State Counsellor returns from Viet Nam
Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets General Secretary of the Communist Party

On a busy last day of her official visit to Viet Nam, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with a plethora of political leaders, friendship organizations, businessmen, members of the Myanmar Embassy and the Myanmar Military Attache.

The State Counsellor was also able to visit the house of Viet Nam national leader Ho Chi Minh yesterday before boarding a plane back to Myanmar.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Chu Cong Phung, the chairman of the Viet Nam-Myanmar Friendship Association, at the Hanoi Grand Plaza Hotel at 9:30 a.m. Matters relating to bilateral trade, culture, and deepening the relations between the two countries were discussed.

Next, the State Counsellor met with Viettel Group President Major General Nguyen Manh Hung and then received Vietnamese businesspersons led by Bank for Investment Development of Viet Nam (BIDV) chief executive officer Mr. Phan Duc Tu. Viet Nam businesspersons discussed the investment status in Myanmar, increasing Myanmar-Viet Nam trade, and the difficulties they were facing.

Afterwards, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited the house of Viet Nam’s national leader Ho Chi Minh.
Implementation committee on recommendations on Rakhine State holds coordination meeting

The work coordination meeting 4/2018 of the Implementation Committee on Recommendations on Rakhine State being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

THE coordination meeting 4/2018 of the Implementation Committee on Recommendations on Rakhine State was held at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were Committee Chairman Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Joint Chairman Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Secretary Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Httu, Joint Secretary Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung, committee members and departmental officials.

In his opening speech at the meeting, the committee chairman said its first report was published and news and conduct of the respective ministries would be compiled for the period from January to the end of April 2018.

“The report will be a good one if facts and figures are provided systematically. Work committees to receive and resettle displaced persons have been formed and arrangements are being made to conduct the works effectively. It is important for us to show readiness to receive the returnees. Transit and reception centres are ready. The resettling of returnees at homes, removal of fears, building physical and mental trust and confidence should be conducted according to the law and explained clearly,” he said.

The union minister also spoke about the worries of the displaced persons regarding the freedom of movement, period of stay in transit centre, resettling in their former places and the right to apply for citizenship during his trip to Bangladesh.

The displaced persons were told of the true aims and work conducted by the government. “Only if there is an understanding, will they return and our works will be accomplished,” said the union minister. These works are connected to the suggestions made by Kofi Annan. To raise awareness of the national verification process, the eight benefits of holding an NVC prepared in the Myanmar-English languages need to be published in media. By holding an NVC, the application for citizenship can be made within five months, according to the law, and on acquiring the national status, basic rights, including health, education and freedom of movement, can be obtained, he noted.

“When the displaced persons return, they will be able to resume their life. The most important thing is the wrong knowledge of NVC. Only few realise that they will get their rights once they acquire the NVC. They must be informed about this. Of the 18 recommendations made on Rakhine State, 37 are being conducted effectively, while all are urged to suggest and discuss about following up on the remaining 31 recommendations.

Preparations are being made to close down the internally displaced person (IDP) camps in Rakhine State that came into existence in 2012. These need to be closed down quickly and completed accordingly. Difficulties must be overcome through cooperation, and closing of these camps will be done according to the set priorities. Progress has been made in closing down the Myebon IDP camp. Discussions with camp representatives are progressing to close down the Kyauktaw Nidin camp, Sittway That Ke Pyin camp and the Khaung Dukka camp. The work on closing down the remaining camps will continue,” the union minister said.

Next, U Nyi Pu, joint chairman, called for effective and timely implementation of the suggestions. The preparations for future works must be based on experience. The implementation of the suggestions, accepting of returnees and resettlement works must be done together, and at the moment, progress has been made by the committee to close down the IDP camps. Regional stability must be achieved. Plans for accepting the returnees and achieving regional stability should be prepared together.

Some Muslims fled to other country, but many Muslims stayed back. More than 300 ethnic nationals from other country are being settled in seven places. Their livelihoods and citizenship also need to be addressed.

At the moment, accommodation has been provided and agriculture, livestock breeding and small enterprises will be developed next. Such works should not be conducted only for the Maungtaw region, but for the entire Rakhine State. Travel, agriculture, livestock breeding and fishery works can be done in Rakhine State.

The ministry is constructing the Mrauk U airport, while the state will build more infrastructure. Media plays an important role in the work of resettling displaced persons, and it should show the true situation, the chief minister said.

Later, Maj-Gen Than Httu, committee secretary, discussed the prioritisation of selection of ethnic national youths from the Rakhine State to attend the youth colleges for national races, under the ministry, and assigning the graduates to the ministries, according to the proposed numbers.

The deputy minister further explained that the ethnic national villages that were constructed had been transferred to the Rakhine State government, and the ethnic nationals were being settled there. As part of the work to close down the Myebon IDP camp, the construction of 50 houses have been completed, the deputy minister said.

Following this, U Soe Aung, committee joint secretary, explained that under the Memorandum of Understanding for Rakhine State’s development, signed between the Myanmar and Indian governments, US$5 million per year for five years, totalling $25 million, would be provided and proposals for education, health, agriculture, natural environment and culture, raising the capacity of women and the child care sectors need to be made by the respective ministries, and only then can works be implemented quickly. Discussions and negotiations were held with both communities in Rakhine State to close down the IDP camps during the trip with the deputy minister for State Councillor’s office, said the deputy minister.

Officials from the ministries then discussed about the works conducted ministry wise in Rakhine State, the future works and requirements. Committee chairman and those in attendance also joined in the discussion.

—Myanmar News Agency

Automatic weather observation system installed in six states, regions

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications has completed the installation of automatic weather observation systems (AWOS) and water-level sensors in six states and regions affected by floods, according to a report in City News Daily yesterday.

The ministry has been installing 80 sets of AWOS and 10 sets of water-level sensors under the disaster management plan of the World Bank.

“We have already installed 20 sets of weather observation equipment to modernise the natural disaster forecasting and warning system in Myanmar, funded by South Korea,” said an official from the ministry.

Myanmar should be alert to storms in April and May, which are the pre-monsoon months, said U Tun Lwin, a veteran meteorologist. Nimbus clouds are likely at noon and evening in Kachin, Shan, Chin, northern Rakhine and Southern Mon states and the Sagaing, northern Mandalay and Tanintharyi regions, the likelihood being 35 to 45 per cent.

Nimbus clouds can lead to lightning, thunder, heavy rainfall, strong winds and hailstones, he added.—GNLM
State Counsellor returns from Viet Nam

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where information and education department head Ms. Cu Thi Minh gave a guided tour.

Following this, the State Counsellor went to the Myanmar Embassy and met with staff, families of the embassy, the Military Attaché and Myanmar state scholar students.

