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Sunday, 8 March 2020

Message of Greetings sent by Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary of the Pa-O National Day

(8 March 2020)

ON the auspicious occasion of the 71st Anniversary of Pa-O National Day which falls on 8 March 2020, the Full Moon Day of Tabaung, 1381 BE, I send this message of greetings with good wishes and metta for good health and well-being of all our union born Pa-O brothers and sisters.

Pa-O people are a union born national ethnic race who have migrated into the Union of Myanmar in search of clear waters and green pastures

and have been living together with other union born ethnic national races in weal and woe. With due regard to the birthday of King Suriya Chanda, which is steeped in tradition and significance for the Pa-O national race, I understand that the full moon day of Tabaung, has been designated and celebrated as the Pa-O National Day since many years ago. I feel pleased and honored that this day has been celebrated for the last 71 years after we gained independence,

I feel greatly honored that the 71st Anniversary of Pa-O National Day has been celebrated for the perpetuation of the Union, all Union ethnic races to be imbued with Union spirit, establishment of a modern and developed Democratic Federal Union, establishment of genuine and lasting peace, Pa-O regions to be modern and developed, and development of Pa-O national literature, culture and traditions.

SEE PAGE-3

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin pays official visit to Lao PDR Laos donates US\$ 50,000 for humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State

At the invitation of Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR, the Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation paid an official visit to the Lao People's Democratic Republic from 5 to 6 March 2020 and attended the 12th Meeting of Myanmar-Laos Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC).

In the afternoon of 6 March, the Union Minister U Kyaw Tin paid courtesy calls on Vice President Mr. Phankham Viphavan at the Presidential Palace and Prime Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith at the Prime Minister's Office on separate occasion. At the meetings, the two sides cordially exchanged views on matters related to the further consolidation of the existing

SEE PAGE-3



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin and Foreign Minister of Laos Mr Saleumxay Kommasith sign the agreed minutes of the 12th Meeting of Myanmar-Laos Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC). PHOTO: MNA

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UPDJC secretary's group meeting, UPDJC meeting to be held on 10, 12 March respectively

GOVERNMENT representatives and the representatives of (NCA-S EAO) held a bilateral coordination meeting at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon at 10 am yesterday to implement the minutes of the 8th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) on Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

In his concluding address, Vice Chair of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo said during the two days the meeting discussed the phase-wise work programs beyond 2020 of the framework agreement on the implementation of NCA and the progress in realizing them.

The Union Attorney General said negotiations on the attitude of both sides were held alongside the political dialogues to materialize reconciliation task, that were discussed from the security point of view. The two-day meeting could produce many agreements as well as issues that need further negotiations. It is believed that gradually, those issues can be settled.

He said we could hold continuous task group meetings on the designated dates in accordance with the JICM minutes. Plans are underway to continue the UPDJC secretary's group meeting, the UPDJC meeting and the JICM meeting, and there is a bilateral agreement for them. We could

also discuss the submission of the issue at the JICM meeting, the holding of JICM, and the fixing of dates for political dialogues. We could also make progressive results in organizing further meeting as programmed.

NCA Implementation Framework Coordinating Leader Sao Sai Nguen said the meeting has produced more agreements, following the detailed discussions on the proposals raised again by the negotiation teams of both sides. The meeting has made progress in holding talks on the NCA implementation agreement that will be signed at the section 3 of the Union Peace Agreement, future tasks after 2020 and stage-wise implementations and the basic principles of the federal system, thanks to efforts of the joint action teams of both sides.

The bilateral coordination meeting reached an agreement to hold the UPDJC secretary's group meeting on 10 this month and UPDJC meeting on 12 this month, apart from discussing the programs to hold a national level political dialogue. Hence, UPDJC, which is an important pillar for the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong, will become active against, he noted.

Views on the involvement of non-signatories to NCA in the peace process were exchanged at the meeting. As for the adoption of basic federal principles the Government discussed the five



Government representatives and the representatives of (NCA-S EAO) hold the bilateral coordination meeting at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

guidelines for building federal democracy, and the NCA-S EAO presented its own federal policy. The agreement of the basic federal principles will be signed in the section 3 of the Union Peace Agreement, he said.

At this third bilateral coordination meeting, the negotiation teams of both sides have agreed to harmoniously carry out the work programs through mutual understanding to hold the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong on the designated date, he said.

The coordination meeting has agreed to hold of the UPDJC secretary's group meeting and the UPDJC meeting at NRPC

Office in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 and 12 March 2020 respectively, and the participants discussed the NCA implementation agreement that will be signed in the section 3 of Union Peace Agreement, stage-wise future work programs after 2020 and stage-wise implementation of the programs and the basic federal principles of the Government and NCA-S EAO.

The government's representatives at the meeting were the Attorney General, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Peace Commission Secretary Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U

Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win, advisers of the Peace Commission U Hla Shwe Maung and U Moe Zaw Oo and Director-General U Zaw Htay from the Office of the Ministry of the State Counsellor. The Ethnic Armed Organizations were represented by Sao Sai Nguen, NCA implementation coordinator U Myo Win and coordinators U Hla Htay, Saw Mra Raza Lin, Dr Hlan Hmon Sar Khaung, Salai Htalaw Hae, Saw Sein Win, Phado Saw Tardo Mu, Phado Saw Al Kalu Sae, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Salmon, Dr Sai Oo and Nan Yin Yin Soe.

(Translated by TMT)
News: Ye Khaung Nyunt

MSWRR Union Minister meets town/village-based volunteers in Pyapon, Dedaye

UNION Minister Dr Win Myat Aye of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement highlighted that the ministry is reaching out to the people and providing their social needs. People's participation and involvement are important in this regard. Volunteers take leading roles to do good not only for themselves but also for the others as they are closely related. They also strive for a better society.

The minister also informed that the MCCT (Maternal and Child Cash Transfer) programme will be carried out within Ayeyawady Region when he met with the town/village-based volunteers from Pyapon and Dedaye, who will be participating in the implementation, yesterday.

At the meeting, the matters relating to registration of entitled



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye poses for a group photo with volunteers in Pyapon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

pregnant women and under-2-year-old children, nutrition, personal hygiene, family healthcare, other services and provisions by the ministry and information about natural disasters were also discussed.

The MCCT programme has been initiated, as a priority, in Chin and Rakhine States in 2017-2018 financial year. It has also been extended to Kayin and Kayah States. Expansion of the programme this year will be in

Ayeyawady Region and Shan State, he added.

It aims to develop both body and mind of the children since they are young and to enhance better human resources for Myanmar as well as for the entire

society. The programme is being implemented with the State fund and low-interest loan from the World Bank. It is necessary to ensure no losses and shortcomings with the State fund. It is also important to pay back the loan in time. The ministry is also planning to use an electronic cash transfer system for speedy cash assistance, he said.

The MCCT programme will conduct 158 trainings for town/village-based volunteers from 26 townships and six districts in Ayeyawady Region.

The minister, in the morning, donated 500,000 Kyats, blankets and bedsheets to the Kandawmingalar Elderly Home in Pyapon. He also gave cash assistance of K27 million to 27 social organizations in Dedaye and Kyaiklat.—MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Message of Greetings sent by Chairperson of National Reconciliation and Peace Centre Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary of the Pa-O National Day

(8 March 2020)

FROM PAGE-1

Pa-O ethnic nationals have participated in the struggle for independence with ardent patriotic spirit. They attended and participated in the discussions of the Panglong Conference which is a milestone of the struggle for independence; U Phyu, the representative of the Thaton Sawbwa, signed the Panglong agreement on behalf of Pa-O ethnic nationals. I have thus seen that they have vibrant and ardent Union spirit.

I wish to thank and honor all Pa-O ethnic nationals for actively participating in the efforts to end the internal armed conflicts which came together with independence, achieving enduring and lasting peace and establishment of a Democratic Federal Union.

I am very delighted that Pa-O ethnic nationals have adopted and are implementing as the duties of all Pa-O nationals, unity based on the Democratic Federal Union, peaceful coexistence with other ethnic national brothers and sisters in weal and woe in friendship and respect; and also the development of their traditions, literature and culture.

It is a matter of pleasure and joy to see that Pa-O ethnic nationals are enjoying the fruits of peace such as education, health, transport and communications and improvement of socio-economic status as they want to live in peace.

I am also pleased and honoured to know that the PNLO (Pa-O National Liberation Organization) has signed the NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) and is actively participating and cooperating in the

Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong process, which aims to establish the Democratic Federal Union, and also in the regional development programmes.

In conclusion, I have honour and pleasure to send this message of greetings with good wishes for the progress and prosperity of all our Pa-O ethnic nationals; may you all be able to maintain forever the traditional culture and traditions and also the good tradition of “donating what little you have”; may you all be able to continue and participate hand in hand with other ethnic brothers and sisters, collectively and in unity, in the march towards the Democratic Federal Union; and may you all have peace of mind and tranquility in your hearts.

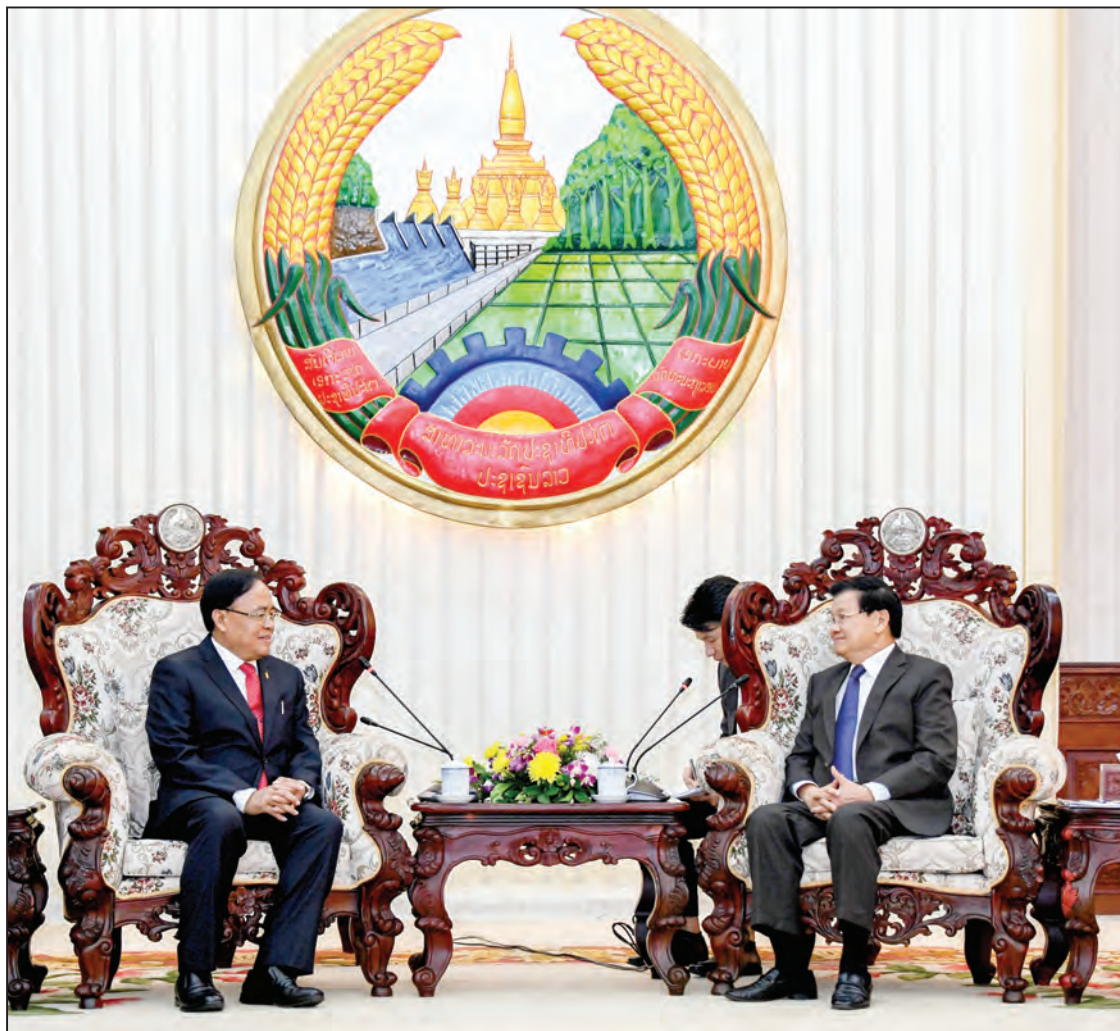
Aung San Suu Kyi

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin pays official visit to Lao PDR Laos donates US\$ 50,000 for humanitarian assistance in Rakhine State

FROM PAGE-1

existing bilateral ties through frequent exchange of high-level visits, participation of Myanmar leader at the forthcoming Mekong- Lancang Cooperation Summit to be held in Vientiane, to convene commemorative events for the 65th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, to lend mutual support in regional and multilateral fora as well as to enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields, particularly in trade and investment, agriculture, energy, tourism and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

The 12th Meeting of Myanmar-Laos Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Laos PDR in Vientiane on 6 March and was co-chaired by U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of Myanmar and Mr Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR. During the meeting, the two sides discussed on a wide range of matters pertaining to the further promotion of existing bilateral relations and multi-faceted cooperation in various sectors, including trade, education, agriculture, energy, culture and tourism, finalizing



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets with Prime Minister of Laos Mr Thongloun Sisoulith. PHOTO: MNA

of an MOU on Labour Cooperation, effective utilization of the Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge and allowing local populace to visit each other by using border passes as well as enhancing closer collaboration at both regional and interna-

tional fora. Following the meeting, the two Ministers signed the Agreed Minutes of the 12th Meeting of Myanmar-Laos Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation.

