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Verification process for refugees to launch soon

THE government will begin a national verification process soon for refugees who fled Rakhine to Bangladesh, said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye yesterday.

“We will carry out the verification process at Taungpyo Lat-we Village for those who return by road and at Naguya Village for those who return by water,” told the Union Minister at the meeting with reporters following a third meeting of the committee on implementing recommendations on Rakhine State in Nay Pyi Taw.

“After the verification process, the refugees will be settled at Dargyizar Village. These are our current plans,” he added. The National Verification Process will be carried out based on the principles to which both Myanmar and Bangladesh agreed in 1993, said the Union Minister in his capacity as the chairman of the committee. Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe will leave for Bangladesh in the near future to hold talks with Bangladesh authorities over the national verification process. In some Muslim communities in northern Rakhine, their leaders have decided that they are not to join in the previous verification process.

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A Hindu villager reacts while identifying the bodies of relatives found by government forces that authorities suspect were killed by terrorists last month. The bodies were found in mass graves near Maungtaw in northern Rakhine on Sunday. **PHOTO: REUTERS/SOE ZEYAR TUN**

Slaughtered Hindus testament to brutality of ARSA terrorists

THE bodies were laid out in rows on a grassy field in Kamaungseik, northern Rakhine State yesterday, as the cries and wails of relatives and friends who came to identify them could be heard.

Myanmar authorities yesterday displayed the bodies of

Hindu villagers they say were killed by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA), a Muslim terrorist group that attacked 30 border police outposts on 25 August.

Security forces found 45 Hindu villagers in mass graves in northern Rakhine state this

week, many of them with their throats slit or their limbs cut off.

Information from a group of Hindu women from Kamaungseik Village who are currently being sheltered in Bangladesh, led to the discovery of the bodies.

“We watched as they tied

each person, hands behind their back and also legs ... They cut all their throats and pushed them into a pit,” said one of the women, Bina Bala, 22, adding that the women were spared after promising to convert to Islam.

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BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, right, holds talks with Country Director Mr. Kelly Stevenson, left, from Plan International Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Country Director of Plan International Myanmar

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung received Country Director Mr. Kelly Stevenson from Plan International Myanmar yesterday

at the Amyotha Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two representatives discussed through an interpreter in a

friendly and frank manner the law for management of activities of international non-governmental organisations. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Slaughtered Hindus testament to ...

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Border guard police were able to find several mass graves.

“We informed the border guard force about the information we got from the Hindu women who were abducted to Bangladesh by terrorists and followed the paths based on the information and found the ground where the bodies were buried,” said U Ni Maw, a Hindu from the Yebawkya Village to local and foreign journalists.

A group of reporters was flown yesterday from Yangon to northern Rakhine State to see the bodies laid out on the grass, and to hear from those who found them after information about the massacre filtered back from Hindus who have sought refuge from the violence in Bangladesh.

“We followed the paths based on the information we got from the other side,” police officer Okkar Ko told reporters at the scene.

“We found where the soil wasn’t normal and then when we dug up the ground, the smell came out.”

The latest violence in Rakhine state erupted on 25 August, when ARSA extremist terrorists attacked 30 police posts and an army camp, killing about 12 people.

Hours later, ARSA extremist terrorists came to the Hindu village of Ye Baw Kya, gathered up about 100 people, marched them

away through their fields and killed them with knives, the Hindu villagers says. The military response to the terrorist attacks has driven 480,000 Rohingya refugees to Bangladesh, according to the UN and drawn U.N. accusations of ethnic cleansing by the army.

“Muslims who brought them to Bangladesh had ordered them to say it was Buddhist vigilantes who had done the killing. . . .

Myanmar denies its forces are fighting terrorists ruthlessly. For the government, the proof of the terrorists’ brutality is plain to see, lying in rows by the mass graves just outside the village of Ye Baw Kya.

“This is terrorism,” Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Win Myat Aye, who visited the site on Tuesday, told Reuters.

Some villagers have said the ARSA terrorists suspected Hindus of being on the side of the government and acting as government spies. In late August, Reuters reporters in Bangladesh interviewed a group of Hindu women from the village who said their male loved ones were killed by Rakhine Buddhists.

Three of the same women told Reuters this week that Muslims who brought them to Bangladesh had ordered them to say it was Buddhist vigilantes who had done the killing.

