

# Authorities refute AP's report on mass graves in Buthidaung Tsp

RAKHINE State authorities said they are looking into reports of mass graves from the Associated Press.

Local officials said they interrogated residents near Gu Dar Pyin Village in Buthidaung Township yesterday.

Following the inspection, the team, including officials, police, doctors and local villagers, refuted the AP report,

while the villagers reiterated they had not heard of any massacres near their village.

The AP reported that at least five previously unreported mass graves had been uncovered in Myanmar, and the bodies were burnt with acid, making them unrecognisable.

However, following the trip, the authorities told the media that security forces were

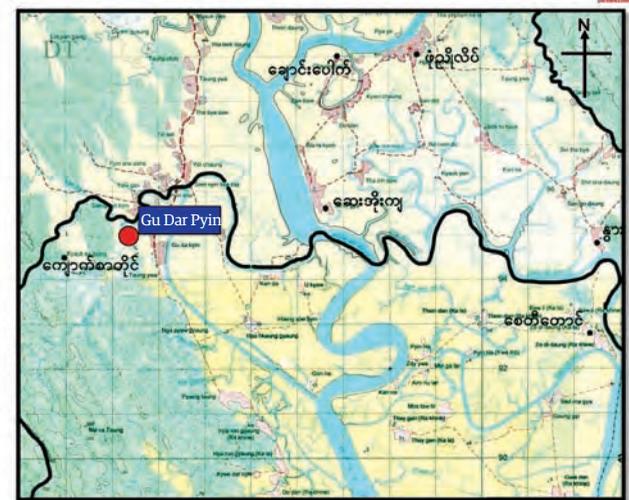
attacked by a combined group of ARSA terrorists, and some 500 villagers had attacked the security forces which were enforcing the rule of law on 28 August 2017, following attacks by ARSA terrorists on police outposts.

The terrorists and villagers had used machetes and homemade arms in the attack, and the security forces



Authorities and local people inspect the mass grave reported in the Associated Press (AP) near Gu Dar Pyin Village in Buthidaung Township yesterday. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

The map shows the area where conflict happened between ARSA terrorists and the security forces at Gu Dar Pyin Village in Buthidaung Township on 28 August 2017.



Reference	
<span style="color: red;">●</span>	Conflict Area

had acted in self-defence until the attackers fled to the south of the village.

A security officer was injured and 19 bodies of terrorists were found, along with eight machetes and homemade weapons, including spears, as well as 12 bullets.

According to the inspection team, it was found that the bodies of the terrorists were buried, and a case was filed at the Nyaungchaung police station under Section 50 (I) of the Anti-Terrorism Law.

“Instead of denying human rights violations, when it receives accurate and confirmed evidence proving allegations of

human rights violations, the government conducts a probe into the cases and takes action against anyone who breaks the law”, the government said in a statement.

The Rakhine State government said it was extending the investigation of the allegations made in the AP report to nearby villages. The 17-member inspection team included the Buthidaung Township administrator, local police, law enforcement officials, doctors, immigration officers, members of the Buthidaung Township management committee and local villagers.— Myanmar News Agency ■

## Supervision Committee for Yangon Region Industrial zones to be formed

By May Thet Hnin

A Yangon Region Industrial Zone supervision Committee will be formed with officials from the Yangon Region government, according to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

The chief minister made the remarks during the 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting with vice president U Myint Swe and entrepreneurs on 1 February.

“Currently, the industrial zones are managed by a committee comprising only entrepreneur members. Therefore, they do not have the full authority. We also need to scrutinise matters that were managed by the recent committee,” he added.

“So far, most industrial land owners are building warehouses instead of factories or leaving their industrial land empty. Most

are speculating on real estate instead of setting up industries. Therefore, we need to scrutinise the management of the industrial zones,” stated U Phyo Min Thein.

“We are studying the formation of a new industry supervision committee, and the three industrial zones in South Dagon Myothit Township will be combined,” he added.

Currently, the Yangon Regional government is upgrading the industrial zones. The government is arranging to provide the water, electricity and road infrastructure required in the 29 industrial zones in the Yangon region. The government is also implementing low-cost housing projects to remove the squatters in the industrial zones by allowing squatters to make long-term payments for housing under an instalment system and to pro-

vide loans to genuine small and medium entrepreneurs, said the chief minister.

The project to provide electricity, clean water and wastewater treatment in the zone will be given to local businesses in the industrial zones, on priority. (Only if the local businesses in the industrial zones are unable to provide the required services will the work be granted to external businesses). The electricity utility rates will be reduced for businesses that use electricity during off-peak hours, such as during the night, he added.

Myanmar Industries Association Vice Chairman U Win Naing also said the steering committee formed with the municipal, electricity, industry, construction, transport and communications ministries, who developed the industrial zone,

need to meet regularly with the industrial zone management committee and industrialists to form a mechanism that can resolve problems and issues, such as damaged roads, a lack of clean water, social security clinics, payment of electricity surcharges and squatters.

