

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 76, 9th Waxing of Waso 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 2 July 2017

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

State Counsellor Office Information Committee

National Security Advisor's Statement ; Update on the Security Situation on the northern Rakhine State

(8th Waxing of Waso 1379 ME)(1st July 2017)

1. There have been a number of concerning developments regarding the security situation in northern Rakhine State over the past several weeks.
2. These are well documented. They include attacks by insurgents on civilians, gruesome murders of local leaders, and violent threats against both the Muslim and Rakhine communities. Most recently, the military last week found tunnels and arms belonging to terrorist groups, and on Tuesday there were coordinated attacks against Rakhine fishermen.
3. The government condemns these attacks and threats,
4. which appear to be a coordinated attempt to destabilise the situation in northern Rakhine and incite further violence and unrest.
5. The recent violence in northern Rakhine is particularly troubling in light of independently verified evidence following the attacks in October 2016 that extremists have been receiving weapons, funding, and training from abroad.
5. The police are working to identify, capture, and prosecute the perpetrators as part of wider efforts to identify and root out the extremist elements destabilising the region.

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Rakhine State Gov't calls for public cooperation for security

By Myint Maung Soe & Aung Kyaw Oo

SECURITY forces in Maungdaw District has been put on high alert in order to provide security for the local people, according to the Rakhine State Government.

"We will make utmost efforts at most to provide the local people with stability and security," said Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htein Lin.

Security has been tightened near villages, he added. At the meeting with local people in Kyaukpandu Village in southern Maungaw, he has called for the local people to fully cooperate with the security forces.

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Police forces prepare to patrol in Maungdaw township in Rakhine state on October 12, 2016. **FILE PHOTO: REUTERS**

SUNDAY SPECIAL



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Speaker U Win Myint unveils the signboard of Mandalay Region Hluttaw. **PHOTO:MNA**

Mandalay Region Hluttaw gets new building

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint attended an opening ceremony of a new office building for Mandalay Region Hluttaw yesterday morning at Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay and opened the building.

The event was graced by Mandalay Region Sanghanayaka Committee Chairman Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicittasarabivamsa, sayadaws and monks and was attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo, Deputy Speaker Dr Khin Maung Htay, hluttaw

office staffs, region, district and township level officials, donors and invited guests.

First, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo, officials and donors donated 'soon' to the Sayadaw and 108 monks and listened to the religious recitation of the sayadaws.

Chief Minister Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Aung Kyaw Oo, Mandalay Region Chief Justice U Soe Thein, Mandalay Mayor and Minister for municipal affairs Dr. Ye Lwin,

Region Hluttaw representative Daw Nyein Thet Nwe and Daw Thida Nyein then opened the new office building for Mandalay Region Hluttaw by cutting a ribbon.

Next, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and Mandalay Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker pressed a button to unveil the Region Hluttaw signboard and sprinkled scented waters. The Chief Minister, Region Hluttaw Speaker and Mandalay Region Chief Justice planted a commemorative tree.

Afterwards, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Chief Minister, Region Hluttaw Speaker, members

of region level organisations and officials took a commemorative group photo in front of the hluttaw office.

Sayadaws and monks then consecrated the Buddha statues in the new office building after which event attendees took five precepts from the sayadaws and listened to their recitation of paritas.

Later, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Chief Minister, Region Hluttaw Speaker and officials presented offerings to the sayadaws and monks and provided soon. —Tin Maung (Mann Kopwa) ■

Rakhine State Gov't calls for public cooperation for security

FROM PAGE 1

He asked the local people to contact the security forces when suspected situation happen, pledging that the security force will quickly respond to emergency situations.

Troops in northeastern Rakhine State were placed on high alert on Tuesday after nearly 200 Rakhine Buddhist villagers fled the area after a recent spate of killings and amid fears of fresh attacks by armed men.

From October 2016 to 26 June 2017, 38 civilians have been murdered in Maungdaw District, Rakhine State. During that time, 22 additional civilians have gone missing or been abducted, including four community leaders.

There has been a worrisome increase in the number of murders and disappearances in recent weeks. In the past two weeks alone, six civilians have been killed and two have gone missing or been abducted.

12 schools in Maungdaw District upgraded

A total of 12 schools were upgraded in Maungdaw District in the 2017-2018 Academic Year, providing seats for an increasing in number of students.