The three – who individually recounted closely matching stories – said that on 25 August, they and about 100 other Hindus were marched by masked men to the area of the mass graves.

They were later able to identify some of the masked men as Muslims, although the women said the men spoke several languages they could not identify, besides the dialect spoken by both Muslims and Hindus in the area. They said the attackers had objected to official identity cards given to Hindus but not Muslims, saying Hindus should not have them. The victims were blindfolded, with their hands tied and had their throats slit, said Kyaw Maung Maung Thien, hospital superintendent in Maungdaw, who examined the bodies. “The evidence points to a massacre by the ARSA terrorists,” he said. —GNLM, Reuters ■

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 25/2017

7th Waxing of Thadingyut, 1379 ME
(27 September, 2017)

Appointment of Deputy Minister

U Soe Aung has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in accordance with Section 234, subsection (a), (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and provisions under Section 16 (b) subsection 9 of the Union Government Law.

Sd/

Htin Kyaw

President

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Red Cross members present commodities to displaced persons at camps in Sittway for internally displaced people. **PHOTO: MNA**

Humanitarian aid reaches Sittway IDP camps

HUMANITARIAN aid donated by the Red Cross Movement were delivered to local people taking shelter at monasteries in Sittway.

The aid was handed over by volunteer Red Cross members from Rakhine State and Yangon Region led by U Ko Lay, Chairman of Rakhine State Red Cross Supervision Committee.

Last night, varieties of commodities for for 242 house-holds such as boxes of sanitary towels, mosquito-nets, blankets, tarpaulin sheets, canned sardines and packs of instant noodles were provided to displaced local nationals taking shelter at Kaw Wida, Dhamma Rama, Thayettaw, Ottara and Zeyawady

monasteries.

Similar items have been donated from 10 September to 27 September, in addition to two water tanks holding 1,000 liter each to Aung Myay Kone and Wi Thokeda Rama monasteries under the Red Cross Movement Program.

The humanitarian aid was delivered to those taking shelter at the following rescue camps in Sittwe — Aung Myay Kone monastery, Ceitta Thukha monastery, Dekkhina Rama monastery, Buddha Maw monastery, Alotawpyae monastery, Lanmadaw monastery (north), La Yaung Win monastery and Theikdi Karon monastery, a variety of commodities were offered. — Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Rt. Hon Mark Field MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received the Rt. Hon Mark Field MP, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Office, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 September 2017 at 10:15 am.

During the meeting, they discussed and exchanged views on matters pertaining to bilateral relations and cooperation, peace and national reconciliation, promotion and protection of human rights in Myanmar and measures taken for development in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Verification Process for refugees to launch soon

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“We would appreciate it if all friends could persuade them to join in the process because they have nothing to lose by it,” said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her speech at the 19 September diplomatic briefing in Nay Pyi Taw.

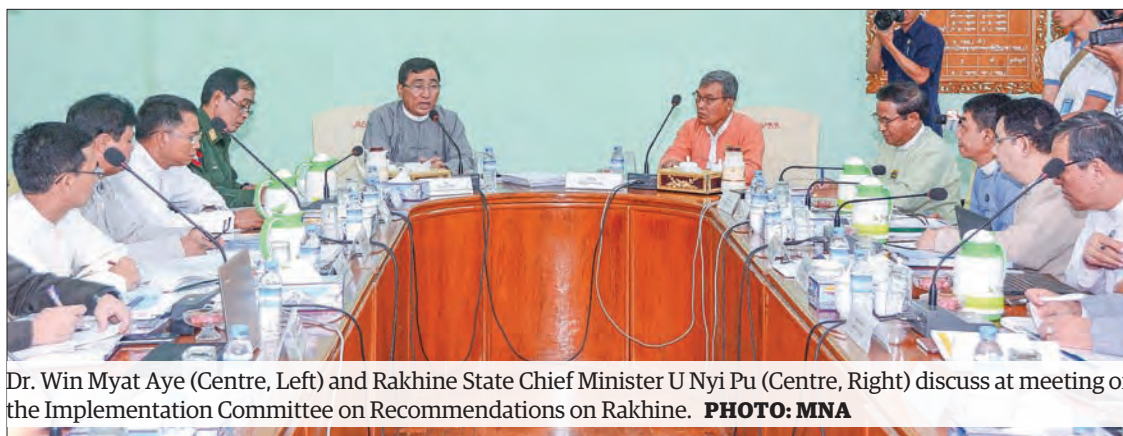
She also said the government wanted to find out why the exodus of Muslims was happening in northern Rakhine though there have been no armed clashes and there have been no security operations since 5 September.