After this, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi went to the office of the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Viet Nam and met with General Secretary H.E. Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong. At the meeting, matters relating to increasing Myanmar-Viet Nam bilateral relations and contacts between the governments, parliaments, parties and the peoples, especially exchange of youth representative groups and cooperation with international organizations in ASEAN and the region were discussed.

From there, the State Counsellor went to the office of the Chair of the National Assembly of Viet Nam and met with Chairwoman of the National Assembly of Viet Nam H.E. Madame Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan. During the meeting, views and thoughts were exchanged and discussed on increasing bilateral friendship and cooperation between the parliaments of Myanmar and Viet Nam, exchanging study tours of parliament members and the people, legislative works of the parliament and experiences of the economic development of Viet Nam.

After the meeting, the State Counsellor and party were seen off at Hanoi Noi Bai International Airport by Vietnamese Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Dang Dinh Qo, Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mrs. Luan Thuy Duong, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win and wife, Military Attaché Col. Aung Kyaw Oo and other officials.

The State Counsellor and party arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport later in the evening and were greeted by Union Minister for the State Counsellor’s Office U Kyaw Tint Swe, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung and wife, Viet Nam Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Le Gia Thinh and other officials.—Myanmar News Agency

Deputy Minister for Information receives BBC correspondent

DEPUTY MINISTER for Information U Aung Hla Tun received Nick Beake, the Myanmar correspondent for BBC News, at the Ministry of Information yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, related matters were discussed relating to building trust between the Ministry of Information and BBC News, long-term cooperation matters, broadcasting of BBC English language lessons through state-owned radio and television programmes, conducting of skill training for staff, works implemented by the government in Rakhine State, long-term works in the region, the status of sending media groups to the region, and reporting from Myanmar without bias and with journalism ethics.—Myanmar News Agency
Illegal electric fishing threatens Myanmar’s fisheries sector

May Thet Hnin

THE use of illegal electric fishing equipment is threatening Myanmar’s fisheries sector, said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, vice chairman of Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF).

“The fisheries sector is under threat by a group of people who are using electricity to catch fish. We must find ways to protect the fisheries sector, in cooperation with the government and the public,” she added.

The number of illegal fishing cases with the use of electricity and bombs has increased significantly in the Yangon, Ayeawady and Thaninthayi regions. Illegal electrocution and bombing can destroy fish reproduction, as well as coral reefs and the surrounding marine life, noted Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

“The availability of some fish, such as eel, in the market has declined significantly this year. Fishermen are blaming electric fishing for the decline, noting that it was affecting fish reproduction. Therefore, this illegal fishing system is a matter of concern,” she added.

“Most of the illegal fishing equipment is imported from China and Thailand. So, I want to urge the government to take effective legal action,” said the MFF vice chairman.

“The Yangon Region Fishery Department conducted awareness campaigns and organised activities for local fishermen urging them to reduce electric fishing, in cooperation with the ward administrators and the Hluttaw MPs in November 2017. Our department also provided fishing nets to the fishermen.

A few fishermen have surrendered some 104 electric fishing equipment between November and March,” said U Tun Win Myint, director of Yangon Region Fishery Department.

“Our region government conducted these activities with the regional government’s budget for the development of the fisheries sector. It is not easy. Therefore, we have provided fishing nets to the local fishermen. We are also planning to organise activities to collect unauthorised fishing equipment,” said the director of the Yangon Region Fishery Department.

In the 2017-2018 fiscal year, some 568,232.372 metric tonnes of fishery products, worth US$717.7 million, were exported to foreign trade partners, the highest volume in 20 years, according to an official release by the Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Ministry.

There are some 480,000 acres of fish and prawn breeding farms across the country.

Construction of speciality hospital extension to restart this year

THE construction of the extension of the Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Specialist Hospital will restart this year, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

“The speciality hospital is located in Tamway township. Its construction was suspended last year following a workplace accident. The construction of the five-storey hospital started in 2015, but in 2016, the building collapsed killing one labourer. The authorities then suspended the construction of the five-storey hospital,” said Prof. Dr. Maung Maung from the Otorhinolaryngology Head and Neck Surgery Speciality Hospital.

The five-storey hospital will include a 215x70-square feet out-patient department, an emergency patient department, MRI and X-ray rooms, a check-up room, teaching rooms, private patient rooms, operation rooms and a conference room.

“We expect the hospital will be able to treat more patients, including referral patients, when the building is completed. Recently, the hospital provided medical treatment to patients from across the country. Therefore, the hospital needs more rooms and other facilities. We also need the support of the government,” said Prof. Dr. Maung Maung.

Some 300 to 400 patients with eye-, ear-, nose- and throat-related problems can visit the out-patient department of the hospital each day—GNLM

Old clock tower at Thaphanseik Dam collapsed

THE old clock tower at the Thaphanseik dam in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region, collapsed after powerful winds blew through the region, according to a source from the Information and Public Relations Department in Kyunhla Township.

The dam was built in 1996 and more than 70 villages in Kyunhla Township were relocated due to the dam construction project. The clock tower was in the water for more than 20 years.

Local people guessed that the clock tower might collapse due to the force of rain, strong winds and other natural elements that swept through the area last week.
Yangon Region Government to explain investment opportunities during Investment Forum 2018

BY May Thet Hnin

THE 2018 YANGON Investment Forum will be held at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon on 9 May, at which officials from Yangon Region Government and related departments will explain about investment opportunities in Yangon, according to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

The forum is organised by Yangon Region Investment Committee with the cooperation and support of Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), German Cooperation Implemented through Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) and Myanmar Investors Development Association. It is a seminar.

Preparations were made for about 500 foreign businesses to attend the forum. Scheduled to be discussed are: Myanmar Investment Law and rules; laws, rules and procedures related to investment; opportunities and facts on investment in Yangon Region; projects to be implemented; clear, concise and effective work processes provided for investing in Yangon Region; status of businesses in Yangon Region; and private investments.

Investment in Thilawa Special Economic Zone will be explained and there will be opportunities to raise questions directly to officials from the regional government and relevant departments.

In the forum’s morning session, the New Investment Application Procedure will be discussed. In the afternoon, Investment Opportunities in Yangon Region will be discussed. Four pavilions will display news and information on work procedures and processes including Investment Application Guide Book, Doing Business in Yangon and Taxation Guide Book for attending investors and businesspersons, it is learnt.

U Phyo Min Thein said that 100 per cent Yangon Region Government-owned New Yangon Development Company Limited was established and is implementing new Yangon projects. As a first stage it is conducting infrastructure and industry work as a priority. Yangon Region Government had invited local and international businesses to participate in these projects and will explain and invite investors during this forum.

He added that the forum was held to invite foreign investors with the aim of establishing Yangon as a clean, successful business city where there is rule of law.