"With upgrading of schools would promote the education of the students in the district" said U Ohn Myint, head of Maungdaw District Education Department. In Maungdaw Township a primary school was upgraded to post primary school and a sub high school was upgraded to a high school. In Buthidaung Township, two self-help primary schools

were upgraded to sub primary schools; a sub primary school to primary school, a primary school to post primary school, two post primary schools to sub middle schools, two sub middle schools to middle schools and two sub high schools to high schools totaling ten schools upgrades. For the district as a whole, two sub primary schools, one primary school, two post primary schools, two sub middle schools, two middle schools and three high schools totaling 12 schools were upgraded. —Myint Maung Soe ■



The upgraded school in Maungdaw is seen. **PHOTO: THAKKA**

Ministry of Construction inaugurates three road sections, one bridge on Yangon-Mandalay Highway

THREE road sections of the Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway-AH-1 were inaugurated yesterday following the completion of the project.

The Yangon-Mandalay Union Highway-AH-1 is more than 422 miles long and is being upgraded by the Ministry of Construction and seven companies -- Max Highway, Shwe Thanlwin, High Star, Kanbawza, Oriental Highway, Yuzana, and Thawdarwin with the BOT system.

The upgrading of the 40-mile-long Pyinmana-Yamethin Road Section to a concrete road was carried out by Oriental Highway. The company is also upgrading the Yedashe-Pyinmana-Yamethin Road Section, which is 85 miles and two furlongs long.

In his keynote address at the inauguration of the Pyinmana-Yamethin Road Section, Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing called on



Union Minister U Win Khaing and dignitaries formally open the Pyinmana-Yamethin Road Section. **PHOTO: MAUNG HMWE**

road users to observe the rules of the road that there could be safe and smooth travelling. The Tawdarwin Company upgraded the Meiktila-Mandalay Road Section to a four-lane concrete road. Meanwhile, bridge No.

3/122 over the Tonkan Creek on the Yangon-Mandalay Road was constructed by High Star Company and the Bago-Nyaunglebin Road Section was upgraded to a tarred road by Shwethanlwin Company.— Tin Maung Lwin ■

International Cooperative Day event held

VICE President U Henry Van Thio attended and gave an opening speech at the International Cooperative Day event held yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

Present at the event were Union Ministers Dr. Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Ohn Win, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, Nay Pyi Taw Council members, chairmen and board of directors of Central Cooperative Society, States and Regions Cooperatives, officials of INGOs and NGOs, cooperative members and responsible persons.

First, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, the Central Cooperative Society Chairman U Khin Maung Aye and officials cut a ribbon to open the event.

Next, Vice President U Henry Van Thio and group toured the International Cooperative Day market and visited the sales booths.

Afterwards the event was continued in the Department of Cooperative meeting hall where Vice President U Henry Van Thio said the event was the 23rd time the International Cooperative Day had been held in Myanmar. As per the theme "Cooperatives ensure no one is left behind" International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) had urged cooperatives to have everyone freely participate without discriminating against gender, race, religious belief, social and political stand. Cooperatives were not investment money



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects foodstuff produced by cooperative Societies. PHOTO: MNA

centered but people oriented and the cooperatives' prosperity and developments were seen to be shared fairly and equitably said the Vice President.

ICA has 95 member countries, 284 member cooperatives with more than 1 billion members. 250 million of the world's population is known to earn their livelihood in cooperative works. UNESCO had included cooperatives in the list of intangible cultural heritage of humanity and cooperatives need to help face the challenges of inequalities and conflicts added the Vice

President.

On the Myanmar cooperative sector, financial support provided to rural farmers were effective and the momentum of success need to be maintained remarked the Vice President. Through the cooperation of Cooperative Department and cooperatives of different levels, cooperative member farmers were provided with small investment loans amounting to hundreds of billions of Kyat in 2016 and 2017. In FY 2016-2017, more than 3,400 farm machineries worth more than Ks 24 billion were sold under an

installment system and a loan of more than Ks 11 billion had been provided for mechanized farming in more than 35,000 acres of land. The Vice President urged the cooperatives in the relevant states and regions to provide more loans to farmers who had repaid their loans. It could be seen that the cooperative sector was supporting the country's economic development said the Vice President. The Vice President concluded his speech by urging all to cooperate and work together according to the International Cooperative Day theme and achieve the aim

of the cooperative.

Next, Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu explained about International Cooperative Day and Central Cooperative Society executive committee member Dr. Toe Nanda Tin read a message sent by ICA.