“It is very little known that

the great majority of Muslims in the Rakhine State have not joined the exodus.

More than 50 per cent of the villages of Muslims are intact. They are as they were before the attacks took place. We would like to know why,” said the State Counsellor.—Kyaw Thu Htet ■

3rd Meeting on recommendations regarding Rakhine State affairs



Dr. Win Myat Aye (Centre, Left) and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu (Centre, Right) discuss at meeting of the Implementation Committee on Recommendations on Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE 3rd Meeting of the Implementation Committee on Recommendations Regarding Rakhine State Affairs was held yesterday afternoon at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in his address to the meeting stressed the need to identify the long-term works and works that need immediate action depending on the real situation at the ground level. He added that it was necessary to sort out the priority works and to start implementing the cases that need urgent action; in carrying out the tasks the aim should be to produce long-lasting benefits and

putting stability, security and rule of law in place. Then, U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State Government, explained the harvesting of crops, the discussion on clearing the ground ravaged by fire, the implementation works to be in line with the existing law and the establishment of an implementation committee at State level in accordance with the law. He then added that since the long-term plan was as important as the plan of immediate action, it was necessary to take great care in carrying out the works that should be aimed at regional development. Afterwards, the Deputy Minister for Border Affairs and Secretary of the committee, Maj-Gen. Than Htut, discussed

that a policy would be needed in implementing the projects and to resettle the ethnic villages and to construct concrete layers on border roads. Then, committee members, Permanent Secretaries and department heads participated in sector-wise discussions on regional security, rule of law, and forming the accepting and resettling committees for returnees, the preparation works for issuing NV Cards, quick release of news, scrutiny on land ownership, the improved efficiency of the telephone lines, preparations for the students at relief camps to be able to continue their studies and rendering health care and electrification.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivers the opening address at the paper reading on performance for internal peace process in Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

Paper reading on performance for internal peace process in Myanmar held

CEREMONY for paper reading on performance for internal peace process in Myanmar was held under the sponsorship of the local and foreign relations and information branch of the Ministry of Information at the meeting hall of the Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw at 2 pm yesterday.

At the paper reading session, Union Minister Dr Pe Myint gave an opening address, followed by introduction of paper presenters to those present at the ceremony from U Myint Kyaw, deputy permanent secretary of the Office of the Ministry who presided over the session.

Afterward, paper on performance for internal peace process in Myanmar was read out by U Kyaw Zin Thant, Director of local and foreign information and technology department, U Kyaw Zeya, Assistant Director, Daw Khin Chaw Ye, staff officer and U Sai Ne Lin

Tun, deputy staff officer.

Following that, responsible officials replied to the questions raised by the staff from the Ministry who attended the ceremony.

The resource persons read out in 4 parts under the title of “Performances for internal peace process in Myanmar,” viz, “Performances for peace process of successive governments”, “Performances for internal peace process in Myanmar during the reign of previous government”, “Performances for internal peace process in Myanmar during the period when President U Htin Kyaw took office” and “conclusions and suggestions as regards peace process.”

Present at the ceremony were directors-general, managing directors and responsible officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Inle Phaung Daw Oo Buddha images conveyed for public obeisance

INLE Phaung Daw Oo Buddha Images are conveyed for public obeisance and U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw gilded the gold foils to the sacred images, and donated offertories to Sanghas.

Karaweik Royal Barge carrying Inle Phaung Daw Oo Buddha Images, was pulled by 37 traditional boats from Linkin village monastery to Nyaungshwe for the first leg of the public conveyance.

Then, U Win Myint and Hluttaw Representatives carried the First Image, with the Second Image carried by Dr Lin Htut, Chief Minister of Shan State and state ministers, the Third Image by Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports and state ministers and the Fourth Image by U Sai Lone Sai, Speaker of State Hluttaw, Shan State Advocate and state ministers.

Afterward, the Images visited round Nyaungshwe for people to pay holy respect. Following that Inle traditional regatta was held and prizes were offered to winner teams.



