

Rakhine State Chief Minister tours Maungtaw region

DURING the 6-8 October tour of Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party, cash assistances, Ks49.33 million were provided to 4,933 families in the villages of Maungtaw for all sector development in Maungtaw region.

Rakhine State Chief Minister and members of the state government met with the local residents of Taung Bazar and Khamaung Seik villages yesterday and gave words of encouragements to them by explaining the current performances of the government.

Ks 10,000 per family were also provided to the families remained in their villages, Taung Bazar and Khamaung Seik, despite attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists.

The State Chief Minister and party fulfilled the current needs of the businesses which are requested by the local ethnic



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu hands over cash assistance to villagers in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

people. For the development of businesses in the region, electricity access and transportation, healthcare, social, education, agriculture and livestock and businesses developments will also

be carried out as short term and long term works by cooperating with the committees. As there is no worry for security, the local ethnic people must try to farm the long term crops and if there is any

difficulties, to report to the state government. Regarding resettlement works, the needs of the local people were inquired and explained back by the officials. — Naing Linn Kyi/ Thant Zin Win ■

Mum's peace process hailed with portraits

FROM PAGE-1

So we are always together with her. We support her endeavours with honour and respect. We take part in this activity to paint pictures of Mum who is always in our hearts," said U Aung Lin, a consultant of the association.

The artists presented their artistic works on the Mum's portraits as souvenirs to every visitor witnessing the activity at the gallery.

Artists also exchanged their works among them. Together with the professional artists, amateurs and invited guest were also present. —Zaw Gyi (Pannita) ■

The growing interest of Yangon's water bus

THE Yangon Water Bus system was opened to the public on 6 October and began operating on 8 October amid a large number of interested citizens.

At the opening ceremony of the YWB, Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said the water bus system will slightly decrease the congested traffic in Yangon by providing an alternate means of public transportation. The YWB project was led by the Union Government and handled by Tint Tint Myanmar Company.

Daw Tint Tint Lwin, the CEO of Tint Tint Myanmar Company, said the water bus system has a control center, set up with technology from Hungary, to address issues caused by people, machine malfunctions or the weather. She said the captains of the water bus were all required to have license of at least 10 years of experience with water vessels. The YWB will also issue prepaid cards linked with Anypay card system that can be loaded with a minimum of Ks500.

Thiha Htun rode a route from Insein to downtown on the new YWB system and commented on the water bus. "The



A water bus docked at the jetty. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

water bus are good for people living near the coastal area and it doesn't interfere with the people working in the river.

The YBS has to deal with traffic jams and you need to switch buses to get to most destinations.

The water bus doesn't have those problems and if in the future they put more bus stops and increase the number of vessels then I think it will become more convenient," he said.

The current operating bus route starts at Insein port, trav-

els through Shwe Padauk port in Hlaing, The night market port in Kyee Myint Daing, Lan Thit Port near the Mawtin overpass in Latha, Nan Thida Port in Pansodan and finally arrive at Botahtaung Port.

SEE PAGE-10

Cash assistance provided to the staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics in Maungtaw

THE ceremony for providing cash assistance to the families of the staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics in Maungtaw Township, northern Rakhine State by U Thet Naing Oo, Director General and staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics was held yesterday at the hall of Maungtaw District General Administration Department.

On behalf of Director General U Thet Naing Oo, Commissioner of the State General Administration Department U Kyaw Nyein provided the cash assistance, Ks17.184 million and received by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and state ministers on behalf of the staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics in Maungtaw. —Naing Linn Kyi/ Thant Zin Win ■

Rakhine State Chief Minister tours Maungtaw region

DURING the 6-8 October tour of Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and party, cash assistances, Ks49.33 million were provided to 4,933 families in the villages of Maungtaw for all sector development in Maungtaw region.

Rakhine State Chief Minister and members of the state government met with the local residents of Taung Bazar and Khamaung Seik villages yesterday and gave words of encouragements to them by explaining the current performances of the government.

Ks 10,000 per family were also provided to the families remained in their villages, Taung Bazar and Khamaung Seik, despite attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists.

