

State Counsellor receives Professor Richard Boucher



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets the delegation led by Prof. Richard Boucher, Professor of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy of Brown University in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received 35-member delegation led by Prof. Richard Boucher, Professor of Diplomacy and Foreign Policy of Brown University, and Retired Ambassador and wife Ms. Carolyn Brehm, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The delegation comprised of 32 chief executive officers and professionals in the law, education, human resources development and business sectors based in Los Angeles, Cal-

ifornia. The delegation visited Myanmar from 3 to 12 January 2018 to study economics, politics, society, arts and culture. They visited Mandalay, Bagan and Inlay regions.

During the meeting, State Counsellor apprised the delegation of Myanmar's democratic transition, peace and national reconciliation and the development situation in the economy, education, tourism, and investment sectors. State Counsellor also answered the questions raised by the delegation members.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Japan aid for peace, upgrading railways, reconciliation

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Arrangements were made to provide \$20 million worth of assistance and aid to increase the humanitarian situation, especially providing education as well as livelihood training for women through international organizations. This will be officially announced only when the agreement of Japan National Diet is obtained, said the Japanese Foreign Minister.

In the same way, Japan plans to aid and support as much as possible in Myanmar's undertakings. Confirmation was made with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to continue the Thilawa Special Economic Zone and the work of securing regional connectivity. We discussed the State Counsellor attending this year's Mekong-Japan summit meeting that will be held in Japan. Japan will remain as a friend of Myanmar and will increase relations with Myanmar, said the Japanese Foreign Minister.

The State Counsellor said "I'm happy to greet the new Foreign Minister. I warmly welcome a representative of Japan, our good friend. Myanmar's relations (with Japan) were always warm and Japan had provided assistance whenever we are in need. In today's meeting with the Minister, much was discussed on helping in our country's road communication and electricity requirement. Discussions were made on completing ongoing bilateral cooperation projects speedily and to increase development. We also discussed on properly receiving the returning

displaced persons and the development of Rakhine State."

"We are much thankful to Japan for its willingness to support both the short and long term needs. We all know that development takes time. However, we value the support and understanding of Japan on our wish to have this as soon as possible. As H.E. Kono had told all that we had discussed, I have nothing more to say. But I would like to add that Japan and we were through similar difficulties and we understand each other. Based on this understanding, the two countries' status as close friends is expected to be increased. That is why I expect to meet again in a short time."

"In conclusion, I expect H.E. and party's trip to Rakhine State to be smooth. We have also made the best arrangements we can for this" said the State Counsellor.

Questions raised by the media were then answered.

Replying to a question on Rakhine State development, the Japanese Foreign Minister said "I think it is important to resolve the root of the problem of all the people living in Rakhine State for Rakhine State to develop. Recommendations of Mr. Kofi Annan's advisory committee to increase the education and health sector, including the living conditions of the people in the region should be implemented as a priority."

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that development works were started after UEHRD was formed. In addition

to Japan's emergency assistance, roads were laid and power distribution lines constructed in Rakhine State with an aim to raise the living standard. These will be done properly.

NGOs from Japan in addition to the government plans to construct 100 schools. In some schools both Buddhists and Muslims are studying together. We earnestly pray that such schools are reopened and expanded.

Private companies are also constructing 28 communication towers in northern Rakhine State for mobile phone communication and this is expected to increase the mobile phone communication in northern Rakhine State.

Japan will do the best it can to resolve the issue of poverty as this is the root of the problem in Rakhine State answered the Japanese Foreign Minister.

Responding to a question on assistance provided by Japan for Myanmar the Japanese Foreign Minister said "Since two years ago, Japan had set a policy of public-private partnership assistance totaling Japanese Yen 800 billion in a five year period to help peace and reconciliation of the people in Myanmar that will enable democracy to take root and for economic development. Especially assistance will be provided to Yangon urban development, improving transport, power supply, Yangon-Mandalay railroad improvement programs that will practically raise the living standard of the Myanmar people."

"In addition to these, co-operation will be made in edu-

cation, health and agriculture sector proposed by the State Counsellor. We are discussing cordially with the Myanmar government to conduct the aid and assistance programs. In order to invite investments, I would like to request reduction in the work processes in other sectors including the electricity sector. Japan will cooperate with Myanmar to establish a democratic country" said the Japanese Foreign Minister.

On the question of international criticism directed at Myanmar government on human rights and resettlement of displaced persons, the Japanese Foreign Minister said "The status of Rakhine State involves human rights, humanitarian matters and tension in communities and is very much complicated. The priority is on how to implement reconciliation within communities. Resettling of displaced person is not to differentiate communities but to implement reconciliation in communities."

With this view, Japan will provide assistance to the Myanmar government led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as much as possible. Assistance will be provided for resettling displaced persons, for reconciliation of the communities in Rakhine State and to improve humanitarian situation.

In doing this, Japan will review and find sectors where more assistance can be made and how. We strongly hope to implement peace, stability and reconciliation of all the communities in Rakhine State said the

Japanese Foreign Minister.