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint presents prize to male contestant winners team during the Inle Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival. **PHOTO: SAI ALBE (NYAUNGSHWE)**

In the regatta of 46 oars, K-lar Nauk-Taung team stood first, San Bae Inn second. In the male Yarkyaw contest, Yay Thar Inn got first and Shwe Pyi Tha second.

In the regatta of 26 oars—female teams, Mai Thauk Inn stood first and Ai Daunt Gyi second. Prize winners includ-

ing male contestant winners were awarded prizes by U Win Myint and responsible officials.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and party donated the Buddha Images with sacred food, flowers, candle lights, water and gold foils, offering to Sanghas to offertories.

—Nay Myo Thurein ■

Security force members and Hindu people search missing Hindu villagers

SECURITY forces and volunteers continued to search on 26 September for missing Hindus, but 48 missing Hindu people of Ye Baw Kya village were not found yet. Moreover, additional 144 Hindu people of Ohh Htain village are also reported for missing.

There were 52 death and 192 missing Hindu people due to ARSA extremist terrorist attacks.

The media group included journalists from TBS, Asahi Shunbum, EPA, AFP, VOA, CNA, BBC, Xinhua, TV Asahi, Nippon TV, Frontier Myanmar and Reuters made a day trip to the areas where corpses of Hindu were discovered in Rakhine State.

ARSA extremist terrorist attacks occurred on 26 August caused the death of seven Hindu people including six Hindu people in Maungdaw District Judicial court which is still under construction and one Hindu child in a house by gun shoot, according to the information released. The ARSA extremist

terrorist attacks displaced 2752 people of 563 Hindu families in Rakhine State. Of the displaced people, 1262 people of 321 Hindu families dwelt in temporary rescue camps of Sittway Township, 1487 people of 241 Hindu families dwelt in temporary rescue camps of Maungdaw Township and three people of one Hindu family dwelt in temporary camp of Buthidaung Township.

Moreover, people with Hindu faith in Maungdaw Township missed due to attacks of ARSA extremist terrorist. The security force members and displaced Hindu people searched the missing people.

The search team discovered 28 corpses including six children under 10 year and two under 16 years in two pits located 1500 meters away to the north-west of Ye Baw Kya village on 24 September. On 25 September, the team discovered 17 more corpses in two pits located 200 meters away to the east of former two pits. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Workshop on amendment of land confiscation act held

THE opening ceremony for a workshop on the amendment of the excise act and land confiscation act of 1894 that is still being used by the government was held at the assembly hall of the Ministry of Home Affairs yesterday, with an opening address by Lt. General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs.

Also, present at the ceremony were members of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs and permanent secretary, departmental heads under the Ministry, legal advisory committee members under the ministry, heads of its related departments, representatives from Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay City Development Committees, administrators from regions and states, retired officers of general administration department and representatives from the Myanmar Beverage Federation—45 altogether.

In addressing at the workshop, the Union Minister said it



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-General Kyaw Swe delivers a speech at the opening ceremony for a workshop on amendment of land confiscation act. **PHOTO: MNA**

was time to enact a new law that superseded the current colonial-era statutes.

"Today's meeting was held to amend or renew the Excise Act and Land Confiscation Act, which are still being used by the general administration department under the Ministry of

Home Affairs, according to the suggestion of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission. In the colonial era, excise management and collection were administered by administrative personnel such as district collectors and township officers.

In 1972 when the new administration system was introduced, the excise department was abolished. From then, excise management was transferred to the Internal Revenue Department, with prevention and suppression duties transferred to the Myanmar Police Force. Starting from

FY 1989-1990, excise management and collection of excise tax was resumed by the General Administration Department. Now that 1917 Myanmar Excise Act entered the period of a century, and economic implementation type and manufacturing systems are changing with the passing time, it was found that compilation of a new law which will be of great benefit for the public is urgently needed. And, it is also necessary to cooperate with related ministries with a view to keep natural environment free from hazards, freedom from illicit excise businesses in the country, freedom from health risks, up to the stage as least as possible and acquisition of tax and revenues to the full. So as to bring about the national benefits, the new act needs to be drawn up after fulfilling necessary facts in every point, in accord with the prescription of the Constitution, 2008." The workshop will continue until 29th September, it was learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Long-term benefits and solution for Rakhine State affairs

Khin Maung Oo

IN meeting with diplomats in Dhaka in early September, Mr Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bangladesh alleged that there has been ethnic cleansing committed in Rakhine State. The allegation was, in fact, a groundless one. Yet, the Minister chose not to mention the brutal attacks carried out by ARSA extremist terrorist on 25th August of this year, which was widely reported in the Myanmar media. Burials of atrociously killed 45 Hindus in shallow graves were acts of terrorism committed by the ARSA extremists. No one can deny the veracity of these reports. Holding groundless allegations dogmatically, without solid evidence means an abnormal attitude.

