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Huge crowd gathers at Yangon City Hall to listen to State Counsellor's speech

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw on the government's efforts in dealing with national reconciliation and peace. The State Counsellor also addressed the crisis in northern Rakhine State **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

Aid for Rakhine discussed

THE delegation led by Ms. Renata Dessallien, United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the delegation led by Mr. Patrick Murphy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southeast Asia, called separately on Dr. Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, at the May Kha Lar Hall of the Office of the Ministry yesterday to discuss aid for Rakhine.

"We had felt pleased and acknowledged the performances of the government for Rakhine State. We would like to help and cooperate in supporting food and commodities currently and in making rehabilitation and resettlement more broadly in the long run. We would like the government to help the local people to understand the tasks of the organizations as UN organisations and international NGOs are responsible to carry out duties according to organisations and their designated responsibilities. In providing subsidies, aid may differ depending upon kinds of sufferings. The fact should be taken into consideration", said Ms. Renata Dessallien.

In the meeting the British Ambassador said, "Now is the time to meet and discuss finding the ways and means to sufficiently provide humanitarian aid."

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State Counsellor: 'Myanmar does not fear world scrutiny'

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday condemned human rights violations in Rakhine State and said violators would be brought to justice, and addressed international concerns.

The State Counsellor made

the remarks in a speech delivered from Nay Pyi Taw, in her first address to the nation since the 25 August attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists, which sparked a military response that has forced thousands of refugees into neighbouring

Bangladesh and thousands of others to temporary camps in southern Rakhine.

"There has been much concern around the world with regard to the situation in Rakhine. It is not the intention of the Myanmar government to apportion

blame or abnegate responsibility. We condemn all human rights violations and unlawful violence. We are committed to the restoration of peace, stability and the rule of law throughout the state", Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives ICRC delegation's head

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Mr. Fabrizio Carboni, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in Myanmar and party at the Amyotha Hluttaw Building hall, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

During the meeting, mat-

ters relating to implementing the works of the ICRC in Myanmar and cooperation between the Hluttaw and ICRC were discussed. Present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the office of the Amyotha Hluttaw. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with Mr. Fabrizio Carboni, the head of the ICRC delegation. **PHOTO: MNA**



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Mr. Fabrizio Carboni, the head of the ICRC delegation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives head of International Red Cross

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Mr. Fabrizio Carboni, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) delegation in

Myanmar at the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, views on the process of humanitarian aid being undertaken by the

ICRC in Myanmar, education programmes, workshops and foreign training courses were discussed. —Myanmar News Agency ■

High and mid-level management courses for Hluttaw office staff



An opening ceremony for the start of high and mid-level management courses held in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

A CEREMONY was held at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday for the start of high and mid-level management courses organised by the Joint Coordination Committee on Hluttaw Development and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for Hluttaw office staff. Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung attended the ceremony and delivered a speech.

Also present at the ceremony were Pyithu Hluttaw international relations committee chairman U Zaw Thein, UNDP Country Director Mr. Peter Bachelor, Dr. Ora Orn Poocharoen of Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Mr. Peter Banson from House of Representative of the Parliament of Australia and Hluttaw officials. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Yunnan Province to build car factory in Mandalay Region

By Ko Moe

Mr. Yan Yu, Vice-President of the Yunnan Provincial General Chamber of Commerce, said entrepreneurs in Yunnan Province, China are making arrangements to set up a factory to produce motor vehicles in Mandalay Region.

"In Myanmar people are driving used cars. The government is also encouraging the import of left-hand drive cars. So we are working to set up a factory producing motor vehicles in Mandalay Region, especially domestic autos and mini-cars,

which are popular with youths," said Mr. Yan Yu.

