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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**

State Counsellor winds up visits to Canada, Sweden

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi returned to Yangon yesterday after concluding her visits to Canada and Sweden.

She was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Ambassador of Canada to Myanmar Mrs. Karen

Mac Arthur, Consular Officer of the Swedish Embassy in Yangon Ms. Ann Constance Stodberg and other officials. On 6 June, the State Counsellor attended a workshop of experts from Canada regarding the effects of the federal system on social policies and economic development, re-

lations between governmental organisations in a federal system, and the role of the judiciary as practiced by Canada arranged by the Forum of Federations in Ottawa, Canada.

On 7 June, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Canadian Prime Minister Mr. Justin

Trudeau and discussed opportunities to expand their bilateral relations, including efforts to improve Myanmar's governance, the well-being of women and children and economic development, including implementation of agricultural technologies.

SEE PAGE-3



NATIONAL
State Counsellor pays visit to U Tin Oo, Patron of the NLD, and gives words of encouragement
PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Search continues for plane crash victims
PAGE-11

NATIONAL
Statement on State Counsellor's visits to Canada and Sweden released
PAGE-9



LOCAL BUSINESS
Floating tomato cultivators successful with GAP
PAGE-5

NATIONAL
KfW provides loans for Rural Electrification, Locomotive Workshop Ywataung
PAGE-3



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

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 Mya Han, U Myo Tint, U Soe Naing and 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 as-

signment 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. ■



The 7th day meeting of the 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw

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 for the enterprises, in regions and states. And, with a view for SMEs in Myanmar to producing export-quality products, technical support is being given out through international organisations, with educating and sharing knowledge on food production and training on strategic development for upgrading innovative ideas being conducted in regions and states. As for the international loans, 5 billion yen (Ks50 billion) from JICA has been received to lend to SMEs. Out of these, Ks41.558 billion has been being disbursed to 185 initiators in 10 regions and



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

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 Ks8.442 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.



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 Kamayut constituency and U Sai Ba Thein of Langkho constituency.

Following that, parliamentarians debated the motion put forward by U Khin Cho of Hlinebwe 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. Daw Cho Cho of Oattwin constituency agreed.

"In creating job opportunities, it wholly depends upon creating an economic environment which can give out employments. Provided that the government can implement the project with good management, influx of investments from overseas countries will come into the country, creating job opportunities more than ever. Myanmar is still not in good ability in attracting the FDI, she said.

Also discussing the motion were U Win Thein Zaw of Sal-

ingyi constituency, U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency, Dr Daw Khin Sithu of Loikaw constituency, U Oo Tun Maung of Ponnagyun constituency, U Nay Soe Aung of Wuntho constituency, U Thant Zin Tun of Dekhina Thiri constituency, U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency, U Pawl Sai of Dimawso constituency and U Sein Aung of Paletwa.

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 servicing 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 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**

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 ■

State Counsellor winds up visits to Canada, Sweden

FROM PAGE-1

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 ■

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 ■

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 Heimbürger, 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" (LoWoY).

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 (BMZ), German Development Counsellor Dr. Katharina Spiess and several stakeholders from Myanmar Government.

In 2014, the Government of Myanmar developed a comprehensive and ambitious National Electrification Plan (NEP)



The signing ceremony for Financing, Loan and Separate Agreements with German government-owned development bank KfW was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

which is to bring electricity to everyone by year 2030.

The Rural Electrification Programme: Off-grid component comprises of EURO 9 million grant funds which will be channelled by the Department of Rural Development under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The grant funds shall be used to electrify the rural areas in Shan State which will not be connected to the grid in the near future by Solar Home System and communal PV system. It is planned to install around 19,000 Solar Home Systems which will provide access of energy for up to 30,000 people. Additionally, DRD staff, local enterprises and technicians as well as village electrification committee will receive training.

Railway Workshop and

integrated vocational training centre in Ywataung near Mandalay were financed through German Financial Cooperation funds about 30 years ago.

