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Three dead after migrant workers forcibly enter Jade mine in Phakant

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A girl from Zedipyin Village in Maungtaw Township has her photo taken as she applies for a National Verification Card, the first step towards citizenship in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

Threats to NV card applicants by terrorists: Rakhine villagers

As the government steps up efforts at issuing the National Verification Card, the first step in the process towards citizenship, villagers in conflict areas in northern Rakhine said they have been threatened by terrorists who do not want them to apply for the card.

“They have seriously threatened villagers not to get the NVC. They have made death threats to villagers. These threats prompt villagers here not to apply for the card. The reason is the NVC cards can help distinguish between local people and immigrants.

They don't want that,” said U Aung Min, Director of the Rakhine State Immigration and Population Department, who was at Zedipyin Village in Shwezar Village-tract supervising his mobile team tasked with issuing NV cards.

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**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor**

**Press Statement
(7 November 2017)**

Press Statement by the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor on UN Security Council Presidential Statement, dated 6 November 2017

The Government of Myanmar has taken note of the Presidential Statement issued by the UN Security Council on 6 November 2017.

Myanmar appreciates the stand taken by some members of the Security Council who upheld the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of sovereign countries.

We have noted that the Presidential Statement partially acknowledges the dedicated efforts by the Government of Myanmar to bring peace, stability and development to Rakhine State, including the significant strides that have been made in the delivery of humanitarian aid and assistance to all those in need, irrespective of ethnicity, religion, or citizenship status.

The issuance of the Presidential Statement ignores the fact that the issues facing Myanmar and Bangladesh today can only be resolved bilaterally, in an amicable manner, between two neighbouring states. Furthermore, the Presidential Statement could potentially and seriously harm the bilateral negotiations between the two countries which have been proceeding smoothly and expeditiously.

As noted in the Presidential Statement, the Bangladesh Minister of Home Affairs visited Nay Pyi Taw from 23 to 25 October 2017. Both countries successfully reached agreement and signed two key documents that will impact positively on border security between the two countries.

Simultaneously, Myanmar Government officials are in close negotiations with the Bangladesh authorities on an arrangement for the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State. The Foreign Minister of Bangladesh has been invited to Myanmar from 16 to 18 November 2017. The intention is to reach an agreement satisfactory to both sides during his visit.

The Government of Myanmar therefore regrets that a Presidential Statement has been issued with regard to a situation that is in the process of being resolved amicably between two neighbouring countries.



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Sustenance and nourishment for our minds

By Khin Maung Oo

ENCOURAGEMENTS and efforts have been made for youths to develop reading habits since their salad days. Building libraries, holding literary talk shows and opening book fair festivals and book-stalls are opportunities for the public to have access to literature, in bringing about the development of probing knowledge from books and literature. Here, opportunities mean making necessary arrangements so that people will have opportunities to read and have access to good books.

The simplest answer to the question as to why we should read is “for knowledge.” In fact, in the three “lokas” or worlds (viz., the world of living beings, the world of material things and the world of mental phenomena, in Pali they are Thatta Loka, Awkatha Loka and Thinkhara Loka) in which we are living about with things

we have already known or otherwise. As for knowledge of human-beings, persons with a scanty knowledge excel totally naive ones, and likewise much knowledgeable ones are better off than those who have less knowledge. Accumulation of knowledge is the basic aim of education; an educated person has a better change of accumulating wealth and gaining a better position in society. Reading is the best and quickest way to acquire knowledge. Books and literature, sources of knowledge are likened to a treasure trove of knowledge.

Reasonable answers to the question why we should read include becoming a skilled and qualified person. Wisdom closely follows knowledge, giving good reasoning, judgment and ingenuity. A person who can differentiate the good from the bad, advantage from disadvantage and truth from falsehood automatically becomes the person who will bring about

benefits for their society and the world. By upgrading the capacities and skills of individual citizens, we can one day hope to have a country of citizens who possess information and skills for creating wealth and nation building.

This type of country will have qualified citizens for national development and prosperity. In such a situation, we would be ready to build a prosperous and Democratic Federal Republic.

We came to know that the advanced and well-developed countries have millions of erudite people. They—students, company staff and the people spend most of their valuable hours reading, in cars, trains, cafes, etc. They read books to broaden the scope of their knowledge and to keep pace with the developments of science and technology, in areas such as ICT – Information and Communications Technology, new technologies to tap renewable sources

of energy and more efficient and economic methods of preserving our environment.

Our people are by their innate nature desirous of knowledge and intellectual accomplishments.

