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Ethnic Rakhine disembark from a boat that brought them from violence-plagued Maungtau to Buthidaung, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: THEIN ZAW**

‘Maximum restraint’ in countering terrorism: NSA

THE Union Government has a sovereign right to defend itself against terrorist acts, but the government would exercise “maximum restraint” in order to avoid collateral damage and casualties among innocent civilians, said National Security

Adviser U Thaung Tun at a press conference in Yangon yesterday.

Violence in northern Rakhine state has driven thousands of ethnic Rakhine people to Buthidaung and Sittway, while women and children from the Muslim community have fled toward the

Bangladesh border. The National Security Advisor called on all communities to cooperate with the government in its endeavours to restore peace and stability to the affected areas.

At the press conference, Union Minister for Home Affairs

Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe clarified the situation in Rakhine, saying that the ongoing attacks by the extremist terrorists indicate their goal to create an Islamic State in the Maungtau and Buthidaung area.

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Central Committee for Confiscated Farmlands holds meeting

THE Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands held a meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of the Central Committee, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, delivered the opening speech.

Attending the meeting were Vice Chairman of the Central Committee and Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Union Ministers Lieutenant General Sein Win, U Ohn Win, U Khin Maung Cho and U Win Khaing, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and chairmen of state and region level committees for reviewing confiscated

farmlands and other lands.

The Vice President said the Central Committee and the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw met on 31 July 2017 and discussed the policies and framework of the Central Committee. They discussed on how to include members of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Regional and State Level Hluttaw into the Central Committee.

The Central Committee said they had notified the various Hluttaw representatives in advance of including them in sub-committees on reviewing confiscated farmlands for each region and state. The Central Committee said there needs to be reports on surveying and re-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers an opening speech at the meeting of the Central Committee for Rescrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

viewing confiscated farmlands. The central committee said they need to place importance on direct complaints signed by victims of confiscated lands and review complaints sent by representatives of the victims.

The Vice President then went on to say the Central Committee conducts meetings with state and regional Hluttaw

representatives and ministry officials to solve complaints of the confiscated lands. So far the Central Committee has solved cases from Mandalay and Bago regions, Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Shan states.

The Vice President said that the sub-committees need to issue official reports on land that has been returned to their owners

so as to raise public awareness.

U Tin Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Central Committee, presented the status of reviewing complaints of victims of confiscated lands and restoring ownership. Afterwards, the Vice President gave his overall remarks based on the presentations made.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Items provided by international organisations are found in terrorist hideouts. **PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE**

Terrorist hideouts discovered, items provided by int'l organisations found

SECURITY forces discovered six tents for shrimp pond guards about 1500 meters north of Kyeekyun outpost at 3 am on 28 August while on patrol as they saw the rays of torchlight and heard shouts of the ARSA extremist terrorists.

Energetic biscuits and empty packets of snack, empty cans of soft drink provided by WFP were found inside the suspected hideouts of ARSA extremist terrorists. The security personnel found two small wooden boats in a bush beside the prawn pond. Security

personnel on duty discovered polythene bags in the bushes by ARSA extremist terrorists at the foot of the mountain outside Koetankauk Village in Yathedaung Township at 11 am. Seven packs of different medicine, one USAID-branded rice packet, one WFP-branded rice packet, three IEDs made of steel rods, three remote sensors, three sacks of wires, 6 remote controls, three Panasonic-branded 9V batteries and 7 bullets of .303 rifle were confiscated.—Information Committee ■

‘Maximum restraint’ in countering terrorism: NSA

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He also explained that the police have been taking the principal role to protect the population, pledging that the security forces are taking care to carry out their duties in keeping with their code of conduct and the law.

In ongoing attacks on Monday, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists burnt down more than 2,300 houses, according to the statement released by the information committee of the government.

“ARSA extremist terrorists planted improvised explosive

devices in the homes and set fire to the homes so that security forces would get injured when the IEDs exploded due to the fire,” said the statement.

There are challenges, especially providing health care to internally displaced people (IDPs), said Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, who visited ethnic Rakhine people who fled their homes and are currently being sheltered at IDP camps.

