movies and Documentaries Production Steering Committee, said the documentary would enhance the image of Rakhine State, depict the people living in harmony, show the geography of Rakhine State and serve as a record of the ethnic nationals in Rakhine State.

The movies will be screened in country, as well as promoted on the international stage, said the union minister. The minister also mentioned the establishment of movie studios and training schools for the develop-



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses the third meeting for creation and production of a Rakhine State documentary. **PHOTO: MNA**

ment of the movie industry, and weekly news and interviews in state-owned media and MRTV about press shows and soon-to-be-screened movies.

Next, Rakhine State Movies and Documentaries Production Steering Committee Chairman

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Rakhine State Documentaries Production Work Committee Chairman and Director-General U Myint Htwe and Rakhine State Movies Production Work Committee Chairman U Ye Naing discussed

their respective sectors.

This was followed by a discussion of the theme, script and actors by Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon's patrons director Baji U Soe Moe and U Aung Lwin, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon Chairman U Zin Wine,

Shwe Than Lwin Media Co. Ltd Chairperson Daw Myint Myint Win on behalf of the Rakhine State Movies Production Work Committee member U Kyaw Win of Shwe Than Lwin Media Co. Ltd, Rakhine State Documentaries Production Work Committee member U Win Maw of Forever Group Co. Ltd., Rakhine State Movies Production Work Committee member director U Zinyaw Maung Maung and other attendees. Also discussed was the production of movies and documentaries on Rakhine State, the development of the Myanmar movie industry, and the establishment of movie studios and training schools. The minister coordinated and provided additional discussion. After the meeting, the minister and his delegation visited the Myanmar Media Development Centre (MMDC) training school at the Junction Square Shopping Mall. — Myanmar News Agency ■



I will carry out the implementation of the priority goals of the Union Government which are as follows:

1. Rule of law and improvement of the socio-economic life of the people,
2. National Reconciliation and internal peace,
3. Amending the Constitution which is the foundation for building a Democratic Federal Republic.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)



That is why in the coming year 1380, our Union Government has decided to keep in high regard the need for “collective strength” to overcome our country’s challenges.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

State Counsellor receives Myanmar Consul in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, delegations from International organizations separately

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Peter Chung, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw at 10 a.m. yesterday; Mr. Mark Andrew Green, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), at 11:00 a.m. on 18th May 2018 and Ms. Laura Londen, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) at 2 p.m. on the 18th May 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

During the meeting with Mr. Peter Chung, matters related to investment in the education sector, establishment of international schools in Myanmar and attracting more investments from Canada to Myanmar were cordially discussed.

During the meeting with Mr. Mark Andrew Green, Administrator of the USAID, they discussed existing and future development assistance programmes including food security, agriculture, health and humanitarian assistance by the USAID.

Moreover, they exchanged views on Myanmar’s endeavours and challenges regarding the repatriation of displaced persons from the Rakhine State as well as possibilities of creating jobs and livelihood opportunities for both communities to live peacefully and harmoniously in the Rakhine State.

During the meeting with Ms. Laura Londen, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of the UNFPA, they exchanged views on the cooperation programme with the UNFPA including 2014 population and housing census, data analyzing, family planning, quality of life and reduction of maternal mortality.—Myanmar News Agency



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Peter Chung, Honorary Consul of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Mr. Mark Andrew Green, Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Ms. Laura Londen, the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director of UNFPA, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects development works in Tonzang, Chikha Townships

FROM PAGE-1

Later, at the Chikha Town Road Department guest house, Ministry of Construction State Director U Kyaw Myo Htut explained to U Henry Van Thio the plan to upgrade some 90 miles of road, namely, 30 miles of Tiddim-Tonzang-Chikha road, 30 miles of Haka-Matupi road and 30 miles of Matupi-Paletwa road to an 18 feet wide concrete road and 12 feet wide asphalt road; the works conducted to clear in a short time the Kalay-Falam road blocked by a landslide; and the status of conducting preventive measures, such as widening the road and constructing retaining walls. Ministry of Construction Permanent Secretary U Win Tint provided additional explanations wherever necessary.

The Vice President said that more efforts must be made to ensure the roads, which are the main transport mode for the people of Chin State, are easily accessible throughout the year. Improving the road communication will help promote the socio-economic development of (Chin) state and its people, the vice president said.

