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People assemble at the Uppatasanti Pagoda ground in Nay Pyi Taw to show their support to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

Nay Pyi Taw rally supports State Counsellor's leadership

RESIDENTS in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory have staged a rally to show their solidarity with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and to support her handling of the issue of northern Rakhine State.

The rally was opened by

responsible personnel by cutting ribbon.

Next, Author U Htin Lin Oo and U Jimmy (Member of '88 student leaders) delivered speeches followed by Sein Du War and Pan Ye Lan music bands performing music.

People from Zabuthiri, Pobbathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Ot-tarathiri and Lewe township attended the rally showing their support for Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the civilian government.

Ko Thein Than Oo, a mem-

ber of the organizing committee, said, "We're really glad we can show our support for the State Counsellor. The people of Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory will stand firm with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi."

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Diversity Management forum to be held in late November

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and current Chairman of the Committee for Implementing Recommendations on Rakhine, held a meeting in his ministry's building yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss the plans for holding the forum for "Diversity Management in the Age of Globalization".

The forum is slated to be held in Nay Pyi Taw in the last week of November this year.

The forum will focus on the efforts made in settling differences in Rakhine State and as well as other efforts across the globe.

Dr Win Myat Aye said the forum will be led by the Union Government and will focus on humanitarian groups working on diversity management in the country.

The forum will also host foreign experts to participate in the discussion.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said that whenever a problem arises it must be quelled with fairness and that fear and hatred gives rise to conflict.

He said we need to combine understanding and diligence to repel the fear and hatred that fuels terrorism.

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Local people participate in the rally to show their solidarity with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

Nay Pyi Taw rally supports State Counsellor leadership

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U Saw, a Hluttaw representative, said “The people and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi are in harmony and that’s why we held this event to reach our goals.” He continued, “These rallies will encourage our State Counsellor and will light the way for the development, peace process and democratization of our country.”

The attention of the world on the Rakhine issue has been immense, beginning with the attacks on the police outposts in Rakhine State last October and the terrorist attacks happened

again in August, 2017.

“There has been a lot of criticisms against our country. We need to understand international opinion. However, just as no one can fully understand the situation of our country the way we do, no one can desire peace and development for our country more than us,” said the State Counsellor in her report to the country’s people on 12 October.

“Rather than rebutting criticisms and allegations with words, we will show the world by our actions and our deeds, she added.

For the development of Ra-

khine State and to implement projects in all sectors, the Union Government has established the mechanism “Union Enterprise for Humanitarian and Development in Rakhine”.

At a ceremony to accept cash donations from the country’s businessmen for the UEHRD in Nay Pyi Taw on 20 October, she also called for unity among the government, the people and the businessmen for the success of the project in Rakhine State as part of efforts for laying down a foundation for the Union.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Clothes donated to displaced people in Rakhine

THE Department for Rural Development donated about 3,481 sets of clothing to IDPs in Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Yethedaung who have fled from attacks by ARSA terrorists.

The Region Director of the Department for Rural Development handed over the clothes

donations to the Committee for Accepting and Handling Donations under the Rakhine State Government and received a congratulatory certificate in return.

The Union Government has committed to effectively supplying humanitarian aid to the people in the areas where terrorist

attacks occurred, along with rehabilitation, resettlement and development in the same areas.

Prominent companies in Myanmar contributed K17.7 billion in total to the government to assist in its efforts for development in Rakhine—Win Min Soe (Sub Printing House) ■

Mandalay hosts public talk

MANDALAY hosted a Public Talk on the increasing drug threat against youth at the community centre co-run by Pyigyitagun Township Information and Public Relations Department and Daw Khin Kyi Foundation yesterday.

After a speech by Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Region Agriculture and Livestock Breeding and Irrigation Minister U Soe Than, MP U Zaw Maung Maung, IPRD Deputy Director-General U Aye Kywe and resources persons gave talks on the topic joined in by the participants.

In his talks Minister U Soe Than said public talk really benefits the people as it is a forum where their voices can be heard and their needs can be fulfilled by the government. The voices of the people and students on the topic are valuable for the country and the government. Hence, such talks should be held more comprehensively.

The IPRD director-general said the talk aims at opening direct talks between the government and the people which is one of the characteristics of democracy, presenting the

community problems for wider discussions, enhancing the thinking power of the people and giving them the habit of partaking in the public discussions.

We hope the talks will give all the participants food for thought, knowledge, satisfaction and thinking power. And we are planning to make all community centres the platforms for such talks.

