

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 166, 10th Waxing of Thadingyut 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Saturday, 30 September 2017



Maungtau District Deputy Commissioner pledges to provide aid and security to Muslim villagers in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

More Muslim villagers emigrate to Bangladesh of their own accord

Authorities meet with Muslim villagers gathering at border

PEOPLE from Muslim villages in Buthidaung Township gathered at the border area to emigrate from Myanmar to Bangladesh of their own accord yesterday.

Starting on Tuesday, they left their region, claiming that they felt insecure to remain because they were now living in

a sparsely populated area, as most of their relatives had left for Bangladesh. After friends and relatives in Bangladesh made contact and asked them to come, they decided to leave Myanmar.

Upon receipt of the information that Muslims who would emigrate from Buthidaung to Bangladesh arrived at Hmow-

in Chaungwa and Gordu Thara Chaungwa, nearby border fence of Panyaungpingyi village in Maungtau township, Maungtau district deputy commissioner and officials went there to meet the the villagers yesterday morning.

After learning of their plans, the district deputy com-

missioner explained that every individual living in the area who encounters difficulty to survive is being provided with rice, cooking oil, salt and peas, regardless of race and religion. He added that authorities are making efforts for peace and stability of the region for the whole populace.

SEE PAGE-3



NATIONAL
World Bank Regional Vice President calls on Union Minister

PAGE-3

NATIONAL
Attacks meant to harm sovereignty: MNHRC member

PAGE-2

NATIONAL
Coordination body for Rule of Law and Justice holds 4th meeting

PAGE-3



LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar to celebrate World Tourism Day on 9 October

PAGE-4



BUSINESS

Export value shows increase of US\$1.1 billion in past six months

PAGE-5



BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

Awarded by EUROMONEY 2017

Attacks meant to harm sovereignty: MNHRC member



U Yu Lwin Aung, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission member.

PHOTO: MIN HTET

Due to the attacks by extremist terrorists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) which took place on 25 August in Maungtau, local residents experienced many kinds of difficulties and hardships, including many displaced people. Likewise, there were allegations and criticisms of evil-minded agitators from home and abroad so that the international community would get confused over Rakhine State affairs, even in such an atmosphere of peace and tranquility after passing a period of living in anxiety and fear. Accordingly, the news team interviewed U Yu Lwin Aung, a member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, who visited the conflict areas for five days for an assessment of the situations on the ground from every point of view.

Following is the interview with U Yu Lwin Aung (Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Member)

Q. Concerning situation in the Maungtau region, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission members conducted a survey in the conflict areas for five days. Can you tell me the aims and objectives of the trip?

A. On August 25, there happened violent attacks of extremist terrorists in Maungtau and Buthidaung. There were many allegations in the international sphere that there were violations of human rights, excessive use of force and ethnic cleansing in fighting against them. Concerning these allegations, the MNHRC assigned us to study and assess the actual events and situations on the ground, assessing that it is necessary to ascertain whether these events were real or not. On September 25, we called on the Chief Minister of Rakhine State, explaining him the aims and ob-

jectives of the trip. On the very day, we accompanied the Chief Minister, knowing that the Chief Minister and party had arranged to view the site where Hindus were massacred. Upon arrival at the site, we found 28 dead bodies of Hindus killed by extremist terrorists near Yebawkyia village. At the place, not far from the site, another pit was found again in which 14 corpses were buried. Upon further search for bodies, security forces of the border security guard found three more bodies. On that day we witnessed 17 bodies before our eyes. If they are added to the former 28 ones, it would amount to 45. According to further inquiries, we found

with Hindus in Ngakhura. While meeting with many ethnic races, nobody said that Tatmadaw committed genocide. We found that terrorists entering from the neighbouring country organised naive Islamists with fear and other kinds of means. They attacked police outposts simultaneously after organising them.