“Investments are coming in, and the forum is held to increase the momentum of investments. It is to introduce those who didn’t know of the opportunities,” said U Phyo Min Thein.

In addition to developing the economy, the cultural heritage of the city needs to be maintained, the minister said.

“The city needs to be in the form of a green economy. It needs to be prevented from becoming a dumping ground for businesses that damages the environment,” he said.

Interested investors from ASEAN region countries, Korea, Japan and China are currently discussing and negotiating with the regional government for investing in road construction works, power, housing construction and factories. Western entities such as the United States and the EU are interested in technology service works, said U Phyo Min Thein.

He also said that qualified local and international businesses that can provide quality work will be given priority, while incentives will be provided for businesses that create more job opportunities.

According to DICA, 60 per cent of investments are in Yangon Region and 30 per cent are in Mandalay Region. Investment in other states and regions are few.

In Yangon Region from 1994-1995 to the end of January 2018, Myanmar Investment Commission has permitted the investment of 5.62 billion Myanmar-owned and 846 foreign-owned businesses. As of February 2018, Myanmar-owned businesses invested more than Ks708 billion, while foreign investment totalled US$2.64 billion, said Yangon Region Investment Committee secretary and DICA director U Myo Khaing Oo.

Similar forums are planned to be held annually, said U Phyo Min Thein.

Bamboo agricultural zone to be implemented to produce more oxygen

The Myanmar Bamboo Agricultural Association (Mandalay) is planning to implement a bamboo agricultural zone, according to a report in Myawady Daily.

“Growing bamboo is beneficial for environmental conservation and the livelihood of the local people. A bamboo grove releases some 35 per cent more oxygen into the air than a similar-sized copse of trees. Therefore, our association urged the local people to grow more bamboos instead of other trees,” said Dr Win Myint, deputy chairman of Myanmar Bamboo Agricultural Association (Mandalay).

In addition to this, bamboos have the ability to grow quickly without fertilisers, pesticides or much water, and they can clean the city atmosphere of carbon dioxide released by motor vehicles, generators and factories.

“Through the bamboo chemical treatment technology, bamboo can be used for between 50 and 100 years. Most of the local people are using bamboos to build houses and furniture. People are also manufacturing the bamboo parquet floor by mixing bamboo through high technology. By using bamboo, we can prevent deforestation,” he said.

The environmental benefits of bamboos arise largely due to their ability to grow quickly. They can be replanted within seven years. Therefore, the association is planning to implement a bamboo agricultural zone. Currently, they are seeking land to implement the bamboo zone. —GNLM

Good quality watermelon, muskmelon prices up

The price of good quality watermelons and muskmelons have recovered in the post-Thingyan period, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Watermelons fetched 2 to 3.2 yuan in the pre-Thingyan period, while the prices have gone up to 2.5 to 3.6 yuan now.

The prices of watermelons and muskmelons have increased now, said U Myint Oo, a merchant.

“Watermelon and muskmelon prices depend not only on the supply and demand but also on the quality of fruits. Growers, therefore, need to ensure the stability of quality. They must harvest the fruits only if they are mature enough,” said U Naing Win, chair of Myanmar Watermelon Growers and Muskmelon Growers and Exporters Association.

The Sagaing Region is the main producer of watermelons and muskmelons in the country. The growing season extends from October to May, but farmers usually grow them throughout the year. —GNLM
The performance of the Amyotha Hluttaw over two years

By Shin Min Hmwe

The first regular session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw commenced on 3 February 2016 and the seventh regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw was held on 15 February 2018. This is a culmination of the efficiency and responsiveness of the Hluttaw during that time.

Amyotha Hluttaw

There are 224 representatives in the Amyotha Hluttaw, of which 168 representatives were elected in the last elections. The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services appointed 56 Members of Parliament from the military. Constituencies for Amyotha Hluttaw are based on Myanmar’s 14 States and Regions, which will each elect 12 representatives.

The Hluttaw is an entity that most effectively represents the people and, according to the Hluttaw’s motto of “People’s Voice, Hluttaw’s voice, People’s Will, Hluttaw’s Will, People’s Expectation, Hluttaw’s Implementation,” the Hluttaw listens to the people’s voice and implemented the hope and wishes of the people. The Hluttaw turned two years old while forming the new government.

As the representatives of the people, Amyotha Hluttaw representatives raised questions, submitted proposals and made laws during the two-year period turning people’s desire into reality.

During the two-year period of the Amyotha Hluttaw, seven meetings were held. The first regular meeting was from February 3 to June 10, 2016, totaling 42 days. The second regular meeting was from 25 July to 7 October 2016, totaling 45 days. The third regular meeting was from 16 November to 21 December 2016, totaling 18 days. The fourth regular meeting was from 17 October to 23 November 2017, totaling 16 days. The seventh regular meeting was from 15 January to 29 March 2018, totaling 33 days.

1,519 Questions

In the interest of the people, 783 questions marked with asterisks and 736 without asterisks were raised, and 1,519 proposals were submitted.

During the two-year period of the Hluttaw, there were eight proposals approved and nine proposals were put on record out of 15 proposals made by 14 Hluttaw members.

As the committees are mini-parliaments, they practice the check-and-balance system, scrutinising the works done by the government.

These questions and proposals were aimed at fulfilling the needs of people which are to be carried out by the Union government.

Capacities-building programme

As the committees are mini-parliaments, they practice the check-and-balance system, scrutinising the works done by the government. In this regard, they are carrying out the tasks for fulfilling the needs of people, amending or repealing the laws and proposing laws that will serve the people.

Moreover, to promote the skills of the representatives, scholars and organisations were invited to the meetings held in Hluttaw.

With the aim of serving the interests of the people, the Amyotha Hluttaw formed four Standing Committees and 13 Hluttaw Affairs Committees.

Bill Committee

In accord with Amyotha Hluttaw Law, Section 24, Paragraph (a), and Bylaw Section (44), Paragraph (a), the Bill Committee was formed on 5 February 2016.

The Bill Committee during the two-year period completed 23 laws out of 47, including 11 bills which had been sent to the Pyithu Hluttaw, six bills which were under discussion in the Amyotha Hluttaw, two bills which were repealed, and three bills sent from the Pyithu Hluttaw.

At the Amyotha Hluttaw, 29 bills were discussed, including three bills which are still in the making, four bills which were sent back to the Pyithu Hluttaw, and 22 bills which were approved.

During the two-year period, the Bill Committee meetings were held 154 times, and some 57 bills had been prescribed, including 45 laws from the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, and 12 laws from the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Public Accounts Committee

The Public Accounts Committee was formed on 5 February 2016, committee meetings were held 28 times, coordination meetings were held 61 times, attending ceremonies 110 times, meeting with international organisations 11 times, and dialogue meetings once during the two-year period.

