

SUNDAY SPECIAL



Pull-out supplement

NATIONAL

Education Ministry issues COVID-19 prevention measures for all matriculation examination centres

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Sunday, 15 March 2020

Working Committee holds meeting to address impact of COVID-19 on country's economy

THE Working Committee to address the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the Country's Economy was held at the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) in

Yangon yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, U Thaung Tun, Union Minister, Investment and Foreign Economic Relations and chair of the working committee, stressed that the Committee was formed

to consider measures to address the negative impacts of the COVID-19 situation on the country's economy.

The meeting discussed short, medium and long term measures to respond to the

COVID-19 crisis. The Working Committee also reviewed additional measures to be undertaken by the government, together with the private sector.

Also present at the meeting were U Soe Win, Union Min-

ister of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry, U Thein Swe, Union Minister of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population,

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Thanlyin Bridge-3 construction inspected by Union Minister

UNION Minister U Han Zaw inspected the Bago River-crossing Thanlyin Bridge No. 3 linking Yangon, Thanlyin and the Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The new bridge is being built next to the existing Thanlyin bridge, connecting Thaketa and Thanlyin townships. With four lanes in total, two lanes each way, it will be a steel cable-stayed, PC box girder and steel box girder bridge.

"Upon completion, the bridge will benefit the socio-economy of the local people and ease traffic congestion, and ensure transportation moves smoothly," said the Union Minister, during his inspection. He also called for maintaining work-site safety, as well as the safety of travellers and ships in the river. The main portion of the bridge is 1928 metres long, with 547-metre approach bridge on the Thaketa side and a 188-metre approach bridge on the Thanlyin side.

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The Bago River-crossing Thanlyin Bridge No. 3 linking Yangon, Thanlyin and Thilawa Special Economic Zone is under construction. **PHOTO: MNA**



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Education Ministry issues COVID-19 prevention measures for all matriculation examination centres

THE Ministry of Education has issued the following instructions as COVID-19 prevention measures for all matriculation examination centres in the whole country in coordination with the Ministry of Health Sports, and beginning from the date (11-3-2020) the exams commenced, all the centres have been observing the instructions.

1. Ask the students whether they have symptoms of fever or coughing or sneezing before the start of the exam.
2. If found any student suffering from fever or coughing or sneezing, he or she must be systematically worn a surgical mask or must be moved to a separate place to sit for the exam.
3. Every examination centre must arrange a separate room for students showing such

symptoms, and the disease prevention measures must be taken seriously for the safety of teachers assigned in the room.

4. If any student with such symptoms is found, information about the matter must be immediately sent to the relevant health department to provide medical treatment for him or her.
5. Every examination centre must have an adequate amount of water, soap, hand gel and surgical masks and administer strict instructions and supervision for washing hands and wearing the masks.
6. Every desk must be at least three feet apart from one another in an examination room.
7. Supervise the students to systematically wash their hands with hand gel before entering the examination room.

8. Any teacher suffering from fever or coughing or sneezing should be released from duty and sent to the relevant health department for treatment immediately.
9. Every examination room must have proper ventilation.

COVID-19 prevention methods

1. Wash your hands systematically and frequently.
2. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, put your used tissue systematically into the trash can, and wash your hands carefully.
3. Personal hygiene, nutritious food and sound sleep.

■ ■ ■

Working Committee holds meeting to address impact of COVID-19 on country's economy

FROM PAGE-1

Dr Than Myint, Union Minister of the Ministry of Commerce, U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Soe Min, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Tin Latt, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, U Win Khant, Per-

manent Secretary of the Ministry of Transport and Communications, U Aung Naing Oo, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, U Min Min, Director General of the Ministry of Commerce and other senior officials from the ministries concerned.—MNA

■ ■



Union Minister U Thauang Tun addresses the working committee meeting on impact of COVID-19 on country's economy. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mini oil refinery starts test run in Taungtha, handles 30,000 gals of crude oil per day

ACTING Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Zarni Aung and Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing inspected the test run of a mini oil refinery of MCCM Co, Ltd near Kyawzi village, Taungtha Township in Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

First, the factory in-charge reported on the structure of the refinery and test run programmes and deputy factory manager Daw Phyu Phyu Aung of Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) on the operations of the mini refinery and the technical assistance provided by the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) for the mini refinery of MCCM Co, Ltd. Managing



Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing inspects the test run of mini oil refinery near Kyawzi village, Taungtha Township yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Director of MOGE U Aung Myint also gave a report.

