



ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်ဆိုင်ရာနေ့စဉ်သတင်းအကျဉ်းချုပ် Daily News Brief on Rakhine State Affairs

March 19, 2018

Myanmar-Bangladesh commanders meeting

Naypyitaw, March 16

A Myanmar-Bangladesh battalion commander-level meeting was held in a briefing hall on the Myanmar side near the Myanmar-Bangladesh friendship (Taungpyo Letwe entry/exit) border bridge at border post 31/1 yesterday.

At the meeting, matters relating to movement and activities of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorist group, an ethnic Mro national from Myanmar wounded by a landmine between mile post 55/56 on the Bangladesh side, occurrences along the border between the two countries, people living near the border line, transfer of five Bangladeshis who drifted into Myanmar territorial waters after their boat broke down, arrangements to conduct joint patrols and exchange of news and information in a timely manner were discussed, it is learnt.

—MNA, The Global New Light of Myanmar

Independent media visits Rakhine

Sittway March 16

An independent media delegation including journalists from local and foreign media agencies arrived in Sittway yesterday afternoon to cover developments in Rakhine State.

They will cover ground reports on readiness for repatriation and resettlement for returnees.

The 16-member delegation is comprised of journalists from Nikkei, Kyodo, Asahi Shimbun, NHK, Nippon TV, TV Asahi, Zee TV, Agence France-Presse, CNA, Der



Spiegel (Germany), Russian TV, MRTV, MITV and MNA. The trip was arranged by the Ministry of Information.

—Thura Zaw, The Global New Light of Myanmar

Independent media gather information in Maungtaw

Sittway March 17

An independent media delegation, including journalists from local and foreign media agencies, arrived in Maungtaw on 17 March.

The media delegation was accompanied by Maungtaw District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut. In the afternoon, the media delegation visited the Khon-Daing and Myawaddy villages of Mro ethnic nationals, Owe Htane village (Hindu) and Kyein Chaung village (Muslim), where journalists met villagers and freely gathered information, including accommodation being constructed under the UEHRD programme, issuing of NVCs and their living conditions.

In the evening, they also interviewed the Hindu women from Yebawkya Village, who had returned from the neighboring country and escaped from terrorists.

—Thura Zaw, The Global New Light of Myanmar

Local and foreign reporters visit reception centers in Rakhine State

Sittway March 18

A group of reporters from local and foreign media visited reception centres, Myanmar-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge and the border fence in Taung Pyo Letwe Town, Rakhine State on 17 March morning.

The media group gathered news on temporary shelters for returnees in the centre, opening of the repatriation office and Myanmar-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge.

Then, they also met with people living at Myanmar-Bangladesh border area and interviewed them. In the afternoon, the media group arrived in Inndin Village and met with local ethnics who were the victims of terrorist attacks.

—Thura Zaw (MNA), The Global New Light of Myanmar



Media interviews Hindus in Rakhine State

Maungtaw March 18

The local and foreign media interviewed Hindu women who returned to Myanmar from Bangladesh, after they were abducted by ARSA extremist terrorists, at the General Administration Department in Maungtaw on 17 March.

Ma Fomila, Khamaungseik village: It was between 8 a.m. and 9 a.m. when terrorists entered our house that day. They tied our hands behind our backs, blindfolded us and ordered us to sit in a row. They beat us with sticks and then murdered all the men. They demanded gold and cash from us, and when they got what they wanted, they took us into the jungle. They ordered eight of us (all women) to sit in a hut. They insulted our religion. They asked us whether we would convert to their religion and marry them. As we were afraid to die, we had to give in to their demands.

The terrorists ordered us to discard our clothes and wear those worn by women of their faith. They then took us to Bangladesh. We reached the other bank at about 11 a.m. the next day. We faced torture and insults from the women of their faith in the other country. To stop them from harassing us, we told them we would convert to their faith and live in love and peace together. The terrorists warned us to tell the media as they had instructed us to do. Or else, they would tell the media that our villagers and the people of our race were killed by the Rakhine people and the military.

One night, they took us to a man named Babu. At that time, more than 1,000 people from their faith were demanding that we be murdered. Babu told the crowd that he would inform the police if we were murdered. We stayed there for some 35 days. We were asked if we wanted to stay back in Bangladesh. We told them we wanted to live on the land where we were brought up under our religion and customs.

The government organisations and the ethnic people in Rakhine State never harmed us. We were troubled by the terrorists. So, we told them we wished to go back to Myanmar. With the help of some Hindu religious leaders, we returned to Myanmar on 27 September. Arrangements have been made to provide us with food, clothing and shelter. I have a child. I want a happy life with my relatives at home.



U Ni Maung, Hindu religious leader, Maungtaw region, said: I found through a Facebook page that some 10 Hindu women were abducted by terrorists and taken to Bangladesh. I immediately informed the relevant authorities about the matter. The authorities permitted us to get them back. So, I contacted Hindu religious leaders in Bangladesh and got them back. The government also rendered assistance.

The Maungtaw region had a Hindu population between 1,200 and 1,300. More than 400 Hindus from the region are still in Bangladesh. I want to get them back. Ten women and 16 children have returned from Bangladesh. Local and foreign mediapersons have interviewed them. The Hindus have told the truth, but we were threatened on the phone. Thanks to the government and welfare organisations, Buddhist monks and donors, Hindus who returned from Bangladesh are leading a secure life in Sittway. Initially, there were only three or four donations when they returned to Buthidaung. They were kept in camps, as it was dangerous for them to live in the wards. The religious groups are protecting them.

