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An independent journalist records video footage of a destroyed car near a house that was burnt down in an ARSA extremist terrorist attack in Maungtau yesterday. One terrorist was killed and four were arrested, including one 13-year-old boy. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ARSA attacks, evacuations continue in northern Rakhine

MORE than 150 members of the terrorist group Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked security forces yesterday afternoon near Indin Village, Rakhine State, leaving one terrorist dead, according to government sources.

Four of the terrorists were

arrested, including one 13-year-old boy. Security forces arrested two more men found near a local police outpost in Maungtau on suspicion of their involvement in the attacks, the government said. Yesterday's attack comes after more than 100 ARSA extremist terrorists ambushed

security forces on Wednesday morning.

In yesterday's fighting, four terrorists were arrested: Khawbi Ramud, 35; Arnu Saubi, 13; Swayauk Dusaung, 54; and Eiliyas, 24. They were sent to a local police station for interrogation.

As the violence continued,

more than 500 members of Hindu families in Maungtau who were blocked in by ARSA were evacuated by security forces yesterday. Police carried out security operations to save about 300 people from 70 families in Latha Village and transported them to shelters. **SEE PAGE-6**



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Union Minister for Health and Sports visits Rakhine



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu visits a clinic at an IDP camp. **PHOTO: MNA**

Dr Myint Htwe, the Union Minister for Health and Sports, together with Rakhine Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Rakhine Minister for Social Affairs Dr Chan Thar and other officials, arrived at Maungtaw yesterday morning and visited Maungtaw General Hospital and a camp for internally displaced people.

The Union Minister met with medical staff at the hospital and explained the circumstances in Maungtaw and how the various ministries plan to deal with it. He said the Chief Minister is working with local officials to provide security to the area.

The minister also visited the temporary shelter set up at Maungtaw Basic Education High School to give words of encouragement to internally displaced

people (IDPs) and to donate provisions. They also inspected the makeshift clinic at the school.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and entourage travelled to Buthidaung and visited the general hospital there. They listened to the medical staff explaining their requirements and reassured them it will be dealt with in a timely manner.

Afterwards, they visited the temporary shelter set up in the Buthidaung Basic Education High School and gave words of encouragement to the IDPs there. In the evening, the Union Minister and entourage visited monasteries in Sittway and inspected temporary shelters set up there and also gave words of encouragement to the IDPs. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Independent journalists visit conflict areas in Maungtaw, Rakhine State

A group of independent journalists, including local and foreign media, yesterday interviewed people who had fled their villages for Buthidaung, Sittway after the ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in Maungtaw, northern Rakhine State.

During their tour, they witnessed preparations for burning

down homes and improvised explosive devices planted by ARSA extremist terrorists in Maungtaw.

The group included 22 journalists from Kyodo News, TV Asahi, Nippon TV, Asahi Shimbun, Fuji TV, Nikkei Shimbun, VOA, Reuters, AFP, News Watch, Eleven and Skynet Media.

They will tour the conflict

areas from 30 August to 1st September.

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

—Myanmar News Agency ■



Independent journalists interview local people from conflict areas. **PHOTO: MNA**

NLD Patron U Tin Oo discharged from Yangon General Hospital

U Tin Oo, Patron of the National League for Democracy, receiving medical treatment for over 3 months, at the Intensive Care Unit, Yangon General Hospital was recovering from his illness, being discharged from the hospital yesterday.

On May 17, U Tin Oo slipped over in the bath room of his residence, Shwe Taung Gyar 1st ward of Bahan township in Yangon, losing consciousness because of blood clots in the blood vessels to the brain.

Just after the incident, he received the medical treatment at the Yangon General Hospital.

U Tin Oo aged 92 is suffering from heart disease and hypertension, so the special medical committee comprising of professors and spe-



U Tin Oo is seen as he is discharged from Yangon General Hospital. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)**

cialists from the neurological care unit are giving medical treatment to U Tin Oo. Now his health was found to have improved, discharged from

the YGH. It was learnt that he needs to do physical exercises which will help improve his health, at his residence. —Zaw Gyi (Panita) ■

Three-step plan for Yangon floods

Yangon City's Mayor U Maung Maung Soe said they will deal with flooding in the Yangon Region with a three-step plan using a US\$124 million loan from the World Bank.

The mayor made the statement in response to questions by Yangon Region Hluttaw representatives at the 2nd Yangon Region Hluttaw meeting held yesterday. Step 1 is called the Insurance Fund for Natural Disaster in Southeast Asia. It will be headed by the Ministry for Planning and Finance and will use \$20 million and a subsidy of \$1 million. Step 2 is called the Administration of Urban Floods and its Danger and will use \$77 million, although the Yangon mayor said the amount is quite low if divided into steps. He said after the second step of the project is finished it will be beneficial for Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botathaung and Pazundaung townships in Yangon.