Therefore, an amount of EURO 5 million (IDA loan) has been committed to refurbish the selected locomotives in the Ywataung Railway Workshop as well as to support most urgently required training materials for the attached vocational training centre. By doing this, the locomotives can operate more frequently and smoothly. This will be especially the case for the branch lines and thus benefit the population in rural areas. Further, the efficiency of training at vocational training centre will rise due to the usage of modern training materials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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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 Myawady 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 ■



The 200-bed TB Special Hospital in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

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 dif-

ficult 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 Myawady Daily Newspaper yesterday.

The Myanmar government has a tradition of organizing music 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), pat-tala (a traditional xylophone), Mandolin 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.—200 ■

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

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



A floating tomato farm in Inle Lake, Shan State. PHOTO: SOE WIN-MLA

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 Ks0.3 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. ■

Border trade decreases by US\$61million

THE value of border trade as of 2nd June showed a decrease of over US\$61million against that of the similar period last year, according to Commerce Ministry figures.

Border trade in the current fiscal year hit over US\$1.1 billion, down from the US\$1.16 billion of last FY.

Border trade with neighbouring countries flows in and out of 16 border trade gates. Myanmar is trading with China through the Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung gates. The value of China-Myanmar border trade from 1st April to 2nd June slumped by nearly US\$70 million compared to the similar period of last year.

The border trade gates between Thailand and Myanmar are Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, HteeKhee, Maese and Mawtaung. The border trade

value of Myanmar-Thailand increased by over US\$14million against that value in the same point of last FY.

The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau, while the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.

The decline in border trade is attributed to a significant drop of over US\$93million at Muse gate, which usually experiences the largest amount of trade. Out of 16 border gates, Chinshwehaw, Tachilek, Keng Tung, HteeKhee, Sittwe and Tamu border gates also showed a slight decrease in trade value.

External trade with the foreign countries from 1st April to 2nd May this FY reached over US\$5billion which increased from US\$4.3billion of this time last FY.—Mon Mon ■

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 S\$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 focusing operations in Singa-

pore for more than 20 years. The project would also create the 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\$3.96billion, according to trade figures released by the Commerce Ministry.

In the similar period, border trade fetched over US \$1.1billion, a decrease of over US\$61million against that

of last FY. The export value was US\$1.9 billion, whereas the import value was US\$3.1billion, totaling over US\$5billin of external trade. Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, forest products, fish, minerals, finished industrial goods and other products. The export value of finished indus-

trial goods was down by over US\$151million.

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\$634million 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 respec-



Officials are conducting for temporary identity cards to the squatters in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)**

tive 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 estimates 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 govern-

ment 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)



YBS buses park at People's Park & Public Square in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

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) plays an important part, said Myanmar Engineering Society Chairman U Aung Myint.

The system of TDM was introduced quite recently and Traffic 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 a stage in which even a wealthy

man will be happy to take ride in it. When Urban Public transport can provide satisfactory service, nobody will bother to buy a car. We go to this direction. In the city buses have the share of just 30 % of the road. The remaining 70 % is occupied by private-owned cars. If the public transportation system has its place, the privates will change their minds. This is 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)

Width of roads in Yangon

Yangon-Pyay Road	72 feet
Strand Road	72 feet
Bayintnaung Road	72 feet
Insein Road	72 feet
Bogyoke Road	60 feet
Maha Bandola Road	50 feet
Anawrata Road	50 feet
Parami Road	48 feet

Yangon population

1940	450,000
1950	1.3 million
1980	2.3 million
2003	5.2 million
2010	6.6 million
2017	7.3 million (according to 2014 census)

Number of vehicles in Yangon

2010	over 190,000
2012	over 222,000
2017	over 530,000

Drainage System, Civics and Creation of Rainwater Harvesting

Khin Maung Oo

WE cannot avoid natural events. Nature brings us good and bad fortunes. Nowadays, because of climate change natural calamities are happening more than ever across the world. Storms are hitting many places. Burning heats are harming people and worst droughts are occurring in many areas. In Myanmar, some parts of our country are suffering water shortage. Especially in summer, it is frequently read in newspapers and journals that people living in some townships, nearby Yangon City are queuing up for drinking water. Simultaneously, the ubiquitous problem is the problem of the drainage system. It is useless for us to find out who should be blamed for the poor drainage system. Our duty is just to find a solution and how to correct the

situation.

