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# History students visit ancient Pyu Cities

SIXTY-EIGHT students of Diploma in Myanmar History and Culture 3rd Batch led by Dr Myint Thein, Deputy Director-General (Retired) from the Department of Historical Research and Head Professor Dr Daw Margret Wan of the University of Yangon and 8 faculty members visited Pyu Ancient Cities of Beikthano in Taungdwingyi and Sri Ksetra in Pyay between 4 and 6 August.

Initially, the excursion team left Yangon on 4 August and arrived at Taungdwingyi where they observed Beikthano Archaeological Museum, Pyu graveyard and Pyu ancient city on 5 August. The next day, the excursion team proceeded to Sri Ksetra where they visited the pagodas, the ancient cities under excavation, Sri Ksetra museum



DMHC students observe Pyu ancient cities. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

(Hmawza) and Pyu graveyard.

According to the researchers from both England and Myanmar, the three Pyu ancient cities are much more magnificent than expected, said an official from the government. But the unearthed ancient heritages are difficult to

maintain and research according to an official of Department of Archaeology. The three ancient Pyu cities, Hanlin, Beikthano and Sri Ksetra were put into World Heritage List in 2014 by UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The aforementioned ancient Pyu cities are said to have emerged in 2nd BC, and they were inhabited by the Pyus in 8th century AD. As the three ancient cities are now on the list of the World Cultural Heritage, archaeologists from around the world are now fascinated with these archaeological sites.

According to the latest reports on the excavation of Pyu cities, the water supply system and defence system are found to be advanced and significant.

The ancient coins and bones excavated from under the graveyard, Pyu-style jewelries, Buddha images and 21 goal leaves in which the teachings of Buddha are inscribed are invaluable cultural heritage, which Myanmar people can be proud of, said an officer from the Department of Archaeology.—GNLM ■

# FDA sues 25 pharmacy shops as of July

Food and Drug Administration (FDA) sued 25 drug stores for allegedly selling illegal, sub-standard medicine between January and July, 2017, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

In 2016, FDA took action

against 99 drug stores.

"We have no judicial power to punish unlawful pharmacies. We can only take them to court," said FDA Director-General Dr. Than Htut. "It is the courts that mete out punishment of up to three to

four years in prison."

The FDA is taking action in two phases when they find pharmacies acting illegally: First, the FDA bans distribution of illegal medicine and revokes the pharmacies' licences. Second, the FDA

prosecutes pharmacists if they find a large amount of illegal pharmaceuticals. The FDA plans to expand its enforcement actions next year by establishing a database to trace illegal pharmaceuticals to their sources.—GNLM ■

## Tatmadaw columns and border police provides security for returning IDPs in Yathedaung

622 ethnic Mro of 134 households from Chutpyin, Padaukmyaing, Pyinshay and Paukpin villages in Yathedaung Township were concerned for their safety after recent violent confrontation between security personnel and armed persons in Aout Nanya Village, Yathedaung Township on 4 August and murders of Mro farmers from Kaigy Village in Maungtaw Township on 3 August and abandoned their villages and temporarily relocated to Zedipyin and Gwasone villages, Yathedaung Township.

Upon receiving information about this, Lt-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw of Commander-in-Chief (Army) office accompanied by commander of North West Command, senior Tatmadaw officers and officials from border police force and officials

met with the internally displaced persons (IDPs) on 7 August in Zedipyin Village monastery and village primary school. Village officials and IDPs explained about the reason for relocation and Lt-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw coordinated with the village officials and IDPs on the matters voiced by the IDPs as well as on the consequences of the temporary relocation, Tatmadaw columns and border police specifically providing security.

Due to this coordination work, of the IDPs from Chutpyin, Padaukmyaing, Pyinshay and Paukpin villages, 203 persons from 72 households returned to their respective villages on 7 August and the remaining 419 persons from 62 households returned on 8 August.—MNA ■

## Masked men attack a village chief in Buthidaung

A villager was attacked with swords by certain masked men in the afternoon on 7 August at Kyaungtaung village in Buthidaung Township in Rakhine State.

While Mamauk Sawlein who is in-charge of the Kyaungtaung village was holding a meeting with the 100-household in-charge of Kyaungtaung and Sar Kaing villages for the security of their village at a tea shop

in Sar Kaing village at about 2:30 pm on 7 August, Arr Li Gyu-hak from Kyaungtaung village (middle) and ten other masked men attacked Mamauk Sawlein with swords to his head, chest and left hand.

The victim was taken to Buthidaung Hospital for receiving medical treatment.

Police are in hot pursuit of the assailants led by Ali Gyu-hak.—MNA ■

## 5,700 WY stimulants seized in Maungtaw

WY stimulant tablets numbering 5,700 were seized at Kyain Chaung inspection gate in Maungtaw, Rakhine State on 7 August morning.

Security forces searched a motorcycle driven by Ye

Aung from Shwebaho village at 11:45 am on 7 August at Kyain Chaung inspection gate and discovered 5,700 WY stimulant tablets worth Ks11.4 million.—Myanmar News Agency ■