The mayor also said it will have an indirect beneficial effect on Ahlone, Dagon, Bahan and Mingalar Taungnyunt townships that are connected to the aforementioned six townships. He said the remaining townships will have their flood control worked on with a six-year project using loans from the World Bank.

The third step of the project will use \$22 million to protect essential public buildings. The first priority will be given to the Gyophyu Water Reservoir, the second priority will be given to the air compressor factory in Botathaung Township, the third priority will be given to the water compressor factory in Mayangone Township, the fourth priority will be given to Bogyoke Market and the fifth priority will be given to Theingyi Market buildings A and B. The mayor said they will spend \$5 million on raising public awareness and planning and administering services.—Ko Moe

Interview with Hindus who fled from their villages

ON Saturday night, the family of 12 attempted to take cover from a firefight between terrorist gunmen and government security forces in an unfinished building near Myothugyi Village in Maungtaw Township, northern Rakhine State.

Six family members, including two men, a woman and three children were killed by ARSA extremist terrorists. The Myanmar News Agency interviewed surviving family members and is publishing their words below. —Myanmar News Agency



Ko Ram Fawdar, aged 20 years, a Hindu

My brother, his wife and children were killed by terrorists on 26 August.

My brother runs a barber shop in Myinlut. On that day, they were travelling from Alethanyaw village with security personnel and when they reached three mile junction, they headed toward Maungtaw on their own.

They were near Myothugyi village when they heard gunshots and ran into Maungtaw District court that was still under construction. Terrorists inside the district court killed them. My brother and his family was killed by the terrorists.



Ko Khukan Dor, aged 29 years, a Hindu

My brother is a goldsmith in Khamaungsate Village. My brother's name is Pufondor and his wife is Karikha. They had three children. My brother was killed and his wife was abducted, taken to Bangladesh and forced to convert to Islam.

Some men in the village were also killed.

A total of six women, including my brother's wife and children were abducted. My brother's wife called from Bangladesh and said my brother was killed by terrorists. They were rescued and helped by a Hindu organisation in Bangladesh.



Daw Raburi, aged 62 years, a Hindu

My nephew's family was going to Maungtaw from Alethanyaw village and up to three mile junction, they were with others. When they passed three mile junction and arrived near Myothugyi village, they heard gunshots and took refuge in a nearby building still under construction where terrorists already there killed them.

A total of six were killed from my nephew's family of eight. Two escaped to Buthidaung and they are not here. A Hindu at four mile reported the incident to authorities and when the authorities went to check, they found the corpses.

Help us to stay in peace. We want to return and live where we had lived.



U Milawn, aged 58 years, a Hindu

In this camp, there are a total of 1,842 Hindus from three villages who fled from the danger of terrorists.

There was an incident when terrorists killed 6 Hindus near Myothugyi village on 26 August.

In addition to this, 6 women and 4 children were abducted and taken to Bangladesh. Those who abducted them told them to convert to their religion and to marry them.

As these women were afraid from being killed, they agreed to convert. They were also told to say that the villagers in their villages were not killed by terrorists but instead by Arakanese. They were then stolen to Bangladesh where the women were raped and tortured. These women and children were rescued by Hindus in Bangladesh. They contacted us by phone and told us that they were in a Hindu village.

Poverty declined in Myanmar: World Bank report

Poverty in Myanmar continues to decline, falling from 32.1 per cent to 19.4 per cent in the 10 years up to 2015, while standards of living overall have improved, with average household spending increasing annually by 1.4 per cent, according to a new report jointly prepared by the Union Government and the World Bank.

Spending growth has been faster in recent years. Living standards improvements are reflected in a number of indicators, including in more pronounced sales of consumer goods such as mobile phones, motorcycles and televisions. In 2015, over 42 per cent of households owned motorcycles, compared to only 25 per cent in 2009.

"This analysis provides us with an overview of the poverty trends over time in Myanmar," said H.E. U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Ministry of Planning and Finance. "We are encouraged by the decline in poverty, moving ahead it will be critical to ensure that economic reforms continue to reach everyone in

Myanmar. Supporting stronger growth in Myanmar's farms and villages will be vital to continuing the reduction in poverty."

