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‘Rights not achieved through terrorism’: Muslim villager

By Tin Maung Lwin & Min Htet Aung

JOURNALISTS who travelled to Maungdaw on 6 September spoke with Muslim residents who described the events of 25 August, when the most recent terrorist attacks occurred, and life in Rakhine since then.

Villagers from conflict areas are currently being housed in several shelters throughout Maungdaw.

Reporters also met with Colonel Phone Tint, Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs, who said that they were able to calm the situation in two days after the attacks on 25 August. He said that leaders of Islamic villages who guaranteed they had no affiliation with terrorists peacefully let the security troops perform inspections of their communities. Rakhine and Hindu ethnics who are taking refuge from ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks were placed in eight temporary shelters throughout Maungdaw. U Ye Htut, Maungdaw District Deputy Commissioner, told members of the media that temporary shelters will be set up for Islamic villagers who can guarantee they are in no way connected to the terrorists.

Currently the Islamic villages of Shwe Zar, Maung Ni and



U Rawshi Ahmed of Gonenar Village.



U Taw Rud, Kanyintan ward, Maungdaw Myoma

Myomaka Nyindan wards have been left untouched by ARSA terrorists. Members of the media met with some Muslim villagers to ask for their perspective on the current situation.

U Maw Ni Ahmed, 54, Of-



U Maw Ni Ahmed, officer in-charge of Kappakaung Village, Shwezar village-tract, interviewed by journalists. **PHOTO: MAUNG HMWE**

ficer in-charge of Kappa-kaung Village, Shwezar village-tract

Q: Was your village included in any terrorist attacks?

A: No, nothing of the sort happened here in 2012 or 2016 either. However, a month before

these recent attacks, some terrorist members came into our village and killed four villagers because they said we collaborated with the government.

Q: What is the situation in the village like after the attacks on 25 August? **SEE PAGE-7**

US senator: Do not attack the State Counsellor

WASHINGTON — US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said yesterday that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's position in the government was “exceedingly difficult” and that as a civilian, she had virtually no authority over the military. He warned that weakening her could interfere with the country's transition from decades of military rule.

McConnell said he expected a briefing soon from Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's office and that she was “trying very hard to improve conditions” for the Muslim community.

“Burma's path to representative government is not at all certain and is certainly not over. And attacking the single political leader who has worked to further democracy within Burma is likely to hinder the objective over the long run,” McConnell concluded.

Mr. McConnell, the head of the Senate, equivalent to the upper house of parliament, had spoken with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday and that she said she was working to get aid to the Muslim areas in Rakhine State that were affected by violence from terrorists.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung provides cash assistance to ethnic nationals who fled from attacks by ARSA terrorists at Yadana Beikman Monastery relief camp in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and group provide cash assistance in Sittway

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and party accompanied by Rakhine State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Chan Thar, Rakhine State Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation U Aung Kyaw Zan and officials went to temporary relief camps in Sittway and provided cash assistance to ethnic nationals who fled from attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists.

First, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and party pay homage to

Lawkanandar Pagoda in Sittway and donated money.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party then went to Ngasarine Chaung monastery relief camp and Satyonesu Ward 1 Yadana Beikman Monastery relief camp and provided cash assistance. Next, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Saw Moe Myint provided the cash donated by Aungmyinthu and Online Family.

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung told the ethnic nationals from

villages in Maungtau region who were in the relief camp in Sittway that government and Tatmadaw is working together for Maungtau region security and rule of law. He also told the local ethnic nationals of working to ensure work opportunities, acquire electricity, improve transportation and once the region is stable, to return to their own places. Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and party left Sittway Airport in the evening for Yangon it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency

Displaced Hindus provided with traditional medicine health care

Hindus displaced by the attack of ARSA extremist terrorists staying in the Kyaungtatlan ward relief camp in Sittway, Rakhine State, were provided with health care by the State Department of Traditional Medicine yesterday morning.