Q. What is the view of the commission on the situation in Maungtau region?

A. These events are pre-planned terrorist acts with set aims rather than an impromptu terrorist act. Before these events, those who can inform the government and Tatmadaw like heads of wards were killed to breed fear.

to organise but they didn't involve themselves with the terrorists. Some say they don't like being called Bangali. While we were interviewing the Muslim villagers, we saw a Tatmadaw car entering the village. What is strange is a pole about a man's height was stuck in the middle of the gravel road to prevent entry into the village and Tatmadaw personnel had to remove it in order to enter the village. We asked the Tatmadaw personnel why they came and they said they came to give medical treatment to a family in the village. This is my first-hand experience of Tatmadaw providing medical assistance to a Muslim village instead of harming or caus-

health care. However we say they replied that they'll go to Bangladesh as it is more convenient there than here. They say they are afraid to stay. As they went on their own free will, we do not have the right to prevent them and we didn't. The strange thing about the whole incident was that they came from villages in the eastern side of Mayu Mountain range, south of Buthidaung where nothing happens. If they were fleeing from places where there were killings, it would have been understandable. Some sold off all their belongings so there seems to be no way they are ever going to come back. More strange is we heard of Muslims in Mrauk-U where everything is peaceful being called by phone from Bangladesh (to cross over). We saw people being carried over to Bangladesh by pre-arranged motorised boats from Bangladesh, so it means that they were being willingly invited in. This is really strange.

Q. What do you want to say about events in Maungtau region? What will be included in the commission's report?

A. There are some villages in Buthidaung and Maungtau region that remain where they were. Ethnic nationals are afraid of staying there if those villages remain there. There is fear. This is something we need to keep in mind. We will report our findings to the President. We will also report to Hluttaw and relevant departments. Some, we will announce to the public so that all will know. We want all to look first-hand on the ground instead of listening to comments from outside. This is not an ordinary event. It is an attempt to violate the sovereignty of the country using religion and race. From a human rights viewpoint, it can be seen that a number of ethnic nationals were massacred in groups. The Government needs to set up proper plans so that there is no recurrence of such events. If not, we conclude that there'll be more mass killings and killing of minority ethnic nationals.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission committee members U Yu Lwin Aung, Dr. Myint Kyi and secretary U Bone Kywe visited and met with people from the two societies for five days from 25 to 29 September to study the events in Maungtau region. Their findings will be reported to the President in a few days.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alin) ■



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission members meeting with ethnic people from villages in Maungtau District. **PHOTO: MIN HTET**

bereaved families and relatives of the killed victims. Out of over 100 abducted, 8 girls and children were taken to Bangladesh and girls were raped on the way and forced to converted to their religion.

We came to know on the very first day of our trip that ethnic cleansing was made by extremist terrorists, absolutely not by the army as alleged and criticised by some people. In the human rights point of view, it was found that survival of a small amount of Hindus was being violated. It was learnt that forced conversion to their religion was violating their freedom of worship. And committing rape is a violation of women's rights.

Q. We have known that the commission visited villages in northern and southern Maungtau Region. Please share your experiences with us.

A. On the second day of the trip, we went to Kyikanpyin and Ngakhura in northern Maungtau via Maungtau. Over there we met

Those who reported the true happenings were also killed. Even a young woman clerk in the office of the head of district administrative department was killed as an informer. Muslims who had contact with government, Tatmadaw and administrative organisations were also killed. Afterwards, a number of ethnic Mro were killed. Then police posts manned by a few were attacked by mobs of hundreds and thousands with IEDs, machetes, and small arms. It is obvious that they plan to annihilate nearby minority ethnic nationals once these posts fell.

Q. (The committee) visited both ethnic national villages as well as Muslim villages. What are the differences?

A. The commission divided into two groups on the third day. My group visited villages south of Maungtau, while the group led by Dr. Myint Kyi visited Maungtau town and villages north of Maungtau. Some Muslim villagers say terrorists came to their village

ing problem to the village. What I want to say is that there were no signs of Tatmadaw conducting ethnic cleansing, rape and using excessive force.

