

SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

NATIONAL

Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Win Myat Aye attend school soy milk feeding programme in Kyaukpadaung

PAGE-3

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses event marking International Day of Cooperatives

VICE President U Henry Van Thio delivered a speech at the 2019 International Cooperative Day event held at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Department of Cooperative in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

First the opening ceremony of the 2019 International Cooperative Day sales festival was held in front of the Department of Cooperative where Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, Amyotha Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Development Committee Chairman U Aung Kyi Nyunt and officials cut the ceremonial ribbon.

Next the 2019 International Cooperative Day event was held in the meeting hall of the Department of Cooperative. The event started with a song on cooperatives sung by Saw Pho Khwa.



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes the wooden sculptures and handicrafts displayed at the event marking the International Day of Cooperatives at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

SEE PAGE-2

43rd Session of World Heritage Committee designates Bagan as World Heritage Site

THE 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, held from June 10th to 30th in Baku, Azerbaijan, designated Bagan as a World Heritage

Site yesterday.

Present at the event were representative teams comprised of officials from the ministries of Religious Affairs and

Culture, Education, Natural Resource and Environmental Conservation and Foreign Affairs.

The team was led by My-

anmar Ambassador to UNESCO U Kyaw Zeya. Individuals and organizations promoting Bagan also attended. Additionally, a group of photogra-

phers, known as “Bagan From Our Heart”, travelled at their own expense to support the designation.

SEE PAGE-3

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses event marking ...



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers the speech at the 2019 International Cooperative Day event in the meeting hall of Department of Cooperatives in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

In his speech to the event Vice President U Henry Van Thio said the International Cooperatives Alliance (ICA) was formed in 1895 with the aim of establishing and increasing friendship and cooperation among international cooperative societies. Central Cooperative Society registered in Department of Cooperative became a member of ICA in 1993. As a member country of ICA it is participating in the movements and activities of ICA.

During the 94th United Nations General Assembly held in 1994 the first Saturday of July was designated as International Day of Cooperatives. Cooperative societies all over the world were commemorating the day country wise every year and this was the 25th time the day had been celebrated in Myanmar.

According to this year's International Cooperatives Day theme of "Inclusive Development and Decent Work" cooperatives were urged by ICA to cooperate diagonally and vertically, establish a society that had justice and fairness in worksites, protect and maintain the present employment capabilities, develop human resources and become people centered cooperative works. Each country of the world had been implementing the 17 sustainable development goals to 2030 set by United Nations. ICA was seen to be urging the world's cooperative societies to effectively and visibly implement the United Nations sustainable development goal 8 that included "Inclusive Development and Decent Work." In implementing this goal 8 country wise increase of per capita income was to be maintained; give priority to

product manufacturing sector and sector where labor force is utilized; create appropriate jobs; raise development policies that encourage taking business risks, creativity and reforms; youths and handicap persons including all men and women to have full employment and have the same salary and wages; eradicate forced labor of child workers; increase work site safety for all workers and protect workers' rights; implement policies to create job opportunities in 2030; strengthen financial services; and increase trade support and assistance as a priority.

Today's world faces challenges of gap in rich and poor, social and economic inequalities. It also faces problems of wars, hunger, deteriorating natural environment, natural disasters, epidemics and human trafficking. Cooperative societies were to work towards mitigating such inequalities, conflicts and challenges.

In 2012, the world's cooperative societies were able to create

jobs for more than 100 million people and at the moment it was creating jobs for more than 279 million people.

With regard to the Myanmar cooperatives sector, financial support provided to rural farmers were effective and the momentum of success need to be maintained remarked the Vice President.

In today's event agriculture cooperative members who had repaid their 11th loan will be granted a 12th small investment loan of Ks 122.992 billion, K 1.11 billion loan to upgrade 3,753 acres of farmland to mechanized farm system and K 0.134 billion loan for seed producing cooperatives through the Central Cooperative Society. Members of cooperatives in states and regions were urged to be provided with these loans systematically and speedily.

The cooperative sector participating in agriculture sector policy and work processes support the country's development. It was seen and heard that co-

operative works in the countries of the world were succeeding and developing to support the socio-economic development of the respective countries. To have similar cooperative sector development in our country cooperatives were urged to conduct more work than the present in agriculture, livestock breeding and production sectors. Seed producing cooperatives and agriculture support service cooperatives were to expand the work of agriculture input sales according to the wish of the farmers. Cooperatives were urged to support and assist through the entire chain of increasing agriculture productivity.

During the time when efforts were being made towards socio-economic development Myanmar cooperatives were urged to develop the society, establish a society that had justice and fairness in worksites, protect and maintain the present employment capabilities and develop human resources, said

the Vice President.

Next, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu explained about the International Cooperative Day and Central Cooperative Society executive committee member Dr Toe Nanda Tin read a message sent by ICA.

Afterwards Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, Nai Thet Lwin and U Thaug Tun, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Agriculture, Livestock Breeding and Fishery Development Committee Chairman U Aung Kyi Nyunt presented small investment loans to states and regions, loans to seed production works and agriculture upgrade works, awards to best performing cooperatives, best performing cooperatives in manufacturing, service and trade sectors, all round outstanding cooperatives and best booths in the exhibition.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio and persons attending the event then took commemorative group photos and inspected the sales festival and booths.

The following dignitaries and senior officials were present at the above event:

Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Thaug Tun and Nai Thet Lwin, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw, Hluttaw representatives, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee members, Permanent Secretaries, Directors General, Central Cooperative Society, state/region cooperatives chairmen and board of directors, representatives of INGOs and NGOs, cooperative members and officials. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and Union Ministers pose for a documentary photo at the 2019 International Cooperatives Day event in the meeting hall of Department of Cooperatives in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

43rd Session of World Heritage Committee designates Bagan as World Heritage Site



The Myanmar team led by Permanent Delegate to UNESCO U Kyaw Zeya attends the 43rd session of World Heritage Committee in Baku, Azerbaijan, where Bagan was designated as World Heritage Site yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAG-1

Earlier, the 38th session of the World Heritage committee was held in Doha, Qatar, and designated three ancient Pyu cities: Han Lin, Beikthano (Vishnu) and Sri Ksetra, as World Heritage Sites,

while Bagan was the second site to be designated in Myanmar.

Buddhism has been practicing in Myanmar since the Bagan era.

This collaboration by officials from Regional Governments of Magway and Mandalay, officials

from related departments, local and international experts, and citizens promoting Bagan, sought Bagan joining the World Heritage List to preserve its religion-based architecture, along with stuccos, murals, pagodas and stupas.

The application processes,

including courses, workshops, management meetings, thesis related meetings, collecting GIS and research data, were conducted since 2014.

The application to the Committee states that Bagan is a living heritage meeting with the

world's cultural values.

It also included the significance of Bagan, including its customs, philosophy, faith, art and literature, which is recognized as meeting world standards. — MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Dr Win Myat Aye attend school soy milk feeding programme in Kyaukpadaung

UNDER a programme operated by the Shwe Parami Soy Milk Nutrition Foundation, a ceremony to provide the soy milk feeding to the school children was held yesterday afternoon at the No. 1 B.E.H.S in Kyaukpadaung Town, Mandalay Region.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, regional ministers, Hluttaw representatives, chairman of Degradation of Parentless Children Association (Myanmar) and officials from CSOs. They then observed the soy bean grinding mill donated by U Soe Thein and Daw Sin Nu (Nadiwah Company) to the Shwe Parami Soy Milk Nutrition Foundation and then an official-concerned explained about the process of soy bean production at the mill.

Then the tree plantation ceremony, to mark the launching of soy milk feeding programme under the aegis of the Shwe Parami Soy Milk Nutrition Foundation and to conserve the dry zone greening, was held in the

compound of the school, where the union ministers and party participated in the event while planting the bamboo saplings at the designated places.

Next, an event to launch the soy milk nutrition programme was carried out at No. 1 B.E.H.S in Kyaukpadaung Town, where they donated the soy milk nutrition to some 30,000 school children from 293 schools in Kyaukpadaung Township.

In his opening remark at the event, Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that the soy milk feeding programme could contribute to the nourishment of body and brain of the school children, and every country was striving to make the investment aimed at keeping the children fit and increasing their brain power. Moreover, the Ministry of Education was obliged to the donors and organizations participating in the programme.

Then Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said that early childhood starts since birth to eight years old and they are entitled to have the right to life, participation and protection. That's why, efforts were being made to enact laws,

rulings and procedures for the children as an act to nurture the early childhood and child protection schemes in cooperation with the early childhood care and development working committee and the child's right committee. Thus cooperation among the parents, family members, teachers, CSOs and the whole populace was needed to implement their rights.

Out of the eight strategic schemes set up by the Social Welfare Department, to provide

nutrition is one of them. The event had carried out to foster the implementation process. The aim of the ministry was successful due to the cooperation of the Government, Hluttaw, CSOs, foundations and people. In addition to this, he expressed his thanks to everyone participated in the programme.

In his remark at the event, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung said that the Mandalay regional government has launched the school

milk feeding programme and he expressed his appreciation for the participants carrying out in 293 schools in Kyaukpadaung Township.

After that, Chairman of the Shwe Parami Soy Milk Nutrition Foundation U Shein Win explained the benefits of taking soy milk feeding and they provided milk nutrition for a total of 1,500 school children, it was learnt. — MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Union Ministers Dr Myo Thein Gyi and Dr Win Myat Aye, and Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung inspect production process of soy milk. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Yangon Region takes steps to accelerate school health activities

A seminar on promoting school health in Yangon Region was held yesterday in Yangon yesterday, with an opening address by Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.

Speaking at the event, the Union Minister stressed the importance of the seminar in promoting health and fitness of the country's students which has a population of about 9.7 million.

He also called on regional social affairs ministers to lead the programme joining hands with the officials of the education and health and sports sectors.

He also stressed the important role of the heads of schools, teachers, parents, school children and representatives of the Students Unions in implementing the school health programme and activities.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe also called for heads and teachers of schools to enforce the rules for the school foot stalls so that students can get safety and nutritious food.



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe delivers the opening speech at the seminar on promoting school health activities in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

He also called for carrying out fitness activities for students in collaboration with the respective township Sports and Physical Education Departments with the system of monitoring, evaluation and checklist, promising that the Ministry of Health and Sports would support the activities.

Following his address,

Yangon Region Social Affairs Minister U Naing Ngan Lin also made opening remarks. At the seminar, Daw Sandar, Director of Yangon Region Public Health Department detailed the plans for promoting school health in accordance with the nine tasks of the programme and seven directives of the State Counsellor.

The attendees of the semi-

nar took part in the discussion.

Before the seminar, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attended a ceremony to accept the 1000 bottles of hand washing liquid donated by Okka Thiri Co Ltd to the Ministry of Health at the building of the Ministry of Health and Sports in Bagan Township. —MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Elephant Flu-like illness worries people in Moehnyin



The one hundred bedded Moehnyin General Hospital.

PHOTO: NI TOE

LOCAL people in Moenyin, Kachin State, grew concerned after several residents fell ill with a phantom disease. Nevertheless there was no

death. Most patients have recovered from the flu which is believed to be the Elephant Flu but there is still concern that it could

spread.

The disease has not yet identified by health authorities as "elephant flu".

"Some of workers from our tea house are suffering the flu, which is why the shop is temporarily close. There is nothing to worry. They will soon recover from it," said tea house owner.

A shopkeeper near Mohnyin Station said "three shop assistance at my shop are suffering from the flu and they are on sick leave".

It is reported that people from shops, restaurants, and boarding houses and Mohnyin Author association and two reporters suffering from the flu.

"I am suffering from flu. It

started from taking shower at wrong time three days ago. I think it is because of low resistance. Now I am getting better. I am now taking a rest, and I will be fine soon," reporter Sout Mann Ngai said.

"I received flu vaccination. There is nothing to worry about. If you receives treatment for 4 or 5 days, you will be okay," said reporter U Sein Aung.

The Flu infection is caused by reckless life style, Anopheles mosquitoes, taking shower at wrong time, breath by a person infected.

To protect form the disease, one must take vaccine shot.—Ni Toe (Translated by Alphon-sus)

Illegal drug confiscated in Kengtung

A total of 2,000 stimulant tablets were confiscated in Kengtun Township in Shan State on Friday as police stopped and searched the motorcycle driven by Aik La, 45, and Daw Nan Iee, 40, on board near the Naungpha police post in Kengtung Township.

Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Suspects Aik La and Daw Nan Iee. **PHOTO: MNA**



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Border trade via ITCs exceeds K47 bln

BORDER trade using individual trading cards (ITCs) reached K47 billion in the period from 1 October to 21 June in the current fiscal year, with exports totalling K7.6 billion and imports reaching K39.6 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

In the October-June period, Myanmar traded with neighbouring states through just 10 border camps, while border merchants conducted trade with neighbouring China, India, Thailand, and Bangladesh through 17 checkpoints.

Individual trade with India was carried out through Tamu, Reed and Htantalan gates, with Bangladesh through Sitway and Maungtaw gates, with China through Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpaktee, and Kengtung, and with Thailand via Myawady, Tachilek, Myeik,

Kawthoung, Mawtaung, Htiikee, and Maese checkpoints.

The value of individual border trade stood at K3.5 billion at Tamu, K26 million at Muse, K25.3 billion at Myawady, K70 million at Tachilek, K6.9 million at Lwejel, K1.6 billion at Kanpaktee, K4.07 billion at Kawthoung, K1.3 billion at Reed, K10.6 billion at Mawtaung, and K635 million at Kengtung.

The Commerce Ministry has been issuing ITCs to merchants since the 2012-2013FY to boost border trade with neighbouring countries. Since of the programme began, ITCs have been issued to 1,652 merchants. The Ministry has issued 128 cards to border traders in the current financial year.—Shwe Khine ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Trucks are seen near the 105-Mile Muse Border Trade Zone in northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Investment forums planned in five regions, states this year: DICA

By Nyein Nyein

THE Directorate of Investment and Company Administration is planning to organize a series of investment forums in five regions and states this year, according to its acting Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin.

“To encourage domestic and foreign investments into the country, investment forums will be held in Taninthayi and Sagaing regions, and Shan, Mon, and Kayin states. The forums are expected to help local and foreign businesspersons create more business links,” he added.

The forums will also help local entrepreneurs connect with potential foreign investors, said U Thant Sin Lwin. The directo-

rate has been holding investment forums to create more investment opportunities for regions and states, based on their potential, he added.

Investment promotion forums were held in nine regions and states in the previous year, in cooperation with the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and the forums resulted in increased investment in Yangon Region and Rakhine State, according to the DICA.

Currently, negotiations are ongoing between the respective governments and businesspersons to implement investment projects in those areas, including a new town development project at Sittway in Rakhine State, according to the DICA.

As per the statistical report

of the Myanmar Investment Commission, Myanmar granted 197 new investment projects with a capital of US\$1.989 billion between 1 October and 28 June in the current fiscal year. The total investment into the country was valued at \$3.159 billion during the period, including additional investments from existing enterprises.

In addition, Myanmar granted investments of \$208.3 million under the Special Economic Zone Law in the current fiscal. Hence, the overall investment, including foreign fund flows into the SEZ, stood at \$3.368 billion as on 28 June. The MIC estimates new investments to reach \$5.8 billion in the 2018-2019FY. ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Trade with Philippines crosses \$11 mln

MYANMAR-Philippines trade reached almost US\$11.7 million in the month of April, up \$6 million from the year-ago period, according to the monthly trade report issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

As per the Ministry's official statistics, exports topped \$7.317 million in April, while imports were pegged at \$4.363 million. In April, 2018, bilateral trade was valued at nearly \$5 million, with exports of over \$1 million and

imports of about \$4 million.

Between October and April in the current financial year, bilateral trade between Myanmar and the Philippines totalled \$97 million, with exports of \$68 million and imports crossing \$29 million.

According to data from the Commerce Ministry, trade between Myanmar and the Philippines, one of Myanmar's regional trade partners, reached \$52.432 million in the 2017-

2018FY, a decrease of \$4 million compared with the 2016-2017FY.

The value of Myanmar-Philippines trade stood at \$28.998 million in the 2015-2016FY, \$28.2 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$33.353 million in the 2013-2014FY, \$44.012 million in the 2012-2013FY, and \$48.959 million in the 2011-2012FY.—Swe Nyein ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Bonded warehouses on the cards to boost Myanmar economy

PLANS are under way to develop bonded warehouses in Myanmar to help businesses improve productivity and cash flow management. The warehousing system will be implemented by the Customs Department with the help of DaNa Facility, a program funded by the UK, according to a press statement issued by the department on Friday.

The Customs Department and the DaNa Facility organized their second workshop to promote the bonded warehousing system from 1-5 July. The workshop focused on key procedures, best practices, and the role of industry associations in managing bonded warehouses in Myanmar.

Bonded warehouses are designed to support the industry, particularly those sectors which import high value goods or products which attract a high import duty. By using bonded warehouses, businesses can defer payment of import duties and taxes until the time they have found customers or identified export markets.

The system allows businesses to price finished goods more competitively in regional and global markets, which can help improve export competitiveness and generate more

income for the country. The introduction of bonded warehouses will particularly benefit Myanmar as it is a significant exporter of garments, a sector where a shorter lead-time can boost competitiveness.

Bonded warehouse systems not only streamline import and export processes, but also create an environment that promotes dialogue between the private and public sector, and enhance linkages between SMEs and large local and multinational firms, according to the Customs Department.

“The implementing a custom bonded warehouse system is an important step for economic reform in Myanmar. This initiative will have a positive impact on local industry and will lead to job creation,” said U Maung Maung Win, the Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance.

The first workshop on bonded warehousing was held on 29-30 April to explain its potential for Myanmar's industry. The second workshop focused on the implementation of the system. The DaNa facility has said it will continue its support for the program as its implementation moves forward.—GNLM ■ *(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)*

Dy Minister for Information inspects Photolitho Printing Press, meets GNLM staff

DEPUTY Minister for Information, U Aung Hla Tun, inspected the Photolitho Printing Press located on Ngahtetgyi Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, Yangon yesterday.

The Deputy Minister inspected the setting up the Sakurai (4) Unit Sheet Fed purchased from abroad, a new Computer-to-Plate - CTP machine, the printing process for the order of school textbooks for new academic year, the printing job performance for the 2020 General Election, the warehouse for

newsprint paper rolls, the print house and the binding room.

Then the Deputy Minister visited the Global New Light of Myanmar daily, where he met with the editorial team and called for improving the quality of the newspaper and for standing as excellent and outstanding journalists. Next, the Deputy Minister responded to the presentations of the staff and coordinated the matters.—MNA ■

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun inspects the Photolitho Printing Press in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Inspection body selects 79 rice mills; MOALI to proceed to SPS protocol

THE supervisory committee on the exportation of Myanmar rice to China has made its final selection of 79 rice mills out of 103 owned by 42 companies, according to a press statement released by the Myanmar Rice Federation.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MOALI) will continue to carry out SPS Protocol (Sanitary and Phytosanitary Protocol), reported the press.

According to Article 3 of the

SPS Protocol, inspection of rice exporters and rice mills is mandatory, which is in keeping with the criteria set by the General Administration of Customs China (GACC).

The Myanmar Rice Federation and China's stated-owned food processing holding company, China National Cereals, Oils, and Foodstuffs Corporation (COFCO), have signed a Memorandum of Understanding for the export of 100,000 tons of Myanmar rice through the maritime

route on 20 June in Beijing, according to U Ye Min Aung, the President of the MRF.

The MoU will help distribute information on Myanmar's rice market to COFCO and assist in the selling of Myanmar rice, according to the MRF.

COFCO has negotiated with 11 Myanmar companies selected for rice trade. At present, trade will be conducted by those 11 companies. The Myanmar Inspection and Testing Services Ltd (MITS), the authorized in-

spection enterprise of the government, has conducted inspections at local rice companies. And, companies selected in line with the prescribed rules and regulations will carry out exports if the Chinese authority agrees, said U Ye Min Aung.

After a meeting between former president U Thein Sein and the Chinese Premier in September, 2014, the MRF and COFCO inked their first-ever MoU for rice export to China through the sea route in February, 2015. The quota of rice export had been set at 100,000 tons.

This is the second time that the MRF and COFCO have signed an MoU, agreeing upon an export quota of 100,000 tons of rice. The MoU comes after the State Counsellor met with the President of the People's Republic of China in April this year. Myanmar did not obtain a quota for rice export to China from 2016 to 2018.

The MRF is endeavouring to stabilize the rice market, promote exports, and explore markets in countries with strict import policies. Private companies are directly entering into sale and purchase agreements

with traders.

"We need to convert this government-to-government (G2G) agreement into a sustainable pact. Myanmar requires G2G or business-to-business (B2B) agreements for trade of pulses and beans, corn, sesame, fish, and shrimp to seek a share of the Chinese market. The government and the private sector also need to move forward in harmony through public private partnerships (PPP)," said U Ye Min Aung.

In addition to normal trade, Myanmar and Chinese businesses have agreed to export 10,000 tons of rice stockpiled at Muse gate, following recent negotiations in Kuming Province.

Myanmar primarily exports rice to China through the border gates. However, trade in agricultural products has been halted due to China clamping down on illegal trade. Therefore, Myanmar could only export 500,000 tons of rice to China in the first eight months (Oct-May) of the current fiscal year, which is half the volume registered during the year-ago period.—GNLM ■

(Translated by EMM)



A farmer harvest rice in Kangyidauk Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Capital goods import declines by over 11% in current FY

MYANMAR'S import of capital goods as of 28 July in the current 2018-2019 Fiscal Year has reached nearly US\$4.5 billion, which saw a decrease in value of \$567 million or 11.2 per cent, from the corresponding period last FY, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

The current value of capital goods included \$742 million by the public sector and \$3.7 billion by the private sector. When compared with the same period last FY, the private sector's import of capital goods declined by over \$500 million. However, the current imports of the same by

the public sector rose by over \$30 million.

From this time last year, the imports of capital goods exceeded \$5 billion, with \$710 million by the public sector and \$4.3 billion by the private sector.

Between 1 October and 28 June, the country spent its

\$13.6 billion on importing four major groups of products, covering manufactured goods worth \$5.09 billion, consumer goods worth \$2.3 billion and CMP raw materials worth \$1.78 billion.

Myanmar's international trade partners include China,

India, ASEAN member countries, European states, Western nations and African countries. The country delivers goods not only from maritime routes but also from border trade camps.—Khine Khant ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)



Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD)

Who We Are

Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) is the public-private partnership mechanism aimed at enabling the government and all local and international organizations to work together for the development of the Rakhine state.

UEHRD focuses on coordinating multiple stakeholders involved in providing humanitarian assistance, resettlement and development in Rakhine.

We believe trust is the key to build stronger communities. We believe everyone deserves a chance, and the right to live a meaningful and peaceful life.

If you have a passion for making Myanmar a better place and want to promote sustainable and integral development in Myanmar, UEHRD is the place for you.

Job Openings:

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Job Description

UEHRD is looking for individuals who have excellent verbal and written communication skills in English and Myanmar, with extensive knowledge of web and social media, and who can conduct research and present information succinctly. PowerPoint, Word and Excel experience is a bonus.

Under the guidance of Program Officer in the Office of Chief Operating Officer, the candidates will:

- Assist in the creation of website materials: profile, testimonials, partnerships info
- Assist in the creation of brochures, signage, circulars, mock ups, e-mail campaigns, on line promotion, etc.
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- Assist with execution of webinars
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- Maintain tracking report of public relations activity
- Perform analysis of data
- Prepare presentations
- Provide support to social media efforts

Job Requirements

- Age: 18 years old and above
- Languages: Excellent command, both written and spoken of English and Myanmar;
- Computer skills: Knowledge of computer systems and office-related software;
- Team player: Ability to work well in a team; and
- Communication skills: Strong interpersonal and communication skills.

To Apply

Email your CV to secretariat@uejrd.org

Deadline: July 12th, 2019



Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD)

Who We Are

Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine (UEHRD) is the public-private partnership mechanism aimed at enabling the government and all local and international organizations to work together for the development of the Rakhine state.

UEHRD focuses on coordinating multiple stakeholders involved in providing humanitarian assistance, resettlement and development in Rakhine.

We believe trust is the key to build stronger communities. We believe everyone deserve a chance, and the right to live a meaningful and peaceful life.

If you have a passion for making Myanmar a better place and want to promote sustainable and integral development in Myanmar, UEHRD is the place for you.