Deputy Minister Dr Tun Naing gave instructions on the

production of different types of quality fuels in accordance with the set standards to have a competitive power, the prioritization of fire prevention and occupational safety programs, environmental protection, practicing of a systematic waste disposal system in accordance with the set procedures and implementation of corporate social responsibility, and observed the control and operations of the refinery.

The mini refinery is turning 30,000 gallons of crude oil derived from hand-drilled wells in the country into 4500 gallons of petrol 19,500 gallons of diesel and about 5400 gallons of fuel oil daily.

With the aim of generating

social and economic benefits and job opportunities and providing fuel oil for agriculture and transport sectors at reasonable prices, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy has been issuing licenses in accordance with the rules and regulations for local refineries supplied by hand-drilled crude oil. The ministry has already issued the permits to 411 persons in Sagaing Region, three in Bago Region, two in Yangon Region, 17 in Ayeyawady Region and 45 in Mandalay Region totaling 478. Among them, the mini refinery of the MCCM Co, Ltd is the first one to conduct the test run. —MNA

(Translated by TMT)

MITC in Yangon starts serving as trade link

THE Myanmar International Trade Centre (MITC) in Yangon started its services as a link between domestic products and local and foreign markets at the free-of-charge showrooms yesterday, under the sponsorship of the Ministry of Commerce.

Yesterday morning, agricultural producers and distributors of states and regions displayed local produce at the showrooms and booths at their 1st Myanmar Startup Show of the MITC

located at the corner of Merchant Street and Bo Suan Pet Street in Pabedan, a downtown of Yangon city. Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint and the permanent secretary of the ministry visited the shops, and introduced the visitors with capital loan of the AYA Bank.

Myanmar appointed 10 commercial attaches in Thailand, Singapore, India, Republic of

Korea, China (Beijing and Nanjing), Japan, Belgium (EU), the US (for major cities) and Hong Kong as links, providing market information for the Myanmar International Trade Centre (MITC). The country will also send five more commercial attaches to Germany, South Africa, Australia, Brazil and Kunming in Yunnan of China.

—Thant Zin Win
(Translated by TMT)

Ten students sit for Myanmar Literature Optional Subject

A total of ten students sat for Myanmar Literature Optional Subject at exam centres from different States and Regions on the fourth day of the 2020 matriculation exam.

Out of ten students, five students are from Kachin

State, two from Yangon Region, another two from Mandalay Region and one more from Rakhine State, according to the statement issued by the Ministry of Education.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

MoHS Union Minister attends medical equipment donation ceremony at YGH

UNION Minister Dr Myint Htwe of the Ministry of Health and Sports attended the donation ceremony of medical equipment to the Yangon General Hospital, held at its training hall yesterday.

At the ceremony, Chairman U Aik Htun of the Shwe Taung Group of Companies, on behalf of the donors, said: “We’ve rendered our contributions, in one way or another, towards the control and prevention measures against the COVID-19. This meant for the good of the nation and its people. So we’ll keep contributing as much as we can in their interests.”

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe then said that it is important medical equipment for treatment at the hospitals should be prepared while the MoHS has been implementing the control and prevention measures against the COVID-19, with maximized

momentum.

“Today’s donation can benefit very well the health workers, who have been giving treatment to patients with communicable diseases. It is essential at the right time. This is a good deed and MoHS thanks the donors,” the minister added.

Minister of Social Affairs U Naing Ngan Lin of Yangon Region also expressed appreciation to the donors.

The Union Minister and officials accepted the donation and gave certificates of appreciation to the donors.