Daw Thein Thein Oo, the head of the traditional medicine department, said treatment, medicine and consultation were being provided.

“We are helping with our traditional medicine expertise. The head office is also providing medicines to conduct site visit treatment.

Health care will continue to be provided to the relief camps in Sittway. Most health problems are diarrhea, headache, insomnia, knee pain and back ache, while for children cough and asthma were the most treated.”



Traditional practitioners give health care to Hindus displaced by the attack of ARSA terrorists at a relief camp in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Maung Maung Aye, a Hindu who was displaced from Ward 4, Maungtau, said he was thankful for receiving treatment by traditional medicine, as it is very effective for aches in the knee, back and

joints. A total of 107 Hindus in the Kyaungtatlan ward relief camp were treated by the State Department of Traditional Medicine department head Daw Thein Thein Oo and staff. —Tin Tun IPRD ■



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talk with Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar

THE chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Thura U Shwe Mann received the Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Tateshi Higuchi yesterday morning at the Hluttaw Affairs Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, matters relating to bilateral relations and cooperation, economic development of Myanmar, peace and stability in Myanmar, and assistance from Japan on socio-economic development in Rakhine State were discussed. —Myanmar News Agency

Thai court approves Ks71 million for 14 Myanmar migrant workers

The Supreme Court of Thailand yesterday approved compensation of Ks70,948,067.49 (US\$52,000) in a landmark test case for 14 Myanmar migrant workers who endured forced labour and other rights violations at the Thammakaset Chicken Farm in central Thailand.

The Supreme Court, upholding a previous decision of a labour court to award the compensation, rejected Thammakaset's appeal against the compensation order for the final time. The 14 worker's own litigation, claiming US\$1.25m in damages and compensation for abuses suffered and filed against Betagro, a major Thai food exporter, Thammakaset and Lopburi Department of Labour Protection and Welfare (DLPW) officials remains pending a final ruling of the Supreme Court expected later this year. The workers say the DLPW order doesn't award them adequate compensation for up to 5 years of abusive work conditions.

The workers alleged grueling working days stretching up to 20 hours and forced overtime including sleeping in chicken rearing areas overnight. Further, the workers alleged unlawful deduction of salaries, threats of further deductions, confiscation of personal identity documents and limited freedom of movement.

The test case has attracted considerable international atten-

tion, including online campaigns that have garnered more than 70,000 signatures.

The Thammakaset case comes at a time when Thailand's migrant worker management and protection policies as well as human trafficking record are under increased global scrutiny.

Thailand's poultry export industry has already come under serious scrutiny for its poor labour conditions in reports published by corporate social responsibility watchdog groups Finnwatch and Swedwatch.

Thailand is the world's 4th largest poultry exporter, often for use in processed or ready-made meals, and mostly to European Union and Japanese markets.

A human rights activist who endured similar litigation and was forced to leave Thailand said yesterday's ruling was significant, but stressed the fight was not over.

“This is a very important ruling by the Supreme Court to award much deserved compensation to the 14 migrant workers,” said Andy Hall, a prominent British rights activist in both Thailand and Myanmar.

“Of much concern, however, is the ongoing judicial harassment of the workers, who are now facing criminal defamation and theft charges, as well as the additional criminal charges against me.” —GNLM ■

Hluttaw to work with Government, Tatmadaw for Maungta stability

Remarks of Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung

By Tin Maung Lwin, Min Htet Aung

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung together with Rakhine Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Chan Thar visited the Maungta region on 12 and 13 September and provided cash and rice to families of security personnel and ethnic nationals killed in the attacks by ARSA extremist terrorists. They also encouraged and provided rice bags to ethnic nationals who remain in their respective villages.

Below are the remarks of the Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Hluttaw representatives who made the trip.

U Aye Tha Aung (Deputy Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw)

"Of the violence and terrorist attacks that occurred thrice in Maungta region in 2012, 2016, 2017, this is the worst. The number of armed attackers and supporters is quite high, according to relevant authorities. This is dangerous and of serious concern for the security forces, local people and the nation's sovereignty.