Afterwards Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw and responsible persons presented to Nay Pyi Taw Council, states and regions cooperatives Ks 529.53 billion for small investment loan, support of Ks. 9.45 billion for more than 2,000 farm machineries sold under an installment system and Ks 8.59 billion for mechanized farming in 29,000 acres and awards to best performing cooperatives in manufacturing, service and trade sectors, best performing cooperatives, first, second and third prizes for best performing townships and best sales booths in the sales market.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and persons attending the event then took commemorative group photos. International Cooperative Day is an annual celebration held worldwide since 1923 by ICA with the aim of increasing relations, cooperation and increase economic cooperation among cooperatives.

In 1992, the 49th United Nations General Assembly marked the centenary of the establishment of ICA by proclaiming the first Saturday of July to be International Day of Cooperatives and the event had been held annually worldwide.—MNA ■

National Security Advisor's Statement ; Update on the Security Situation on the northern Rakhine State

FROM PAGE 1

6. We will continue to assess the security situation on an ongoing basis and will take appropriate action where necessary.
7. Despite the current situation, the government is continuing its work to provide development assistance and relief to communities throughout Rakhine and to help secure long-term stability and peace for the region.

Latest Situation in northern Rakhine State Security situation

- From October 2016 to 26 June 2017, 38 civilians have been murdered in Maungdaw District, Rakhine State. During that time, 22 additional civilians have gone missing or been abducted, including four community leaders.
- There has been a worrying increase in the number of murders and disappearances in recent weeks. In the past two weeks alone, six civilians have been killed and two have gone missing or been abducted.
- Additionally, the military has found increasing evidence of extremist activity in recent weeks. On 20 June, tunnels, guns, and a training camp belonging

to a terrorist group were discovered in the Buthidaung-Maungdaw area's Mayu Mountains.

- * In addition to the tunnel, which measured five feet in width, four feet in height, and 80 feet in length, security forces also found clear evidence of use of the camp as a terrorist training facility, including home-made weapons, huts, rations, utensils, and other items used for training and housing insurgents.
- Security forces have also come under attack, with one machete-wielding man attacking security forces on Tuesday 27 June and two more men attacking the following day. All three attackers were killed in self-defence.

Humanitarian situation

- Humanitarian aid currently reaches 95 per cent of affected people in Rakhine State. This aid is delivered through a combination of government and local and international NGO efforts.
- * The government has provided over USD 1.96 million (2,672.352 million kyat) in humanitarian assistance to Rakhine State by 16 June 2017.
- * This aid has been distributed to both Rakhine and

Muslim communities in affected areas.

- * Additionally, the government has continued to deliver health and education support to affected areas. Over 107,000 people have been treated by 40 mobile health clinics operating in 208 villages and temporary camps across Rakhine State. Ministries have also provided a number of vocational and academic programmes to Rakhine State residents, as well as upgrading 300 schools across the state for the 2017-18 academic year, including funds and support to renovate 20 public schools in Muslim villages. The government has reopened all schools in the Maungdaw area, which had been temporarily closed.
- Three camps for internally displaced persons (IDPs) have been closed down in the Kyaukphyu, Pauktaw, and Ramree townships. Fifty-five households from these camps have voluntarily chosen to relocate to Yangon.
- * This is in line with recommendations made in the interim report by the Rakhine Advisory Commission led by former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Peace, Stability and National Development

Khin Maung Oo

THROUGHOUT Myanmar's history, all internal affairs were solved by the State and her people themselves, till a satisfactory state of affairs was reached. Events that happened in northern Rakhine State were in fact the kinds which had occurred to them similarly since time immemorial, and they were managed and dealt with in a proper and judicious manner in our own way.

At such a time when the State is trying to find solutions systematically and with great care, in accord with rules and laws concerning affairs happening presently in northern Rakhine State, it was a disappointing turn of events that the UN Human Rights Council approved the one-sided decision of the situation on human rights in Myanmar without taking a vote at its 34th regular meeting held

on 24 March 2017.

Though not being a member country of the Human Rights Council, it is reasonable for Myanmar to reject the approval of such a decision. As regards making such a decision, the Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the United Nations Office in Geneva made a statement at the Human Rights Council's meeting that Myanmar would never accept all the contents of the decision, with member countries of Human Rights Council such as India and China as well publicly expressed their disapproval over such a decision.

