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Ethnic Rakhine people who fled from Maungtaw after extremist terrorists had attacked, cram into a car on their way to Buthidaung yesterday.
PHOTO: THEIN ZAW

Extremists attack, kill five Daingnet ethnic villagers

ONGOING violence in northern Rakhine State resulted in the evacuation of a village, five more deaths and several injuries to civilians and the military.

Security forces yesterday evacuated 55 surviving members of the Daingnet ethnic tribe in Rakhine State who were attacked by extremists on Saturday, resulting in the death of five of villagers, according to the Information Committee of the State Counsellor's Office.

It was previously reported that six members of a Hindu family were killed after shots were fired in their home on Saturday.

Saturday's killings came a day after an ambush of several police and border guard outposts that left over 90 dead across northern Rakhine State. Security forces were attacked again yesterday with dozens of improvised explosive devices (IEDs),

The Information Committee's report released yesterday states that 22 Daingnet ethnic villagers left Yankar Zaydi village on Saturday for Aungzan village in an effort to ensure safety for their people after the violence in northern Rakhine rapidly escalated on Friday. When they neared Kyaungdoe village, they were attacked by about 100 terrorists who were armed with sticks and machetes. U Maung Ba Sein, 28, managed to escape and said that security forces arrived in Yankar Zaydi village on Sunday and rescued 38 tribespeople who had remained.

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Vice President U Myint Swe addresses at 9th Meeting with Myanmar Entrepreneurs

Vice President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, attended the 9th meeting between the Private Sector Development Committee and Myanmar entrepreneurs held with a view to easing the difficulties and fulfilling the needs of Myanmar entrepreneurs, at the UMFCCI in Yangon at 9:00 am yesterday morning, and delivered the opening speech.

Vice President U Myint Swe delivers opening remarks at meeting with entrepreneurs. **PHOTO: MNA**

Also, present at the meeting were U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Region Cabinet and Yangon Region Ministers, departmental heads and central executive committee members of UMFCCI and responsible officials. In addressing the meeting, Vice-President said, "Monthly regular meetings with entrepreneurs for the development of private sector have been being held since 1st December 2016 by sectors, the present one being the 9th meeting. Up to the last 8th meeting, the respective ministries, Region and State Cabinets and working committees have replied to all the suggestions and difficulties presented by entrepreneurs, whereas some cases are still being coordinated as they are closely related to two or three ministries. The Private Sector Development Committee held its meetings once every two months, now reaching 4 times. Working committees which took the responsibilities of 5 Panels held their meetings once a month, having held meetings for 38 times."

The Vice-President added, "The State has been exerting its efforts for the national economic development in every way. In the present financial year foreign investments reached US $ 3500 million, increasing considerably compared to that of the previous year—US $ 400 million. As for the investment of Myanmar citizens as well, it reached K 1275 billion in the present financial year, exceeding by a large margin that of the last year—K 109 billion. Regarding the investments in Regions and States, Yangon Region reached 80 per cent with Bago Region reaching 11 per cent only.

Efforts need to be made in every way for the investments to enter regions and states proportionally. As Region and State Investment Committees had been formed and assigned respectively, the said committees are implementing to issue approval orders to enterprises with the capital investment under US $ 5 million or K 6000 million. Now due to restriction of India's import policy over Myanmar's pulses—mung beans, green gran and toor whole, bilateral negotiations are under way to solve the difficulties of Myanmar beans and pulses merchants. Private entrepreneurs need to openly discuss their difficulties and give suggestions."

Afterwards, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and UMFCCI Chairman U Zaw Min Win explained the situations on the achievements in various sectors for private sector development.

The meeting came to a conclusion after the closing address by the Vice-President. —Myanmar News Agency

Ethnic Rakhine people who fled from Maungtaw after extremist terrorists had attacked, are shelteing at an IDP camp in Buthidaung (Left) and other ethnic Rakhine people cram into a car to flee to Buthidaung yesterday. **PHOTO: THEIN ZAW**

Extremists attack, kill five Daingnet ethnic villagers

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The surviving 16 villagers who were attacked near Kyaungdoe village arrived at the district police station yesterday morning. Ma Oo Khin Khin, 27, suffered slash wounds and was hospitalised. Among the five Daingnet villagers killed on Saturday was U Sein Htun Maung, 28, according to the Information Committee.

The violence in northern Rakhine State continued unabated yesterday when extremist terrorists ambushed security forces with improvised explosive devices, small arms and machetes, resulting in injuries to one policeman and one civilian.

"From 27th to 28th August, 45 explosions of IEDs occurred", said a statement from the Information Office. "Seven villages, one police outpost and two wards in Maungtaw were (also) burnt down by extremist terrorists".

Dr Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu visited a local battalion in northern Rakhine and spoke words of encouragement to the ethnic Rakhine people and civil servants taking shelter there.

At the meeting, the internally displaced people asked authorities for their help in returning to their native towns.

With the killings of the Daingnet ethnic villagers, the death toll from the violence that erupted on Friday with coordinated attacks by extremist terrorists has climbed to at least 110.

Meanwhile, the government said it was investigating whether members of international aid groups had been involved in an alleged siege by the extremist terrorists of a village in Rakhine.

UN, foreign countries condemn terrorist attacks in Rakhine

The United Nations and foreign ministries of the United States of America, India and Turkey and embassies of USA, Britain and Australia released statements recently condemning deadly attacks on border posts in northern Rakhine.—GNLM/ Myanmar News Agency

Let us eradicate extremist terrorists, destructive elements together!

Khin Maung Oo

TATMADAW and security forces are searching for extremist terrorists in area clearance operations. These extremist terrorists launched coordinated surprise attacks on security outposts in northern Rakhine State. Last year as well, Tatmadaw and security forces cleared them away after they made violent armed attacks on 3 border guard security outposts.