A total of K232 million and medical equipment were collectively donated by the IBPC, the Asia Royal Hospital, the Shwe Taung Group, the GGI Tokio Marine and GGI Nippon Life, the Kyeltagon Foundation, U Su Wai and U Win Naing families, U Thaw Zin family, U Soe Paing family, U Ohn Saing family, U Ne Win family, U Kyaw Aung family,



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe accepts the donation for Yangon General Hospital yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

U Yon Mu family, U Aik Sai family, U Thein Win family, U Tun Oo family, the Tokyu Construction Co. Ltd, the Rolex Group, the International School of Myanmar, the Yadana Shinthant Co., and the Brightex Family Co. Ltd. — MNA
(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

Mandalay introduces smart pay system for taxpayers



Launching ceremony of the Mandalay Smart Pay being held in Mandalay yesterday. PHOTO: MIN HTET AUNG

MANDALAY commissioned the Mandalay smart pay (MSP Wallet)

system yesterday, opening MSP accounts at Mandalay Convention Centre for

the convenience of taxpayers.

The system which will

not charge any service fees was jointly implemented by 2C2P, a Myanmar citizen-owned company based in Singapore, and Yadana-bon Bank.

Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) has implemented the MSP Wallet with the aim of solving the problems in finding small notes and cutting time in paying municipal taxes. Taxpayers can send money through the QR Code round the clock without any charges. Later, we will extend the system till it becomes available for all trade purposes. As smart pay has become an

international practice, we should also have one. Taxpayers no more need to count or even touch the notes,” said Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin.

As for introducing the system, we reached an agreement with 2C2P in the previous year. The first phase involves the settlement of municipal taxes, and later, the system can be applied in paying other charges including car and motorcycle keeping fees and market fees. Finally, business companies can be able to establish mutual trade links between them through the system, said a member of MCDC.

“Thanks to the system, taxpayers do not need to carry cash and go to the relevant offices in person. They can transfer the money from their accounts. It’s a safer method for all. We can make top-ups from Ks 5000 to a million,” said Ma Mi Mi Aung, who attended the press meet on the Mandalay Smart Pay system. Taxpayers can open an account or have top-ups at the development affairs department in the Mandalay city and all branches of Yadana-bon bank and Myanmar Apex Bank. — Min Htet Aung (Mandalay sub-printing house)

(Translated by TMT)

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Thanlyin Bridge-3 construction inspected by Union Minister

FROM PAGE-1

The pre-engineering works started on 13 May last year. The bridge can withstand 75 tons of load. It is slated to be completed by the end of 2022.

In building the bridge, Jap-

anese engineers are in charge of construction, while Myanmar engineers are taking supervisory roles and involved in the exchange of construction technology.

Being a four-lane bridge, the bridge is expected to improve the

logistics network from the Thilawa SEZ to Bago, Mawlamyine and Mandalay.

The infrastructure will also promote foreign direct investment for the Thilawa SEZ and overall economic development of Myanmar.

The new Bago River Bridge is being built under the Loan Scheme of the Japanese Official Development Assistance (ODA). — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Local toddy chair makers happy with increased incomes



A man making toddy chairs in Monywa. PHOTO: YE AUNG (KATHA)

LOCAL people from Monywa Township are happy with their increasing incomes from selling toddy chairs. They are mak-

ing toddy chairs in Kapalake village in Katha Township, Sagaing Region.

Toddy chair makers arrived at Kapalake village from Monywa township. They purchase the raw materials from Monywa to assemble the chairs in Katha township. They sell a chair for K 6,000 or K 7,500.

Although there is no daily demand, they are happy because they can make a high profit by selling them.

"We can make 15 or 20 toddy chairs daily from the raw materials. We purchase a

bundle of toddy-palm branches for K 2,500 to use as raw materials to produce chairs and K 1,200 or K 1,300 for toddy boards.

Then, we make toddy chairs in Katha township. We need four people to make the toddy chairs. One person fixes the toddy chair and the remaining three sell them by delivering them on motorbikes in the villages and in towns.

Although we don't have regular demand for toddy chairs, the chairs sell better in Katha township than in Monywa," said U Yarzar Win, a toddy chair maker.—Ye Aung (Katha)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar-Bangladesh trade up \$289 mln

THE value of border trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh, as of 6 March in the 2019-2020FY, reached US\$298.3 million, an increase of \$289.18 million compared with the same period in the previous fiscal, according to monthly data issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

Compared with the 2018-2019FY, border exports between the two countries increased to \$10.732 million in the current fiscal, whereas border imports

were valued at \$278.445 million. This FY, Myanmar exported goods worth \$19.62 million to Bangladesh and imported goods valued at over \$278.7 million.