Two methodologies were applied for the report. The first methodology is outlined in the Integrated Household Living Conditions Survey report of 2007, and uses data from 2004/05. A second methodology was introduced by the World Bank in a 2014 report, using data from 2009/10. Similar trends are seen from both methods. The second method showed a decline in poverty to 26.1 per cent in 2015, falling from 44.5 per cent in 2004. The joint assessment recommends that the Government of Myanmar consider revising and rebasing its measurement of poverty using the updated living standards data. This change is recommended to allow poverty measures to reflect new goods, such as mobile phones, in people's lives.

"The decline in poverty seen in Myanmar during the last decade is encouraging, and reflects the country's strong

track record on economic growth," said Ellen Goldstein, Country Director for Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia. "With conditions in both the country and lower-income communities continuing to change, the World Bank is recommending an update in the way that poverty is measured to capture living conditions in 2015." The report is the first of a two-part series on poverty assessment that recommends a revision of poverty measurements for Myanmar. Part two of the assessment will be released in late 2017.

The poverty report is part of a series of analytical work outlined in the Country Partnership Framework (CPF). After a recent review of the CPF for Myanmar, the strategy has been extended to 2019, to continue to help strengthen the country's programs and reforms that will promote growth in rural areas, invest in basic social services to provide better nutrition, health and education services, build infrastructure and create more and better jobs. —World Bank ■

ARSA attacks, evacuations continue in northern Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

Meanwhile, about 200 Hindu people from Ngayantchaung Village in Buthidaung Township were also evacuated to safe shelters.

Hindu families have recently been forced to flee their villages out of fear of the ongoing terrorist attacks. Most are being sheltered at a primary school in Maungtaw.

On their way to Maungtaw, six were shot dead by ARSA extremist terrorists on 26th August, it was previously reported.

Amid ongoing attacks in northern Maungtaw, the government announced yesterday that an investigation will be launched into international non-governmental organizations' aid found at the hideouts of ARSA extremist terrorists. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Only if terrorists are brought to court can national sovereignty be protected

By Khin Maung Oo

“A conflict in front of the house may bring unrest in the back,” as the saying goes. Now we must reverse the saying under the current situations. As known by all, we are now seeing and hearing news and information through papers and social media almost every day concerning northern Rakhine State. At the time when we are performing our normal daily rituals, our national brethren are being displaced by extremist terrorists’ inhumane attacks. What is worse, many innocent civilians and servicemen were brutally killed, and all are living in fear of these attackers. Now is the time for us to take the problem into consideration seriously as a danger to our national sovereignty.

Their atrocious deeds reveal that this was a systematic, long-term plan of the extremist terrorists. They aimed at occupying our land by frightening our local nationals through their cruel killings and torturing of villagers. And they tried to launch their operations by using external media as their propaganda agencies and by taking aid from outside terrorist groups.

Now the Anti-Terrorism central committee for eradication of terrorism officially announced these violent armed attackers as an extremist terrorist group under section 6(E) of the Anti-terrorism Law, and simultaneously it is trying to solve the problem with the conventions on anti-terrorism. At the 52nd day meeting of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session, the

parliamentarian of constituency 12 in Ayeyarwady Region explained that the Union Government and the State Counsellor has been exerting efforts as assigned by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, for the populace in Rakhine State in accord with the State Constitution and the prescriptions of the law on rule of law and anti-terrorism law. As regards the motion put forward, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs clarified at length on the occurrences in Rakhine. He pledged solemnly that those involved in the terrorist attacks would be brought to court under criminal law.

According to him, a total of 466 cases have been opened concerning the attacks in Rakhine State during the period from 9 October 2016 to 16 August. Of these, 116 cases had been judged by

courts while 147 cases were still pending, with 180 under investigation and 23 cases acquitted. Following the series of coordinated attacks last Friday, which were claimed by ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army), the Anti-Terrorism Central Committee declared ARSA terrorist group. Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force increased security forces for the security, peace and stability in the area. Concurrently, Union Ministers and responsible officials of Rakhine State Cabinet frequently went to Maungtown, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships to fulfil the needs of the local populace. In brief, the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force are carrying out the regional security and area consolidation increasingly so that the national sovereignty can be assured.

FOOD and beverage companies face the risk of forced labor in countries where they obtain sugarcane but most fall short in efforts to tackle the problem that threatens millions of workers, according to a study released on Tuesday.

Most of 10 companies studied offered only limited details of how they assess and monitor risks of forced labor in specific countries, and most of grievance procedures for workers are weak, said KnowTheChain (KTC), a partnership founded by U.S.-based Humanity United.

Sugarcane, a major agricultural commodity, can be found in a list of household foods and beverages from cereals to sauces and is often harvested by rural migrant workers with machetes who work long hours for low wages in hazardous conditions.