In doing so, necessary parts are to be imported from abroad to be assembled in Myanmar; it was learnt, targeted at producing approximately 10,000 cars per year. According to Mr. Yan Yu, US\$50 million will be invested for the first phase of the project. Applications for permits to assemble and produce motor vehicles has been submitted to the Myanmar Investment Commission. Upon receipt of the permit from MIC, the project will be implemented as soon as possi-

ble, officials said. The YPGCC is also interested in investing in the sectors of infrastructure construction, human resource development, agriculture and transportation, it was learnt.

Entrepreneurs in Yunnan Province have previously invested in a hydro-power plant, the mining and agricultural sectors amounting to US\$10 billion in Myanmar as of June. Trade between Myanmar and Yunnan Province reached US\$6.1 billion in 2016, with US\$3.6 billion from exports and \$2.5 billion from imports. ■

State Chief Judge and High Court family donate for Rakhine nationals

ON Monday morning in the Rakhine State government office, Shan State Chief Judge and families of Shan State High Court donated Ks1.8 million and members of judicial officer courses 1, 8 and 18 donated Ks600,000 for ethnic Rakhine nationals in Maungdaw District who were displaced by the terrorist attacks by the Arakan Ro-



Shan State Chief Judge and family donate cash assistance for Rakhine ethnic nationals in Maungdaw. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

hingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists Rakhine State Chief Judge U Kyauk, State Judicial Officer U Soe Soe and officials presented the do-

nations on behalf of the donors to State Advocate U Kyaw Hla Tun, who provided in turn a document of honour for the donors. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Mr. Patrick Murphy, US Deputy Assistant Secretary, in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives US Deputy Assistant Secretary

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr. Patrick Murphy, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Southeast Asia of the State Department, the United States of America, at the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw at 2:00 pm yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to bilateral relations, democratic transition, peace and national reconciliation.—Myanmar News Agency



Vice President U Henry Van Thio meets family members of Myanmar Permanent Mission staff in New York. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Henry Van Thio meets with Myanmar Permanent Mission staff in New York

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, who is in New York for the UN General Assembly, met with the staff and family members of the Myanmar Permanent Mission to the United Nations at the residence of the Permanent Representative on Monday.

During the meeting, the Vice President gave a short

speech, cordially greeted the gathering and presented souvenirs to Myanmar Permanent Representative U Hau Do Suan and his staff. The Myanmar Permanent Representative then hosted a dinner at his residence in honor of the Vice President and party.—Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw arrives back Nay Pyi Taw after receiving the medical examinations and necessary surgical operations in Bangkok, Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

President arrives back from Bangkok, Thailand

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw returned Nay Pyi Taw yesterday after undergoing medical examinations and necessary surgical operations in Bangkok.

He went to Bangkok, Thailand on 8 September to undergo medical examinations. Medical examinations found Colonic Polyp in the

colon and necessary surgical operations were conducted on 10 September that turns out to be successful.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor: 'Myanmar does not fear world scrutiny'

FROM PAGE-1

"The security forces have been instructed to adhere strictly to the code of conduct in carrying out security operations, to exercise all due restraint and to take full measures to avoid collateral damage and the harming of innocent civilians. Human rights violations and all other acts that affect stability and harmony and undermine the rule of law will be addressed in accordance with the strict norms of justice.

"We feel deeply for the suffering of all the people who have been caught up in the conflict. Those who have had to flee their homes are many. Not just Muslims and Rakhines but also small minority groups such as Daing-net, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus, of whose presence most of the world is totally unaware. The State Counsellor addressed international concerns on the situation in western Myanmar. "I am aware of the fact that the world's attention is focused on the situation in Rakhine State and, as I said at the General Assembly last year, as a responsi-

ble member of the community of nations, Myanmar does not fear international scrutiny and we are committed to a sustainable solution that would lead to peace, stability and development for all communities. "After several months of seeming peace and quiet, on the twenty-fifth of August, 30 police outposts, the regimental headquarters in Taungala Village were attacked by armed groups. Consequent to these attacks the government declared the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army and its supporters responsible for acts of terrorism as a terrorist group in accordance with the Counter-Terrorism Law Section 6, Subsection 5".