When the latest attacks occurred, we came along with Shan, Kayin, Kachin and Rakhine ethnic national Hluttaw representatives to find out how the Hluttaw can support from its side with the Hluttaw representative observing the situation first-hand. To find out what can be done immediately and what is to be done for the long run. This is why we came.

In this trip, we provided cash donations to the best of our ability. Cash donations from the Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker family and my family as well as those who came along with me were di-



U Aye Tha Aung

vided into two parts. We donated cash to families of the Tatmadaw and Police Force personnel killed. We also donated cash to families of the ethnic nationals killed. Of the remaining, we bought food, mostly rice and donated this.

The rice was donated as a priority to villagers who were fearful but resolutely remained in their respective villages instead of going to temporary relief camps. We also donated rice bags to relief camps in Sittway. There is a lot need to be done for the fear felt by the ethnic nationals we met throughout the trip. For now, I would like to thank the Tatmadaw, Police Force and public servants who are defending the region.

This time, it (the attack) was done with a specific aim. They are planning to take over the region if there are no police posts and security forces. It had reached the stage of attacking the sovereignty of the country.

Meanwhile, some countries and media are supporting and inciting terrorist organisations by describing the incident in many ways. Whoever says whatever, we could not forgive and turned a blind eye on the attack on the sovereignty of our country. The current work is the responsibility and duty to protect the local



U Nyi Pu

ethnic national people's life and property. Locals dare to stay only if there is security. They said they dare not stay behind if the security forces leave.

Therefore, security posts need to be in place. For the long run, transportation infrastructure needs to be good and for regional development, peace and stability, our hluttaw will do our part to work together with and support the government and Tatmadaw".

UNyi Pu (Rakhine State Chief Minister)

"Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and ethnic national hluttaw representatives bought rice with their own money and provided this in person and encouraged the ethnic nationals who remain resolutely in their respective villages. It is strengthening these ethnic nationals who remain determinedly in their villages.

Ethnic nationals were surprised and appreciated the Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker came in person and provided support. There were invitations to come again. I also saw indications that if we provide more adequate security arrangements, they will stay on and maintain their own places without fleeing from it".



U Saw Moe Myint

U Saw Moe Myint (Amyotha Hluttaw representative)

"I didn't expect ethnic nationals to steadfastly stay on in their respective places, but I'm glad to see this. I greatly respect and honour such endeavours. These people do not want aggressors and interlopers taking over the lands of their forefathers and will stay on in their own places. I'm happy for this. The government needs to reconstruct their lives. Plans need to be thought out for them to live on forever through agriculture and livestock breeding and for their sons and daughters to have sustainable economic activities.

For now, support and assistance need to be provided for agricultures and livestock breeding. Another is transportation. Transportation needs to be improved so that there is no recurrence of terrorist activities and to effectively and quickly defend and remove terrorist activities if it occurs again. Fake and untrue news were seen to be distributed by some countries. There is a responsibility to say that these are not true. We will continue to do so. This region is very good for agriculture and livestock breeding. That is why they will come back.

When they come, responsible persons should ensure that



U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe

administrative and judicial sectors are in place".

U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe (Amyotha Hluttaw representative)

"In this trip, we went deeply into villages with the Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and found ethnic nationals who stayed behind in some villages to have fears and worries. They fear for their lives more than they worry for their livelihood. Providing aid is a temporary resolution of current difficulties. I think the Hluttaw should decide on reconstructing their lives with the union budget.

I consider the terrorist acts on these ethnic nationals as a terrorist act against the union. I felt quite badly for these terrorist acts. As it is visibly obvious, I think this needs to be handled on the union level. Priority should be given to use the union budget for Maungta region development. The government needs to think of setting up aims and plans to rebuild the damaged and destroyed villages, to have a regular income and for long-term economic development. Our Hluttaw sector will also do so. It is important for ethnic nationals to live on in their region and land where their forefathers had lived. ■

Graduates from NYRDDCs donate money to displaced nationals

Graduates of the Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree Colleges (Yangon, Mandalay and Sagaing) gave monetary subsidies to displaced local nationals now in the Sittway

rescue camp, due to the attack of extremist terrorist attacks, it was learnt.

