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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 150, 9th Waning of Tawthalin 1379 ME

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Thursday, 14 September 2017



Authorities provide aid to people from Islamic community in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

in
Picture

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Most of the local nationals fled to safer places further south in Rakhine State, but hundreds of thousands of Muslims fled west toward the Bangladesh border. In the evening, security forces arrived at Tone Chaung Chaungwa outpost to clear the surrounding area and found two remote-controlled mines and a black suit with a mask attached on board a longboat 100 meters from the outpost.—Myanmar News Agency

Rakhine issue is an internal affair: Chinese Ambassador

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Mr Hong Liang, the Chi-

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Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in Nay Pyi Taw.

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Day two of Myanmar Global Investment Forum

Min Min Zaw, Mi Mi Phyo

The second day of the Myanmar Global Investment Forum - 2017 was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, under the sponsorship of Myanmar Investment Commission and Hong Kong-based Euromoney International Investor (Asia).

At the forum, U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce and Matthew Thomas, Banking and Capital Markets, Euromoney Institutional Investor, Asia Bureau Chief gave welcoming speeches. Discussions were made under the titles Will Myanmar Become a Production-Oriented Country?, Developing the Agricultural Sector into Modernisation, and Development of the Tourism Sector of the Nation. For the discussion Will Myanmar Become a Production-Oriented Country?, U Ko Ko Lwin, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Industry, said infrastructure must improve.

“Our country has great prospects for the production sector. For the time being, the production sector is decreasing, so it needs to be improved again. For



The second day of the Myanmar Global Investment Forum-2017 held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE THAN

the improvement in production sector, we need to have myriads of inputs. We must have adequate supply of electricity, water and raw materials. For those who would like to set up factories and mills, we must implement ‘one stop service.’ If respective zones develop, we firmly believe that job opportunities and the production sector will develop and we can protect imports slowly and slowly”, U Ko Ko Lwin said.

“Now we are giving out member cards for SMEs. Very

soon, the Government will form a SME Working Committee. If small and medium-sized entrepreneurs will invest, success will be achieved. The government will help them as much as possible, under the instructions of the State Leaders.”

Concerning the development of the tourism sector, Daw Ohnmar Khin, co-founder of Orchestra Travel and Sandoway Resort said, “In regard to travel and tourism, discussions were mainly made for investors from

home and abroad to invest in Myanmar. Moreover, we discussed the importance of sustainable tourism and eco-tourism. That is because it is of great importance how sustainable tourism and eco-tourism will be implemented after studying their developments, at the time when Myanmar is competing with other countries in tourism”. Then, she went on to say, “The hotel and tourism industry’s income exceeded more than last year’s estimated income — US\$2 million.

The present year’s income is estimated at \$3.5 million. The most important thing for the development of tourism in Myanmar is to improve infrastructures. There are many progresses in Tourism Law, rather than the former Tourism Law. The government is responsible to fulfil the needs of infrastructures. We must mainly implement PPP—Public Private Partnerships.”

Regarding modernising the agricultural sector, U Ye Tint Tun, director-general of the agricultural department said the private sector will be essential in improving farming techniques. “At today’s meeting, like the government implementing the development of the agricultural sector, we are discussing for private sectors as well to take part in implementation work. It is necessary for letting private sectors perform the tasks, rather than by the government only, in some spheres. Especially, we had to sell our produces as raw materials. We lack in the production of fine materials and value-added materials. So we need subsidies and technical aids to lift up value”, U Ye Tint Tun said. ■

Rice and cash provided to people in Maungtaw Township



Local residents accept rice and cash assistance provided by Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister Dr Chan Thar in Maungtaw. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister for Social, Dr Chan Thar provided free rice and cash assistance to residents in Maungtaw, yesterday.

The delegation provided rice sacks to the people of Maw Ya Wati Village in southern Maungtaw in the morning.

The delegation also provided rice sacks to Kyauk Panu Village and Ks100,000 cash was transferred to the village leader of Kyauk Panu Village to buy the necessary foods.

The party provided rice sacks to the local people in Inn Din Village and returned to Sittway Township in the afternoon.

