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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at Yangon International Airport yesterday. She was welcomed by U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, and other officials. PHOTO: MNA
Hluttaw Approves Assignment of Duties as Judges of Union Supreme Court & Members of Union Election Commission

Myo Myint & Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

It has been announced that Hluttaw agreed to assign duties as judges of the Union Supreme Court to U Myint Naing, U Khin Maung Kyi and duties of the members of the Union Election Commission to U Myint Naing and U Than Htay nominated by the President.

For the above-said assignment of duties, there was no objection submitted to the Hluttaw till the deadline, hence the Hluttaw’s announcement to approve the assignment of duties at the 7th day meeting of the 5th regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. And, the Hluttaw put assignment of duty as the minister for development and construction, Mon State Cabinet as nominated by the President on record.

Afterward, U Zaw Win, member of combined drafting committee read out the report on findings and conclusions of the committee, as regards the Bill on Hand-Dug Oil Well, which has been a disagreement between the two Hluttaws.

After that, Hluttaw announced to enroll the names of the representatives to second it. 8th day meeting of 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw 5th regular session is targeted to be held on 20th June, it was learnt.

Gov’t to loan Ks100 million each to SMEs

Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA)

The government is planning to grant loans of Ks100 million each to small and medium-sized enterprises, said U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Industry, at the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

He made the remarks in his reply to a question raised by Dr Daw Khin Nyo of Dedaye constituency.

“Arrangements are being made for the German government-owned development bank based in Frankfurt, Germany and the Co-operative Bank in Myanmar to disburse loans of Ks100 million each maximum to small and medium-sized enterprises in Myanmar, amounting to 4.45 million euros (equivalent to Ks6,757,325 million), even without collateral,” he said.

The loans will be disbursed to those who will initiate SMEs if they are in strong condition and states starting from 2016 via KBZ Bank, SME Industrial Development Bank, Ayeyawady Bank, CB Bank and MAB Bank, with 26 people in Ayeyawady Region disbursed.”

He added, “Arrangements are being made to give out the remaining loans of Ks.442 billion in FY 2017-2018. SMEs desirous of borrowing money may apply to respective banks and loans will be disbursed after scrutiny through the banks’ board of directors. As for coconut-based enterprises, they can apply through Ayeyawady Region Industry Supervision and Examination Department, if they need techniques and know-how, thus trainings will be conducted by linking with local professionals.”

Major General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, replied to the question raised by U Aung Sein of Dawei constituency on the designation of land in Dawei Township.

U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Industry and Deputy Minister. PHOTO: MNA

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

“Lands in Myitta Myo of Dawei township were categorised in the garden group, which were not yet surveyed since the time before the designation as a town. As they were not systematically recorded in mapping as town land, they cannot be allowed to be copied in land record form 105 for applying for grants in accord with the law. For acquisition of secure land grants for the lands on which people reside in Myitta town, arrangements of changing land categories, collecting data on ownership and applying for grants of land lease are required to be performed step by step in accord with the law.

To do so in the whole town, there has not been presently sufficient staff in the department of farming land management and statistics, and finance and machinery are scarce as well.”

Afterward, U Khin Maung Cho, Union Minister for Industry and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj Gen Aung Soe replied to questions raised by U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency, Daw Nan Kham Aye of Namtu constituency, U Kyaw Min of Kawmyat constituency and U Sai Ba Thein of Langkho constituency.

Following that, parliamentarians debated the motion put forward by U Khan Cho of Hlante constituency urging the Union Government to systematically implement the project for alleviating the unemployment problems in the country.

“Myriads of graduates in Myanmar are joining in jobs irrelevant to their degrees. There are kinds of supporting vocations and creativity in other countries, linking degree holders with jobs and worksites on completion of schooling. Had vocational training been raised to Practically applicable stage, unemployment problems can be reduced”, said U Thet Naung of Lahe constituency.

Concerning the motion, U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning & Finance said, “Arrangements for appointing citizens in the posts of management, technology and skill to be appointed had been included. And, it was prescribed that only citizens be appointed in the places where skills are not needed. In the FY 2015-2016, jobs amounting to 141,445 were created.

With a view to increasing job opportunities, tax relief and tax exemption, financial aids are granted and simultaneously helping to get financial resources, supporting for operating monetary and financial services smoothly are being performed. The Government is performing its tasks in accord with policies, hence the need to put the motion on record.”

The Hluttaw decided to record it. Also at yesterday’s meeting, submission of the annual report of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Education Upgrading Committee, putting forward the bill on the amendment of Acts on special marriages and reading the report were performed.
State Counsellor pays visit to U Tin Oo, Patron of the NLD, gives words of encouragement

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor arrived at the Yangon General Hospital (YGH) at 11 am yesterday to ask after the health of U Tin Oo, patron of the NLD, giving words of encouragement.

Dr Aye Ko Ko, superintendent of the YGH and responsible persons briefed the State Counsellor regarding U Tin Oo health status; after that the State Counsellor cordially talked with indoor patients receiving medical treatment at the YGH. U Tin Oo, patron of the NLD who has recovered from illness recently, is expected to be discharged from the hospital at the end of June.

It has been learnt that he is required to do physical exercises at home till he can regain normal movement.

U Tin Oo, patron of the NLD has been hospitalized at the YGH since 18th May because of a cerebrovascular disease. On 6th June President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin visited U Tin Oo, as did Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 3rd June. It has been learnt that this was the second time the State Counsellor had paid a visit to U Tin Oo.—Myanmar News Agency

KfW provides loans for Rural Electrification, Locomotive Workshop Ywataung

Representatives of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Planning and Finance as well as, Dr. Christine Heimburger, Director, East Asia and Pacific of KfW and Mr. Lorenz Gessner, Interim Country Director of KfW Office Yangon signed the Financing, Loan and Separate Agreements for the “Rural Electrification Programme: Off-grid Component” (REP: Off-grid) and the “Locomotive Workshop Ywataung” (LoWy).

The signing ceremony was accompanied by Dr. Aung Thu, Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communications, U Tun Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Finance, Mr. Thomas Silberhorn, Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ms. Ayako Inagaki, Director of Asian Development Bank’s Regional Department for Human and Social Development, Dr. Aye Myint, Director-General of the TVET department and Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, the Director of SEAMEO answered to questions posed by international and domestic media at the conference. —Myanmar News Agency

Regional TVET Conference 2017 continues

The second day of the Regional Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Conference 2017 was held in Myanmar International Convention Centre II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Discussions in the second day included topics for better TVET personnel in the 21st century, strengthening business connections, policies, rules and regulations the government needs to implement when cooperating with the private sector; improving standards for TVET assessment and collaboration between TVET institutions and companies.

Later in the evening, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi from the Ministry of Education gave the closing speech and concluded the Regional TVET Conference 2017.

Afterwards, a press conference for the convention was held. Mr. Thomas Silberhorn, the Parliamentary State Secretary to the Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development, Ms. Ayako Inagaki, Director of Asian Development Bank’s Regional Department for Human and Social Development, Dr. Aye Myint, Director-General of the TVET department and Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, the Director of SEAMEO answered to questions posed by international and domestic media at the conference. —Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor winds up visits to Canada, Sweden

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In the meeting, Canada pledged US$8.8 million in humanitarian assistance and for stability and peace-making efforts.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepted the Olof Palme International Prize 2005 in Sweden on 12 June.