The State Counsellor also said she wanted to explore the reasons why there was an exodus of Muslims to Bangladesh, but also why most of the Muslim community in north Rakhine State did not choose to leave.

"The government is working to restore the situation to normalcy. Since the 5th of September, there have been no

armed clashes and there have been no clearance operations. Nevertheless, we are concerned to hear that numbers of Muslims are fleeing across the border to Bangladesh. We want to find out why this exodus is happening. We would like to talk to those who have fled, as well as those who have stayed. I think it is very little known that the great majority of Muslims in the Rakhine State have not joined the exodus. More than 50 per cent of the villagers of Muslims are intact. They are as they were before the attacks took place. And we would like to know why.

This is what I think we have to work towards. Not just looking at the problems but also looking at these areas where there are no problems. Why have we been able to avoid these problems in certain areas? And for this reason, we would like to invite members of the diplomatic community to join us in our endeavour to learn more from the Muslims who have integrated successfully into the Rakhine State", she said.—GNLM and Reuters

State Counsellor's speech on Government's efforts with regard to National Reconciliation and Peace

The following is the full text of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech on the Myanmar government's efforts at reconciliation and peace given in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning. The State Counsellor also spoke on the crisis in Rakhine State, calling on world community in helping find peace for Myanmar.

Distinguished guests,

Last year, when I addressed the United Nations' General Assembly as the representative of the newly established government of Myanmar, I reaffirmed our faith and confidence in the purpose and principles of the Charter of the United Nations. It is in this enduring belief in the capacity of nations to unite to build a more peaceful and prosperous world, a kinder and more compassionate home for all mankind, that we wish to share with members of the international community, the challenges that our country is now facing and the steps that we are taking to overcome them. This year, as I shall not be able to travel to New York for the United Nations' General Assembly, I have arranged this diplomatic briefing.

When our people voted for the National League for Democracy in the elections of 2015, they in fact entrusted to us, the task of carrying out three responsibilities: democratic transition, peace and stability, and development. None of these challenges are either easy or simple. Transition for us is a transition to democracy after half a century or more of authoritarian rule, and now we are in the process of nurturing our nascent and yet imperfect democracy.

Peace and stability was something that we had to achieve after nearly seventy years of internal conflict that started on the day of our independence back in 1948. And development has to be achieved within the context of the first two – nurturing democratic values, establishing peace and stability, and achieving the kind of sustainable development that would be seen as equitable by all our peoples.

Burma is a complex nation as all of you know, and its complexities are compounded by the fact that people expect us to overcome all of these challenges in as short a time as possible.

I think it is only fitting that I should remind you today that our government has not yet been in power for even eighteen months. It will be eighteen months at the end of this month. Eighteen



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech on the government's efforts with regard to national reconciliation and peace in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 September. **PHOTO: MNA**

months is a very short time in which to expect us to meet and overcome all of the challenges that we have been expected to do.

This does not mean that we are not ready to go on with our task of overcoming these challenges. Because I believe in the community of nations, I am prepared to share with all our friends who wish us well and who understand our problems and sympathies with us, what we have been doing to achieve democratic transition, peace and stability, and development.

I am aware of the fact that the world's attention is focused on the situation in Rakhine State. As I said at the General Assembly last year, as a responsible member of the community of nations, Myanmar does not fear international scrutiny and we are committed to a sustainable solution that would lead to peace, stability and development for all communities within that State. I then went on last year to give a brief outline of our plans to

We condemn
all human
rights violations
and unlawful
violence.

achieve this end.

Unhappily, on 9 October 2016, eighteen days after the delivery of my address at the General Assembly, three police outposts were attacked by armed Muslim groups. There were further attacks on 11 October and 12 November and these clashes resulted in loss of lives, injuries, burning of villages and the displacement of peoples in the affected areas. Many Muslims fled to Bangladesh.