U Aye Tha Aung and his

party provided over Ks40 million to villages of Aung Zay Ya, Aung ThaYa, Aung Mingalar, Phar Wutt Chaung, Laung Done in northern Maungtaw and villages of Maw Ya Wati, Kyauk Panu and Inn Din in southern Maungtaw during their two day visit, 12-13 September. —Min Htet Aung/ Tin Maung Lwin ■

More than 4,200 IDPs from local ethnic villages return home

As clashes abated between extremist terrorists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) and security forces yesterday, internally displaced persons from villages in Maungtaw and Yathedaung townships returned home, according to local authorities in Maungtaw.

More than 4,220 IDPs from 15 local ethnic villages in Maungtaw Township, five villages from Yathedaung Township and six villages from Buthidaung Township were escorted back to their homes, authorities said.

Since 25 August, when ARSA extremists launched a series of attacks on border guard outposts and an army camp, more than 90 armed clashes have occurred in

Maungtaw, northern Rakhine State, according to local police.

During this period, extremist terrorists burnt down houses in 45 places and killed security forces, civil service personnel, ethnic Rakhine civilians, other ethnic tribes, Muslims and Hindus.

The conflicts forced nearly 30,000 villagers to flee to Sittway, Maungtaw and Buthidaung. Hundreds of thousands of Muslims fled toward the Bangladesh border. Authorities warned locals in Maungtaw not to cooperate with or support terrorists, not to set fire to homes or properties and not to enter restricted areas as part of a new order issued last Saturday.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Armed conflicts should be eliminated to address human trafficking: VP U Henry Van Thio

VICE President U Henry Van Thio has called for eliminating armed conflicts in Myanmar to address human trafficking, stressing that eliminating armed conflicts plays a special important role in the government's anti-human trafficking endeavor.

The remark came at the ceremony to mark the fifth Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"In conducting anti-human trafficking activities, root causes of human trafficking need to be effectively addressed," said the Vice President.

"Only when the state is stable and peaceful, social lives of people can be peaceful and they can be outside of the danger of human trafficking. Therefore, an emphasis must be placed on peace building which is directly related to reduction in human trafficking," he added.

He also warned that workers migrating elsewhere due to difficulties about their livelihood are facing the danger of human trafficking. Lack of good education also increases possibilities of being trafficked.

Myanmar has been suppressing and combating trafficking in persons as a national cause for over 20 years since 1997.

Human trafficking continues to be happening in Myanmar due to such causes leaving people vulnerable as shortage of employment opportunities, low income, natural disasters and armed conflicts.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes documentary photos at the ceremony to mark the fifth Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar is encountering forced marriages connected with China; labour exploitation and forced prostitution connected with Thailand; forced prostitution and forced begging connected with Malaysia and forced labour in the off-shore fishing industry connected with Indonesia; and labour exploitation and forced prostitution in Myanmar.

In order to suppress and combat the aforesaid human trafficking activities, the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law has been promulgated and Anti Trafficking in Persons Police Division formed. Moreover, five-year plans have been drawn and implemented in a fashion involving all sectors. In this re-

gard, the third five-year plan spanning from 2017 to 2021 has been confirmed and approved. Implementation is under way of the four components comprising this third year plan, namely, policy and cooperation, prevention, prosecution and protection.

Myanmar ratified ASEAN Convention against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children in January, 2017.

"It is still necessary to enhance effectiveness in taking actions under the Anti-money Laundry Law against money and assets obtained through human trafficking. Only then will human trafficking networks be uprooted," said Vice President U Henry Van Thio.

The bi-lateral Standard Operating Procedures related to repatriation, reintegration and rehabilitation of trafficked victims have been signed between Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement of Myanmar and Ministry of Social Development and Human Security of Thailand.

Signing of the MoU between Myanmar and India has been initiated whereas the MoU between Myanmar and Thailand is under review.

In respect of recruitment of children as soldiers, the committee for preventing minors from performing military duties has been formed since January 5, 2004.

"Just as the Tatmadaw is

effectively undertaking measures to eliminate the child soldier issue, so also should other armed organizations do. This issue should be addressed with an emphasis on discussions in the peace process," U Henry Van Thio said.

In respect of elimination of forced labour, Myanmar has been a signatory country to International Labour Organization (ILO) since May 17, 1948 and undertaking its obligations.

With a view to enhancing effectiveness in taking actions against human trafficking, just as guidelines have been conveyed to prosecutors, so also the guidelines related to cooperation between the station police and Anti Trafficking in Person Task Force (ATTF) police have been published and distributed.