The State Chief Minister and party fulfilled the current needs of the businesses which are requested by the local ethnic



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu hands over cash assistance to villagers in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

people. For the development of businesses in the region, electricity access and transportation, healthcare, social, education, agriculture and livestock and businesses developments will also

be carried out as short term and long term works by cooperating with the committees. As there is no worry for security, the local ethnic people must try to farm the long term crops and if there is any

difficulties, to report to the state government. Regarding resettlement works, the needs of the local people were inquired and explained back by the officials. — Naing Linn Kyi/ Thant Zin Win ■

Mum's peace process hailed with portraits

FROM PAGE-1

So we are always together with her. We support her endeavours with honour and respect. We take part in this activity to paint pictures of Mum who is always in our hearts," said U Aung Lin, a consultant of the association.

The artists presented their artistic works on the Mum's portraits as souvenirs to every visitor witnessing the activity at the gallery.

Artists also exchanged their works among them. Together with the professional artists, amateurs and invited guest were also present. —Zaw Gyi (Pannita) ■

The growing interest of Yangon's water bus

THE Yangon Water Bus system was opened to the public on 6 October and began operating on 8 October amid a large number of interested citizens.

At the opening ceremony of the YWB, Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said the water bus system will slightly decrease the congested traffic in Yangon by providing an alternate means of public transportation. The YWB project was led by the Union Government and handled by Tint Tint Myanmar Company.

Daw Tint Tint Lwin, the CEO of Tint Tint Myanmar Company, said the water bus system has a control center, set up with technology from Hungary, to address issues caused by people, machine malfunctions or the weather. She said the captains of the water bus were all required to have license of at least 10 years of experience with water vessels. The YWB will also issue prepaid cards linked with Anypay card system that can be loaded with a minimum of Ks500.

Thiha Htun rode a route from Insein to downtown on the new YWB system and commented on the water bus. "The



A water bus docked at the jetty. PHOTO: ZAW GYI

water bus are good for people living near the coastal area and it doesn't interfere with the people working in the river.

The YBS has to deal with traffic jams and you need to switch buses to get to most destinations.

The water bus doesn't have those problems and if in the future they put more bus stops and increase the number of vessels then I think it will become more convenient," he said.

The current operating bus route starts at Insein port, trav-

els through Shwe Padauk port in Hlaing, The night market port in Kyee Myint Daing, Lan Thit Port near the Mawtin overpass in Latha, Nan Thida Port in Pansodan and finally arrive at Botahtaung Port.

SEE PAGE-10

Cash assistance provided to the staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics in Maungtaw

THE ceremony for providing cash assistance to the families of the staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics in Maungtaw Township, northern Rakhine State by U Thet Naing Oo, Director General and staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics was held yesterday at the hall of Maungtaw District General Administration Department.

On behalf of Director General U Thet Naing Oo, Commissioner of the State General Administration Department U Kyaw Nyein provided the cash assistance, Ks17.184 million and received by Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and state ministers on behalf of the staff of Department of Agriculture Land Management and Statistics in Maungtaw. —Naing Linn Kyi/ Thant Zin Win ■

Student population increases to 9.1m from 8m

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi attended the opening of an upgraded village school in Ayeyawady Region on 7 October.

Together with MPs U Win Htut and U Thein Swe and Director-General Dr Aung Naing Soe of Basic Education Department, the Union minister formally opened the facility upgraded into an high school at Kan village, Pyapon Township of the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union minister said the Education Ministry opened 46493 primary, middle and high schools in academic year 2017-2018, up from 41361 in academic year 2011-2012. As regards the appointment of more teachers, he said the country has 369,661

teachers in the current academic year, up from 277,584 in 2011-2012. Student population increased to over 9.1 million at present from eight million in 2011-2012 thanks to the fair school admission system conducted by teachers, arrangement to provide assistance for student's facing various difficulties to attend school and the teachers doing their job well in a corruption environment. Now the country is moving towards KG+12 education system leaving behind 11-grade system. The ministry is drawing curriculum and syllabus for primary schools in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA, and those of the middle and high schools with Asia Development Bank-ADB.



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi presents gift of honour to a teacher. PHOTO: MNA

The school headmistress and the village administrator spoke words of thanks.

In the afternoon, the Union minister and officials met education officers, principals and teachers in Pyapon and visited

the schools in the town.