Since then, the government has been making every effort to restore peace and stability and to promote harmony between the Muslim and Rakhine com-

munities. Even before these outbreaks took place, we had established a Central Committee for rule of law and development in the Rakhine and invited Dr. Kofi Annan to lead a Commission that would help us to resolve the longstanding problems of that State. But, in spite of all these efforts, we were not able to prevent the conflicts from taking place. Still, throughout the last year, we have continued with our programme of development and the establishment of peace and harmony.

After several months of seemingly quiet and peace, on 25 August, thirty police outposts, as well as the Regimental Headquarters in Taungthazar village, were attacked by armed groups. Consequent to these attacks, the government declared the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army and its supporters responsible for acts of terrorism, as a terrorist group in accordance with the Counter-Terrorism Law, section 6, subsection 5.

There has been much con-

cern around the world with regard to the situation in Rakhine. It is not the intention of the Myanmar government to apportion blame or to abnegate responsibility. We condemn all human rights violations and unlawful violence. We are committed to the restoration of peace, stability and rule of law, throughout the State. The security forces have been instructed to adhere strictly to the Code of Conduct in carrying out security operations, to exercise all due restraint, and to take full measures to avoid collateral damage and the harming of innocent civilians. Human rights violations and all other acts that impair stability and harmony and undermine the rule of law will be addressed in accordance with strict norms of justice.

We feel deeply for the suffering of all the people who have been caught up in the conflict. Those who have had to flee their homes are many – not just Muslims and Rakhines, but also small minority groups, such as the Daing-net, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus of whose presence most of the world is totally unaware.

Humanitarian assistance was provided to displaced communities by a team led by the Minister of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement from 27 August 2017 onwards. Details of humanitarian assistance programmes will be made available to all of our guests in due course.

The final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State chaired by Dr Kofi Annan, was made public on 25 August, in fact, the very day on which the last round of attacks took place. We are determined to implement the recommendations of the Commission. Those recommendations that will bring speedy improvement to the situation within a short time frame will be given priority. Other recommendations we will have to take time over, but every single recommendation that will benefit peace, harmony and development in the Rakhine State will be implemented within the shortest time possible.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects regional stability works in Sittway



Director of Military Engineers explains about border fencing work to Senior General at Regional Control Command in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

DEFENCE Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Lt-Gen Ye Aung arrived in Sittway yesterday afternoon and were briefed by the Regional Control Command (Sittway) Commander.

The briefings concerned a number of topics, including the increased deployment of security personnel in northern Rakhine State after the October 2016 terrorist attacks and reduction of security personnel in February 2017 when regional stability was achieved, which ARSA extremist terrorists took advantage of by recruiting and training for the recent terrorist acts last month. Also discussed were terrorist attacks on local ethnic nationals in June, July and August and step-by-step acts with an aim to destroy the administrative mechanism, deployment of se-

curity personnel to counter this and to clear the Mayu Mountain range, terrorist attacks and engagements from 25 August to 5 September, casualties of security personnel and number of terrorists arrested, number of local ethnic national killed, wounded and missing, wards and villages burnt during the events and status of displaced local ethnic nationals. Additional explanations were made on regional stability works conducted, resettling of ethnic nationals to their places of origin, aid provided to villages in the region regardless of race and religion, and medical treatment and health care provided.

Afterward, the head of the Directorate of Military Engineers explained border fencing work and the director of the Medical Corps explained details of six Tatmadaw special field medical teams who treated

4,503 patients in villages from 2 to 18 September. The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief remarked on obtaining early intelligence, conducting close control and command of security matters by responsible persons in each stage so that there are no mistakes, working together for regional stability, securing border fences and maintaining them for long-term existence, posting security on the border fence, providing humanitarian assistance to ethnic nationals and citizens living in Buthidaung and Maungdaw region, providing full security for ethnic nationals, having adequate forces to conduct security work, following rules and regulations, and assisting in issuance of national verification cards (NVC) and national verification processes. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Reconstruction of bridges and roads in Maungdaw region