Subsequently, the two Ministers attended the ceremony

to hand over US\$ 50,000 for the rehabilitation efforts in Rakhine State by the Government of the Lao PDR. The Union Minister presented the Certificate of Appreciation to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR on behalf of the Union

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

Myanmar Ambassador to the Lao PDR U Ko Ko Naing and Senior Officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, and Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population also attended the JCBC meeting.

The 12th Ministerial Meeting was preceded by Senior Officials' Meeting led by U Aung Ko, Director-General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and Mr Bounthanongsack Chanthath, Acting Director-General of Asia Pacific and Africa Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 5 March 2020.

In the evening of 5 March, the Union Minister and Myanmar delegation attended the welcome dinner hosted by Saleumxay Kommasith, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Lao PDR at the Lao Plaza Hotel.

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation and the Myanmar delegation arrived back to Yangon by air in the evening of 7 March 2020.— MNA

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Old stamps, coins, bank notes on display to mark Yangon University's 100th anniversary



Visitors looking at the old stamps, coins and bank notes being displayed at the Recreation Centre of Yangon University. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

TO celebrate the 100th anniversary of Yangon University, old stamps, coins and bank notes are on display at the Recreation Centre at the university.

The stamps, issued in honour of world famous leaders, Nobel prize winners and in commemoration of special days and

celebrations, are on display.

These ancient coins, dating through successive years from the time of the Pyu era to the current day, along with old bank notes, have attracted visitors and students.

The exhibition is jointly hosted by the past and new

generations of the universities' hiking and trekking association, as well as private collectors.

"The purpose of the exhibition is to tell the people about the changes in history through stamps, coins and bank notes," said Daw Swe Swe Ohn, Lecturer at Yangon University's

Department of Chemistry and Secretary of the Universities' Hiking and Trekking Association.

Myanmar issued its first stamp in 1938.—Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Authorities accept migrant workers handed over by Thailand after COVID-19 test

AUTHORITIES in Kawthoung accepted 69 Myanmar migrant workers handed over by Thai authorities on 6th March after they were confirmed to be free of the COVID-19 infection by health authorities. The migrant workers, including 65 men and four women, returned home after serving prison terms for various reasons in Thailand.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



A nurse checks the body temperature of Myanmar migrant workers who return from Thailand on 6 March. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)**



Officials check the confiscated timbers in Ottwin on 5 March. **PHOTO: LU AUNG (KATHA)**

Illegal teak lumber confiscated in Ottwin Township

ACTING on a tip off, a combined inspection team from the Forest Department from Toungoo confiscated illegal timber at Milepost 144/2 on a highway in Ottwin Township at 11:23 pm on 5 March.

The team stopped a six-wheel vehicle coming from Ahwayyar village and found the vehicle to be carrying 68 illegal teak logs weighing 4.8252 tons.

The team also found another 356 teak logs weighing 18.9672 tons, including 218 teak logs weighing 9.3898 tons and 70 Pyinkado wood logs weighing 4.7522 tons.

The Forest Department is still investigating the owner of the vehicle and the illegal wood. Currently, the department is taking action against the driver.—Lu Aung (Katha)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Power of glasses can now be reduced with Femto Lasik technology

THE strength of eye glasses can now be reduced in Myanmar, for the first time, thanks to the introduction of Femto Lasik technology, according to ophthalmologist Prof Dr Tin Win.

“In our medical field, life is not perfect, except due to the existence of professional physicians and surgeons. We must also have abundant supplies of medicines and medical apparatuses. The technology, called Femto Lasik, is now available in Myanmar, which reduces the strength of spectacles”, said Prof Dr Tin Win at a media conference held on 6 March at American Vision on Shwebontha Street.

Thanks to the introduction of Femto Lasik technology, more than 60 patients have successfully undergone eye operations. This new technology can support the reduction of the power of glasses for those who have to wear thick lenses, despite their young age, he added.

Previously, those who wished to reduce the power of glasses had to go to Thailand or Singapore to undergo this eye surgery. This has resulted in some US\$ 2 million per year leaving Myanmar. Now, eye surgeons from Myanmar can perform this operation using Femto Lasik technology.—Myint Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)



The strength of eye glasses can now be reduced in Myanmar with the aid of Femto Lasik technology. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

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Myanmar, Korea to cooperate in transport sector

MYANMAR and South Korea will cooperate in the transport and logistics sectors, according to U San Khine Hla, chairman of the Myanmar Transport and Logistics Federation (MTLF).

“Myanmar and South Korea signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the transport and logistics sector at the Ministry of Transport

and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 February,” he added.

According to the MoU, the exchanges of information and communication technology, holding of workshops and training will be included in the transportation and logistics sector.

Mr. Sigon Kim, chairman of the Korean Society of Transport (KST), and officials from MTLF

held an inspection tour of Bagan, Mandalay and Kyaukse towns so they might observe the real situation on the ground.

MTLF will seek to contribute towards the development of Myanmar’s transportation sector through cooperation with South Korea.—Ko Kyay Mohn

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar earns \$4.6 bln from total border trade

THE value of border trade reached US\$4.6 billion between 1 October and 28 February this fiscal year, recording an increase of \$493 million compared with the same period last FY, according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The total border trade value, as of 28 February this FY, included \$3.02 billion in exports and \$1.55 billion in imports. Compared with the last FY, the export earnings increased by more than \$113 million, while the import val-

ue increased by \$380 million. At this time last year, border trade was valued at \$4.07 billion.

The country is conducting border trade with China, Thailand, Bangladesh and India. Myanmar has 18 border trade centers at Muse, Lweje, Chinswehew, Kampaiti, Kengtung, Techilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Nabule/Htikhi, Mawtaung, Maese, Sittwe, Maungdaw, Tamu, Reik, Htantalan, Kenglap.

Among all gates, the Muse

border gate sees the largest volume and value of border trade, with an estimated value of \$2.2 billion this FY, followed by Hteekee with \$788 million and Myawady with \$493 million.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, fisheries, minerals and forest products to foreign countries, while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported into the country.—GNLM (Translated by Hay Mar)

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Trucks seen at 105-mile trade zone Muse, northern Shan State. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Situation of Laboratory Test for COVID-19

8:00pm on 7 March 2020

Sr	Name of Hospital	Gender	Aged	Date of laboratory sampling received from HHL	Date sending it to reference laboratory	Date of laboratory confirmation	COVID-19 Result
1	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	55 years old	31-1-2020	1 - 2 - 2020	3-2-2020	Negative Result
2	Loikaw General Hospital	Female	2 years, 2 months	2-2-2020	3 - 2 - 2020	5-2-2020	Negative Result
3	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	15 years	2-2-2020	3 - 2 - 2020	5-2-2020	Negative Result
4	Kengtung General Hospital	Female	1years, 2 months	2-2-2020	3 - 2 - 2020	5-2-2020	Negative Result
5	Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed General Hospital	Male	29 years	2-2-2020	3 - 2 - 2020	5-2-2020	Negative Result
6	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	32 years	3-2-2020	4 - 2 - 2020	7-2-2020	Negative Result
7	Minbya Township Hospital	Male	38 years	3-2-2020	4 - 2 - 2020	7-2-2020	Negative Result
8	Yankin Children Hospital	Female	24 years	5-2-2020	6 - 2 - 2020	11-2-2020	Negative Result
9	Yankin Children Hospital	Male	2 years	5-2-2020	6 - 2 - 2020	11-2-2020	Negative Result
10	Namatung General Hospital	Male	4 5 years	5-2-2020	6 - 2 - 2020	11-2-2020	Negative Result
11	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	28 years	6-2-2020	7 - 2 - 2020	11-2-2020	Negative Result
12	Labutta General Hospital	Female	33 years	6-2-2020	7 - 2 - 2020	11-2-2020	Negative Result
13	Labutta General Hospital	Male	51 years	6-2-2020	7 - 2 - 2020	11-2-2020	Negative Result
14	Sao San Htun General Hospital	Male	19 years	9-2-2020	1 0 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
15	Patigone Station Hospital	Female	32 years	9-2-2020	1 0 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
16	Ponnagyun Township Hospital	Female	18 years	9-2-2020	1 0 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
17	Magway General Hospital	Female	45 years	10-2-2020	1 0 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
18	Mandalay General Hospital	Male	53 years	10-2-2020	1 0 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
19	Mandalay General Hospital	Female	24 years	10-2-2020	1 0 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
20	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Female	29 years	10-2-2020	1 1 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
21	Maungtaw General Hospital	Male	21 years	10-2-2020	1 1 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result

22	Paauk Township Hospital	Female	34 years	11-2-2020	1 1 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
23	Mawksai General Hospital	Male	44 years	11-2-2020	1 1 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
24	Mawksai General Hospital	Female	44 years	11-2-2020	1 1 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
25	Mawksai General Hospital	Female	19 years	11-2-2020	1 1 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
26	Mawksai General Hospital	Female	1 6 years	11-2-2020	1 1 - 2 - 2020	14-2-2020	Negative Result
27	Mongkat Township Hospital	Male	3 6 years	12-2-2020	1 3 - 2 - 2020	16-2-2020	Negative Result
28	Mogoke General Hospital	Female	21 years	13-2-2020	1 3 - 2 - 2020	16-2-2020	Negative Result
29	Mandalay General Hospital	Male	24 years	14-2-2020	1 4 - 2 - 2020	20-2-2020	Negative Result
30	Lashio Township Hospital	Female	17 years	14-2-2020	1 4 - 2 - 2020	20-2-2020	Negative Result
31	Taungtha Township Hospital	Male	38 years	14-2-2020	1 4 - 2 - 2020	20-2-2020	Negative Result
32	Myittha Township Hospital	Male	1 8 years	15-2-2020	1 5 - 2 - 2020	20-2-2020	Negative Result
33	Myittha Township Hospital	Male	34 years	15-2-2020	1 5 - 2 - 2020	20-2-2020	Negative Result
34	Lashio Township Hospital	Male	40 years	16-2-2020	1 7 - 2 - 2020	20-2-2020	Negative Result
35	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	38 years	15-2-2020	1 7 - 2 - 2020	20-2-2020	Negative Result
36	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	49 years	16-2-2020	1 7 - 2 - 2020	20-2-2020	Negative Result
37	Magway General Hospital	Male	25 years	19-2-2020	1 9 - 2 - 2020	22-2-2020	Negative Result
38	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	4 0 years	19-2-2020		20-2-2020	Negative Result
39	Mandalay General Hospital	Female	26 years	20-2-2020		20-2-2020	Negative Result
40	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	26 years	20-2-2020		20-2-2020	Negative Result
41	Muse Township Hospital	Male	23 years	27-2-2020		27-2-2020	Negative Result
42	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	32 years	26-2-2020		27-2-2020	Negative Result
43	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	27 years	28-2-2020		28-2-2020	Negative Result
44	Muse Township Hospital	Male	20 years	28-2-2020		29-2-2020	Negative Result

Unsafe surgery may cause unnecessary deaths or undesired consequences: Dr Myint Htwe

A seminar on safe surgery was held at the Ministry of Health and Sports in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said treatment has two sectors which are medical sector and surgery sector. The surgery sector involves the special cases including bone, neurological, cardio, gynecology and obstetrics surgical operations and anaesthetic, apart from surgical science. Unnecessary deaths or undesired consequences occur when pre-surgery measures and post-surgery measures are not taken properly. So, there must be the checklist for the proper conducting of the measures, and the meet-

ing will focus on them. The area of patient safety begins from the time the patient undergoes medical check, and continues through the stages from diagnosing, medication, ex-raying to surgical operations (if necessary) and recovery.

