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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 66, 9th Waxing of First Waso 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 21 June 2018



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor separately receives Special Envoy of UNSG, European Commission delegation

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar

yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw to hear the envoy's feedback at the conclusion of her first visit.

During the meeting, the Special Envoy shared her experiences and general views

after discussions with government ministries and civil society organisations as well as affected communities in Rakhine State. The Special Envoy expressed her recognition of the Myanmar Government's

efforts on Rakhine State, including preparations for repatriation and resettlement process, and the complex and sensitive situation of Rakhine State.

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Preparation meetings for Union Peace Conference continue

The Government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw met for a third day at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday in preparation for holding the third session of the Union Peace Conference — 21st-Century Panglong.

It was attended by Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) secretaries U Khin Zaw Oo, U Hla Maung Shwe, U Zaw Htay, U Aung Soe and UPDJC members, representatives from the Government, Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw groups, and representatives of ethnic nationals and other groups.

Sector-wise discussions were held at designated places of the centre, and UPDJC secretaries U Khin Zaw Oo, U Hla Maung Shwe, U Zaw Htay, UPDJC member Brig-Gen Sein Tun Hla, UPDJC secretary U Aung Soe led the political, economic, social, security, land and the environmental sector discussions respectively with representatives of the Government, Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw groups, representatives of ethnic nationals and other representatives.

They discussed the political, economic, social, security, land and natural environment sectors.

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She also underlined the necessity to create conducive environment for returnees due to deep rooted division of the two communities, importance of freedom of movement and security, and urgency to implement the MoU signed with UNDP and UNHCR.

The State Counsellor explained that the confidence building between the communities requires patience and time, and the United Nations needs to support in those efforts. She stated that the mistrust between the two communities exists for decades. The incidents in 2012 deteriorated and the terrorist attacks by ARSA in 2016 and 2017 further worsen the situation. She pointed out that the people dare not to commute in Rakhine State due to the lack of security, not because of the lack of freedom



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with a delegation led by Mr. Pierre Amilhat from European Commission in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

of movement, and the Government, therefore, has been focusing on rule of law and development in Rakhine State. The

State Counsellor also pointed out that the hate narratives from outside the country has driven the two communities

further apart and stressed the need to focus on how to resolve the issue with forward looking approach.

State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received the Delegation led by Mr. Pierre Amilhat, Director for Asia, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Pacific of the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development of the European Commission at 15:45 hrs. on 20 June 2018 at the the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed the matters 9018 .on enhancing cooperation between Myanmar and EU in the areas of education, women empowerment and vocational training. They also exchanged views on possible areas of cooperation in the sectors of horticulture, agriculture and water management.

The meeting was also attended by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation, and senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA ■

71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee holds First Coordination Meeting

VICE President U Myint Swe, Patron of the 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee, addressed the first coordination meeting held at the meeting hall of the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The first meeting came after the 71th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee, working committee and security committee were formed in accordance with Notification 43/2018 dated 8 June 2018 issued by the Office of the President.

"With a view to awakening patriotism in youths and so as not to forget the gratitude of the fallen martyrs who sacrificed their lives for Independence, Martyrs' Day ceremonies are held annually and the coming ceremony turns 71 years", said Vice President U Myint Swe in his address.

Vice President U Myint Swe is the patron of the central committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko is the chairman of the 18-member committee.



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the first coordination meeting for holding 71st Anniversary of Martyrs' Day in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

The 26-member working committee is led by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, while the 16-member security committee is chaired by Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu. The committees are assigned to perform with 12 tasks.

To implement the tasks successfully, eight sub-committees have been formed.

On the coming 71st Martyrs' Day, a ceremony to offer soon (a day meal) to Members

of the Sangha dedicated to the fallen martyrs will be held both in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, and respective committees are urged to coordinate with the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Nay Pyi Taw Council and Yangon Region Government, said the Vice President.

He also urged participants to carry out rehearsals for flag hoisting and saluting ceremonies at the Secretariat Building in Yangon and to make arrangements for the opening the Secre-

tariat Building's meeting room where General Aung San and other leaders were assassinated 71 years ago on 19 July.

The Bogyoke Aung San Museum will be opened to the public on 19 July.

The Vice President also urged the security committee to coordinate with others to carry out its 12 tasks successfully.

He also urged the Ministry of Information to make arrangements for covering articles and interviews on Martyrs' Day, to

conduct essay contests, to broadcast and publish General Aung San's speeches, Martyrs' Day commemorative songs and to show documentary films in the state-run broadcast and print media.

Following his address, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein reported on the formation of committees and the progress of work for organizing the Martyrs' Day and future tasks.

Joint Secretary of the Yangon City Development Committee U Than, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council U Aung Myin Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, directors-general of the departments concerned, Yangon Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Soe Moe and officials concerned reported on measures taken sector-wise.

The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by Vice President U Myint Swe.—Myanmar News Agency ■