They attended the ceremony to honour students who passed the matriculation examination with distinctions and teachers in Pathein and distance education students of the education college

in Bogale.

After attending a ceremony to honour outstanding students in Dedaye, the Union minister met with education staff in Kawhmu Township, Yangon Region. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Chief minister urges inclusive ideas for regional interest

RAKHINE State cabinet discussed field trips for restoring stability and development in Maung-taw region hit by ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in August.

Speaking on the occasion Chief Minister U Nyi Pu said there cannot be excuse for any future mistakes. All-inclusive coordination must be made through the ground situation and the remedial action by the regional departments concerned in finding the best answer. There must also be unity and goodwill for durable peace and progress. All must prioritize the affairs of Rakhine State, the nation and the people. As the future task becomes more important careful and proper



Chief Minister U Nyi Pu delivering address at the meeting. PHOTO: MNA

measures are required.

Officials at all levels of the state presented accomplish-

ments, difficulties and future programs in connection with multiple fields including security, peace,

stability, reconstruction, health, education, economy, transport, communication, electricity, housing and rural development.

Cabinet members explained long- and short-term departmental programs.

In response, the Chief Minister said difficulties can be overcome through individual and group-wise coordination. There must be the conviction that all are in the service of the people. Cooperation is required in every tasks including data collection, resettlement and lasting progress. There must be inclusive ideas for regional interest. —Naing Linn Kyi/ Thant Zin Win (Myanmar News Agency) ■

Sittway selects social representatives

SITTFWAY selected seven representatives including two intellectuals for the meeting of all Rakhine State social organizations yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony held at Khaingthazin Hall in Sittway was attended by members of the social organizations of Sittway and the representatives to the meeting.

Social organizations presented their annual and financial reports. Well-wishers who made donations for social activities were also honoured. —IPRD ■

POOLSIDE BBQ & BAR

COLORFUL MOMENT
USD 29** / person

Available : Everyday
Dinner : 6:00pm - 10:00pm
For reservation: 01-9351061

Loa Seine
All Day Dining & Buffet

OCEAN TREASURE NIGHT
USD 39** / person

Available : Friday & Saturday Night
Dinner : 6:00pm - 10:00pm
For reservation: 01-9351053

무궁화
MUCUNGHWHA
KOREAN RESTAURANT

FULLMOON DAY SPECIAL MENU
USD 65** / person

Available : Everyday
Lunch : 11:30am - 2:30pm
Dinner : 6:00pm - 10:00pm
For reservation: 01-9351057

桃林
TOH LIM
Chinese Restaurant

ROYAL WINE PARING

Available : Everyday
Lunch : 11:30 am - 2:30 pm
Dinner : 6:00pm - 10:00pm
For reservation: 01-9351056

LOTTE
HOTELS & RESORTS

No. 82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6½ Mile, Ward 11, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: +95-01-9351000 Web: www.lottehotel.com/yangon

Didactic Teachers among those who deserve our infinite gratitude

Khin Maung Oo

IT is not an exaggeration in such a claim that teachers are of great importance for the future of our youths and our nation. Teachers play an important role not only in teaching but also in guiding their children to become well-behaved and ebullient ones. According to Myanmar tradition, teachers are placed on the same level as our parents who deserve our infinite gratitude.

Even careless negligence of gratitude towards our teachers should not be made on the assumption that they are only concerned with us in teaching. A teacher, in fact, is endowed with a teacher's virtues, nurturing their pupils as if caring for a flower till the day it becomes full bloom or shaping a gem to become a

precious and flawless gem. By dedicating their whole lives to teaching and the welfare of their pupils, teachers motivated by their deep-rooted desire to impart knowledge, are ready to give their time, energy and knowledge for their pupils. It is for this reason that the pupils need to reciprocate and pay due respects to their teacher in return.

Pupils rely upon their teachers. Therefore, teachers and pupils are required to abide by their respective duties to each other. As included in five duties of a teacher according to Myanmar traditional saying, a teacher performs the duties of giving academic teaching, guiding and reprimanding, if ever, sharing pupils with knowledge as far as one knows, preventing students from imminent dangers and referring

pupils to their betters who can be more beneficial to pupils.