The Vice President and his delegation then reached Chikha Town's 16-bed station hospital, where they encouraged and presented cash support to the patients undergoing treatment and donated Ks1 million for medicines required in the hospital to the hospital officials. The vice president also inspected the site, where the hospital extension will be constructed.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the construction site for the natural disaster shelter in Tonzang, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

In the afternoon, the Vice President inspected the upgrading of the Tiddim-Chikha road and the 450-foot-long double bailey Natzan bridge over Manipur River near Natzan Village. The Vice President said the road must be constructed according to the set norm and stressed on its long-term durability.

Later, the Vice President and his delegation arrived in Tonzang Town's 25-bed Township People's Hospital, where the hospital superintendent Dr. Htan Shan Khaing and other officials explained the status of constructing the extension ward and providing medical care to the people. Following this, the Vice President encouraged the local people undergoing treatment in the hospital and presented them



Vice President U Henry Van Thio is welcomed by local people in Chikha Township, Chin State. PHOTO: MNA

with cash support.

Following this, the Vice President reached the Tonzang silkworm plant farm, where farm officials explained and demonstrated the planting of silkworm plant, also called Morus or Mulberry plant, and the silkworm breeding house. The vice president said planting silkworm plants would increase the income of the local families, and it could replace

the slash-and-burn farming system. He asked for the farms to be systematically upgraded and to inform the people in a timely manner the latest research findings so that the planting of silkworm plants can be done in an economically viable manner.

The Tonzang silkworm plant farm is situated beside Tiddim-Tonzang road at the entrance to Tonzang Town and was estab-

lished in 1965. Tonzang Town is some 4,800 feet above the sea level, and the weather and location is ideal for silkworm plants and silkworm breeding. It has the potential to become a cash crop for local farmers and during the 1979-1980 period, more than 80,000 silkworm cocoons were produced here.

In the evening, the Vice President went to Tiddim's 100-bed people's hospital to inspect the healthcare services provided there, encouraged the patients undergoing treatment and presented them with cash assistance.

Later, the Vice President inspected the construction of the two-storey eight room staff house. The house was constructed in the 2017-2018 fiscal year using Ks200 million.—MNA

Maungtaw students complete basic firefighting course



Maungtaw Township Administrator U Myint Khaing presents prize to a outstanding trainee. PHOTO: THET LWIN SOE (IPRD)

By Naing Lin Kyi, Zin Oo

A completion ceremony for a pre-summer basic firefighting course for Maungtaw Township students was held in Maungtaw District Maungtaw Township Fire Services Department office yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, Maungtaw Township administrator U Myint Khaing delivered a course completion speech, and prizes were awarded to outstanding trainees of the pre-summer basic firefighting course for students.

Next, winners of best prizes in the subjects on firefighting and search & rescue were presented

with awards, while course trainees were presented with course completion certificates by the head of the Maungtaw Township police force, the executive officer of township development committee and the township Fire Services Department head.

Maungtaw District Fire Services Department head U Thant Sin said, "Under the guidance of Rakhine State minister for security and border affairs, the course was conducted for students in Maungtaw to be ready to prevent the outbreak of fires in the summer. In Maungtaw region, natural disasters like storms are

encountered yearly, and whether it is a natural disaster or an outbreak of fire, the course was conducted with an aim to have cooperation between township and district and to benefit the school and the local area." The township fire services department usually conducts these courses, but no courses were held in 2016 and 2017. This year, a total of 40 trainees attended the two-week course that was held from 7 to 18 May. Similarly a pre-summer basic firefighting course for students in Maungtaw District Buthidaung Township was held from 7 to 18 May.

Mutual respect, understanding can help overcome bilateral challenges

HUMAN habitation and building of any structure within 150 feet of the Myanmar-Bangladesh border is prohibited by bilateral agreement. Myanmar has demanded Bangladesh to remove bunkers and some houses on their side of the border in restricted areas as the construction violates the bilateral border agreement.

It has been discovered that Bangladesh has been helping illegal occupants on the Myanmar side of the international border line in building shelters, which is a blatant violation of Myanmar's territorial integrity and sovereignty. This action must stop immediately.

We need cooperation from Bangladesh in removing structures recently built in the non-construction zone of the border line, since the construction of those structures breached Article 14 of the "Treaty between Myanmar and Bangladesh on the Demarcation of the Land Section of the Boundary North of the Naaf River" signed in 1998.

We would like to urge Bangladesh to provide information on its readiness to commence the repatriation process including the completion of transit camps on the Bangladeshi side as well as the promotion of awareness among the prospective returnees on the bilateral agreements between the two countries and the agreed verification forms to be shared with them.

Bangladesh is altering the truth and vilifying the Government and the people of Myanmar to solicit international condemnation and to exert maximum political pressure on Myanmar. We need full and sincere cooperation of the Government of Bangladesh if the repatriation process is to be successful.