As regards the matter, the Central Committee to Ensure Patient Safety was formed in November 2019. It is required to form sector-wise subcommittees that will practically adopt and implement policies, programs and guidelines. The ministry has been holding workshops on patient safety, providing township and station health officers with trainings, reinforcing the work of preventing and controlling the diseases



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the consultative meeting on surgical safety in Nay Pyi Taw on 6 March.
PHOTO: MNA

spread through hospitals, enhancing their abilities of medical staff and conduct-

ing awareness campaigns, he said. Rector of University

of Medicine-1 Dr Zaw Wai Soe and other physicians at different levels also

took part in the discussions. —MNA
(Translated by TMT)

Situation of Laboratory Test for COVID-19 8:00pm on 7 March 2020

FROM PAGE-6

45	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Female	25 years	28-2-2020		28-2-2020	Negative Result
46	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	29 years	2-3-2020		2-3-2020	Negative Result
47	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	37 years	2-3-2020		3-3-2020	Negative Result
48	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	32 years	2-3-2020		3-3-2020	Negative Result
49	Sittway Township Hospital	Male	29 years	2-3-2020		3-3-2020	Negative Result
50	Kandawndi Hospital	Male	24 years	3-3-2020		4-3-2020	Negative Result
51	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Female	25 years	3-3-2020		4-3-2020	Negative Result
52	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	36 years	3-3-2020		4-3-2020	Negative Result
53	Muse Township Hospital	Male	9 years	3-3-2020		5-3-2020	Negative Result
54	Kanpaing Township Hospital	Male	28 years	5-3-2020		6-3-2020	Negative Result
55	Mandalay General Hospital	Male	68 years	6-3-2020		6-3-2020	Negative Result
56	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Female	32 years	5-3-2020		5-3-2020	Negative Result

57	Muse Township Hospital	Male	27 years	6-3-2020		6-3-2020	Negative Result
58	Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed General Hospital	Male	35 years	6-3-2020		6-3-2020	Negative Result
59	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	40 years	6-3-2020		7-3-2020	Negative Result
60	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Female	30 years	6-3-2020		under test	
61	Yangon General Hospital	Male	34 years	6-3-2020		7-3-2020	Negative Result
62	Insein General Hospital	Male	14 years	6-3-2020		7-3-2020	Negative Result
63	Insein General Hospital	Male	13 years	6-3-2020		7-3-2020	Negative Result
64	Kandawndi Hospital	Male	35 years	Sending			
65	Linkal Station Hospital	Male	41 years	Sending			
66	Yedash Township Station	Male	37 years	Sending			
67	Kandawndi Hospital	Male	71 years	Sending			
68	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Male	30 years				

NHL- National Health Laboratory
Ministry of Health and Sports

End all forms of discrimination against women, girls to raise human rights standards

ANNUALLY on March 8, countries celebrate International Women's Day, providing an important moment to showcase their commitments and raise awareness about women's equality.

On the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the UN Women's "Generation Equality: Realizing women's rights for an equal future" campaign demands equal pay, equal sharing of unpaid care and domestic work, an end to sexual harassment and violence against women and girls, health-care services that respond to their needs, and their equal participation in political life and decision-making in all areas of life.

A democratic society is based upon the principle of "all human beings have equal rights". Contesting for elected office and voting in elections are the rights of all people.

The Union Election Commission will hold the 2020 general elections this year, with women running for office.

According to the 2014 Myanmar census, the population of women is higher than of men, but the number of women candidates reached only four per cent in the 2010 general elections and 13 per cent in the 2015 general elections.

As more women are expected to compete in the 2020 general elections, it is necessary to prevent disinformation and hate speech directed at women candidates, to promote equality in elections.

Today, on International Women's Day, we would like to urge the people of Myanmar to be on alert to the potential misuse of social media to spread false news and disinformation about female candidates in the general elections.

This is the pragmatic way to promote the rights of women in our country.

Globally, even as more women are participating in politics, they are facing not only the usual scrutiny involved in assuming a public role, but also a greater degree of danger due to the ways they are targeted, in terms of threats, intimidation, and personal attacks through social media.

Violence towards women and girls is being labeled as a global pandemic. The World Health Organization said that violence against women is a "global public health problem of epidemic proportions, requiring urgent action."

Violence against women in politics is a violation of human rights, and by hindering women's political participation, it is also a violation of women's political rights.

Let us remind everyone what the State Counsellor said at the International Women's Day celebration last year, "The more women get their rights, the higher the standard of human rights of a country."

We need to protect and end all forms of discrimination against women and girls, to ensure raising the standards of human rights in our country.

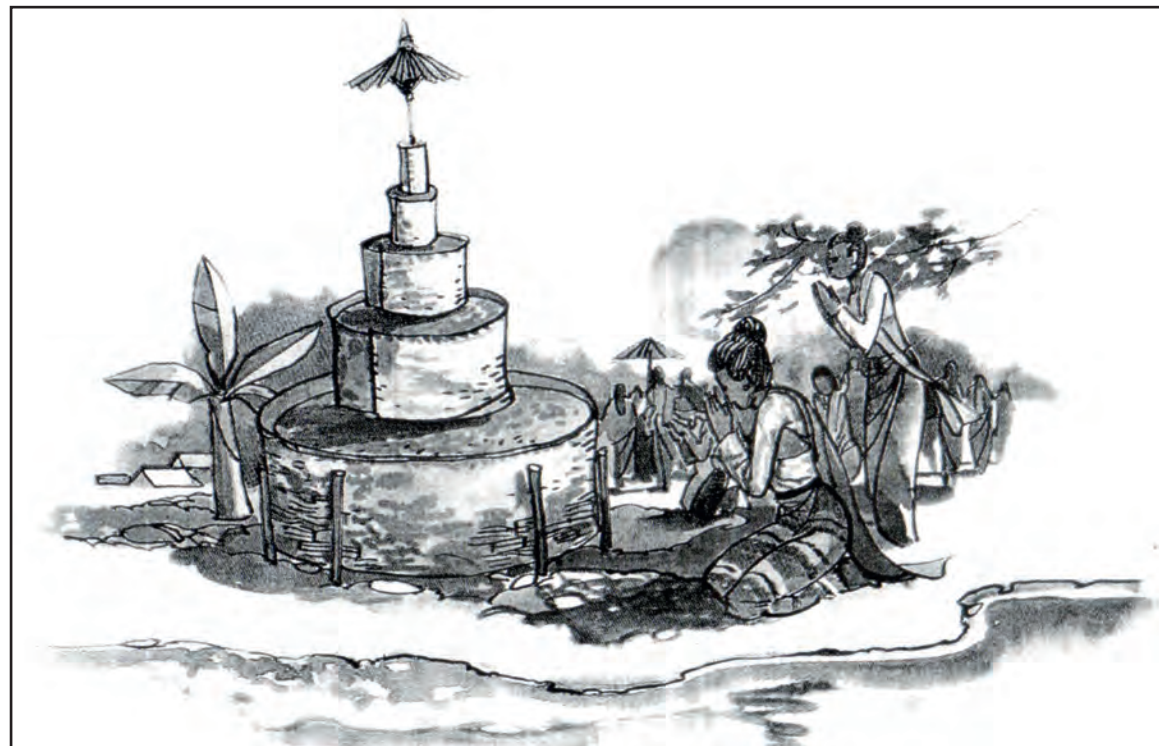


Tabaung, the month of Sand Pagoda Festival

By Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu

TABAUNG (March) is the 12th month of Myanmar calendar and it is the last month of the year. Being a transition between Winter and Summer Tabaung still covers Winter for its first half which is from the 1st to the 15th and enters into Summer in its second half which is from the 16th to 30th. Days in this month are getting warm while nights remain still cold. This peculiar weather gave rise to an old Myanmar saying "နေ့လို့ ညခန်း တပေါင်းလ၊ လသရမ်း" (Days are warm and nights are chilly, Tabaung is the month so unruly). Astrological name of Tabaung is Mina (Pices) and its zodiacal sign is two fish. Ou tara phala guni (ဥတ္တရဖလဂူနီ) which is asterism of two stars in Leo resembling the rear leg of a couch is the star of this month. Although many trees and plants bloom in Tabaung as it is the beginning of springtime, Tharaphi (Orchocapus Siamensis) and Pon Nyet (Orchocapus Siamensis) and Pon Nyet (calophyllum Inophyllum) are traditionally marked as flowers of this month.

The word "Tabaung" has two meanings according to Wahwaya Linahta Dipani Kyan(Book on Vocabulary). First, it means it is the month for yearning or longing or reminiscence. As the month is so beautiful and pleasant that one recalls one's sweet memories or one longs or yearns for one's loved ones. Second meaning is that it is the month during which jaggery (palm sugar) is made from toddy juice (natural juice from sugar palm). Tabaung is described as the queen of all months because it is in this month that natural landscape bursts forth all its beauties and splendours - sky and clouds change their colours and designs, woodlands put on all hues, foliage bears a variety of green, brooks carry away fallen leaves of copper and gold, lakes turn emerald green or sapphire blue, cuckoos sing to herald Summer, doves coo continuously to prepare for their mating game. Sparrows repair and renovate their nests in anticipation of the monsoon. Swarm of wasps and bees buzz around wild flowers, while butterflies flutter away with the nectar they have gathered early. As the sun declines, dark blue mountains appear behind the veil of haze. There is the smell of farm fire burning some-



where. At dusk, sweet fragrance of seasonal flora is wafted by the gentle breeze. Nature's night life begins as the waxing Tabaung moon gradually climbs above the treetops. Cacophony of cicada insects creates an eerie atmosphere. It is as though their incessant sounds accompany the dainty movements of the ripples in the lakes. The whole nocturnal scene is caressed by the silvery moonbeams. This is poetic Tabaung.

It is about poetic Tabaung that Ashin Kaludayi composed sixty stanzas of Pali poem to request the Lord Buddha to make a long journey through the glades to Kapilavatthu which was his royal father's kingdom. Tabaung is the favourite theme of Myanmar nature writers. Myanmar poets of past and present never get bored in praising the beauties of Tabaung. The long poem named "Tawla" (Travelogue) composed by monk poet Shin Uttama Kyaw of the Innwa Period is an unsurpassing literary piece that described nature in Tabaung. In Twelve season poems that flowed from the prolific pen of Pho Thudaw U Min of the late Konbaung Period, the stanza on Tabaung runs as follows:

"မန့်ရွှေစိုဦးလျှောက်လို့ မိတောက်ကယ်တဲ့ သင်းချို၊ ဥတ္တရဘာရုဇာတ်က၊ တိမ်ဘုံမှာ ချောင်းခြည် လင်းလို့၊ လမင်းသော်တာနှင့် တူမကွာထိန်ဝါတဲ့၊ ထွန်းတဲ့အခါကို၊ သောင်သံငယ်မို့၊ ရေညိုကရစ်မို့၊ လေညှိငယ်လာ၊ နံ့ပေမာမြိုင်ထဲက၊ ဝမ်းဘဲရွှေခင် ရော်တို့၊ မော်မော်သံ မော်မော်ကျားတယ်၊ မြူမော် ကြဲလို့။"

"This is the time when climbing high,

Orion glitters in the sky, And shining with the moon at night Mingles with her's his yellow light "The sweet scent of the Thara phee And faint smell of the Padauk tree Is wafted from the misty trees Upon a gentle soughing breeze About the sand banks of the stream The white arms of a river gleam I hear the clamorous return Of wild duck and of silver Tern."

The traditional festival held in Tabaung is Sand Pagoda Festival. Earliest historical evidence so far traceable is found in the literature of the Innwa Period. Shin Maha Thilawuntha, one of four noted monk poets of the Innwa Period composed many Pyo (Poem of epic proportions) verses of which one Pyo named "Buddha Pati" (History of His Enlightenment) Pyo has the description of the month Tabaung and the Sand Pagoda festival. It runs as follows: Catfish, carps and all their members Frolic in the river. Seagull and Sheldrake make lovely call Aquatic birds brahminy duck, hamsa and river Tern, Gleeefully greet each other in ecstasy. On the silvery sand bank is celebrated The Festival of Sand Pagoda." From this description we may safely assume that Sand Pagoda Festival was annually held in Tabaung in the Innwa Period.



As all Pagoda festivals are associated with Buddhism and since Buddhism was well established in Myanmar long before the Innwa Period, it is possible that Sand Pagoda festival originated in the time much earlier than the Innwa period. One fact to support the existence of Sand Pagoda in the Bagan Period was the world renowned Shwezigon Pagoda of Bagan. Its history says that King Anawrahta (A.D 1044-77) built that Pagoda on the sand bank of the Ayeyawady River. Its original name was Shwe The Khon (ရွှေသံခဲ) meaning golden pagoda on the sand bank. In Buddhist literature we find the origin of Sand Pagoda. Buddha Sasanika Kyans (ဗုဒ္ဓသာသနိကကျမ်း) say that the building and worship of Sand Pagoda was a cultural tradition of Buddhist religion dating far back to aeons of

time. History of the first building of Sand Pagoda is mentioned in Apadan Pali, Palinupadake Mahathera Apadan (အပဒါန်ပါဠိတော်ပုထိုးနဂါးက မဟာထေရ်အပဒါန်) it is as follows: "In the time of hundred thousand kabas (Cosmic Aeon) ago there lived a hermit named Devala in a hermitage at the Himalayas. The hermitage was created by the Devas. He had several pupils and disciples. One day he came out from his hermitage and made a Sand Pagoda which he decorated with flowers and reverently worshipped it as representative of the Lord Buddha. He received peace of mind and spiritual bliss. His pupils and disciples asked the hermit why he built and worshipped the Sand

pagoda he made with three thousand small bells and worshipped it day and night. In the month of Tabaung water in the rivers, streams and lakes ebbs, and sand banks appear in them. On these fertile sand banks Myanmar cultivators grow seasonal crops such as maize, corn, groundnut, sweet potatoe, peas, tomatoes, tobacco, and many vegetables and fruits. After these agricultural products are sold out, the cultivators have cash and enough rest time until the next rain comes. With money and leisure, they turn to religious activities. Myanmar kings made Sand Pagoda festival the seasonal festival of Tabaung and it was held at the Palace as well as at every riverside town and village. The King, the Chief Queen and the whole court came out to the sand banks where Sand Pagodas were made and homage given them ceremonially, followed by public entertainments and festivities.

Sand Pagodas are of graduated five tiers, tapering to the top. Each tier of white sand is flanked by bamboo matting and posts. The five tiers represent five layers of Mt. Meru the legendary Mountain in Buddhist cosmology. After all five tiers are filled with clean and pure white sand, paper streamers, prayer flags, festoons and flowers are artistically arranged on them. With fruits flowers and other offertories devotees come in procession accompanied by folk dancers and musicians. They circumambulate the Sand Pagoda three times and finally pay homage to it. Sayadaw the head monk who leads the invited monks presides the occasion and he gives the devotees five moral precepts to observe. Libation ceremony is performed to share out the religious merit with all sentient beings.

