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Ethnic Rakhine begin the journey back to their villages yesterday from Sittway after violence in northern Rakhine subsided. **PHOTO: MNA**

163 killed, 91 missing from 9 Oct to 26 Sept in N-Rakhine

THE death toll of civilians by terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine from 9 October to 26 September has reached 163, with 91 still missing, according to data released by authorities yesterday.

Data collection teams started conducting ground surveys on 23 September to determine the losses and damages from the terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine.

From 25 August, the day ARSA extremist terrorists launched attacks to dozens of police posts and civilians, to 26 September, 84 people, including Hindus, ethnic Rakhine, Daingnet and Mro villagers, civil servants and security forces were killed by ARSA terrorists. Fifty-four are still missing, according to the data.

The terrorists attacks from 9 October to 24 August—the day before the latest terrorist attacks—killed 79 people including villagers who are cooperating with authorities, civil servants, security forces, leaving 37 missing.

The main data is collected first and other required data will also be collected, officials said. It is estimated to take a month to complete the work, said U Ye Htut, Deputy Commissioner of Maungtau District General Administration Department.—Myanmar News Agency ■

No ethnic cleansing in N-Rakhine

Myanmar at UN: Term 'genocide' must not be used without solid evidence

MYANMAR objected in the strongest terms to the use of words and terms such as "atrocities", "ethnic cleansing" and "genocide" by several UN delegations in reference to the situation in Myanmar.

Myanmar diplomats and government officials said it is

dangerous and irresponsible to use such damning words without solid evidence.

Ambassador U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, expressed his concerns in exercising the right

of reply against those allegations during the final session of the general debate at the UN General Assembly in New York on Monday.

"It is deeply regrettable that unsubstantiated allegations have been repeated in those chambers likening the situa-

tion in Rakhine State to 'ethnic cleansing', he said.

He said that terms such as "atrocities", "ethnic cleansing", and "genocide" must not be used lightly, and the use of such terms should be considered only after there is solid evidence.

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BEST DOMESTIC BANK FOR MYANMAR

Awarded by ASIAN MONEY 2017

Interview with bereaved families of Hindus killed by ARSA terrorists

By Min Thit (MNA)

UPON receiving information about the location of dozens of dead Hindus in northern Rakhine State, the bodies of the people allegedly killed by extremist terrorists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) were unearthed by security forces near the village of Yebawkya in Maungtaw. Twenty-eight bodies were discovered on Sunday, and 17 more on Monday. The following are the accounts of surviving family members interviewed by Myanmar News Agency reporters at the site in Maungtaw where the bodies were found.

Ronni, Maungtaw Township, Thittone-nar Khwa-Sone Village tract, Oh-Htein Village

Among 28 bodies dug firstly is my elder brother, named Hannu. He lived with his family at the village Thittone-nar Khwa-Sone village. When examined, I ascertained that it was my own brother, by seeing his frequently-dressed shirt. He visited his daughter at Khamaungseik village to stay for a night. On the day when the terrorist attacks happened, terrorists came to Khamaungseik to abduct Hindus, in which my brother was one of the victims. All were inhumanely killed on the way, with eight Hindu women and children abducted to



Arshee Kumar, Maungtaw 4 ward.



Ronni, Oh-Htein Village.

Bangladesh. Women were raped. I had a contact with those women. I did not yet know whether my brother's wife and children have not been accounted and have been killed. We heard most of them killed by terrorists. Our village Khamaungseik, where Hindus mostly lived, was surrounded by Bengali villages.

Arshee Kumar, 4 ward Maungtaw

I lived with my family in Maungtaw. My daughter, my parents-in-law and my brother-in-law were among the victims. My daughter



Salmon Barlar, Kyeinchaung Village. PHOTO: NAY LINLINTET

lived with my parents-in-law in Khamaungseik village (south). Dead bodies dug out included corpses of my mother-in-law and brother-in-law. The bodies of my daughter, only 8 years old, and my father-in-law have not been found yet. My spouse has suffered from a mental disorder since the brutal slaughter of the people. All were killed by throat slitting. Some were found to have been decapitated and limbs amputated. We want to find our daughter as soon as possible. I will not stop looking for my daughter even if she is

found dead and it is only her skeleton. I pray for my daughter not to experience such a worse situation. Terrorists not only killed Hindus, including the cruel killing of children, but also raped the women.