Pupils on the other hand should observe the duties of pupils. They are, listening to teachers and their teachings attentively, welcoming teachers with respect upon their arrival, helping teachers with their daily chores as needed, and learning what teachers teach by contemplating or committing lessons to memory, if needed.

These are social ethics which are auspicious, included in "Senga Lawvada Sutta" that we Myanmar people follow for generations. For saying so, essentially we need to assess as to whether teachers and pupils are still performing their respective duties at the present time. With the developed and modernized world, these duties must be said to

have weakened more and more.

In reality, it is difficult to eke out one's living by following the teaching profession. They have to teach children day in and day out, prepare for lessons to be ready for teaching in class-rooms and try their best to become ideal lecturers who will comply with teachers' ethics. Therefore, it is important for students to perform their five duties towards their teachers while it is the duty of teachers to perform their five duties towards their pupils in return. This is in accordance with Burmese Buddhist tradition.

Accordingly, we hereby urge our students to respectfully and attentively acquire the academic teachings from our pure-minded teachers by paying due respects to them. ■

AFTER reading a very informative article written in Myanmar language by Lu Lay Wine, titled the "Pointing Fingers", though the article was based on an article in the Asian Times by Bertil Lintner, I see it as being written from the Myanmar's perspectives. I thought the author's views and analysis should be made available to the English speakers, so I will attempt to relate his views and opinions without trying to translate it as to the letter, as I may inject some of my on views and analysis wherever necessary. I will take great care not to miss the original author's messages that he wants to give the readers.

The international reactions concerning the Rakhine crises are mainly based on the plights of the over 500,000 Bengalis who took flight to Bangladesh. They are falsely labeling that exodus as an unprecedented refugee crisis, acts of genocide, ethnic cleansing, which infringe on the human rights, using the harshest of terms found in the dictionaries. It's true that those refugees are suffering hardships in the cramped squalid refugee camps in the neighbouring country, without sufficient food or water. However, it would be necessary to know the truth who are the real culprits behind the hardships they are being subjected to.

The international media are painting a false image of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). They are portraying the terrorists as ordinary angry and desperate innocent villagers who took up whatever arms they could lay their hands on, to revolt against the Myanmar government, as they couldn't tolerate the racial discriminations and persecutions by the majority Myanmar any more. Such simultaneous coordinated

Who are the real culprits

Khin Maung Myint

attacks on the 30 Border Police outposts at around (0100) hours on the 25 August were very difficult tasks for a ragtag collection of ordinary villagers to carry out by themselves. Only well-trained and seasoned fighters could plan and execute such assaults of that scale. Thus it is quite questionable, why the international media are playing down the significance of those incidents. Are they trying to hide the foreign involvements?

Try as they might, the truths are gradually emerging. According to some reliable sources, there were some 150 trained and experienced militants, most of whom were Bangladeshis and 8 militants from Pakistan, and smaller numbers from Indonesia, Malaysia and separatists from Southern Thailand were amongst the attackers. According to Bertil Lintner, even two militants from Uzbekistan too were involved.

The mentor of the ARSA terrorist group is one "Abdus Qadoos Burmi", who is effectively running the propaganda machine that is far-reaching. He had appeared in numerous propaganda video clips that were widely distributed to instigate a jihad style campaigns in Myanmar. He was born in the impoverished suburb of Karachi, where there are thousands of second and third generation Ben-

gali people who are mostly stateless and do not enjoy the privileges of the Pakistani citizenship, although they had lived there for many years and now some were even born there. He is linked to a Pakistan based militant group called the "Lahkar-e-Taiba". That group is said to be the largest and most active one in the South Asia region. Also, video clips of the would-be jihadists undergoing military trainings in Aceh, Indonesia are also being widely distributed.

As the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) are losing footholds in Iraq and Syria, concrete reports that they are intending to turn the South East Asia as their battle grounds are emerging. At such a time, the fact that some world powers, especially the US and the UK, and the international media are ignoring the significance of the threats of the ARSA and blaming everything on Myanmar. Those people should be viewed as ones who had lost their rationality all of a sudden.

The military leader of the ARSA is "Emir Attulah Abu Ammar Jun-juni", also known by another name as "Hafiz Tohar".