Some 102 Hindus were butchered by terrorists. We want the government to protect us to prevent the re-occurrence of such tragic events. We thank the local and foreign media, as we can tell them the truth.

— Kyaw Thu Win, Aye Min Thu, The Global New Light of Myanmar

UEHRD discussion held in Sittway

Sittway March 18

Vice Chairman for UEHRD and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye; Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe; and UEHRD Chief Coordinator Dr. Aung Tun Thet led a team to Sittway, Rakhine State, on 17 March to hold a meeting with the Rakhine State government on the UEHRD.

The meeting concerned the repatriation and relocation efforts in Maungtaw District.

At the meeting, Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker U San Kyaw Hla delivered the opening speech, followed by Dr. Win Myat Aye's explanation on the development works and the establishment of the rule of law in the state. He said the incumbent government has been working on ethnic development, man-made disasters,



development of infrastructure, power supply, creation of job opportunities, as well as the development of Industrial zones.

Dr. Win Myat Aye said the UEHRD has been working on repatriation, resettlement, humanitarian aid and end of conflicts in Rakhine State.

Later, the union ministers and their entourage left for Indin Village in Maungtaw District to check the progress made in the security and repatriation efforts. The village will station four teams as border security guards. Then they travelled along the Myinlut-Jintaw-Tapyaytar-U Daung-Maungtaw road to view the villages that were burnt down. They then arrived in Myothugyi Village and inspected the security and regional peace efforts being made there.

Next, the entourage travelled to Kyeinchaung Village to inspect the temporary shelters for the returnees.

—MNA, The Global New Light of Myanmar

Maungtaw Border Trade Zone attempts to increase bilateral trade

Maungtaw March 17

THE Maungtaw Border Trade Zone is trying to increase Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral trade, according to trade zone officials. After Maungtaw was affected by terrorist attacks, border traders from the two nations requested and were allowed to export goods using Myanmar kyats (MMK) to develop the bilateral trade.

There are some inconveniences in exchanging money when imports are being traded with US currency. Therefore, officials allowed the requests of two nations' border traders on trading some imported goods with Myanmar kyats.

From April 2017 to 13 March 2018, border trade in Maungtaw, Rakhine State reached over US\$13 million, while in the 2016-2017 FY it was only \$5 million.

From April 2017 to 13 March 2018, the most exported goods to Bangladesh from Maungtaw Border Trade Zone were agricultural products, aquatic products, forestry products and light industrial products including rice, fish, ginger, plum jam, shrimps, dried fishes, dried plum, turmeric and beans.

— Kyaw Thu Win/Aye Min Thu, The Global New Light of Myanmar



Documentary on Rakhine State discussed

Yangon, March 16

A meeting to shoot a documentary on Rakhine State's beauty, the richness of natural resources, and the simple, honest and friendly ethnic Rakhine nationals was held in the meeting hall of Myanma Radio and Television on Pyay Road in Yangon.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint spoke of the beauty of the Rakhine coastal area.

The Rakhine State is geographically diverse, with both mountain ranges and a sea. Mrauk U, Buthidaung and Maungtaw are open plains where the land is fertile for agriculture.

Ethnic Rakhine nationals, like other ethnic nationals of the country, are a lovely people with their own cultures.

In addition to being an epic movie, the film should be shot like a documentary, the Union Minister said. In Rakhine State, there are ethnic nationals Mro, Khami, Daingnet and Thet in addition to ethnic Rakhine nationals.

The Union Minister spoke of the desire to shoot a documentary depicting life, culture and tradition of the ethnic people in Rakhine State for posterity.

The movie plans to show the beauty of locations like Mrauk U, Ngapali, Alethankyaw, Sittway and other well-known places, the simplicity and honesty of ethnic Rakhine nationals, how Khami, Daingnet, Mro, Thet nationals live together, their struggle for livelihoods due to lagging behind in development, how the geographical location of Rakhine State could support its development, reconstruction works conducted by ethnic nationals from all over the country after Maungtaw affairs, and conduct of the youth volunteers and works of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD).

—MNA, The Global New Light of Myanmar



136 villages in Rakhine to be supplied with water

Sittway, March 17

AUTHORITIES in Rakhine State have made arrangements to supply water to 136 villages that could face a shortage of water this summer.

Department officials visited the villagers recently and distributed hotline telephone numbers to the villages so that they can carry out quick responses to solve the water crisis when it occurs.

The villages suffered a drought last summer. Lakes on which the villagers relied upon for drinking water dried up last summer.

Every township in Rakhine State has a water purifier, and mobile water purifiers are also ready to supply water to the villagers.

Currently, the Rural Development Department and UNICEF are installing water supply pipes with water purifying systems to homes in villages.

The department spent more than Ks1 billion from the Union budget on 126 water supply projects in 128 villages in Rakhine State in the 2017- 2018 fiscal year. The projects includes 52 tube wells, 71 lakes, one water supply facility from a spring and two other projects. More than Ks205 million was spent on 52 water facilities including sinking tube wells and lake upgrades in the 2017-2018 fiscal year. More than Ks240 million funded by the State were spent on building 44 water facilities in the same fiscal year.

—Kyaw Thu Htet, The Global New Light of Myanmar