Sand Pagodas last till the next rainy season. But some sand pagodas were encased by brick and cement to last long. So in some waterfront towns we find sand pagodas of permanent nature. Though they are still called Sand Pagodas they are like any other solid pagoda of brick and plaster. Now-a-days Sand Pagoda festival is no longer held on national scale. Only few towns and villages along the rivers hold it annually as their local event.

SEE PAGE-10

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

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MESSAGE FOR WOMEN'S DAY: THE GENDER POWER GAP

8 March 2020

WOMEN'S rights have made significant progress in recent decades, from the abolition of discriminatory laws to increased numbers of girls in school. But we now face a powerful push-back. Legal protections against rape and domestic abuse are being diluted in some countries; women's sexual and reproductive rights are under threat.

All this is because gender equality is fundamentally a question of power. Centuries of discrimination and deep-rooted patriarchy have created a yawning gender power gap in our economies, our political systems, our corporations and our culture.

This profoundly affects us all and is a barrier to solving many of the challenges and threats we face, from achieving a fair globalization that works for everyone, to ending the epidemic of violence against women and building peaceful and secure societies. We must also urgently address the digital gender divide that threatens to entrench gender inequality in societies and economies for decades to come.

With women still occupying just one quarter of seats in parliaments around the world, political representation is the clearest evidence of the gender power gap. That is why gender parity at the United Nations is one of my top priorities, which has already led to the achievement of parity at senior levels, two years ahead of our target. Going forward, I will do everything in my power to make sure women are represented in all decision-making at the United Nations, including in peace processes. I will also advocate with Member States for the repealing of all discriminatory laws, for women's equal participation in all spheres, for increased protection from violence, and for more inclusive economies.

Gender equality is a means of redefining and transforming power that will yield benefits for all. It is time to stop trying to change women, and to start changing the systems and power imbalances that prevent them from achieving their potential.

United Nations Information Centre, Yangon.



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 7th March, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 8th March, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State and isolated in Lower Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Northern Shan and Chin States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8th March, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8th March, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 8th March, 2020: Partly cloudy.



People hold the 2608th anniversary of Shwedagon Pagoda's Buddha Pujaniya Festival. PHOTO: KO KO ZAW

The 2608th Anniversary of Shwedagon Pagoda's Tabaung Festival held

THE Board of Trustees of the Shwedagon Pagoda have celebrated the 2608th anniversary of Shwedagon Pagoda's Buddha Pujaniya Festival starting from 28 February.

The series of religious events will end today, the Full Moon Day of Tabaung.

As part of the celebrations, Buddhist devotees, members of the board of trustees and reli-

gious associations donated provisions to 117 members of the Sangha and 27 nuns totally 144 yesterday at the pagoda.—Zaw Min Latt (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Tabaung, the month of Sand Pagoda Festival

FROM PAGE-9

In its place Tabaung festival has come in. For example at the Shwedagon Pagoda, Yangon, Tabaung festival is held yearly in Tabaung. It was on the full moon day of Tabaung in the Maha Sakarit year 103 that the Shwedagon Pagoda was built. To commemorate the founding date of the Pagoda, Tabaung Festival is held every year. In the days of Myanmar monarchy the Governor of Hanthawaddy on behalf of the King paid a ceremonial visit to the Shwedagon Pagoda, on the fullmoon day of Tabaung. He worshipped it and donated many offertories. Theatrical performances were held for public entertainment. The following is an excerpt from the book *The Burman, His Life and*

Notions by J.G.Scott who used a pen name Shwe Yoe. It is his remark on Tabaung Festival he saw in 1882.

“The greatest of all the pagoda feasts is, of course, that of the Shwe Dagon in Yangon, with its pilgrims, not only from the furthest parts of Myanmar and far-away Shan hills, but also from over the seas, from Siam and Cambodia and Korea. But the vastness of the gathering and the proximity of the great town spoil the national character of the festival, and introduce too many elements of nineteenth century civilization in the shape of merry-go-rounds and hack carriages. A “jungle” feast is not only more characteristic, but more appreciated in its way by both town and country fold.”

News release on COVID-19 virus at 8:00 pm on 7 March 2020: MoHS

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is closely monitoring the COVID-19 outbreak and spread in China and 89 countries around the world at the international gateways, at the community-based and public hospitals-based as well as in cooperation with the private hospitals.

2. In this regard,

(a) A 35-year-old male, who is residing in Wetlet Township, Sagaing Region, came back to Myanmar from China on 5 March. He suffered fever and cough. So he went to Wetlet Township Hospital on 6 March. He was referred to the Mandalay Kandawnadi Hospital. He is now under quarantine and laboratory test is also underway.

(b) A 41-year-old male, who is residing in Minhla Township, Magwe Region, arrived back in Myanmar from China on 19 February. He had a fever, cough, muscle pain, and shortness of breath on 4 March. He went to Linkel Station Hospital in Minhla Township. He is now under quarantine and laboratory test is underway. He suffered no severe respiratory symptoms.

(c) A 37-year-old male from Yedashay Township in Bago Region, who have suffered Hepatitis during his stay in Thailand one month ago, arrived back in Yedashay through Myawady checkpoint on 5 March. He went to Yedashay Township Hospital on that same day. Although he was not found with fever and any severe respiratory symptoms he was put under quarantine for a further laboratory test.

(d) A 71-year-old male, who are residing in Maha Aungmyay Township, Mandalay Region, suffered coughing on 22 February. Shortness of breath added to him on 6 March. He went to the Mandalay General Hospital on 7 March. Although he had no travel history to the infectious regions and

he was suffering severe respiratory symptoms he was referred to the Kandawnadi Hospital. He is now under quarantine and laboratory test is underway.

(e) A 30-year-old male, who is residing in Thakayta Township in Yangon Region, arrived back in Myanmar from Japan on 27 February. He was suffering hypertension and its consequent kidney problems. He was under treatment for the kidney in Japan on 24 July 2019. While he was again under treatment for the kidney at the Kanthayar Hospital in Yangon on 28 February he started to suffer fever and cough. He was then referred to the Waibargi Specialist Hospital. He is now put under quarantine and laboratory test is underway. He had no severe respiratory symptoms.

(f) A 13-year-old boy, who is living in Htantabin Township, Yangon Region, started suffering fever and cough on 26 February and went to the Insein General Hospital. Although he had no background history of travelling to the infectious regions but due to his severe respiratory problems he was put under quarantine on 6 March. Laboratory results on 7 March indicated that he was negative for the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

3. Six patients are now under quarantine and treatment at respective hospitals as of 7 March at 6:00 pm.

4. Even though there are no laboratory-test-confirmed cases in Myanmar, control and prevention measures are being undertaken with maximized momentum. Owing to the soaring outbreak and spread of COVID-19 virus in China and 89 countries around the world, the public is instructed to follow the MoHS's health information guidelines strictly. —MoHS (Translated by Aungthu Ya)

7 killed, 17 injured in Taliban attack in Herat province

HERAT (Afghanistan) — At least seven civilians have been killed, while 17 others injured in an attack orchestrated by the Taliban militant group in Herat province of Afghanistan, the provincial governor's office said in a statement on Saturday.

“The missile [attack] took place in Khwaja Noor village late last night, killed seven people, including children, and injured 17 others,” the statement read. According to the governor's office, the injured civilians were taken to Rabat Sangi district medical center.

The Taliban have not yet

commented on the incident.

Last Saturday, the Taliban and the United States signed a peace deal that stipulated, among other things, a withdrawal of foreign troops from the Afghan territory in exchange for guarantees that the country would not become a safe haven for terrorists.

The signing was preceded by a week-long period of violence reduction. However, the Taliban said earlier this week that it will continue its attacks against the Afghan forces in the wake of Kabul's refusal to release 5,000 Taliban prisoners. — ANI ■

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Pope goes livestream to fight viral epidemic



Many of Rome's outdoor restaurants and cafes were either closed Friday night or had free tables overseen by forlorn staff with little to do but chat (AFP Photo/Alberto PIZZOLI)

Vatican City (AFP) — Pope Francis decided to deliver Sunday's prayer by livestream and Italy called in retired doctors as the new coronavirus epidemic gathered strength, emptying streets in Europe's worst affected country.

The 83-year-old pontiff broke with centuries of tradition by enlisting the help of technology to keep crowds from descending on Saint Peter's Square for the traditional Angelus Prayer.

"The prayer will be broad-

cast via livestream by Vatican News and on screens in Saint Peter's Square," the Vatican said in a statement.

It had originally promised to review the Argentine-born pope's schedule "to avoid the dissemination" of the new COVID-19 disease.

The Vatican appears to believe that the pope's absence from his traditional spot at the window will keep the crowds on the vast square down and the threat of contagion low.

The pope himself has been

out of action for more than a week with a cold.

The Vatican is in the process of unrolling unprecedented health precautions designed to keep the city state's 450 mostly elderly residents safe.

It recorded its first COVID-19 infection on Thursday and was awaiting the results of a test on another person who appeared at a Vatican-organised event last month.

That conference was also attended by Microsoft President Brad Smith and European Parliament President David Sassoli.

The Vatican said all those present were being notified about the test as a precaution.

Coalition leader gets virus

The Italian government has found itself at the forefront of the global fight against an epidemic that has convulsed the markets and paralysed global supply chains since first emerging in China late last year.

Ministers decided at an all-night emergency meeting to call in retired doctors as part of an effort to bolster the strained healthcare system with 20,000 additional staff.— AFP ■

Turkey to stop migrants from risky Aegean sea crossings

ANKARA — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan ordered the Turkish coastguard to stop migrants from making risky Aegean sea crossings, as fresh clashes erupted Saturday pitting migrants against Greek border police.

Thousands of migrants have massed on the land border with Greece after Erdogan said last week that Turkey would not prevent migrants from leaving for EU territory, sparking violence and an escalating row between Ankara and Brussels.

The Turkish coastguard tweeted on Friday that "on the orders of the president... permission will not be given for migrants to cross the Aegean sea because it is dangerous."

It said, however, Turkey's policy of allowing migrants and refugees to leave was untouched, and the instruction only affected sea crossings.

Over 1,700 migrants landed on Lesbos and four other Aegean islands from Turkey over the past week.

Turkey and the European Union have traded accusations, with Ankara telling Brussels to implement a 2016 migration deal, and the bloc claiming Ankara was using the migrants as political pawns.

Erdogan will head to Belgium where the EU is headquartered for a one-day visit Monday, the Turkish presidency said, but has not given details of his trip.

During a tense hours-long stand-off on Saturday, Greek police used tear gas and water cannons on migrants trying to break fences in the border province of Edirne, according to AFP journalists at the scene.

Meanwhile, Turkish and Greek officials descended into a war of words later on Saturday.— AFP ■

Coronavirus cases hit 100,000 as cruise ship fears grow

BEIJING (China) — The number of cases from the new coronavirus topped 100,000 worldwide as official data Saturday showed a significant hit to Chinese exports after the deadly outbreak brought much of the country to a halt.

The World Health Organization called the spread of the virus "deeply concerning" as a wave of countries reported their first cases of the disease — which has now killed nearly 3,500 people and infected more than 100,000 across 92 nations and territories.

The US was battling to contain an outbreak on a cruise ship where 21 people have tested positive for the virus.

The Grand Princess has been stranded off San Francisco since Wednesday — when it was supposed to dock — after it emerged that two people who had been on the ship during its previous voyage had contracted the virus. One later died.

US Vice President Mike

Pence said the ship will be brought to a non-commercial dock this weekend and all 3,533 passengers and crew will be tested.

The Grand Princess belongs to Princess Cruises, the same company which operated the coronavirus-stricken ship held off Japan last month on which more than 700 people tested positive.

In China, where the outbreak began in December, the virus has wreaked havoc on the world's second-largest economy, shutting down businesses and disrupting global supply chains.

The negative impact was shown in official data Saturday, with China's exports plunging 17.2 per cent in the first two months of the year.

Global spread

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus has urged "that all countries make containment their highest priority."— AFP ■

Guyana president urged not to claim election victory

GEORGETOWN (Guyana) — International observers on Friday called on Guyana President David Granger not to claim victory until election results can be verified, due to "credible" allegations of fraud.

Granger's ruling Partnership for National Unity and Alliance for Change had a clear lead in partial results published Thursday from the oil-rich South American country's largest region.

But international observers say giving out partial results is illegal and have implored the government to respect the law.

"We call on President Granger to avoid a transition of government which we believe would be unconstitutional as it would be based on a vote tabulation process that lacked credibility and transparency," representatives from the United States, Britain, Canada and European Union said in a statement.

They expressed deep concern over "credible" allegations of election fraud that could influ-



President David Granger, pictured after voting on March 2, 2020, has been urged to avoid an "unconstitutional" transition. PHOTO: AFP

ence the results.

"We call on all to ensure proper procedures are in place to yield a credible election result. A fair and free process is vital for the maintenance and reinforcement of democracy in Guyana," they said.

The United States also voiced concern about the possibility of electoral fraud.