Hluttaw Rights Committee

Because the Hluttaw Rights Committee’s speciality is scrutinising the Hluttaw Representatives who will attend the Hluttaw meetings, it is necessary to monitor the ethics and regulations of the Hluttaw members. The committee has to organise many meetings regarding rules of law, protection of laws for the people, making laws, amending laws and repealing laws.

The committee submitted its findings, analyses and advice for the cases to the speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw and transferred the case letters to the Hluttaw.

As for the Hluttaw Rights Committee, coordination meetings were held 17 times, meeting with international organisations three times and submission reports to Hluttaw twice.

Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee

The Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee was formed on 8 February 2016.

The committee watched whether the pledges made at the Hluttaw sessions were accomplished or not.

During the two-year period, there were 702 pledges to be carried out, and the committee invited the respective ministries to ensure that the pledges are fulfilled and to request them to make reports on work progress. Moreover, they made field trips regularly to check the progress of the work, practicing the check-and-balance system between the government and the Hluttaw.

International Relations, Inter-Parliamentary Friendship and Cooperation Committee

The committee was formed with the aim of promoting international relations with other countries. During the two-year period, meetings with international organisations and ambassadors were held 36 times, committee meetings 29 times, and report submission three times.

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Local and International Non-governmental Organizations Committee

Local and International Non-governmental Organizations Committee was formed with the aim of alleviating the difficulties faced by NGOs and INGOs and promoting the relationship among the Hluttaw and NGOs. During the two-year-period, meetings were held 23 times, including meetings with INGOs five times, ministerial meetings seven times, and report submissions three times.

Health, Sports and Culture Committee

The Hluttaw Health, Sports and Culture Committee is aimed at raising the standards of sports and culture in the country. During the two-year-period, the committee held committee meeting 37 times, managerial meetings six times, NGO meetings seven times, meeting with local organisations 104 times, attending conferences 104 times, attending international conferences 11 times and report submission three times.

The Ethnic Affairs Committee

During the two-year-period of Hluttaw, Ethnic Affairs Committee held committee meeting 24 times, ministerial meetings nine times, meeting with local organisations twice, meeting with international organisations twice, Federal Workshop and Debate once, local excursions twice, and coordination meetings of teaching ethnic literature once and report submission twice.

Farmer Affairs Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, the Farmer Affairs Committee held committee meetings 42 times, meeting with international organisations four times, ministerial meetings five times, meeting with local organisations four times, dialogue meetings 12 times, report submission three times and field trip inspection five times.

Women and Children’s Rights Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, the Women and Children’s Rights Committee was held committee meetings 25 times, meeting with international organisations 19 times, ministerial meetings 11 times, meeting with local organisations 15 times, dialogue meetings 4 times, local excursions once, meeting with foreign guests once and report submission three times.

Education Promotion Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, the Education Promotion Committee held committee meetings 44 times, meeting with local organisations four times, meeting with international organisations seven times, ministerial meetings five times, dialogue meetings twice, local excursions once and report submission three times.

Local and Overseas Employment Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, Local and Overseas Employment Committee held committee meetings 56 times, meeting with local and international organisations 21 times, ministerial meetings nine times, meeting with local associations 18 times, dialogue meetings once, field trip excursions four times and report submission three times.

Citizens’ Fundamental Rights Democracy and Human Rights Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, the Fundamental Rights of the Citizens, Democracy and Human Rights Committee was received 624 complaint letters and scrutinised 341 letters.

The committee held committee meetings 63 times, ministerial meetings once, dialogue meetings four times, report submission three times, field trip inspection 10 times, meeting with local experts four times, foreign excursions once and report submission THREE times.

Public Complaints Committee

Since its assumption of duties, the Public Complaints Committee received 624 complaints. The authentic complaints were handled together with respective departments and organisations.

Prompt action has been taken by the committee to settle people’s grievances and to fulfill their desires in accord with the law.

Agriculture, Livestock and Fishery Development Committee

During the two-year-period of the Hluttaw, the Agriculture, Livestock breeding and Fishery Development Committee headed committee meetings 24 times, meetings with international organisations four times, meeting with local organisations three times, ministerial meetings four times, dialogue meeting seven times, report submission three times and field trip inspection twice.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than visits a mobile clinic in Myawady that provides health care to migrant workers returning from Thailand last year.
Extreme heat can cause heat-related illnesses, such as heat stroke and exhaustion, which can result in increased mortality rates.

The message is that even moderate increases in average temperature will have negative effects on human health. And for example, if we have an increase of as little as 0.5 degrees Celsius in the average temperature, it could lead to as much as 300 million people living on an income of less than US$2.50 a day—the effects could be lethal. The impact of global climate change is therefore not just a problem for the next generation but for the current generation as well.

Dr. Leung Tsay-ung, Ambassador of Vietnam to Myanmar
Border Affairs Ministry’s Mission: Border Areas Development and Human Resource Development for Ethnic Youth

By Naing Lin Kyi
PHOTO: HLA MIN TUN (BORDER AFFAIRS)

AFTER gaining independence, Myanmar experienced armed conflicts due to racist cult and differences in ideology. This left border areas under development.

Although the successive governments strived for equal development of the plain and border areas, limitations posed by terrain, weather, transportation and instable security hindered efforts of the respective ministries in carrying out their tasks for development. As a result the development works could not cover all the border areas and there are many needs to be fulfilled in these areas.

But with the change in the political landscape and cooperation of ethnic groups, Ministry of Border Affairs could accelerate its efforts for infrastructure development in border areas which lagged far behind in development and human resource development of ethnic youth residing in these areas, starting from 1992. These historical undertakings were put on record in the government’s efforts during the first year of its office. The continuous effort exerted by the ministry is now delivered to the public for their information as well as for feedbacks.

Policy and Objectives of the Ministry of Border Affairs

With the aim of transforming the nation into federal union, bringing peace to the nation and building national reconciliation and peace and contributing to uplifting the socioeconomic life of brethren, the ministry has laid down and realized the policies namely (a) stability of border areas (b) development of border areas (c) development of socioeconomic life of people living in border areas and (d) development of human resources of ethnic people residing in border areas.