Border trade between the two countries is conducted through the Sittway and Maungtau camps. Between 1 October and 6 March in the current FY, trade through the Maungtau gate reached \$8.004 million, while trade at the Sit-

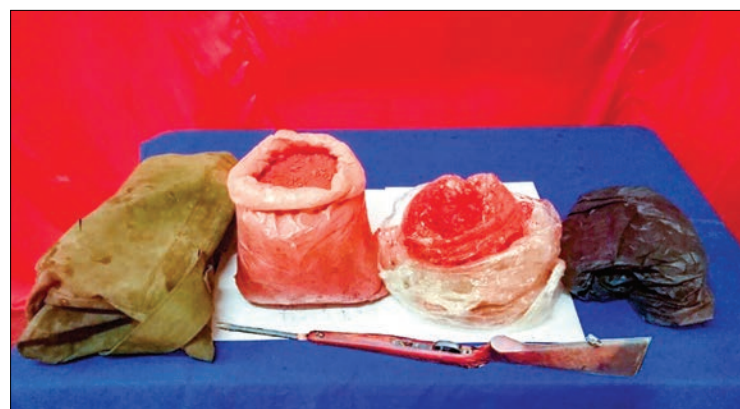
tway border checkpoint was valued at \$290.311 million.

Goods traded at the Myanmar-Bangladesh border include bamboos, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastics, wood, knitwear, and beverages.

According to the ministry's annual statistical data, Myanmar's total border trade with Bangladesh exceeded \$23.2 million in the 2018-2019FY. The bilateral border trade was pegged at \$263 million in the 2018 mini budget period, \$29 million in the 2017-2018FY, \$10.6 million in the 2016-2017FY, \$11.5 million in the 2015-2016FY, \$14.3 million in the 2014-2015FY, \$22.8 million in the 2013-2014FY, and \$3.83 million in the 2012-2013FY. —Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Narcotic drugs confiscated in Myingyan, Tachilek



Confiscated drugs seen. PHOTO: MPF

AUTHORITIES seized stimulants in two townships in two days, according to Myanmar Police Force.

On 13 March, police intercepted the motorcycle driven by Ma May Moe San at the toll gate near Naelaethit Village in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region; 1,810 stimulant tablets, K 202,500 in cash, and a mobile phone in her purse were confiscated from the

suspect.

On 12 March, Tatmadaw personnel discovered 3.5 kg of crushed stimulant tablets and a .22 gun from the ground they dug at the foot of a bamboo grove near Naetharli Village in Tachilek Township, Shan State.

Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Trade Mark Ads

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Myanmar's rice stocks exceed local consumption

MYANMAR now has a rice stock exceeding the local consumption for this year, and the rice associations at basic levels will distribute the staple food of the country in wards and industrial zones at wholesale prices if required, according to a meeting held in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting held at Myanmar International Trade Center focused on the state- and region-wise rice production and remaining rice stocks and rice exports for the stability of local rice market, amidst the global COVID-19 scare.

The remaining rice stocks

and summer paddy yield, rice supply and demand, emergency rice provision programmes for all areas, export control measures of the State, emergency rice reserve of the State, state- and region-wise plans to facilitate the commodity flow and prevent market manipulation were also discussed in seeking ways for the stability of the local rice market.

Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce U Aung Soe, Director-General of Department of Agriculture Dr Ye Tint Tun, Director-General of Department of Consumer Affairs U Myint Lwin, President of My-



The official meeting of Myanmar Rice Federation being held in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

anmar Rice Federation U Ye Min Aung, Chairman of Myanmar Rice Merchants Association U

Aung Than Oo, Executive Director of Myanmar Inspection and Testing Services Limited U Toe

Aung Myint and official took part in the discussions.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Local residents from Letpadan earn extra income by selling grass brooms

LOCAL residents of Letpadan village, Mohnyin Township, are earning extra income by working in the traditional grass broom making businesses, said U Tun Tun Oo, the ward administrator from the Letpadan village.

Letpadan village, with 140 households, is located beside the Mandalay-Myitkyina railway. Members of the entire village earn their family incomes by making brooms. The traditionally made brooms from the village are well known for their good quality.

U Tun Tun Oo, the ward administrator, said there are 140 households in the village, and that nearly all the women from the village are making brooms. Some are working on their own and some hire workers to manufacture brooms.