He was born in Karachi and educated at a madrasa in Saudi Arabia. According to Bertil Lintner, the former name of the ARSA was "Harakah

al-Yaqin", which meant "The Faith Movement", which had clear religious connotations. Later that name was changed to a more ethnically oriented one—"ARSA". The second in command of the ARSA is "Sharif" who is from Chittagong in Southern Bangladesh. He never appears in any of the ARSA propaganda videos. He speaks in Urdu, the Pakistani language. Thus none of the leaders are from Rakhine, Myanmar. Thus the involvement of foreign terrorists is undeniable, a fact, which some Western leaders and the international media and the authorities at the UN are trying to downplay or ignore.

One noteworthy fact is that, the ARSA terrorists never wear any kind of uniform, but are attired in everyday clothes like the common Bengali men of Rakhine. They mingled among the ordinary villagers, which provided them very good covers, so they are difficult to be identified or differentiated from the innocent villagers. That is a big problem for the Myanmar military and security personnels, who are performing law enforcements duties and maintaining stability.

They took advantage of the opportunities provided by their covers to mount surprise attacks. If the security personnels mistook them for innocent villagers they will have to pay with their lives and if some were killed by the security forces, even if they were terrorists, the security forces would be accused of killing innocent people by their lobbyists and advocates.

They could also cross freely into the neighbouring country after mounting assaults on the security forces. These are very difficult situations that our military and the police forces are facing.

SEE PAGE 9



Annually held Phaungdaw U Pagoda of Inlay Lake in progress. PHOTO: SAI ALBE (NYAUNG SHWE)

Inlay Phaungdaw U Pagoda festival concludes

THE 4 Buddha Images of Inlay Phaungdaw U Pagoda of Inlay Lake, Nyaung Shwe township, Southern Shan State started the tour to 21 places in Inlay Lake on the 1st Waxing of Thadingyut and on 3rd Waxing of Thadingyut the Buddha Images returned to their original residing Nanhu Yadana abode from Yetha village. The ceremony of Buddha Images entering the Nanhu Yadana residing abode was celebrated at the entrance gate to Nanhu Yadana residing abode at 9am of 8 September.

In the ceremony the 1st

Buddha Image was carried by Chief Minister of the State Dr Lin Htut and State Ministers, the 2nd Image by Commander of Eastern Command Maj-Gen Win Min Tun and other military officials, the 3rd Image by Minister for Bamar Ethnic Affairs of Shan State Government, Dr Aung Than Maung and State level department officials, the 4th Image by Minister for Intha Ethnic Affairs, Dr Htun Hlaing and Hluttaw representatives to the Yadana residing abode and offered rice, flowers and drinking water to the monks.

Afterwards, the Chief

Minister and the guests paid homage to State Ovadacariya Bhaddanta Veponla Bhivuntha and sanghas and offered offertories followed by libation ceremony.

Then, Intha traditional boat race including single-oared men event, 26-oared women event, 46 oared event and over hundred-oared event were held as part of the ceremony and the winners were awarded prizes by Chief Minister, Dr Lin Htut, Commander Maj-Gen Win Min Tun and responsible personnel.—Sai Albe (Nyaung Shwe)

Value-added products of palm fruits produced in Kachin State

VALUE-ADDED products using palm fruits have been produced not to waste its fruits at Anyartha Gyi small scaled enterprise in Min Tan ward, Waing Maw Town, Kachin State, according to Kachin State small-scaled enterprise department.

"Kachin State has no plenty of palm fruits as central part of Myanmar. In the central Myanmar, palm fruits have fallen naturally, but nobody ever thought of food production from palm fruits. Now, I tried to produce food from palm fruits and it is

successful. Later, the business will be expanded in central Myanmar," said U Okka Doe, a businessman.