Bangladesh Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina's call to put international pressure on Myanmar to stop forcing persons of Bangladeshi origin into Bangladesh territory and take back those refugees is a big disappointment. In reality, the Bangladesh Prime Minister should have known that such pressure could not find a solution to any problem. The Bangladeshi Minister for Industries has repeatedly claimed that Myanmar is violating human rights over Bengalis in Rakhine State disclosed that there has been no plans for designating Bengalis fleeing from Myanmar as refugees. The Minister also said that fleeing Bengalis were not allowed to go outside the camp to mix with Bangladeshi citizens.

According to that statement that Bengalis said to have fled from Rakhine State could not be regarded as refugees, it can be assessed as to

how much Bangladesh value human rights. In actuality, Bengalis who claimed to have left from Rakhine State and Bangladeshi citizens exactly resemble in appearance, religion and use of language. For that reason, the Minister for industries was really worried. Evidently enough, Bengalis claiming to have fled from Rakhine do not belong to any of the 135 ethnic national races in Myanmar.

The State Counsellor herself did pledge that those who had lived in Rakhine would be accepted without delay in accordance with the agreement made between Myanmar and Bangladesh. They would be granted rights of citizenship provided that they comply with the Citizenship law. In other words, the State Counsellor has already explained about the principles that have been mutually accepted to solve the problem of

refugees.

Patrick Murphy, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Southeast Asia himself has already acknowledged the constructive approach of the State Counsellor. Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Singapore also warned in his address at the 72nd UNGA's general debate that UN member states should not fall for the trick of extremist terrorists, at the same time urging all nations to co-operate with Myanmar. We would like to urge Bangladesh to deal with the Rakhine State affair with a constructive attitude by co-operating with Myanmar on a bilateral basis for the benefit of both countries. Any attempt to exert pressure on Myanmar at the UN level or with the help of propaganda networks set up by ARSA and their supporters would be counter-productive. ■

Let's keep our finger cross to be free of rabies

Kaung Htet Thar

RABIES has been notorious among people for many ages but very few people have had bad experience on it. However, it is not easy to understand the negative impact of rabies if someone has not had experience on it. Now, it is time to know about rabies without having personal bad experiences and its consequences of rabies, as it coincides with the celebration of world rabies day which will fall on 28th September. Globally, there are celebrations of world rabies days including the activities of vaccinating to dogs, public talk and awareness campaign on rabies. Celebration of world rabies day is a unique global activity which involves not only single organization but also all stakeholders to conduct disease prevention and control of rabies. The motto of 2017 world rabies day is "Rabies: zero by 30"

Among ASEAN countries, Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore are free from rabies and the other member countries are still struggling to control and eliminate of rabies with the ASEAN strategic guideline which include: prevention of rabies in line with one health strategy; harmonization of existing rule and regulation to support effective control programme; vaccination and PEP treatment; managing dog population control; strengthening capacity building; participation of all stakeholder. In Myanmar, although there are some activities to prevent and control against the disease by different organizations, it needs to

have consolidated approach with active engagement of national level for better and effective control of rabies. The major constraints in the disease control are: difficulties in depopulation of stray dogs by spaying or castration; providing rabies vaccine to those dogs; setting up nation wise strategy to control the population. According to the scientific studies, veterinary researchers revealed that the ratio of dog and human was 1: 6 in rural areas at Myanmar and it is an indication of existence of a large number of rabies susceptible animals within the country than that of the estimation of dog approximately 3.5 million in 2003. The majority of dogs are stray dogs and they are fed by sympathetic community who never take responsibility in case of unwanted events. In addition, the public participation in the prevention and control of rabies is still not satisfactory, as an example of pilot mass rabies vaccination campaign in central Myanmar.