Michael Kozak, a senior official with the State Depart-

ment's bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, said "no candidate should declare victory or be sworn in while serious questions remain about credibility" of the election.

"The people of Guyana deserve a credible election and a legitimate transfer of power, the democracies of the region expect that Guyana will uphold our shared values," Kozak wrote on Twitter.— AFP ■

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N. Korea slams Europeans over criticism of missile tests

BEIJING — North Korea on Saturday pushed back against criticism by five European U.N. Security Council members of its latest missile tests, according to state-run media.

A statement issued by an unnamed spokesperson for the North Korean Foreign Ministry and carried by the Korean Central News Agency warned that such “reckless behavior” would become “a fuse that will trigger our yet another momentous reaction.”

“The illogical thinking and sophism of these countries are just gradually bearing a close resemblance to the U.S. which is hostile to us,” it said.

The statement defended the “routine drills” of the North Korean army as being “just the same” as those conducted by any country of the world. “However, only our military drills are

becoming the subject of weird countries to be denounced every time.”

In a joint statement issued after a closed-door U.N. Security Council meeting on North Korea on Thursday, the five countries expressed deep concern about the continued nuclear and missile development by Pyongyang in defiance of international sanctions.

Belgium, Britain, Estonia, France and Germany also urged North Korea to engage in meaningful dialogue with the United States toward denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula.

Talks between the United States and North Korea have been stalled.

On Monday, North Korea fired two projectiles believed to be short-range ballistic missiles toward the Sea of Japan. — Kyodo News ■

Malaysia gets new attorney general after change of gov't

KUALA LUMPUR — A judge on Malaysia's highest court has been appointed the country's new attorney general, replacing Tommy Thomas, who stepped down last week, the Prime Minister's Office announced Friday.

According to a statement from the office, the king has consented to the appointment of Federal Court Judge Idrus Harun effective immediately for a two-year term. Online news portal the Malaysian Insight quoted Gopal Sri Ram, a former judge on the same court, as saying that he recommended Idrus for the post.

Gopal described Idrus, who previously worked in the Attorney General's Chambers and has experience in criminal prosecution, as a man with credibility. Idrus served on the Court of Appeal before being elevated to the apex court in November 2018.

His predecessor Thomas resigned on Friday last week, one



Photo taken on 24 May 2018, shows former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak leaving the country's anti-corruption agency near Kuala Lumpur. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

day before the king appointed Muhyiddin Yassin as prime minister in the wake of the sudden resignation of Mahathir Mohamad, once the world's oldest leader.

Online news portal Free Malaysia Today quoted Thom-

as as saying Wednesday that he quit because he was a political appointee. “Once the prime minister tendered his resignation, it was incumbent on me to do so because I was appointed by him,” he said. Earlier Friday, anti-corruption agency chief Latheefa Koya, who led probes into alleged corruption involving a state-owned investment fund and former Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, announced her resignation. Latheefa, who was appointed by Mahathir last June, said in a statement that it was her own decision to quit. “Speculation that pressure was brought upon me is baseless,” she said after tendering her resignation to new Prime Minister Muhyiddin.

Latheefa and Thomas played key roles in probes into alleged corruption involving the fund, 1Malaysia Development Berhad, and Najib, who founded it. — Kyodo News ■

Two apartment buildings in South Korea quarantined over virus

SEOUL (South Korea) — Two South Korean apartment buildings heavily occupied by members of a sect linked to most of the country's coronavirus cases have been quarantined after dozens of residents tested positive for the disease, an official said Saturday.

The move comes as the country, which has the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases in the world outside China, reported 448 new infections, taking its total to 7,041.

Six more deaths were recorded by the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters, bringing the toll to 48.

The apartment complex in Daegu -- the country's fourth-largest city and epicentre of its outbreak -- was placed under lockdown after 46 residents were confirmed to have the virus, mayor Kwon Young-jin said.

More than 140 people live in the two buildings, including 94 members of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, which is often accused of being a cult and is linked to more than 60 percent of South Korea's in-



A South Korean health official wearing protective gear walks inside a closed apartment complex after 46 residents were confirmed to have the COVID-19 coronavirus, in Daegu on 7 March 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

fections.

It is the first residential community in the South to be isolated over the outbreak.

The property is owned by the city government and only single women aged 35 or under can apply to live there, according to Kwon.

Over 5,000 cases have now been confirmed in Daegu -- where the outbreak among Shincheonji members began with a 61-year-old woman who developed symptoms on February 10 and attended at least

four worship services in the city.

Authorities are carrying out checks on more than 260,000 people associated with the religious group.

Kwon urged followers to come forward and be tested after more than 30 percent of the 709 members checked on Friday returned positive results.

Their cooperation is crucial to “prevent further infections in our community”, Kwon said. — AFP ■

Cambodia confirms 1st local case of COVID-19

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's Health Minister Mam Bunheng announced on Saturday that a Cambodian man had infected with the COVID-19, becoming the first local person to contract the virus.

It was the second confirmed case of COVID-19 in Cambodia. On Jan. 27, a 60-year-old Chinese man from the central Chinese city of Wuhan was tested positive for the virus, and he was discharged from the hospital on Feb. 10 after completely recovering from the disease.

The new case, a 38-year-old patient, living in northwest Siem Reap province, was tested positive for the virus by the Pasteur Institute of Cambodia.

Bunheng said in a press conference in Phnom Penh that the Cambodian patient was among the first four persons who had direct contact with a COVID-19-infected Japanese man.

“Although the four persons have no any symptoms of the virus, their samples were taken to test at the Pasteur Institute on Friday evening and the results, available at 12:50 p.m. on (Saturday) March 7, showed that the 38-year-old man, who had direct contact with the 40-year-old Japanese COVID-19 patient, was pos-

itive for COVID-19, while three others (two women and one man) were negative for COVID-19,” he said. According to the minister, so far, the Siem Reap provincial health authorities had found a total of eight persons having direct contact with the Japanese COVID-19 patient and 40 others having indirect contact with him.

Bunheng said that the Cambodian COVID-19 patient is kept in an isolation room at the Siem Reap provincial hospital for treatment, while the seven others who had direct contact with the Japanese patient were also put in quarantine at the hospital for health surveillance for 14 days.

And the 40 individuals (25 women and 15 men) who had indirect contact with the infected Japanese man had been instructed to self-isolate at home and the health authorities are closely monitoring their health.

The minister said the ministry is working closely with the World Health Organization to deal with this case.

According to Bunheng, Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen had ordered all schools in the Siem Reap City to be shut down temporarily. — Xinhua ■

Abe unveils zero-interest loan scheme for small firms hit by virus

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Saturday the government will launch a scheme to extend zero interest loans with no collateral to small and midsized companies reeling from the new-coronavirus turmoil.

The state-owned Japan Finance Corp. is among entities that will join the program aimed at helping small businesses gain access to financing and stay afloat, Abe said at a meeting of a government task force on the coronavirus response.

“We will make our utmost efforts to keep jobs and make sure companies can maintain their business,” Abe said during the meeting at his office.

The government will also financially support parents who have been forced to take time off to look after their children due to Abe’s abrupt de-

cision to close all schools from last Monday to the start of the new school year in April.

Such parents will receive money to make up for any shortfall in their income due to their time off from work, Abe said. The government will also pay for programs to take care of children during the period of school closure.

Abe instructed Cabinet members at the task force meeting to step up work to compile a fresh emergency package on Tuesday. It will be aimed at mitigating the negative economic impact, strengthening measures to support parents who have school-age children and preventing the spread of the virus.

Abe has said he hopes to use 270 billion yen (\$2.6 billion) in a state reserve fund for the current fiscal year through March “as

much as possible.” The initial package announced in mid-February totaled 15.3 billion yen.

After coming under fire for his slow crisis response, Abe decided to shut schools and call for big event cancellations and postponements to reduce group transmission risks. From Monday, Japan will restrict travel from China and South Korea.

The Japanese economy is feared to enter a recession after it shrank in the October to December quarter as a consumption tax hike dented private spending.

The total number of infections has topped 1,000 in Japan, including around 700 from the Diamond Princess cruise ship quarantined for two weeks in February near Tokyo. The death toll stands at 12.— Kyodo News ■

China exports plunge on coronavirus epidemic

BEIJING (China) — China’s exports plummeted in the first two months of this year on the back of a coronavirus epidemic that forced businesses to suspend operations, disrupting the world’s supply chains.

Exports fell 17.2 per cent, the biggest drop since February 2019 during the trade war with the United States, and imports dropped 4 per cent, according to official data released Saturday. A Bloomberg poll of economists had expected exports to drop less, by 16.2 per cent, but had foreseen a much starker drop on imports of 16.1 per cent.

Consumers stayed home during the Lunar New Year break at the end of January and businesses saw a much slower return to work, as the country struggled to contain the



China exports fell 17.2 per cent, the biggest drop since February 2019 during the trade war with the United States, and imports dropped 4 per cent. PHOTO: AFP

spread of the deadly coronavirus, which has killed more than 3,000 people in China alone.

China’s trade surplus with the US — a key point of contention in the trade dispute between the two countries — sharply narrowed 40 per cent in the first two months, from \$42 billion last year to \$25.4 billion.

Chinese authorities said last month that Jan-

uary and February’s data would be combined.

This is in line with how some other indicators are released, to smooth over distortions from the holiday break.

In an early sign of the economic impact to come, China’s manufacturing activity fell to its lowest level on record in February, with non-manufacturing activity plummeting as well.— AFP

Lebanon officials greenlight first debt default

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Top Lebanese officials said Saturday they opposed making an upcoming debt repayment, as cabinet mulls whether the country should default for the first time amid a spiralling financial crisis.

Lebanon, hit by a severe liquidity crunch and months of anti-government protests, is due to decide on Saturday whether it should pay a \$1.2-billion Eurobond maturing on March 9.

The president, prime minister and senior finance officials “agreed to support the government in any decision regarding debt management, with the exception of a payment of debt maturities”, the presidency said in a statement Saturday.

That signalled that officials are leaning towards defaulting on the payment.

Prime Minister Hassan Diab is expected to address the public at 16:30 GMT, after the cabinet meeting.

Lebanon’s debt burden had been among the largest in the world, equivalent to 150 percent of its GDP, but despite a series of crises, the country has never defaulted.

Yet in recent months, Lebanon’s pound has plunged and banks have imposed tough restrictions on dollar withdrawals and transfers.

Local banks, which own a chunk of the Eurobonds maturing on March 9, have argued against a default, saying it would pile added pressure on an ailing banking sector and compromise Lebanon’s ties with foreign creditors.

Lawmakers, most notably those representing the Shiite Amal and Hezbollah movements, have advocated debt restructuring to preserve plummeting foreign currency reserves. Anti-government demonstrators who have remained mobilised since October have also lobbied against repayment.— AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (060N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (060N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTER ASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (007VN/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VOY. NO. (007VN/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1117 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1117 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0117 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HALUS VOY. NO. (KHLU 0117 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

YANGON is going to turn 1,000 tonnes out of the total waste that its households and people generate daily into energy, citing Yangon City Development Committee, adding that the waste-to-energy project is going to begin.

The reason to say exactly about the waste-to-energy project is that it came from the 15th regular meeting of Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held for the fourth day on 31 January during which reached an agreement.

It was also learnt that if Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the

Yangon. For that reason it has become the essential project for Yangon.

The waste-turned-to-energy project will be partnered with Poland government that will release Euro 50 million of official development assistance loans. The garbage has to be repaired, sanitized and destroyed, according to an official of the YCDC.

Generation of about 250 tonnes

The project will generate about 1,000 tonnes of rubbish per day. 30 tonnes of CNG, 40 tonnes of liquid carbon diox-

ide, 180 tonnes of RDF and 250 tonnes of natural humus will be regenerated from the waste.

Direct contact and sale of energy

Negotiations have been conducted to directly contact and sell the energy generated from the waste. The interest rate on the loans is very small. The interest rate on the loan is 0.1 % and loan repayment period is 62 years.

Hluttaw holds discussions on waste-to-energy project

Regarding the waste-to-en-

ergy project, Hluttaw held rounds of discussions. Dr. Tin Tin Win, Hluttaw representative representing constituency 5 of Bago Region said if the waste management is carried out in a systematic manner, recycled materials can be reclaimed and income can be generated from the waste. Good waste management ensures energy savings, thereby protecting global earth pollution. The project needs to bring benefits to the region and its people. Actually, rubbish has been dumped in Hteinbin landfill since 2011. With the increasing amount of the rubbish, the land-

Yangon to turn waste into energy

By Bawgar Thway

proposal, it could be started in May.

Individual's rubbish disposal increase in amount

The waste-to-energy project is a must for Yangon. The time has come for Yangon to transform garbage into energy for the reason that the Yangonites generate from 2,300 to 2,500 tonnes of waste each day. If it is mentioned in detail, individual's disposal of trash every day has increased in amount. Among the latest landfills in Yangon, Hteinbin is the largest with an area of about 290 acres.

It requires collaborative efforts

The waste generation of the Yangonites has been increasing day by day, month by month and year by year. Despite the fact that the relevant organizations and social ones raise awareness campaigns and launch education, lack of observance and contribution has risen obviously.