Now again, due to their attacks, security forces have sacrificed their lives for the country. Other security forces and innocent civilians have been wounded. To our great sorrow, we heard about the mass exodus of displaced people leaving for safer places for fear of facing dangers of these extremist terrorists. The exodus started from the morning of 25th August.

Much have been heard that not only the whole populace but also international communities are being greatly irritated, denouncing the atrocious deeds of these destructive elements as the deeds that harm the national sovereignty of Myanmar. Accordingly, it became the affair of greatest importance for the nation, and these extremist elements of destruction were announced to be the terrorist groups. Simultaneously, our State Leaders themselves are dealing with this affair through constant monitoring and close supervision.

The affair is concerned with the nation as well as all Myanmar citizens who wish to live in peace and concentrate on development. It is necessary for us to have a background knowledge of these terrorist attacks and to take notice of their conspiracy efforts. Under the current situations, these destructive elements are systematically making violent armed attacks on security outposts on purpose, at the same time trying to frighten the local populace so that they dare not settle down there. These extremist terrorists have recruited the local people to conduct terrorist attacks such as destroying bridges and planting hand-made mines.

We must take notice and understand clearly that these incidents of atrocity and terror can grow bigger and threaten the very existence of Maungtaw district itself, which is of vital importance to the country. We need to live in unity and co-operation with a broader vision and security awareness so as to oppose any attempts to harm our national sovereignty. In addition we need to protect the lives of the innocent civilians.

Based on this incident, we need to take a lesson from international events. Presently, extremist terrorists have occupied Marawi, the biggest city in the southern Philippines, trying to occupy the whole region of Mindanao Island. Likewise, extremist armed terrorists are making attacks almost every day to occupy the areas in southern Thailand—Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat which abut with Malaysia. Our country should study these events carefully and attempt to understand the broader picture as it relates to the events in the Rakhine State. To sum it up, we are also required to be aware of the dangers of these extremist terrorists and do our utmost to protect the property and lives of local populace. All Myanmar citizens should unite and join hands with the Union Government to protect the national sovereignty of Myanmar and to assist our national brethren in the Rakhine State as much as possible. ■

Here's How Nearly All Nations Could Run on Renewable Power by 2050

The obstacle to transitioning away from fossil fuels is more a matter of political will than technical limitations, a new Stanford study suggests.

A wind power station in the middle of a forest and the brown coal power station of Boxberg are pictured on August 04, 2017 in Bernsdorf, Germany.

THE world could almost completely convert to renewable electric power in time to head off the worst effects of climate change, according to a new analysis led by a Stanford University professor. And, the study suggests, ditching fossil fuels is not only possible, but might be a net plus economically.

Following up on an earlier study arguing that the United States could be powered by wind turbines, hydroelectric dams, and solar power by mid-century, Mark Jacobson projects that 139 of the world's nearly 200 countries could run entirely on renewables by 2050. Phasing out fossil fuels in little more than 30 years will require a massive chunk of money, but would pay for itself in energy savings, better health, and limiting the expected losses due to carbon-driven climate change.

"Technically and economically, it's feasible," said Jacobson, a professor of civil and environmental engineering with a background in atmospheric science and energy. "We have 98 percent of all the technology needed. Those are existing. And the ones that are not existing, there are prototypes available."

Technologies that would still need to be developed include the use of high-powered electrical motors for aircraft and commercial ships, driven either by hydrogen fuel cells or a combination of battery-electric and fuel cell technology. But Jacobson said the main obstacles to his vision "are more social and political."

The new analysis by Jacobson and more than two dozen co-authors was published Wednesday in Joule, a new research journal focusing on sustainable energy. In addition to the 15-page study, a 186-page package of supplemental material lays out projected demand scenarios and timetables for transitioning different sectors.

It's an ambitious plan, calling for the build-out of "smart" electrical grids immediately; an end to new coal, natural gas, or nuclear power plant construction by 2020, along with the conversion of all heating, cooking, and other appliances to electricity by the same point. The last fossil fuel-powered industrial furnaces would be built by 2025, the last internal combustion-driven trucks would roll off the line by 2030, and all new aircraft would be electrically powered by 2040.

The estimated price tag for all that runs to nearly $125 trillion worldwide — about 3.5 percent of the world's annual economic output over the next 30-plus years, Jacobson said. That's a share comparable to the American auto industry's contribution to the US economy.

Jacobson's previous study of a US conversion to renewables came under fire earlier this year from other scholars, who called it far too optimistic unless it included nuclear power and some limited fossil-fuel capability combined with technology to capture its carbon emissions. But he said his conclusions are buttressed by two dozen other studies "that have found it's possible to keep the grid stable without fossil fuels or nuclear power."

And Jacobson said the transition will result in a lower cost of electricity and reduced demand. Producing and shipping fossil fuels are energy-intensive. Electric car motors deliver a far bigger share of their power to the wheels than gas-burners do. And the efficiency of electrical devices is expected to improve. All told, Jacobson and his colleagues estimate going electric would reduce power demand by more than 42 percent.

While the conversion could cost nearly 25 million jobs in today's industries across those 139 countries, he said the net result would be an increase of more than 24 million permanent, full-time jobs. Countries that depend more on fossil fuel production — the oil exporters of the Middle East, for instance — might bear the brunt of the losses, but they can recover by retooling their economies toward new technologies associated with renewables. And in countries that are still developing their electrical system and extending the benefits of power to their population, there's no old infrastructure to replace.

"It's the equivalent of remodeling versus building a new house," Jacobson said. "Certainly, things can be cleaner and more efficiently done and you can save more money if you're starting from scratch, rather than having the cost of removing something old." —Matt Smith (Seeker) ■