



## ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်ဆိုင်ရာနေ့စဉ်သတင်းအကျဉ်းချုပ် Daily News Brief on Rakhine State Affairs

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### **Myanmar, Bangladesh border authorities meet**

February 20

Myanmar and Bangladesh border authorities met at the TaungPyoLetwe General Administration Department on morning of 20 February to discuss repatriation, INGOs and those who have taken up the people on the border between the two countries.

The leader of the Bangladesh group offered to assist in returning the people living on the Boundary line (Zero Line) back to their respective homes and also requested joint patrols, and explained that international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) went into the Boundary Line area under their own arrangement to provide aid and were not sent by the Bangladeshi government.

The Boundary line(Zero Line) is an undeveloped, formerly uninhabited area on the border between the neighbouring countries that has recently become an unauthorised, home for residents who do not want to participate in repatriation, officials said.

Even though the INGOs were said to have not crossed the river from the other side to provide aid, they were providing aid in an indirect way to people in the Boundary Line. Officials from the Myanmar side contended that this should be prevented by the Bangladesh border guard force.

Rakhine State officials said the actions of the residents of Boundary Line are politically motivated. People staying in the Boundary Line area are being encouraged to return, but were allegedly giving erroneous reports of threats, NVC processes and security problems, Myanmar officials said. Bangladesh would need to persuade them to accept the returnee acceptance process, according to Myanmar officials.

Requirements of the Bangladesh side were being coordinated by Myanmar local authorities, and security matters for the returnees were being arranged, officials said.



After the meeting, the border authority representatives of the two countries went to the Boundary Line area, also known as the Non-Construction Zone, and observed the people residing there.

In a recent trip to the area, the Deputy Minister for Home Affairs had discussed repatriation with Boundary Line residents, but was told they would not accept.

U Ye Htut said the Myanmar side was ready to discuss repatriation with them at any time. The leader of the Bangladesh border authority asked the people staying in the area to select representatives by village and to discuss the prospect of returning and to provide a list of those who want to return to the deputy commissioner. He explained that their side will provide necessary assistance on the process of accepting returnees.

Myanmar officials expressed concern about the residents of Boundary Line.

“The people staying in the Boundary Line area were not going anywhere, and they were spreading false news. They were waiting to be removed or detained by the country’s security force in order to create international pressure. At the same time, support was being provided to them so that they could remain in the Boundary Line for a long time”, said U Ye Htut. Cooperation with Bangladeshi officials will continue in an effort to resolve the matter of people entering into the Boundary Line with an aim of creating political controversy, Rakhine State government officials said.

—MNA, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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