Salmon Barlar, Kyeinchaung Village

My husband's two brothers were among the dead bodies dug up. Their names are Bisnia and Han Montie. Their wives and children were also killed. A mother and her two children and another mother and her three children have not been accounted for. We



Mardoori, Khamaungseik Village (south).



Orno Barlar, Khamaungseik Village.



Minu, Maungtaw ward 4.

overheard that one was abducted to Bangladesh. I live now in Kyeinchaung village. My husband's two brothers earned their living in Khamaungseik as blacksmiths.

Mardoori, Khamaungseik Village (south)

My sister, her spouse and her two sons were among the killed. Prior to the event, I fortunately missed being killed as I had been in Thamanthar village. Among the corpses dug out, there was the body of my sister. My sister wore her usual bangles on her wrist. By seeing these, I

identified that it was her. The bodies of her husband and her sons have not yet been found.

Orno Barlar, Khamaungseik Village

Among the corpses dug up were my husband and two sons. I could identify them as I well remembered their clothing. On the bodies were cuttings on their throats with limbs amputated. Some legs were almost completely cut. I survived because I had been in Maungtaw at an event. Fifteen of my relatives have not yet been found. Terrorists killed our Hindus in Khamaungseik.

Minu, ward 4 Maungtaw

I live in Maungtaw. My two sons and my daughter lived in Khamaungseik. My elder son was married, as was my daughter. One son was still single. My sons were eking out a living as goldsmiths. Yesterday, my two sons were found among the dead bodies dug up yesterday. His daughter and child, including my daughter and her son, were abducted to Bangladesh. Over there, our Hindus found them and brought them, it was learnt. I had phone contacts with my daughter and daughter-in-law. It has been learnt that gold from their shop was robbed. ■

25 bodies of Hindu villagers identified

Of the 93 missing Hindus from Yebawkya Village in northern Rakhine State, the remains of 45 were discovered in a mass grave and 25 were identified by the leader of a Hindu assistance group and Yebawkya villagers.

The search continues to recover the remaining missing Hindus.

Starting on Sunday

morning, security personnel, Hindu religious leader U Ni Maul and six other Hindus searched for 93 Hindus from Yebawkya Village, area 2 in Maungtaw Township who were allegedly killed by ARSA extremist terrorists.

They found the remains of 28 villagers buried in two mass graves

1,500 meters northwest of Yebawkya Village.

When the search was resumed on Monday, two more mass graves containing the remains of 17 Hindu villagers were found 200 meters from the other graves. The search continued yesterday, but no remains were found. Officials said the search will continue.

The leader of the Hindu assistance group and Hindus from Yebawkya village identified 25 people out of the remains of the 45 people found.

Those identified were: Mat Ralaung, 18, Arshi Kuma, 20, Daw Aungdu Balar, 50, Daw Bikyuni, 45, Ma Gawyal, 35, Ma Me Naw Balar, 32,

Ma Bijaw Banlar, 30, Ma Dogal Naw Balar, 25, Ma Biruna, 25, Ma Sulani, 22, Aungzu Bala, 50, Myint Hlaing, 19, B Rawbala (30 years), B Juli, 45, Bunani, 20, Naw Balar, 35, Rorani, 35, Metawbalar, 30, Mel-aung, 18, Akhwe Kumar, 20, Biruna, 25, Zaw Tein Draw, 55, L Maungtaw, 25, and Birunia, 35, from Yebawkya village and

Raju, 22, from Tamatha village.