Q. You met with Muslims who were illegally entering into Bangladesh. How did you meet them?

A. Yes. We heard of a group of Muslims preparing to enter illegally into Bangladesh gathering at a beach near Alethanyaw and together with Maungtau District General Administrative Department's Commissioner U Ye Htut, we went to talk to them. We saw more than a thousand Muslims provided with food and shelter by ICRC (International Community of the Red Cross) and the Myanmar Red Cross Society. We spoke with groups of Muslims in six different locations and they said they don't have security and they are afraid of reprisals. We told them that we'll provide police and Tatmadaw for security as well as food. The Tatmadaw will also send medical assistance for

More Muslim villagers emigrate to Bangladesh of their own accord

FROM PAGE-1

The villagers said they were well aware of the situation and of the authorities' efforts, but would still like to go to Bangladesh of their own accord.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslims fled to Bangladesh in the days and weeks after the 25 August attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on dozens of border guard posts.

This week, 168 Muslims from Gutarpyin village in Buthidaung Township reached nearby Ywathitkay on 26 September,

with 255 Muslims from Shwehtar and Zinkharma villages, 281 Muslims from Taungchaung and Pauktaw villages, 200 Muslims from Theintaungpyin and Karli villages, 35 Muslims from Duohthema village arriving at the beach near Layyinkwin village on 27 September. On 28 September, 895 Muslims from Taungchaung, Zinkharma, Boli and Ngwe Taung villages arrived at the beach nearby Layyinkwin village, with 530 Muslims from Gutarpyin village arriving between Panyaungpingyi and the border fence. —MNA ■



U Htun Htun Oo, Union Attorney-General delivers an opening speech at the 4th meeting of the coordination body of Rule of law department and judiciary fairness works in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

Coordination body for Rule of Law and Justice holds 4th meeting

4th meeting of the coordination body of Rule of law department and judiciary fairness works was held at the meeting room of the office of the Union Attorney General yesterday morning.

U Htun Htun Oo, Union Attorney-General and chairman of the coordination body of the Rule of law department and judiciary fairness works delivered an opening speech saying coordination sub bodies were formed in states and regions in order to effectively coordinate rule of law and judiciary fairness works.

A total of 95 cases submitted by the people were received in Kachin, Sagaing, Magway, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Rakhine, Shan and Mandalay. In response to the submissions, sub groups coordinated with relevant departments on the submitted cases, provided suggestions on right of appeal in accordance to the law and cases were opened in police stations.

The sub groups were formed

with government officials, representatives of civil society organisations and legal experts and if they work together in unity, rule of law will improve.

For the group works to succeed, it will work together with local and foreign organisations. Rule of Law and Justice Sector Forum is planned with an aim to setup future works for improvement and development of rule of law and preparations need to be made said the Union Attorney-General. Next, meeting attendees discussed widely on what ought to be done for rule of law and judiciary fairness works and preparation works for the forum.

The meeting was attended by chairman, vice chairmen and members of coordination body of Rule of law department and judiciary fairness works, advisory group members and invited guests from international organisations. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, the World Bank Regional Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific hold talks in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 September 2017. PHOTO: MNA

World Bank Regional Vice President calls on Union Minister

MS. Victoria Kwakwa, the World Bank Regional Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific, called on Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, at the ministry's Maykhalar hall yesterday afternoon.

During the call, matters relating to status of the World Bank proposal on cooperating with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on the ministry's nutrition supplement programme for expecting mothers and newborn children up to 2 years of age under

the ministry's socio-protection program, and the status of appointing country directors in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar after World Bank re-entered Myanmar five years ago were brought up by the World Bank representative.