Job Opening:

Executive Assistant

Job Description

Under the guidance of Program Officer in the Office of Chief Operating Officer, the candidate will:

- Act as the point of contact between the executives and internal/external stakeholders;
- Act as a first point of contact and undertake the tasks of receiving calls, take messages, replying emails and routing correspondence;
- Compile and prepare reports, briefs, presentations and correspondence;
- Develop and carry out an efficient documentation and filing system;
- Handle requests and queries appropriately;
- Maintain diary, arrange meetings and appointments and provide reminders;
- Make travel arrangements;
- Perform bookkeeping, record financial transactions and handle petty cash;
- Provide administrative support to the Office of Chief Operating Officer;
- Take dictation and minutes and accurately enter data

Job Requirements

- Any bachelor degree with working experience of at least 2 years as Executive Assistant or in a related field
- Ability to multitask and prioritize daily workload
- Ability to manage time efficiently, work under pressure and meet deadlines
- Accounting knowledge and bookkeeping experience is desirable
- Committed, responsible and willing to learn
- Discretion and confidentiality
- Excellent English/Myanmar proficiency in speaking, writing and typing skills
- Great Finance
- Great presentation and demonstration skills
- Positive work attitude
- Proficient in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel and PowerPoint)

To Apply

Email your CV to secretariat@uejrd.org

Deadline: July 12th, 2019

Myanmar earns \$6.9 bln from maritime export in nine months

MYANMAR has earned US\$6.94 billion from the export of goods by sea as of 28 June in the present Financial Year 2018-2019, increasing by over \$150 million or nearly 2.3 per cent, compared with this time last 2017-2018 FY, according to the Ministry of Commerce. During the same period in the previous fiscal year, the country's maritime export was pegged at \$6.788 billion.

Over the past nine months of this FY, the country's total maritime trade included imports amounting to \$11.3 billion, which went down by \$957 million against last FY, when imports through sea routes exceeded \$12 billion. Roughly 80 per cent of the country's total trade is conducted through the maritime routes. In the 2018 six-month mini-budget pe-

riod between April and September, the country shipped goods worth \$14.231 billion via sea. According to the ministry, Myanmar's maritime trade stood at \$14.6 billion in the 2012-2013FY, \$20.375 billion in the 2013-2014FY, \$22.369 billion in the 2014-2015FY, \$20.56 billion in the 2015-2016FY, \$21.432 billion in the 2016-2017FY, and \$25.019 billion in the 2017-2018FY. Myanmar imports four major groups of products—capital goods, intermediate goods, consumer products and CMP raw materials. The country chiefly exports seven groups of commodities, namely, agro, animal, fisheries and forest products, minerals, manufactured goods, and other miscellaneous products.—Shwe Khine ■
(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Authorities target to grow 1.2 mln acres of bean and pulses in Sagaing this season



Officials plan to cultivate over 1.2 million acres of beans and pulses throughout Sagaing Region during this rainy season. PHOTO: WIN OO (ZEYATAING)

PLANS call for cultivating more than 1.2 million acres of beans and pulses throughout Sagaing Region during this rainy season, said U Win Hlaing Oo, head of Sagaing Region Agriculture Department.

The department set its target to grow 558,576 acres of green grams,

604,266 acres of pigeon peas, 12,792 acres of cow peas, 18,989 acres of mung beans, 85,073 acres of lima beans, 10,655 acres of butter beans, 820 acres of rice beans, 9,002 acres of lablab beans and 21,189 acres of other varieties of beans and pulses.

According to its crop growing programme, the

department will develop 174,779 acres of bean plantations in Sagaing District, 272,852 acres in Monywa District, 182,307 acres in Yinmabin District, 349,448 acres in Shwebo District, 224,039 acres in Kantbalu District, 3,177 acres in Katha District, 12,656 acres in Kalay District, 431

acres in Khamti District and 3,767 acres in Naga Self-Administered Zone, totalling 1,223,366 acres.

Beans and pulses have been exported to India, Pakistan, Dubai, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.—Win Oo (Zeyataing) ■

(Translated by Khaing Thanda Lwin)

Constructive support is key in moving our journey forward

MYANMAR has travelled some distance on its way to creating a democracy, defeating many challenges along the way. The current government is committed to overcoming the remaining challenges. Myanmar's transition to democracy is an uphill battle, with achievements and challenges. Though hindrances and challenges remain, we would not take steps backward on this journey.

Regarding the Rakhine issue, which remains a large challenge in Myanmar's transition to democracy, the government is fully aware of its primary responsibility and has placed the Rakhine issue as its uppermost priority since day-one.

Alongside the Rakhine Advisory Commission's recommendations, the work of the Independent Commission of Enquiry is an important guide for the resolution, and Myanmar continues seeking a "holistic and inclusive approach for finding a sustainable solution".

Several times, the government has reiterated its readiness to receive verified returnees since 23 January 2018, as agreed in the bilateral Arrangements with Bangladesh. The Myanmar government is ready to grant all those qualified to return a "certificate of residence", while those who are eligible can apply for citizenship.

To begin the expeditious repatriation is an urgent need. No one should turn a blind eye on Myanmar's genuine and concerted efforts for enabling the repatriation.

A critical statement made by a member of the US House of Representatives recently on the Rakhine issue does not reflect the US government, since at a policy discussion on south and central Asia held at the US State Department, the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs explained that the US stand was to support the territorial sovereignty of all countries.

The statement of the member of the US House of Representatives was based on exaggerated news reports and information. The Myanmar government's official stand is that it does not accept any act that affects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country. The government's stand will always remain the same.

As it is at a critical juncture for Myanmar in its journey towards a democratic federal republic, Myanmar will not tolerate any non-constructive measures and retributive actions that can lead to disunity among its people and infringement of sovereignty and territorial integrity in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Myanmar's democracy is young and still incomplete, and it looks to friends the world over to support Myanmar in a constructive way while moving its journey forward.



Raising Unit Prices of Electricity

By Lokethar

RECENTLY the announcement by the Electricity Supply authorities that Unit prices of electricity would be raised on a revised utilization scale depending on the number of units used, has been a topic of discussion on National Television. According to the explanation and ensuing discussion, the Unit price hikes were made after considering the financial "losses" that have been long incurred by the Electricity Supply undertaking body in providing electricity to all its users. The "losses" were due to the electricity supply being heavily "subsidized" by the State. Electricity Supply undertaking body being a State-owned agency, the "subsidies" may be justified to an extent as they are providing utility service to the people. In fact, the high subsidies made by the Electricity Supply undertaking body is a "legacy" from the Socialist era. However, in a democratic country with a free market economy, a more "market-oriented" outlook is needed. Hence the "reduction of the sub-



An electricity substation. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

So it has to invite bids from the private sector electricity companies, whether local or foreign, to either on their own or a venture with the relevant Government and private entities, to make investments in the electric energy sector for the generation and distribution of electricity.

sidy by increasing the rates". As it is, Myanmar's need for electricity is increasing rapidly. If Myanmar is to aim for further industrialization by increasing the numbers of Industrial/Special Economic Zones and encouraging investment in more high value added industries, then providing adequate electricity is a top priority. But electricity generation, transmission and distribution over large areas need huge amounts of investment. The Government does not have the funds at present, to undertake such investments on its own. So it has to invite bids

from the private sector electricity companies, whether local or foreign, to either on their own or a venture with the relevant Government and private entities, to make investments in the electric energy sector for the generation and distribution of electricity. The "sale" of electricity by the private electricity providers to the Electricity Supply body to feed into the national electric power grid would enable more stable electricity to be supplied to present and future users. The investors, on their part, would wish to recoup their return on investment within a cer-

tain period of time and turn a profit as well. This could be possible only if the "rates" they sell the electricity is commercially viable. Hence lessening subsidy and increasing electricity rates is an "incentive" for private electricity providers, whether local or foreign to invest in Electricity Supply ventures.

The discussions were both lively and informative. In conclusion the consensus was that the hikes could be justified if the resulting increase in earnings by the Electricity Supply authorities would in return help them to improve service of supplying more stable electricity to the present users and at the same time enable Electricity Supply authorities to expand electricity supply gradually to over half the population, particularly in the rural areas, who do not as yet have access to electric energy, whether conventional or the renewable type.

The "public" Electricity Supply system has been the source of electricity in Myanmar since the acquiring of independence. The electricity generation, distribution and utilization entities of the Electricity Supply system has expanded to the nation wide electricity grid. It

is being managed pretty well in spite of the budget constraints, the difficulties encountered and the criticism of those who just can't seem to understand the complexity of managing satisfactorily the provision of electricity to all users nationwide.

Now to return to the "rationale" of the unit rate hikes. The writer would like to opine that the bigger the users, the more they should pay towards the generation, distribution and utilization of electricity - somewhat in the context of the saying "big polluters" should pay more for cleaning up; "big users" should pay more for providing

the of electricity.

The "big users" of electricity in the general public include private users who have air conditioners, electric stoves, electric heaters, microwave ovens, refrigerators, freezers, washing machines, and what not in their homes/apartments. These "big users" should, where possible, try to reduce the use of electricity or instead of electricity use other available sources of energy. For instance for cooking purposes, using gas stoves instead of electric stoves which are "guzzlers" of electricity. Maybe sometime in the future, piped gas (the proper gas of

course) for cooking would be made available. Another alternative would be "kerosene stoves" which were popular some decades ago. Perhaps if they make a comeback it would reduce the need for electricity for cooking. Those users from rural areas particularly, who do not yet have access to electricity at present should consider the "kerosene stove" option instead of charcoal or wood both of which are more "environment unfriendly".

As for "industry" (meaning the generic term for all economic activities for the production of goods and services), they would accept the rate hikes because at present they will be provided, as far as possible, with a more stable supply of electricity and that in the future sufficient and stable electricity will be provided to them. In that case, many of the industrial undertakings that have to now install standby generators or voltage regulators will not need to do so in the future.

There seem to be protested by some quarters about the increased rates because they fear it will lead to general price rises of all commodities. For that matter, prices of commodities have been steadily rising anyhow over the years. Only in times of excessive "supply" for a specific commodity would the prices dip, and that too for a short period only. Hence anxieties of protesters should be assuaged through public information campaigns. It could also be explained to the public that the increases will not be too much for the low-end users. They need also to understand that by accepting the rate hikes, they are in effect enabling more fellow citizens to get access to electricity in the future.

One note of caution though about the "rate hikes". Not counting the acceptable technical losses incurred in distribution, the rate hikes may increase "losses" due to "pilferage" which even now seems to be considerable. The Electricity Supply authorities, by taking measures to reduce this menace could "save" a lot of electric energy and enable the increasing supply of electricity to the authentic users, even at the present time.

... the bigger the users, the more they should pay towards the generation, distribution and utilization of electricity - somewhat in the context of the saying "big polluters" should pay more for cleaning up



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“ Coops 4 Decent Work ”

“အလုပ်အကိုင်အခွင့်အလမ်းတိုးတက်ဖို့ သမဝါယမအသင်းများဆောင်ရွက်ဖို့”

Announcement on road closure on Martyrs' Day

Some Yangon roads will be closed on 19 July, 2019, during the 72nd Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan Township, from 4 am to a completion of the ceremony.

While roads are closed, bypass routes will be used passing through West Shwegondine Road to the Link Junction, Dhammazedi Road and Inya Road junction, Dhammazedi Road and U Wisara Junction, West Shwegondaing Road and U Wisara Junction.

Arzarni Road, the eastern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the western archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the southern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda, Arzarni Street, the northern archway of the Shwedagon Pagoda (Thwaysaykan Road) will be closed on that day.

The Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Announcement on closure of Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road on Martyrs' Day

For the convenience of visitors to the Bogyoke Aung San Museum on the Martyrs' Day which falls on 19 July, the Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road will be closed on that day starting at 5 am until the closing time. Road users are advised to use other routes while the road temporarily closed.

Yangon Region Traffic Rules Enforcement Supervisory Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen who come to Martyrs' Mausoleum, Taking drones to Mausoleum and flying around the mausoleum highly prohibited



Iceland glacier national park named World Heritage site

BAKU — UNESCO on Friday added Iceland's Vatnajökull National Park, Europe's largest with a landscape of "fire and ice," to its World Heritage List.

Shaped by volcanoes and surrounded by lava fields, the park is also home to the largest glacier in Europe, after which it is named.

The protected area of some 14,500 square kilometres (around 5,600 square miles) — or 14 per cent of the whole country — is "an exceptional example of both the interplay of ice and fire and of the separation of earth's tectonic plates on land," according to UNESCO.

"This recognition of the outstanding universal value of the Vatnajökull National

Park will benefit the area and further ensure its integrity," Education Minister Lilja Alfreðsdóttir told AFP. "We are all responsible for its magnificent nature and history."