The NYRDDC graduates donated Ks1 million to U Kyaw Hla Tun, State Advocate and

Chairman of Donation Acceptance and Distribution Committee, Rakhine State Cabinet on Wednesday morning.

"NYRDDC graduates from Sittway organised our fellow

graduates who are now in different departments and regions to contribute to the fund as much as possible, for the displaced nationals in Maungta region, who are greatly in trouble."

Tomorrow, graduates from NYRDDCs will go to rescue camps in Buthidaung and Maungta to offer donations to local nationals, it was learnt.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Survey on recommendations for Rakhine to be completed in two weeks

A committee on implementing recommendations on Rakhine State announced that it will complete its ministry-wise survey about the situation on the ground in Rakhine State within two weeks.

“On the advice of the Advisory Commission’s recommendations and the Investigation Commission on Maungdaw region, the committee is obliged

to implement the advice which ensure benefits to the people and which are acceptable to the actual ground situation, setting priority levels to the outcomes of the survey,” Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, said in his capacity as the chairman of the committee at the meeting.

The meeting becomes the first discussion of the committee

which formed on 12 September by the President. U Nyi Pu, Rakhine State Chief Minister and co-chairman of the committee, stressed the need to find “possible things” and “pragmatic works for the long-run in order to bring change to the works”. “Security and the rule of law should also be considered when implementing the advices,” said U Nyi Pu. Members of the imple-

mentation committee on recommendations on Rakhine State are permanent secretaries of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Religion and Culture, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health and Sports

and acting directors-general of the Office of the President and Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The final report of the Advisory Commission released on 24th August puts forward recommendations to surmount the political, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges that currently face Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■

CLMV forestry sector investment conference

A conference on forestry sector investment attended by representative from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam (CLMV), jointly hosted by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Korea Mekong Forest Cooperation Center (KM FCC), was held in the Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At yesterday’s conference, U Khin Maung Yi, the permanent secretary of the Ministry of

Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, said “Today’s conference was held with an aim for CLMV countries to understand the present forestry sector investment situation and to share investment opportunities and information to people related to the forestry sector. Myanmar plans to continuously manage Myanmar forestry resources, and the status of long-term finances and investment in the forestry sector is impor-



U Khin Maung Yi addresses at the conference on forestry sector investment in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

tant. As such, the government is not doing this on its own, but cooperating with the private sector and international organisations.” Those attending the conference discussed views on forestry sector investment. The

conference was attended by officials of Forestry Department, forestry sector representatives from CLMV countries, INGO/NGOs and private organisations.—Myanmar News Agency ■

U.S. senator: Do not attack the State Counsellor

FROM PAGE-1

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi “agreed with the need for immediate and improved access of humanitarian assistance to the region, particularly by the International Red Cross, and she conveyed that she is working toward that end,” McConnell said on the Senate floor.

McConnell, whose Republicans control majorities in both houses of Congress, repeated earlier criticism of a resolution introduced in the U.S. Senate urging the State Counsellor to do more for members of the Muslim community in northern Rakhine, and lessening the chance that any such measure could pass.

McConnell has had close ties to the State Counsellor for years. He said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told him when they spoke on Wednesday that allegations of violations of human rights would need to be addressed.

Attacks by terrorists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on security posts last month triggered an army operation that has killed more than 400 terrorists.

The State Counsellor has since faced criticism from fellow Nobel laureates and religious leaders.

The United Nations appealed yesterday for massive help for the nearly 400,000 who fled to Bangladesh, amid concern the number could keep rising.—Reuters ■

Six IEDs planted by ARSA terrorists defused

SIX improvised explosive devices allegedly planted by Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) terrorists were defused in a conflict area in Maungdaw in northern Rakhine on Wednesday.

