

State Counsellor holds Peace Talk in Ayeyawady

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When the Kachin national Aung La N Sang become a double champion in MNA, not only the Kachin national but we were also happy. All ethnic nationals were happy. He was participating in the peace process through his sport. That is why I want to say that sport plays an important role in the peace process.

Yesterday's event was attended by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Dr. Myint Htwe, U Thant Sin Maung and U Han Zaw, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, Deputy Ministers U Min Thu and U Kyaw Lin, Region Hluttaw Speaker and representatives, regional government member ministers, departmental officials, civil society organisations, town elders, National League for Democracy members, students, youths and members of the public.

Daw Phyo Ei Kyaing, Entrepreneurs Association

Daw Phyo Ei Kyaing said when she hears the word peace, she thinks of non-discrimination and unity among the different ethnic groups in Myanmar working together to develop the country. She said that regardless of a person's religious affiliation or place in the country, if everyone had the same citizenship spirit, then Myanmar could be collectively developed.

She said their Entrepreneurs Association is working under the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association (MYEA) and therefore have a clear vision and clearly defined objectives.



U Aung Myint Myat.

She said she believed that the youth are a resource of a country and that if they all received the same standard of education across the country, then their critical thinking would develop. She said if there is peace, then entrepreneurship will develop and so the youths of Myanmar will follow the State Counsellor in her efforts for national reconciliation and peace.

The State Counsellor replied that everyone needs to think of how to prevent the spread of hate speech and promote good practices through the use of technology. She said Myanmar's education system is still weak, but they are trying to fix it. She said that a lack of English language proficiency prevents people from accessing documents and journals from other countries. She said English language proficiency is needed to be on par with the world as all of the important documents in the world are in the English language. She said the things taught in school are currently not applicable in the real world and that she promotes vocational training for finding a



Daw Phyo Ei Kyaing.

professional career.

The State Counsellor said that peace and development go hand in hand. She said that only when a nation is economically wealthy will its people have social security. She said that the current status of young children dropping out of school to make a living is not something that should be happening and the Union Government is doing all it can to alleviate the situation. These children may have to sell cigarettes and betel nut on the road and that it isn't practical to tell people not to smoke or chew betel nut to stop the children from entering this line of work without finding an alternate source of income for these children. She said that peace is realized when every citizen has peace of mind, and while no one can provide 100 per cent peace of mind to everyone, it is possible to provide safety and security to the people with firm rule of law. Another point the State Counsellor made was that every citizen and business should pay their due taxes, which will enable the government to provide required

services to the public.

The State Counsellor said that concerning the recent incident in Myaungmya, the public's focus is on the bridge and for the construction of high-quality bridges and roads, for which the expertise and finances of the people are needed. She said that no matter how skilled an engineer is, they cannot build a safe and strong bridge if they do not have the essential tools and materials for the job. Therefore, it is the people's duty to pay their taxes and it is the government's job to use them in a responsible way for the public.

The State Counsellor said that sports are important for the mental development of young people and that she wants to encourage young men to take up teaching as a profession as there is a lack of male teachers. She said that many people only wish to be a leader but have no motive to start from the ground up to grow into an effective leader. She said that parents and elders should teach children that everyone and every role in society is important.

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said that if people are given more health education and become more health literate as the State Counsellor wishes, the people may stop consuming alcohol, smoking and eating overly fatty, salty and sweet food that can lead to unwanted diseases.

He said that their Ministry has published a guidebook that will be distributed to their 30,000 basic health employees in the coming months. The guidebook will have chapters on important medical issues like vaccinations.

The State Counsellor then

replied to an online question asking why the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA) and peace process does not have the cooperation of all the ethnic armed organisations (EAO). She said that even though everyone desires peace and wishes for the fighting to end, a lack of trust from both sides is a reason why some EAOs have not signed the NCA yet. She said that if a person has belief and trusts in themselves, then they will be able to trust other people. She said if a person believes that they can achieve peace for their community through non-violent means, then they will be willing to take risks to achieve that goal.

The State Counsellor then said that she hopes that this peace talk will inspire and motivate everyone to think of how to spread peace in their community. She said that the entire country needs to be united to face the challenges of the rest of the world. Therefore it is important and a meaningful wish for everyone to wonder what role they can contribute to this end. She said that this thinking is the start towards unity and peace.

The State Counsellor then replied to a question asking what the State Counsellor's deepest wish is right now. She said her wish is for every citizen to become accountable and responsible regarding their duties. She said that the majority of people are interested in what benefits they may receive but not in what responsibilities they need to maintain. She said that her last wish would be to take full responsibility and accomplish her goals.—Myanmar News Agency (Unofficial Translation) ■

Seven Tatmadaw members convicted of killing terrorists in Maungtaw

FOUR officers and three men of other ranks who were involved in killing ten terrorists in Indin Village, Maungtaw Township, were sentenced to jail terms with hard labour, according to the Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

An investigation team led by Lt-Gen Aye Win of the Office of Commander in Chief (Army), carried out the investigation into the case and interrogated

21 officers and other ranks of the Tatmadaw, three police, 13 members of Security Unit No. 8, six departmental staff and six villagers from Indin Village from 20 December, 2017, to 2 January 2018.

According to the statement released by the Tatmadaw True News Information Team, four officers were dismissed and sentenced to 10 years hard labour each under the Section

71 of the Tatmadaw Act as they were found guilty in the killing.

Three other ranks who were also convicted were demoted, dismissed and sentenced to 10 years hard labour.

The members of the police and civilians who were also found guilty for the killing are being prosecuted under the law.—Myanmar News Agency ■



North Korea celebrates 106th birth anniversary of founding father

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo and his wife were welcomed by Democratic People's Republic of Korea Ambassador to Myanmar Jong Ho Bom at a ceremony to mark the 106th birth anniversary of its founding father Kim Il Sung, which was held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon at 6.30 p.m. on 10 April.—GNLM