With the coming of the monsoon season, we always have torrential rains. People in the arid zone are longing for the monsoon rain, especially for farming water. People in urban areas, especially Yangonians hope to escape from the scorching heat. Rainwater may quench Yangon's burning heat but we are having huge and disgusting problems—blocked drainage ditches, stoppage of traffic routes due to over-flooded roads and rainwater inflow into houses. Yet, disgusting garbage thrown away carelessly or otherwise by people did not accompany the receding water, remaining in homes or on roads. These piles of dirt are a real eyesore as well as potential causes for illness and diseases. Very recently, Cyclone Mora wreaked havoc on city dwellers, removing roofs of many houses

and buildings including schools, and making trees collapse. With the collaboration of YCDC employees, EPC personnel, Tatmadaw units and authorities concerned, these problems had been dealt with effectively and on time.

This kind of solution can be likened to palliatives because it can only solve the problem temporarily. We must find a real remedy for it. The government is well convinced of the urgent need to solve this problem. But we must know that it will take time to do so. To implement the urbanization project, we need the valuable professional advice of experts, cooperation of city-developers, concerted efforts of government personnel as well as help of conscientious people. Are piles of dirt on roads attributed to failure to collect garbage or to careless disposal

of garbage by our people? If so, let us join the campaign for beautifying our city.

As a layman, I believe that the government should take implementation of rainwater harvesting systems into consideration. Rainwater harvesting is one of the simplest and oldest methods for self-supply of water for every household. Even in developed countries rainwater harvesting is still applied to supplement the main water supply for people. The system may be a long-term solution for the whole nation, but it should be implemented under the aegis of respective regional governments, urgently. It will be beneficial for rural and urban populations alike. To sum it up, we can create pleasant environments in our urban areas if all our citizens performed their civic duties religiously. ■

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 advancement 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 im-

pacts 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

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.

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.

Reference: Climate Change and Human Rights, UNEP
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg13>
http://unfccc.int/paris_agreement/items/9485.php

PRESS RELEASE

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 Honorable Ms. Chrystia 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 Parliament 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.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in Trudeau's office on Parliament Hill in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on 7 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (right) shakes hands with Sweden's Prime Minister Stefan Lofven (left) at the Government Rosenbad in Stockholm, Sweden on 12 June 2017. PHOTO: TT NEWS AGENCY/HENRIK MONTGOMERY/VIA REUTERS

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 Canadian 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, creation of market access, trade, 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 Trade, together with the representatives of H&M, Ericsson, Scania Companies, and discussed matters related to promotion of trade and investment.

11. The State Counsellor also attended the Luncheon hosted by H.E. Mrs. Margot Wallstrom, Foreign Minister of Sweden at the Ministry.

12. On 12th June 2017, the State Counsellor attended the Ceremony to award the Olof Palme International Prize 2005 held at the 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. Olof Palme Award recipients include former Czech President Mr. Vaclav Havel, former United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Javier Perez de Cuellar and the Amnesty International.

13. On 12th 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.

14. 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 ■

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 ■



Deputy Speaker U Aye Thar Aung speaks at the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC). PHOTO: MNA



Protestors take to the streets to protest against the deadly attack on the Chakma ethnic tribe in Chittagaung hilly areas. PHOTO YE HTUT

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 au-

thorities, 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 (IPRD) ■

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 was 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 Kazookine 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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 14/2017

5th Waning of Nayon, 1379 ME
14 June, 2017

Appointment of memberships of Union Election Commission

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.

- (1) U Myint Naing
- (2) U Than Htay

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 13/2017

5th Waning of Nayon, 1379 ME
14 June, 2017

Appointment of Union Supreme Court Judges

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 6 under the Section 16 (b) of Union Government Law and Section 25 of Union Judiciary Law.