At the meeting with Swedish Prime Minister Mr Stefan Lofven, she discussed matters relating to improving bilateral relations, continued assistance from Sweden on overcoming the challenges faced by Myanmar during the transition period, the national reconciliation and peace process in Myanmar, stability and development of Rakhine State, increasing cooperation under a new strategic framework set up by Sweden for Myanmar’s development, exchanging high tech know-how and creating markets in the agriculture sector, and cooperation in the trade, education and transport sectors.—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits NLD patron U Tin Oo at the neurological care unit of the Yangon General Hospital yesterday. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT
Programme aims to uncover new TB cases nationwide

A PROGRAMME to expose new tuberculosis cases nationwide through two vehicles fully equipped with mobile X-ray machines and essential diagnostic facilities will initiate in target areas later this month, according to a report of the Myanmar Daily on Wednesday.

Dr Sithu Aung, director of National TB Programme, said the project has been implemented by the National TB Control Programme with the support of Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG). The move mainly aims to reduce the infection of tuberculosis, a dangerous bacterial infection that usually attacks the lungs.

The new scheme will also be implemented in prisons, said Dr Sithu Aung, who plans to negotiate with the Correctional Department to survey new TB prevalence by scanning all inmates.

Two vehicles equipped with X-ray-machines donated by the 3MDG Funds will be kept in Mandalay and Yangon for diagnostic work. Those mobile units will also be used to help patients stick to their course of treatment. All of the work focuses on key populations, such as the urban poor, co-infected patients and migrant populations.

There are approximately 150,000 TB patients detected annually in Myanmar, which is one of the world’s 30 TB high-burden countries. —GNLM

Over 5,000 custom staffs to be appointed and assigned across the nation

OVER 5,000 employees will be appointed and assigned across the nation to control the illegal trading with the neighboring countries, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

There is not enough strength of staff at the Customs Department to prevent the illegal trade across the country. Currently, the Customs Department has already submitted a proposal to recruit the new customs staffs to the ministry concerned.

When the ministry gives the green light, the recruitment plan will be started. Currently, there are about 1,700 staffs with nearly 600 of them assigned in border areas, ports, coastal areas and inland customs check points together with the employees from other departments. The department is planning to appoint more customs staffs.

Having not enough customs staffs is making it difficult to take effective legal action against those who are illegally trading across the nation. The Customs Department seized the illegal traded goods worth over Ks 7 billion in 2016-2017 fiscal year. Seized illegal goods are mostly beer, alcohol and cosmetics. —GNLM

Elephant sanctuary to be opened in Ye Nwe

AN elephant sanctuary will be opened jointly by the government departments concerned, an elephant conservation group from Australia and Mingalar Myanmar NGO, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

In Myanmar, Elephant is one of the animals which need to be given priority to take care. The elephant conservation camp will be opened with an aim to prevent the endangered species from extinction. The elephant conservation camp is planned to be opened at Ye Nwe forest reserve in Bago Yoma.

Although we don’t need the wide space to take care of sick elephants, we need a much wider space for the healthy elephants to feed and go around naturally. Currently, we are still discussing with the government to open the elephant conservation camp, said an official from the MIngalar Myanmar NGO.

Similar elephant conservation camps have been opened in 14 countries by now with the assistance of the elephant conservation group from Australia.—GNLM

Myanmar Music Association: Youths need more traditional music education, contests

Myanmar youths need more music education, an official with The Myanmar Music Association told Myanmar Daily Newspaper yesterday.

The Myanmar government has a tradition of organizing musical competitions at the township and national level called So-Ka-Ye-Ti contests, which are judged by members of the Myanmar Music Association.

The association official said that more such competitions should be held to promote traditional music among children and use of such instruments as saung (a traditional harp), tayaw (a traditional fiddle), pattala (a traditional xylophone), Mandalin and Banjo according to an official from Myanmar Music Association. The official also expressed hope that the association will promote traditional singing groups like the Hsaingwaing (Burmese folk musical ensemble).

Music groups exist in nearly 120 townships of regions and states in Myanmar, the official said.—GNLM
Floating tomato cultivators successful with GAP

By Soe Win-MLA

Floating tomato cultivators in Inle Lake, Shan State, are happy with the Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) system which is being implemented by the agricultural department jointly with the United Nilar Agribusiness Co., according to local cultivators.

For successful cultivation, United Nilar Agribusiness is providing GAP technology assistance and conducting demonstration sessions on the use of biopesticides for 50 acres of land from five villages. The agricultural department launched a public awareness campaign to help the local cultivators two times per week.

Previously, local cultivators from the Inle Lake region used chemical fertilizers and pesticides for their farming. Now, the floating tomato cultivators are using the GAP system, which can reduce the cost of growing tomatoes. The Inle cultivators usually plant tomatoes annually during the monsoon and winter seasons. Growing tomatoes using the GAP system is useful for both local cultivators and consumers. Currently, United Nilar Agribusiness Co. Ltd is providing biopesticides free of charge to the local farmers.

The department is also conducting a safe cultivation course, said U Aye Ko Ko, the deputy director-general of the agricultural department.

“The local cultivators are happy to grow the crops. We also provided K50.3 million per acre to 50 acres of land as well as the biopesticides. The products from these 50 acres of land can penetrate the local market, but not the international market. We expect to penetrate the Asia market when Asian Free Trade Area (AFTA) is implemented”, said U Kyaw Tun, the general manager from United Nilar Agribusiness Co. Ltd.

There are over 1,000 acres of land in Shan state which are owned by the agricultural department. United Nilar Agribusiness held a floating tomato cultivation demonstration at Hupin hotel, Khaung Dine village, Nyaung Shwe township on 12 June.

The demonstration ceremony was jointly held by United Nilar Agribusiness and Shan State Agricultural Department.

Sai Lon Kyaw, the Shan State government agriculture, livestock and irrigation minister, Dr. Nyi Nyi Aung, the state resources and environmental conservation minister, Dr. Tun Hlaing, the state ethnic affairs minister, U Cho Naing Tun of the state agricultural department and officials from United Nilar Agribusiness attended the demonstration ceremony.

SC AUTO to manufacture buses
Myanmar automobile market

SC AUTO, a Singapore company which designs and manufactures buses, will enter Myanmar automobile market and establish a $30 million assembly plant in Yangon, Myanmar, according to a company press release cited yesterday in The Straits Times.

The planned 16,000-square-meter facility is scheduled to begin production in the fourth quarter of 2018 and employ approximately 600 people. It will enable SC AUTO to increase its production by four times, allowing it to meet the growing demands of both Myanmar and other markets in Southeast Asia, according to SC AUTO.

SC AUTO aims to assemble over 100 buses in its first year in Myanmar and double its revenue, according to the company press release.

The plant would mark SC AUTO's first foray overseas after its first bus assembly plant in Myanmar.

SC AUTO chose Myanmar as its first foreign international production base due to the availability of vacant land and cheap labor, according to the company announcement.