As value-added products, jelly, soft drinks, and palm wine are produced from liquors acquired by grinding husks of palm fruits. Soft drinks from solid white flesh (kernel), pillows and bed sheets from dried fibers of palm fruits and palm fruits alternative fuels were produced. All these products were distributed in the market. —Sein Win (IPRD)



Value-added palm fruit products on displays. PHOTO: SEIN WIN (IPRD)

Who are the real culprits

FROM PAGE 8

The terrorists had established an efficient communication network. According to the eye-witness reports of those who were permitted to travel to those areas, they are equipped with the state of the art Satellite phones. Thus it's no wonder they were getting informations about our security forces movements before hand, which gave them great advantages. If we analyze the developments, since the next day after the report by Mr. Kofi Annan was made public, which were the simultaneous coordinated attacks on our security outposts, the exodus of over 500,000 refugees to Bangladesh, the discovery of

the mass graves of Hindus, the still ongoing fleeing of people, should be seen as important facts to ponder. Those with rationale and unbiased minds could see that none of those atrocities were done by our security forces.

Then, how come the international communities and organizations and the media could not see the truth, but drew the conclusions randomly without any concrete evidence to support them, that they were done by our security forces? Also, even if the United States of America couldn't receive all of the over 4,000,000 Syrian refugees, in whose displacements they had a hand in, except for about only 1500 persons to take refuge in the US,

why should we accept all the people who are saying they will not accept nothing less than the recognition by the name of their choice and will not undergo the verification process if their demands are not met? The United Nations should not bully us to bow to the international pressures again, as in the mid 1970s, to agree to their unreasonable demands. The State Counselor had publicly stated that our side will abide by the bilateral agreement of 1993, reached between Bangladesh and Myanmar, in verifying the returnees. Those who satisfy the requirements set in that agreement to be deemed as eligible for citizenships and will be accordingly granted. What could be more fair than

that?

In conclusion allow me to voice my opinions. The stateless people from Pakistan are definitely the descendants of the Bengali people who happened to be living there at the time of the separation of Pakistan from India on receiving their Independence and were left unrecognized as citizens for some reasons since then. They definitely were not from Myanmar and for that matter they were neither from Bangladesh. If I may further voice my views, the fact that the not properly trained and inexperienced, hastily recruited or conscripted villagers were let to spearhead the attacks were the most irresponsible and inhumane act by their leaders.

They were being treated as expendable pawns in a game of chess. They were purposely sacrificed as a ruse to deceive the world at large that the Myanmar law enforcement units used undue excessive force. The primitive weapons such as the machetes, home-made guns, and catapults etc, left behind after the skirmishes, too, were also part of their cunning tricks. I must say their plans worked. Nearly the whole world was deceived to believe that Myanmar security forces handled the situation high-handedly, by using excessive force in ordinary villagers armed with primitive weapons. In fact it is the ARSA terrorists who are the real culprits.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

Let the world knows the burning of Mro villages

The leader of Kone Tine Village and the villagers gaze mournfully at the remains of their village. U Maung Hla, the village leader, and the villagers had arrived to talk with the foreign diplomats who came to assess the situation in Rakhine.

"I don't want to come back here, it hurts my heart," says U Maung Hla.

Foreign Diplomats comprising of Ambassadors to Myanmar, members of UNRC, UNHCR, WFP, World Bank (Myanmar) and UNODC visited Maungtau Region on 2 October, a visit arranged by the Union Government.

The Mro people were farmers living peacefully in the hilly region where their Kone Tine Village was located until ARSA terrorists burned the area. Now their home is barren and destroyed, and devoid of people.

The attack on their village happened, four days after ARSA's attack in the Maungtau Region on 25 August, and displaced the 247 villagers. About 500 terrorists armed with guns, blades and sticks raided the village, killing villagers and burning their homes.

"Most of the villagers were able to escape because the village sentry sounded the alarm on time," U Maung Hla said in a hoarse voice filled with sorrow. "The ones who couldn't flee in time were killed by the terrorists."

U Maung Hla said he will never forget the images of his



Ethnic people of Rakhine State recount their horrible experiences to diplomats.



Photos show the burnt-out villages of ethnic people. PHOTO- NAY LIN

villagers beaten and killed as the terrorists surrounded their village and cut off all ways to escape. Three elderly people, two men and a five year old boy were killed and seven people received

incised wounds.

The Kone Tine villagers say they fled towards the east of Mayu Mountain and arrived at Pansay Village (Mro ethnic residence) in Buthidaung Township around

8pm. They stayed in Pansay for twenty days and arrived in Laungdone Village (another Mro ethnic residence) in Maungtau Township on 17 September.

