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President U Win Myint shakes hands with outgoing Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. K. W. N. D Karunaratne in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

President U Win Myint receives Sri Lankan Ambassador

Myanmar, Sri Lanka discuss Yangon-Colombo air route

President U Win Myint received outgoing Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. K. W. N. D Karunaratne, who has completed his tour of duty in

Myanmar, at the guest hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to en-

hancing friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Sri Lanka, as members of BIMSTEC, and the schemes for the Yangon-Colombo air route.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu and other officials also attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

As non-member, Myanmar will not accept ICC referrals

By Min Thit (MNA)

Efforts to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC), of which it is not a member, concerning the conflicts in Rakhine State will be rejected, said Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office.

U Zaw Htay made the remark yesterday at a press conference for the country's ministries on their second year performance held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

"The UN has set a policy regarding the ICC where it only has jurisdiction in its member countries. The Vienna Convention on International Treaties states that for a country to follow the 12 international agreements, it needs to first be registered and verified before it can become a member state," said U Zaw Htay.

He added that even EU countries who are ICC member-states are not subject to referrals concerning the Syria conflicts, therefore it would be unconventional for Myanmar to accept referrals to the ICC.

Because of recent terrorist attacks and the resulting security measures, a large number of people are fleeing Rakhine State into Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh is a member-state, and the ICC requested Bangladesh's observations which will be reviewed by three ICC judges.

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“ We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)

“ No matter what kind of projects we implement, the main factor for success is collective endeavor. I am firmly convinced that we can overcome any challenge— no matter how big or difficult— if we can set aside prejudices of organizations and select groups, and work without pointing fingers and if every one of us makes concerted efforts with goodwill, wisdom, and courage.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

As non-member, Myanmar will not accept ICC referrals

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This is their process, but if you look at ICC's history, it cannot take action against non-member states. If they try to proceed with something that cannot be done, we will not accept it,” U Zaw Htay said.

“At first they targeted military leaders, but now they are adding government leaders to their list and this is creating complications and confusion among the people. This is now

a matter of our country's sovereignty, which is every country's right to be free from interference from foreign entities. It's in the UN Charter, too. But due to various reasons such as terrorist groups killing civilians and destroying villages, the military had to intervene. Without security forces, everyone would be in trouble. Every country has the Right of Defence, and it will defend its people from terrorism,” said U Zaw Htay. ■



Director-General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**



Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives Ambassador of Bangladesh Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Thaung Tun, Union Minister, National Security Advisor, objects Bangladesh's activities near the borderline

UNION Minister for the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government and National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun called in the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury on 23 May 2018 to the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw and handed him an aide memoire regarding the security situation on the border between Boundary Pillar

34 and 35.

The Union Minister reiterated the objection lodged earlier by Myanmar concerning the building of bunkers by Bangladesh near the border line in the No-construction Zone.

The Union Minister drew the attention of the Bangladesh Ambassador to the fact that bricks and other construction materials are now being brought in to the area from the Bangladesh side, and pointed

out that it can adversely affect the security situation in the border area.

The Union Minister called on Bangladesh to remove the bunkers and to prevent the construction of other structures. The Union Minister also called upon the Bangladesh side to comply with the provisions contained in the bilateral agreement and prevent activities that may create misunderstanding between the two sides.—MNA

Media group in Maungtaw departs for Yangon after collecting news

AN independent media group, including foreign journalists who have arrived in Maungtaw, departed for Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre to collect news yesterday morning.

The centre's Deputy Director U Soe Tun provided information about the camp and explained the repatriation processes to the journalists.

Next, the media group arrived at the Myanmar-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge and observed the two countries' borders. Later, they questioned immigration officers near the Friendship Bridge about issuing national verification cards, gathering biometric data, and the repatriation processes.

The media group then gath-

ered news at the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre.

Later, the media group arrived near the border between the two countries to gather news and interview people living on the border.