Myanmar's manufacturing base has lagged due to poor infrastructure, including a stable electricity grid.—200

Normal trade with foreign countries hits US$4bln

Trade value with foreign countries through sea routes as of 2nd June this FY reached US$3.96 billion, according to trade figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

In the similar period, border trade fetched over US$1.1 billion, a decrease of over US$61 million against that of last FY. The export value was US$1.9 billion, whereas the import value was US$3.1 billion, totaling over US$5 billion of external trade. Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, forest products, fish, minerals, finished industrial goods and other products. The export value of finished industrial goods was down by over US$151 million

Meanwhile, capital goods, raw industrial goods and personal goods are imported into the country. Import value from 1st April to 2nd June this FY increased over US$534 million more than that of last FY.— Ko Htet
UN-Habitat to cooperate in solving squatter problems

Zaw Gyi (Panita)

At the press conference regarding performance of Yangon Region government in one year period held on 9 June, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein expressed his feelings saying that he was very much interested in rehabilitation of squatters and thus he would do his utmost in that regard. In doing so, he said, coordination would be made with UN-Habitat. According to the chief minister, a survey has been conducted to choose an area to implement the plan to make sure that it is systematic. The first step to systematically carry out the plan is to collect the list of the squatters, he said. The previous collection of the lists was carried out systematically applying advanced technology. He also said that preparations have been made to rehabilitate the squatters.

Squatter problems have been headaches for the authorities for long in Yangon Region, and to make sure that there is no fraud in collecting the list, technologies have been used, said the chief minister. He vowed to overcome any hindrances in collecting the list.

The pilot project of collecting the squatter list was conducted by Yangon Region government in September last year. The task is carried out in the respective townships scrutinizing the squatters whether they are real squatters or not. The real ones have been registered and temporary identity cards were issued to them. The chief minister estimated that there are 300,000 squatters but on the ground the number is over 400,000. If necessary, he said, Special Branch will be given authority to scrutinize the numbers. He also said that in accord with the law, the fraudulences will be exposed.

Regarding the squatters at the entrance to Yangon, the chief minister said that the number has increased and some sold the government plot claiming as their own with the hope that these plots will one day become residential areas. He confirmed that this will never happen and actions will be taken against those who sell the state-owned plots which must be managed in accord with the laws, rules and regulations by the government. He also explained that the state, in accord with the law, solely has the right to build a town. Warnings were issued and measures have been taken not to repeat of this situation again, he said.

To settle the squatter problems, Yangon Region government deposited 64 billion kyat at City Bank.

The performance of Yangon Region government in a year included collecting squatter list, rehabilitating them and tackling the problems step by step. To meet this end, maps of squatting plot have been drawn by Yangon City Development Committee with the help of UN-Habitat. In the month of May and June last year survey teams made field trips to 423 areas in 19 townships in Yangon Region. They made survey on socio-economic status of squatters, and checked on paper and on ground. They found out the risk of natural disaster and effect on environmental ecology. They collected information on squatters who are on top of the priority list to be cleared. According to the survey the tasks of raising the living standard, fulfilling the needs in creating good environment and building infrastructures and preventing natural disaster were carried out.

Advanced technology will be applied in collecting squatter list and job opportunities will be created for them. But those who have been registered as squatters been found again in another area would have been punished. Actions will be taken against those who earn their living on the pretext of squatters. Local edict will be issued to collect the number of squatters. Inner circle security services those who collect the squatter list will be provided by Myanmar Police Force. Those who do not abide by the law shall be sued under Act No. 188. Those who squat on the plots of government, YCDC or private will not be regarded as squatters starting from 25 May 2016 but they are to face punitive actions. This is the clarification made by U Phyo Min Thein on 25 May 2016.

After cyclone Nargis, mass migration seeking greener pastures moved to Yangon resulting in increasing squatters. ■

(Translated by Wallace)

Kyauktada Tsp: Pioneer of No Smoking Zone

People seen at Maha Bandula Park in Kyauktada, Yangon.
PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

Kyauktada township will be the first No Smoking Zone in Yangon city, said Daw Than Myint Aung, Yangon City Development Committee Member - 5, in meeting with media.

She said coordination will be made among People Health Foundation, Health and Sports Ministry, Hluttaw representatives and the people. It will be implemented as soon as possible.

Parks, markets, hotels, air-conditioned shopping centers, government offices, famous pagodas, religious buildings, government schools and hospitals are to be designated as smoking free areas. The plan will be executed by YCDC and Yangon Region Public Health Department.

This plan will also be extended to schools, government offices, hotels, universities and pagodas in other townships.

The starting point for the plan is Kyauktada but other areas can join the activities depending on their interests. The Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law was enacted in 2006.

According to the law, places where smoking is prohibited are prescribed and advertising and promotion of tobacco are prevented. Due to weakness in realizing the plan, this will be high on the agenda of the new government, said Daw Than Myint Aung. — The Mirror ■

(Translated by Wallace)
Buses, buses everywhere — is it too many?

Su Hnin Lei (The Mirror)

“YBS system has been introduced. Traffic Control system has also been introduced. The question then arises! Can these actions ease traffic jams in Yangon? No. Especially in a country which tries to be developed. The problem of traffic jam has to be tackled through good management. It may be crowded on bus during the rush hours. A “Change” is to be made with cooperation of all the citizens. We have witnessed people’s cooperation in changing into YBS system.” reviewed U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister, on Yangon commuter system.

The chief minister is absolutely right. The problem of traffic jam is to be tackled by means of management. Metropolitan experts viewed that traffic jams and poor transport decrease the work performance of individuals. To be able to avoid this situation, multi-actions have been taken to solve the problem and to create better transportation, U Phyo Min Thein said at the handing over ceremony of YBS buses on 10 June.

Yangon is economic hub of the country with millions residing in it, and it will become Mega City with the population of 10 million. As various opportunities are available in the city, there has been a great migration yearly. Therefore, it is unlikely that the decrease of population and automobiles is in sight. But, good transportation system and traffic rules are to be managed by the authorities or the government. To overcome certain problems such as traffic jams or urban population boom, Master Plan for a metropolitan is of utmost importance. In the plan, Traffic Demand Management (TDM) for a metropolitan is of utmost importance. In the plan, Traffic Demand Management (TDM) plays an important part, said Myanmar Engineering Society Chairman U Aung Myint.

The system of TDM was introduced quite recently and Control Centre will be in service this year to cover all the areas in the city. According to Yangon Region Transportation Minister Daw Nilar Kyaw, a total of 530,000 vehicles are using roads in Yangon. This means that of over 900,000 vehicles registered in the whole country, over half of the number is in Yangon. The number of vehicles in Yangon is doubled the amount of 2012 but it is a small number compared to the amount in the cities of neighbouring countries. Bangkok and Singapore are home to millions of vehicles but their commuter system is managed properly. Road areas and roads are also upgraded. Overpasses are common there and indiscriminate parking is intolerance. Every building has parking lots.

In Yangon, the widest road is 72 feet and some 48 or 44 feet wide. If there are vendors or indiscriminate parking on such a road, it is sure that there will be unwanted traffic jams. The road for the population of just 500,000 or just five digits of vehicles, built in the past was not too narrow for today’s six digits. But the problem is that lack of discipline, indiscriminate parking, unruly vendors, weakness in management of signal light system and traffic control system cannot be tackled properly, experts said. If there is a good management, vehicles can run on the road smoothly although there may be some jams. Unsystematic extending of urban areas without long term plan in the past, constructing a building without sufficient parking lot and having no chance to use the whole area of the main roads are causes of today’s dilemma.

“It is aimed at YBS system to be changed in a year. The level of YBS shall be changed to reach the target.” said U Phyo Min Thein.