By Tin Maung Lwin & Min Htat Aung

Bridges and roads destroyed by terrorists in the Maungdaw region in northern Rakhine State have been reconstructed, according to the Maungdaw District Road Department. Seven bridges damaged in the terrorist attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists are No. 3/25 Wetkyein bridge 2 No. 1/27 Padakar Daiwanali bridge 1, No. 4/27 Padakar Daiwanali bridge 2, No. 1/29 Laungboub bridge, No. 5/32 Letyar Chaung bridge, No. 4/34 Arzabaw bridge and No. 2/29 bridge on Maungdaw-Kyeekanyin-Kyeinchaung-Aung Tha Pyay-Bandula road, which were rapidly reconstructed in order for the smooth resumption of transport, communications and secu-



Local people reconstruct bridges and roads destroyed by terrorists in Maungdaw, northern Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MAUNG HMWE**

city works. "The reconstruction has been implemented with the combined forces of engineers, staff from rural development department and local workers.

Although there are difficulties in a lack of workers and low time duration, the bridges and roads were the first to be reconstructed so that there would be easy transport, which imple-

ments stability and the peace process in Maungdaw", U Zaw Min, assistant director (civil) of Maungdaw District Road Department said yesterday.

During the terrorist attacks of 25 August, extremist terrorists destroyed roads and bridges with landmines and by cutting down trees to block and cut off transport. ■

Thai PM urged to protect free speech of Myanmar migrants

BANGKOK -- The Thai Government should de-criminalise defamation and protect the rights of 14 Myanmar migrant workers and other human rights defenders being targeted with criminal defamation and related charges for bringing attention to alleged labour rights violations, a labour rights group said yesterday.

Fortify Rights and 86 civil society organisations, businesses, and parliamentarians yesterday published an open letter to Thailand's Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha, calling on the Thai Government to "immediately take pro-active steps" to protect freedom of expression, labour rights, and the rights of human rights defenders in Thailand.

"Businesses in Thailand are increasingly using defamation complaints to target critics and deflect attention from serious allegations of wrongdoing," said Amy Smith, the executive director of Fortify Rights.

"Thai authorities need to stand up for free speech and workers' rights." Thammakaset Company Limited — a Thai-owned poultry company — filed a defamation complaint against the 14 workers on 6 October, 2016 alleging the workers damaged the reputation of the company by submitting a complaint to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT) on 7 July, 2016. The Don Muang Magistrates Court in Bangkok is scheduled to consider Thammakaset's complaint against the workers on 4 October.

In the complaint to the NHRCT, the workers claimed that the company failed to pay

minimum and overtime wages, forced them to work excessive hours, and confiscated their identity documents. On 14 September, Thailand's Supreme Court upheld a lower court's order for Thammakaset Co. Ltd. to pay a total of Ks68 million (US\$51,000) in compensation to the 14 workers for violating their rights.

Thammakaset Co. Ltd. also filed a complaint against Andy Hall, a British human rights defender, on 4 November, 2016, alleging criminal defamation and violations of the Computer Crimes Act 2007 for his social media comments on the alleged labor rights abuses in relation to the 14 migrant workers. The Bangkok South Criminal Court will determine whether the complaint has sufficient merit to proceed to trial on 15 December.

The open letter called on the Prime Minister's Office to "ensure the right to freedom of expression for workers, activists and others who report on human rights and labour rights abuses allegedly committed by companies during their business operations" and de-criminalise defamation. The letter also called on the Thai Government to enforce labour protections for all workers, including migrant workers.

"General Prayut should make good on his promises to ensure businesses in Thailand uphold basic rights and protections. Enforcing labour rights and protecting the right of workers to complain would be a good start," said Amy Smith. "It's up to the court to see the case against these workers for what it is — frivolous." —GNLM

Ultraviolet index to reach higher level at end of monsoon

The ultraviolet (UV) index can be high across the country at the end of monsoon, which will end in mid-October, said Dr. Tun Lwin, the former director-general of the Myanmar Meteorology and Hydrology Department yesterday.