An initiative is in place to establish a special fund for supporting trafficked victims and enabling conduct of effective anti-human trafficking activities.

In the 2016-2017 fiscal year, a total amount of Myanmar Kyats 73,350,000 (Kyats Seventy Three Million and Three Hundred and Fifty Thousand) was given as financial support to 57 male victims and 291 female victims, totaling 348 persons.

In the current 2017-2018 fiscal year, a total amount of Myanmar Kyats 18,700,000 (Kyats Eighteen Million and Seven Hundred Thousand) has been given as financial support to 6 male victims and 23 female victims, totaling 29 persons.

—GNLM ■

Paper reading session for Rakhine State held

A paper reading session for the state of affairs in Rakhine State organised by the Research and Information branch of the Information and Public Relations Department, Ministry of Information was held yesterday afternoon at the Hall of Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said that the situation in Rakhine State is very serious now, and the facts should be known about the Rakhine affair in more detail. For this reason, it was decided to

conduct research and a paper reading session. This paper reading was made with the intention to develop the knowledge of the staff of the department and to understand more about the current situations by listening to the reading of the papers by expert researchers.

The ceremony was chaired by Deputy Director General U Aye Kywe, who introduced the paper readers to audiences. U Kyaw Zin Soe, Director of the Research and Information branch, read the first section

of the paper on Rakhine State affairs and U Tet Tun Toe, assistant director of Research and Information branch, read the second section of the paper.

Officials responded to questions posed by attendees and staff of the Ministry. Present at the ceremony were U Aung Myo Myint, Director General of Printing and Publishing Department, U Kyaw Soe, Managing Director of the News and Periodicals Enterprise, and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint addresses the paper reading session for Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR

Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORS

Khin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader),
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS

Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Sandar Soe
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTERS

May Thet Hnin,
mayreporter.mmm@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAM

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

EDITORIAL SECTION

(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Union minister holds meeting with CCI in Ayeyawady Region

U KYAW WIN, the Union Minister for Planning and Finance and the chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission, met with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) and sister associations at Patheingyi Hotel in Patheingyi town, Ayeyawady Region on 13 September.

At the meeting, the union minister encouraged the merchants to carry out effective activities for the development of the small and medium enterprises. For promotion of exports, our government will seek contacts for foreign markets, he said. He also promised to provide manufacturing assistance to improve products' quality. The government is prioritizing the agricultural, SME and construction sectors this fiscal year.

The minister called for creativity in manufacturing of the patheingyi umbrellas and, Hala-wah dough. He also called on



Union Minister for Planning and Finance and chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission U Kyaw Win meets with the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) in Patheingyi, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

the entrepreneurs to promote the collage industry.

The businessmen need to submit proposals through the MIC secretary office. The union minister provided solutions to problems faced by the CCI, developers, rice mill owners, Pi-

lawpinam association, Rubber enterprise association, bamboo and cane enterprise and patheingyi umbrella and traditional snack manufactures association.

Present at the meeting were the minister for the planning and finance, the minister of

municipal, the regional minister for industry, the departmental officials, Ayeyawady Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry chairman and members from the sister association, and 40 other participants. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Six locally made mines planted by ARSA extremist terrorists found

STARTING from early morning on August 25, extremist terrorists made violent surprise attacks on over 30 police outposts in Maungdaw region. Due to these attacks, innocent people, security forces, civil service personnel, Rakhine nationals, Hindus, Daingnet and Mro ethnic people including Muslims

were killed and injured. And most of local nationals fled to safer places.

On September 13 at 2 pm security forces from Ceti Pyin of region 11, in Yathedaung township returned from Pauk Pin Yin village of national ethnic people after delivering provisions and subsidies. On

arrival at Auk Nan Yar village at 3:10 pm, security found a plastic bag beside the road. Out of suspicion, the plastic bag was uncovered six locally made mines.

Tatmadaw and security forces provided provisions to 11 Bengali families amounting to 100 family members who re-

mained staying in the Bengali village, "Nga Yant Chaung", at 4:30 pm on September 12. The provisions included 3 rice bags, 1 bag of chilli, 1 fried fish bag, one pack of cooking oil and a pack of chicken meat stick. And, it has been learnt that 18 feeble Bengalis were given medical care. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Department of traditional medicine examines Myanmar Traditional Medicines

ACCORDING to the department of traditional medicine, 63 kinds of drugs were announced to be unfit for the public to take via state-owned newspapers, until 11 September 2017.