So, it is very important to meet success in YBS system because the more people use the system the less rely on private cars. But it does not mean decreasing in the number of vehicles can ease traffic jams because Yangon is an economic hub, he noted. He also said that his plan is not to make Yangon to become a ghost town but to become a modern city buzzing with people.

“This is the real situation of change. We should not be disappointed with the results. We need to do our best to achieve something. Normally, people are afraid of leaving their comfort zone. We, on our part, are very tired to make a change. But we have vowed to do good for the people to the best of our ability. With good management practices we will go on.” said the chief minister.

Of the 500,000 vehicles in Yangon, the numbers of buses are less than 10,000 including newly imported buses. The amount of Yangonites who use circular trains is just nearly 100,000. There will be safe and sound transport system only when good commuting system is available. Therefore, good management is a must.

(Translated by Wallace)

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<th>Width of roads in Yangon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Yangon-Pyay Road</td>
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<td>Strand Road</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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<table>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Vehicles</th>
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<td>2010</td>
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<td>2012</td>
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<td>2017</td>
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Climate Change is a human rights threat

Dr. Khine Khine Win

NOW a day’s climate change is affecting every country on every continent. As emphasized by the United Nations Human Rights Council in its resolution 26/27 “Climate change is an urgent global problem requiring a global solution”. The relevance of human rights to climate change is now universally recognized. It is one of the greatest threats to human rights and a major threat to agriculture and as a consequence food security for people is at risk. And also infrastructure and transportation are at risk too. No doubt, climate change is poised to become the most massive human rights violation in the world.

According to Male Declaration, “climate change has clear and immediate implications for the full enjoyments of human rights”. Which human rights are most affected by climate change? Climate change negatively affects directly or indirectly on a wide variety of human rights including right to life, right to food, right to water, right to health, right to an adequate standard of living, right to development etc of individuals or communities. Let me give some examples, climate change reduces freshwater availability in arid regions that are already suffering from severe water shortages and drought which affect right to water and sanitation. The effects of climate change on crop and terrestrial food production are already evident in several regions of the world which affect right to food. Climate related hazards affect people livelihoods directly through impacts such as losses in homes and properties which affect right to an adequate standard of living and right to security. Indeed there may be health problems in some regions caused by climate change. The major health impacts which include greater risk of injury, disease etc which affects right to health and right to life of individual. Moreover, climate change presents the single biggest threat to development, and its widespread, impacts disproportionately burden the poorest and most vulnerable.

The UN member States have formally recognized the importance of climate change in advancing the global development by putting the goal 13 in SDGs: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts. World leaders committed to implement all 17 sustainable development goals by 2030 including goal 13. If we are talking about climate change, we have to know Paris Agreement. The Paris Agreement builds upon the Convention and – for the first time – brings all nations into a common cause to undertake ambitious efforts to combat climate change and adapt to its effects, with enhanced support to assist developing countries to do so. The Paris Agreement’s central aim is to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise this century well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Additionally, the agreement aims to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. On 5 October 2016, the threshold for entry into force of the Paris Agreement was achieved. The Paris Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016. Myanmar is signatory to the Paris Agreement. As State parties scale up climate change action, enhanced cooperation, capacity-building and access to financial and technical support will be needed.

OHCHR’s key message on human rights and climate change highlight the essential obligations and responsibilities of States and other duty-bearers (including businesses) and their implications for climate change-related agreements, policies, and actions. States are obligated to protect, respect and full fill the human rights of her citizens. State (duty-bearers) has the core obligation to take measure to preserve and protect the environment which includes combating the effects of global warming and to ensure that all people (right-holders) have the necessary capacity to adapt to the climate crisis. Government’s ability to respond to future threats of climate change is essential. And to ensure that there is an accountability and effective remedy for human rights harm caused by climate change.

Human rights can be integrated in climate-change related actions by applying right-based approach to policy and development. A right-based approach analysis obligations, inequalities, vulnerabilities and seeks to redress discriminatory practices and unjust distribution of power. A human rights-based approach also calls for accountability and transparency. It is not only States that must be held accountable for their contributions to climate change but also businesses which have the responsibility to respect human rights and do no harm in the course of their activities. If there is a program and policies formulated, the main objective should be to fulfill human rights. A right-based response should maximize inclusion, participation and equality. Climate change therefore requires global right-based response.

For the sake of our next generation, let’s do more to combat climate change with right-based approach.

http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php
State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives back after completion of official visits to Canada and Sweden

1. State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived back in Yangon on 14th June 2017 at (0850) hrs after completion of her Official Visits to Canada and Sweden from 5th to 13th June 2017.

Visit to Canada
2. While in Ottawa, the State Counsellor held a bilateral meeting with the Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. The State Counsellor also met with the Honourable Geoff Regan, Speaker of the House of Commons, and the Honourable George J. Furey, Speaker of the Senate on 7th June 2017. The State Counsellor also attended the working lunch hosted by the Honourable Ms. Chrys- tia Freeland, Foreign Minister of Canada, at the Parliament Building.
3. At the meetings, the Canadian side conveyed their deep condolences to the bereaved families of the Myanmar military airplane accident, and the two sides exchanged views on matters pertaining to strengthening of Myanmar-Canada bilateral relations, sharing of the Canadian’s experience on federalism, Myanmar’s national reconciliation and peace process, promotion of peace, stability and development in the Rakhine State, Canada’s continued support to Myanmar in overcoming challenges during its democratic transition, education, health, economic development, capacity building of civil servants, transfer of advanced agricultural technology, good governance, enhancement of the role of women and children and development and humanitarian assistance for Myanmar. Following the bilateral meeting, the Canadian Prime Minister issued a press release stating Canada’s pledge to provide 8.8 million Canadian dollar in support for humanitarian assistance and advancement of peace and stability in Myanmar.
4. On 8th June 2017, the State Counsellor called on the Right Honourable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, and exchanged views on the experiences of transformation to a federal democratic system, education, agriculture, water resource management, tourism, conservation and preservation of historical buildings and cultural heritages. The State Counsellor also received Mr. Bruce Stanton, Chairman of Canada-Myanmar Partnership, Friendship Committee and Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel, and focused their discussions on enhancing friendly relations and cooperation between the two Parliaments as well as possible avenues for the Committee to assist the Government of Myanmar in overcoming challenges in its efforts for national reconciliation, peace and democratization.
5. While in Ottawa, the State Counsellor also joined the Myanmar study tour group on Federalism comprising the representatives of Government, Tatmadaw and Ethnic Armed Organizations, and participated in five sessions of presentations namely “Canada’s Justice System,” “Importance of Intergovernmental Relations and its Impact on Canadian Federalism, Social Policy and Economic Development,” “Canadian Fiscal Federalism and Equalization,” “the Role of the Canadian Armed Forces and Civil-Military Relations,” and “the Role of Mounted Police” organized by the Forum of Federations.
6. On 7th June 2017, the State Counsellor cordially met with the Myanmar Community from the vicinity of Ottawa at the Fairmont Chateau Laurier Hotel.
7. In Toronto, the State Counsellor met with the Honourable Kathleen Wynne, Premier of Ontario, and the Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario on 8th and 9th June 2017 respectively. During the meetings, the two sides discussed matters pertinent to Myanmar’s national reconciliation and peace process, harmonious co-existence of different ethnic groups in Toronto, Canada’s experiences in Federalism and initiation of the students and teachers exchange programmes with a view to enhancing people-to-people contacts between the two countries.
8. On 9th June 2017, the State Counsellor met with Mr. John Tory, Mayor of Toronto, at the City Hall of Toronto, and cordially addressed the gathering of the Myanmar Community in Canada, and answered the questions raised by the participants.