Rabies is caused by virus and it can result fatal termination in the victims with no proper vaccination practice which can effectively prevent the fatal ending if it is practiced in early stage. The major source of rabies is from rabid dog bite. The disease is threatening to more than 150 nations and territories globally and over fifteen million human victims have been taking post exposure prophylaxis treatment every year. Over 60,000 persons are died of rabies and majority were reported in India whereas in Myanmar it was estimated around 1000

death case per year. The clinical signs in dogs mostly appear within 10 days of post exposure to the rabid dog and it can vary up to 6 months. The most prominent clinical signs is "changing behavior" with two distinct forms: one is furious form which show aggressive behavior and unprovoked attack to all moving objectives; the other one

 Celebration of world rabies day is a unique global activity which involves not only single organization but also all stakeholders to conduct disease prevention and control of rabies. The motto of 2017 world rabies day is "Rabies: zero by 30"

is dumb form which does not show any active activities and look calm in behavior. In Myanmar, the reported animals are not only in dog but also in cats, horses, cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat and pigs.

Even the disease can be effectively preventable by vaccination in both human and animal, the cost of mass vaccination in dog to get 80 percent coverage is higher than that

of PEP treatment in human victims according to an economic study in late 2016. Nevertheless, conducting mass vaccination to dog can prevent the disease transmission in both animals and human rather than vaccination in human alone which cannot reduce the animal rabies.

As nation develop, the human right and animal welfare issue are appeared as an important concept in modern community and many dog shelter and animal care volunteers emerge and they become active to save the lives of ownerless animals. Keeping those dogs in a shelter together providing feed, necessary treatments are humane activities to look after stray dog and helping in rabies control. Those dogs and dog attendants definitely need to have proper vaccination against rabies annually. Moreover, animal lover must also be aware of the risk of rabies and to save both human and animal, all of them need to take precaution with proper vaccination to establish a pleasant community.

By understanding the frustrating rabies disease, we should keep our finger cross to be free of rabies in our community in line with the world rabies day motto of 2017 "Rabies: zero by 30", providing rabies vaccine to our pet dog; reporting suspected case to the nearest veterinary department; taking prompt PEP treatment at nearest medical center and participating rabies campaign to save our country free from rabies. ■

Shoe factory creating 300 job opportunities to be opened soon in Myawady Economic Zone

A shoe factory which can create job opportunities for 300 people will be opened soon in Myawady Economic Zone, Myawady Township near the border of Myanmar and Thailand.

This factory is located seven mile away from Myawady Town, where the Myawady Economic Zone was developed in 2013. Total 37 plots of lands for factories had been sold there, but only three factories were able to open so far.

“The said shoe factory was

built at the beginning of 2016 to run in cooperation with Thailand under authorized permission of the government. As the factory is completed, workers are being hired now. Approximately 300 workers will be required. Applicants who are good at sewing and speaking Thai language will be preferred. The unskilled Myanmar workers will be trained by 50 skilled workers from Bangkok. The unskilled workers will be paid 120 baht per day and skilled

workers will be paid about 150 baht with the additional payment of overtime. Hostels are also arranged for the workers who come from other places. The factory will be opened soon and heavy generators are used for electricity” said Daw Thin Thin Myat, owner of the factory.

“Job application forms are now accepted. Total 50 applicants we have today. Applicants who come from other places also applied. They will be employed if the qualification meets



Factories seen at Myawady Economic Zone near the border of Myanmar and Thailand. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

the requirement. The factory will be opened soon, approximately after one month” said

Zaw Min Oo, manager of the factory.—Htain Linn Aung (IPRD) ■

Two Media Men Who Hit Land of Bangladesh

By Thargyi Maung Zeya

“SITUATIONS are no longer in good favour. When I am not online, call me. My number is 09450219800.”

To my great anxiety, I found a short note written by Ko Aung, Maungtaung correspondent, on the social website page, exclusively used by DVB reporters at the moment I got up from bed early in the morning.

Reporters always urgently inform their trustworthy colleague or reporter or their respective news agency of a hint of imminent danger or risk of losing life. This is the kind of disciplines for news men to essentially abide by as well as the vital ritual for their safety. That is repeatedly taught at the training for the safety course for news men.

A news man is always aware and careful about the use of words because the place he is covering the news is the one where religious and racial conflicts are dreadfully taking place and being watched by international communities.