In the afternoon, the media group arrived in Sittway and then departed for Yangon by flight. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Independent journalists take photos and collect news in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

ARSA's massacre of Hindu villagers make headlines in int'l media

Amnesty International released a report on 22 May stating that new evidence had revealed ARSA terrorists massacred scores in Rakhine State, with the report hitting the headlines in international media yesterday.

Voice of America (VOA) aired the news titled "New evidence reveals ARSA terrorists massacred scores of Hindus in Rakhine State, says Amnesty International" in its 6 a.m. broadcast yesterday.

The VOA broadcast quoting the Amnesty International said that the ARSA armed group, brandishing guns and swords, was responsible for the massacre of up to 99 Hindu women, men, and children, as well as the additional unlawful killings and abductions of Hindu villagers in August 2017.

The BBC also broadcast its interview with Laura Haigh, member of the Amnesty International. In the interview, Laura Haigh said in its detailed

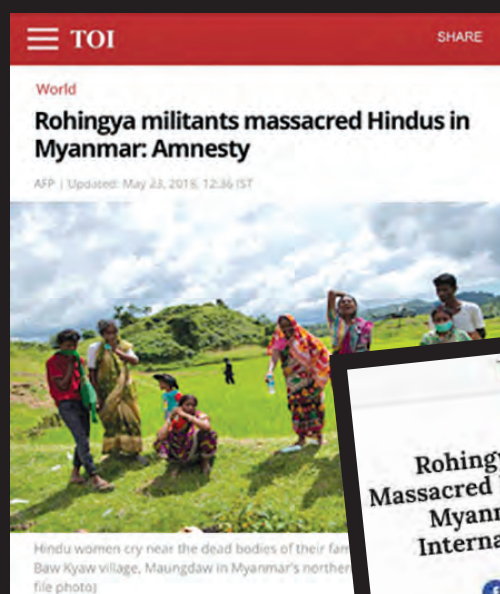
Our latest investigation on the ground sheds much-needed light on the largely under-reported human rights abuses by ARSA during northern Rakhine State's unspeakably dark recent history.

Tirana Hassan,
Crisis Response Director at
Amnesty International

investigation inside Myanmar's Rakhine State, Amnesty International found that 99 Hindu women, men, and children were killed in Kha Maung Seik Village by ARSA terrorists, and another six Hindus were also killed by ARSA terrorists in a separate massacre.

The ARSA terrorist group is responsible for the killings, said Laura Haigh in the interview with the BBC.

The revelation by the Amnesty International made headlines in foreign media, including in Al Jazeera, CNN, AFP, CNA, FOX News Channel, Sky



News, The Straits Times, The Guardian, Daily Mail, The Daily Star, The Independent, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Times of India, TIME and Bangkok Post.

The massacre occurred in August 2017, and the authorities found the mass graves in September, acting on information given by Hindus who were abducted and sent to Bangladesh by ARSA terrorists.

A total of 45 Hindu villagers

were found in the mass graves.

According to information provided by Hindu women, ARSA terrorists came to their village and abducted 100 villagers and slaughtered them with knives.

Eight women were spared as they promised to convert to Islam, and they were brought to Bangladesh. The information provided by them led to the discovery of the bodies.

Myanmar's state-run media released a report on 27 September

2017 that some 28 bodies were discovered in a pit some 1,500 metres north-west of Ye Baw Kya Village on 24 September 2017, while 17 bodies were found in another grave on 25 September 2017, and 48 were missing.

Besides this, the Information Committee of the government also reported that 144 Hindu villagers from O-htein Village in Maungdaw Township were missing.

On 27 September 2017, In-

dependent media, including journalists from TBS, Asahi Shimbun, EPA, AFP, VOA, CNA, BBC, Xinhua, TV Asahi, Nippon, Frontier Myanmar and Reuters, visited the site where the bodies were found.

However, international media failed to report the massacre by ARSA terrorists, and they reported the ARSA's unlawful killings of Hindus only when the Amnesty International revealed it.—Myanmar News Agency