Visit to Sweden
9. The Myanmar delegation led by the State Counsellor left Toronto by air on 10th June and arrived in Stockholm, Sweden on 11th June 2017. In Sweden, the State Counsellor held a bilateral meeting with H.E. Mr. Stefan Lofven, Prime Minister of Sweden at the Prime Minister’s Office on 12th June 2017. At the meeting, they focused their talks on strengthening Myanmar-Sweden bilateral relations, Sweden’s continued support to the democratic transition of Myanmar, national reconciliation and peace process, promotion of peace, stability and development in the Rakhine State, Sweden’s new Myanmar Development Strategy, transfer of advanced technology in agriculture sector, promotion of market access, travel, education and transportation sectors.
10. On 12th June 2017, the State Counsellor met with H.E. Mrs. Isabella Lovin, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate, H.E. Mrs. Margot Wallstrom, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and H.E. Mrs. Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade on separate occasions. During the meetings, they exchanged views on matters related to Sweden’s new Myanmar Development Strategy, national reconciliation and peace process, promotion of peace, stability and development in the Rakhine State, media freedom, economic and trade promotion, protection of labour rights, employers-employee relations, cooperation in agriculture, market access for Myanmar’s agro-products and public transportation sectors. Moreover, the State Counsellor also met with Mr. Oscar Stenstrom, State Secretary for International Relations and its Impact on Canadian Federalism, Social Policy and Economic Development, at the ceremony, H.E. Mrs. Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, delivered an opening speech and Mr. Pierre Schori, Chairman of Olof Palme Memorial Fund made a remark about the conferment of the Award and handed over Olof Palme International Prize 2005 to the State Counsellor. The State Counsellor spoke words of thanks for the award at the event. The State Counsellor and Myanmar delegation attended the banquet hosted by H.E. Mrs. Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade. The State Counsellor was conferred the Award in 2005 in recognition of her courage, strong determination and peaceful struggle for the cause of peace, democracy and ethnic unity in Myanmar, and she personally received the Award at the ceremony.
11. On 13th June 2017, the State Counsellor cordially addressed the gathering of the Myanmar Community at the Stockholm Theatre, Grand Hotel in Sweden and responded to their questions.
12. On 13th June 2017, the State Counsellor met with H.E. Mr. Urban Ahlin, Speaker of the Swedish Parliament (Riksdag) at the Parliamentary Building. As the honoured guest of the Speaker, the State Counsellor delivered a public address at the Swedish Parliament highlighting Myanmar’s democratic transition, national reconciliation and peace process. Afterwards, she responded to the questions raised by the Panel which included the Speaker of the Parliament, the Chair and the Deputy Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. The State Counsellor also made a tour at the Parliament and attended the Luncheon hosted in her honour by the Speaker of the Swedish Parliament. — Ministry of Foreign Affairs

At the ceremony, H.E. Mrs. Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade, delivered an opening speech and Mr. Pierre Schori, Chairman of Olof Palme Memorial Fund made a remark about the conferment of the Award and handed over Olof Palme International Prize 2005 to the State Counsellor. The State Counsellor spoke words of thanks for the award at the event. The State Counsellor and Myanmar delegation attended the banquet hosted by H.E. Mrs. Ann Linde, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade. The State Counsellor was conferred the Award in 2005 in recognition of her courage, strong determination and peaceful struggle for the cause of peace, democracy and ethnic unity in Myanmar, and she personally received the Award at the ceremony.
Children’s rights discussed in Amyotha Hluttaw

THE Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) was held in the Amyotha Hluttaw building yesterday morning. Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung of the Amyotha Hluttaw presided over the convention and gave the opening speech. Daw Rupa Mya, U Soe Moe Oo and Daw Ni Ni Hla explained the purpose of the convention. They then responded to questions participants asked about the CRC. —Myanmar News Agency

Chakma ethnic tribe protests against recent deadly attack

THE RAKHINE and Chakma ethnic community in Maungtaw staged a protest outside the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Maungtaw yesterday against a deadly attack in early June on the Chakma ethnic tribe living in Chittagaung hilly areas in Bangladesh.

With permission from authorities, about 300 people took to the streets and gathered outside the office of UNHCR, chanting slogans and holding placards. The Chakma ethnic tribe held a religious ceremony at Laungchaung Village in Buthidaung Township on 10th June to pray for those who were killed in the violent attack.—Min Thit (MNA), Aung Kyaw Sein (PRD)

Repairs underway on Sittway-Yangon highway as flood recedes

AS FLOOD waters recede, the Rakhine State Government began roadwork on Sittway-Yangon Road, which was damaged by floods caused by the recent heavy rains.

The Rakhine State Minister for Transportation said the main problem was that the flooding happened on the road and water levels reach over two feet. Some of the hillsides along the highway were eroded by the rain, but the Rakhine State Department for Roads said they are using backhoes to solve the problem.

“As soon as the flood recedes, workers carry out roadworks so that the traffic can return to normal as soon as possible,” said the minister. U Hla Shwe from Rakhine Road Building Team-16 said that while the road was drivable, a part of the road along milestone 28 that connects An to Sittway was broken off. He and his team are working to prevent water from entering the road. Small to medium-sized vehicles are allowed to pass the road, but larger vehicles are still not permitted to travel along the highway. They will be allowed to drive along the road once the water level descends and areas of the highway are repaired again.

Heavy rains in Rakhine on 12 June caused floods on the Sittway-Yangon Highway and resulted in flooding of roads in 12 areas between An and Kawkok village, said the Minister for Transportation. —Min Thit (MNA)

Backhoes are used to fill in parts of the Sittway-Yangon highway that have eroded due to flooding from heavy rains. PHOTO: YE HTUT

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<td>Appointment of memberships of Union Election Commission</td>
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<td>The following persons are appointed as the memberships of the Union Election Commission, in accordance with the sub section (a) under Article 398 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and sub-section 8 under the Section 16 (b) of Union Government Law and Section 3 of Union Election Commission Law.</td>
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<td>14 June, 2017</td>
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<td>Appointment of Union Supreme Court Judges</td>
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<td>The following persons are appointed as Union Supreme Court Judges, in accordance with the sub section (b) under Article 299 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and sub-section 8 under the Section 16 (b) of Union Government Law and Section 25 of Union Judiciary Law.</td>
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<td>(1) U Mya Han</td>
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<td>(3) U Soe Naing</td>
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Search continues for plane crash victims

The body of a man near Mayingyi Village in the Taninthayi Region was found yesterday, bringing the total number of bodies from the 7 June crash of a military transport plane to 87.

As the search for passengers enters its second week, military forces on land, sea and air and local volunteers in fishing boats continued their efforts that they hope will result in the discovery of possible survivors. The most recent body recovered was found during a search along the Maungmagan-Mayingyi coast in the Taninthay Region yesterday morning.