"We can make 20 brooms per day if we don't do other things. A broom is currently sold for K 800. We can make a profit of K 200 if we deduct the costs of the raw materials used in making the brooms," said Daw Mya Yee, one of the village broom-makers.

Based on the number of broom stalks, the costs are different. A stalk is bought for K 8 or K 10, and 100 broom stalks can be used to assemble three brooms.

The broom stalks are grown naturally in the lowland of Kachin State and on the mountains, according to the local villagers.

The locally made brooms are primarily delivered for sale to Shwebo, Sagaing and Mandalay.—Kyaw Kyaw (Mohnyin) (Translated by Hay Mar)



Women making brooms in Letpadan village, Mohnyin Township. PHOTO: KYAW KYAW (MOHNYIN)

Border trade value with ITC hits K 23 bln

MYANMAR'S total border trade using Individual Trading Cards (ITC) exceeded K23 billion from 1st October to 29 February in the 2019-2020 fiscal year (FY), according to figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The export value using the ITC was over K2 billion, whereas imports with the ITC reached over K 20.9 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The trade value with the ITC amounted to K23.02 billion, as of 29 February in the current fiscal year, as the Myawady and Maw Taung border trade camps saw the largest trade value using the ITC.

The ministry has issued a total of 1,730 ITCs, registering its trade value of over K 192 billion since FY 2012-2013. The ministry issued 292 ITCs in 2012-2013, 261 in 2013-2014, 315 in 2014-2015, 146 in 2015-2016, 248 in 2016-2017, 168 in 2017-2018, 92 in the mini-budget period of 2018 (April-September, 2018), and 163 in the 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to

the ministry's figures.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others to foreign trade partner countries, while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported into the country.

The country conducts border trade with neighbouring China at Muse, Lweje, Kampaiti, Chinashwehaw and Kengtung gates, with Thailand via Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtuang and Maese checkpoints, with Bangladesh at the Sittwe and Maungtau checkpoints, and with India through Tamu and Reed border checkpoints.

The Ministry began issuing ITCs in 2012. Traders can sell up to K 15 million per week using ITCs, which must be extended every year. The Trade Department issues ITCs to boost border trade.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Most travelers entering New Zealand must self-isolate: Ardern



File photo shows New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CHRISTCHURCH (New Zealand) — Most travelers entering New Zealand, including citizens and residents, will be required to

enter 14 days of self-isolation as a preventative measure against coronavirus, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said Saturday.

The premier said the restrictions were the toughest and most wide-ranging border protection measures in the world and will be reviewed in 16 days time.

“Cabinet made far reaching and unprecedented decisions today because these are unprecedented circumstances,” she said at a press conference in Auckland.

People entering New Zealand from Pacific island nations, which collectively have no cases of COVID-19 infection, are the only travelers exempt from the

restrictions, which begin at midnight on Sunday.

Ardern also said all cruise ships will be told not to come to New Zealand until June 30.

Earlier Saturday, the country’s heightened preventative measures led to the cancellation of a national memorial service commemorating the first anniversary of the deadly mass shootings at two mosques in Christchurch.

The memorial for the March 15 terror attacks was originally scheduled to be held on Sunday. But organizers said because the event is non-ticketed it would be difficult to trace any transmission of the virus, if

it were to occur.

New Zealand has confirmed six cases of coronavirus, all of which are located in Auckland. However organizers were expecting many attendees to travel from across the country and Australia, where 200 cases and incidents of community transmission, have been confirmed.

Christchurch Mayor Lianne Dalziel said at a press conference the emotional nature of the memorial meant people may find it more difficult than usual to maintain social distancing precautions.

“I think if it had been something else, it’s much easier to stand back, but your heart naturally goes out to people and

there is a desire and need to embrace,” she said.

In the shootings a total of 51 people were killed after a gunman stormed the Al Noor and Linwood mosques in central Christchurch. The attack was the deadliest mass shooting in New Zealand’s history.

Representatives of the Al Noor and Linwood mosques said private gatherings will be held in lieu of the public memorial.