Security forces found the IEDs on their way back to their base after delivering aid to a village in Maungdaw Township.

“The security forces saw piece of plastic in the ground near Auknan Village, dug out the area and found six home-made mines around 3:10 pm,” a statement released by the information committee of the government said. The IEDs included two home-made mines made of car pistons and four mines made of iron pipe, according to

the statement.

One day before the discovery of the mines, security forces delivered aid including rice and dry fish to 100 members of the Muslim community from 11 families in Ngayantchaung Village in Maungdaw Township. Extremists from ARSA began the latest wave of violence on 25 August, when the terrorists

conducted violent surprise attacks on over 30 police outposts in the Maungdaw region.

Due to these attacks, local authorities said, over 400 civilians, security forces, civil service personnel, Rakhine nationals, Hindus, Daingnet, Mro ethnic people and Muslims were killed and many more injured.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Arrest and investigation of suspicious person

THE village administrative office of Letwedatpyinshay Village in Buthidaung Township reported detaining a man in his twenties suspected of being involved in terrorist activity. Security forces went to arrest the suspicious man on 13 September afternoon. He was found to have come through the Inphauk mountain pass route and as he entered Letwedatpyinshay Vil-

lage, he was unable to tell local ethnic nationals his name and address and was detained in order to investigate whether he was involved in terrorist activities.

Between 6 and 13 September, engagement between security forces and ARSA extremist terrorists declined and stability was regained while displaced persons were being sent back

to their home villages. Escort-ed back to their homes were 4,228 persons from 15 villages and wards/villages in Maungdaw Township, four villages in Buthidaung Township and six villages from Yathedaung Township, officials said.

As security forces were able to dominate the area, displaced ethnic personnel returned to their places of origin.

Starting from the early morning of 25 August, ARSA extremist terrorists launched simultaneous attacks on more than 30 border police posts in Maungdaw region, killing and wounding security forces, civil servants, Rakhine ethnic nationals, Muslims, Hindus, Dinets, and Mro ethnic nationals and displacing ethnic nationals.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Message Extended by U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, to the 7th International Day of Democracy

15 September 2017

My fellow citizens,

First of all, I extend my wishes to all citizens of Myanmar to enjoy the essence of democracy fully on this auspicious occasion of International Day of Democracy which falls on today.

This year marks the seventh anniversary of celebrating the International Day of Democracy in Myanmar. Today, Myanmar is striving to reach goals such as transition to democracy, peace and prosperity. These goals are interconnected as well as interdependent with one another. Although we are moving step by step along the track of democracy, building democracy is a long journey that is also time consuming. It can be said that Myanmar is just beginning to see the light of democracy which had been deprived of for many decades.

The people of Myanmar will have to continue to work with perseverance for the emergence of a firm and sustainable democratic system and for a successful and smooth transition throughout the journey.

My fellow citizens,

In practicing the democratic system, the priority is to fulfill aspirations and desires of the majority of the people, and in doing so, we will need to consider the interests of the minority as well. It is crucial to fulfill hopes of people in accordance with the norms of democracy such as justice, equality, freedom and transparency.

The progress of democracy will be different in shapes and approaches, based not only on a country's history, society, culture and values, but also on its politics, social and economic activities. However, the maturity, thoughtfulness and discipline of the people are key elements in bringing about the successful achievement of democracy.

Myanmar is a country where different national races reside with the coexistences of diverse cultures and religions. Establishing harmony and unity among diversities is very important. In doing so, the emergence of a Federal Union that is acceptable by all is essential. Building a Federal Union is directly associated with the success of the national reconciliation and peace process.

The Government of Myanmar is working hand in hand with the people for the emergence of a democratic Federal Union, and at the same time, is endeavouring to achieve an enduring peace and national development.

My fellow citizens,

At the second session of the Union Peace Conference 21st Century Panglong, held recently, representatives from different ethnic groups and organizations held discussions on how to realize dreams from which the people have had for many decades.