The remains of the 45 villagers were inspected by Maungtaw People's Hospital Superintendent Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, Township Judge U Zaw Zaw Than, and criminal investigative department Police Major Ye Aung. — Information Committee ■

Join us in launching anti-terrorism campaign

Khin Maung Oo

IN the PTI news titled, “Global countries need to prevent terrorist use of internet,” an Indian high-ranking official disclosed that the global community needs to co-operate on a world-wide scale to protect religious extremist terrorists from using the internet for radicalization and terror financing so as to launch terrorist attacks.

The said warning is a timely call for action considering today’s situations. At the present time, terrorists with evil motives are using Youtube, Facebook and Twitter and internet websites to create terror and hatred and misunderstand-

ing among different communities and even different countries. Evidently enough, it has been found out that these kinds of people in many countries are using these effective internet tools. With more and more utilization of such tools, terrorist attacks and destructive events are on the increase in the world. Destructive elements are making efforts propagate extremist doctrines, agitation to wage terrorist attacks, recruitment for terrorist attacks and terror financing through the use of websites which can be used to accept donations.

The people of the world can never accept terrorists. We are trying our best to protect our

communities from their danger, to fight them and to denounce their deeds. Yet, those who like terrorism, the ones involved with terrorists and people who would like to benefit from these attacks, economically or politically have been found to have encouraged and supported by using the internet. Accordingly, many countries are joining the call for fighting against the imminent dangers of terrorists and their use of the internet to promote their evil ends.

In Singapore and China use of the internet is being controlled by using cutting-edge technology whereas other nations permit free use of internet normally, with checks and

searches made only if needed. Responses to terrorism may differ from one country to another geographically and culturally. Until now, the world cannot effectively eradicate terrorists and their supporters involved in crimes, which are on the move all over the world.

Therefore, at the session entitled, “Preventing terrorist use of internet,” held at the United Nations General Assembly on September 20, it was discussed that there should be a unified response to terrorists. Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar said “internet backbone, critical internet resources and data centres should be dispersed and redundant

to mitigate impact of major terror attacks”. At such a time when our country is building up a democratic nation, we all have an access to unrestricted use of the internet. Now, we have found some people abusing these rights to create agitations, hate-speeches, rumors and fabricated stories. With regard to the Rakhine State affairs which happened recently, ample evidence has been found that terrorists and abettors used internet websites and other internet tools. We firmly believe that Myanmar will also join with other countries to prevent terrorists from using the internet for their evil purposes. ■

Facets to disaster preparedness

Dr Yansie Rolston

SO far for 2017, the world has seen a plethora of disasters such as the floods in South Sudan, Myanmar and Guinea; earthquakes in Mexico, Philippines and China; drought in Somalia, South Sudan and Nigeria; hurricanes in British Virgin Islands and the Caribbean; dengue outbreaks in Pakistan and Sri Lanka; landslide and mudslides in Democratic Republic of Congo and Sierra Leone; bombings in France and Spain; trucks used as weapons of murder in Stockholm and Germany and fires in India and UK.

All of which have devastated many communities and profoundly affected large numbers of people. Yet, in many instances the psychological and mental health responses within disaster preparedness strategies are inadequate.

When sudden and unexpected tragedies occur, the immediate humanitarian reaction is to focus on the physical needs of those affected. While that is important, it must not be forgotten that disasters also significantly impact psychological well-being, and therefore mental health requires equal attention.

The shock and disbelief that such a devastating situation has occurred, and the hopes and wishes that it would



Villagers injured in terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine are seen on their way to Sittway for medical treatment. **PHOTO: THEIN ZAW**

somehow just be an unpleasant nightmare that will eventually disappear; the feelings of powerlessness, the guilt and frustration of not being able to prevent the situation or help others; and the enduring fears that something equally disastrous could happen again, and in some circumstances the intuitive need to apportion blame, and show hostility towards others, are just some of the feelings that often emerge.