- (1) U Mya Han
- (2) U Myo Tint
- (3) U Soe Naing
- (4) U Khin Maung Kyi

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Flood Warning

According to the 10:30am M.S.T observation yesterday, the water level of Kalaten (Kispanadi) River at Kyawktaw is observed as about 2½ feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next day.

According to the 10:30am M.S.T observation yesterday, the water level of Laymyo River at MraukU is observed as about four feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next two days. People who settle near the river bank and low lying areas in Kyawktaw and MraukU Townships are advised to take precautions.—MNA ■

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 Taninthayi Region yesterday morning.

The body of the man was brought to Dawei Military Hospital for identification. Remaining family members



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

were notified. Twenty-three bodies were also given proper burials yesterday, said the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.

The Chinese-made Y-8-200F transport plane crashed into the sea last Wednesday carrying 122 soldiers, family members and crew on a week-

ly flight from several coastal towns to Yangon. The cause of the incident has yet to be confirmed.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Three suspects arrested in Maungtaw Township

THREE men found on Taungpyo-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 TularTuli 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 fes-

tival, 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

bodies to successfully implement the project. Being a border town, Maungtaw may become a developed area as well as a potential source of receiving foreign currency for the country. The local populace will have many employment opportunities if investments can be made in sectors including transportation, electricity, fishery and agriculture.—GNLM ■

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 meted. 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 ■

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

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|--------------------------|--|
| (a) DATE & TIME | - (23-6-2017)(12:00) Noon
- (26-6-2017) (12:00) After Noon |
| (b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME | - TEAK LOGS ABOUT (1132) TONS
- TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT(285)TONS
- HARD WOOD LOGS
- PADAUK (107)TONS
- PYINKADO, IN, KANYIN, HNAW, THITYAR, INGYIN, YEMANE, SAGAWA, THINGAN, PYINMA, GANGAW ABOUT (10033) TONS |
| (c) PLACE | - TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. |

2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEBSITE (www.myanmar-timber.com.mm).

Contacts: Office Ph: 01528771,
E-mail: Marketing 1 ppy@gmail.com

OPEN TENDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (9 / 2017)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in US Dollars/Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-001(17-18)	Fuel Bowser (2800 Gal Capacity) (1) Unit	USD
(2)	DMP/L-016(17-18)	Spares of ZJ-70L Drawwork Disc Brake (14) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-017(17-18)	Assorted Sizes of Tyres (11) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-018(17-18)	Assorted Sizes of Battery (6) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-019(17-18)	Spares for Driller Control Equipments, Weight Indicators & Pressure Parts (1) Lot	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-020(17-18)	API Class 'G' Cement (2,000) Tons	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-021(17-18)	Spares for Yanmar Engine & Gear Box Ex River Craft (13) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 13-7-2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 15TH June, 2017 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206 / 411274

Fire engulfs London tower block, at least six dead, more than 70 injured

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 fire-fighters, 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.

Plumes 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 Paramasivan, 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 billow 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 31st 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 out 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

**MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OPERATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE
NOTICE FOR FILING RETURN OF INCOME**

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>.
8. **Enquiries**
Enquiries may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or the 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

Episodes of Chinese Movies to be Broadcast by MRTV for Myanmar Audience

As of August, 2017 episodes of the Chinese movie, named "Hello, Chung" 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 interexchange of delegations between MRTV & Chinese broadcasting services such as YRTC, CCTV, (SARFT-MOF-COM), CRI, GXTV including GXBS and exchanges of programmes. In 2013, the cooperation agree-

ment 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, relationship 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 interexchange between 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 Kui, 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 Myawady Daily yesterday.

The Bago Yoma forest reserve is a better place to implement eco-tourism. Also, Yangon, Pyay, Tayaykhit-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 ■

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE

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Ong Minn U -Advocate May Phyo Kin (H.G.P)
For. Brightex Paints(S) Pte Ltd.
Myanmar Global Law Firm Ph:0973220023
Dated: 15 June 2017

"NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY GOLF RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FEES"

1. It is found out that some members (Myanmars/ Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons.

2. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myanmar/ Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be a member of the Resort, and so they are intimated to come and clear their outstanding dues by 31-8-2017 at the latest.