The Union Minister explained the status of international aid being distributed with the Red Cross Movement to all who are facing difficulties. Then the committee to monitor the progress of the implementation of the Rakhine State Advisory Commission recommendations was set up on 12 September. The

committee had held three coordination meetings, conducted one site survey and identified priority works that can be conducted ministry-wise", said the Union Minister. The Union Minister also explained the status of drawing up a strategic plan to implement the recommendations and returning those who fled to Bangladesh according to the 1993 Myanmar-Bangladesh agreement and discussed the Myanmar government's systematic resettling, providing of humanitarian assistance and security to villages.—Myanmar News Agency ■

10,000 acres earmarked for fish breeding in Yangon Region

By Ko Moe

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF), the Yangon regional government is setting aside 10,000 acres for fish breeding.

"The government had informed Yangon Region Department of Fisheries about setting aside 10,000 acres of land for fishery sector development. Region Government and MFF should coordinate in this matter. If the government digs up land to use (the earthwork somewhere else) and allows us to use this dug up land as fish ponds, it would be very convenient for us", said MFF Vice Chairman Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said ground implementation work for development of the fish breeding sector in Yangon Region would start at the end of the rainy season this year. The Chief Minister also added that existing illegal fish ponds will be legalised and fishery-related factories and cold storages will be upgraded.

The region government will conduct this through cooperating with relevant ministry, MFF, local and foreign businesses, it is learnt. As the government is promoting the export sector, the fishery sector that can obtain foreign exchange directly has been evaluated as a sector to

be given high priority.

"The fishery sector will develop if the fish hatcheries, quality feed and technology that we need are provided" Daw Toe Nanda Tin said. In drawing up projects for fishery sector development, aquaculture zones, hatcheries, feed mills and laboratories were listed as necessities.

The MFF has asked the region government to systematically set up aquaculture zones, hatcheries, feed mills and laboratories when drawing up projects for fishery sector development. In FY 2016-2017, the fishery sector had exported about US\$600 million worth of products, it is learnt. ■

We must respond to any false allegations with patience and truth

By Khin Maung Oo

During the general debate of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly held at the UN headquarters in New York, Nigeria, France, Turkey, Afghanistan, UAE, Malaysia, Maldives and Czech including Bangladesh made false allegations concerning Myanmar, using terms such as “Atrocities” “Ethnic Cleansing,” and so on.

In regard to those allegations on Myanmar, U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the UN, responded on 25th September, the last day of the general debate exercising his right of reply. He said, “It is deeply regrettable that unsubstantiated allegations have been repeated in these chambers likening the situation in Rakhine State to ‘ethnic cleansing’”. He also said that terms such as ‘atrocities’, ‘ethnic cleansing’ and ‘genocide’ should not be used

lightly, and the use of such terms should be considered only after there is solid evidence. 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 not ethnic cleansing and there was no genocide in northern Rakhine.

In actual fact, there was neither ethnic cleansing nor genocide in Myanmar. Destructive elements are intentionally distorting the news and posting fake news on the internet and Youtube to confuse the international community and the people of the world. Human rights violations were taking place in northern Rakhine State and to stir up racial and religious hatred. Just in a few hours after releasing the report of the advisory commission on Rakhine State, ARSA extremist terrorists conspired to attack over 30 security outposts in northern Rakhine State, starting from early morning hours of 25th August.

We must strongly denounce groundless false allegations which do not agree with the actual facts at the ground level.

Because of the inhumane attacks of the ARSA extremist terrorists on Muslims, Rakhine nationals, ethnic nationals such as Daingnet, Mro and Thet including Hindus were killed. Many were displaced and relocated to safe places. Many Youtube TV channels originating in Bangladesh and human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch have gone to great lengths to sway international public opinion with a view to supporting the cause of the so-called “Rohinjyas”. Many astute observers now believe that all these events were carefully planned by a master-brain from somewhere to bring attention to the cause of the ARSA in particular and the Bengali Muslims who have crossed over to Bangladesh in general. In essence, the game plan was to gain a foothold in

northern Rakhine for future terrorist activities while at the same time discredit the Myanmar Armed Forces and the civilian government led by the NLD which has been working day and night to bring stability, peace and development in the Rakhine State.