The body of the man was brought to Dawei Military Hospital for identification. Remaining family members were notified. Twenty-three bodies were also given proper burials yesterday, said the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

Three suspects arrested in Maungtaw Township

Three men found on Taunggyo-Kyeinchaung Road in Maungtaw Township, were arrested on suspicion of illegal immigration on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, local security forces found three suspects including Ahmad Dullah from Tular Tali Village in Maungtaw Township. The three suspects have been charged with breaching the Immigration Law. — Myanmar News Agency

School sport activities planned to be promoted in current AY

SPORT activities in basic education schools will be promoted in the current academic year to improve the physical, emotional and social well-being of students, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on Wednesday.

Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports, said that a plan is underway to promote cooperation with the Ministry of Education to resume the December school sport festival, which was stopped in 2000. The role of sports at basic education schools has been on the decline in the country for years.

Students should receive sports training at least once a week, the Union minister said.

It is difficult to build a football ground at every basic education school. However, students can play basketball, volleyball, tennis and other sports, he added. —GNLM

Plans underway to establish more fish ponds across Maungtaw Township

PLANS are underway to develop numerous fish ponds in over 90 villages in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, to solve a food shortage problem, particularly fish and meat, and create more job opportunities for residents, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on Wednesday.

Dr Nyunt Wai from the Rakhine State Fisheries Department said that the state fisheries authorities are arranging to construct an acre of fish pond per village to produce freshwater fish for local consumption, targeting 95 villages.

Fish pond construction costs are estimated to reach Ks7.5 million per acre. The aforementioned department said that it welcomes monetary assistance from the state government and international organizations.

Yangon prepares new penalties for illegal dumping

Yangon’s 33 townships produced nearly 3,000 tons of daily garbage in the rainy season, according to figures from Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) published in Myawady newspaper. Yangon produced nearly 2,000 tons of daily garbage before rainy season, but due to the rains, the daily weight has increased to 3,000 tons.

Hlaingthaya Town-

ship produced the most tonnage with over 154 tons daily. Thingangyun Township had the second most garbage wasted with over 133 tons daily and North Okkalapa Township was third with over 130 tons daily. The Pollution Control and Cleaning Department of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is trying to reduce the weight of the garbage in Yangon by forming the inspection teams to prevent illegal dumping.

Previously YCDC could only file lawsuits at township court against illegal dumpers, but penalties were seldom met. Under a forthcoming YCDC regulation, the body will directly impose penalties against illegal dumpers of between Ks 10,000 and Ks 500,000 or one year in jail. —200

Navy ships search the coast of the Andaman Sea looking for the missing passengers of the Y-8 plane that crashed on 7 June. PHOTO: MNA

Navy ships search the coast of the Andaman Sea looking for the missing passengers of the Y-8 plane that crashed on 7 June.
LONDON—Fire engulfed a 24-storey housing block in central London in the early hours on Wednesday, killing at least six people and injuring 70 others in an inferno that trapped residents as they slept.

Flames raced through the high-rise Grenfell Tower block of apartments in the north Kensington area after taking hold around 1 am and witnesses reported some residents screaming for help from windows of upper floors and others trying to throw children to safety.

More than 200 firefighters, backed up by 40 fire engines, fought for hours to try to bring the blaze, one of the biggest seen in central London in memory, under control.

By mid-day, London police said six people had been killed and they cautioned the death toll was likely to rise.

Police Commander Stuart Cundy said a “recovery operation” could take some time and there could be people in the building who are unaccounted for, though he would not be drawn on a figure.

Fire-fighting crews still had to reach the top four floors of the building where several hundred people live in 130 apartments.

The cause of the fire, which left the tower block a charred, smoking shell, was not immediately known.

The block had recently undergone an 8.7 million pound ($11.08 million) refurbishment of the exterior, which included new external cladding, replacement windows and curtain wall facades.

Flumes of black smoke billowed high into the air over the British capital for hours after the blaze broke out. Residents rushed to escape through smoke-filled corridors after being woken up by the smell of burning.

London Fire Brigade said the fire engulfed all floors from the second to the top of the 24-storey block. There were reports that some residents leapt out of windows to escape the flames.

One woman lost two of her six children as she tried to escape from the block, one witness said.

“I spoke to a lady that lives on the 21st floor. She has got six kids. She left with all six of them. When she got downstairs there was only four of them with her. She is now breaking her heart,” Michael Paramasivam, a block resident, told BBC radio.

Other witnesses spoke of children, including a baby being thrown to safety from windows high up.

Tamara, one witness, told the BBC: “There’s people, like, throwing their kids out: Just save my children, just save my children!”

In my 29 years of being a fire fighter, I have never ever seen anything of this scale,” London Fire Brigade Commissioner Dany Cotton told reporters. — Reuters

Flames and smoke billows from a tower block at Latimer Road in West London, Britain on 14 June, 2017 in this picture obtained from social media. PHOTO: REUTERS

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OPERATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE
NOTICE FOR FURNISHING COMMERCIAL TAX ANNUAL RETURNS FOR 2016-2017 FINANCIAL YEAR

1. This is to notify that any persons chargeable under the Commercial Tax Law within the financial year from 1st April 2016 to 31 March 2017, including the economic enterprises of the Union Government, State-owned mills and factories, trading and service enterprises, development committees, cooperative societies, individuals, organizations or associations formed by individuals, companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, carrying on the following economic activities are required to furnish their annual returns of production or services, properly filled in, signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the returns to the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office (1), (2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of returns being filed in person.

(a) Domestic Production
(b) Import
(c) Trading
(d) Service

2. The total proceeds of sale or the total receipts from service, which are not chargeable to commercial tax, of goods and services in the Cooperative and Private Sectors, other than exempted goods and services under the Union Taxes Law, 2016, are as follows:

(a) The total sale proceeds of Kyat 20,000,000 for the domestic production of goods in a financial year.
(b) The total receipt from service of Kyat 20,000,000 for the rendering of services in a financial year.
(c) The total sale proceeds of Kyat 20,000,000 for the trading business in a financial year.

3. Deadline for furnishing of returns - 30th June 2017 (Friday)

4. Penalty for late filing and non-filing of returns -
A penalty of 10 % on the tax due shall be charged if there is a failure to furnish the return without a sufficient cause within the stipulated time.

5. How to get return forms -
The forms are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office (1), (2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or on the IRD website http://www.irdmyanmar.gov.mm.

6. Enquiries
Enquiries may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office (1), (2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or Tax Service Unit, No. 59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon or the Tax Service Unit, 65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets, Mandalay.

Director
Operation Management Directorate

1. All taxpayers, including companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, cooperative societies, association of collective farming, individuals (excluding salary-earners), associations formed by individuals, organizations or associations registered and formed under any existing law, chargeable under the Income Tax Law within the financial year from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017, are required to file their returns of income if they made profit or not in this financial year, properly filled in and signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the returns, to the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office (2) and (3) in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of returns being filed in person.

2. Those taxpayers registered with the Large Taxpayer Office and Medium Taxpayer Office (1) are required to make their own tax assessments and file a return of income to the Large Taxpayer Office and Medium Taxpayer Office (1) in person or by registered mail. In filing a return of income, instructions mentioned in the return should be carefully followed and there is no need for filing annual financial statements.

3. Those taxpayers who earned income from “Salary” within the income year are not required to file a return of income. However, their employers are required to file the Annual Salary Statement to the respective Township Revenue Office.