“It is important to send food to them quickly. We need to provide health care to them. And



U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor speaks to the media and diplomats at a press conference in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

we need to arrange to transport injured people to the hospital,” said the Union Minister in an exclusive interview with the Myanmar News Agency.

Daw Aye Aye Nyunt, a local resident of Mawyawady village, Maungtau Township, said although the terrorists were dressed in black and hid their faces she knows that they are from nearby villagers. “I grew up with the various people in the region, so I can tell,” she said. “There have been many deaths and casualties in our neighboring villages too.”—GNLM ■



A ship is crowded with ethnic Rakhine people who fled conflict areas. **PHOTO: THEIN ZAW**

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Seriously injured patients in ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks transferred to Sittway General Hospital

According to Sittway General Hospital, 5 patients who were seriously wounded in the attacks launched by extremist terrorists and currently receiving medical treatment at Maungtaw hospital were transferred to Sittway general hospital yesterday morning.

Dr Shwe Thein, Superintendent of State General Hospital, Sittway said, "Today, 2 in-patients and 3 out-patients from Maungtaw were transferred in a motor boat. We here in Sittway have had specialist medical doctors and a sufficient amount of drugs. All the patients who reached here were given out medical treatment free of charge, including medicines and surgical operations. If necessary, we accept all the patients transferred, as indoor or outdoor patients." After series of terrorist attacks, on 26th August 2 injured patients from Buthidaung hospital, one injured patient from Ponnagyun township arrived at the Sittway general hospital, while on 28th August, one injured patient from Buthidaung township, two from Yathedaung and



Injured civilians are seen on a ship on their way to Sittway. **PHOTO: THEIN ZAW**

on 29th August two injured and 3 out-patients from Maungtaw arrived at the hospital. All the patients have their wounds operated, it was learnt. At about 11 am on 28 August, personnel from Road Department had been wounded by a burst of the hand-made mine planted by ARSA terrorists, while riding on motor-bike nearby Koetangauk in Yathedaung township, receiving medical treatment at Sittway hospital, it has been learnt.

U Maung Thein Aung, su-

pervisor of road department who was receiving medical treatment at Sittway general hospital due to the attack by ARSA extremist terrorists recounted, "On my way from Koetangauk, our bike stepped over the hand-made mine planted by ARSA extremist terrorists. Shrapnel hit me on my head, my back and my hands. Out of four on the two bikes, only our bike was hit. The front one was completely unharmed. As soon as it took place, I ordered the bike rider to go straight to

Ah Ngu Maw port as quickly as possible. While shedding blood, we came straight to Sittway hospital, by boat from Ah Ngu Maw." Similarly, Ko Zaw Myo Aung, supervisor 2, Phaungtawpyin rural health department in Buthidaung township, who was wounded by the attack of ARSA extremist terrorists on 25 August said, "At about 2 am on 25 August, ARSA extremist terrorist attackers amounting to 100 made an armed attack over Phaungtawpyin police outposts, armed with swords, firearms and bombs. At that time I was sleeping at the police outpost. I was seriously wounded on my hand, with my leg slightly injured. Some police forces were killed in the attack. I was hospitalized to Buthidaung hospital and then transferred to Sittway general hospital."

Among the patients who were injured and hospitalized due to armed attacks from ARSA extremist terrorists, a police man named Thura Naing died of serious wounds at Sittway hospital.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Horse-cart driver takes the passengers to get around the ancient city of Inwa. **PHOTO: TEIN TAMAN**

Women operate horse carts for tourists in ancient city of Inwa

There are currently about 200 women operating horse wagons for tourists in Inwa, Mandalay Region.

The horse-cart gate is located in Ohtoktaw Ward and many operators are able to effectively communicate with

tourists as they have been taking foreigners for scenic rides for decades.

A horse-cart ride costs foreigners Ks 10,000 and tourists are welcome to take photos of the horse-cart drivers. Horse-cart drivers typically

make two trips per day.