The glacier, which covers more than half of the park and eight per cent of Iceland's surface, reaches over several volcanic systems, including two of the most active volcanoes on the island, Grimsvotn and Bardabunga. Iceland's highest point, Hvannadalshnjukur at 2,110 metres, is located at the southern edge of the glacier.

Tourists often flock to the peak to admire the view, when they aren't found at the Jokulsarlon lagoon, located at the foot of the ice cap with its characteristic small turquoise blue icebergs.

The park also contains the Lakagigar, a row of craters formed in a violent eruption in 1783, when lava spewed out of the mountain for months.

The spread of toxic ash ruined pastures leading to sickness and death of livestock and a subsequent famine killed around 10,000 people.

Some have argued that the event, which also had an impact on much of Europe, was one of the triggers of the French Revolution of 1789.

Vatnajökull National Park is the third Icelandic site to join UNESCO's World Heritage List, after Thingvellir National Park in 2004, where the oldest parliament in the world was established, and the volcanic island of Surtsey in 2008.

— AFP ■



The park is named after Europe's largest glacier. PHOTO: AFP



Giant clams, as seen in this 2014 file photo from Australia's Great Barrier Reef, are listed as an endangered species and protected under Thai law. PHOTO: AFP

South Korean actress faces Thai jail for reality TV stunt

BANGKOK — A South Korean actress faces up to five years in a Thai jail for catching endangered giant clams in a reality TV stunt, an official said Saturday, despite the show's extensive apology.

Lee Yeol-eum was filmed he filed two charges Wednesday against the actress for violating the National Parks law and the Wildlife Protection law. "She is subjected to five years imprisonment," Narong told AFP. The production company had apologised, he said, "but this is a criminal case and we cannot withdraw the complaint."

Lee Yeol-eum was filmed diving for giant clams at a Thai marine park for a 30 June episode of "Law of the Jungle" — a popular South Korean reality show.

After prising two giant clams from the coral-laid seabed, Lee pumped them in the air yelling "I caught it!" The creatures are listed as an endangered species and protected under Thai law. A picture of 23-year-old Lee picking up the mollusks started circulating online, bringing the star of Korean TV drama "My First Love" to the attention of authorities. Narong Kongaid, the head of Hat Chao Mai National Park — where the show

was filmed in April — told AFP he filed two charges Wednesday against the actress for violating the National Parks law and the Wildlife Protection law. "She is subjected to five years imprisonment," Narong told AFP. The production company had apologised, he said, "but this is a criminal case and we cannot withdraw the complaint."

The police will figure out a way to find Lee even if she's no longer in Thailand, Narong added. While the criminal complaint has been filed with the police, it is now up to the court's prosecutor to decide if Lee will be pursued or if the case will be dropped.

She faces either five years imprisonment under the National Parks law, or four years if sought for breaking the Wildlife Protection law. Both laws also carry fines of 20,000 baht (\$650). — AFP ■

Electric scooters: not so eco-friendly after all?

PARIS — E-scooters touted as zero-carbon urban transport are flooding city streets worldwide, but just how green they are remains an open question.

The companies — from multinationals to local start-ups — distributing them insist the omnipresent two-wheel vehicles are a boon for the environment and a curb on global warming.

"Bird was founded to help create a cleaner and more hospitable world that prioritises people over cars," the American firm, one of the global leaders in e-scooters, says on its website.

"Scooters cut the use of vehicles and reduce the volume of traffic on the road," it said. "They also help reduce pollution and improve air quality."

Shared scooters that do not require docking ports can be driven door-to-door, avoid stressful searches for parking spaces, and have zero-emission motors.

On paper, they have the potential to radically reduce urban car traffic: 70 per cent of car trips between home and work in France, for example, are five kilometres (three miles) or less, according to the French National Institute for Statistics and Economic Research (INSEE).

"Micromobility could theoretically encompass all passenger trips of less than eight kilometres (5 miles), which account for as much as 50 to 60 per cent of today's total passenger miles travelled in China, the European Union, and the United States,"

consulting firm McKinsey said in a report. In the US, riders made nearly 40 million trips on shared scooters last year, according to the National Association of City Transportation Officials.

Lime, a major player financed by Uber and Google-parent Alphabet, found that roughly one in every three Lime rides in 26 cities around the world replaces a trip by car.

No long-term data

"From this shift, we estimate that our riders have avoided 15 million miles (24 km) of car travel and prevented 6,220 metric tons of carbon emissions" over a two-year period, the company noted.

But do e-scooters live up to all the hype? With regard to

Lime's claims, a survey by research group 6t of 4,500 commuters in Paris, Lyon and Marseille revealed that only 19 per cent

used scooters to go to work or school — more than 40 per cent of usage was by out-of-town visitors.— AFP ■



E-scooters touted as zero-carbon urban transport are flooding city streets worldwide, but just how green they are remains an open question. PHOTO: AFP

Erdogan sacks Turkey central bank governor amid rate tensions

ANKARA (Turkey)— President RecepTayyipErdogan has sacked the governor of Turkey's central bank and replaced him with his deputy, a presidential decree said Saturday, after months of tension with the government over high interest rates.

Murat Cetinkaya, who was appointed to the role in April 2016, has been replaced by Murat Uysal, according to the decree published in the official gazette, which gave no official reason for the change.

There had been recent speculation that Cetinkaya could be replaced amid disagreements with the government on cutting interest rates. Erdogan has repeatedly railed against high interest rates and called for them to be lowered to stimulate growth.

He once called high rates



Turkish President RecepTayyipErdogan has repeatedly railed against the country's high interest rates. PHOTO: AFP

the “mother and father of all evil”. Turkey's main interest rate is 24 per cent after the bank under Cetinkaya made an aggressive rate hike of 625 basis points last September following a currency crisis in August.

Last month, Erdogan said

the current rate was “unacceptable”, promising to find a solution as soon as possible. “I agree on the independence of the central bank but let me put it very clearly that I am against interest (rate) policies and above all, high interest

rates,” he said.

'Adventurist path'

Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) has built its success on Turkey's strong growth, with supporters boasting of progress in living standards during the Turkish leader's 16 years in office - first as prime minister and then president.

But the weakening economy contributed to the AKP losing Ankara and Istanbul in recent local elections, in what was a stinging rebuke to the ruling party in power since 2002.

Economic columnist Ugur-Gurses said that the central bank chief was sacked with the goal of lowering rates. “As I predicted, Ankara is swiftly taking an adventurist path after losing the election,” he wrote on Twitter.

“The goal of removing the central bank governor is clear: print money and lower the interest (rate) but the governor cannot be sacked except for the reasons specified in its law. A presidential decree is not above law.”

The central bank's next policy meeting is scheduled to be held on 25 July.

The new governor Uysal said he would continue to use monetary policy tools “independently” while remaining focused on ensuring price stability as his “main aim”, according to a central bank statement.

Uysal, who had served as deputy governor since June 2016, will hold a press conference in the coming days, the bank said.

The change of central bank chief came after markets closed on Friday. —AFP ■

UN calls for Libya ceasefire as death toll climbs to 1,000

TRIPOLI (Libya)— The UN Security Council called Friday for a ceasefire in Libya as the death toll from a three-month offensive on Tripoli reached 1,000, including scores killed in an air strike that hit a detention centre for migrants.

The council condemned the late Tuesday attack on the Tajoura detention camp east of Tripoli and “stressed the need for all parties to urgently de-escalate the situation and to commit to a ceasefire”, said a joint statement.

Libyan commander Khalifa-Haftar, whose forces hold eastern Libya and much of the country's south, launched an offensive in

early April to wrestle the capital from forces loyal to the UN-recognised Government of National Accord (GNA). Air strikes and ground fighting have since left nearly 1,000 people dead and some 5,000 wounded, the UN's World Health Organization said.

The fighting has forced more than 100,000 people to flee their homes and threatens to plunge Libya into deeper conflict. Among the dead are 53 migrants killed Tuesday night in an air raid on a detention centre in the Tripoli suburb of Tajoura, held by the GNA, which accused Haftar's forces of carrying out the strike. A Geneva-based spokesman for

the International Organization for Migration said six children were among the migrants killed.

Joel Millman said that 350 migrants, including 20 women and four children, were still detained at the centre, one of five air hangars hit in the raid. World powers have been divided over how to respond to Haftar's offensive, with the United States and Russia refusing to condemn the Libyan strongman. The British-drafted council statement condemned the attack on the migrant camp, called for a return to political talks and for full respect of the arms embargo on Libya.

It followed a closed-door council meeting on Wednesday during which US diplomats said they needed more time to consult with Washington on the proposed text. The United Nations has called for an independent investigation to determine who was responsible for the strike on the centre, which housed some 600 migrants, mainly from African countries.

President RecepTayyipErdogan of Turkey — which backs the GNA — called for an end to “unlawful attacks” by Haftar's forces during a meeting with Libyan Prime Minister Fayeza al-Sarraj in Istanbul on Friday, the Turkish presidency said.—AFP ■

S. California hit by 7.1-magnitude quake, strongest in two decades

LOS ANGELES (United States)— Southern California was hit by its largest earthquake in two decades Friday, a 7.1-magnitude tremor that rattled residents who were already reeling from another strong quake a day earlier.

Emergency workers and security forces were being dispatched early Saturday to the epicenter of the shallow earthquake in a remote and sparsely populated area around 150 miles (240 kilometers) northeast of Los Angeles, where it was also felt.

No deaths or serious injuries had been reported late Friday evening, but there were reports of building collapses and power outages in the town of Trona, California Office of Emergency Services director Mark Ghilarducci said.

There were “significant reports” of fires caused by gas leaks, as well as breaks to power, water and communications lines in the region, he told a press conference.

California Governor Gavin Newsom said he had requested emergency federal assistance from the White House, and state resources have been activated at their “highest level.”

Newsom later declared

a state of emergency for San Bernardino County, expanding on an earlier announcement covering Kern County, near the epicenter of both the quakes this week.

A joint task force including around 200 security personnel as well as helicopters and cargo aircraft was being deployed, National Guard Major General David Baldwin said.

San Bernardino fire department spokesman Jeremy Kern told CNN there were “no active searches ongoing” for trapped casualties.

The quake was 11 times stronger than the 6.4-magnitude quake “foreshock” the previous day, according to the United States Geological Survey.

The two major quakes, along with multiple aftershocks, have revived fears of the “Big One” — a powerful tremor along the San Andreas Fault that could devastate major cities in Southern California.

“This is an earthquake sequence. These earthquakes are related,” said Caltech seismologist Lucy Jones.

There was a 10 per cent chance of Friday's quake being followed by another magnitude 7.0 or higher quake in the next week, she added.—AFP ■



Plumes of smoke rise from the Tripoli suburb of Tajoura after it was hit by an air strike launched by forces loyal to Libya strongman KhalifaHaftar. PHOTO: AFP

North Korea says released Australian student was 'spying'

SEOUL (South Korea)—An Australian student who was released after being held in North Korea had been “spying” in the reclusive country, state media said Saturday.

Alek Sigley, 29, disappeared around two weeks ago prompting deep concern about his fate, but was freed and flew to Japan on Thursday.

Official North Korean news agency KCNA said Sigley had admitted “he had been spying by collecting our internal information and sharing with others and repeatedly asked for our forgiveness for infringing on our sovereignty”.

It said Sigley — one of just a handful of Westerners living and studying in North Korea — had



Australian student Alek Sigley organised tours to North Korea, and ran a number of social media sites. **PHOTO: AFP**

been detained on 25 June for promoting propaganda against the country online, including on specialist website NK News, which rejected the accusations.

“Sigley, upon request by anti-DPRK news outlets such as NK News, on numerous occasions transferred information that he gathered while travelling

to every corner of Pyongyang using his status as an international student, including photographs and analysis,” it said, using the initials of North Korea’s official name.

“The government of DPRK has exercised humanitarian forbearance and deported him from our grounds on 4 July.”

Sigley’s detention came just days before a G20 summit and a landmark meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump was closely involved in the case of University of Virginia student Otto Warmbier, who was imprisoned during a tour of the authoritarian state in 2016. Doctors said Warmbier suffered severe brain damage while in detention, fell into a coma and died days after arriving back in the United States, aged 22.

Sigley was much more familiar with the country and spoke fluent Korean.

He organised tours to North Korea, and ran a number of social media sites, which usually had a

stream of apolitical content about life in one of the world’s most secretive nations. His blog posts focused on everyday Pyongyang — everything from the city’s dining scene to North Korean app reviews — and he married his Japanese wife there last year.