MP U Zaw Maung Maung said today Mandalay sees lootings in some quarters mostly committed by youths. And most of these youths are drug addicts. Drug addicts cannot differentiate between right and wrong and can easily destroy their own community. The best way to destroy a country is to ruin the moral conducts of her youths. So youths must totally stay away from drugs.

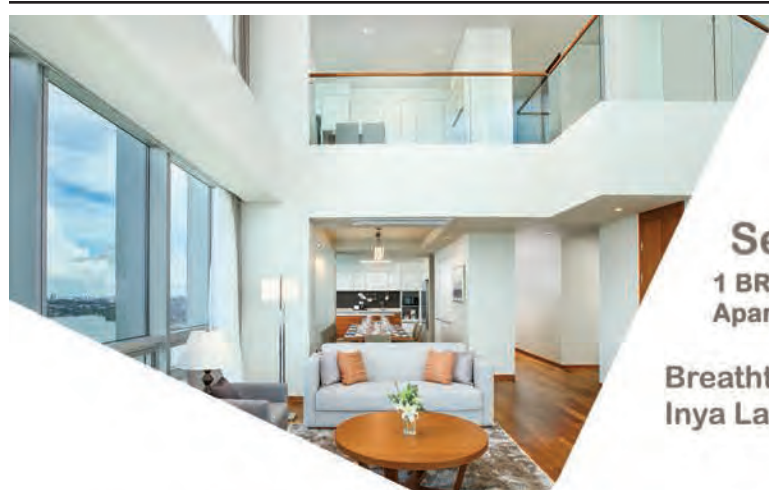
A participant, Maung Aka Min, a student of BEHS 10 in Mandalay, said the talk has given him the awareness of the danger of narcotic drugs.

The drugs are not only hindering the national progress but also destroying the hopes of youths. So the talk is much beneficial to the youths.

—IPRD ■



People participate in the public talk in Mandalay. PHOTO: IPRD



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Constructive developments to be sculpted practically

Khin Maung Oo

MUCH has been heard about viral news that potential sanctions will be slapped on Myanmar, due to the affairs in the Rakhine State. Rumors are spreading that these sanctions would be targeted on high-ranking officials of the Tatmadaw. Here we would like to present that the news is completely contrary to assumptions and ideas of retired Lt General Wijoyo who took part in transforming the Indonesian Army during the transitional period towards a democracy in Indonesia.

Lieutenant General Wi Jojo (retired) said that making Indonesian army officers including high-ranking officials study at the military institutes of developed democratic nations encourages Indonesian army officers to perform their duties and responsibilities in typical military ways. To perform duties in typical military ways includes to perform military responsibilities and dealing with human rights affairs, in accord with international standards. What we would like to say is that imposing sanctions against Tatmadaw officials at different levels would be counter-productive, to say the least. It would in fact have a negative effect on Myanmar's transition towards a democratic government. The international community and Western governments in particular should be fully aware that there is a well-paid propaganda machine supporting the extremist terrorists and their sympathizers who are working day and night to attack Myanmar leaders, the Myanmar Tatmadaw and Myanmar as a country.

Allegations are being heard that the mass exodus amounting to several hundred thousand of Bengalis was attributed to excessive use of force by our Tatmadaw. Yet these allegations are exactly what they are, allegations. Those who are repeating these allegations for reasons best known to themselves are unable to come up with credible evidence. For example, just presenting satellite images of burnt villages do not prove anything. At the ground level there may be many possible explanations. The persons who committed these acts of arson could be the fleeing villagers, ARSA terrorists, or vigilantes of any stripe or race. Repeating allegations without evidence shows an ignorance of

the legal process. This is most regrettable when such allegations are being made by well-known TV stations or many of the underground Youtube channels with dubious and suspicious names. The actual problems in Rakhine State were really caused by the systematic coordinated attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists. These attacks were led by hardcore terrorists but with the support of villagers from the neighboring villages, who were either forced or recruited by terrorist recruiters. It is very regrettable that the so-called defenders of human rights failed to report in a responsible way in accordance with the code of conduct of professional journalists. As for the Tatmadaw, their duty is to defend the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country. They are trained to meet the enemy head on, with courage and determination, and in full uniform in full combat gear. They do not wear black masks like terrorists or fabricate fake news or invent heartbreaking stories to win the sympathy of the global community.