Just at the time when local reporters are trying their best to present true news and information to the whole world, our news men from Myanmar came to notice that there are groundless tidings which do not comply with the media ethics spreading in the world. In almost all gatherings of news men, there used to be a frequently expressed question. It was none other than the statement, “How will we collect

true news on Rakhine State? and how will we do to spread the true news on Rakhine State Affairs?”

However true news are being released by the government-run news media, international community basically tend to believe that governmental news and information are mostly full of propagandas and most are over-inundated with news which defends the government. In other word, global community would have regarded that government news agencies mean the ones which lack in freedom and accuracy. Local news men are eager to cover true news and to spread them across the world by themselves. Yet, there are restrictions and some difficulties for local news men to cover news and information on the ground. They often demanded for the right to go and collect news at the places the events took places. But, they were not fully permitted to act according to their aspirations. So, whenever they find foreign news media’s false news, they feel annoyed with them. They are thinking ways and means to get true news and information, determining to make the acquired news known to the world.

Meanwhile, the news that the two Myanmar media men, Ko Zayar Min, the photographer and reporter, and another one named Ko Khun Latt had been detained in Bangladesh, alleging of espionage was found to have been posted. It actually happened on 7 September, but it was known only on 15 September, Friday. Know-

ing the event at the belated time made us worry a lot as to whether they were tortured or they would be depressed under harsh investigation. These days, myriads of news—exodus of Muslims fleeing to Bangladesh, amounting to several hundred thousand, and thousands of Myanmar Buddhist nationals coming to take shelter at Sittway and those who were slaughtered on the way are being posted online.

We noticed many trying to make images of the nation and State Counsellor drop in the International diplomatic front. To our great dismay and depression we are hearing and seeing people create religious and racial conflicts and criticize and defame the national figure with a view to trying to influence over all.

On 16 September, we were relieved to some extent to have seen the news release by Ministry of Information that the case of the arrest of two reporters would be solved through the diplomatic channel. Myanmar Press Council, Pen Myanmar, Myanmar Journalist Network and other news associations promptly made an appeal to Myanmar Government to make efforts for the release of Myanmar reporters as soon as possible. We were simultaneously elated to find the unity of news men. But, any interference cannot be made over rule of law between countries. It is a regulation for every nation to abide by, so we realized that effort to release two reporters will not be easy as expected. The

Ministry of Foreign Affairs had released the news that it had instructed Myanmar Embassy in Bangladesh, Dhaka to perform the necessary procedures concerning the detained Myanmar reporters, on 18 September. We felt a great sense of elation as we saw Myanmar government make a prompt and sharp response.

News that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi would make the national address on 19 September to the world were coming on website pages, while international societies were fighting against Myanmar government and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, with unreliable and fabricated news. What will she speak out? Racial and religious extremists and power-cravers were found to have tried to scare people, as if waiting for the frightened audience to disperse holding rolls of mats in their arms, with a view to occupying the empty places.

I was greatly pleased more than expected, to have a chance to listen to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speech. Her invitation to the global community to come and see actual situations on the ground in Myanmar was erasing falsity with truth. It managed to bring about support of the whole populace and international diplomatic circle again. On 22 September, U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs asserted that international pressure on human rights concerning conflicts in northern Rakhine State would be solved through negotiation rather than confrontation. On 23 Sep-

tember, we heard our reporters in the news room saying enthusiastically about the news that the two Myanmar news men detained in Bangladesh were granted bail.

People from Myanmar Media World increasingly hoped for good results regarding the case Myanmar reporters are facing now. They expect for respective authorities to understand the instance of reporters visiting on travel visa, when they find it difficult to go on reporter visa, prioritizing for the acquisition of the news and presentation of it to the public as soon as possible.

Simultaneously we will have more opportunities to present real images of our country, provided that we will understand their instance in return, when foreign correspondents come to Myanmar on travel visa as they have difficult time for covering news on Journalist and Media visa. In case they reported news which did not comply with media ethics, we must try our best to remove severe objections in co-operation with international media circle. If so, we can protect increasing mutual misunderstanding and doubts due to lack of opportunities to know each other, based on disconnection. If we can try hard to increase mutual understanding, based on two Myanmar reporters under detention in Bangladesh, it sure will help to implement the anti-terrorism in both countries as well as in global countries. ■

*Translated by
Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U)*

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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