In addition to which, on any given day there are many people struggling with emotional and mental health challenges such as depression, bipolar disorder or addiction. The World

Health Organisation estimates that “one in four people in the world will be affected by mental or neurological disorders at some point in their lives”. So, when disasters strike it is not only the trauma of the situation that they will have to contend with.

Anyone who has been in close proximity to a disaster will tell you that often the shock of the situation shakes you to the core and makes you aware of their own vulnerability. It also presents a greater perspective on coping abilities and resilience, and provides an opportunity for a truer display of humanity and community

comradery.

In the wake of a disaster it is great to see that despite negative/positive emotions and cognitions, people will mobilise themselves and come together to deal with whatever crisis has befallen their community. That new engagements and interactions will be made, thereby strengthening and fostering community cohesion. But at the heart of it all, is a reminder that there are individuals and families struggling to come to terms with their individual losses of loved ones, possessions, memories, home and community support networks.

There will be groups and

organisations suddenly working outside of their area of expertise, navigating and fitting into changing environments, and that the members of those groups are also individuals experiencing their losses and emotional discomforts. The wider community – locally, nationally and internationally will also be affected in some shape or form, whether it is because they have relatives, friends, or kindred connections.

Disasters can have far-reaching effects, and while there are so many unknowns that suddenly emerge when tragedy strikes, making it difficult to prepare for every eventuality, in the immediate aftermath of any tragedy there will always be panic and chaos. But, mental and emotional well-being and community healing should not be left to chance, instead, a well thought-out, co-ordinated psychological response ought to be one of the facets of effective disaster preparedness. ■

Dr Yansie Rolston FRSA is a UK-based disability and mental health specialist advisor. She is a social strategist and trainer who works internationally at various levels of government, business and civil society. She writes a weekly column for Newsday. Contact her at yr@efficacyeva.com

Redevelopment of Maungtaw region as per Disaster Management Law – Dr Win Myat Aye

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said after the damages and losses caused by ARSA extremist terrorists, redevelopment of Maungtaw region will be implemented according to Natural Disaster Management Law.

The Union Minister said this in a National Natural Disaster Management Committee's Coordination meeting held yesterday afternoon at

state guest house, Sittway, Rakhine State. The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, state ministers and departmental officials.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye said, "There is a need to follow a law in managing the redevelopment works for terrorist acts that had occurred. In some

places, it became a burnt land. According to the law, burnt lands become a government managed lands. The law that governs burnt law is national disaster management law. Although the name of the law is natural disaster management law, according to the definition in the law, disaster covers all (disasters) and therefore this law will be used. The area will be defined as a land facing disaster caused by terrorist act.

Redevelopment works will be according to the enacted rules. If the redevelopment works were conducted as prescribed by the rule, it will be very effective.

That is why it will be implemented according to Natural Disaster Management Law and Natural Disaster Management Rule."

The Natural Disaster Management Law was enacted in 2013 and Natural Disaster

Management Rule was enacted in 2015. Based on Natural Disaster Management Law, National Natural Disaster Management Committee was formed with Vice President U Henry Van Thio as Committee Chairman, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye as Vice Chairman and union level ministers as committee members it is learnt.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alin) ■

Meeting for implementation of assistance by Red Cross Movement

A coordination meeting on effective and systematic implementation by the Red Cross Movement in providing humanitarian assistance to all people who were affected by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State was held in a state guest house in Sittway, Rakhine State

on Monday evening.

The meeting was attended by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, state government officials, officials from the Red Cross Movement that includes Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), International Com-

mittee of Red Cross (ICRC) and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) and departmental officials.

In the coordination meeting, a draft on the Standard Operation Procedure (SOP) of the Red Cross Movement was discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu attend the meeting on effective implementation by Red Cross Movement in Sittway, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar at UN: Term 'genocide' must not be used without solid evidence

FROM PAGE-1

He urged those delegations and the international community to view the situation in northern Rakhine objectively and in an unbiased manner. He stated that there was no ethnic cleansing and there was no genocide in northern Rakhine.