Most of the rides feature four famous tourist sites in the ancient city. If tourists wish to deviate from their set route, it costs extra, said a woman horse-cart driver. — Tein Taman ■

Traditional textile exhibition to be held next month in Yangon

"Let Khat Than," an exhibition of Myanmar traditional hand-woven textiles will take place from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, 5-10 September at the National Museum on Pyay Road in Yangon, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The exhibition is being organized by the British Council, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation the Embassy of Switzerland with support from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. Let Khat Than is following On the Line: New perspectives on Craft in Southeast Asia Exhibition in London, which was held in May 2017 in London. The London exhibition was organized by the Royal College of Art and featured crafts created by women in Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand. Let Khat Than exhibition is the first part of a three-year textile project. Seminars will take place on the first two days of the exhibition.—GNLM ■

Solving Rakhine issue means not falling for extremists' trap

Khin Maung Oo

THE Terrorist group known as Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army-ARSA is unveiling its real image and committing atrocious deeds in various ways, having laid siege to small villages where local ethnic minorities reside, with firearms, swords and other kinds of weapons. These terrorists committed various crimes—killing innocent people, burning houses, shops and monasteries, planting mines and attacking border guard police outposts, security forces and police outposts. In launching their attacks, the terrorists have been found to have carried out well-planned strategies—choosing dates to commence attacks, using guerrilla tactics to fight and skillfully using digital media chan-

nels including social media such as Facebook and Youtube. It can be easily seen that they have already gained the attention of international media which would ultimately help them in their efforts to secure more funding and for recruitment of new followers who believe in their cause.

ARSA extremist terrorists attack local ethnic people in northern Rakhine State started in the years 1942-1943 during the period of the Second World War. In 1948, just after gaining Independence Mujahids staged an armed rebellion, during which many villages and many acres of farming lands fell into the hands of those terrorists. Henceforth, those terrorist attackers staged armed attacks in times of emergency or Government changes occurred in the coun-

try, seizing opportunities for their own selfish ends. Under the support of an Arabian-named organization, "Harakah al-Yagin," based in a country of power in the Middle East, the ARSA terrorist group launched terrorist armed attacks in northern Rakhine State, aiming at attracting international attention on northern Rakhine State, thus resulting in more international pressure on the Myanmar Government and the Tatmadaw. Their aim was also to exert influence over the area, stationing their military forces in the area and get rid of local ethnic minorities from that region.

The terrorists used men and children armed with weapons as human shields, making them attack security forces. The terrorists also burn down houses, shops and religious edifices.

Simultaneously, they have spread propaganda by disseminating fabricated news in English. They also used Twitter, which is being widely used by international leaders, celebrities and politicians. It has been found that some media in the country have written in a biased style and presentation, portraying that these events had been caused by race and religion.

Last but not least, the strategies of these extremist terrorists and targets seem to have been carefully chosen and expertly crafted to have lasting impact for several decades. Their influence can reach faraway places all over the world, so we must take care so as not to fall for the trap of terrorists in dealing with the issues of northern Rakhine State. ■

Asia's future farms

FOOD shortages are a distant memory for many people in Asia. But as the region struggles to feed and nourish a booming population, they could become a painful fact of life again.

Asia is already the world's largest food market, and by 2050 its population is expected to grow to 5 billion — an increase of 900 million people.

Owing to its expanding middle class, the region will likely account for half of the global increase in annual beef and poultry consumption, and over three quarters of the rise in fish consumption between now and 2030.

And by then, more than 60 per cent of total cereal demand in the developing world will come from South and East Asia.

To keep up with this growing demand, food production will have to increase by 60-70 per cent compared to a decade ago.

Ideally, Asia's farms could simply expand their production. But they are woefully ill equipped to do so.

To produce a sufficient amount of food, Asia's farms will need to undergo a 21st-century transformation.

Helping Asia's farmers cope with climate change should be a central part of this effort.

Although a warming planet could boost agricultural output in a few areas, it will severely limit production and possibly trigger prolonged food crises throughout the rest of the region.

As water becomes increasingly scarce in traditionally fertile zones such as the Indo-Gangetic Plain, rising seas will ruin vast swathes of farmland.

If sea levels were to rise by one me-



A farmer works at a cabbage farm near Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

In Myanmar, for example, only 16 per cent of farm households even use tillers or tractors to prepare the land for planting.

tre, the resulting saltwater intrusion would threaten 70 per cent of Vietnam's coastal farmlands. And as waters warm and tidal flows change, yields from the Mekong Delta's vast fishing grounds could plummet.