4. Requirement For Attachment:
Taxpayers are also required to submit, together with the return, a financial report prepared in connection with taxpayers’ books of account kept in accordance with the Income Tax Regulations for the relevant income year.

5. Deadline for Filing of Returns - 30th June 2017 , (Friday)

6. Penalty for late filing and non-filing of returns of income
A penalty not exceeding 10 % of the tax due may be charged if there is a failure to file a return of income.

7. Where to get return forms -
The forms are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office (1), (2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or on the IRD website http://www.irdmyanmar.gov.mm.

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Director
Operation Management Directorate
Episodes of Chinese Movies to be Broadcast by MRTV for Myanmar Audience

As of August, 2017 episodes of the Chinese movie, named "Hello, China", which was once very popular with Chinese audience will be shown on TVs by MRTV, expected to be loved by Myanmar audience, and further episodes also will be broadcast. Translation and dubbing will be carried out by MRTV, said U Myint Htwe, Director-General of MRTV, under the Ministry of Information, at the meeting hall of MRTV in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw held at 10:30 am yesterday, at the signing ceremony of contracting for broadcasting Chinese Television Programme under the co-sponsorship between MRTV & GXBS.

Co-operations are being made in the sectors of interchange of delegations between MRTV & Chinese broadcasting services such as VRTC, CCTV, SARFT-MOFCOM, CRI, GXTV including GXBS and exchanges of programmes. In 2013, the cooperation agreement was signed between MRTV & GXBS. And, co-operations on news and information sectors are being performed so far.

Following that, Ms Lv Jie, Director-General said, "With the rapid development after successful set-up of free trade zone between China and ASEAN Countries, relations between people from Guangxi province in China and Myanmar became deeper. Plus media sharing is being emphasized. Chinese Television Programme is the modern means and ways of deepening interchange between the two media. It is expected that it is a window for Myanmar people to know China. The episodes are the diplomat of Chinese Culture." Afterward, U Myo Myint Aung, Deputy Director-General of MRTV & Ms Zheng Rui, Deputy Director-General of GXBS signed the contract to co-broadcast the Chinese Television Programme. — Tin Maung Lwin (Myanma Alin) ■

Eco-tourism to be implemented in Bago Yoma

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will implement eco-tourism in Bago Yoma jointly with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, according to a report in the Myawaddy Daily yesterday. The Bago Yoma forest reserve is a better place to implement eco-tourism. Also, Yangon, Pyay, Tayakkyit-tayar and Taungoo will implement eco-tourism, cultural tourism and Community-Based Tourism.

The two ministries plan to open the Bago Yoma Eco-Resort at the end of July. Implementation of eco-tourism can create job opportunities for the locals, said an official from the ministry of hotels and tourism. Currently, eco-tourism is being implemented in Yangon, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Mandalay, Ayeyawady, Bago and Magway regions as well as Kachin, Shan, Mon and Chin states. — GNLM ■
LONDON — Actress Cameron Diaz has said she is lucky to have got married to Benji Madden as the Good Charlotte guitarist is someone who understands her in a way no one else does.

During a conversation, the 44-year-old actress, who married Madden in 2015, said she and her husband are so different from one another but at the same time share similar values.

“I think it’s a matter of — I just hadn’t met my husband,you know? I had boyfriends before. And there’s a really distinct difference between husbands and boyfriends.”

“And I have a husband who is... just my partner in life and in everything. We’re totally two peas in a pod. We’re both just weird enough for each other,” Diaz said.

The actress praised her husband for being supportive of her in all aspects of life.

“We women are objectified so much. And somehow my husband has just been able to kind of show me what it’s like to have that be a part of a relationship, and being an equal.”

“I never experienced that before. I’d never been loved in that way. Where he and Joel came from and what they’ve accomplished in their lives...just the drive, for the purest reasons. They push themselves. I look at him every day and he inspires me. He works so hard. I feel so lucky.” —PTI

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**Singer Annie Lennox calls for solidarity to help most vulnerable women**

LONDON — The challenges women face in the developing world, such as poor education and healthcare, child marriage and female genital mutilation may seem insurmountable, but change can come through solidarity from women in rich nations, said singer Annie Lennox.

While the disadvantages of women in poor countries are not being addressed, women in rich countries could use their power for good, Lennox said.

“This is how I see feminism, about the empowerment of women,” she told a summit of female business leaders in London on Tuesday.

Lennox, an award winning singer-songwriter turned women’s rights movement, started advocacy group The Circle to enable influential women to use their skills and resources to help women living in poverty.

HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age, according to the World Health Organization. “We think of HIV/AIDS in a particular way but we don’t understand who is at the epicentre of the AIDS pandemic in Africa, and it is young girls and young women,” Lennox told the Fortune Women Summit in London.—Reuters

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**Cameron Diaz gushes over husband Benji Madden: ‘I feel so lucky’**

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HIV/AIDS is the leading cause of death among women of reproductive age, according to the World Health Organization. “We think of HIV/AIDS in a particular way but we don’t understand who is at the epicentre of the AIDS pandemic in Africa, and it is young girls and young women,” Lennox told the Fortune Women Summit in London.—Reuters

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**Luke Skywalker’s original lightsaber is up for auction**

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The auction will be held between 26 and 28 June. The lightsaber is expected to sell between USD 150,000 and USD 250,000. The last time a Luke Skywalker lightsaber prop was sold, it was for USD 240,000.

Another “Star Wars” memorabilia which will be offered at the auction is an actual R2-D2 unit and some original concept arts from Tom Jung used for the original “Star Wars” trilogy.—PTI

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‘Deadpool 2’ cast adds Shioli Kutsuna in key role

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Kutsuna joins previously announced newcomers Josh Brolin who will play Cable, Zoe Saldana as Domino, and Jack Reus as Deadpool.

The studio, however, has not yet revealed what character the 24-year-old actress will play in the sequel to the 2016 superhero movie, reported Deadline.

The film has been directed by David Leitch and will hit the US theatres on 1 June next year.—PTI

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**LONDON — The challenges women face in the developing world, such as poor education and healthcare, child marriage and female genital mutilation may seem insurmountable, but change can come through solidarity from women in rich nations, said singer Annie Lennox.**

While the disadvantages of women in poor countries are not being addressed, women in rich countries could use their power for good, Lennox said.

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**Japanese actress Shioli Kutsuna. PHOTO: PTI**

**Cameron Diaz gushes over husband Benji Madden: ‘I feel so lucky’**

LONDON — Actress Cameron Diaz has said she is lucky to have got married to Benji Madden as the Good Charlotte guitarist is someone who understands her in a way no one else does.

During a conversation, the 44-year-old actress, who married Madden in 2015, said she and her husband are so different from one another but at the same time share similar values.

“I think it’s a matter of — I just hadn’t met my husband,you know? I had boyfriends before. And there’s a really distinct difference between husbands and boyfriends.”

“And I have a husband who is... just my partner in life and in everything. We’re totally two peas in a pod. We’re both just weird enough for each other,” Diaz said.

The actress praised her husband for being supportive of her in all aspects of life.

“We women are objectified so much. And somehow my husband has just been able to kind of show me what it’s like to have that be a part of a relationship, and being an equal.”