During her official visit to European Union Headquarters and western countries last May and June, the State Counsellor herself officially said that the matter of sending a mission to the Rakhine State could not be accepted as it did not comply with on-the-ground situations and

suggestions made by them were not helpful in solving problems, instead such a move would have created greater hostility between the different communities in the Rakhine State. And she openly disclosed wherever she went that the country has been making efforts to find a just and durable solution by implementing the recommendations of advisory commission on Rakhine Affairs led by Dr Kofi Annan.

Just after armed attacks by terrorists at the border police outposts in the month of October 2016, an investigation commission led by the Vice-President was urgently formed to investigate accusations claiming that there had been violations of human rights in launching area clearance operations, making enquiries and investigations concerning on-the-ground situations in the conflict areas, even in Cox Bazar in Bangladesh.

Provided that the said commission will release an internationally acceptable report in the very near future, effective responses against pressure from international communities to accept the fact-finding mission to be sent by the Human Rights Council will be able to be made.

Establishment of security, peace, stability and development in the Rakhine State, resettlement, and increased provision of humanitarian aid and tasks for scrutinizing immigration status are being increasingly carried out with great momentum. As accused by outsiders, there is no violation of human rights.

In case there are obvious evidences of violations, necessary actions will be taken against those violators in accord with the law. Therefore, we firmly believe that the Union Government will never accept any interventions from outsiders. ■

Myanmar expands electricity access through small grids

By Rey Davis Tuplano, Editorial Manager, Oxford Business Group

Investment in off-grid solutions is increasing in Myanmar, as the country seeks to boost connectivity and move towards providing universal access to electricity within 15 years.

In mid-May the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation announced it was accelerating its programme for off-grid power projects in rural areas.

Under these plans, 10 villages will be linked to standalone power sources as part of a pilot programme to improve connectivity in remote regions.

By 2021 the ministry aims to link more than 35,000 households to mini-grid systems and install solar panel units at a further 460,000 homes.

Announcing the plan, the minister for agriculture, livestock and irrigation, U Aung Thu, said the scheme would require input from the private sector, state agencies and overseas support.

"Our target is to generate 30 MW from off-grid power sources, and we hope to supply about 500,000 households within the first five years," he said. "Private sector participation is very critical for accomplishing that goal."

Long-term power plan

Under its National Electrification Plan (NEP) launched in 2014,

Myanmar has set a goal of bringing electricity to every household by 2030 using a budget of some \$5.8bn. The latest World Bank data place the overall electrification rate at 33% as of 2014, and at just 16% in rural areas, though the national grid has seen expansion in recent years and security of supply in urban areas has improved.

While the main connectivity boost will come from an expanded grid, the NEP concedes that universal access to power will also require off-grid investments in mini-grids and home solar systems for individual or small-scale settlements. It is also likely that, where the costs of connection with the national grid prove prohibitive, some communities will have to rely on off-grid solutions in the longer term.

International lenders have moved to support the targets, including the World Bank – which in September 2015 approved a \$400m loan to the NEP – the Asian Development Bank, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and Germany's international development agency, GIZ.

Groundwork still needed

With the strong potential for returns on electricity investment, the focus on off-grid solutions promises to offer increased opportunities for service and materials providers, as well as renewable energy independent power producers (IPPs).

However, speaking to OBG, Ken

Tun, CEO of Parami Energy Group, highlighted that further work is needed to create strong foundations for renewable IPP projects to succeed.

"There are a lot of uncertainties when looking at renewable IPP projects, and the tariff is one of them. Markets such as India have put in place a good policy environment and financial arrangements to enjoy a tariff of around \$0.05 per KWh," he told OBG. "Technical studies should also be conducted to make sure the current grid can take the additional capacity from renewable energy sources, meaning the government could take more time to approve renewable IPP projects."

Curbing growth and communications

Gaps in connectivity are hindering economic development in Myanmar's rural regions, particularly in the telecoms sector.

While mobile phone operators can provide coverage to around 80% of the country, the final 20% of the market is proving difficult to penetrate, mainly due to internal conflict, poor transport links and weaknesses in electricity supply.

"A lack of access to power hinders expansion of telecoms infrastructure and adds to maintenance costs," Daw Phyu Phyu Win, CEO of ABC Telecomm, told OBG.

Philippe Luxcey, CEO of telecom tower company Apollo Towers, expanded on the issue, saying, "Maintenance can be very challenging as it is very difficult to bring, refill and maintain generators at mountain sites in very remote areas. There are many additional costs that the operators are not willing or ready to support". ■

While the main connectivity boost will come from an expanded grid, the NEP concedes that universal access to power will also require off-grid investments in mini-grids and home solar systems for individual or small-scale settlements.