Australian Brenton Tarrant, 29, faces an array of charges, including 51 counts of murder and one count of engaging in a terrorist attack. He is due to go on trial in June.—Kyodo News ■

Coronavirus curfew shuts down cities in Iraq’s Kurdish region

ARBIL (Iraq) — Pigeons are the only visitors to Arbil’s citadel, normally buzzing with tourists, and security forces in masks and gloves have emptied cobblestone streets below as the Iraqi city goes into lockdown.

Overnight Friday to Saturday, Arbil and the city of Sulaimaniyah, both in Iraq’s autonomous northern Kurdish region, began a 48-hour curfew to combat the spread of the novel coronavirus.

“Moving around is banned and people must stay home,” the region’s interior ministry said in a statement.

Iraq has registered at least 10 deaths and more than 90 cases of COVID-19. The first recorded fatality was a 70-year-old imam in Sulaimaniyah, and 28 others in the region are confirmed to have been infected.

On Saturday in Sulaimaniyah, about 200 kilometres (125 miles) southeast of Arbil, men in protective gear and with green disinfectant tanks strapped to their backs sprayed down sidewalks and store fronts.

Ambulances and fire trucks could be seen driving through the city streets, which were otherwise clear of activity.

Iraq has been particularly worried about a spread of the virus from neighbouring Iran, which has been one of the worst-hit countries.

More than 600 people have died and over 12,000 have been

infected by the novel coronavirus in Iran, which shares a border of around 1,500-kilometres (over 900 miles) with Iraq.

Iraq has officially closed its crossing points along the entire frontier with Iran, but authorities fear that people can still use smuggling routes and informal crossings to travel undetected.

About a third of the shared border is with Iraq’s Kurdistan region. In a broader move, Kurdish authorities have banned travel to federal Iraqi provinces for two weeks starting Saturday and have barred large gatherings and sporting events.

The decision is likely to cripple Kurdish new year celebrations, set to take place from around March 19.

Iraq’s federal authorities have announced bans on non-Iraqi travellers coming from around a dozen countries facing COVID-19 outbreaks.

While authorities have not imposed a nationwide curfew, the province of Nineveh, which neighbours the Kurdish region, announced its own 48-hour lockdown from Saturday night.

Federal authorities have shut schools, shopping centres and movie theatres across the country, and government agencies have slashed their opening hours.

Shiite Muslim shrines in the south have remained open, under pressure from religious and political authorities. — AFP ■

Syria death toll 384,000 after nine years of war: monitor



Syrian boys sit at a cemetery where displaced families took refuge in its prayer hall, in the town of Sarmada in Syria’s northwestern Idlib province, on 23 February 2020. PHOTO: AFP

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — At least 384,000 people have died in Syria, including more than 116,000 civilians, since the war began in March 2011, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Saturday.

Sparked by deadly repression of peaceful pro-democracy protests, the conflict has drawn in outside powers in a complex war involving rebel factions, jihadist groups and foreign interests.

As the war enters its 10th year, the government of President Bashar al-Assad now controls more than 70 percent of Syrian territory, thanks to the military support of its allies Russia, Iran and Lebanese militant

group Hezbollah.

The conflict is the “worst man-made disaster since World War II,” the United Nations human rights chief declared in 2017.

The war has destroyed the economy and caused more than 11 million Syrians to flee their homes.

According to the Observatory, which relies on a network of sources in Syria, the latest death toll includes about 22,000 children and 13,000 women.

At least 129,476 Syrian soldiers, allied forces and militiamen have died, according to the Britain-based war monitor, including 1,697 members of Hezbollah.

Nearly 57,000 rebels have died, as well as 13,624 members of the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces, which spearheaded the US-backed campaign against the Islamic State group, the Observatory said.

The Observatory tallied 67,296 deaths among jihadists loyal to IS or to Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, an alliance led by a former Al-Qaeda affiliate that dominates the last rebel enclave in the Idlib region in the northwest.

The death toll included 421 unidentified victims.

After recent government advances, Idlib province is the last battleground between government forces, and the jihadists and their rebel allies.— AFP ■

Lebanon's Hezbollah won't oppose IMF aid under 'reasonable conditions': chief

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — Lebanon's powerful Hezbollah movement, which has strongly opposed foreign interference in the country's crisis-hit economy, said Friday it could accept Beirut receiving an International Monetary Fund financial rescue package under "reasonable conditions".