The UV index is expected to reach a very higher level, stated Dr. Tun Lwin in his Facebook post.

According to global warming, climate change causes natural disasters such as flooding, untimely rainfall, overheating, earthquakes and cyclones all

over the world. In Myanmar, several states and regions experienced heavy rains and damages during this rainy season.

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal on 19 September. Concerning flood warning issued at 3:30 pm observation, the department warns of water level in Chindwin River which is currently below danger level to reach its danger level within the next 3 days. —Sandar Soe ■

Reaction from diplomats to State Counsellor's speech on National Reconciliation and Peace

U Tha Sein, Zin Oo,
July Moe (PHOTO: ZIN OO)

Mr Hong Liang, Ambassador of China to Myanmar:

"This (Rakhine issue) issue is very complicated. They need time and joint efforts of all parties in Myanmar. International communities should give constructive contribution to this issue. The Chinese government's position is very clear. We support the Myanmar government in its efforts for restoring peace and stability in Rakhine. The humanitarian assistance to that part of Myanmar is very urgent. China is doing its own."

Russian Ambassador Mr Nikolay A Listopadov

There is no evidence of ethnic cleansing in Rakhine. Only a constructive approach can solve the Rakhine issue, which is complicated. International communities should also show how they can cooperate effectively with Myanmar government. Meanwhile, the Myanmar government needs to solve the citizenship is-



Mr Hong Liang, Ambassador of China to Myanmar.



Ambassador of Russia to Myanmar Dr Nikolay Listopadov.



UNICEF Deputy Representative, Paul Edwards.



H.E. Mr Vikram Misri, the Indian Ambassador.

sue in terms of the National Verification Process because this issue is very important for Muslim community there.

Recommendations of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine led by Mr. Kofi Annan should be effectively implemented. And the human rights violation issue should be solved in accordance with the law. Another challenge is the mistrust between the two communities, and this issue should be solved, too.

Paul Edwards, deputy representative of UNICEF

"The further attacks since that date, so she's in a better position to know that than I am, but obviously, people make their own decisions as to whether they stay or whether they go, and it will take some time to settle down and for a peaceful situation to occur.

I think we have to take the speech at face value, as to what she said in terms of her wish for peace to come to the area. We have to take at face value what she said about there being no further military operations since the fifth of September. But of course none of us really know what's hap-

pening there if we're not there."

Shri Vikram Misri, Ambassador of India to Myanmar:

"This address contains very a positive message. We all appreciate the problems, conflicts and challenges that Myanmar is facing. The situation that came out in Rakhine State concerns not only Rakhine but also neighbours including us in India.

It is also clear that authorities have the right to provide security to defend themselves against violent attacks. This is also important to prevent violent

attacks on innocent civilians. International communities stand ready to help the government of Myanmar in addressing these challenges.

We would like the situation to deal with this within the context of the rule of law and of course to deal with the kind of flow of people we have seen across the border.

The State Counsellor said Myanmar is ready to take back the refugees born across the border, and then further steps will be taken in accordance with the law here in terms of a national verification process." ■

Huge crowds listen to State Counsellor's speech nationwide

By Zaw Gyi Panita

THE State Counsellor's speech delivered yesterday morning at Myanmar International Convention Center II was broadcasted live and shown on large LED screens nationwide attracting huge crowds.

People turned out to listen and to support the State Counsellor.

"This speech is believed to be able to reduce the international pressure on the northern

Rakhine State affair. I came to listen and support the speech, as it will bring a lot of benefit to our country", said U Moe Min of Sanchaung Township, who listened to the State Counsellor's speech at City Hall in Yangon.

Food and water were distributed to the people who gathered on Mahabandoola Road and in Mahabandoola Park to listen to the State Counsellor's speech.