The Yangon regional government is planning to implement the Kyimyindine Myothit project, as well as construct a Yangon Special Economic Zone on the Dala side (of the river), up to Kungyangon, and it is holding discussions with the special economic zone's central committee. The Yangon regional government will implement the project when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw grants permission, and all the projects will be completed within three years, under the guidance of the Union government. ■

## Trapped civilians in Kachin State return home

FROM PAGE-1

They were sent back to their villages along the road and to Mogaung yesterday, it is learnt.

Several groups of civilians have been temporarily relocated due to recent conflict in Kachin State. From 30 January to 2 February, a total of 599 persons — 325 males and 274 females — who arrived to Tanai town were transported back to their homes.

Conflict between the Tatmadaw and members of an ethnic armed group in Kachin State has occurred since 19 January, including in Sumprabum, Waingmaw and Tanai townships.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Foreign Head of State sends felicitations to President U Htin Kyaw

The following is message of felicitations from Foreign Heads of State / Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw, on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**From H.E Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu  
Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs  
of State of Israel**  
**Dear Mr. President,**

On behalf of the people and Government of Israel, please accept my warm congratulations to you and the people of Myanmar on the occasion of your 70th Independence Day. As you celebrate this historic milestone, I wish you continued growth,

prosperity and success.

The friendship between the people of Israel and the people of Myanmar is strong and longstanding. WE remember with the deepest appreciation that Myanmar was one of the first countries in Asia to open its doors to the young Jewish state. Prime Minister U Nu's historic visit to Israel in 1955 lifted the spirits of the Israeli public and strengthened us during a difficult time of international isolation and boycott. Our relations have stood the test of time and have

continued uninterrupted since then.

I look forward to further expanding the cooperation between Israel and Myanmar in all areas of common interest, including interest, including agriculture, education, technology, innovation and more. I hope to have an opportunity to welcome you to Israel at your earliest convenience to discuss how we can advance an even closer and more robust partnership.

I wish you memorable and enjoyable 70th anniversary celebrations.



Army fires missiles during the combined military exercise in Patheingyi. PHOTO: MNA

## Tatmadaw army, navy, air forces conduct "Sinbyushin" military exercise

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observed and inspected the Tatmadaw army, navy, air forces combined military exercise known as "Sinbyushin" held in the Southwest Command Patheingyi cantonment. The exercise was held with an aim toward security and defence of the country and to raise the capability of conducting conventional warfare.

Also in attendance were the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), Commander-in-Chief (Air), high ranking officers from the Commander-in-Chief's Office, the Southwest Command Commander, Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) personnel, and local and foreign media.

The Tatmadaw Com-

mander-in-Chief and party were first briefed about the exercise with a Power Point presentation and a scaled-down tabletop model by the commanding officer of the exercise Southwest Command Commander Maj-Gen Tayza Kyaw. Related commanders of the army, navy and air forces also explained their respective parts in the exercise.

The Joint Operation Command Center was also inspected, after which the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief observed the Tatmadaw army, navy, air forces combined military exercise "Sinbyushin" involving battalion level combine attack of infantry and armor.

Sinbyushin, literally meaning "the possessor of the white elephant", was a

famous Burmese king.

Yesterday's exercise involved transport of artillery hooked to a helicopter and a combined infantry and armor attack on an enemy position.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief viewed the division-level attack exercise, which involves the firing of multiple rocket launchers, a preliminary air attack by Tatmadaw (Air) fighters and helicopters on the enemy position and a final attack on the enemy position with infantry.

The Commander-in-Chief then inspected the military support bases and the 20-bed battlefield hospital.

The second part of the Tatmadaw army, navy, air forces combined exercise will be held today. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Amyotha Hluttaw discusses...

**FROM PAGE-2**

We are also coordinating with district head and head of district education department on how to proceed. We would like to give this land back said the Union Minister. A question raised by U Min Oo of Bago constituency (6) was then answered by Union Civil Service Board Chairman Dr. Win Thein, while questions raised by U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency (1) and U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency (5) were answered by Dr. Myint Htwe.

Next, a report by the bill

committee on the findings and remarks made on the second amendment of the public servant bill was read and explained by committee member Daw Ohn Kyi. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the decision of the Hluttaw to confirm the bill by its clauses.

Later, Dr. Win Thein tabled a motion to approve the bill, which was supported by U Win Aung of Sagaing Region Constituency 3. This was followed by the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker approving the bill after obtaining the decision of the Hluttaw on the bill. ■

## 3000 locals in Buthidaung receive free health care services

Medical specialists provided free healthcare services to 3000 patients during 28 and 29 January in Buthidaung, Rakhine State under the arrangement of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development.

Sixteen patients underwent general surgery procedures, five patients had orthopedic surgery and five patients had obstetric and gynecological operations. A total of 26 in-patients were treated in the Buthidaung General Hospital according to Deputy Director Dr. Than Tun Kyaw.

"The main operations were on the gastrointestinal tract in addition to hernias and bone fractures. Medical personnel discussed contraception methods with the patients" he added.

"My uncle fractured his waist and hand. Now he is better and he will recover soon." said a nephew of one patient. Many patients suffer from hypertension and diabetes and doctors treated their conditions. Specialists offer the best healthcare services to those who suffer orthopedic and neurological diseases. —Myanmar Digital News ■



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