

Foundation laied to build new Station Hospital in MraukU held

FOUNDATION laying ceremony for building new station hospital in Myaung Bway Village, MraukU Hospital, Rakhine State was held yesterday morning at the site of construction.

Attended at the ceremony were Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Dr Ito Sumardi, Ministry of Health and Sports' Director-General Dr Moe Win, Rakhine State cabinet's officials, Rakhine State head of the hospital Dr Shwe Thein, MraukU District General Administration Department's deputy head U Soe Win and officials and villagers from Myaung Bwe, Paung

Toke, Nan Kyar, Bu Talone.

The Indonesian Ambassador delivered the speech, in which he said that the station hospital is being reconstructed for the development of Rakhine region, with the aim to assist the health care of the people in the villages.

Then, the Indonesian Ambassador and party visited Archaeology and National Museum in MraukU and viewed the archaeological artworks and Rakhine ethnic people's utensils displayed. They also visited Koethoung Pagoda.— District (IPRD) ■



Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar H.E Dr Ito Sumardi hears a report presented by an official. **PHOTO: IPRD**



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds talks with Foreign Minister of Indonesia H.E Ms. Retno L.P Marsudi. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye receives H.E Ms. Retno L.P Marsudi

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received the Foreign Minister of Republic of Indonesia H.E Ms. Retno L.P Marsudi yesterday evening at the Makhalar Hall of the ministry.

During the meeting, the Indonesian foreign minister discussed asking that what sectors

his country can cooperate in the works of UEHRD and Rakhine State Advisory Commission. The union minister discussed back regarding UEHRD's works being implemented with three goals, cooperation works for repatriation being carried out by Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral agreement, the situation of receiving centers, the

socioeconomic programs for resettlements and developments to be carried out according to disasters management law, the performances of nine tasks forces of UEHRD, regional transport communication and electricity projects being carried out and the situation to be involved at UEHRD's performances. — Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor meets Chinese FM

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Later, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Wang Yi formally unveiled the signboard of the Chinese Cultural Bureau in Yangon.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Wang Yi met the press.

At the press meeting Mr. Wang Yi said that since his first meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi he has had the desire to promote Sino-Myanmar cooperation. He met with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during his Myanmar visit to attend the 13th ASEM meeting. The discussions were centered on further promotion of bilateral cooperation. China supports the current government's endeavours to realize the public aspiration. China encourages Myanmar to develop its economy and improve the people's social lives. China renders cooperation and support for Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation process. The country also

gave assistance for the success of the 13 ASEM foreign affairs ministers meeting. As regards mutual cooperation, the Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister recounted his meeting with the Myanmar counterpart during which serious discussions were made on economic cooperation and a corridor for facilitating bilateral cooperation. The corridor will pass through Mandalay Region before reaching Yangon in the east and Kyaukphyu in the west. It is a part of the One Belt and One Road. The corridor is the vital part for further enhancing bilateral cooperation. Mr. Wang Yi said he accepted Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's view on Rakhine issue. Myanmar and Bangladesh should solve the issue through dialogue.

The UN General Assembly needs to render assistance for the realization of the dialogue. Myanmar has already agreed on the holding of bilateral talks. The issue should be divided into three sectors in solving it. The first one is to restore peace and stability and a ceasefire, the second is to find a better way

for the dialogue and the third is the launching of a poverty alleviation campaign after a quick agreement. The basic factor of the lack of peace and stability is poverty. More international aid is needed for poverty alleviation. As Sino-Myanmar cooperation has reached a new chapter assistance will be provided for the social and economic progress of Myanmar.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said Myanmar and China are friends enjoying mutual respect and understanding on the same level despite the huge difference in strength and power. The equal fraternal spirit is a requisite as well as an appropriate measure for bilateral cooperation that ensures proper progress. Myanmar's main requirement is peace and stability as well as progress. The cooperation and participation of China, a friendly neighbor of Myanmar is of vital importance in the endeavours for fulfilling the requirement. Cooperation through the detailed coordination based on various factors will provide rapid thrust for Myanmar's peace,

stability and progress.

She said Myanmar values China's understanding of the Rakhine issue which is much complicated and delicate. The three sectors or points proposed by the Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister agree with the view of Myanmar. Myanmar's insistence on the rule of law is for stability and ceasing conflicts. Myanmar is desirous of solving the issue through bilateral talks with Bangladesh. Development and poverty alleviation is the hope and goal of the government not only for Rakhine State but also for the entire country. China's assistance as a friend in need amidst the many problems is so much encouraging for Myanmar. May there be eternal friendship between the eternal neighbors China and Myanmar, she prayed.

In answering the question raised by MITV on behalf of the local media, Chinese Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Wang Yi said China's hope for Myanmar is its peace and stability which is divided into three sectors. China has listened to the voices of Myanmar and Bangladesh. China

hopes further talks between the two countries.