Two Main Missions

Under the command of the ministry there exist two departments – the Border Areas and National Races Development Department and Education and Training Department. The two tasks they are carrying out are building infrastructures for border area development and increasing human resource development of ethnic youth residing in border areas. The ministry is carrying out development undertakings not only in the border areas but also in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State/Region/Self-administered Zone/Division</th>
<th>Township</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kachin</td>
<td>Myitkyina, Chipwe, Waingmaw, Tanai, Ingyanyan, Moemauk, Mansi, Hsaawlaw, Bhamo, Putao, Sumprabum, Naungmon, Machanbaw, Hpaankant, Khaunglanphu, Mogauung, Mohnyin, Shwegu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayah</td>
<td>Loikaw, Bawlake, Dimawhsao, Prusho, Shadaw, Hphaaaukng, Maase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kayin</td>
<td>Hpa-an, Kawkareik, Hpa-pun, Myawady, Kya-in-Seikkyi, Hlaingbowe, Thandaunggyi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chin</td>
<td>Haka, Flamm, Mindat, Htanlmaung, Mataipi, Paletwa, Tidim, Tumzaan, Kanperlet</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>Mwawmyane, Thaton, Bilin, Thanbyuzayet, Kyaaikmaraw, Ye, Kyukkalo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rakhine</td>
<td>Maungtaw, Buthidaung, Kyauktaw, Yathedaung, MraukU, Kyaukphyu, Myebon, Thandwe, An, Taunggup, Sittwa, Pauktaw, Minbya, Ponnagyun, Yanbye, Manaung, Gwa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shan</td>
<td>Taunggyi, Tangyan, Lashio, Namhkam, Kunlong, Langkho, Loilem, Monghsat, Kyaukme, Mongla, Maukmae, Hpekhon, Mongton, Mongpan, Mongkai, Kunhing, Mongphyat, Muse, Namtu, Mongyee, Mongpyin, Mongkat, Hswai, Kutkai, Kengtung, Mongyan, Mongyaung, Tachilek, Nyaungshwe, Kalaw, Nawngkhio, Laihka, Kyethi, Yaksawk, Monei</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pa-O SAZ</td>
<td>Hopong, Hsiiseng, Pinlaung</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Palaung SAZ</td>
<td>Mangton, Namhsan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danu SAZ</td>
<td>Ywangan, Pindaya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kokang SAZ</td>
<td>Laukkai, Kongyan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wa SAZ</td>
<td>Hopang, Metman, Pangsang, Nahpan, Panwai, Mongmaw.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sagaing</td>
<td>Khamtai, Tamu, Pintebu, Bamauk, Katha, Homalin, Monywa, Wuntho, Kanbalu, Mawkaik, Kawlin, Mingin, Kalewa, Kalay, Paungpyin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naga SAZ</td>
<td>Leshi, Lahe, Nanyun,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taninthayi</td>
<td>Kawthoung, Yebu, Bokpyin, Taninthayi, Kyunsu, Myeik, Palaw, Thayetchaung, Dawei, Launglon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yangon</td>
<td>Cocogyun, Thongwa, Hlegu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bago</td>
<td>Shwegyin, Kyaukkyi, Paungde, Natalin, Minhla, Pyu</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ayeyawady</td>
<td>Maubin, Ngapdaw, Haingygyikun, Pathein, Kyonpyaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandalay</td>
<td>Mogok, Kyaupadaung, Wandwin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magway</td>
<td>Puak, Yezagyo, Salin, Aunglan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw</td>
<td>Zabuthiri, Pobbathiri, Zeyathiri, Pyinmana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SEE PAGE-11

Border area development tasks are being carried out in the areas of seven states and two regions adjacent to the borderline and other regions as necessary.
Border Affairs Ministry's Mission: Border Areas Development and Human Resource Development for Ethnic Youth

FROM PAGE-10

Border area development tasks are being carried out in the areas of seven states and two regions adjacent to the borderline and other regions as necessary. These undertakings benefit 19.5 million people residing in these areas covering 37.87 percent of the population.

During the two-year period the following tasks have been carried out in border areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Work</th>
<th>Accomplishment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a</td>
<td>Earth Road</td>
<td>1191/5 (Mile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b</td>
<td>Gravel Road</td>
<td>500/5 (Mile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>c</td>
<td>Tarred Road</td>
<td>117/5 (Mile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>d</td>
<td>Concrete Road</td>
<td>35/3 (Mile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>e</td>
<td>Road Maintenance</td>
<td>393/2 (Mile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>f</td>
<td>Bridge (concrete, Bailey, suspension)</td>
<td>2570</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>g</td>
<td>Box Culvert</td>
<td>369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>h</td>
<td>Helipad</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>j</td>
<td>Well, pond, dam</td>
<td>247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>k</td>
<td>Hydropower</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>l</td>
<td>Power line installation</td>
<td>31/2 (Mile)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>m</td>
<td>Solar Power</td>
<td>6943 (Set)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>n</td>
<td>Housing (IDPs)</td>
<td>458 (House)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>o</td>
<td>District/Township Office</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A Dream Come True: Magwayza-Khaunglanphu Road

Poor transportation is normal for the people living in Kaunglanphu area in Kachin State for years. Its weather is severe and the area is difficult for access. Locals living there have to walk on 65/4 mile-long Magwayza-Khaunglanphu road to reach other regions. Yearly, they also face food scarcity and high commodity prices.

Starting from 2016-2017 Fiscal Year, the ministry has been engaged in constructing the road by dividing it into three parts. Encountering bad weathers and rough terrain, the ministry is building the road to be a gravelled one with the supervision of the government and the Tatmadaw and cooperation of local people.

In so doing, the first part of the road, Magwayza-Ngalondan section with 25/4 miles, was built in 2016-2017 FY; the second part, Ngalondan-Yidan section with 18/4 miles, in 2017-2018 FY; and the third part, Yidan-Khaunglanphu section with 21/4 miles, in 2018-2019 FY.

From 2016 to 2018, altogether 12 concrete bridges and 119 box culvert were built. The most difficult road section to be built is from Ngalondan to Yidan. This section is passing through Shanngaw range with the height of 8000 feet. But the skills of mine expert soldiers and heavy machinery drivers from Tatmadaw Engineering Units, overcome all these barriers. Tools and equipments have to be provided to them by helicopters and planes. Moreover, experts are consulting in Yidan to span the Maykha river of which current over, experts are consulting in Yidan to.

The third part of the section to be built in 2018-2019 FY include building of bridges, laying gravel, constructing earth road from Yidan to Khaunglanphu, and constructing 86 box culvert. In completion in September 2019, one-way motor road will be in service. In the FY 2019-2020 also, the tasks of building bridges and laying of gravels will be carried out.

Substituting poppy crops with non-narcotic alternatives

As regards poppy substitution, the government formed Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control and its vice-chairman was Union Minister for Border Affairs. Under the committee is the Alternative Development Management Committee chaired by deputy minister of the ministry.

Three-year pilot project of the team is implemented in Pawin Lwemaw, Hmwebyin and Pindin village tracts in Naungtau area in Pauk township starting from 2017-2018 FY and ending in 2019-2020 FY.