“I never experienced that before. I’d never been loved in that way. Where he and Joel came from and what they’ve accomplished in their lives...just the drive, for the purest reasons. They push themselves. I look at him every day and he inspires me. He works so hard. I feel so lucky.” —PTI

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**Singer Annie Lennox performs during the Diamond Jubilee concert in front of Buckingham Palace in London on 4 June, 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS**

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ROME — Rome is cracking down on anyone hoping to recreate Anita Ekberg’s dip in the Trevi fountain in the film “La Dolce Vita” on Monday, imposing fines for bad behaviour in and around the city’s watery wonders.

One of Italy’s most visited cities, Rome has long struggled to keep tidy treasures such as the Colosseum, and tourists paddling in its sculpted fountains have done little to help in recent years.

Angry headlines in Italian newspapers as temperatures have risen in recent weeks have included “The incivility continues: Tourists in the fountains and the flowerbeds” and “Monuments under attack.” Mayor Virginia Raggi said people caught picnicking or camping out on the fountains’ pedestals, putting their feet in the water or going for a swim would be fined up to 240 euros ($270). “We need to protect our city, and good behavior is important,” Raggi, a member of the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement, said in a video posted on Facebook. The decree imposing the fines, which start from a minimum of 40 euros, is valid for the summer season until 31 October.

“Rome’s police has been tasked with monitoring these sites even more closely,” Raggi said in the video, filmed overlooking the imposing white Altar of the Fatherland in central Rome. As well as the Trevi, the list of monuments marked out for extra protection includes the 500 year-old Barcaccia, a boat-shaped fountain at the foot of the Spanish Steps which was badly chipped by drunken football supporters in 2016.—Reuters

HONG KONG — Atop Hong Kong’s tallest peak blanketed in clouds, three masked urban explorers step back in time as they assemble an archive of a hobby in 2013 has blossomed into a mission to assemble an archive of the city’s colonial-era architecture.

The eight members of the group HK URBEX what started out as a hobby in 2013 has blossomed into a mission to assemble an archive of the city’s colonial-era architecture. 

HK URBEX members, inspect the interior of an abandoned British army barracks in Hong Kong, China on 1 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

REAL ESTATE MARKETS

Protests in 2007 against the tearing down of Victoria Harbour’s Queen’s Pier, which for almost half a century marked the ceremonial arrivals of British governors and royals including Queen Elizabeth, is often cited as a starting point for street activism bent on preserving Hong Kong’s culture.

For the young explorers in the group HK URBEX what started out as a hobby in 2013 has blossomed into a mission to assemble an archive of the city’s colonial-era architecture. The eight members spend weeks and even months researching derelict sites before visiting and documenting them through photos and film that are posted on their social media page. They have recorded more than 30 sites in Hong Kong alone.

Short videos show the members shining their flashlights on the prison gates of a colonial political prison, a pile of dusty movie reels and posters in an empty movie studio, and the walls of a former World War Two air raid tunnel.

“Just fear that in maybe 20 years time, there won’t be a lot of unique Hong Kong heritage or architecture that really shows that we are Hong Kong, because there’s no other place like us,” said one of the group’s co-founders, who declined to be identified because his activities could involve illegal trespassing.

“And the government, of course, should be more active in preserving these places because in a way, it’s also preserving our Hong Kong identity.” Currently 114 buildings and cultural landmarks are protected from development and more than 1,000 buildings are assigned a historic grade by the government’s Antiquities and Monuments Office.—Reuters

MRTV Programme Schedule (15-6-2017, Thursday)

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<td>8:00 Am</td>
<td>ASEAN Spotlight (14)</td>
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<td>11:00 Am</td>
<td>MRTV Movie (Part-1)</td>
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FOR Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule
Chelsea to host Burnley in Premier League season opener

LONDON — Chelsea will open the defence of their Premier League title at home to Burnley when the season kicks off on the weekend of 12-13 August.

The full list of fixtures was released on Wednesday with Antonio Conte’s side also slated for a follow-up game at Tottenham Hotspur, who will play all their home fixtures at Wembley while White Hart Lane is being redeveloped.

Manchester City travel to newly promoted Brighton and Hove Albion on the opening weekend, while Manchester United play West Ham United at Old Trafford.

Liverpool take on Watford, under the new management of Marco Silva, at Vicarage Road, while Spurs travel to Champions (second tier) champions Newcastle United.

The other Premier League newcomers Huddersfield Town will play their first top-flight game in 45 years at Crystal Palace as Arsenal open at home to Leicester City.

Everton, who begin at home to Stoke City, face a testing opening to the campaign with games against Manchester City, Chelsea, Spurs and Manchester United before the end of September.

The first weekend’s fixtures are completed by Swansea City’s visit to Southampton and Bournemouth’s trip to West Bromwich Albion.

Manchester United’s first meeting with Liverpool, always one of the highlights of the season, will be at Anfield on 14 October. The first Manchester derby will be at Old Trafford on 9 December, the same weekend as the Merseyside derby at Anfield.

Huddersfield manager David Wagner will have a first competitive reunion with mentor Juergen Klopp at Anfield on 28 October.

However, his side face a daunting end to the season with their final four games including trips to Manchester City and Chelsea, plus Everton and Arsenal at home.

All the timings are subject to slight change because of TV scheduling.

Spurs’ games face further problems because of conflicting demands at Wembley and the club immediately announced that their home game with Burnley on 26 August would have to be rescheduled because it clashes with the Rugby League Challenge Cup final.

The EFL fixtures for the other three divisions will be released on 21 June.—Reuters

Abraham to decide Chelsea future after U-21 Euro

LONDON — Striker Tammy Abraham will decide on his future at Premier League champions Chelsea after England’s campaign in the under-21 European Championships in Poland later this month, the 19-year-old has said.

Abraham, a product of Chelsea’s youth academy, made two senior appearances for Chelsea in 2016 before being sent on a season-long loan spell at Championship side Bristol City, where he scored 26 goals in over 40 appearances for the club.

“I haven’t spoken with Chelsea yet. I am focusing on this tournament so the discussions will happen after,” Abraham told reporters. “I’m not too sure (about his future). Hopefully it will be in the Premier League.”

“After this season I need to take myself to the next level. That’s the type of person I am, I always want to do better. I always want to do more. So going into the new season my aim will be to top this one.”

The England team start their European Championships campaign against Sweden under-21 on 16 June.—Reuters

Myanmar athletes prepare for 29th SEA GAME in Malaysia

MYANMAR athletes are training in camps to compete in 29th SEA Game, hosted in Malaysia, including 38 games, starting from 19 to 30 August.

Thirty games that Myanmar athletes could possibly win medals have been chosen and final athletes will be selected by the Myanmar SEA Game Organization Committee no later than the end of this month.

The 30 sports currently scheduled for inclusion are archery, badminton, aquatic sports, basketball, boxing, cycling, equestrian, football/futsal, golf, gymnastics, hockey, karate, lawn bowls, netball, pencak silat, petanque, sailing, sepak takraw (including chinlone), shooting, snooker and billiards, squash, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, bowling, volleyball (indoor), weightlifting, athletics, and wushu.

One of Myanmar player competes in 28th SEA GAME in Singapore. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

respectively.

Canoaing gained a lot of success in recent ASEAN SEA Games but was left out by the host Malaysia in the upcoming SEA Game.

Among the 38 sports with 405 events, the most popular sport, football, will be played on 15 August.

Eleven ASEAN countries will compete in the game and Myanmar needs to try for more gold medals to reach the upper ranking.—Nyi Myat Thawda