



ရခိုင်ပြည်နယ်ဆိုင်ရာနေ့စဉ်သတင်းအကျဉ်းချုပ် Daily News Brief on Rakhine State Affairs

April 12, 2018

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets IDPs in Bangladesh

Nay Pyi Taw, April 10

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye led a delegation to Bangladesh to visit the Ukhia IDP camp in Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, and met with the district commissioner.

Dr. Win Myat Aye and his delegation were accompanied by Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh U Lwin Oo when they arrived in Ukhia IDP camp's guest hall to meet with the district commissioner and UN representatives. They were briefed on the resettlement, food supply, and healthcare provided in the camp. The Union Minister and UEHRD Chief Coordinator Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet explained the reason for their visit and noted that they are ready for the repatriation process of IDPs.

Afterwards, the Union Minister met with IDPs in the camp and explained to them about the development process in Rakhine, based on suggestions by the Rakhine Advisory Commission, the readiness for the repatriation process from Myanmar's side, the humanitarian aid provided in Rakhine, the UEHRD's resettlement project, the registration for national verification cards and its benefits, the freedom to travel, housing projects, vocational training, easy access to education and healthcare, and the ongoing process of closing IDP camps that were established in 2012.

The Union Minister also explained to the IDPs that they were here to provide assistance to IDPs who wish to return to Myanmar before the rainy season sets in, and to help with any problems they may be facing in the host country. He also told them they are ready for the repatriation process to begin.

—MNA, The Global New Light of Myanmar



Mro ethnic villagers receive new houses

Maung Taw, April 10

Rakhine State authorities handed over new houses to Mro ethnic people at the Thittonna Gwason Village-tract in Maungtaw Township yesterday. The 86 houses were funded by the Ayeyawady Region Government and Mandalay Region Government, and handed over to Mro ethnic families from Thittonna Gwason Village-tract in Maungtaw Township. The authorities also delivered a set of solar panels and a family kit, each donated by the Ministry of Industry to Mro ethnic families who lost their homes in terrorist attacks last year.

Following the ceremony, another 30 houses donated by Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and 10 houses by the Department for Development of Border Areas and National Races, were also handed over to Mro ethnic families from Kontaing Village. Authorities assisted ethnic people who moved into the houses and, along with solar panels and family kits, provided household utensils. Also, the new villages will be provided with water supplies, transportation, clinics and schools, according to authorities.

Ethnic Mro nationals lived peacefully with agriculture and new Khonhtaing (Mro) village will soon be developed with the full requisite of a village. The Rakhine State government has been building new homes in the Maungtaw Township for the security and social development of ethnic groups, such as Mro, Khami, Thet and Daingnet, among others. These groups were earlier living in the mountainous areas.

—MNA, The Global New Light of Myanmar

Rakhine State Thingyan pandals will liven celebration

Sittway, April 11

Rakhine State Minister for Social Welfare Dr. Chan Tar, who is also chairman of the Rakhine State Maha Thingyan Festival Executive Committee, told reporters that Rakhine State will hold a traditional Thingyan Festival amid other festivals that will celebrate the Myanmar New Year of 1380.



He said the festivals will include the pandals, a large platform from which water is thrown at Thingyan participants, a competition in the making of Thanakha (*Limonia acidissima*) an ancient process that has been handed down the generations, sacred bathing of the images of Buddha. He also said the State Government will open the first Rakhine traditional pandal in Ngapali to promote interest and tourism there.

Rakhine people have the tradition of splashing water on each other only after the sacred bathing of Buddha images. Before the sacred bathing of the Buddha Images, young men and ladies gather at an appropriate place in their village or ward and grind sandalwood on specially designed smooth stone slabs.

—MNA, The Global New Light of Myanmar