According to Asian Development Bank research, by 2050 irrigated rice and wheat yields could fall by as much as 20 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively. This would drive up the price for cereals, soybeans and wheat by 70 per cent, causing the number of malnourished children in the region to rise by 11 million.

But this does not have to be Asia's future, if its farmers can adapt.

Most farmers today oversee family-run subsistence plots, and lack the money and know-how to improve productivity and crop quality.

In Myanmar, for example, only 16 per cent of farm households even use tillers or tractors to prepare the land for planting.

Moreover, environmental degrada-

tion has left huge swathes of land barren.

According to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, various forms of desertification affect nearly 40 per cent of Asia's total land area.

While governments cannot create new arable land, they can — and must — pursue policies to support, consolidate and intensify farming operations on the land that is still available.

For starters, the region's governments can promote farm cooperatives.

Not to be confused with old-style collectivised farming, today's cooperatives are thoroughly commercial, prioritising efficiency and profits.

They comprise agricultural enterprises as well as farmers, all of who pool their resources to create economies of scale, reduce costs and lift incomes.

When bought in bulk by a cooperative, inputs such as fertiliser and equipment are less expensive, as is the harvesting process.

By coming together to coordinate planting, cooperatives in India and Nepal have made it possible for every member's crops to be sown and harvested together by a machine, rather than individually by hand.

Cooperatives can also add value after the harvest, by streamlining crop cleaning, grading, packaging, storage and transportation.

This increases the supply of food and boosts farmers' incomes, especially in places such as Bangladesh, where more than one-third of perishables spoil before ever reaching the consumer.

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Tatmadaw holds press conference on ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks in Northern Rakhine

As regards the ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State in August, Tatmadaw's True News Information Team held a press conference at the Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Present at the press conference were Major General Than Htut Thein of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Maj Gen Soe Naing Oo, chairman of Tatmadaw true news information team, Maj Gen Aung Ye Win, director of directorate of the public relations and psychological warfare department, high-ranking military officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), responsible officials from the Ministry of Defence, military attaché from foreign embassies in Myanmar and journalists.

Maj Gen Aung Ye Win, clarified the historical backgrounds of Bengalis in Rakhine State, violent armed attacks between Bengalis and local Rakhine ethnic people in 2012 and 2016, situations from October 2016 to 2017 August.

Afterward, Maj Gen Soe Naing Oo explained about series of coordinated terrorist attacks since 25th August, 2017,



A military officer shows documentary pictures of ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

situations on the Tatmadaw's cooperation with Myanmar Police Forces in fighting against massive armed attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists, followed by clarification on Tatmadaw's conclusion from Maj Gen Than Htut Thein concerning terrorist attacks. Following that, Col Paul Andrew Bruce, military attaché of Australia Embassy said that he would like to know as to which amount of forces had been used in launching search and raid operation, while Brig General Rashedul Mannan of Bangladesh military attaché disclosed their desire to cooperate in fighting against terror-

ism, and Col Craig J Tippins of military attaché of US Embassy discussed that it was necessary to take care of potential danger of defecting into terrorist groups as for some villagers, in making search and raid.

After that, U Tin Maung Aye, Myanmar Press Council asked about convening National Defence and Security Council Meeting, U Hla Swe of Bullet Journal on Geneva Convention and U Maung Maung Tun of News Watch Journal on involvement of NGOs and INGOs in terrorist attacks, followed by replies from responsible officials.—Myanmar News Agency

Three days of youth fair planned for early December

A second coordination meeting to organise the All-Round Development of Youth Fair to develop the knowledge, skill and ethics of youths was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw, where Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi gave speeches.

At the meeting, Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung first explained about the fair organising programme (draft) and officials from Ministry of Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement discussed their relevant sectors.