Replying to the questions of international criticisms, Bengalis killed during security operations in Inndin village and works conducted on resettling of displaced persons, the State Counsellor said "I know there is much interest internationally on Rakhine State. But what we need to do is very much wide. Our country's affairs could not be viewed only through Rakhine State. Rakhine State is part of our union. But in addition to the present problem, we must not lose sight of our long term aim. As mentioned earlier by H.E. Kono, the main thing is the long term reconciliation of peoples living in Rakhine State, building friendship and trust. We will emphasize on this. There will be criticisms. Criticisms can be positive or negative. We need to study this thoroughly and decide what to do. The outcome of the decision will be felt by our people. Another thing is the Inndin village matter. There were killings in Inndin village. The Tatmadaw had conducted an investigation and will be taking action so this is viewed as a new step taken by our country. In the end, rule of law in the country is the responsibility of that country. It is a positive indication that we are taking the steps to be responsible. However, some may worry. But I believe that our investigation will prevent such things from happening again. H.E. Kono had mentioned comprehensively about accepting displaced persons. All preparations have been made."—Myanmar News Agency ■

President, First Lady visit Kaunghmulon Pagoda in Machanbaw, Kachin State

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin arrived in Machanbaw in PutaO Township, Kachin State yesterday by Tatmadaw special aircraft and visited Kaunghmulon (Shwe-Sat-Min) Pagoda.

The Kaunghmulon Pagoda is located about nine miles from PutaO on the eastern bank of the Malikha River.

During the visit, the President and First Lady donated cash to the pagoda's board of trustees.

The pagoda is believed to have been constructed about 2,300 years ago by three missionary Buddhist monks sent by King Ashoka of India, enshrining three holy relics of the Buddha.

Before the visit to Kaunghmulon Pagoda, the President and First Lady visited Gubar Guest House located on the banks of Malikha River.

During the trip, the President and First Lady were accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Win Khaing and officials.

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin were welcomed at the PutaO airport by Kachin State Chief Minister Dr. Khat Aung, Speaker of Kachin State Hluttaw U Tun Tin, Kachin State Chief Judge U Tu Ja, Commander of Northern Command Maj-Gen Nyi Nyi Swe, ministers of the Kachin State Government and members of the local ethnic literary and cultural groups from Jinhaw, Rawan, Lisu and Shan and local people.—Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin look around Kaunghmulon Pagoda in Machanbaw, Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin arrive at the PutaO airport, Kachin State. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin visit Kaunghmulon (Shwe-Sat-Min) Pagoda, in Machanbaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Plans made for systematic repatriation of refugees

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methods and means; therefore, cooperation efforts must gain momentum to cope with the difficulties", the UEHRD vice chairman said.

According to the MoU, arrangements are being made to resettle the returnees in their former hometowns or in the nearest locations available after they return to the region.

"Moreover, construction projects, including for police stations,

schools, clinics and markets, will be implemented in accordance with international standards. The construction projects must be finished in time due to the time limitations", the minister said.

To implement the requirements, cooperation among the ministries, such as the ministry for construction and the ministry for electricity and energy, is important, he said.

"We will provide the necessary assistance to the govern-

ment service personnel who will be working in this region," he stated.

Rakhine Chief Minister U Nyi Pu further clarified the ongoing process to carry out the projects in Rakhine State.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, departmental heads and other officials gave suggestions on relevant matters during the meeting. —Myanmar New Agency ■

Correction

A story titled "VP U Myint Swe returns from Cambodia" on Page 3 of the 12 January edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained several errors. In the article's first paragraph, the acronym for Mekong-Lancang Cooperation should be "MLC", not "LMC". In the second-to-last paragraph, the amount of the MLC cooperation fund should be "US\$300 million", not "US\$300". In the last paragraph, the announcement made by Cambodia should be the "Phnom Penh Declaration", not the "Phnom Penh proclamation". The GNLM regrets the errors.—Ed

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From Mr. Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
President of the Portuguese Republic
Your Excellency,**

On the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to convey to Your Excellency my congratulations and sincere wishes for your personal well-being and for the progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Taro Kono at Zayarthiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with Japanese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Taro Kono at Zayarthiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on promoting

bilateral relations between the two countries; Japan's assistance in promoting democracy in Myanmar; Tatmadaw's efforts to promote the internal peace process and mutual co-operation between Japan and Myanmar; promotion of coop-

eration between the Japanese self-defence forces and Myanmar Tatmadaw; and the problems in Rakhine State related to agriculture, production, job opportunities, infrastructure and technical aids.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Sitagu Asia Royal eye specialist team to visit Maungtaw District, Rakhine State

THE Sitagu Asia Royal eye specialist team will visit the Maungtaw Town People's Hospital from January 23 to 26 to treat eye patients in Maungtaw

District.

Maungtaw Town People's Hospital Superintendent Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein said, "The team will be

equipped with equipment to treat cataracts, conduct eye operations, and prescribe and make spectacles.

"Patients who want to obtain treatment need to register in time, and vinyl posters with notifications of the team's visit will be displayed in Maungtaw Township. The eye tests and operations will start on January 24. Eye patients living in the vicinity of Maungtaw Township can also come for treatment."

This is the first time an eye specialist team is visiting Maungtaw Township, and patients seeking treatment have to register in Maungtaw Town People's Hospital.—Aung Ye Thwin, Ko Min ■



Maungtaw Town People's Hospital. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN**

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

The following are messages of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From H.E. Mr. Peter Szijjarto
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary
Excellency,**

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is a trusted friend and an important partner of Hungary in Southeast Asia. My recent visit to Myanmar and our talks in Nay Pyi Taw last November convinced me that we have a lot in store to develop our bilateral cooperation. I would be greatly honoured to welcome you in Budapest in order to continue our fruitful discussions on a range of international and bilateral issues of our mutual interest.

I avail myself of this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health and further success in your highly responsible duties.

Public Announcement for remonstration

NATIONAL Progressive Party that had been allowed to set up as a political party headquartered at No. 888, 3rd floor, Myitta Road, Ward No.10 in South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region, has submitted its application for the registration as a political party to the Union Election Commission on 7 November 2017, along with the following party's name, flag and emblem.

In their application they mention that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement.—Union Election Commission ■

Flag of National Progressive Party



Emblem of National Progressive Party