As regards the question raised by Xinhua on behalf of foreign media, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said the principle progress in the relations between the two countries is the bilateral understanding. It is the most important progress as such degree of bilateral understanding can solve any kind of problem. Myanmar favours not only the Belt and Road initiative, but also any beneficial matter or project that serves mutual interest. Myanmar's main goal is the further strengthening of people-to-people friendship. She expressed hope to deal with the development projects in connection with Belt and Road initiative in Beijing soon.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted a luncheon for Minister Mr. Wang Yi at Sofitel Hotel. Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, and U Kyaw Tin and officials were also present. The Chinese Minister was accompanied by the Chinese Ambassador and officials. — Kyaw The Ein, Kyaw Htaik Soe, Myo Myint ■

Our village is peaceful, we want no more violence



U Lin Lin
(Chief of Nyaung Chaung Village Tract)



Kasein
(Tayetpyin Village resident)



Eislam
(U Maung Sein) (66 year old resident of Tayetpyin Village)



Mahmet Ismai
(Resident of Payarpyin village, Buthidaung Township)



Mohammed Zubai
(Resident of Aungba Village, Buthidaung Township)

By-News Team
Photo-Phoe Taung, Nay Lin

AFTER the terrorist attacks by ARSA in Yathedaung, Maung-taw and Buthidaung townships in Rakhine State, many Islamic people from local villages have fled to Bangladesh. However there are some Islamic people who have remained in their villages and continue to live and work there peacefully.

The media group interviewed some of the Islamic people who remained and the village leaders on the challenges that they face and the possible reasons some Islamic people have fled abroad.

Kasein
(Tayetpyin Village resident)

I sell betel nut in Nyaung Chaung Market and I have 5 family members. One of my daughters made her own decision to go to Bangladesh with her husband on 19 October. The husband calls me and says it's difficult living over there. Our village is peaceful for now and we want no violence. Because of the restriction to remain at home before 6am and 6pm, there isn't much work to do and so some moved to Bangladesh to find work but it isn't going well for them over there.

Eislam
(U Maung Sein) (66 year old resident of Tayetpyin Village)

Our village is peaceful although there are some people who've gone to Bangladesh. I think it's because there's no food or work here; it's a poor village. We cut timber and fish for food so the imposed curfew is a real hindrance. The people who fled abroad are neither well off or well educated; they are mostly poor. I think the terrorists are doing these attacks to gain money. They've built



Fawbi Mamoud
(Resident of Du-O-The Village, Buthidaung Township)

buildings abroad and I think they are using us because we are not so educated.

Mahmet Ismai

(Resident of Payarpyin village, Buthidaung Township)

I have 15 family members. I heard that a neighboring village was burnt down and the people fled abroad. They can't retreat into the hills, they can't go to the cities, they have no work or money so they travel to other countries.

The government supplies rice, lentils and onions but some have such a big family that the ration is usually not enough. Those who are little well-off remain here but some have fled because they heard they have to register for an NVC (National Verification Card). There has been no problem in this village in 2012 or 2016.

Mohammed Zubai
(Resident of Aungba Village, Buthidaung Township)

My family and I have always lived here. I graduated from the Defense College. After Article 144 was enforced the people here can't gather timber or fish anymore so I think that's why they went abroad. The government gives out rations but there are just too many people for it to be



Abdumalik (Elder of Kadi Village)

enough. The terrorist attacks have also slowed down or halted businesses.

Fawbi Mamoud

(Resident of Du-O-The Village, Buthidaung Township)

My family owns 20 acres of farmland. We don't need to go away since we have farm work to do. Some people left because they're afraid for their lives but I don't know what the reason for their fear is. Still others leave because there is no work for them here. Up till 15 September there have been over a thousand people who left this place.

Abdumalik
(Elder of Kadi Village)

After the attacks on 25 August about 900 hundred villagers left the village for abroad. As an elder I tried to persuade them not to go but because of restricted travel and other people from other villages are also leaving, I couldn't do anything. We've receive rations and support three or five times already. I don't want anyone else to leave because here we can fish and reap our crops.

Abdu Ramah
(Chief of Du-O-The Village, Buthidaung Township)

About 1,500 people from our village have fled from here.



Abdu Ramah (Chief of Du-O-The Village, Buthidaung Township)

The reason is that most of our villagers go work in Rakhine villages but after they were restricted from entering work has been slow for them. Administrative bodies and the Red Cross provide us with support from time to time. We haven't had contact with the people who've left.

Kyaw Zin Win
(Chief of Payarpyin village tract, Buthidaung Township)

There are three villages in our village tract including an ethnic village and a Bengali village.

The residents of Payarpyin and Aungpa Bengali village make up over 6,000 villagers. Our Rakhine Gantgaw Myaing village has over 400 villagers. Most of the villagers left for abroad a week after the attacks on 25 August.