Next, Union Ministers and meeting attendees participated



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting on organizing the All-Round Development of Youth Fair. **PHOTO: MNA**

in a general discussion. The Union Minister for Information then delivered a concluding speech. The All-Round Development of Youth Fair will be held early December at the Yangon University compound with literature, sports, and arts activities along with ed-

ucational and entertainment programmes. Arrangements are being made to invite not only students from universities, colleges and training schools in Yangon but also youths from wards, townships and districts.—Myanmar News Agency

Appointment of Head of Service Organisation

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Dr. Than Win, the Rector of Kalay University, the Ministry of Education as the Rector of Maubin University from the date he assumes charge his duty. —MNA

Donating for victims in Rakhine State

1. Rakhine State government organized an Accepting and Distribution of Donation Work Committee to accept and distribute aid for victims and people affected by ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in Maungdaw, Yathedaung and Buthidaung townships in northern Rakhine State.
2. Anyone who wishes to donate money can donate directly to account number (CF-003420) in Myanmar Economic Bank Sittway or can contact the following persons.

(a) U Kyaw Hla Tun	Chief of State Law office	09-452255565
(b) U Aung Saw Mya	Head of State	09-253106050
	Department of sports and physical education	
(c) U Tin Lat	Deputy Director	09-428330033

Rakhine State Government

Asia's future farms

FROM PAGE-8

China is already modernising farms through cooperatives and by using digital e-commerce platforms to tap into high-value markets.

In Vietnam, a cooperative programme has improved the quality of produce for urban consumers and boosted tea, fruit and vegetable revenues by nearly one third. Although cooperatives are gradually catching on in Asia, they will need more support.

Most of the region's cooperatives are fragile, informal arrangements. But with the right legal framework in place, they could become far more efficient and durable. China's 2007 Farmers' Cooperative Law serves as a good model.

By offering incentives such as value-added-tax exemptions, the law has encouraged cooperatives and other agricultural organisations to collaborate and create economies of scale.

Within three years of the law's enactment, the number of cooperatives in China had increased ninefold, to nearly 400,000.

Cooperatives also help farmers manage the effects of climate change, by creating networks through which members can share knowledge about tricky adaptive strategies like switching from crops to fish or

shrimp in saline-affected areas.

And with the extra income that cooperatives provide, farmers can buy greenhouses to prolong their production season and shield against erratic weather.

Cooperatives also allow farmers to benefit from previously unavailable techniques such as fertigation — using irrigation to deliver liquid fertilisers.

Finally, cooperatives make climate-smart technologies more affordable. With new digital technologies, farmers can better manage their land, water and energy use, and prepare for bad weather.

For example, the Philippines has experimented with apps that give farmers news about plant and animal diseases, the best places to buy and sell farm supplies and upcoming weather events.

By using less labour, and more capital and technology, Asia's future farms can grow enough food to feed everyone in the region.

Cooperatives are one way to make this vision a reality. Only then will food shortages truly be a thing of the past.

The writer is an adviser at the Asian Development Bank on agriculture, rural development and food security. ©Project Syndicate, 2017. www.project-syndicate.org

There are difficulties for providing daily food and healthcare to villagers due to landmines planted on roads and bridges: Dr Win Myat Aye

FOLLOWING is the interview with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu by Myanmar News Agency.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists launched simultaneous attacks on police outposts in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yethedaung in Rakhine State resulting in loss of lives and casualties of military officers and civilians. They also destroyed households, bridges and roads using landmines and explosives.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and U Nyi Pu, the Rakhine State Chief Minister were interviewed on the status of security operations, healthcare and humanitarian aid provided by the Union Government and the Tatmadaw.

Interview with Dr Win Myat Aye

Q: What is the current status of aid and support for the displaced people in Rakhine?

A: Due to current events all the ethnic people have to gather in one place. There are difficulties for providing daily food and healthcare issues and for sending aid to these areas due to landmines planted on roads and bridges. Air Myanmar Aviation Services Co. Ltd has provided a helicopter to the State Counsellor to aid in these efforts. I went to these areas the next day after these events happened.

There are currently six people who suffered casualties receiving treatment in Buthidaung General Hospital. There are around 250 ethnic people taking refuge in Ayezadi monastery and around 2,400 people currently staying at the Maungtaw Four Mile High School building. These places are safe for now and there are humanitarian workers and aid for them. We are arranging to send them to Sittway or back to their respective villages. This was my experience on 27 August.