"Any help within reasonable conditions, there's no problem with it in principle," the Shiite movement's chief Hassan Nasrallah said in a televised address.

But he warned that "Lebanon must not fall under anybody's trusteeship or hand over its financial and economic administration" to outside parties.

One of the most indebted countries in the world, Lebanon has been rocked by a months-long political and financial crisis.

The country's pound has tumbled in value and banks have imposed strict limits on dollar withdrawals amid a strangulating liquidity crunch and mass protests against the political class.

Lebanon said last week it would default on its Eurobond debt for the first time, saying that was the only way to shore up its foreign currency reserves.



Lebanon's financial crisis has prompted banks to impose strict limits on withdrawals. PHOTO: AFP

Banking experts have called for an IMF rescue package, saying it would secure desperately-needed international assistance and reassure creditors.

But the powerful Shiite movement Hezbollah, which along with its allies holds a majority in parliament, has opposed such moves. It has rejected conditions and "ready-made recipes" which global bodies could impose, warning against what it called "foreign guardianship" over the economy.

Hezbollah is backed by Iran, whose arch foe the United States has a virtual veto on IMF de-

isions. The IMF on Thursday urged Lebanon to quickly implement reforms to stabilise the economy. "Given the severity of economic conditions in Lebanon, it's important that the government designs and implements promptly a comprehensive package of reforms to effectively address the economic challenges and improve Lebanon's economic prospects," IMF spokesman Gerry Rice told reporters.

While the country has not requested aid from the Washington-based crisis lender, "We stand ready... to assist the authorities in those efforts." — AFP ■

Kansai Electric names new president following gift scandal

OSAKA — Kansai Electric Power Co. said Saturday it had named a new president following a scandal in which company executives received cash and gifts from a former deputy mayor of a town hosting one of its nuclear plants.

Executive Vice President Takashi Morimoto, 64, has been promoted and will replace Shigeki Iwane, 66, who has stepped down to take responsibility for the scandal, which exposed shady ties between Japan's nuclear industry and local public officials.

The leadership shuffle came as Kansai Electric's third-party panel said in its final report that company executives received from Eiji Moriyama, the late deputy mayor of Takahama town in central Japan a total of some 360 million yen (\$3.3 million) in cash and gifts, a tally higher than the 320 million yen reported in an in-house investigation in 2018.

The report said 75 people received the gifts from Moriyama in a practice that started directly after he retired as deputy mayor in 1987. The previous in-house report said 20 people including Iwane received the gifts in forms such as cash and gold coins.

The panel, launched in



Takashi Morimoto. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

October last year, handed the final report to Kansai Electric on Saturday, after interviewing executives and other employees at the Osaka-based utility, both current and former.

Kansai Electric Chairman Makoto Yagi stepped down in October to take responsibility for the scandal. Iwane has said he would resign on the day of the panel's report.

The new president Morimoto has served as an executive vice president of the company since June 2016. He has recently handled human resources, safety management and other affairs. — Kyodo News ■

Australian medical mercy dash for American in Antarctica

CHRISTCHURCH (New Zealand) — An American requiring emergency medical treatment has been flown from Antarctica to New Zealand in a mercy dash in "challenging" winter conditions, the Australian Antarctic Division said Saturday.

The US Antarctic Program called Australia for help on Friday and a medical team was flown from Hobart in Tasmania to the US McMurdo base in East Antarctica to pick up the man and fly him to Christchurch in New Zealand.

Authorities in all three countries, citing medical confidentiality, refused to disclose details of the person other than that they were an "expedition-

er" and there were "no public health concerns".

The Australian general manager of Antarctic operations and Safety, Charlton Clark, said it was an exceptional effort to ensure the mission went smoothly.

"The conditions on the ground were challenging. When the Airbus landed at McMurdo station it was around minus 30 degrees Celsius (minus 22 Fahrenheit) with wind chill," Clark said.

"At this time of the year, most Antarctic nations have already shut down operations for the winter season, so this medical evacuation was unusual." — AFP ■

New station opens on Tokyo's iconic Yamanote loop rail line



Takanawa Gateway Station. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — A new train station with easy access to Haneda airport and the Shinkansen bullet train opened in Tokyo on Saturday, becoming the first new stop on the capital's busy Yamanote loop line in nearly 50 years.