No interviews

Chad O’Carroll, director of the NK News, said in a statement on Saturday that Sigley’s columns for the site “presented an apolitical and insightful view of life in Pyongyang”.

“The six articles Alek published represent the full extent of his work with us and the idea that those columns, published transparently under his name between January and April 2019, are ‘anti-state’ in na-

ture is a misrepresentation which we reject,” he said.

On Friday, Sigley said he was planning to “return to normal life” but offered no details of his detention, adding he would not be conducting any interviews or holding a press conference.

“I just want everyone to know I am OK, and to thank them for their concern for my wellbeing and their support for my family over the past week,” he said in a statement released by representatives of his family on Friday.

However Sigley gave no indication of why he was held, how he was treated or why he was released. It said he would not make any further comment “at this time or later.”—AFP ■

Venezuela Independence Day marked by rival rallies, UN rebuke

CARACAS (Venezuela)—Venezuela’s Independence Day was marked by rival rallies Friday, led by opposition leader Juan Guaido and President Nicholas Maduro, who waged a war of words even as the UN warned of eroded rule of law in the country.

Guaido, who considers himself Venezuela’s legitimate acting leader, implored supporters in the streets of Caracas not to give up hope: “Don’t leave! We’re going to get there! Have no doubt, we’ll succeed.” The crowd that gathered to hear the

center-right leader, who in January declared himself acting president in a direct challenge to Maduro’s authority, was markedly smaller than those at the beginning of the year.

The country was observing the 5 July holiday celebrating its 1811 Declaration of Independence.

Maduro, meanwhile, led a military parade down the Paseo de los Proceres, a boulevard honoring the country’s founders, and received a public display of support from the military’s top brass. “Count on the armed forces... we

are not afraid to face the enemies of the country,” General Remigio Ceballos, commander of operational strategy, assured the

president. UN rights chief Michelle Bachelet meanwhile presented a damning report on Venezuela which pointed to attacks on politi-

cal opponents and activists, including torture and thousands of killings by security forces in the country.

She said that attempting to exercise the most basic rights like freedom of opinion, expression, association and assembly in Venezuela “entails a risk of reprisals and repression.”

However she later welcomed the release of 22 prisoners in recent days, including journalist Braulio Jatar and Lourdes Afiuni, a judge. The Supreme Court confirmed the reversal of detention measures against the two, although they were yet to be released.—AFP ■



Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guido implored supporters who had gathered in the streets of Caracas on 5 July not to give up hope. **PHOTO: AFP**

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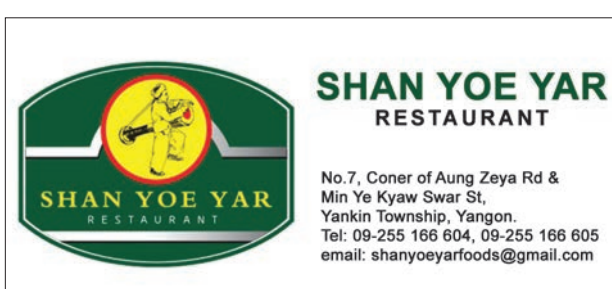
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Sagaing Regional govt steps up efforts for development tasks

By Kyaw Htike Soe

“A small hydropower project is being built near Nantpanga Creek in Homalin Township, Sagaing Region at a cost of K 24 billion,” said Sagaing Regional Minister for Electricity, Technical, Road and Communications U Than Nyunt Win.

The regional minister made the remark during a meeting with local people held at the City Hall in Sagaing on 28 June. “In an attempt to supply adequate electricity to some villages in Homalin Township, we embarked on the implementation of a mini hydropower project. The regional government allocated K 6 billion this year. The project will take 18 months and is expected to cost about K 24 billion,” the minister explained. A feasibility study into the possibility of the project and an assessment of the potential for power generation were conducted in the fiscal year 2017-2018. K 347.504 million has been spent on conducting the feasibility study and drawing up a design of the project, he said.

In addition, the regional government signed an agreement with the Central Chain Power Grid (CCPG) Co., to extend Nabar sub-power station, build new sub-power stations in Shwebo and Ohntaw, and construct the 180-mile long Nabar-Shwebo-Ohntaw transmission line to be able to distribute sufficient electricity to some areas in the region. The project is worth around US\$ 133,470, he added, saying power supply tasks are being undertaken in the region by using 3,362 sub-power stations, three hydropower plants and 39 diesel-fired generators.

The Shwebo-Myitkyina Road that connects the Sagaing Region and Kachin State is being extended to 18 ft. from the current 12 ft. this fiscal year. The Shwebo-Myitkyina Road is crucial to transport goods to and from between Sagaing Region and Kachin State and plays a vital role in better flow of commodities. Extension for 40-mile and one furlong road section is being undertaken this financial year and the project has been about 62 per cent finished. The road was built in the fiscal year 1962-1963 and it was upgraded to a 12 ft. wide road on 18 September 1996, according to the Department of Road under the Ministry of Construction.

A sugar mill which is under construction by the Myanmar Sugar Development Public Company Ltd in Sagaragon Village, Katha Township in Sagaing Region will start trial operations in the late 2019. The mill is being set up on 100



Shwebo-Myitkyina Road linking Sagaing Region and Kachin State is being extended.
PHOTOS: SUPPLIED



acres of land and will produce sugar as well generate electricity and is expected to come into operation on a trial basis in December 2019. “We are trying our best to be able to start operating the sugar mill on a trial basis in December 2019. Now construction of the sugar mill is about 50 per cent complete,” said U Nyi Khin, Chairman of the Myanmar Sugar Development Public Company Ltd. The project will also include an ethanol plant with the capacity to produce up to 35,000



Sugar cane plantation. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Mini Industry Estate Project (Malit) in Yangon Region

By Moe Myint Lin Let

YANGON is where job opportunities for youth from all over the country were being created. This was because of the industry zones in and around Yangon that were springing up. In addition to the 29 industry zones in and around Yangon that were running, plans are underway to construct new industry zones and mini industry estates. Mini Industry Estate Project (Malit) in Yangon Region Dagon Myothit (East) Township Malit Village is one such new industry estate that will be implemented.

This Mini Industry Estate Project (Malit) is situated near Malit Village on 550 acres of land. As a first step of the project the public was explained about the project in a meeting with the public at Dagon Myothit (East) Township Thitsame Dhammayone Monastery on 22 June 2019.

At the meeting the public was explained about the project particulars, conducting a survey of the area that will be affected by the project, environmental and social impact assessment works.

The Mini Industry Estate Project (Malit) will be implemented by New City Development Public Company Limited. As with similar industry zones and estates in Yangon it will provide employment opportunities for

people in Dagon Myothit (East) Township as well as people near and far.

Other projects in the pipeline

In fact there are some more industry zone and estate projects to spring up in the outlying townships of Yangon Region.

Zayatkwint Industry Estate Project on about 700 acres of land was one of these. There is also Dalaban Industry Estate on about 500 acres of land and Shan Te Gyi Heavy Industry Zone Project on about 500 acres of land.

Yangon is where the majority of local and foreign investments were and still coming in so it is where the hopes and expectations of youth lie in obtaining more employment opportunities.

Projects in the Yangon Project Bank

Yangon Region Government plans to implement East Dagon Myothit Modern Industry Zone 1 and Modern Industry Zone 2 in Dagon Myothit (East) Township and these were included in the Yangon Project Bank.

Easy connectivity with the market

The East Dagon Myothit Modern Industry Zone 1 is on about 2,050 acres of land and will be for SMEs (small and

medium enterprises). It was planned to combine both manufacturing and trade in the zone and it will have easy connectivity with the market.

The East Dagon Myothit Modern Industry Zone 2 is planned on more than 6,500 acres of land. This Modern Industry Zone 2 will have industry zone and economic zone as well as living quarters for the people. Pre-project studies for both zone 1 and 2 was said to be completed already.

Where new ideas and thoughts are born

The efforts made to establish industry zones, estates and special economic zones on the outlying townships of Yangon Region was to support and strengthen the driving force of Myanmar's economy. Furthermore, these zones will create job opportunities for youth both far and near as well as becoming places where new ideas and thoughts were born.

Business capital of Myanmar

Once the Mini Industry Estate Project (Malit) near Malit Village in Yangon Region Dagon Myothit (East) Township was established it'll be another image that would make Yangon as a business capital of Myanmar.

(Translated by Handytips)



tons per day as well as up to 100 tons of fertilizer.

Some equipment, entrances to the sugar mill and staff housing have already been built. Arrangements have been made to create an internationally standard sugar mill since 2012 but the project was started in 2018 because the project needed both financial and technical assistance, he added. "So we invited a foreign company to jointly invest in the project because we couldn't afford to move forward the project on a self-reliant basis. We contacted an Indian company from Singapore. The company withdrew its plan to invest in the project due to various reasons. The huge sugar demand from China saw a boost in sugarcane plantation. We are encouraged as Myanmar is an agro-based country," he said.

The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) gave a green light for the project and K 5 billion loans for construction of the sugar mill has been borrowed from the Myanma Economic Bank. The sugarcane crushing capacity at the mill is about 1,000 tons per day during trial operations. After trial operation period, the sugarcane crushing capacity will be increased to around 3,000 tons per day. High quality sugarcane species capable of producing better yield were imported from foreign countries to be grown in Myanmar. Presently, about 1,500 acres of quality sugarcane are planted near the project area.



PHOTOS: MOE MYINT LIN LET

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Than Paing's single goal gives Yangon win over Yadanarbon

A single goal scored by young striker Than Paing was enough for Yangon United to win over Yadanarbon FC by a score of 1-0 in the Week-15 match in the Myanmar National League at Yangon United Sports Complex yesterday.

Yangon United was more active yesterday, as the team's Captain and most reliable player, goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Htet, returned to the squad after suffering a head injury.

From the start, Yangon United dominated the first half, creating more chances for goals.

Yangon had a near chance to score at the 3 minute mark, as Yangon's Than Paing made a strong kick, but the ball missed the net. Again, Maung Maung Lwin had an opportunity for an opening goal at the



Yangon United striker Than Paing celebrates after scoring his goal during yesterday's national league match at Yangon United Sports Complex. **PHOTO:YUSC**

8 minute mark, but his kick struck the right post of the keeper.

Yadanarbon again attacked, but with the young local talents' speedy play, the first half finished 0-0. Both teams changed tactics in the second half. Yangon United again missed a chance at 57 minutes when

Than Paing's kick, which was assisted by Kaung Htet Soe, was blocked by Yadanarbon's keeper.

Finally, Yangon United earned its first and winning goal at 65 minutes, when Nan Wai Min delivered the ball to Than Paing, who made an away kick which went directly into the net.

Later minutes saw brilliant concentration, plus excellent play by Yangon's goalkeeper Kyaw Zin Htet and Yangon's defenders, when Yadanarbon strikers had opportunities to score.

At the final whistle, Yangon United took the victory of 1-0 over Yadanarbon FC.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

MFF to launch 30 football coaching courses this year

WITH supervision by the Myanmar Football Federation and football associations at the township level, thirty football coaching certificate courses will be launched across Myanmar, according to a statement by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The coaches will be trained by coach educators from the Myanmar Football Federation, said officials from the football federation.

There are also 14 coach educators who are being trained, in turn, by football associations in Mandalay and Pynmana, officials added. There is room for 30 trainees in each course, said the MFF.

After completion of the course, MFF will present coaching certificates to the qualified trainees, officials said.

Currently, the Myanmar Football Federation has organised township-level football associations in 241 townships across Myanmar, and officials also plan for development courses to be launched in each township, officials stated.

For the betterment of Myanmar football standards, coaching courses will be improved year by year, noted officials.

Those seeking information about the coaching course can contact U Than Win, Director of Township Football Associations of Myanmar Football Federation at phone number 09-5048195, or U Kyaw Htet Aung, Manager of the Townships Football Associations of Myanmar Football Federation, at 09-776151080.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Gauff saves match points, Djokovic level with Becker at Wimbledon

LONDON (United Kingdom)— Fifteen-year-old sensation Coco Gauff's magical Wimbledon journey continued on Friday when the American youngster saved two match points to reach the last 16.

Gauff, ranked 313 and who came through qualifying, battled back from 2-5 down in the second set and held her nerve when Slovenian opponent Polona Hercog clawed her way to 4-4 from 1-4 in the decider.