On 28 August, we saw some areas and villages burned by ARSA extremist terrorists. The city entrance to Maungtaw was also burnt and we went to the gathering places of the villagers. In Taunbazar there were about 633 displaced people and 25 hu-



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye speaks during the interview. **PHOTO: MNA**

manitarian workers. In Kyainchaung there were about 200 displaced people and 70 humanitarian workers. Then we went to Maungtaw General Hospital to deliver aid to the patients from ARSA extremist terrorists attacks. We arranged for the critically injured to be transported to Sittway's Hospital. We then went to the religious building and saw about 200 displaced people there.

Next, we went to Maungtaw B.E.H.S (3) and saw about 1,000 displaced people, most of whom were Hindus. They primarily lacked proper healthcare but there were military health officers tending to them. We explained to them that the Tatmadaw is providing security for the area.

Q: Currently tens of thousands of people had to flee their homes and roads and transportations have been damaged so how are you providing them with humanitarian aid?

A: The Union Government is cooperating with the regional government to provide humanitarian aid as fast as possible. Many of them are scared so we have to deal with that effectively. The Tatmadaw is also providing a lot of security assistance.

Q: Do you have any comments on the help and support being provided after these attacks?

A: We started providing these help and support with ethnic and internal peace in mind. Since most of the ethnic people are in states and regions we have to give them priority and Chin and Rakhine are the two states with the most help needed. Rakhine is currently in conflict, which is an added difficulty.

Since Rakhine is the bigger state it is given first priority and the State Counsellor formed the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State for that purpose. Work committees had been formed to help Rakhine State but after these attacks happened it just added to the workload.

Interview with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu

Q: What is the state government doing about the terrorist acts in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships?

A: Information was collected when the terrorist acts occur and we have been working with the union government to respond to the acts. Security is the most important requirement and reinforcing Police Forces, Border Police Forces and Tatmadaw was quickly done.

Q: What is the arrangement of state government for ethnic nationals who fled their villages?

A: First arrangement is for security forces to reach the affected areas. Security is also arranged for marshaling areas where the fleeing villagers are sheltering. Two months' supplies of food were sent since ethnic Myo people were killed earlier in the month so this already fulfilled the current requirement. There were incidents of bridges and roads being destroyed by mines causing difficulties in sending aid items. But we are overcoming these difficulties. In marshaling points close to security force stations, foods and rations from these stations were provided to the fleeing villagers. When we

were there, we arranged with Tatmadaw officials to replenish these foods and rations. Everywhere we were, we found foods being adequately provided. We are ensuring that there is no shortage of food.

Q: How is the union government cooperating with Tatmadaw with regards to the current terrorist incident?

A: Cooperation is good. As the response was immediate, damages were minimized. There were some losses initially in some places but almost all is provided with security now.

Q: What is the arrangement of the state government on rebuilding the houses burnt by ARSA extremist terrorist when the ethnic nationals return?

A: Arrangements will be made to reconstruct the damaged homes once the ethnic nationals return to their respective places. Records will be made of damages and losses, which village had how many number of houses, the population etc. With this complete information and records, reconstruction will be done speedily. Requirements of the ethnic nationals will also be



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu speaks during the interview. **PHOTO: MNA**

enquired. The primary requirement is security and on our side, we will inform Tatmadaw, police force and border police force to increase security.

Q: What has been done for health matter?

A: Medicines are adequately provided to hospitals in Buthidaung and Maungtaw as well as village health clinics. Police personnel and people killed and hurt by ARSA extremist terrorists were provided with financial supports. The events that occurred will be properly reviewed and the union government will be coordinated with.—MNA ■



Independent journalists pose for a photo before departure for Sittway at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Independent journalists in conflict areas in Rakhine

A group of independent journalists including local and foreign media arrived Sittway yesterday to cover the terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine.

They will tour around the conflict areas from 30 August to 1st September.

The group includes 18 journalists from Kyodo News, TV Asahi, Nippon TV, The Irawady, Asahi Shimbun, Fuji TV,

Nikkei Shimbun, Skynet Media, VOA, News Watch, Mizzima and the Voice.

This the fourth visit of the independent journalists to northern Rakhine following their third visit in July 2017. The first trip made from 19 to 22 December in 2016 and the second from 28th March to 1st April in 2017.—Myanmar News Agency