The majority of the Myanmar people being Buddhists follow the teachings of the Buddha and he teaches us to seek Truth (Sacca) and Wisdom (Vija). He also teaches us that it is harder to control the negative emotions (such as anger, greed and ignorance) within oneself than to conquer our enemies in battle. We used to say, “Read books worth reading at homes, and just as he becomes an erudite person, his uncivilized wife can be made more civil through frequent hearing of his erudition. Good books and literature being nourishment and sustenance for our minds, we should select and read good books for improving our information, knowledge and wisdom.

The self-identifying people are always changing their stance

By Khin Maung Myint

WHEN the assumed name of the self-identifying race, which was never heard of before in the Rakhine State, first emerged in 1969/70, it was linked to an underground movement group. Their objective was to take up arms and fight to liberate the border areas of that region to create a Muslim enclave to accommodate the overflow of illegal migrants, who had been sneaking in for centuries from the East Pakistan, now Bangladesh. Their objective was similar to that of the Mujahideen rebellion of the 1948-1961.

I had time and again mentioned how that organization known as the “Muslim Independence Revolutionary Front” (RMIRF) was uncovered as a result of an anonymous tip off and the leader and some members were apprehended and jailed. At that time the authorities in Sittway, deduced that their aim was to continue the cause of the failed Mujahideen rebellions.

Soon after the RMIRF was uncovered, I asked some Rakhine town elders, including a well known retired lawyer in Sittway, who obtained a Barrister at Law degree from England, whether they know who those self-identifying people were. None of them knew or had ever heard of that name before. This fact alone was concrete enough to prove that there wasn't such a race that ever

existed in the Rakhine area. Thus it was just an adopted name for a purpose. As that organization was nipped in the bud and not much publicized in those days, you may not be able to find any record of the existence of that failed organization.

That self-identifying name went into obscurity for a while until 1974, when the pan-Islamic movements in the world was on the rise, it reemerged as an armed group by the name RPF-patriotic front. It was formed with the remnants of the earlier failures. That group splintered into many small armed factions, the most radical was the “Rohingya Solidarity Organization” (RSO). The RSO split again and gave rise to the “Arakan Rohingya Islamic Front” (ARIF) armed group. All of the above mentioned armed groups were mostly based in the border areas in the neighbouring country. Then recently the “Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army” (ARSA) emerged. At this juncture, it would be necessary to know their latest stance. They claimed that they belonged to an ethnic race of Myanmar whose ancestors had dwelt in the Rakhine area since the 8th century. If the date they claimed was true, their ancestors couldn't be Muslims. Those people who migrated into those regions were Bengali from the East Bengal of India. Thus they would be either Hindus or Buddhists by faith as those were the only two major religions of those people

in those days, years before the spread of Islam to that region.

The Islam religion hadn't spread to those region of India until the early 9th century. However, with the support of the Muslim communities from nearly all over the world and some Western countries, they managed to build a large and effective propaganda and lobbying network around the world.

The majority of the boat peoples who sought refuge in some countries in the region and also in the West were not from Myanmar but they were posing as residents of Myanmar and some illegal migrants from inside Myanmar. They also posed as an ethnic race of Myanmar who were being discriminated, persecuted, and unfairly denied recognition as an ethnic race or were denied the rights to citizenships.

Their ploy worked in the beginning as the international communities and even the UN organizations such as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) fell for their deceptions. Most of them managed to get settled in third countries as refugees with the help of the UN organizations. However, when the flow of fleeing boat peoples never ceased, those countries which accepted them as refugees before, refused to do anymore. Here, I would like to suggest that the responsible

organizations under the UN should make an actual list of those people who they had resettled or placed in refugee holding camps in some countries. I'm sure they will find that the numbers would be so large that they would be unrealistic to believe to have come from the Rakhine State alone. In the meantime their intensive lobbying had garnered much attentions, sympathies and support, especially from the rich Muslim countries, in the form of finance, morale supports and military trainings.

The latest mass exodus of people, who are trying to flee to the neighbouring country are undoubtedly lured by ARSA terrorists with false propagandas, threats and promises.

Also the INGOs and the biased UN rapporteurs lent hands to their cause. The 2012 riots was not an accidental one as in the past, which I had witnessed while serving in the Sittway District in 1968-70, but was intentionally staged to get the international attentions. The unthoughtful and unwise responses from our public made us the villains in the eyes of the world community and their stance worked in their favours. Our country

drew much criticisms, condemnations and was ridiculed as an oppressive country. In my opinion, that riot was part of their plan to get more sympathy from abroad and paint ugly images of our people and country. If that should be the case, they were very successful, because seasoned and well known militants from some Muslim countries came to their support.

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