KTC said there is often little law enforcement and those workers are vulnerable to becoming victims of forced labor, especially by recruiters who deceive them about work and wages in other regions or countries.

“It is possible that the sugar in the cereal you ate for breakfast or the soda you drank at lunch was produced with forced labor,” said Kilian Moote, KnowTheChain

Sugarcane produced by forced labour has been found in Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Myanmar and Pakistan, according to a list published in 2016 by the U.S. government.

Cereal, drinks companies often overlook risk of forced labor in sugarcane



A farmer plants sugarcane in the traditional manner at a farm near Nay Pyi Taw in Myanmar. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

project director, in a statement.

“Agricultural workers, particularly migrants, are at most risk of abuse.”

Sugarcane produced by forced labour has been found in Bolivia, Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Myanmar and Pakistan, according to a list published in 2016 by the U.S. government.

RISK ASSESSMENT?

Verite, a KTC partner, also found reports of debt bondage of sugarcane workers in India and found sugarcane workers in Guatemala at a high risk of

trafficking.

Globally, about 21 million people are victims of forced labor, made to work for free after falling into debt or forced to work due to deception, coercion or threat of violence, according to the International Labour Organization (ILO).

In Brazil, the world’s largest producer of sugarcane, roughly a half million people work cutting the crop, according to industry statistics.

The companies studied were Coca-Cola Co., Fomento Economico Mexicano S.A.B de C.V (FEMSA), Monster

Beverage Corp., PepsiCo Inc., The Hershey Co., Mondelez International Inc., Nestlé S.A., Archer Daniels Midland Co., Associated British Foods (ABF) and Wilmar International Ltd.

PepsiCo, Coca-Cola, Nestlé and ABF were the only four companies to undertake forced labor risk assessments of sugarcane supply chains in specific countries, the study said.

Coca-Cola has committed to conduct 28 country-level studies on child labour, forced labor, and land rights for its sugar supply chains by 2020, it said.

Most companies were lacking in revealing details of their risk assessment, monitoring and grievance procedures, it said.

“Few companies disclose information explaining how they address forced labour risks in specific countries, and, where they do, the information is typically focused on understanding and assessing risks, with limited information on concrete follow-up steps,” the researchers said.

Contacted by email, none of the companies responded immediately to requests for comment.

The study compared policies and practices and used a questionnaire, to which eight of the 10 companies responded. ADM supplied only limited answers and Monster Beverage, a U.S. maker of energy drinks, did not respond, it said.

Coca-Cola, PepsiCo, and Nestlé listed the countries they sourced from most, while Hershey, Mondelez, and Monster Beverage disclosed just one of their sugarcane-sourcing countries, it said.

ADM and Monster Beverage disclosed nothing about if or how they monitor working conditions in their sugarcane supply chains, it said. (Reporting by Ellen Wulffhorst/Thomson Reuters Foundation)



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint (left) meets with local and international news media reporters in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint meets news media

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint met with editors and reporters of local and international news media yesterday afternoon in Zabuthiri Hall, Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

Questions by the news media were answered by the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker. The

meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, officials of Pyithu Hluttaw office, editors and reporters from 29 local news media, locally based international news media, newspaper and journals. —Myanmar News Agency ■

UN, foreign countries, embassies and organisations denounce ARSA terrorist attacks in Rakhine State

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, the embassies of Canada and China in Myanmar, the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), the All-Myanmar Hindu Federation and two organisations of Myanmar Muslim Civil Society, Twa Let Myanmar and Yway Let Yar, released statements denouncing the ARSA extrem-

ist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State.

Other similar statements were also released by the United Nations, the foreign affairs ministries of the United States, India and Turkey and the embassies of the United States, Australia and the United Kingdom. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Second Pyithu Hluttaw fifth ...

FROM PAGE-2

The deputy minister said the Nantmon Aqueduct, which is three miles west of Narsaing village in Maukmai Township, southern Shan State, was constructed and maintained by locals to provide irrigation water to 235 acres of farmland. It is 200 feet long and 35 feet high, constructed with wooden poles and planks and was not very strong. In fiscal year 2013-2014, with more than Ks 40 million of state government funds, the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department replaced the wooden poles with concrete pillars. In fiscal year 2015-2016, more than Ks 4 million of state government funds were used to maintain and improve the waterway, but due to a lack of funds, only about 60 per cent of the work was completed. At the current moment, there is a requirement to do more repair and maintenance work, said the deputy minister.