Traditional medicines have to undergo pharmaceutical quality control testing whether they are fit or not for consumption.

It has been learnt that there are altogether 13623 of

drugs registered and 2916 licenses have been allowed to produce traditional medicines.

For production, distribution and sale in markets, licenses for traditional medicines production are to be applied with brand label, bottle label and descriptions expressed in outer covering in detail attached—such as drug's name, its ingredients, applicable diseases, dosage amount, regis-

tration number, expiry date and so on.

After the acquisition of traditional medicine registration, license for producing medicine must be applied. Respective Region and State Supervision Committee inspect the industry and continue to submit examination record to the central traditional medicine supervision committee, allowing the industries to issue 3-year permits.

In case unregistered drugs, medicines unfit for consumption and those without permits are found, owners will be summoned to be warned or to make them sign not to commit further or to withdraw the medicines put on sale for market.

Traditional medicine law was promulgated by SLORC under law no 7/96, it was learnt. —Shin Minn ■

People who add fuel to the flame

Maw Lin

A slew of international news media are mistakenly posting on the internet that the Rakhine State affair is the violation of human rights or unfair suppression of a minority, who are different in race and religion. They are specifically trying to highlight that the said minority is stateless human beings without a hint of human rights. Citizenship policies were officially publicized by successive governments of this country that residents of Bengalis extraction would be acknowledged as citizens, if they did comply with the prescribed law. Practically, the Union Government has been exercising its authority according to these principles. The Union Govern-

ment has never claimed that the Bengalis in Rakhine State could not be granted any citizen rights.

The actual problem was that a group of ARSA extremist terrorists who were launching terrorist attacks in Rakhine State were not claiming citizen rights. Instead, they are just demanding that the Union Government acknowledge them as a national ethnic race by their desired name. On behalf of the so-called military leader of the ARSA extremist terrorists, a spoke-person disclosed, "Our original status as an ethnic race is required to be handed back to us." Such an expression of the word, ethnic means that they are claiming sovereignty pertaining to the area.

Why are the residents of Bengali extraction in Rakhine State claiming to be designated as an ethnic race? Though people of Indian and Chinese extractions had lived in the country for generations, no one made such a claim. Instead, they managed to peacefully co-exist with other national citizens, being satisfied with citizen rights granted. They never ever demanded for any privileges. ARSA extremist terrorists are making an attempt to carve out a part of the country, by claiming for rights of national ethnic people which do not completely concern them. Those who came to settle in Myanmar for generations, ipso facto, cannot become our national ethnic people. Any residents of

alien extractions who had lived here in Myanmar for generations are entitled to equally enjoy citizen rights, in the same way as other national ethnic people.

The demand of ARSA terrorists for national ethnic people's rights can be likened to the case of a guest who demanded inheritance from the landlord/ house-owner who granted him to stay. Even though the actual situations are quite self-evident, allegations that the Union Government has been violating the human rights of Bengalis in Rakhine State, without giving them any citizenship rights are, in fact, diverting people away from finding out the solution to the real problem. (Translated by Khin Muang Oo) ■

Trafficking In Persons And Forced Labor: Southeast Asian Scenario

By Helena Huang Yixin and Vincent Mack Zhi Wei/RSIS

In 2013, the United Nations General Assembly designated 30 July as the 'World Day against Trafficking in Persons (TIP)'. One key objective is to "raise awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking". What is the state of TIP and forced labour in Southeast Asia, and what is ASEAN doing about it?

SOUTHEAST Asia is currently the seventh largest global economy with a combined Gross Domestic Product of US\$2.4 trillion in 2015. It is also home to around 615 million people, making it the third-largest labour force in the world behind China and India. An active area for international and intraregional migration, the region creates opportunities for human trafficking and forced labour to take place.

The 2016 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons by The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes reinforced their previous findings that a person's socio-economic profile can be a determining factor in their level of vulnerability. Individuals living in poor or displaced and marginalised societies have a higher tendency to be targeted and offered false work prospects in other countries by traffickers or middlemen recruiters.