Myanmar reiterated its readiness to accept the verified displaced people from Bangladesh and urged the Bangladeshi side to commence the repatriation of the earlier verified 778 Muslims and 444 Hindus as well as 1,101 verified persons (as of 2 May 2018) out of 8,032 persons received from the Bangladeshi side.

We would like to urge Bangladesh to provide information on its readiness to commence the repatriation process including the completion of transit camps on the Bangladeshi side as well as the promotion of awareness among the prospective returnees on the bilateral agreements between the two countries and the agreed verification forms to be shared with them.

We are seriously concerned that Bangladesh is unwittingly allowing extremists to operate in this part of the region. The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) is already gaining a foothold in the camps, and soon it will become a stronghold of terrorism and extremism. Recently, on 9 May, a group of 4 to 6 terrorists entered into one of the refugee camps in Balukali and dragged Mohamed Faisal Ulhaq, 46, out of the camp and stabbed him to death. It was reported that he was advocating for return of IDPs to Rakhine among fellow displaced people in the camp.

Only a balanced and constructive approach will lead us to the right solution of the extremely complex and politically most sensitive problem of Rakhine State. ■

Pros and cons of coal-fired power plants

By Khin Maung Myint

WHENEVER a coal-fired power plant project was planned to be implemented, there would always be opposition in some countries. The non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and environmental activists will demonstrate vehemently against their constructions. Such incidents are common in our neighbouring country since a long time ago. That trend had now crept into our society too. We had been witnessing the demonstrations and activities to oppose the constructions of coal-fired power plants becoming popular in our country in the recent years.

I have been an ardent advocate for the control of climate change and had persistently written in many of my articles related to the climate change, to substitute the fossil fuels, including coal, with renewable or green energies, such as: solar, wind, hydro and geothermal energies. These fossil fuels are great emitters of CO2 and other gases that constitute the greenhouse gases, which contribute to the global warming—the root cause of the climate change.

However, after coming across a very interesting piece of information on the Internet about how the greenhouse gas emission of coal-fired power plants can be reduced to the near-zero emission level by the latest technologies, my opinion of the dangers of the coal-fired power plants is somewhat changed. I started to weigh the pros and cons of the use of coal-fired power plants. If that claim made by some experts should prove to be true, it would be really an encouraging breakthrough that would benefit, especially the developing countries including ours, greatly. To appreciate which aspect outweighs the other, it would be necessary to

know what are the pros and cons of coal-fired power plants.

Coal-fired power plants are a type of power plant that make use of the combustion of coal in order to generate electricity. Records show that their use provides around 40% of the world's electricity and are primarily found in developing countries. Countries such as South Africa use coal for 94% of their electricity and China and India use coal for 70-75% of their electricity needs. Among them, the amount of coal China uses far exceeds most other countries. We all know that electricity is the most essential commodity and a great driving force for developments, it helps to increase quality of life and reduce poverty in those regions, where it is available. Though the use of coal provides access to electricity to those who previously didn't have it, the adverse effect is, it produces large quantities of different pollutants, which reduce the air quality and adversely impact on the climate.

Here, it would be necessary to discuss the conversion of the coal to electricity. The coals must be transported to the site of the power plant, either by train or ship. Once there the coals are unloaded. They are then pulverized into a fine powder by a large grinder. This ensures nearly complete burning of the coal in order to maximize the heat given off and to minimize pollutants. The pulverized coal is then fed to a boiler, where combustion occurs and this provides heat to boil the water in the boiler, producing steam. The steam then travels through a turbine, causing it to rotate extremely fast which in turn spins a generator, producing electricity. The electricity can then be input to the electrical grid for use by the society. Since they require plenty of water to be circulated in this cycle, coal power plants need to be located near a body of water.



Largest coal-fired power plant in Laos

Large quantities of water are often needed to remove impurities from coal, in the process known as coal washing. For instance, in China, around one-fifth of the water used in the coal industry is used for this process. This process helps to increase the thermal efficiencies to a higher level and reduce air pollution, as it eliminates around 50% of the ash content in the coal, resulting in the less emission of greenhouse gases.

When power plants remove water from the environment, fish and other aquatic life can be affected, along with animals relying on these sources. Pollutants also build up in the water that power plants use, so if this water is discharged back into the environment it can potentially harm wildlife there. Thus the discharging of water from the power plants and coal washing requires monitoring and regulation. When the water in our rivers, lakes, and oceans becomes polluted; it can endanger wildlife, make our drinking water unsafe, and threaten the waters where we swim and fish.

