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SUNDAY SPECIAL



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Security increased for ongoing terrorist attacks in N-Rakhine

FOLLOWING at least six more deaths of civilians in another wave of ambushes by extremist terrorists in northern Rakhine that included shooting attacks and the use of improvised explosive devices, security forces have boosted their operations in the restive western state, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

Yesterday afternoon, extremist terrorists killed Abu, also known as Bibi, 62, who is the head of the 100 households of Maungtaw's Myoma Taung Ward, officials said.

The statement from the State Counsellor's Office also claimed that Lateya Village acting village head Sweta Long, the head of 100 households Saed Kula and the village head office assistant Zahid Tusong were killed by extremist terrorists on Friday under the suspicion of being government informants.

Those killed were Lateya Village's acting village head Sweta Long, head of 100 household Saed Kula and village head office assistant Zahid Tusong (father) Saleh, aged 37.

Terrorists also fired into the house of a Hindu family in front of Maungtaw Hospital about 2 pm, killing one child and injuring a man. Earlier in the day, an



Villagers and security forces are trying to put out the fire in a village which was set fire by extremist terrorists.

PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE

armed clash occurred between security forces and extremist terrorists near Myothugyi Village in Maungtaw Township at about 11 am after the terrorists ambushed a police convoy with improvised explosive devices,

leaving one terrorist dead, according to officials.

In another incident near Nwayontaung Village in the township at about 9.30 am, about 150 extremist terrorists armed with machetes tried to attack se-

curity forces but were repelled.

Police at the Kyunpauk Pyusu police outpost in Maungtaw Township also dispersed about 300 extremist terrorists approaching the outpost at around 11:30 pm.

The terrorists also burnt down a village in Myinlut, destroying 88 houses, more than 100 shops, two mosques, eight religious schools, nine vehicles and four motorcycles.

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Vice President attends opening of MYTEL Head Office

A ceremony was held yesterday morning for the opening of the Telecom International Myanmar Co., (MYTEL) head office in Dagon Township, Yangon, which was attended by Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam (CPVCC).

The ceremony was also attended by Vice President U Myint Swe, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen

Nyo Saw, Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet Pone, officials from MYTEL and invited guests.

As part of the ceremony, CPVCC General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, Vice President U Myint Swe, Quartermaster-General Lt-Gen Nyo Saw, the MYTEL CEO and officials opened the MYTEL head office by cutting a ceremonial ribbon.

The MYTEL CEO then spoke about the status of completed project works, followed by MYTEL Chairman U Khin Maung Soe's remarks about implementing a high-speed telephone communications system



Vice President U Myint Swe, CPVCC General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong and officials cutting ribbon to open MYTEL head office in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

in Myanmar and other future works. Afterwards, the Ministry of Education and MYTEL signed an agreement for cooperation between the company and the

ministry in the education field.

The CPVCC General Secretary then delivered a closing speech, after which he signed the visitors' book together with the

Vice President and other guests.

This was followed by a photo session after which the ceremony was concluded. - Myanmar News Agency ■

Security increased for ongoing terrorist attacks in N-Rakhine

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About 500 extremist terrorists tried to enter HsinOh Village in the Ahtet Nanyar Village-tract in Yathedaung Township about 10:40 pm on Friday, but villagers and police were able to fight them off.

Extremist terrorists planted IEDs, killed villagers

Extremist terrorists are setting up mines to impede the movement of security forces and are attacking the vehicles of security forces with improvised explosive devices and are also killing village officials they suspect of being government informants, according to a news release issued yesterday afternoon by the

State Counsellor's Office.

The news release said extremist terrorists reportedly told villagers to avoid the internal road along Ward 5 in Maungtaw and the motor vehicle road on the Maungtaw-Myo Oo (Italia)-Cashew Plantation because mines had been planted to restrict the movement of security forces.

A three-vehicle convoy of security forces was attacked by extremist terrorists with mines and guns on a village road in Maungnamagyi Village, Maungtaw Township and a brief gun battle erupted, during which two Foton vehicles in the convoy were damaged. When the area was cleared after the brief firefight, security forces found



An improvised explosive device used by extremist terrorists in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: STATE COUNSELLOR'S OFFICE INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

a hand-made gun, wires and a small battery, according to the State Counsellor's Office. Yesterday morning, security forces discovered two mines on Maungtaw-Buthidaung Road near the old Myothugyi Village. The mines were connected with wires to a nearby house. The news release mentioned that there was a brief firefight between extremist terrorists and security forces near

that village. Meanwhile, the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee declared the attackers as a terrorist group and warned those who might assist the insurgents. More security forces have been supplied to assist in operations being conducted in the areas where extremist terrorists are known to hide, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.—MNA

National Human Rights Commission's statement

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued a statement yesterday condemning Friday's deadly terrorist attacks by Muslim extremists.

The statement said extremist terrorists attacked 30 police outposts in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships and also the regional Tatmadaw battalion headquarters, on Friday morning, resulting in the death of one Tatmadaw personnel, 10 Myanmar Police Force personnel, one immigration department official, and injuring nine security personnel. Many innocent civilians were also wounded and six weapons were lost, the statement said. "The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission strongly condemns such brutal attacks with various arms and weapons by extremist terrorists.

"These acts are considered to adversely affect the efforts of the government on stabilisation and reconciliation in Rakhine State", said the statement. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Merchants, Indian Ambassador hold talk over Myanmar-India bean trade

May Thet Hnin

A meeting between India's Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri and representatives of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and sister associations met yesterday in the UMFCCI office in hope of restoring stability to the Myanmar-bean trade after import restrictions from India rankled the market.

The meeting was also attended by officials of the Myanmar Rice Association, Yangon Region Commodity Trading De-

pot, Ministry of Commerce and Department of Agriculture.

H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri said bean production this year is up by more than 40 per cent compared to previous years, resulting in a drop of bean prices and prompting restrictions on imports to control the declining local bean prices in India.

The Myanmar Pulses and Beans Merchants Association explained the difficulties faced by the pulses and bean sector and farmers. Such difficulties have not been seen during the past 30 years of the two countries' cooperation in the bean sector. It

becomes harder to resolve these difficulties when restrictions are imposed without prior notice, said merchant association chairman U Tun Lwin. An urgent need to have a government-to-government agreement for a stable trade in bean between the two countries was also included in the discussion. Furthermore, discussions were also made on resolving the matter of beans that are already on their way to India, said U Ye Min Aung.

The announcement of India's new policy on beans that severely restricted imports was made on 22 August. Since that

day, bean trade in Bayintnaung has been temporarily suspended. Bean farmers and businesses in Myanmar rely almost exclusively on the Indian market, and many difficulties are now being faced, officials said. According to farmers, there is now a problem to find a market for beans that have already been harvested, as well as for beans that will be grown during the coming open season. With the uncertainty of the market conditions, it is becoming increasingly difficult to decide whether to plant any beans in the coming season, they said. ■