Growing Demand for Labor, Growing Vulnerability

Recruiters sometimes charge for the recruiting process, or engage in certain activities that force trafficked victims into situations of servitude. An example is when passports are confiscated and victims have to surrender to long working hours without proper pay, unable to return home.

According to the 2016 Trafficking in

Persons Report by the United States Department of State, many of the TIP victims identified in the Southeast Asian region are found in labour intensive industries, including in the fishing and seafood industries and in oil palm production.

The rising global demand for fish has caused an increased need for physical labour onboard fishing vessels. Over a short period of five years, the global per capita fish consumption has risen from 17 kilogram in 2011 to above 20 kg in 2016, according to the Food and Agriculture Organisation. In the Southeast Asian region, Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam are among the world's largest fish and seafood producers. Trafficked victims found in the fish and seafood industry have been identified as coming from neighbouring states, such as Myanmar, The Philippines, Cambodia and Laos. Manual labour is often needed on fishing trawlers out at sea for long hours and sometimes days, and in shrimp peeling sheds to prepare de-shelled prawns for ready global consumption. With the fishing vessel often out at sea, it is difficult for governments to monitor the working conditions onboard. Workers are sometimes tricked to work on vessels with little or no pay. Being constantly surrounded by water also means that escape is difficult for these workers.

Oil Palm Industry Next

In recent years, the global consumption of palm oil has more than doubled, particularly due to the cheap oil being an ideal raw material in the production of packaged food. As of 2012, Malaysia and Indonesia accounted for approximately 85 per cent of global palm oil production. The steady expansion of land cultivated for palm trees has caused an increase in the manual labour needed for the harvesting process, which is recruited both domesti-

cally and from neighbouring states.

In fact, research done by the Schuster Institute and Amnesty International discovered that the increased pressure in demand from consumers is responsible for driving up the numbers for forced labour in the palm oil industry.

Workers on oil palm plantations are not only involved in the cultivation and fertilising of palm trees. They are also responsible for harvesting fresh fruit bunches using long sickles and for collecting fallen loose fruitlets by hand. It is therefore not uncommon for the labour-to-land ratio for each worker to be 10 hectares of land. Labour abuses such as long working hours, passport confiscation, induced indebtedness, contract substitution and non-payment or underpayment of wages have been observed.

Due to the isolated nature of oil palm plantations and the outsourcing of recruitment, it is often difficult to detect labour abuse. This situation is further intensified when 'kernet workers' – helpers who have no direct employment relationship with the plantation companies – are hired to meet the harsh demands of harvesting the fruits in their prime condition.

Recent Efforts to Reduce Human Trafficking

In its effort to reduce human trafficking in the region, the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (ACTIP) was introduced and entered into force on 8 March 2017. As the only regional instrument associated with TIP, the ACTIP paves the way and provides guidelines for ASEAN Member States (AMS).

Since the ASEAN Declaration Against Trafficking in Persons Particularly Women and Children was adopted in 2004, ASEAN states have been playing

their role in this regional plan. Thailand has implemented amendments to the Fisheries Act by installing Global Positioning Systems (GPS) tracking devices on Thailand-registered fishing boats to assist in the monitoring of fishing vessels.

Malaysia has taken measures to enhance its labour investigations and enforcement activities to ensure employers in the palm oil industry abide by their employment laws. Seven out of the ten member states now have domestic legislations targeted at the investigation and prosecution of TIP.

ASEAN - Moving Forward

To maximise the efforts in combating human trafficking in the region, governments need to continue to pay more attention to the push and pull factors in their own countries. Peoples of ASEAN need to feel secure and confident in their governments and of their future. When they do not perceive a desperate need to seek employment opportunities in other countries, their chances of being trafficked for forced labour decreases.

It is also important for ASEAN to persist in its engagement with civil society organisations and enforcement agencies to counter the trans-boundary nature of TIP. More international organisations and their networks must be utilised to provide education and support throughout the region. It is only with concerted efforts and increased transnational communication that the ACTIP can fulfil its potential in combating trafficking in persons in the Southeast Asian region.

*Helena Huang is a Senior Analyst and Vincent Mack an Associate Research Fellow at the Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies (NTS) at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore.