Mr. Filippo Grandi (centre) is welcomed by Director-General Daw Kathy Soe at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

UN High Commissioner for Refugees and party arrive Yangon

UNITED Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr. Filippo Grandi and party arrived at Yangon by air yesterday evening and was welcomed at the airport by Daw Kathy Soe, Director-General of Strategic Studies and Training Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentis, resident representative of the UNHCR to Myanmar and officials.

Mr. Filippo Grandi and party is scheduled to leave from Yangon to Rakhine State by air today.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) families honor MMA middleweight world champion Aung La Nsang

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of the Defence Services yesterday awarded a certificate of honor and Ks. 10 million award to Aung La Nsang who beat the reigning Russian MMA middleweight world champion.

In the MMA middleweight world championship fight, the main event of the Light of a Nation MMA match held at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium in Yangon on 30 June evening, Myanmar national Kachin ethnic Aung La Nsang beat the reigning MMA middleweight world champion Russian national Vitaly Bigdash after a five round bout and clinched the world champion title.

For fighting an opponent with full Myanmar tenacity, valor and courage while displaying Myanmar's tradition and might to attain the MMA middleweight championship title, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) officers, personnel and families full heartedly honor Aung La Nsang and

Commander of Yangon Region Command Brig-Gen Thet Pone presented the Commander-in-Chief's certificate of honor and Ks. 10 million award to Aung La Nsang in Kandawgyi Palace Hotel, Yangon.

The Commander of Yangon Command first expressed his delights to Aung La Nsang for representing and honoring the nation by attaining the MMA middleweight world championship title and relayed the wish of the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services to a quick recovery from injuries and then presented the certificate of honor and Ks. 10 million award.

Afterward, Aung La Nsang thanks the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) officers, personnel and families for the awards and pledged to double his efforts to retain the title. Aung La Nsang then presented a boxing glove as a commemorative present for Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief which was received by the Commander of Yangon Military Command according to the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Yangon Region Commander Brig-Gen Thet Pone and Aung La Nsang exchange gifts. PHOTO: MNA

Two dead after attack in Maungtaw Township

TWO men died after being attacked by terrorists wielding swords at a crab depot in Pynphyu village, Maungtaw township on 30 June, according to a report of the Myanmar News Agency.

Pynphyu Village head of 100-household Mahmut Talmuk, crab depot clerk Maung Soe of Paungzar village, Mahmat Araf, Mahmat Inu and Abdulah Kane were in the crab depot at Pynnphyu Village when they were attacked by about 15 terrorists armed with swords. Mahmat Araf and Mahmat Inu were killed, while head of 100-household Mahmut Talmuk suffered a cut on the cheek and a broken left wrist. Abdulah Kane and Maung Soe were able to escape without injury.

It was learnt that the terrorists fled toward Labaw Bazar Village. Pynphyu Police are conducting an investigation. —MNA ■

INGO staff killed in Maungtaw Township

A member of an international non-governmental organisation (INGO) was killed by terrorists in Bayona West Village in Maungtaw on 29 June.

Nor Islam, who is a staff member of the INGO Community and Family Services International (CFSI) was sleeping in his home in Bayona West Village when about 10 masked terrorists entered and attacked him with swords. CFSI is based in the Philippines and is providing child protection and education in the Maungtaw region. The police are investigating the case.—Myanmar News Agency ■

List of civilians killed and missing in Maungtaw region, Rakhine State (October 2016 to 30 June 2017)

In Maungtaw region, Rakhine State, starting from October 2016 when violent attacks began to 30 June 2017, 41 innocent civilians were killed and 22 were missing after being abducted by terrorists.

Month	Killed	Missing (abducted)
2016 October	3	-
2016 November	1	3
2016 December	3	1
2017 January	4	4
2017 February	4	-
2017 March	6	3
2017 April	4	7
2017 May	6	2
2017 June	10	2
Total	41	22

Two students to attend International Student Camp

TWO students from University of Dental Medicine Yangon left Yangon by air for China yesterday to attend International Student Exchange Summer Camp.

The camp is from 2 to 14 July and will be held in West China School of Stomatology, West China Medical Center of Sichuan University. University of Dental Medicine Yangon final year students Maung Pyae Phyo Win and Ma Chit Su are participating in the camp it is learnt.—GNLM ■