General Manager
City Golf Resort

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 to 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 NEW GLODEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 to 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1710)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1710) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 to 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV NAVIOS HORIZON VOY. NO (1704)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NAVIOS HORIZON VOY. NO (1704) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-2 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 to 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LITD

Phone No: 2301928

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Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized used of the said Trade Marks or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Khine Khine U, Advocate
LL.B, D.B.L, LL.M (UK)
For Hy-Line International
#205/5, Thirimingalar Housing, Strand Rd.,
Yangon.
Dated. June 15, 2017

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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.

Gwyneth Paltrow forms 'dream girl band' with Cameron Diaz, Nicole Richie

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 not 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 ■



Cast member Cameron Diaz. PHOTO: REUTERS

Singer Annie Lennox calls for solidarity to help most vulnerable women



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

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 and AIDS activist, started advocacy group The Circle to enable influential

women to use their skills and resources to help women living in poverty.

She stressed the importance of men joining the women's rights movement, praising a law change in Malawi to ban child marriage.

In 2015, Malawi passed a law to raise the minimum age of marriage to 18 with UN Women working with traditional male

chiefs to change local practices.

Lennox, who shot to global fame in the 1980s with the Eurythmics band, now devotes most of her time to women's rights campaigning and raising awareness about HIV/AIDS.

She decided to become an activist when she witnessed former South African president Nelson Mandela in 2003 describing the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a virtual genocide of the South African people, in particular of women and children.

While great strides have been made in treating and preventing HIV/AIDS, in many developing countries, inequality, social pressures and lack of education about the virus often make women more vulnerable to HIV infection than men.

In sub-Saharan Africa, women and girls make up the majority of the HIV-positive population.

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 ■

Luke Skywalker's original lightsaber is up for auction

LOS ANGELES — The collectors of "Star Wars" memorabilia can now own Luke Skywalker's original lightsaber.

The saber, which was used by Mark Hamill in 1977's "Star Wars: A New Hope" and 1980's "Star Wars: The Empire Strikes Back", is the personal collection of producer Gary Kurtz and will be auctioned by The Profile Hollywood Auction 89, reported Aceshowbiz.

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 ■

'Deadpool 2' cast adds Shioli Kutsuna in key role

LOS ANGELES — Japanese actress Shioli Kutsuna has been cast in Marvel's "Deadpool 2" in a key role.

Kutsuna joins previously announced newcomers Josh Brolin who will play Cable, Zazie Beetz as Domino, and Jack Kesy in the film, which will see the return of Ryan Reynolds 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 ■



Japanese actress Shioli Kutsuna. PHOTO: PTI

Rome imposes fines for frolicking at famous fountains

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 2015.—Reuters ■



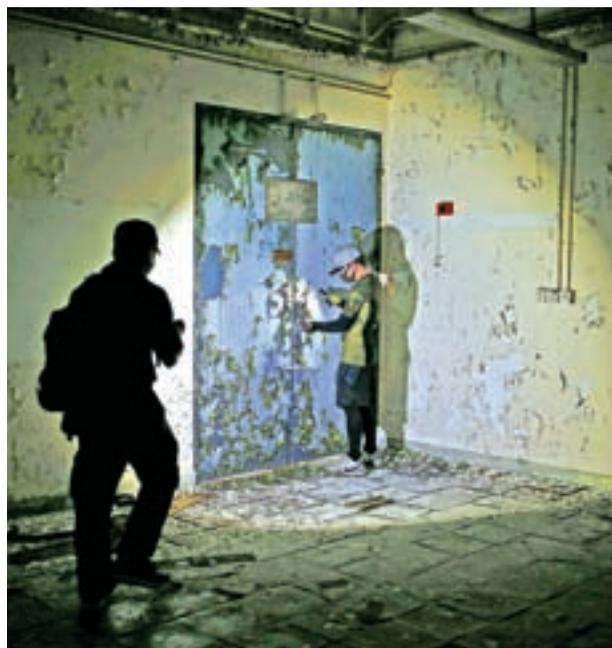
Tourists cool down at a fountain on a hot summer day in downtown Rome, Italy on 27 July, 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

Masked activists document Hong Kong's fading history

HONG KONG — Atop Hong Kong's tallest peak blanketed in clouds, three masked urban explorers step back in time as they slip through a wire mesh fence and march towards an abandoned army barracks from the British colonial era.