These allegations are practically false statements, in which facts are distorted and photos and video clips are used for maximum effect. In the northern Rakhine region, Muslims are in fact the majority, 95 percent of the population in that region. The remaining 5 percent who make up the minority are local residents and other ethnic minorities. These were the ones who were violently attacked and killed in a ruthless and inhumane manner. Whatever it is, the Myanmar Government is protecting all the people of the region, regardless of race, religion and status, with goodwill (“Cetana”) and full respect for their human rights. ■

Rakhine Crisis and Myanmar Economy

By Khin Maung Nyo (Economics)

IHAVEN'T voiced my opinion on Rakhine crisis as the State authorities and experts have been discussing it quite extensively; however, now that the topic falls within my area of expertise, I'm going to express my views.

These days, news agencies, especially foreign news outlets, ask this major question:

“Can Rakhine crisis affect Myanmar economy?”

I myself have never thought it could. That's why I asked them how the two were related. Then, I realized why.

In fact, this article should have been written in English in the first place. But the fact that I am not well-versed in diplomatic terms may give rise to misinterpretations; thus, I've put it down in Myanmar.

During the television interviews, I've

tried to express my thoughts in English as much as I could as those interviews are meant for international audience.

Here is what I've gathered. “International communities are concerned about Rakhine crisis. Therefore, foreign investments could be delayed as there is no political stability in Myanmar. This in turn would slow down Myanmar economic development”, they said! Well, well, well!

It would be entirely wrong for the investors to base their business decisions on false news.

Foreign investments are obviously needed for the development of Myanmar. To that end, Myanmar is trying to cooperate with international communities. The international communities should welcome and acknowledge it, shouldn't they? Why do they choose to believe fake,

fabricated news and turn a blind eye to the benefits of millions of people?

Till now, Myanmar has not received tangible investments from the West. Majority of investments come from her neighboring Asian countries. Myanmar is still in the process of penning bilateral trade agreements with some European countries, and American sanctions against her have not been lifted altogether. Therefore, it is hard to say that the investments, which have not even arrived here, could be slowed down. The list of some top foreign investors in Myanmar has remained the same for years, without any significant change. Myanmar has issued a new Foreign Investment Act which guarantees that foreign investors will be treated and protected equally as local investors.

Most of the trading has been with neighboring countries. Myanmar is still far from enjoying GSP opportunities – a current buzzword.

There has been a great deal of political progress in Myanmar, the most obvious one is the civilian government in office. International communities should welcome such progress made within a year and a half, rather than comparing it with the sort of progress that can be achieved after more than a hundred years. A look into the history of Myanmar will reveal that it has never given into the pressure of any superpower. It has also withstood years of economic sanctions.

While devising economic strategies and investment plans for the development of Rakhine region, there may be those who are uninterested as well as those who want to invest. Of course, people have different views on risks and opportunities. We, on our part, need to welcome investments which correspond with our economic policies for the benefits of our country.

Although it may not directly impact tourism industry as the current crisis is in the region that is not frequented

by foreign tourists, there may be those who have cancelled their trips out of panic, based on false rumors.

This crisis will not affect current investment either, because such investments are situated off-shore and in the south of Rakhine. It should be noted that this crisis did not begin

overnight; it began in 2012. Nevertheless, investment in the region did not drop – it has increased gradually.

We notice that some ASEAN member countries, neighboring countries and even some far-flung countries can understand the situation and sympathize with us.

The silver lining is this Rakhine crisis is that the Government, the Parliament and the public have become united more than before.

“Blood is thicker than water” and this fact is a notion that no one can put a price tag on!

Translated by Soe Than

It would be entirely wrong for the investors to base their business decisions on false news.

Commodities and Monetary Aids Provided to Displaced People in Sittway

SOCIAL Welfare Department provided aid to internally displaced people sheltering at monasteries in Sittway yesterday afternoon.