"There was no time to gather

our belongings when we had to run for our lives," said U Maung Hla. "We had to leave behind our livestock too and who knows what happened to our crops."

The main source of income for the Mro people living in Maungtau and Buthidaung is agriculture. A Mro villager said that to reach Maungtau City from their village it takes an hour by foot to reach the main road and then two hours by car to Maungtau. Their village is located far from any Rakhine village and is closer to Bengali villages thus prompting villagers to refuse to return to their homes unless they were given proper security.

The diplomats met with survivors and remaining family members of the terrorist attacks who told them their firsthand account of the incidents.

The terrorist attacks in August killed 84 people who were Hindu, Rakhine, Mro, Dainet, civil servants, security officers and civilians and 54 people are reportedly missing and there is a suspicion they were kidnapped by the terrorists. The fire had burned and twisted the scythes in the fields, there were pieces of broken pots and plates scattered across the area and villagers searching for what remained of their belongings. As we gazed at this scene, U Maung Hla said in a sorrowful tone, "I want the world to know that Kone Tine was burned and its villagers were attacked and killed." —Thi Thi Min, Min Thit (MNA)

The growing interest of Yangon's water bus

FROM PAGE-2

Ko Htun Naing Lin, the project manager of Tin Tin Myanmar Company, said they are careful of overloading on the water buses. "The passengers have to get off the buses at the end of the journey regardless of which bus stop they had got on from. We will not accept even one person over the passenger limit since this form of transport is conducted on water and not on land so we will not overload the water buses. There is also a plan to set up a bus stop near Pun Hlaing estate as well," said Ko Htun Naing Lin. He also said the Insein route will be expanded to Shwe Pyithar in the future.

Dr. Maung Aung, the Secretary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority, said the Botahtaung-Insein route is the

first of three planned routes and the other two will be from Nyaungdan to North Dagon and in Star City Thanlyin. The ticket price for the water buss is Ks300.

Tint Tit Myanmar won the tender bidding. Two companies competed for the tender, however the other one was found having no experience. Tint Tint Myanmar had experience with water. So, Tint Tint Myanmar was selected. "A set of strict regulation had been imposed. We had emphasized on the regulation as it was a business in the water, hence more risks naturally," said responsible person from the company.

"The disciplines set included no chewing betel quid, no smoking, sitting on the seat while driving, no standing allowed and people were requested to follow the

discipline" said Ko Tun Naing Lin.

Currently five water vehicles are used and more will be added depending on the increasing number of users.

"Local people of grass root level got jobs as the wharf for water bus was built in Insein. There were a lot of commuters when water bus started. Most people in this area are hand to mouth workers and so they want to sell something at the wharf. However the place is of international standard and we don't know what will happen. We have to watch the place all the time to make sure no body is invading the area and sell something. I like to suggest to allow the vendors, but in a systematic and disciplined way," commented an administrator of west strand ward Insein township.

"Previously I was working as sewer. But the income was not sufficient and started selling. It is not allowed for the time being and we are running here and there for selling foods. Water Bus system helps the people in commuting conveniently to their works. We wish a place just outside the wharf area are designated for us to sell," said Daw Mya Mya Khin of that area. The schedule of the departure and arrival time are pasted on board for the commuters to know the schedule. "My family come and take ride the Water Bus as today is holiday. It is inconvenient to wait to get the seat as there are many people waiting. It is better to run more water bus to be able to accommodate the commuters. It takes one hour from Kyimyindine to Insein. The YBS buses are packed with

passengers but water bus is convenient" explained U Nay Win Aung of Sangyaung.

Yangon Road Transport Authority (YRTA) take no charge from Tint Tint Myanmar Co. for the time being. It is learnt that the case will be coordinated later.

Dr Maung Aung said, "currently YRTA has not discussed about the income sharing as their investment is so huge and the fare 300 kt per person is also very cheap. The expanded service will depend on the increasing number of the passengers."

Over 6 million people are living in Yangon Region and most people have to rely on Bus cars. Yangon water bus system under the arrangement of Yangon Region Government is hoped to be the convenient service for the passengers. —Zaw Gyi (Pannita)