Tasks for Supplying Potable Water and Water for Agricultural Purpose

The national level Water Resource Committee chaired by Vice President U Henry Van Thio is taking a lead in laying down policy, giving instruction and making decision regarding water supply, and the ministry is realizing the policies into action as supplying potable water and water for agricultural purpose is one of its main tasks.

In 2017-2018 FY, the ministry in cooperation with Terra People Association, damned a spring in Hoseng in Pa-O SAZ and supplied to six wards and adjacent villages. The project is benefitting 15745 people and 390 acres of farms. Other water supplying project in Kayah State benefit 17 villages in the same FY. According to the resolution made at the meeting of the committee, Rain Water Harvesting system was applied to supply water for the benefit of 1250 households in Chin State.

In addition to the above-mentioned tasks, during the two-year period, the ministry met a success in supplying water to people living in Thaton, Kalay, Tamu, Myawady and Inle.

Assistance Provided to Rakhine State

Development undertakings are being carried out as usual in Rakhine State.

Human Resource Development

Job opportunities are very rare for ethnic youths due to various limitations including natural barriers, language barrier, culture, and other conditions. Among the efforts of the ministry for the development of brethren, human resource development is no exception. Higher education, basic education and vocational training are of most importance for HRD. Under the ministry, there is one University for Development of National Races, two degree colleges for ethnic youth, one central training school, 44 border youth development trainings, 9 mechanical schools and 440 women’s vocational training schools.

The ministry, in cooperation with Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Luxembourg Agency for Development Cooperation and MHPA and Myanmar Hoteliers Association, conducted hospitality training course and produced 150 National Standard Skill Authority certificate holders.

Courses are opened at mechanical schools for youth who have no wish to pursue their education. These courses include carpentry, bricklayer, iron work, basic mechanic and others. These courses produced 1971 workers who can later hunt jobs. Other schools and university under the ministry also produced skilled workforce and trainers during the two year period.

(Translated by Wallace)
Second coordination meeting of displaced persons accepting and resettlement committee

UNION Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye attended and addressed a second coordination meeting of Displaced Persons Accepting and Resettlement Committee, held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement yesterday.

The union minister said the committee was formed to manage and conduct systematically, according to the procedures and law, the work of accepting and resettling displaced persons.

As per the bilateral agreement on the return of displaced persons from Rakhine State, signed by the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh, Myanmar has been ready to accept the returnees since 23 January, but no official repatriations were conducted. A press conference was held to explain the reasons for the delay after a trip was made to Bangladesh to investigate the matter.

While conducting the work to receive returnees, specified forms need to be filled systematically. The eight benefits of holding a national verification card (NVC), prepared in the Myanmar-English languages by the National Registration Department, will be published in media. Additionally, two work committees were formed. The returnees have to enter the country through the reception centres, according to the bilateral agreement, and will have to stay temporarily at the reception centres and produce the NVC. During the rainy season, work on hard surfacing of the roads and installation of culverts will be conducted. Further, arrangements for fuel for the Tatmadaw vehicles, formation of management and other administrative groups at the transit and reception centres, matters of farm land and provision for food allowances will be made, besides providing systematic water supply and latrines for houses in the resettlement areas.

While implementing the works, plans will be drawn up and submitted for usage of funds. Discussions were conducted with the Rakhine State government to arrange for the construction of roads and dikes, said the union minister.

Next, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, committee members and other officials discussed in detail the sectors for which they were responsible.—Myanmar News Agency
FDA DG facing corruption charge

The Director-General of the Food and Drug Administration under the Ministry of Health and Sports is facing a lawsuit for allegedly abusing his authority, according to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The statement released by the commission said that Dr. Than Htut, Director-General of the FDA, has allegedly taken more than Ks150 million from a company which won a tender from his department for construction projects in townships last year. He allegedly used the money to upgrade his house, construct a fence, build a one-storey-house and garage, build a swimming pool and construct a water fountain on land he owned in 2017.

The commission launched the investigation into the case after it received complaints that some construction projects under the Ministry of Health and Sports did not meet the required quality and some heads of the departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports were misusing the public budget for their own interest, said the statement.

Dr. Than Htut has been charged under Section 56 of the 2013 Anti-Corruption Law at the Zabuthiri Township Police Station. — Myanmar News Agency

Road accidents decline during 2018 water festival

DESPITE the best security efforts, numerous cases of accidents and crimes were reported during the water festival.

During the 2018 Myanmar Thingyan festival, the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) conducted preventive and educative works on road safety in all regions and states, in cooperation with the Road Transport Administration Department, Traffic Police Force, coordination department for working licence for vehicles and transport authority, Myanmar Police Force (traffic police force and highway police force) and other teams.

The combined teams distributed pamphlets and conducted some 114 educative works on following rules related to seat belt and overspeeding. They also conducted alcohol tests on drivers.

With the combined teams conducting educative activities, fewer road accidents were reported during the 2018 water festival, compared to the 2017 water festival.

In 2017, 357 car accidents were recorded, including 759 deaths and 139 injuries, while 317 car accidents, including 642 deaths and 106 injuries, occurred in 2018.

During the 2017 water festival, road accidents in the Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions decreased, while road accidents in other states and regions also decreased, except in Magway and Mandalay regions, where they increased.

The NRSC has urged the public to follow the road safety rules and cooperate with the respective departmental teams to prevent and reduce road accidents.— Myanmar News Agency

4.5 magnitude earthquake recorded

A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.5 on the Richter Scale, with its epicentre in Myanmar (some 10 miles southeast of Htanmahtii), latitude 25.27°N, longitude 95.44°E, and a depth of 146 kilometres, some 94 miles from the northwest of Katha seismological observatory in the Sagaing region, was recorded at 2:48 pm M.S.T. on 20 April, 2018, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology. — GNL

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V ORIENT PLUTO VOY, NO. (・) Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ORIENT PLUTO VOY, NO. (・) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22-4-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMT-1 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm on Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Investment Commission
Notification 7/2018
6 Waxing of Kasone, 1380 ME
(20 April 2018)

In the exercise of the power and authority granted under Section 100, Subsection (b) of the Myanmar Investment Law, the Myanmar Investment Commission, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, hereby prescribes this Notification to carry out investment activities in education services.

Chapter 1
Definitions
1. The following terms contained in this Notification shall have the meanings given hereunder:

(a) Private education services include education services providing the teaching of curriculum prescribed by the Ministry of Education and other relevant Ministries, and education services providing the teaching of international curriculum.

(b) Private school means all schools other than those specifically operated by the State.

(c) Private basic education school means a school that systematically produces experts in practical skills, technical and mechanical technicians and experts, and vocational education scholars, technicians, and experts.

(d) Private Higher Education School means a school that provides teaching and training to those who have successfully completed the highest level of basic education or its equivalent.