The authority of a democratic Federal Union derives from its entire people. In addition, a democratic system allows every ethnic group to enjoy equal rights not only of politics and ethnicity but also in preserving their language, culture, customs and traditions. To achieve sustainable development in building democracy, our society must be nurtured to become a peaceful and all-inclusive one. Furthermore, trustworthy and inclusive institutions should be constructed at every single level to ensure that justice is exercised in a fair and just manner for everyone,

A united society with consolidated democracy can be established if internal peace based on people's aspiration for peace, along with mutual understanding, respect and faith in each other among all forces emerge.

In the national peace process, a democratic Federal Union that all people have been longing for could be built if all participants are working together with perseverance.

Thus, on this auspicious occasion of the International Day of Democracy, I solemnly urge each and every citizen to take an active part in successfully building a democratic Federal Union with the democracy spirit, "Together with the people."

'Rights not achieved through terrorism': Muslim villager

FROM PAGE-1

A: We heard a lot of gunshots around 2 am on the first day of the attacks. Then we heard terrorists had attacked the police outposts, but our village is still devoid of conflict. We can't travel to Maungtau yet but I heard we might soon be able to. I was born here in Shwezar and it has about 15,000 people in it.

Q: We heard there was a fire here on 5 September. How did it happen?

A: The fire was in Gonenyar village and it burned 38 houses. It was rumoured that terrorists lived there. That village is a bit far from our village. There are twelve villages in Shwezar village-tract. There is one village of Rakhine ethnics, one village of Hindu people and ten villages of Islamic villagers. Nine of the villages have made an agreement with the region's authorities, but Gonenyar village is not included. We told them to contact us if there is no terrorism.

Q: What kinds of agreements were made with the authorities?

A: Our village leaders have guaranteed the authorities that there are no terrorists in our village. We have taken measures to prevent any sort of problems from arising. We contacted the authorities on 27 August and the border security forces in the area have given us protection. This is the agreement we have made for the villagers to live in peace. There are 16 mosques in the village, and we are allowed to use them, plus we also have a market.

U Rawshi Ahmed, 59, from Gonenar Village

Q: What is the village's current situation?

A: It's peaceful, although we heard there was some commotion in Gonenyar and a fire broke out there. Gonenyar is part of Shwezar, but we don't know who started the fire.

Q: Is there any uneasiness living in this village?

A: We don't leave our houses after 6 pm, and the village leaders tell us there is nothing to worry about. They told us to stay in our homes and I stay with my 12 family members.

Q: Are there any villagers who have fled this village?

A: There's none in our part of the village, but some villagers from the other villages have fled. Some fled because they were scared, but I don't know why the rest fled. Perhaps there are people in those villages who want to start terrorism, but there are none of those in our village.

Q: Were there any attempts by terrorists to recruit people here?

A: There have been no incidents like that in our village yet. There have been no incidences of terrorism and we don't have people from other villages coming here.

Q: How long have you lived in this village?

A: My family has been living here since my parent's time. I was born here and now I'm 59 years old. There are about 15,000 people in Shwezar village-tract. Some people are farmers, some are traders, some are merchants and there are many others. The

attacks happened far from where we live. I think stability will return to the region if we can freely come and go and do business. We used to live together with Rakhine and Hindu villagers.

U Taw Rud, 59, Kanyintan ward, Maungtau Myoma

Q: When and why was Kanyintan market closed?

A: On the day when the event of the terrorist attack took place, the market was closed. Just about one week after the attack, the market was temporarily opened. Just a little bit. When groceries ran short, it was closed. Outside the market as well, there were sales and purchases, as seen by now.

Q: Let me know about the event as far as you know.

A: As it took place at night, we did not know exactly where it happened. To put it simply, we never expected such an event would happen. And, we did not know as to how it started. On our site, there were not any arson crimes, but in Kanyintan Myoma ward, behind the District Office. We heard these extremist terrorists committed arson crimes to destroy the place. On our part, nothing happened. Formerly there were some 15,000 populace in the village, but now there would be over 10,000 left, in estimation. Some fled to Bangladesh, with some to nearby villages, for fear of danger and worries.