Many in the crowd were



A crowd gathers at the City Hall in Yangon listening Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

seen holding posters showing support for the State Counsellor.

"Donors are donating food and water to the people who came to listen to Mother Su's speech", one resident noted.

The large crowds were an indication of support for the State Counsellor, one resident said.

"This also shows that the

people are together with Mother Su", said U Myint Khaing of Ward 1, Mayangon Township.

Ko Aung Win of Latha Township said he hoped the speech would improve international relations.

"As one of the people, I respect and value the speech of the people's leader.

Similarly, people from the countries of the world are be-

lieved to respect and value it", he said.

Ko Aung Win added that the speech is very important for the country.

People who came out today hope the speech will hopefully reduce the pressure exerted by some countries on northern Rakhine State affairs and will bring forth good results in the country", Ko Aung Win said. ■

State Counsellor's speech on efforts with regard to National Reconciliation and Peace

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We would like you to join us in a positive and constructive way to find new paths towards peace and stability and towards harmony.

We would like you to think of our country as a whole. Not just as little afflicted areas. It is as a whole only that we can make progress. I would like to use the analogy of a healthy human being. A healthy human being has to be healthy all over. You cannot neglect his general health just to concentrate on one particular ill. I use this analogy because our [health] sector is one that has made the greatest progress since we came into the administration last year. By concentrating on public health, we have found that other health problems can also be better addressed. For example, within one year, deaths from HIV were halved – not because we are concentrating just on HIV/AIDS, but because we were concentrating on public health as a whole, the health of all of our peoples and all our communities. This is how I would like you to look at our country.

We are a young and fragile democracy facing many problems, but we have to cope with them all at the same time, in the way that we have to cope with all of our health problems at the same time. We cannot just concentrate on a few. I would like to invite you to join us in finding new ways, new answers, more constructive, more positive, more

innovative, and possibly more daring.

If we cannot resolve our problems quickly, it does not mean that we are never going to be able to resolve them. It just means that the suffering of our peoples is extended. We would like to bring an end to the suffering of our peoples as quickly as possible. We would like to make our country a nation, within whose borders, everybody can live in security and prosperity. This is a large order. This is a big ambition. But it is not one impossible to fulfil. We all have to join together.

I accept that the real responsibility lies with us, the people of this country. All the people of Myanmar, from the government, to each and every single individual within this country has the responsibility for the development and progress of this country. But, we would like our friends to join us in our great endeavour. This is certainly a big endeavour. An ambitious endeavour. A determination to build out of a country, beset by many problems, a State that is healthy, that is strong, that can look forward to a secure future.

It is sad that in meeting our diplomatic community, I am obliged to focus on just a very few of our problems, when there are so many which I think we could resolve together. That is why I am opening the door to all of you who wish to join us in our endeavours. We invite you to join

us, to talk to us, to discuss with us, to go with us to the troubled areas, where we can guarantee security for you, because we don't want the added problems of anything happening to any of you, so we would like you to join us, then to see for yourself what is happening and think for yourself, what can we do to remove these problems? And also, I want you to take special care to study the peaceful areas – how have they managed to keep the peace? How have they managed to preserve harmony? Why are they not at each other's throats in these particular areas? These are the answers that we need. It is not just a matter of removing ills, but also of promoting what is positive. We have to remove the negative and increase the positive, and we would like to do that together with all of you.

As you will probably be aware, our Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is leading our humanitarian assistance programme. We are very happy that the International Committee of the Red Cross is joining us in this and we would welcome others who would like to aid us in our endeavours. Many have already committed to help us by donating generously – in cash as well as in kind. We will make sure that everything that is given towards the promotion of peace and harmony in the Rakhine is used in the best possible way to benefit all communities.

We don't want Myanmar to be a nation divided by religious beliefs, or ethnicity or political ideology. We all have the right to our diverse identities and we all have the right to strive to fulfil our lives in the ways in which we believe are right. But we also have to work together because we belong to one nation. And as we belong to one nation, we also belong to this world.