(e) Private subject-based school means a school that provides courses for school admission, on-the-job training, or languages, or a private enterprise operated by one or more persons that provides teaching of subjects taught in a university, college, institute, or school established by the State or teaching of subjects prescribed for an examination.

(f) Private School designated by the Ministry means a school designated as such by the Union Government, Ministry of Education or a relevant Ministry.

Chapter 2
Types of Education Services
2. The Commission may permit the investor to carry out investments in the following types of education services in the form of private schools teaching a curriculum prescribed by the Ministry of Education and relevant Ministries or an international curriculum.

(a) Private basic education school;

(b) Private technical, vocational and training school;

(c) Private higher education school;

(d) Private subject-based school;

(e) Private school designated by the Ministry.

Chapter 3
Form of Investment
3. In establishing private schools that are covered in the list of types of education services, it may be established based on the promoter’s capital as follows:

(a) Private school established by full capital investment of a Myanmar citizen, a Myanmar organization or Myanmar organizations;

(b) Private school established by joint capital investment between a Myanmar citizen, a Myanmar organization, Myanmar organizations or a relevant government organization, and a foreigner, a foreign organization, foreign organizations or a foreign government organization;

(c) Private school established by full capital investment of foreigners, a foreign organization, foreign organizations or a foreign government organization;

4. These schools shall comply with the Myanmar Investment Law and Rules, Notifications issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission and National Education Law (2014).

5. This Notification shall remain effective until such time when the law relating to private schools, technical and vocational education and training, and higher education is enacted, and upon such law being enacted, the investor shall comply with it.

(Kyaw Win)
Chairman
A musical resurgence has Hollywood changing its tune

NEW YORK — Hollywood is falling back in love with the movie musical, seduced by the success of Oscar winner “La La Land” and buoyed by a wave of live-action Disney adaptations.

In a Tinseltown landscape largely dominated by superheroes, 2017 still saw “La La Land,” “The Greatest Showman” and “Beauty and the Beast” pull in more than $2.1 billion at the global box office. Disney is the backbone of the revival, with a “Mary Poppins” sequel expected later this year — with Emily Blunt taking over the iconic role of the magical nanny — and new live-action versions of “Aladdin,” “Dumbo” and “The Lion King” due in 2019. But Universal’s “Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again” and a “West Side Story” remake from Steven Spielberg are also in the cards, along with an updated version of “A Star Is Born” starring Lady Gaga.

“There’s a whole generation of people who grew up watching animated musicals,” says Andy Kirshner, a composer, performer and professor at the University of Michigan. “There’s more of a tolerance for fantasy today.”

Before this renaissance of sorts, the movie musical had not completely vanished from Hollywood — “Chicago” snagged a Best Picture Oscar in 2002, and films like “Grease” and “Mamma Mia!” opened to popular acclaim. But those hits were exceptions: the genre more or less fell out of favor on the silver screen after 1965’s “The Sound of Music.”

In more recent decades, music and dance have taken precedence to singing, which was absent from classics including “Saturday Night Fever,” “Footloose” and “Flashdance.”

Hugh Jackman starred in last year’s ‘The Greatest Showman’ — part of a movie musical revival. PHOTO: AFP

Prince Harry’s exes: The ones that got away

LONDON — Before he fell for American actress Meghan Markle, Britain’s Prince Harry, 33, had several other girlfriends.

Here are some of the women who reportedly had a chance of becoming a princess.

Harry met Davy, the Zimbabwean-born daughter of a millionaire safari operator, in 2004 when he travelled to South Africa after school. She studied in Cape Town, before continuing her post-graduate studies in the English city of Leeds.

Blonde and gregarious, she seemed to enjoy partying as much as the young prince. The British tabloids loved them for it, following their every move — and his various indiscretions — in way she later admitted was “tough.”

They dated on and off for seven years and she attended some major royal events, notably the 2011 wedding of Harry’s older brother Prince William, prompting speculation they would marry.

Later that year they broke up for good, although they remain friends and she has reportedly been invited to Harry’s wedding to Markle on 19 May.

Davy worked for a top law firm before launching her own luxury jewellery firm. PHOTO: AFP

British model Florence Brudenell-Bruce is a former girlfriend of Formula One champion Jenson Button. PHOTO: AFP

Myanmar National TV
Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd

1. In the story titled “97 prisoners from Sittway Prison are given presidential pardon” sent by the Sittway Bureau and released by the Central News Bureau (CNB) on 17 April 2018, Myanmar National TV (MNTV) broadcast the story containing an error; namely, the sentence that read: “Those who were released from Sittway Prison include seven Tatmadaw men who were involved in the Inn-Din Village issue, Myatasaung Sayadaw and political prisoner Khaing Ni Min”.

2. Once we learnt that the news report was wrong, MNTV made an apology on the MNTV channel and on MNTV’s Facebook page, in accordance with journalistic ethics.

3. We, MNTV, extend our sincerest apologies to the Union Government, the Tatmadaw and the people for broadcasting the incorrect information.

Myanmar National TV
Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd

A Sincerest Apology

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Myanmar National TV
Shwe Than Lwin Media Co., Ltd
Bowie’s New York subway station turns into museum to him

NEW YORK — David Bowie has taken over a subway station in his adopted home of New York, with images of the rock legend plastered throughout and commemorative fare cards issued in his honor.

The exhibition, which opened at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, has traveled across a dozen cities with New York scheduled to be its final stop.

Bowie’s death in 2016 from an undisclosed battle with cancer stunned the music world. He lived more than 20 years in New York which he first visited to seek out his hero Andy Warhol and later to soak up American soul music and star on Broadway. The subway station put up a guide dubbed “Bowie’s Neighborhood Map” that shows sites associated with the singer including Washington Square, the park in the heart of bohemian Greenwich Village where he enjoyed strolling.

The map, however, does not mark his Soho apartment which became a hub of mourning after his death and which the rocker bequeathed to his widow, the supermodel Iman.

For six months, 45 journalists from 18 media outlets around the world have worked together, secretly pouring through a mass of documents left behind by Caruana Galizia, who was murdered of over 300,000, according to a documentary on French TV channel France 2 about the island of 430,000 inhabitants. Her attacks, often cutting and personal, earned her many enemies.

The writer William Boyd, writing in The Guardian after Bowie’s death, said that the rocker told him that he would carry a Greek newspaper which he pretended to read when other passengers started to recognize him.

Fourth commemoration events for Veteran journalist Hantharwady U Win Tin

THE fourth commemoration events for veteran journalist Hantharwady U Win Tin will be held at the Thitah Lay Lone Monastery in Taung-tha-man inn lake, Amarapura Township, Mandalay on 21 April from 9 am to 11 am.