I heard that the majority left because of difficulty with getting work and food. Some of the villagers and the administrative bodies are providing food and the Tatmadaw donated some clothing. Even though Article 144 was enforced, it is still possible to work between 6am and 6 pm.

They can work in the fields, fish or tend to the cattle. The area around here didn't have any problems on 25 August and we've had Bengali



Kyaw Zin Win (Chief of Payarpyin village tract, Buthidaung Township)

people pass through here on their way to work. There are no religious restrictions or restrictions of any kind here.

U Lin Lin
(Chief of Nyaung Chaung Village Tract)

No one has left our villages recently although some time ago about 800 Bengali villagers have left.

I asked the village leaders why they left and they said most of the villagers' responses were that they had no reason to stay here anymore.

There isn't any threats or coercion here and I tried to persuade them from leaving. We have always lived and worked side by side peacefully. There are 840 households with 5,632 villagers living here.

The total number of people who've left our village so far is around 1,493 people and I think they left because they were worried about their future.

I've asked some of them what their reason for leaving is and they say it's because they can't go out to work anymore. Administrative bodies and humanitarian organizations have provided us with supplies and food but people still leave the villages.

Our village has had no problems in October 2016 and August 2017. ■

Schools in Maungtaw, Rakhine State reopens



School children doing their exercise. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**



Children on their way to school. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

SCHOOLS that were temporarily closed due to ARSA terrorist attacks in Rakhine State on 25 August were reopened in early October.

Kanyin Tann Post Primary Schools in Maungtaw which was reopened from the first week of the month and attended by Islamic and other students and they can now study in the school peacefully.

The headmistress of the school Daw Khin Thet said, "Our school was reopened on 3 November and most are Islamic students, a few are Hindu. At the beginning, there were about two students who came and studied in the school but now even over 100 are studying peacefully.

Students who are attending from the Kindergarten to sixth grade, a total of 1,854 students, are being taken care of by 15 local education staffs. The school reopening plan was being supervised by Ministry of Education.

Students are Islamic and Hindus from Kanyin Tan ward in Maungtaw Township.

"A storm named Mora which hit Western Rakhine State



Children of Islamic faith pursuing education peacefully. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

on 30 May 2017 destroyed some class rooms and building of the schools including roofs and now we need a new school building for our students," said headmistress Daw Khin Thet.

Headmistress Daw Khin Thet said that since the cyclone destroyed the building, all the students have to be combined in one room and the noise prevents effective teaching from taking

place. "That's why we need a new school building quickly and many parents are requesting it as well," she said.

When asked if there were students who fled with their families abroad after the terrorist attacks, the headmistress said there were some instances like that. "Yesterday during roll call, there were ten students missing," she said.

U Aye Kwaye, a primary teacher, said school officials and community elders have notified religious buildings and mosques to sent children back to school. U Aye Kwaye said, "After notifying them there has been an increase in the number of students attending."

The Office of the Education Consultant in Maungtaw District announced that there are

128 schools left to be reopened out of the total 184 schools in the district. "There isn't any particular difficulty here. Children will be children and they play while the teacher is teaching," said U Aye Kwaye. "There is a slight language barrier and the Muslim students only attend half the day on Friday because they have to go to the mosque," he said.—News Team (MNA) ■



A teacher giving lectures in a class room. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

Residents of Myitkyina Town to receive free eye surgery next month

Win Naing (Kachinmye)

THE free eye care programme of a Buddhist monk is due to take place in the first week of next month in Myitkyina, the capital city of Kachin State, with the organisers inviting residents from all wards/villages across the state who are suffering from eye disease.

This will be the eight time

Sitagu Sayadaw, a well-known Buddhist monk working for people in need of help for decades, has organised this kind of eye care charitable contributions in the region.

Under this programme, the treatment will be offered with compassion to patients of all ages and without religious discrimination at Myitkyina's Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital

between 4 and 7 December.

U Maung Thein, chair of the hospital's organising committee, said that the Sitagu Cakkhudana Hospital in Myitkyina Township in Kachin State was officially launched in December 2011.

He added that the hospital has offered comprehensive surgical care to 290 patients for the first time. Since its estab-

lishment to date, the hospital provided free eye surgery to about 9,000 people.

Between 1993 and 2016, a total of 388,170 people with eye disorders received eye care while more than 71,000 others underwent surgical treatments provided by eye specialists at Sitagu Cakkhudana hospitals across the country.

The most common eye

diseases in the country are cataracts, glaucoma, corneal diseases, injuries and retinal diseases.

Cataracts are the most common cause of vision loss in people over age 40 in Myanmar. According to the World Health Organisation's assessment, cataracts are responsible for 51 per cent of the world's blindness. ■