Q: Why are they worried?

A: Security forces are launching area clearance operations against terrorism. They would be worried whether they would become victims in the operations or they would be arrested. Those who had not been involved in it as well were worried. In my opinion, I assume that we from here need not be worried for that, as we were not involved with it. But people are greatly worried for hearing that there will be more battles here.

Q: Have markets in Maungtau been officially permitted to be reopened?

A: I heard so. According to my friend, several shops nearby the tower clock at the junction of the town entrance gate reopened yesterday. He is running a pharmacy, opening for two hours as it was less crowded. People seem not to go outside out of fear. I overheard villagers whisper to each other not to go outside.

Q: What else do you want to say about terrorist attacks?

A: Concerning this, we felt sorrowful. Rights cannot be achieved through terrorism. It will be the best way to peacefully solve. But I think that they had launched terrorist attacks at the thought that it would probably bring about the result. They would have claimed that they did it for the sake of their rights. For doing so, opportunity will be far away from them. There will be not one iota of good results. If and when some problems occur, people will be greatly harmed. Why did they do so? One side makes terrorist attacks and the other side will surely launch clearance operations. Then, people will be in trouble. ■

Thura U Shwe Mann donates money to Rakhine people

To aid the IDPs in Rakhine State, Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of the Assembly of the Union, and members of the commission held a ceremony for donations at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

At the ceremony, the Chairman congratulated and recognized the efforts of the staff members of the Ministry. He also said that everyone needs to work to show the international community the real situation and history of current affairs in Rakhine. He said the minister needs to be the first to arrive at the scene of the incidents so that the public is more aware of the workings of



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye accepts cash donated by Thura U Shwe Mann at the ceremony for donations to aid the IDPs in Rakhine State yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

the ministry.

The chairman congratulated the ministry on providing security and humanitarian aid to the IDPs and noted that measures are being taken to prevent similar incidents from happening again in the future. He also said that it is the re-

sponsibility of everyone to work for peace and national security without working for individual profit. He said it is important to strengthen the border fence but also equally important is the national spirit that will guide to true national stability and progress.

The chairman and other members of the commission donated Ks 5 million to the ministry which were accepted by Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Hong Kong Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie Lam and party arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

A delegation led by Hong Kong Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie Lam arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening 6:35 p.m.

Hong Kong Chief Executive and party

were welcomed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Hong Kong Chief Executive Mrs. Carrie Lam welcomed by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Provisions continue for displaced in Sittway

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement gave subsidies yesterday to displaced people who are now in Sittwe rescue camps due to fear of ARSA extremist terrorist attacks.

U Kyaw Min, director of the Rakhine State office, said, "The Ministry is now providing subsidies to all rescue camps in Sittway — rice, cooking oil, beans and salt for the adequacy of provisions. Most people from Maung-

taw rescue camps are returning home, while in Sittway most are coming from nearby villages and distant areas to take shelter here.

So, the Ministry is supporting subsidies to rescue camps again.

Due to the 25 August ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in Maungtaw, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is supporting necessary subsidies to the camps. Yesterday evening, the

Ministry continued to support the remaining portion left to be donated, to 1,053 people from 315 families.

The donation included 77 rice bags, 157 viss of cooking oil and 75 viss of salt. The team included U Kyaw Min, director of the Rakhine State office, U Aye Min Thu, principal of Myanmar Natural Disaster Training School, and responsible personnel from the Ministry.—Myanmar News Agency ■



U Kyaw Min, director of the Rakhine State office provides aid to displaced people at a rescue camps in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**



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KYEL SIN THAR SERVICES CO., LTD.
No.517, Thein Phyu Rd, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Tsp, Yangon
Tel: +95-9-261109917-9 Email: kstcenture@gmail.com
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