Essential project for Yangon

The accumulation of garbage in Hteinbin landfill has become larger, covering about 220 acres. About 70 acres of land are still left to be dumped in Hteinbin landfill. According to the calculation of the researchers, the whole Hteinbin landfill will be fully filled with the rubbish in the next four years, thereby resulting in a scarcity of land to dump the further waste in



A municipal worker is collecting rubbish with the use of a three-wheeled motorcycle. PHOTO: TIN WIN TIN





Municipal workers are in the process of collecting rubbish.

PHOTO: TIN WIN TIN

fill has gradually become larger and larger. But, Hteinbin landfill was on fire as a result of lack of technological management in 2018, taking about two weeks. The ash coming from the landfill fire spread much of Yangon so some citizens were sent to the hospitals for undergoing medical treatment, also causing grave concern to the Yangonites.

The acts of improving or changing something

The fire of Hteinbin landfill was under control due to the concerted efforts of the firemen of Myanmar Fire Services Department. Lessons will have to be taken and reforms will have to be made, too.

The disposal of waste segregation is of importance

Regarding the disposal of waste segregation, Pyithu Hlut-taw MP Daw Mya Mya Myo representing Kyauktan Township said the aim of supporting this project is not to face further possible danger of fire. I found out that the income from the project with the use of technical assistance by Poland will be sufficient enough to settle the loan from Poland.

With regard to the waste-to-energy project, the disposal of dry and wet waste is of importance. The Yangonites

usually put all the wastes only into a single bag and it is discarded and they don't classify the types of waste.

Generally, solid wastes are segregated publically into two: wet and dry.

Wet waste such as kitchen waste, left-over, flowers can be discarded safely tight with blue bags daily. Dry waste such as paper, cork, plastic, broken toys, pieces of metal, pieces of wire can be discarded safely tight with green bags weekly. At the beginning of the waste segregation program, both blue and green plastic bags are available, but later it is not easy to buy them. The writer himself went to the sanitation department of his township whenever it was an opportune time and asked to buy plastic bags, but in vain. He will never ask the department any more. The Yangonites are used to disposal of waste by black polyethylene plastic bag and it is a habitual action.

The municipal should pay attention to the sales and distribution of blue and green plastic bags to the public for ensuring that the people can discard the waste by segregating the solid waste into the dry and the wet.

Translated by Htut Htut
(Twantay)

Useful Information

JAPANESE CUISINE

4:00 PM to 10:00 PM

AJISHIN

No.192, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Myanmar Plaza, 4th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Ph: 09-970890390, Time- 10:00 to 23:00 (Open Daily)

ANAIMO

No. 300, Mahabandula Park Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-378022. Time- 11:30-14:00/ 17:30-22:00 (Saturday only evening and Sunday off)

BIKKURA SUSHI & SASHIMI JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 16, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-799566917, 09-36714873. 10:30-22:30 (Open Daily)

BUSHIDO

No. 75/ AB Boyar Nyunt Street, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197/ 09-420231330. 10:00-22:00 (Sunday Off)

CHO JAPANESE DINNING & BAR

Level (1), Garden Wing, Beside Lobby Lounge. (Inside Sedona Hotel), Yangon Ph: 09-258322223/ 09-261322223. Lunch 11:30-14:30/ Tea Time 14:30-18:00/ Dinner 18:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

DINNING FUKUROU

No. 37, Kabar Pagoda Road, Inside of Inya Lake Hotel, Yangon. Ph: 09-260031197 09-420231330. 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

EDOZUSHI

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020. 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

(3) YAKINIKU FUKAGAWA

A-1, Star City, Kyaik Khaik Pagoda Road, Thanlyin Township, Yangon. Ph: 056-23150-53/ 056-23313-318 (Ext-1183)/ 09-2560-75020, 11:00-21:00 (Open Daily)

FUJINOBO

(Cherry Hill Hotel) No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-450067052, 06:00-09:30/ 11:30-14:00/ 17:00-22:30 (Open Daily)

FURUSATO

No. 137, West Shwe Gone Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-556265/ 09-73081914. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

GEKKO

535, Merchant Street, Kyauktada Township, 4th Quarter, Yangon. Ph: 01-386986, 09:00-23:00 (Open Daily)

HIMARI MYANMAR

Pearl Condo, Block D, Ground Floor, Units-G-10, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-775330494. 11:30-14:00/ 14:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

HOKKAIDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT

No. 24/ 26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Golden Hill Tower(A), Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-250537315. 11:00-14:00/ 17:00-21:30 (Open Daily)

HOT POT KING and Hot pot and BBQ Buffet Restaurant

No - 26/27, Thitsar Road and Corner of Wai Za Yan Dar Road, South Okkalapa, Yangon. Tel- 09 777777 008, 09 09 777777 009, 09 777777 883.

Hot Pot City 8 Miles

No(33), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road (7.34 km) 095 Yangon, Ph: 09 797 799111, 11:00-22:00 (Open Daily)

101 Hot Pot & Sushi

No.141, West Shwegondaing Road, Bahan T/s. near Yuzana Hotel. (1.78 km), 11201 Yangon.

Little Sheep Hot Pot Myanmar

14/14B Kanbawza Street Golden Valley (1) Bahan Township (1.71 km), Yangon. Ph: 09443399701, 09443399702, 11:00-23:00

HOTEL

BELMOND GOVERNOR'S RESIDENCE

No. 35, Taw Win Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-229860 01-229861.

CHATRIUM

No. 40, Natmawk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-544500/ 01-544244.

CHERRY HILLS HOTEL

No. 520/4 A, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Shwegon Daing, Bahan Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-559722.

HOTLE 51

No. 154/ 156, 51st. Upper Pazundaung Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-200823/ 09-429918554.

HOTEL KAN KAW

No.93(A), Hnin Si Gone Road, Ahlone Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-228566/ 01-2301700/ 01-1221731.

HOTLE SIDNEY

No. 8L/Mindhama Road, Between Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road and Parami Road, Mayangone Township. Ph: 01-655770/ 01-9669600-02.

INYA LAKE HOTEL

No.37, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-9662866/ 01-9662857-9.

LOTTEE HOTLES AND SERVICED APARTMENTS YANGON

No.82, Sin Phyu Shin Avenue, Pyay Road, 6 mile, Hlaing Township. Ph: 01-9351000.

MERCURE HOTEL

No.17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01- 650933.

NOVOTEL YANGON MAX

No.459, Pyay Road, Kamayut Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-2305858.

PAN PACIFIC YANGON

No. Corner of Bogyoke Aung San Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road, Yangon, Ph: 01-9253810.

PARK ROYAL

No.33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-250388.

PULLMAN YANGON CENTREPOINT

No.65, Corner of Sule Pagoda Road and Merchant Street. Ph: 01-382687.

ROSE GARDEN HOTEL

No.171, Upper Pasodan Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-371992/09263440500.

SAVOY HOTEL

No.129, Corner of Dhammazed Road and Inya Road, Yangon. Ph: 01-526289/ 01-526298/ 01-526305.

SEDONA HOTEL

No. 1, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-8605377.

SULE SHANGRI-LA

No. 223, Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-242828.

SUMMIT PARTVIEW HOTEL

No. 350, Ahlone Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. Ph: 01-211888/ 01-211966.

SUPER HOTEL

No. 51/ D, Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, 10th Quarter, Mayangone Township, Yangon. Ph: 09-797109000/ 01-658210/ 01-658220.

Thet Htar Thuzar's int'l tourneys canceled due to COVID-19

INTERNATIONAL badminton tournaments in Poland and Portugal, in which Myanmar star Thet Htar Thuzar was to compete, have been canceled due to the worldwide spread of the COVID-19 Coronavirus.

Commenting on the cancellation, Thet Htar Thuzar said on her social media page, "I had been in Portugal for special training and to participate in international tournaments. But the tournaments in Portugal and Poland have been canceled due to the Coronavirus and I am really feeling sad about that."

Thet Htar Thuzar added, "Although I am feeling sad, I am overwhelmed and happy that I won the Best in Sports prize for 2019 in the Myanmar Pride Award.

For that award, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every fan supporting me.

And I will do better in



Thet Htar Thuzar at the Sports Complex in Caldas da Rainha, Portugal. PHOTO: THET HTAR THUZAR'S FACEBOOK PAGE

raising my country's image throughout the world," Thet Htar Thuzar said.

Thet Htar Thuzar is aim-

ing to enter the 2020 Tokyo Olympics badminton competition following intensive training.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar National League: Yangon suffer 0-1 loss to Ayeyawady



Yangon United's Than Paing attempts to pass Ayeyawady's defense during their week-9 match at Myanmar National League at Kyauk Taing Stadium in Patheingyi yesterday. PHOTO: YUFC

YANGON United suffered a 0-1 defeat to Ayeyawady United yesterday at their home stadium of Ayeyawady in Patheingyi during the Week-9 match of Myanmar National League.

The winning goal for Ay-

eyawady was scored by foreign player Success.

With the 4-2-3-1 setting formation, Yangon United played carefully with a strong attack on Ayeyawady United.

Ayeyawady United began

their attack from the match start, keeping busy Yangon United defenders and keeper Kyaw Zin Htet. Again, Yangon United tried to dominate their opponents with attacks by Aung Kyaw Naing, Barfo and Mg Mg Lwin, but Ayeyawady United's defense line held its place to block any scoring opportunities.

The first half finished scoreless.

In the second half, Yangon United changed their tactics with the substitutions of Emmanuel and Kyi Lin in place of Barfo and Kaung Htet Soe.

Ayeyawady United scored their icebreaker at 67 minutes, with a header by Success and an assist by teammate Lwin Moe Aung. After the goal, Yangon attacked with all out efforts in the final minutes, but strikers need neat finishing to convert their opportunities to goals. At the final whistle, Ayeyawady United celebrated 1-0 over Yangon United.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Southern Myanmar winger achieves MNL 100th goal

A goal scored on 22 February by Southern Myanmar FC winger Shine Thura won the 100th goal memorial prize of the Myanmar National League 2020 season.

The goal was scored during his team's match against Chin United played at Yamanya Stadium in Mawlamyine, Mon State.

The match ended with an 8-3 win for Southern Myanmar, as Shine Thura scored the 100th goal for Southern Myanmar FC at the 71st minute.

As regards the 100th goal

award, Shine Thura received K 300000 from the deputy director of Marketing for Myanmar Post and Telecommunications before yesterday's week-9 match of Myanmar National League played between Southern Myanmar and Zwegapin United.

During yesterday's match, Southern Myanmar faced a 1-3 loss against Zwegapin United.

Last year's 100th goal for the Myanmar National League was also garnered by Southern Myanmar striker Kaung Si Thu.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Winger of Southern Myanmar Shine Thura (left) receiving the 100th goal memorial prize. PHOTO: MNL

Klopp skirts Shankly comparison as Liverpool bounce back to beat Bournemouth

LIVERPOOL (United Kingdom) — Jurgen Klopp insisted he will never compare himself to legendary former Liverpool manager Bill Shankly after the Reds bounced back to beat Bournemouth 2-1 and move within three wins of ending a 30-year wait for the Premier League title.

A 22nd consecutive home league win broke the English top flight record set by Shankly's Liverpool in 1972 and settled any nerves over the title race after a run of three defeats in four games in all competitions.

Callum Wilson's controversial early opener sent shockwaves around Anfield. However, the prolific duo of Mohamed Salah and Sadio Mane quickly turned the game around to open a 25-point lead at the top of the

table.

"We will never compare with this fella," said Klopp on beating Shankly's record. "It's great. We didn't think about the number before the game but after we can. It's nice, it's special, but today is a very good example, we have to fight hard. "We are not geniuses, but we can really fight and that's all we have to do until the end of the season and see what we get from it."

The spread of coronavirus could have a big impact on the Reds' title celebrations in the weeks to come with the possibility of games being played behind closed doors. But the abandonment of the normal pre-match ritual of handshakes was the only disruption to the Premier League calendar this weekend.—AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

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8 MARCH 2020

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



YU, A spot for Pre-graduation Photographing?



Photographing is the only thing that makes us feel alive and we keep this love in a photograph inside and make these memories for ourselves. It is the only thing we take with us when we die. People take photos as a memorable moment in their life which will not happen twice. Yes, photographing is more than just recording a simple moment in time. We give ourselves something that speaks more than a resume but by photographing. A great photograph can represent the time of you yourself that can never be back. Everyone you care about can be in the photograph. People take care of their great time by photographing with the creative ideas for both outdoor environment and indoor studio.

By the way, today the very recent trend of pre-graduation photographing in Yangon University is in

the streamline among the youth. Graduations are an important life event for the participants and their families, and a cause for celebration especially for the parents to congratulate their offspring. The grads hire prepared or skillful or amateur photographers from beginning to the end of the graduation event to capture their precious moments. Do not simply look at a graduation as one or two stand-alone photos. But rather as an important event in the grad's life which can tell a story combining with the actual ceremony, portraits, abstracts, all of which can be ultimately tied together in a photo book that the grads and their family can have as keepsakes of the event. Since at their school, they most certainly made friends, many of whom they will stay close with for the rest of their life. During the graduation days, they take photos of them with their BFFs! They are all in different postures, tossing their hats, doing fist pumps, or jumping. They capture every single move as they enjoy the moment. It's their graduation day and they're excited! They deserve great photographs of graduation which is a milestone in life and a beginning of adulthood.