Nigeria, France, Turkey, Afghanistan, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Malaysia, Maldives, Chad and Bangladesh accused Myanmar of committing "atrocities" and "ethnic cleansing" during the general debate of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly held at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

Myanmar says its forces are fighting terrorists responsible for attacking the police and the army, killing civilians and torching villages.

The International Criminal Court defines crimes against humanity as acts including murder, torture, rape and deportation "when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the



Ambassador U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to UN speaks at the UN General Assembly in New York. **PHOTO: MNA**

attack".

Government spokesman U Zaw Htay said no Myanmar government had ever been as committed to the promotion of rights as the current one.

"Accusations without any strong evidence are dangerous," he told Reuters. "It makes it difficult for the government to handle things."

Ambassador U Hau Do Suan urged all concerned to consider the facts. He pointed out that, within hours of the release of the report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, a series of coordinated attacks were carried out on 30 police outposts in

Northern Rakhine State on 25 August. The so-called Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) had claimed responsibility for the attacks. Subsequently, ARSA was declared as a terrorist group. Those vicious attacks had resulted in the loss of life and property and displacement of peoples. Those who had to abandon their hearth and home were many – not just Muslim and Rakhine, but also small minority groups such as Daingnet, Mro, Thet, Mramagyi and Hindus. Most of the world had been unaware of the existence and plight of those small groups.

The ambassador also said

that in the affected area of northern Rakhine, the Muslim community was not a minority, as was widely reported. In reality, they were a majority whose population had grown. They constitute 95 per cent of the total population in the area. The Government is now striving to restore normalcy. At present, humanitarian assistance is the top priority. The Government is committed to ensuring that aid will be received by all those in need, without discrimination, he said.

He reiterated that refugees who had fled to Bangladesh would be repatriated to Myanmar based on the experience of 1993, and that a working group for verification would be set up expeditiously to conduct a systematic verification process.

The ambassador's remarks came one day after authorities discovered 45 bodies of Hindu villagers allegedly killed by ARSA extremist terrorists in northern Rakhine.

The discovery was made after following up on information given by Hindu villagers who managed to escape from the mas-

sacre in northern Rakhine and fled to Sittway and Bangladesh.

"The bodies were found with their throats slit while they were blindfolded and their hands were tied. Some bodies had cuts to their hands and feet," said Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein, Maungtaw People's Hospital Superintendent, who conducted the autopsies yesterday.

"The evidences pointed to a massacre by ARSA terrorists," he said. Hindu villagers from Khamaungseik Village told journalists who visited the conflict areas last week that Muslim terrorists stormed into their communities on 25 August, killing many, looting their properties, and abducting men, women and children and fleeing into the forest.

Following the discovery of the dead bodies, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye flew to the site by helicopter and consoled the families of the victims, pledging that the remains of Hindu villagers would be given a proper Hindu traditional burial.—GNLM

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K 20000 Each and Family Utensils Given to Home-Returners



U Kyaw Min (Director, Rakhine State Relief and Resettlement Department)



U Maung Soe (Shwe Baho Model Village, southern Maungtau)



U San Hla Phu (Ngwe Taung village, northern Maungtau)



Daw Pale Nyo (Mawrawady, Maungtau south)



Ma Mya Mya Thein (Lay Mile, Magyigone village)

News: Maung Sein Lwin
(Myanma Alin)
Photo: Min Htet

DUE to the ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks in Maungtau region, Rakhine State later in August, many people were displaced to the conventional rescue camps in Sittway for taking shelter. Now that the region regained peace and tranquility, they started to return homes of their own accords. The Rakhine State Government has supported them K 20000 and a ticket for the journey by vessel each and family utensils.

Today's initial amount of people who returned home is the largest in families and a few days ago some people left for their original places sporadically, according to the state Government.

Concerning the return trip of displaced people from the rescue camps in Sittway, here are accounts of local people who will leave for Maungtau of their own

will and responsible officials in the interview made by the news team.