Twenty years after Britain returned Hong Kong to Chinese rule, these young, alternative conservationists are eager to document the city's remaining historical buildings.

Some structures have been demolished over the decades to make room for development in one of the world's most expensive



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 50 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.

"I 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 ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(15-6-2017 07:00am ~ 16-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Epi-1)
07:45	Am	Myanmar Traditional Toys
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Korean Treasure, Kimchi, Black Garlic & Apple Wine
08:46	Am	A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)
08:57	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Muun Traditional Dance"
09:03	Am	News
09:25	Am	Product of Myanmar - Pottery Business
09:42	Am	Natural Lake: Fish Breeding Business
09:54	Am	Tea Leaves

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Versatile Artist
10:52	Am	Coin Collectors

(11:00 Am~03:00 Pm) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am~11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Interesting Features of Rakhine
07:47	Pm	Paper Art Creator
07:55	Pm	Kid's Home
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Tapestry-A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship
08:44	Pm	Beach Food Delivery
08:55	Pm	Now in Yangon

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm~03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat(07:00 Am~11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

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

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	2:20 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	3:10 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
7:35 Am	◆ NRC Programme	5:05 Pm	◆ NHK Programme "Observing Newts" (From Eggs to Adults)
8:40 Am	◆ ASEAN Spotlight (14)	5:30 Pm	◆ Socio Economic Scenes
9:10 Am	◆ Peace Music Festival Talk (Part-1)	6:20 Am	◆ Football Magazine
9:50 Am	◆ Beautiful ASEAN	6:35 Am	◆ Current Affairs
10:30 Am	◆ MRTV worker's Programme	7:15 Am	◆ TV Drama Series
11:30 Am	◆ Real Story Real Movies	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
12:30 Am	◆ TV Drama Series	8:35 Pm	◆ Documentary
1:00 Pm	◆ Myanmar Movie (Part-1)	8:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
		10:00 Pm	◆ Talk on Old Film (Part-1)

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 Championship (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



Chelsea's John Terry, Gary Cahill and team mates celebrate with the trophy after winning the Premier League at Stamford Bridge in London on 21 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

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 ■

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



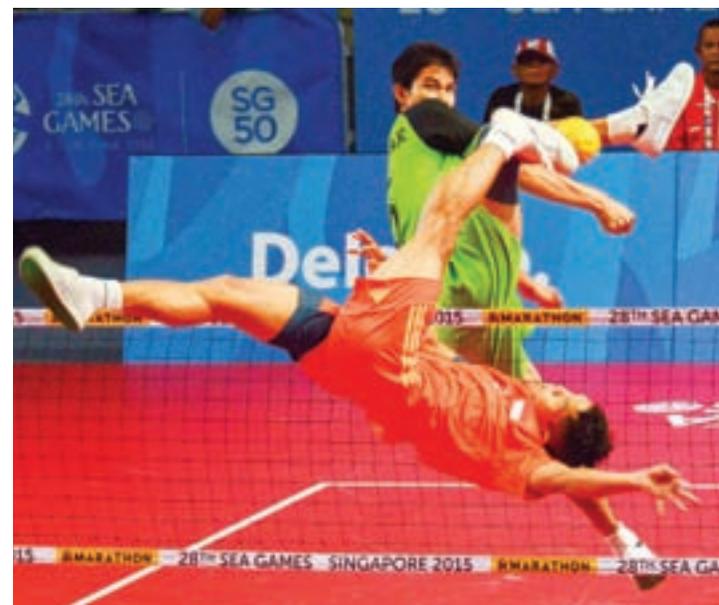
England's Tammy Abraham and Jack Stephens during training. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

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: SOENYUNT**

respectively.

Canoeing 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 ■