In our Yangon University there are many footpaths, nice photographing spots on the side of the road, in order to walk safely for the students to only just allow enough space to get sidewalk and broadly accessible public areas – such as public streets and

SEE PAGE- S-8



When death knocks our door



By Htet Zaw Htoo
MED first year, SUOE

Enrich Fromn once said, "Man always dies before he is fully born". As far as I am concerned, some people have to face death before they can start their lives at full pace and in full bloom. Probably Enrich said the above quote from another point of view. However, I believe that death might come to us anytime anywhere. It does not matter whether we are young or old and we are healthy or not. This thinking is due to my friend's sudden death. Her abrupt end of life shocked me and my friends too. Her death reminded us that death always knocks our door. Subsequently, it reminds us not to waste our valuable time doing silly things and to prepare something for the next life in advance as much as possible. Moreover, we come to know how important it is to live in the present life happily and properly.

The evening my friend passed away will never disappear from my memory all my life. She is not my close friend though. In that evening, a bad news was heard while we were in the class; one Master student died on the spot in an accident. Then we knew that person was our friend. As soon as I heard the news, I took a leave and rushed to the hospital. On the way to the hospital, I wished that it would be just a rumor and she did not die really. However, when I arrived at the hospital, I realized that my wish never came true because some of my friends were weeping bitterly at the entrance of the hospital. Then I went to the morgue to see my friend's dead body. The time when I saw her dead body is the time I felt heartrending

sorrow in my life. The feeling of sorrow, pity and fear all came to me together at the same time. It was really terrible and it is still threatening me until now. Some of my friends and I were standing still and silent in front of the mortuary. That view was really spine-chilling. Two days later, my friends and I went to her funeral. When we saw her sad parents, relatives and villagers there, we grieved for her again. All the people at the funeral felt heartrending sorrow and subsequently, I realized that we must give up all what we have when we pass away. Moreover, it reminded me to appreciate our present life more and take care of it because all the people who love us will grieve for us when we are lost. Her funeral was crowded because she used to be the apple of friends', her parents', relatives', villagers', colleagues' as well as her students' eyes. We got a chance to put a letter, in which we could write any message we loved to say, near her dead body. I wrote in that letter that I never want to visit her home in that way anymore in any life. It was really sad.

Death, which nobody wants, might come to us anytime anywhere. Consequently, we ought to live best as much as possible. In addition, we should also make more time for the people we love in our lives. Moreover, we should prepare our best for the next life according to the beliefs of our respective religions. When it comes to religion, most of the people especially young Buddhists think that religion is the thing only for the aged although some youths spend their spare time studying Dhamma at the monastery or meditation center. Meditation is the best way to make our concentration power better and to get insight into ourselves. It is beneficial to studying because our concentration power increases through meditation. It helps us to more focus on what we are doing at present. As a result, it saves our time. When we can focus on the present, we do not need to have worries about what will happen in the future. On the way to death, no one will expect it in advance and almost everyone is not ready for it. All the former dead persons had to end their lives at the half of their way before finishing their works. Therefore, when death knocks our door, it is important not to have regrets about the things we have not done yet. In conclusion, I love to recommend all the readers of my essay doing all good things you love, making more time for the people you love and preparing for the next life when you are still alive. ■ ■ ■





A matriculation story

By Mg Htin

Spinning his pen, my student recited the lines in a poem from English school textbook. When I asked him to spell some words, he stopped spinning it and wrote down them in his book.

The whiteboard being hanged on a wall of the studying-room reading “only two days remain to sit for matriculation exam” was reminding both of us to try hard for the exam so that we could get a success.

My student’s parents were chatting in the living-room, a room next to us. His father, chewing betel quid, was saying about the matric students whom he met when he went to a monastic school recently.

It was around 5 pm when I returned home from the student’s home. I saw students learning their les-

sons loudly by heart. Their voices of learning lessons are like telling that matric exam is coming close.

Many thoughts about the exam came into my mind; the thoughts then aroused an uncomfortable feeling that I experienced ten years ago during the days of a similar exam.

At that time, I felt that a matric student’s life, particularly in exam days, was terrible; the things that I, as a teenager, enjoyed to perform were highly restricted. Not only I wasn’t allowed listening to music but also I was restricted from getting involved in the family’s discussion.

When I talked about that feeling with my friend, he said, “My Friend, not only the exam period but also the whole year as a student of the tenth standard was very bad.” “I was severely restricted. The foods, clothes, etc., were

chosen by my mother. I had no choice.” he complained.

At the moment, I am a teacher of matric students. The feelings that experienced as a student ten years ago completely changed. I came to know that the life of a matric student is worth experiencing. It is not only the year that can decide a student’s life but also the period that students get excused from their duties of washing their own clothes and preparing their foods. All are ready for them during the time. Parents and guardians make for them.

When I discussed about that with my uncle who is now a father of a matric student, he said, “Being a parent or guardian of a matric student is not easy.”

“We not only earn money for them but also manage them to study well,” he added.

Two weeks ago, wards/villages’ officials announced avoiding use

of loudspeakers and sound boxes before and during the exam days. It shows the importance of the exam, and the role of matriculation students for the country. Then, I believe that nothing is more important for a country than empowering its youths.

How does a country empower its youths? Nelson Mandela, a well-known South African leader and philanthropist, answered this question, saying “Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

Following the saying, every country was trying to arm their youths with higher education. In our country’s education system, a student can only study higher formal education at a university or college if he/she passes the matriculation examination. In this way, the matriculation examination is playing a vital role for not only students, teachers and parents but also the nation.



Some time ago a group of six MBA candidates from the Columbia Business School, USA visited Myanmar during their school break. It was one of the destinations in their bucket list. Among them was one Oliver Salman. After their visit, he wrote a very interesting article about their visit. The title of the article was "Expectations Shattered: Reflecting on Myanmar". As our country's image had been greatly tarnished by the unscrupulous international media coverage around the world, I think that his opinions and outlooks on our country expressed in his article would expel the bad tidings about our country and enhance our image to great extends. Thus in writing this article, I intend to highlight the original author's views to refurbish our image.

He wrote that after traveling through Southeast Asia for the winter break for just over 6 weeks, he had the opportunity to experience different cultures and countries through food, nightlife, human interactions, celebrations, natural beauty and historic sites. At the end of his journey, he had several peers asking him, "Which one was your favorite?"

He went on and wrote - before their Global Immersion Program (GIP), he would have had pros and cons for each country and could have said he loved them all. However, after spending two weeks diving into a country that was shut off for decades from the rest of the world, he said Myanmar

has enthralled him. Through its benevolent people, mind-blowing advancement and beautiful townships, he admitted that everything he had thought about this country has been completely turned upside down. That was the best compliment ever, by a foreign tourist about Myanmar.

He continued - Myanmar has been plagued with conflicts for decades, currently the longest running civil war. Although there may be conflicts going on in some of the border states, most of the Burmese people they encountered did not give the crisis much thought. Most intelligent of the people they spoke to, local and foreign, seemed to defend the government's actions, at the very least calling the conflict complex and at most likening it to the Israel-Palestine conflict. He said he undoubtedly believed that the conflict is complex.

He requested that when he refer to the country and people of Myanmar in his article, he wanted it to be clear that he is talking about the Bamar and Shan people, which comprise almost 80% of the population, and the development occurring within those areas of Myanmar. It was quite understandable as they had spent most of their stay in the Shan States and Mandalay Region during their visit.

Safety of travel

On the safety of travel in Myanmar, the author has this to say - never in his life, had he felt so safe in a country so foreign. When



Bagan, one of the tourist attractions of Myanmar. PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR

MYANMAR: the true story

By Khin Maung Myint

he first stepped off the plane in Yangon on arrival from abroad to transfer to the Heho airport, he said he was cautious and reticent. He was mindful of everything he did, lest he gets locked up by the government for misspeaking or offending a citizen. These actions are laughable now, he wrote. Though very brief that was the best description regarding the safety of travel in the country.

The people

In his opinion - hope, love and optimism the Burmese people display are unmatched. He was impressed by the fact that everywhere they went, they were being greeted with politeness. If asked if you wanted to buy something or take a taxi, a simple "no thanks," would suffice and the conversation would be done. No heckling nor pressure. If one has ever traveled in other parts of Southeast Asia, this situation would be a complete shock, because it would be difficult to walk away from the aggressive

vendors and drivers. I agree with him on this point as I, myself had experienced such situations many a times in some countries in the region.

He seemed to be greatly impressed by the politeness and the hospitality of our people. He wrote - every single service counter, whether it was a convenience store, restaurant or hotel, you would be greeted with a genuine grin from ear to ear and a look that said, "how can I help you in any way possible?" Even when a mistake was made, they felt bad as the Burmese people apologized profusely and immediately corrected the error. The author was all praise for the politeness of our people, which he said he had never seen elsewhere in the region where they had been to.

Technological advancements

He went on to write that when they asked a foreigner who had been living in Myanmar for several years why the people were

so happy, the expat summarized it with one word - hope. Hope that Myanmar will become a better country. And every day their lives are improving. Some years ago, no one had a cell phone. Today, they are live streaming sports and movies on their smartphones at speeds faster than most of the United States. Yet another expectation shattered.

Concerning the advance of technology in Myanmar, he wrote that throughout their visit, they continuously heard the same phrase used to describe the technology and way of life in Myanmar. The Leapfrog Effect. It is an amazing case study of a country that had shut its doors for decades and finally opened them up to discover a world 50 years ahead of where they were.

Beauty

Regarding the beauty of our country, he has this to say - as they rode through Bagan and were surrounded by over 2,000 beautiful

border areas are likely the major deterrents for tourists, it is still astounding to be in places with such natural and historic beauty and feel like it was carved out specifically for you.

Most people usually think of Thailand when planning a trip to Southeast Asia. Here he argued - notwithstanding the conflicts, tourists should change or supplement their itinerary. Myanmar is a must-visit country in the region. Words and pictures cannot describe the adventure of hopping from village to village and shop to shop on Inle Lake with a group of close friends. As you fit into a narrow canoe, an Inthar native will drive you around a thriving population that lives on stilted homes and makes handcrafts like silver jewelry, cheroot cigarettes and

and visit them.

Even Bagan, the more popular tourist destination, felt like being abandoned long ago. After renting E-scooters you can hop around from temple to temple, climb on a few and become mesmerized by some gigantic ones. If you opt for a more expensive balloon ride on a clear morning you are stunned by the beauty of the peppered temples across the landscape. Unlike Angkor Wat or other temple compounds, there is a vibrant community of mainly farmers that live in the area and pray at the temples. The old and new represented and preserved in the middle of Myanmar.

The future

About the future of Myanmar, please allow me to reproduce the

are trying to smear our country's image by making false accusations based on unconfirmed and baseless reports by the unethical international media and some disloyal local people working for them."

Though I haven't received any response from the author himself, it was very satisfying that one Joe Rotondella, an Australian expat replied to me. Excerpt from his reply is - "Khin Maung Myint AGREE entirely with you. I am an Australian Citizen, had business in Myanmar since 1996 and know the truth of this country - and the biased one-sided media that had very little truth in their reporting, it was disgraceful and continues in the same manner. Most of the western population can only formulate opinions on sensationalism - so their opinions based on



Inle Lake in Shan State. PHOTO:AFP



The pre-GIP crew riding through the villages of Inle Lake.



Tourists visit the Shwezigon Pagoda in Bagan. PHOTO:PHOE KHWAR

Buddhist temples erected during the 12th century, he wondered why there were so few tourists. At Inle Lake, when they stayed at a well-known hotel, they were

baffled by the realization that they were 6 of may be 15 people staying in the hotel that could hold hundreds of guests. Although the ongoing conflicts in the remote

lotus-weaved scarves. Fishermen pose for photographs in an iconic manner and Karenis (Padaung) tribe women with long neck jewelry will peacefully wait while people come

actual words of the author to make my article more authentic and carry more weight. He wrote - "As I reflect on ancient Burma and the present Burmese people, it is my hope that this country continues the path towards democratizing their government and advancing the lives of their people. The people deserve a country that will bring them wealth and prosperity. They deserve a future for themselves and for their children. My hope is that the world sees the diamond in the rough that is Myanmar, pulls it up from the ground and polishes it to demonstrate its brilliance."

After reading Oliver Salman's article twice, I couldn't refrain from making a comment on his post on Facebook. Thus I made this comment - "By far, the truest and unprejudiced description of Myanmar by a foreigner. I praise and thank the author for his rational outlook. It's a breath of fresh air at a time when most of the irresponsible international organizations

that kind of reporting - enough of negativity, let's focus on the bright future of Myanmar and its population. CIAO."