U Kyaw Min (Director, Rakhine State Relief and Resettlement Department)

Now that there amounted to 40 families consisting of 114 people who would like to go back home in Buthidaung and Maungtau, the department will provide them with a family kit box each, with each of them to be given out K 20000 and a ticket for the journey by vessel each by the Rakhine State Government. As for returning home in groups or in families, today's amount is the largest. Before now, one or two persons returned separately. As the region started to regain peace and stability, today many returned. Under the arrangement of the Rakhine State Government, people from several rescue camps returned to their places. Depending upon the amounts of families willing to return home in collecting data

by the camp-in-charges, in the following days, the Rakhine State Government has arranged to hire chartered vessels to send them back. And, regular subsidies will be provided to them.

U Maung Soe (Shwe Baho Model Village, southern Maungtau)

My family reached here for over 20 days to stay at the rescue camp at North Kyaungsu Ward, Lanmadaw. Now we, all of five will go back. In my village, I eked out my living by farming. Sometimes, I had to do errand jobs. As we heard the news that the area became peaceful and stable again, we had our names registered to return. We were very glad and thankful to the authorities concerned to have received K 20000 and a ticket each. We ran short of our own money. At the village, we have to spend the present monetary aid. We will know exactly actual situations of our farming only when we arrive at the village.

U San Hla Phu (Ngwe Taung village, northern Maungtau)

My family of 8 family members will return home. It was convenient for us to take shelter at the Ceitta Thukha Kyaungsu rescue camp, Sittway for nearly half a month. In my village I earned my living by fishing, sometimes going to woods to dig bamboo shoots. Now we had a contact with my fellow villagers. According to their recount that the area regained stability, we decided to go back. Responsible officials supported us with commodities and money. Being a family of 8 members, we had got over K 100000, plus a family kit box. Thanks a lot to all, for every help.

Daw Pale Nyo (Mawrawady, southern Maungtau)

We took shelter at the meditation monastery in Sittway for over 20 days. In the village, my living abode was not burnt down. But we found it difficult in earning living. The village is in a safe state

in security, being adjacent to the police outpost. In response to the relatives' recount, we will go back home. Here, it is convenient for us in everything during our stay. We need not worry about provisions and medical care. We are very happy to get expenditure money, travelling fare and all subsidies.

Ma Mya Mya Thein (Lay Mile, Magyigone village)

Just at the day after the terrorist attack, we moved to this place in Sittway. We are 8 in all, taking shelter at the Ceitta Thukha meditation monastery. Our original work is farming. Now, it was completely destroyed.

Poultry kept in my house may have been lost. We will have to survive with the subsidies now we got, for the time being. And, we dare not go up hills yet.

We pray for the tranquility of the area, as soon as possible. We would like to express our thanks to authorities concerned for their helps.

Aid from Indonesia flows into Yathedaung Township



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu present foods and cash donated from Indonesia in Yathedaung Township on 26 September. PHOTO: MNA

Foods and aid donated by Indonesia delivered to people in Zaytipyin, Thayagone and Anautpyin villages in Yathedaung Township yesterday.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials went by helicopter from Sittway to villages in Yathedaung Township on 26 September morning to distribute foods donated from Indonesia. In his meeting with villagers from Anautpyin village, the Union Minister said "The government and all never accept terrorism. Terrorism brings more disadvantages than advantages. Stability and peace of a region depends upon all the people in the region and he urges all to cooperate with responsible officials. The government also

had the responsibility to care for people who were not involved in terrorism and thus it is providing food required by the people. The recent donation is from Indonesia for all who lived peacefully." People from the village replied to the Union Minister that no one is involved with terrorists, they don't want terrorism and want to live peacefully.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party arrived in Zaytipyin and Thayagone villages and encouraged people in the villages. Moreover 707 households in the villages were provided Ks 14.11 million. There are 2,770 people in 615 households in Anautpyin villages and 3,721 people in 707 households in Zaytipyin and Thayagone villages where local nationals and Hindus lived.—Myanmar News Agency