The Myanmar government has openly asserted that it will accept Bengali ref-

ugees said to have fled in accord with the 1993 Agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh and grant citizenship rights after careful scrutiny in accord with the 1982 Citizenship Law. For stability and security of the people in Rakhine State including people of Bengali extraction who will come into the country again, the Government will implement after negotiations with the Bangladesh government and hand in hand with the Tatmadaw.

This fact should be deeply understood by the international community. Releasing news that sanctions will be imposed against Tatmadaw officials by neglecting the actual facts of the case would be tantamount to creating unnecessary hardships for Myanmar instead of helping her.

We wish to present our belief that the international community should examine the problem deeply and thoroughly before jumping into any conclusions or be swayed by the relentless propaganda being manufactured by the propaganda machines which are being funded by certain sympathetic countries in the middle east and South Asia. ■

Public + Private = Better Health Care in Southeast Asia

Lieven Jacquemyn

October 13, 2017 Lieven Jacquemyn International PPP Development Director at GE Healthcare, Singapore

Health care is a booming business in Southeast Asia. With a population of more than 640 million in 2016 and fewer than three beds per 1,000 people, Southeast Asia's demographics reveal an attractive investment opportunity for private health care providers. Some of the largest and most profitable private health care providers are based in Singapore, Thailand, and Malaysia, where there are clear pockets of excellence generating impressive medical tourism streams.

To date, it seems public and private health care providers are simultaneously serving separate client segments.

A true partnership in which public and private partners team up, allocate tasks and risks to the party best able to handle them, and jointly work toward a common goal is rare in Southeast Asia. A public-private partnership to build an orthopedic center in the Philippines, having only one bidder for the project, was cancelled in 2015.

The new Women and Children's Hospital in Kuala Lumpur, however, is one exception.

Several countries in Southeast Asia are working toward the World

Health Organization's goal of universal health coverage.

For example, the Philippines created PhilHealth in 1995 and Indonesia created the single payer universal health coverage model in 2014, aiming to provide health insurance for its entire population of 250 million within five years. Thailand and Myanmar's ministries of health are also exploring nationwide solutions to increase access to health care, including for residents of remote areas.

Intervention Model for Southeast Asia

In 2015, GE Healthcare helped develop a nationwide solution for the provision of radiology suites to 98 hospitals across all 47 counties in Kenya, as well as a training center in Nairobi. Key aims of this seven-year managed equipment service contract included improving geographic access to affordable quality health care services, attracting and developing health care professionals, and enabling faster diagnosis and scan analysis using interconnected expertise across the country.

The result has been improved access to care, according to an independent survey in 2016. Kenya now has 732 new health care workers; patient throughput has increased more than 50 percent; efficiency has improved 14 percent due to better

workflow and reduced time to scan; cost per scan has fallen by 30 percent; and equipment reliability stands at 107 percent. Some countries in Southeast Asia could also benefit from a similar approach.

Although government spending on health care has been rising in most of Southeast Asia, the emerging economies spend frugally on it (3 to 6 percent of GDP), which is well below developed Asian countries (up to 10 percent) and their EU/U.S. counterparts (more than 10 percent).

The huge population base in Southeast Asia magnifies the challenge to move up in health care spending.

PPPs for Health Care in Southeast Asia

According to a 2014 study, the readiness of Southeast Asian countries to enter into PPPs varies considerably, reflecting the region's diversity in demographics, economic development, and other factors. However, almost all countries have successfully implemented public-private partnerships in economic infrastructure sectors including energy, transportation, and water. Social infrastructure projects, such as schools and hospitals, have not been perceived as priority investments.

Since 2004, the International Monetary Fund has highlighted the need for investing in health to achieve

economic development goals. Today, the links between a healthy working population, reducing health care burden, and increasing productivity have been clearly established.

For example, diseases in the UK that impose the highest economic burden on the economy include dementia (26.3 billion pounds (\$34.8 billion)), musculoskeletal disorders (17.1 billion pounds), stroke (10.3 billion pounds), coronary heart disease (9 billion pounds), and cancer and tumors (5.7 billion pounds). These conditions alone account for nearly 70 billion pounds per annum, and that constitutes just a portion of the disease-related costs in the UK. We believe that prevention and earlier diagnosis could improve the care pathways in these five disease areas, saving billions of the budget. Prevention and earlier intervention could also help reduce the incidence of permanent disability of the working population and the population as a whole.

Partnerships Needed

Today many Southeast Asian countries still have a relatively low GDP but show impressive annual growth figures. They are competing against the bigger economies globally in a similar fashion to startup companies looking to establish their position in the market.

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