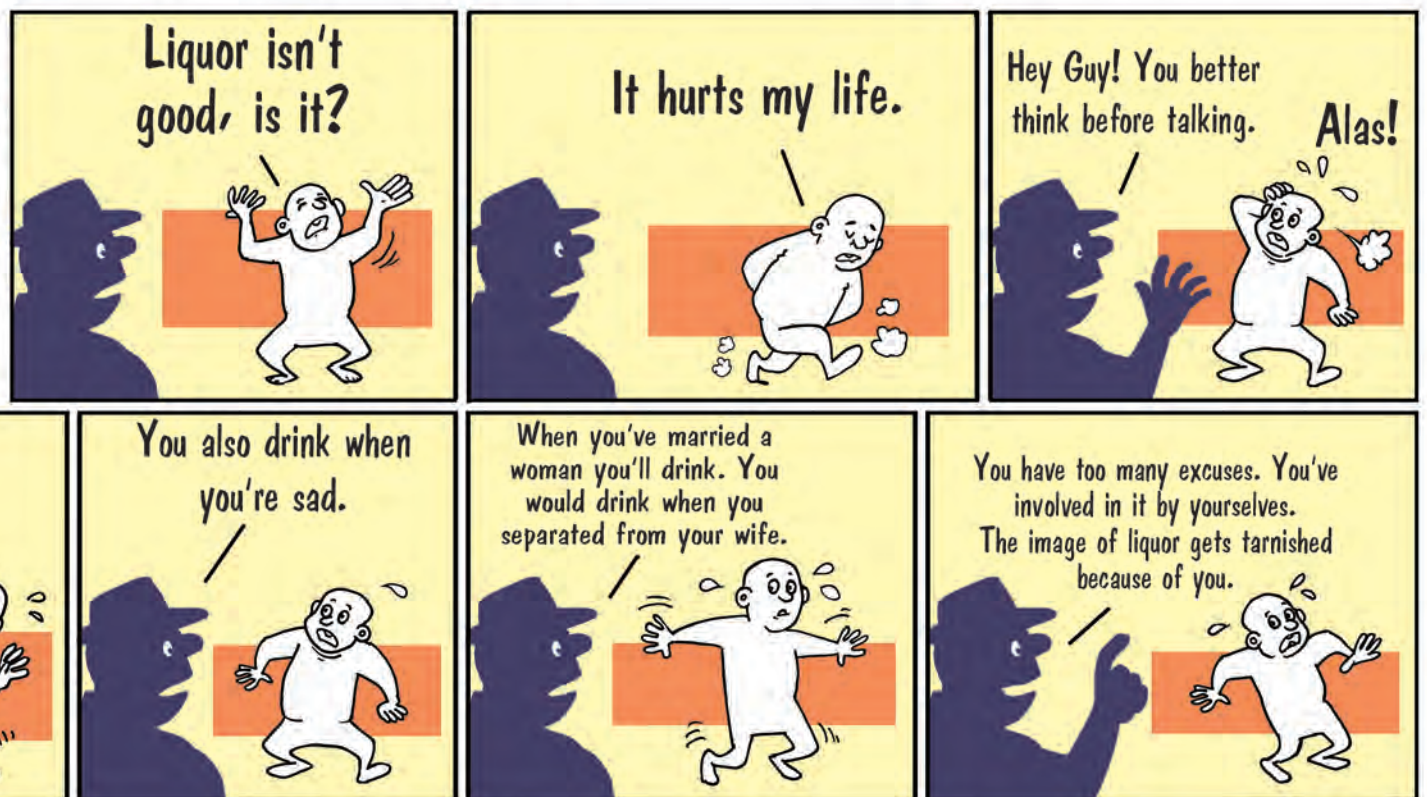
In conclusion, I am of the opinion that there are many rational foreigners like Mr. Oliver Salman and the expat businessman Joe Rotondella, who understand us and have positive impressions on our people and country. Thus I would like to urge the departments concerned to search for and approach such people and interview them. Use their optimistic views and opinions on our country to chart out a plan to counter the adverse and false reports and the smear campaigns by the unscrupulous international organizations and unethical media. Those people are unfairly painting an ugly picture of our country. I sincerely believe it would surely be effective in attracting more foreign tourists and investors once the misunderstandings, suspicions, fears and distrusts are eradicated.



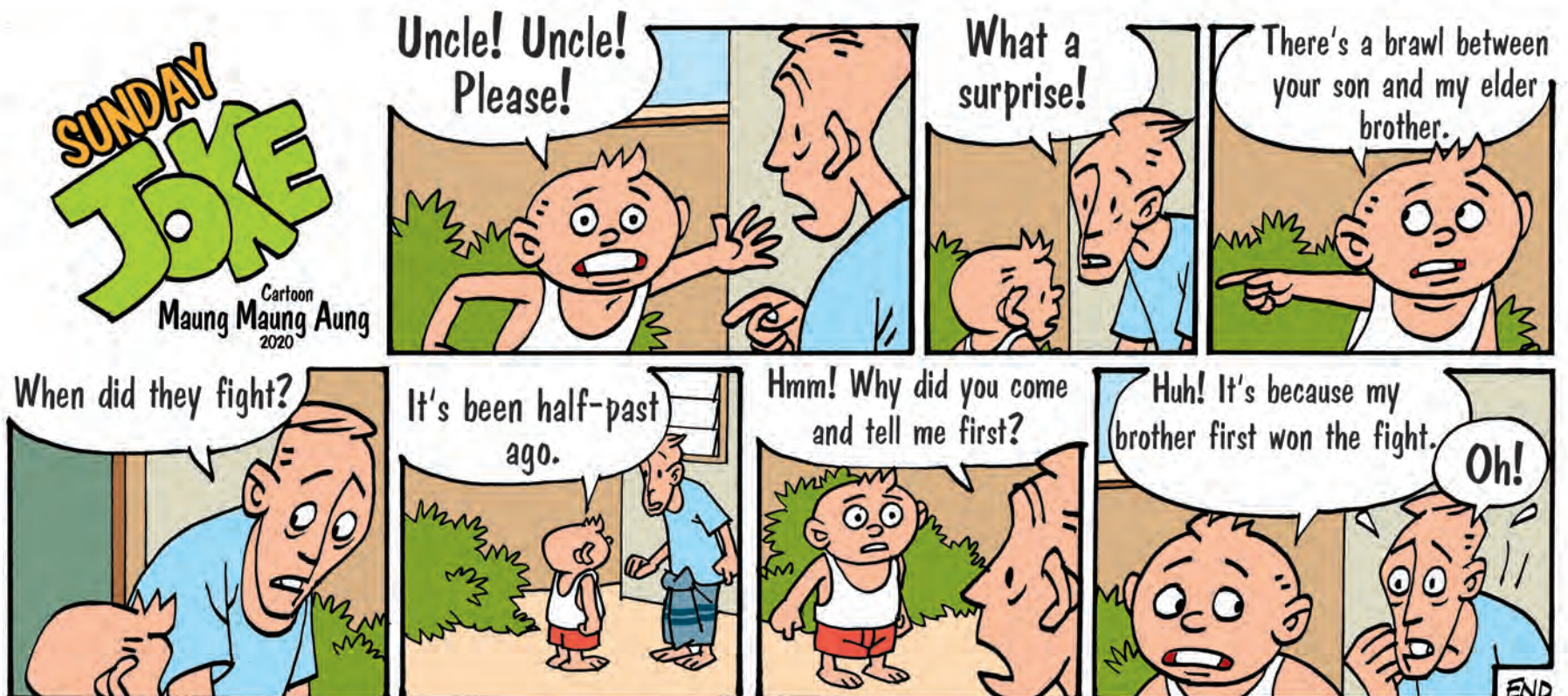
SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE
Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung 2020



Toxic cancel culture



By Aung Kaung Sett Hein
4th year, RCSI Medicine,
Dublin.

In this day and age of social media, we are not too new to the term 'cancelled culture', which refers to publicly shaming or calling out people (on social media platforms) for their mistakes, ranging from their questionable actions, unpopular opinions or something that is perceived unacceptable in the general public's eye. Anyone can be the victim of 'cancel culture' these days, from celebrities and influential figures to random people and college students. While it is quite reasonable to call out people on social media and hold them accountable for wrongdoings so that they do not get away scot-free, this culture has turned somewhat toxic for a number of reasons.

I think this culture is very much apparent and thriving to an unhealthy extent in our country these days; when celebrities are targeted with hate campaigns for a blunder in their interview for example. But this is not exclusive to our country, it has been happening in quite a different manner in the West with pop singers, actors, and politicians. With increasing public access to social media and the proliferation of media everywhere

in this decade, this culture has never been this popular and mainstream. In some way, this is useful because public figures will become more conscious about their

actions in fear of public backlash and criticism, and it clearly sends a strong signal that they have to take responsibility and are answerable to the general public. I strongly believe though that such a culture should be reserved for morally deficient people like rapists, murderers, pedophiles- who are threats to the general public and who have done irrevocable harm. But there is a danger that we have reached to a point where we 'cancel' everyone for everything, which is not healthy in that we are stripping them of the opportunity and their right to improve, redeem themselves, and be forgiven

for simple humanly errors.

If we start 'cancelling' literally everyone for some innocent mistakes when they have reflected and do not even stand by them, it becomes toxic, and this devalues progress, stops people from being motivated to change, as they would be cast aside from the society. In some way, it becomes people cannot make mistakes without being ostracised, and sadly when little trivial things get someone cancelled, large important things become meaningless and lose significance. If there is any situation brought to attention on social media and it goes viral, individuals concerned can be called out instantly in a negative light and attacked with malicious comments for days and weeks. With this comes threats and an undesirable environment of hostility for a person simply due to a mishap or a controversy they unfortunately find themselves caught up in; their families get attacked, their friends dragged, their affiliations targeted.

With this toxic culture, in some way or the other, celebrities and public personalities lose sincerity because they may find it hard to always be true to themselves and speak their minds; they would rather land on a safe side trying to avoid saying things that the general public might not agree with or find problematic. They can become too media-conscious, being politically correct and doing things which would give them a good press and positive public reactions. Furthermore, this culture has produced a venue for people collectively abusing their rights and freedom of speech and expression to viciously criticize and send threats to a celebrity that they do not know personally who has made a mistake, plus anyone who supports or agrees with them. What is worse, people are becoming quick to resort to bullying and cancelling a person just based on rumors and accusations without being proven or confirmed yet, thus giving them a damaged reputation without a benefit of the doubt.

This toxic online campaign of

SEE PAGE- S-8



FROM PAGE- S-1

sidewalks, library, Judson, and so on. Exploiting those areas, the photographers and the grads family are taking photos as their please by using certain equip- ment, particularly tripods, supplemental lighting, reflectors, and similar. Groups and groups of grads just take place in the middle of the main road and any traffic that want to get past have to put 4 wheels still want not to disturb the memory of them.

If someone stops and suggests that he is being a tad inconsiderate in the way of the passersby, the grad might go confrontational and abusive. Without the other person's consent and getting them into trouble, the improper photograph- ing by the grads is elsewhere in Yangon University compound.

Once, when I was reading quietly in

the UCL (Universities' Central Library), the grads were photographing inside with the don't-touch ancient stuffs. Actually the inside photographing is not allowed, but the security is too late to warn them. The photographing was already done. So I thought "there should be rules and regulations about photographing com- pletely blocking the main road and in and in front of the libraries to make a good photo of their own desire". They should have the ethic as if their setup is likely to disrupt the general flow of traffic, or cause a safety hazard to the University students and the University itself, the University authority should give awareness or enact the relevant policy, regulation, or statute and its terms to those who want to photo within the premises. For example, pho- tography is permitted with time and place limitation or especially weekends only (it

is better solution not to disturb the study and commuting of the students) and supplemental lighting, reflectors which can block the way of commuters and the traffic should be prohibited to some extent. So being respectful to our esteem Yangon University and considerate to- wards other's privacy, as it is impossible to cease photography or even to vacate the premises, the grads themselves should know that whether their activities are dis- turbing others. Established in 1920, the University of Yangon has an illustrious history but nowadays among the grads, is it just a worth-spot for pre-graduation photographing? As well, if there is neither public awareness nor law enforcement, the trend of pre-graduation photograph- ing will be mushrooming in every nook and cranny of the Yangon University.



FROM PAGE- S-7

'cancelling' humans and calling them names when unnecessary can be an isolating experience in real-life, leading to a place of despair and suicidal thoughts, due to a mass public shaming, misunderstanding, and widespread humiliation and boycotts, sometimes followed by loss of jobs or a complete 'downfall' of career for public figures. At those times, it is important to channel the pain and anger into something positive and hopeful, like when Taylor Swift was publicly 'cancelled' on twitter in 2016 and came back stronger into spotlight a year later with new music talking about what she went through and how she coped with the controversy. It is quite unfortunate that today, just a simple viral post on Facebook or a trending negative comment can easily spark heat and outrage towards an individual or an organization. This gives people who are craving for attention the urge to post

things that would give them instant short-term popularity with thousands of likes and shares.

In conclusion, as human beings who are prone to unintentional innocent mistakes, we should be forgiving when possible while standing by the fact that real criminal acts must be sub- jected to retribution. It is useful to remember that behind these calls for 'cancellation' are human beings, not a TV show or a subscription to a Youtube channel. It is a way of implying they should stop existing, which I think is brutal and inhumane. So if we let go of this tendency to quickly judge, and individually stop this habit of cancelling people for trivial matters, the immense outbreaks of toxicity, negativity and hostility in our society can decrease to a certain extent, for sure.



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Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Row: FZ1585.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Row: PG722.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Row: PG721.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Row: KE472.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Row: KE471.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Row: CA906.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Row: CA905.

AIR LINES CODES table listing airline codes and names like 3K = Jet Star, 8M = Myanmar Airways International, etc.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Row: CI7916.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Row: CI7915.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Rows include VN956, VJ918.

Table with 4 columns: FLIGHT, DEP, ARV, DATE. Rows include VN957, VJ917.

Table with 2 columns: DATE, Day. Rows include 1 = Monday, 2 = Tuesday, 3 = Wednesday, 4 = Thursday, 5 = Friday, 6 = Saturday, 7 = Sunday.

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