Afterwards, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint gave a speech saying the fifth regular session was started in 18 May 2017 and today is the 54th day. During the meeting period, 310 starred and 729 non-starred questions were answered, 23 motions including two important motions were tabled, of which 11 were confirmed while 12 were put on record. Thirty-three bills were discussed, 16 were approved and 17 remain.

During the meeting period, 22 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were sworn in, 19 reports by committees formed by the Pyithu Hluttaw were confirmed, the Pyithu Hluttaw judicial and law

committee's term was extended and the duties and responsibilities of the Pyithu Hluttaw farmers and workers affairs committee was amended and redefined. Two Tatamadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were transferred and reassigned as committee members, and five Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representatives were replaced and reassigned as observers.

Representatives should take note that in conducting legislation, the primary responsibility of the hluttaw is to defend the people. If the laws confirmed and enacted by them are unable to defend the people, it is hindering and slowing down the transition to democracy. Strict laws lead to governance by law, which is an extremist type of government and should be avoided. Laws should not oppress but protect the basic human rights of the people. Only then will the laws become beneficial for the people and earn the trust and confidence of the people. Another responsibility of the hluttaw is the matter of checks and balances. With regards to this matter, everyone knew that the hluttaw representatives have the right and are doing this in accordance with laws and rules related to the hluttaw. Only a few questions that are not in accord with the restrictions and procedures were amended or changed for the dignity of the hluttaw representatives. The hluttaw speaker especially requested hluttaw representatives to act and talk in accordance to democracy practices when meeting with the people so that they gain the trust and confidence of the people during

the time when hluttaw meetings were adjourned. It is important for hluttaw representatives to earn the respect of the authorities and authoritative departments too. As we are implementing a democracy system and we need to cooperate in order for the people to have a democracy culture and practices. We all need to cooperate and work toward an all-inclusive democracy.

Finally, the hluttaw speaker said while the hluttaw representatives conduct their legislative responsibility dutifully and loyally, they also need to continuously upgrade their abilities. They must not lose touch with the people and must always be in touch with the people and become people's representatives. They need to oversee and manage the local region development works. They also need to coordinate the works of the committee to assess cases of confiscated farmlands and other lands. Cooperate to establish a democratic federal union with public democratic participation. Be vigilant for the danger of those who want to hinder and destroy democracy. Violence and terrorism that could deviate the democracy transition process, destroy and damage the rule of law, stability and peace of the community should also be prevented and defended with unity and cooperation, said the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker.

After his speech, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the adjournment of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session 54th day meeting and the successful completion of the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session. ■

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th Regular Session concludes at its 53rd Day Meeting

FROM PAGE-2

Parliamentarians made 235 asterisk-marked questions and 208 non-asterisk-marked questions regarding their performance for the sake of the people. Over those questions asked by the parliamentarians, authorities concerned at the Union Level gave replies in writing or verbally, individually or collectively from the ministries. In the sector of submitting motions, six motions urging the Union Government were put forward to the Hluttaw, it was decided to accept for discussion by the Hluttaw, so four motions were approved, one put on record and one left to be car-

ried out further."

"As regards submitting bills, five bills sent from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw were put forward to the Hluttaw for discussion. Then, drafting committee read out the report. After discussions of parliamentarians over the report, it was sent to the Pyithu Hluttaw after getting the Hluttaw's approval. Out of the bills approved by Amyotha Hluttaw, sent to Pyithu Hluttaw for discussion, four bills were returned to the Hluttaw with the amendment attached. Hluttaw approved them as amended by Pyithu Hluttaw. Hluttaw sent to Pyithu Hluttaw 7 bills with amendment attached



U Kyaw Myint Oo of constituency 10 in Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: MNA**

and two bills as amended by Pyithu Hluttaw. Moreover, putting the bill on the amendment of anti-corruption law (third revised) forward to Hluttaw, reading out

the report of drafting committee and getting approval of Hluttaw were performed and sent it to Pyithu Hluttaw. Pyithu Hluttaw sent back the decision of approval without any amendments. Similarly, bill on Myanmar Gems and Jewellery, 2017 was put forward to Hluttaw. After reading out the report, parliamentarians made discussions and acquisition of Hluttaw's approval, sending it back to Pyithu Hluttaw", the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw added. "In the sector of submitting reports, reading out the reports of 12 committees to Amyotha Hluttaw, discussing in support from parliamentarians

and approving from Hluttaw were performed. Committees formed inside the Amyotha Hluttaw held 174 meetings in all, during the session. With the view to upgrading capacities of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives made eight debates. Research, Public and International Relation Department issued three short term papers for representatives during the session, with 65 parliamentarians finding 113 pieces of information they wanted, and 24 underway."

Finally, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw announced that the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session successfully came to a close. ■