Her reward is a fourth

round clash on 'Manic Monday' against former world number one and ex-French Open champion Simona Halep.

"I'm just super relieved that it's over, it was a long match," said Gauff.

"She was playing unbelievable. It was my first match on Centre Court, people say Court One is my court, maybe Centre can be too now.

She added of her second set recovery: "I knew I could come back so I just

kept going for my shots."

Gauff's dramatic victory on an enthralled Centre Court overshadowed Novak Djokovic's passage to the last 16 for the 12th time.

The four-time champion is one of just four top 10 seeds left in the tournament along with Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Kei Nishikori.

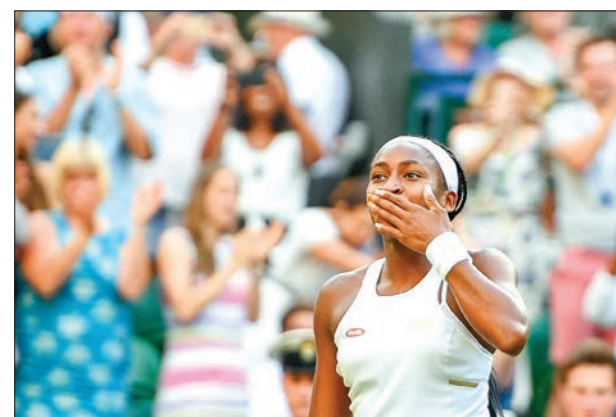
Defending champion and world number one Djokovic defeated Poland's Hubert Hurkacz

7-5, 6-7 (5/7), 6-1, 6-4. He will next face Ugo Humbert of France, the world number 66.

"He was fighting. He was playing well, serving well and hitting clean and accurate shots," said Djokovic who is now level with Boris Becker in third place on the all-time list with 12 last-16 places. Roger Federer and Jimmy Connors lead the way with 16 apiece. However, Kevin Anderson, the 2018 runner-up and fourth seed,

slumped to a shock third round 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4) de-

feat to Argentina's Guido Pella, the 26th seed.—AFP



Coco Gauff celebrates beating Slovenia's Polona Hercog. **PHOTO: AFP**



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The prestige of a mother tongue



By May Thu Htay
2nd year Honours Student,
English Specialization,
University of Yangon

IT is undeniable that “the more a nation develops, the more one’s mother language invades the world.” As we can see that along with the development in technologies, economics, education, human resources of China, Chinese language and English language can be mostly ranked abreast in the near future. The more a nation becomes powerful, the more the language becomes prevalent. Thus, a powerful nation’s mother tongue definitely becomes a prerequisite for the smooth communications for the still developing countries.

The above statement makes out the consequences of why the human resources of the underdeveloped countries become conscious of foreign powerful countries’ mother tongues. This fact even pushes to the state “Job opportunities should be supplemented with the proficiency in one’s foreign language.” This is somewhat advisable as there seems to be no nation that practices “Isolationism” in this globalized world. The human resources are shared, the products are shared, the knowledge are shared obviously between one nation and one nation. Thus, the language proficiency in foreign language becomes the necessary part. However, one thing to bear in mind is that one language does not excel one language by means of richness. Every language allows the populace within one nation communicate well and every language is adorned with the proverbs, novels, metaphors that can confirm the prestige of one language. The next important thing is a nation’s mother tongue is undoubtedly the prestige of a nation. Thus, if the citizens do not respect one’s native language, that can mean the citizens do not respect the nation. Everyone knows that our mother of democracy, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi always wants the citizens who work in foreign countries to value Myanmar language although she totally accepts that it is also an honour when one is proficient in foreign languages.

To make it short, it is better if everyone realizes that the honour and demand of a mother tongue depends on the how powerful a nation is, also, how every citizen cherishes it. Nevertheless, it is a must to cherish your mother tongue no matter how powerless your country can be right now. But, if you authentically cherish your country, it is a duty to improve the status of your mother tongue into one of the high-prestige languages in the eyes of the international community.



By C. T. O

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK)

C. Simple Past Tense: နိုးနိုးအတိတ်ကာလ

- 1. He pretended to be ill yesterday morning.
2. She paid a visit to Maymyo last summer.
3. Ko Ko did not take the examination last year.
4. Did he make a speech at the conference?
5. Her new book was published last month.
6. She was operated on three days ago.
7. This reading club was founded in 1957.
8. Were they punished yesterday?

D. Present Perfect Tense: (Simple)

- 1. They have just drunk their morning tea.
2. She has already graduated from the Yangon University.
3. They have not bought tickets yet.
4. He has visited London twice.
5. Have you ever driven a tractor before?
6. She has never worn a shirt before.
7. He has not smoked a pipe for two years.
8. She has not bought a new longyi since 1981.
9. His book has been published again and again.
10. A new lesson has not been taught for three weeks.

E. Present Perfect Continuous Tense: —

- 1. He has been studying Economics since 1980.
2. She has been learning German for two years.
3. He has been courting her for over two years.
4. They have been playing football since noon.
5. Ko Ko has been practising boxing since morning.
6. She has been working in this factory for five years.

F. Future Tense: အနာဂတ်ကာလ

- 1. They will go on a picnic next Sunday.
2. She will return to Myanmar next year.

3. The players will be given training next week.

- ကစားသမားများကို နောက်အပတ်တွင် လေ့ကျင့်ပေးလိမ့်မည်။
4. These rules must be observed.
5. Some of the planets can be seen in the sky at night.
6. She is leaving for Pyay tomorrow morning. (will leave)

G. Future Continuous Tense:

- 1. They will be playing football at this time tomorrow.
2. She will be working in the garden between 4 and 5 pm tomorrow.
3. Please go back home: Mother will be waiting for you.
4. She will be studying her lessons between 6 and 9 pm this evening.

H. Future Perfect Tense:

- (အချိန်ကာလ အပိုင်းအခြားရှေ့တွင် by ထည့်ရသည်ကို သတိပြုပါ။)
1. He will have got his degree by 1987.
2. He will have finished his work by coming Sunday.
3. The new house will have been built by the end of this year.
4. The examination will have been held by March 22.

I. Past Perfect Tense: (Before Past အတိတ်မတိုင်မီ အတိတ်ကာလ)

- 1. She told me her name after I had asked her twice.
2. Mother had already gone to bed when Father came home last night.
3. She said that she had been to a number of countries.
4. He told her that he had already taken his share.
5. Ko Ko said that he had been paid for the work.
6. Although he had failed twice, he was not disappointed.
7. He went to bed after he had done his homework.
8. When she came back, the clothes had already been washed.

Past Continuous Tense :

- 1. He slipped and fell while he was running up the stairs.
2. He got bitten by a dog while he was standing at the bus stop.

- 3. He waited while his shoes were being polished.
4. She took my money while I was sleeping.
5. The fire was still burning at 6 this morning.
6. She was working in the garden all day yesterday.
7. The plane was flying over the mountain when one of the engines went out of action.
8. His car was still being repaired when he came back four hours later.

Exercises

K. Let, Made, Saw

- 1. He let the girl (read) his books.
2. The captain made the players (run) five miles every morning.
3. She saw the boy (slip) out of the room.
4. He saw her younger brother (run) after the bus.

I. " If - pattern "

- 1. If I am Sophocles, I (be) not mad.
2. If he takes this train, he (arrive) there in time for dinner.
3. If she had plenty of money, he (buy) that house.
4. If he had needed the money, he (sell) the car.
5. If the bell rings, the rats (come) out.
6. If Ko Ko (decide) to marry her, he will take on this job.
7. If she (not take) good care of him, he would leave her one day.
8. If he (sell) that house, he would have made a nett profit of K 40,000.

M. Present Participle

- 1. He found a child (sleep) in his bed.
2. She has a son (work) as a teacher in this town.
3. The boy (sit) between the two ladies is my friend Nyan Lwin Oo.
4. The girls (help) the teacher in the garden are interested in agriculture.

N. Past Participle

- 1. This is a book (write) by Min Kyaw.
2. He is looking for a letter (leave) by his grandfather.
3. This is a song (compose) by a University teacher.
4. The man (want) by the police was killed last night.
5. The shoes (make) by that factory are of good quality.

Answers အဖြေများ

K. Let, Make, Saw

- (Let, Make တို့နောက်တွင် ကြိယာတစ်ခုပေးထားပါက မူရင်းကြိယာ (root verb) ထည့်ရန်ဖြစ်သည်။ Saw နောက်တွင် မူရင်းကြိယာလိုက်၍ ကြားလျှင် is, are, was, were မပါသော ing ပုံစံလိုက်ရသည်။
1. He let the girl read his books.
2. The captain made the players run five miles every morning.
3. She saw the boy slip out of the room.

(TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK)



Rain Calling Festival

By Khin Moh Moh Aung
Yadanabon University



MYANMAR, the golden land, has many different beautiful areas with different fantastic landscapes. Moreover, there are different regions with different seasons. As Myanmar possesses 135 ethnic groups, these ethnic groups are being alive in different areas of Myanmar. The main ethnic groups, Kachin, Kaya, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine, Shan, and other sub-ethnic groups are being alive in their respective areas by doing their respective careers. Although there are only three seasons in Myanmar, these seasons may be different according to the geographical conditions.

Some regions of upper Myanmar such as Mandalay, Sagaing, etc. generally face with low precipitation even in the rainy season. So, peasants in these regions encounter difficulties to grow their crops. As the

weather is very hot in this season, the older people and the infants cannot be alive comfortably. So, the citizens of these regions try to rain according to Myanmar culture. This is called "Rain-calling Festival". In Myanmar words, it is called "Moe Khaw Pwe".

I have read about this festival. The festival has been originated in Bagan in the 12th century. By seeing the historical record, the festival was started from King Narathu's reign in the Bagan era. At that time, Bagan was affected by severe drought, though the raindrops appeared in surrounding areas. The King was told that he was being punished by the spirit Kyaw Swar for killing innocent father and child. Therefore, the angry spirit made that town drought. So, his counselors advised him to host the tug-of-war competition or Lun Swae Pwe in order to make the spirit satisfied. In the document I have read, the

meaning of the word "Lun" is "committing" and the word "Swae" means "taking back". By organizing the competition, the king was committing himself to take back his offense. After the competition, the dark clouds appeared and started raining.

So, the tug-of-war competition is included in the rain-calling festival. Before the competition is started, the hosts and the competitors need to ask for the spirit, Moe Khaung Kyaw Swar, to permit the competition by offertory consisting of bananas, coconut, and a bunch of flowers by reciting verses. They believe that the spirit "Moe Khaung Kyaw Swar" will help the tug-of-war competition to hold successfully. At the middle of the rope, a small bunch of flower is tied. And a line is drawn between the two teams who will compete in the competition. The reason why these things are set is to decide which team is the winner.

SEE PAGE- S-7



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



Haka, the capital city of Chin State.

A Visit to the land of honest people and high quality agro products

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

MY second trip to Chin State came two years after my first trip in 2016. This time, Haka, the town in the hills, was my destination, where I hoped to see their ongoing development projects.

The bus left Pakokku and headed towards Chin State's Mindat, passing along the Pakokku-Pauk-Pontaung-Ponnya route. Men and women are now upgrading the road, working under intense temperatures, but once our bus entered into Chin State, forests and mountains came into view.

I was excited to see the view of steep cliffs through the bus window.

Hornbill Chin Coffee in Mindat

In Mindat, Hornbill Chin Coffee Shop is the first stopover for me, as I rest and refresh myself.

To my surprise, the European style coffee shop and high-quality coffee in Mindat by was established by a young local entrepreneur named Salai Mar Hone. The young man, in his 30s, had the idea to open the coffee shop and to sell coffee from Chin State, after meeting with Myanmar Coffee Association Chairman U Ye Myint about 2014. "I use only coffee grown in villages in Chin State," said Salai Mar Hone, with pride. In the beginning, he faced obstacles in quickly receiving orders for coffee, as villagers were not familiar with the coffee harvest.

Later selling this coffee in the export market, he learned to turn such challenges into opportunities. Last year, for instance, he exported about one tonne of coffee from Chin State to Switzerland. Also, an American coffee trader visited him



Hornbill Chin Coffee Shop in Mindat.



On the way to Matupi.



Pi Aa Kuem, 65, works on her Elephant Foot Yam farm.

last month, offering new opportunities.

"The American trader bought two kg of our coffee, and promised to come back after testing the quality of our coffee," said Salai, hopeful for future sales of Chin State coffee.