At the ceremony, veteran journalists, writers and poets will speak memorable words and there will be a display of many books written by Hantharwady U Win Tin. Photos of his childhood life and other pictures will also be exhibited. In addition a pamphlet which contains famous quotations, opinions and observations from veteran journalists from Mandalay will be disseminated.

Veteran journalist and politician Hantharwady U Win Tin was born on 12 March 1930 in Gyobingauk town. His parents are U Pu and Dow Mar. He passed away at Yangon General Hospital on 21 April, 2014. —Myanmar Digital News

Reporters defiantly pursue work of murdered Maltese blogger

THE investigative work of slain Maltese journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia has been pursued by dozens of colleagues worldwide who have published a flurry of revelations and delved into the mystery surrounding her murder.

“Can you kill the messenger, but not the message,” said French journalist Laurent Richard, who launched the “Forbidden Stories” project three years ago to continue the work of journalists silenced by murder or imprisonment. The “Daphne Project” is the first fruit of his initiative.

For six months, 45 journalists from 18 media outlets around the world have worked together, secretly pouring through a mass of documents left behind by Caruana Galizia, who was murdered last year by a bomb planted in her car.

Hated and admired in equal measures on the Mediterranean island, the 53-year-old spent much of her life shedding light on the dark-side of Maltese politics, exposing corruption and backdoor dealings of the country’s political and financial elite. In the years leading up to her death she had gone after the ruling Labour party, virulently attacking Prime Minister Joseph Muscat and more recently also the leader of the opposition. Her online blog garnered a readership of over 300,000, according to a documentary on French TV channel France 2 about the island of 430,000 inhabitants. Her attacks, often cutting and personal, earned her many enemies.

The murder plot

The investigative work of the Daphne Project, based on thousands of documents and multiple testimonies, sheds light on the extensive police and forensics investigation, which led to the arrest of three men accused of perpetrating the gruesome murder.

Brothers George and Alfred Degiorgio and Vincent Muscat, who were reportedly known to police in relation to other crimes, have pleaded not guilty to the killing and remained tight-lipped in custody. But the project’s research paints a picture of a meticulously planned operation to assassinate the provocative blogger and suggests that the mastermind who ordered her death is still at large. Their findings allege that the accused monitored the blogger’s home and attached a trigger SIM to the deadly car bomb which was then detonated via text message. The phone which sent the message was ditched in the ocean and later recovered by police. The murderous plan culminated in a ferocious explosion on the afternoon of 16 October as Caruana Galizia drove away from her home. In an interview given to the Daphne Project, Caruana Galizia’s son Matthew recalls how after hearing the explosion he rushed from his home, running barefoot towards the crime scene he found his mother’s burnt out vehicle and parts of her body strewn across the road. —AFP

The writer William Boyd, writing in The Guardian after Bowie’s death, said that the rocker told him that he would carry a Greek newspaper which he pretended to read when other passengers started to recognize him. —AFP
**Yangon U-21 team edges Hantharwady U-21**

THE U-21 Yangon United team narrowly defeated Hantharwady United U-21 by a score of 2-1 yesterday at Salin Stadium in Yangon in one of the games of the MPT Myanmar National League 2018. Yangon United lined up with Thura Kyaw as goalkeeper along with Wai Yan, Hlwan Moe Oo, Kaung Htet Soe, Nyet Chan Soe, Kyaw Swar Win, Aung Myo Oo, Aung Bala, Naing Min Thu, Saw Aung Myo Tun and Tay Zaw Lin.

The Hantharwady United U-21 team lined up with Pyae Phyo Aung in goal, along with Han win Aung, Sai Nan Aung, Lwin Myo Aung, Kyaw Htet Paing Oo, Okkar Soe, Thet Aung, Wai Yan Myo, Nyein Chan Thu, Aung SI Thu and Tint Naing Tun Lin. Yangon United’s youth players were forced to play defensively almost immediately after the kick-off as Hantharwady attacked with steady play.

But it was Yangon that gained the opening goal at 17 minutes scored by Saw Aung Myo Tun from the left side of the net, a shot that the Hantharwady keeper was unable to save.

Hantharwady’s youth players tried to equalise the score, but chances were few due to the massive defence line of Yangon.

With patient play, the second goal for Yangon United was scored by Naing Min Thu with the support of Kaung Htet Soe at the 35-minute mark.

Hantharwady was better in the second half. At 57 minutes, Kyaw Htet Paing Oo scored Hantharwady’s first goal.

At the 62-minute mark, Yangon’s Naing Min Thu passed the ball to Kaung Htet Soe who then kicked the ball toward the net, but Hantharwady’s keeper denied it. Neither team came close to scoring after that.—Kyaw Zin Lin

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**No room for error as Barca face Sevilla in Copa del Rey final**

MADRID — Barcelona and Sevilla will know the success of their respective seasons is on the line when they go head to head in the Copa del Rey final on Saturday.

The Cup would certainly have been third on Barca’s list of priorities only a month ago, but the shattering Champions League defeat to Roma has altered perceptions of what might have otherwise been a stellar campaign.

Unbeaten in La Liga and virtually certain to win the title, a domestic double may not be enough to remove the lingering disappointment from Rome, particularly if arch rivals Real Madrid clinch their third consecutive European crown.

“I live with a little anxiety,” Barca midfielder Philippe Coutinho said Thursday. “But it is a very important and very happy moment, playing a final only two or three months after arriving.”

Another surprise loss this weekend would certainly settle the argument, even if it seems strange to declare a team under pressure six days after they marked the longest unbeaten run in La Liga history.

In moulding his team around organisation, hard work and the irreplaceable Lionel Messi, Barca coach Ernesto Valverde has steered this team away from the club’s more free-flowing, attacking traditions.

He has proven a master of extraction, drawing the very best from a squad that unexpectedly lost one of its star strikers in Neymar last summer, and owns far less talent than its predecessors.

Sevilla have fewer questions to answer in terms of entertainment. Since Vincenzo Montella took charge in December, they have beaten Atlético Madrid, twice, Manchester United and drawn with Bayern Munich and Barcelona.

They have also conceded five goals at home to Real Betis and lost to minnows Alaves, Elbar and Leganes. In their draw against Barca, they shipped two goals in the 87th and 89th minutes.

“We know how they play, that they have quality and a fast counter-attack,” Coutinho said. “The most important thing is to think about ourselves, how we have to play and what we should do to win.”

Sitting seventh in the table and 17 points adrift of the top four, a trophy — particularly with a win over Barca — would diminish a disappointing league position and enhance their run to the Champions League quarter-finals. Lose, and there will be little left to cling onto.

“We have a great opportunity to win a title for the club,” Sevilla midfielder Pablo Sarabia said. “We have to think about the good things from this season.

“It is true we have not been consistent in the league but in the Champions League we have made history and in the cup we have the opportunity to lift a trophy.”—AFP