Union Minister Lt-General Ye Aung and party meet with students at Myoma monastery in Maungtownship in tour of inspection of rebuilding infrastructures in Maungtown. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister Lt-General Ye Aung inspects rebuilding efforts in Maungtown

Roads and bridges in Maungtown which were destroyed in the terrorist attacks after 25 August are undergoing a rebuilding process.

Lt-General Ye Aung, the Union Minister for Border Affairs, and Lt-General Aung Kyaw Zaw from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) travelled to Maungtown yesterday morning to inspect the rebuilding processes of the Maungtown border fence, the Taungbazar-Piywet-Sinphyu Taung-Laungchaung-Warnat Yone roads and bridges.

The Union Minister also visited and gave words of encouragement and medicine to the Khami ethnic villagers who have fled their homes in

Sinphyutaung village in Buthidaung from ARSA extremist terrorists.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited Wanet Yone village where Myo ethnic villagers live and provided them with medicine and food rations.

He also offered a Warso ceremonial robe and donations to Sayadaw Badnanda Sarainda in the village. In the afternoon, the Union Minister visited the Myoma monastery in Maungtown Township and met with students from Nanttartaung Parahitta monastery in Taungpyolett Township who are taking temporary shelter in Maungtown.

The Union Minister donated school uniforms, exercise books and food rations to the students

and provided other necessities to the teachers.

Afterwards, the Union Minister visited Nyaungchaung village in Maungtown where Islamic villagers lived and told them that stability was returning to the region and therefore the livelihoods of the people will return to normal.

Later, the Union Minister met with staff members of the Youth schools under the Progress of Border Areas and National Races Department and the school for Women's vocational training. He expressed his gratitude and respect to the staff members for fulfilling their duties in Maungtown and conferred cash assistance to them.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice President to attend 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly

U Henry Van Thio, Vice President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will attend the general debate of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, to be held in New York, the United States of America. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives CEO of British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar



Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw shakes hands with Chief Executive Officer Ms. Chloe Taylor. PHOTO: MNA

Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Ms. Chloe Taylor, Chief Executive Officer at British Chamber of Commerce Myanmar yesterday afternoon

at Hluttaw Affairs Building I-1, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two officials discussed matters relating to British business in Myanmar and Myanmar's economic development. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Rakhine issue is an ...

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"The stance of China regarding the terrorist attacks in Rakhine is clear; it is just an internal affair; the counterattacks of Myanmar security forces against extremist terrorists and the government's undertakings to provide assistance to the people are strongly welcomed," said the ambassador.

"China's help for the Rakhine crisis is just a social obligation. The president of the Chinese Entrepreneurs Association, the vice president of the oil and gas pipeline project and responsible personnel from the Kyaukphyu Deep Sea Port Project were

brought here together with him; the company wished to provide assistance to the displaced persons," he added.

"It was very disheartening for the country when (authorities) were accused of human rights violation following the counter-attack on the terrorists for the security and stability of the State. The State Counsellor had given instructions to not use unnecessary excessive force and to conduct operations in accordance with the law while clearing the areas," said Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye. The minister explained that the extremist terrorists attacked first in 2016 October and

again in 2017 August. The repulsive attacks of the government forces were falsely expressed in international media, resulting in pressure on Myanmar. Actually, those who suffered from the terrorist's attacks were minority ethnics, the minister said. "In the attacks, those being killed were ethnic minorities; in northern Rakhine, people of Islamic faith are the majority, and Rakhine and other ethnics were minorities." "Besides, the five people of Hindu faith who fled to Bangladesh were coerced to act as people of Islamic faith and give false statements to vilify the security forces. Those made-up stories were put into video coverage," he added. All the people of Islamic faith

5 people of Hindu faith who fled to Bangladesh were coerced to act as people of Islamic faith and give false statements to vilify the Myanmar security forces.

were not taking part in terrorist attacks. Islamic villages which want to live in peace were co-operating with the government. Humanitarian assistance was provided through the Red Cross Movement. There were coordination meetings between the government and Denmark, the United States, Britain, Australia and the European Commission, which were the donor countries for the Red Cross Movement works. Currently there are over 26,000 displaced persons in Sit-tway. Food, education and health services were already arranged. It was also arranged to return the refugees to their original places. The relief camps won't exist too long, the minister added.—MNA