At IDP camps at Pariyatti Pyokhin and Pyigy Mandaing monasteries, the officials of the department provided four pregnant women, 9 children under 2-year-age, 13 old and feeble people aged 60 and above with

cash assistance.

And, displaced persons were provided with pea, cooking oil, soap, clothes, toys for children, simultaneously giving spiritual encouragement and creating enjoyment for children.

The displaced people fled their homes in conflict areas in Maungtau to Sittway after the terrorist attacks happened there.

—Win Min Soe, (IPRD) ■



An ethnic family from a village of Maungtau District accepts cash presented by an official. **PHOTO: MNA**

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Qatar Ambassador



Thura U Shwe Mann welcomes Qatar Ambassador Mr. Hassan bin Mohamed Rafei Emadi. **PHOTO: MNA**

THURA U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission received H.E. Mr. Hassan bin Mohamed Rafei Emadi, Ambassador of Qatar to Myanmar at Hluttaw Building Hall (I-11), Nay Pyi Taw on 29 September noon.

During the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann said there is

a need to know the true situation of Rakhine State and he would like media from Qatar to help by broadcasting true news on Rakhine situation so that the world knew of the true situation in Rakhine State. Providing humanitarian aid in specified procedure was also discussed in the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Donation for Myanmar-Bangladesh border fence

ON the morning of 29 September in Ministry of Home Affairs, Lotineya Tatineya Gem Company Limited donated Ks. 100 million for Myanmar-Bangladesh border fencing work and the donation was accepted by Commander-in-Chief (army) Directorate of Military Engineers deputy director Col Aung Myaing.

The donation ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint, Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary Brig-Gen San Win, Col Aung Myaing and heads of departments/forces of Ministry of Home Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Investment, trade with Indonesian entrepreneurs discussed

Nandar Win

A Myanmar-Indonesia Business Matching Event took place at the Sule Shangri-la Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

To upgrade investment and trade, 50 entrepreneurs from 33 Indonesian companies and 50 Myanmar entrepreneurs discussed matters from the sectors of solar energy, coal, pharmaceuticals, electricity, meat and dairy, clothing, textiles, commodities, bags, perfume, soap, arts and crafts, coffee, tea and Indonesian traditional snacks.

“It was sponsored by the Indonesian Embassy with a view to promoting investment and trade in Indonesia. Entrepreneurs will negotiate with each other. They will export their products to Myanmar. Myanmar will also import the products they want. They will introduce their products and services to Myanmar. They will sell their products in Myanmar. Failing that, they will come to invest in Myanmar and to build up factories in the country”, said Dr. Maung Maung Lay, Vice-Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), said in an interview after the event.

During the business matching event, H.E. Dr. Ito Sumardi, the Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar, said investment and trade between the two countries has been increasing and should



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo delivers the opening address at the Indonesia-Myanmar Business Matching. **PHOTO ZAW MIN LATT**

continue.

“Indonesia-Myanmar bilateral economic cooperation is increasing. During the ASEAN meeting, hosted by Myanmar in 2014, Mr. Joko Widodo pointed out that ‘Indonesia needs to invest in Myanmar in the sectors of mining, information and technology and infrastructures.’ Now that Indonesian companies are investing in Myanmar, entrepreneurs from both countries can find out opportunities for cooperating more than ever; through such a business matching, and we firmly believe that success can be achieved further”, said H.E. Dr. Ito Sumardi.

Myanmar’s deputy minister for commerce noted that Indonesia’s business success should be replicated.

“Indonesia is a G-20 member

country. Being a leading country which started to set up ASEAN, Indonesia is economically the most powerful one in ASEAN member countries. Indonesia is the country which is seeking for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) as well as international markets for the opportunities of trade and investment. We firmly believe that good results of agreement for upgrading trade and investment between the two countries and economically more beneficial cooperation through such a business matching will be achieved”, said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

Indonesia-Myanmar trade volume reached US\$730 million last year. Compared to last year, bilateral trade volume from January to July increased by 35 per cent. ■