In fact, this story is well-known among those who are aware of Chin State's soil quality, which is highly favourable for coffee.

The grade of coffee from Chin State is rated above 96, while internationally, if a grade of coffee is above 80, it is considered a special grade. This means coffee from Chin State is among the world's top grades.

Additionally, I was surprised by one of his new products, wine made from Chin State coffee.

From coffee to elephant foot yam and avocado

Arriving in Matupi, I visited a six acre garden where elephant foot yam and avocado are thriving.

Pi Aa Kuem, a 65 year old woman who had nine children, is working alone in the garden taking care of the cash trees.

She has been working on this farm for over 30 years, along with her husband, who is now bedridden after suffering a stroke.

"I worked on this garden for 32 years. I have nine children. The income from this garden was enough to send all of my children to school and university, until they graduated," said the woman. The elephant food yam and avocados are the major source of income for her family. Just from harvesting elephant foot yam, she earns some K4 million per year.

The quality of agricultural products from the state, such as coffee, elephant foot yam and avocado, are well-known and has potential for growth, if investments are made into modern growing, processing and better marketing techniques.

"I am happy to work in this garden," said Pi Aa Kuem.

The Village of Bweli or Aung San Thuriya Taik Chun Village

My next stop was the village of Bweli, built by Captain Taik Chun, who is well-known as Capt. Aung San Thuriya Thura Taik Chon, renowned for his bravery in battle one year after independence in 1949, and later received the highest military award, the "Aung San Thuriya".

The village, surrounded by hills, is located between Matupi and Sami towns.

"My father arrived in this village in 1966. His native village was Matupi. He noticed that this area has good soil and water, so he established this village," said U Joseph, 56, the youngest son of Capt. Taik Chun. He is also retired from military service. There are some 40 houses in the village.

After saying goodbye to Daw Hmone Se, also known as Ma Chin, 87, wife of Aung San Thuriya Taik Chun and U Joseph, I continued on my trip to Haka, the town in the hill.

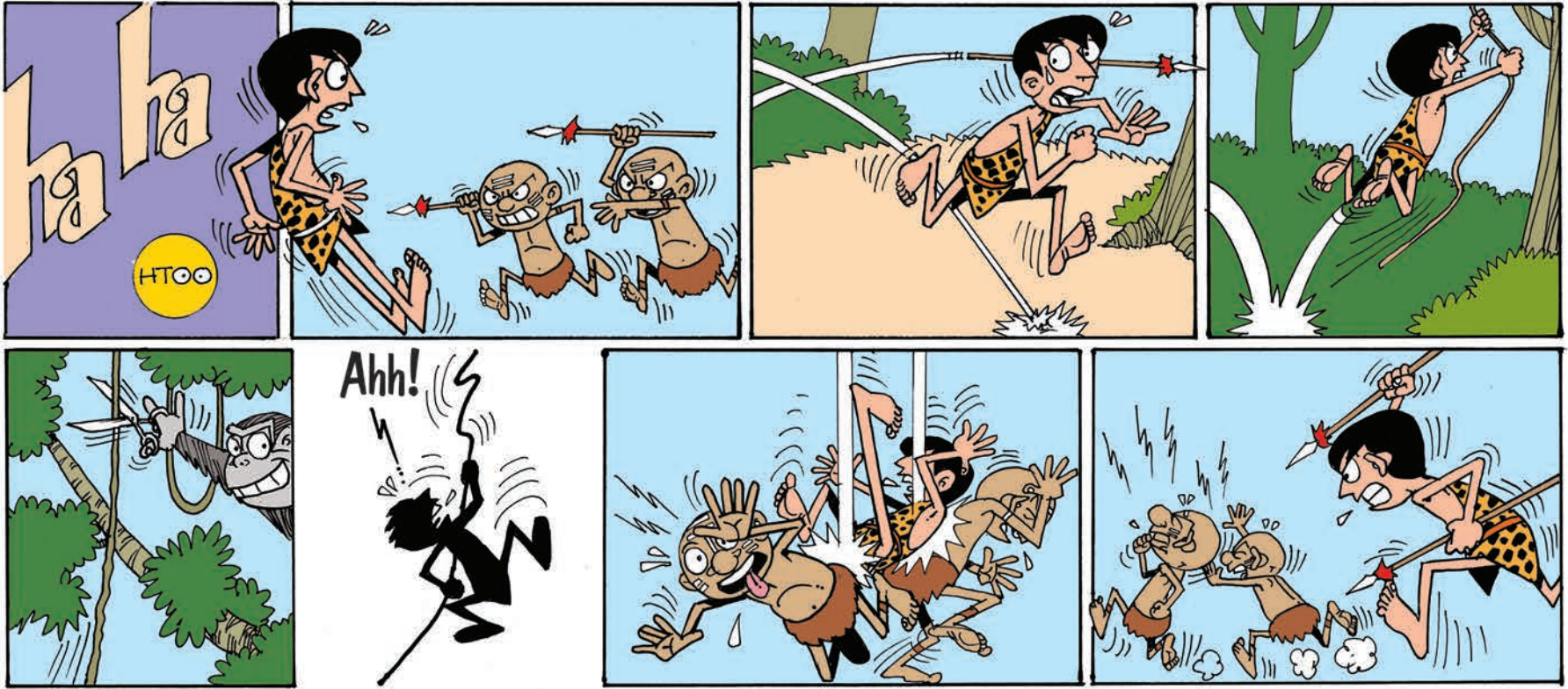
Translated by Nat Ye Hla

PHOTOS: YE KHAUNG NYUNT



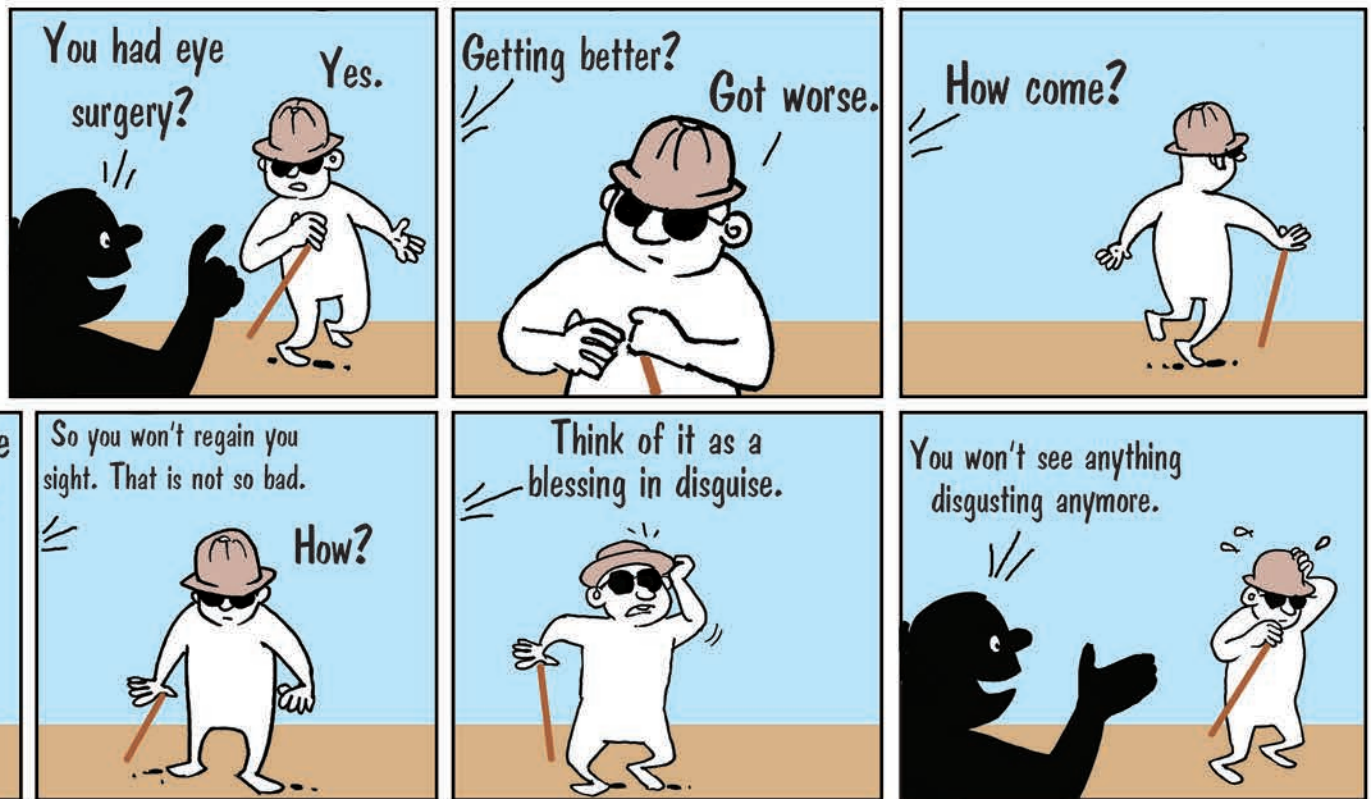
U Joseph, 56, the youngest son of Aung San Thuriya Taik Chun.

SUNDAY COMICS



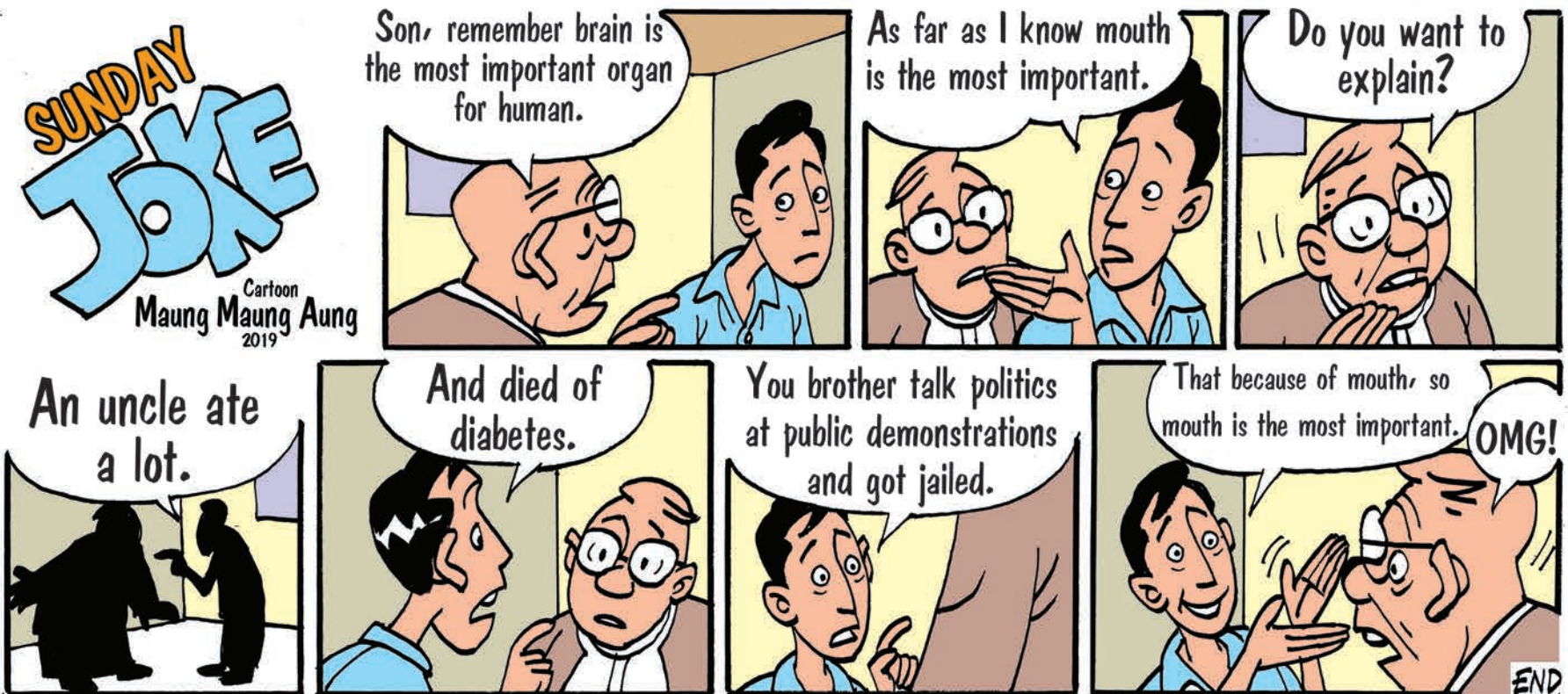
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

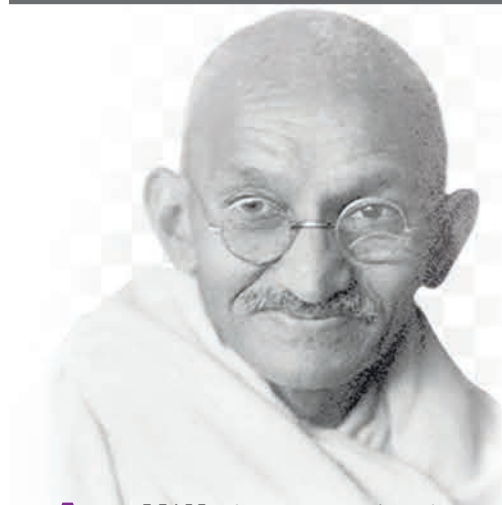
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2019





If one really wants to be free ...