Also, the use of coal have many associated environmental impacts on the local ecosystem. It is universally accepted that the coals are packed with carbon and other matters that become great pollutants when burned. The burning of coal releases many pollutants - oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and sulfur (SOx)-

and particulate matter. They also emit greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO2) and methane (CH4), which are known to contribute to global warming and climate change. To help reduce the emission of these pollutants, power plants require technology to reduce the output of these harmful molecules.

The above mentioned adverse effects of the coal-fired power plants are the disadvantages, but there are also many significant advantages. As for the plus side or the pros, it is undeniable that they made electricity readily accessible for those who never had that opportunity before. Electricity is the indispensable driving force for the development and the economy of a country, which would help enhance the quality of life and reduce poverty. With the outmoded coal powered plants, the cons may outweigh the pros and strengthen the opponents' stand to oppose the coal power plants. However, if we could introduce the modern and advanced types of coal-fired power plants, which are eco friendly, these cons would be cancelled out by the pros.

Today, researchers had found that improving efficiency can increase the amount of energy that can be extracted from a single unit of coal. A one percentage point improvement in the efficiency of a conventional pulverized coal combustion plant results in a 2-3% reduction in

CO2 emissions. If the current average global efficiency rate of coal-fired power plants could be raised from 33% to 40% by deploying more advanced technology it would cut two gigatonnes of CO2 emissions, which is equivalent to India's annual CO2 emissions. Improving efficiency increases the amount of energy that can be extracted from a single unit of coal.

Deploying high efficiency, low emission coal-fired power plants is a key first step along a pathway to near-zero emissions from coal with carbon capture, use and storage. This high efficiency, low emission technologies or the "clean technologies" are commercially available now and, if deployed, can reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the entire power sector by around 20%, while allowing affordable energy for economic development and poverty reduction. In addition to the significant benefits from reduced CO2 emissions, these modern high efficiency plants have significantly reduced emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxide and particulate matter. Besides the climatic benefits of reduced CO2 emissions, reduction in these pollutants is of additional importance at the local and regional level in addressing the air quality and the related health concerns.

In conclusion, I would like to suggest that we should study our neighbour, Laos, which is rapidly

developing. To my knowledge, that landlocked small nation, without much natural resources like our country, had developed in leaps and bounds in a very short time. What could have propelled them ahead so fast? Well, in my opinion, though they already have numerous hydro electricity plants producing more electricity than their needs, they built a modern coal-fired power plant in 2015 to augment the electrical power generation. It comprises three 626 Megawatts generators—quite a large one too. It was a result of high demand from Thailand, where there are shortages as they are unable to build coal-fired power plants due to strong oppositions from the NGOs and environmental activists. Though they lacked the natural resources, Laos had made up for that handicap by investing in the electricity exporting business, which supplemented their economic growth significantly. Opponents of the coal-fired power plants should realize that if that power plant in Laos, which utilizes the "clean technologies" is alright for them, it would be okay for us too. ■

References:—

World Coal Association website, Energy Education website, Wikipedia.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 22/2018

4th Waxing of Nayon, 1380 ME
18 May 2018

Appointment of member of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 327 and 332 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Tin Maung Myint has been appointed as member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Committee for Development Policy announced Myanmar has fulfilled all three LDC graduation criteria for the first time

MYANMAR has met all three eligibility criteria for the first time to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) status according to the assessment mentioned in the recent Report of Committee for Development Policy (CDP) of the United Nations.

It was stated in the report of the meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, Committee for Development Policy held in March 2018 which was issued at the UN Headquarters in New York on 19 April 2018.

According to the 2018 Triennial Review, a country has to meet three eligibility criteria for LDC graduation, namely (i) Gross National Income (GNI) per capita of US\$ 1230 or above (ii) Human Asset Index (HAI) of 66 or above and Economic Vulnerable Index (EVI) of 32 or below.

At the 2018 Triennial Review, Myanmar's Gross National Income (GNI) per capita stands at US\$ 1255 while it holds 68.5 points in Human Asset Index (HAI) and 31.7 points in Economic Vulnerable Index (EVI). Therefore, CDP recommended in its report that Myanmar has passed all three graduation criteria. This is the very first time Myanmar meets all LDC graduation criteria since it was listed in LDC in 1987.

If Myanmar continues to meet at least two out of the three criteria again in the 2021 Triennial Review by sustaining its current development momentum, it will pave the way for Myanmar to graduate from the LDC status in the following years, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office