It is for this reason that we place great importance on the role of the United Nations as an assembly of nations which was created to promote peace and harmony, to ensure that our world should not ever again, in future, fall into the suffering that we all experienced during the Second World War. It was with the intention of putting an end to wars – that is to say – putting an end to conflicts, that the United Nations was established, and I would like to think that what we are doing here today, may be the beginning of a truly strong and effective movement to bring an end to all the conflicts within Myanmar. The conflicts between our communities, between our peoples, and also the conflict of ideas with regards to how we are to go forwards. Conflicts of ideas can be sorted out, can be removed through discussion and dialogue and through open-minded and the generosity and courage, that enables us to see other people's point of view. I would also like

to say that the generosity and courage that would enable other people to see our point of view as well.

It is by cooperating only, that our world can go forward. By attacking each other, either with words, or with weapons, or even with emotions, will not help us. Hate and fear are the main scourges of our world. All conflict arises either out of hate or fear. It is only by removing the sources of hate and fear that we shall be able to remove conflict from our country and from our world.

As you know, there are many allegations and counter-allegations. I have not gone into any of them because it is not my purpose to promote and encourage conflict, whether of ideas, or of arms, but to try to promote harmony and understanding. I hope that you will understand us and join us in our endeavours.

As I said earlier, this is a diplomatic briefing. This was intended to keep the members of our diplomatic community and the representatives of our friends from all over the world, in touch with what we are trying to do. But in some ways, it is more than just a diplomatic briefing. It is a friendly appeal to all those who wish Myanmar well. A friendly appeal to help us to achieve the ends that I think, you would agree are desirable, not just for this particular country, but for countries all over the world.

Thank you.

Aid for Rakhine discussed

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Tasks for resettlement are voluminous, so we would like to collectively help Myanmar in finding ways for using all resources as much as possible. There may be many related programs of providing humanitarian aid to be implemented in the long run. We would like Myanmar to cooperate as needed, concerning aid to be provided by international communities. We were well convinced of the hardships experienced in carrying out the tasks of the government. Negotiations need to be made broadly.”

The Union Minister said, “The Government is trying their best for the successful implementation in dealing with Rakhine State affairs. Situations which the country is solving currently are different from those in the period when suggestions on Rakhine State were made.

Now the government is making efforts to implement under the current situations. In supporting humanitarian aid, we hope that international communities will be able to closely connect with the Government. Simultaneously, we believe that we can discuss applicable means and ways with supportive partner groups. Practically applicable strategies are to be laid down after selecting sectors to be prioritized, as we are required to implement suggestions and responsibilities of the committee for implementation over suggestions on Rakhine State being carried out by myself as chairperson. The Government is carrying out the support to Rakhine State under the Red Cross Movement programme. All those involved are striving very hard for the success as much as possible.”

Afterward, in regards to the

Red Cross Movement, matters for success and convenience were discussed with the Denmark Ambassador.

In the meeting with Mr. Patrick Murphy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southeast Asia, said US is well convinced that Myanmar is facing and dealing with many challenges, asking about the matters for all organisations desirous of helping to cooperate in sending humanitarian aid to displaced people. He stressed the need for the long-term project needs broader help from international organisation. “Those who fled to Bangladesh and displaced people in the country may have many needs. We want to know which projects are to be prioritised, apart from present humanitarian aid programmes.

We would like the government to help returners to come



Ms. Renata Dessallien, United Nations Resident Coordinator calls on Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

to be relocated at their former places,” he added.

The Union Minister discussed in detail situations on the formation of the Central Committee for Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development of Rakhine State, and performances of four working committees, and other matters.

In addition, the Union Minis-

ter said that subsidies are being given out to displaced people, based on the statistics collected by the State government. Those who fled to Bangladesh are to be systematically scrutinised if they want to come back. Myanmar is having a good relationship with neighboring countries, including Bangladesh. —Myanmar News Agency