A MAN who was wearing the faded clothes gazed at each items being displayed in a bazaar of Athens, a City State, over two thousand years ago. The man was asked by nearby one if he wanted anything. Then, the man replied, "I am looking for what man really needs." The owner of that answer was the Greek Philosopher named Socrates (BC 469 – 399). He seemed derisive to that people were more extremely craving upon the physical materials than they were needed. He had not been craving what was more than they were needed. I have read in history books about him who wore dirty and faded clothes and was walking bare-footed.

Nowadays, there are countless numbers of materials and utensils due to the improvement in technology. There are various kinds of more modernized cars, various textiles and clothes, various kinds of smart phones, variety of foodstuff etc. Newly development of various products emerge day after day. According to the nature of man, if one sees the new and strange thing, he wants to own it. He wants to show off using it among his friends. He also wants using it in the parallel staging. Therefore, the mind of craving on new and modern materials grows stronger and stronger day after day. With this mind, man was struggling for his living and spending most of his time.

Mental factors seemed to become chocked in the world which the materials get more and more developed. Mahatma Gandhi said, "Although the world can fulfill the needs of man, it cannot do the wants of them." Want is a kind of craving which will never be enough to appease hunger. One's wants will need to be fulfilled forever as much as he wants. As long as one wants something, it will be needed. As long as it is needed, it will be hot for him.

Another factor is the growing state of egoism. Due to the growing state of egoism, loving kindness gets less and less. To say how less loving kindness gets up to a situation in which even a couple who are in bilateral love try to murder each

other. A boyfriend threw his sweetheart with acid. A girlfriend stabbed her sweetheart with knife. Such information is antagonistic to the essence of loving kindness. Even those who share love with mutual understanding are showing the cruel and horrible actions. Loving kindness is made to dye and stained black.

In fact, this is because egoism is

much more than loving kindness. It is the ego called that one has to own one's life. It is the ego called that he or she will have to become the one in such the way that is wanted to become. There is a short verse composed by a famous poet saying...

"I set free you
May I be free"

The one who grasps the other life is the one who is really tied and un-free. The one who is grasping tightly and pulling a string with strength has to feel

By Ms. Moon
Final year Honours
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a severe pain in his hands. If he makes it loose, he will be free from such pain. It is essential for an escape that everyone happens not to grasp something with his ego.

There is a technique to catch monkey in Africa. A coconut top is made a hole through which a hand of a monkey can be enough to put into. Then, the liquid endosperm of the coconut is poured out and placed a palm sugar in it. After that, the coconut is placed where monkeys can easily see. When a monkey sees the coconut, it climbs down the tree and thrusts its hand into the hole of the coconut to take out the palm sugar from it. Then, it grasps the palm sugar and tries to withdraw the hand from the hole. However, due to its fist which is grasping the palm sugar, the monkey cannot withdraw its hand. Therefore, the monkey who stays on the tree cannot climb up the tree again with the coconut plugged in his hand and the monkey-catcher easily catches it. If the monkey loosens the palm sugar, its hand can be withdrawn and it can escape from the danger. However, as it cannot abandon and leave the palm sugar, it is caught by the monkey-catcher.

In like manner, when we are choked and hot from something, do take notice and then we will see that we are grasping something which might be either a greed or an ego that is identical to the palm sugar in the money's hand. Loosen it and leave it.



FROM PAGE- S-3

Not only host the competition but they also make a stage on which a person who has worn the royal outfit of the spirit "Moe Khaung Kyaw Swar", dance Myanmar traditional dance with the help of Myanmar traditional orchestra called "Sine Wine". When women team

and men team compete in the tug-of-war competition, the rest group of men and the group of women sing antiphonal chant, "Than Chat", satirically with each other. Monks also take their responsibility for the rain-calling festival by reciting "Nga Yant Min" sutta. After holding the festival with residents and monks,

raining mostly starts. The residents can wear smiles on their lips as their wish is fulfilled by raindrops.

In these days, most of the places of Myanmar are suffering from the hotness. All of the people are wishing to feel the coolness of the raindrops. Therefore, the rain-calling festival is being hosted in

some places by the residents. As I live in Mandalay, I can see most of the quarters of Mandalay are hosting the rain-calling festival. So, wherever I see the people who are trying to see raindrops, I wish we all could free from hotness and feel the coolness of the raindrops.





By Moe Htet

An enjoyable job or a good salary?

NO one can argue that job plays an important role in people's life for different reasons including survival, dignity, satisfaction, etc.... The question of whether people need an enjoyable job or a job with good salary is still compromising. This essay discusses both of these views on the basis of people's choice between personal expectations and life's demanding.

To enjoy the job is absolutely important. The reason is that enjoyment in the job you do is one of the secret of true success in life. Like Bill Gate; in his life, he chose the job with the idea he expected or enjoyed to do which benefit not only himself but also people in nowadays. He has empowered the usefulness of technology. He has really become a successful person after doing the enjoyable job. Charlie Chaplin (16 April 1889-25 Dec 1977) has also been one of the great men who has done many jobs, for example, comic actor, director, etc... with the dream he expected. He is the one who was able to share his enjoyment as well. Both of them have been capable of making their survival, dignity and satisfaction.

In another view, job with good salary is vital too. Why the good salary is important is that without good salary, people can't live in a live in Luxury. Demoralize people in many countries are not able to choose for their satisfaction because they can't even stand for their survival. Thousands of death occur in many countries due to lack of salary. Although they have ideas, they



are not able to express their ideas. That's the reason good salary is important.

Lastly, both the choices between personal expectation and life's demanding are within the limits of how people share their ideas to others with good attitude and the basic need of human being to deal with their survival, dignity, satisfaction, etc... ■

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE



YANGON TO BANGKOK				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily	
8M335	7:40	9:25	Daily	
UB-019	7:45	9:40	Daily	
TG2304	9:50	11:45	Daily	
PG702	10:30	12:30	Daily	
TG2302	11:30	13:25	3,4,5,7	
PG708	15:20	17:20	1,3,5,6,7	
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily	
UB-017	17:25	19:20	Daily	
PG704	18:20	20:20	Daily	
TG306	19:45	21:40	Daily	

BANGKOK TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
TG2303	7:55	8:50	Daily	
PG701	8:50	9:40	Daily	
TG2301	9:35	10:30	3,4,5,7	
8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily	
UB020	11:00	11:55	1,3,5,6,7	
PG707	13:45	14:45	1,3,5,6,7	
PG703	16:45	17:35	Daily	
TG305	17:50	18:45	Daily	
8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily	
PG705	20:40	22:00	Daily	
UB018	20:20	21:15	Daily	

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily	
MH741	11:30	15:50	Daily	
OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7	
MH743	16:15	20:30	1,4,6,7	
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6	

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
AK504	6:45	7:55	Daily	
MH740	9:10	10:25	Daily	
OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7	
MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7	
OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6	

YANGON TO SHANGHAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
MU2099	22:15	1:35+1	2,4,6	

SHANGHAI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
MU2100	2:35	8:50	3,5,7	

YANGON TO DON MUEANG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
DD4231	8:05	9:50	Daily	
FD252	8:30	10:15	Daily	
SL201	9:25	11:15	Daily	
FD254	17:30	19:15	Daily	
FD258	19:25	21:15	Daily	
SL207	20:45	22:45	Daily	
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily	

DON MUEANG TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
DD4230	6:20	7:05	Daily	
FD251	7:15	8:00	Daily	
SL200	7:35	8:25	Daily	
FD253	16:10	17:00	Daily	
FD257	18:05	18:55	Daily	
SL206	18:55	19:45	Daily	
DD4238	19:30	20:15	Daily	

YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KE472	23:30	7:15	Daily	

SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KE471	18:15	22:10	Daily	

YANGON TO DUBAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
EK389	2:20	5:40	5,7	

DUBAI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
EK388	9:15	17:25	1,3,5,7	

YANGON TO GUANGZHOU				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7	
CZ3056	11:25	15:55	3,6	
CZ8472	17:30	22:00	1,5	

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CZ3055	8:30	10:20	3,6	
8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7	
CZ8471	14:40	16:30	1,5	

YANGON TO TAIPEI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CI7916	10:45	16:15	Daily	

TAIPEI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CI7915	7:00	9:45	Daily	

YANGON TO KUNMING				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CA416	12:15	15:45	Daily	
MU2012	13:10	20:05	3	
MU2032	16:00	19:50	Daily	

KUNMING TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
MU2011	8:20	12:10	3,7	
CA415	10:45	11:15	Daily	
MU2031	14:30	15:10	Daily	

YANGON TO SINGAPORE				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
UB001	7:30	12:00	Daily	
8M231	8:20	12:50	Daily	
SQ997	10:35	15:10	Daily	
3K582	11:15	15:50	1,3,4,5,7	
UB003	16:15	20:45	Daily	
MI519	17:35	22:10	1,2,3,4	
SQ995	17:35	22:10	5,6,7	
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,4	
3K584	19:15	23:50	1,2,5,6,7	

SINGAPORE TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily	
3K581	8:55	10:25	1,2,5,6,7	
UB002	13:15	14:45	Daily	
8M232	13:50	15:20	Daily	
MI518	15:15	16:40	1,2,3,4	
SQ996	15:15	16:40	5,6,7	
MI520	16:10	17:35	3,4	
3K583	16:55	18:35	1,3,4,5,7	
UB004	21:45	23:15	Daily	

YANGON TO BEIJING				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,5,7	

BEIJING TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CA905	19:30	22:50	1,3,5,7	

YANGON TO HANIO				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN956	18:55	21:15	Daily	
VJ918	18:55	21:20	Daily	

HANIO TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN957	16:30	18:00	Daily	
VJ917	16:30	17:55	Daily	

YANGON TO HONG KONG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KA251	1:05	5:25	1,2,3,4,6,7	
UB8027	7:25	12:05	3,5,7	
KA275	17:20	21:45	5	

HONG KONG TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
UB8028	13:05	14:50	3,5,7	
KA250	21:50	23:45	1,2,3,5,6,7	
KA252	22:20	00:10+1	4	

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN942	12:10	15:05	1,3,4,5,7	

HO CHI MINH TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN943	9:30	11:05	1,3,4,5,7	

YANGON TO TOKYO				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
NH814	21:45	6:50+1	Daily	

TOKYO TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
NH813	11:15	16:05	Daily	

YANGON TO DOHA				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
QR919	7:40	11:55	1,3,4,6,7	

DOHA TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
QR918	20:00	5:30	2,3,5,6,7	

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG724	13:10	15:05	Daily	

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG723	10:40	12:35	Daily	

AIR LINES CODES			
3K = Jet Star	MH = Malaysia Airlines		
8M = Myanmar Airways International	MI = Silk Air		
AI = Air India	MU = China Eastern Airlines		
AK = Air Asia	NH = All Nippon Airways		
BG = Biman Bangladesh Airlines	PG = Bangkok Airways		
CA = Air China	QR = Qatar Airways		
CI = China Airlines	SL = Thai Lion Air		
CZ = China Southern	SQ = Singapore Airways		
DD = Nok Airline	TG = Thai Airways		
FD = Air Asia	TR = Tiger Airlines		
KA = Dragonair	UB = Myanmar National Airlines		
KE = Korea Airlines	VN = Vietnam Airlines		

DATE			
1 = Monday	4 = Thursday		
2 = Tuesday	5 = Friday		
3 = Wednesday	6 = Saturday		
	7 = Sunday		

Subjected to change by respective airlines.
Hotline - (951) 229245