Some 350 people gathered when the shutters of Takanawa Gateway Station's main entrance opened at 4:15 a.m. and applauded as the first train left the station

20 minutes later. The station is also a new stop on the Keihin Tohoku Line.

Featuring wayfinding robots and a shop with automated checkouts, it opened between Tamachi and Shinagawa stations as the 30th stop on East Japan Railway Co.'s Yamanote Line, and the first added since Nishi-Nippori Station in 1971.

Shinagawa Station provides

convenient access for travelers, serving shinkansen bullet trains bound for Osaka and Keikyu Corp. trains connecting to Haneda airport. "We hope to provide services that go a step ahead and create a station that is loved (by everyone)," Takanawa Gateway Stationmaster Taka Nakamura told reporters. "It is a lovely station so we hope visitors will come repeatedly."

A 59-year-old company employee from Hyogo Prefecture in western Japan was first in line to enter the station building after camping outside since 7 a.m. Friday. "I wanted to see the station with my own eyes, since it has attracted so much attention," he said. "I can't believe I was first."

The station, characterized by giant white roofs in an origami motif, was designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, whose works include the National Stadium for this summer's Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. — Kyodo News ■

Trade Mark Ads Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355,09974424848

No concerns about food, even if Covid-19 spreads

THE World Health Organization-WHO declared that the Corona Virus (COVID-19) is a pandemic, as the public takes preventive measures and precautions and stockpiles food and necessities.

As COVID-19 is declared a pandemic, the Myanmar Rice Federation, monitoring the daily situation in the world and reviewing the possible impacts on the local rice market, is making efforts to keep the local rice market stable and maintain local rice sufficiency, in cooperation with traders, rice millers and concerned organizations in regions and states.

The Government and some organizations have stockpiled rice reserves, so the public should not feel anxious, at present, as traders and companies are selling rice at the correct price.

The situation has called for organizing with all growers and importers to maintain supplies and food security for the entire population, even if the coronavirus disease spreads.

ed throughout the rest of China.

Hence, Myanmar needs to draw up an emergency plan for transporting rice to an outbreak area if shortages of rice occur, and for systematically managing rice exports, if necessary. At the same time, if we can ensure that rice flows into the regions and states, no one can manipulate the market.

The situation has called for organizing with all growers and importers to maintain supplies and food security for the entire population, even if the coronavirus disease spreads.

People must take note that the associations related to rice trading will directly sell rice at wards, industrial zones and factories at wholesale prices.

The Myanmar Rice Federation also said there are surpluses of rice stocks to ensure food sufficiency in the country.

For the current state of the coronavirus crisis, there is no shortage of food products. Most of the food consumed is produced in our country, which is an agro-based one. So, people should remain calm about the nation's food supplies.

Trade Mark Ads

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By Naing Oo (DOCA)

Fight against Fakes

WATCHING a movie is such an experience that gives more pleasure when one tunes into the most hilarious comedy presentation.

The storyline was based on the hilarious love affair of a poor guy, being left behind by his sweetheart in marrying to a high roller at the arrangement of the parents. On the eve of tying the knot, the heartbroken boy poured his heart out by saying "You give love a bad name" and accused the girl with words filled with "fake" synonyms.

Hitting hard, the boy spelled out --- "fake love", "fake deep affection", "fake fondness", "fake tenderness", "fake attachment", "fake devotion", "fake endearment", "fake tears", and "fake so on".

In fact, the movie was an ordinary comedy entertainment. However, it highlighted that "true love" has been turned into "love in disguise" by bad guys and terrible characters.

Love is the only force that moves creation. Love is pure and true or else it is disguised as something else.

Lying is bad

Last three years ago, I met a close friend who had an alcoholic problem. The unfortunate fact is that the compulsive drinking of alcohol leads to psychological and physical dependence or addiction.

He told me in arunken mood, "As I loved to drink, I am usually smelly. At the time when I offered morning meal to members of Sangha in front of my home, the monk advised me to stop drinking alcohol. I said I would stop, but I lied. In disguise words, I deliberately told the monk - [If I go on drinking booze, I put a curse on my own soul to be in addiction mood]. The monk was quite satisfied with my fake promise."

My friend had lied to a monk, with an arrogant and puffed-up tone, which I was not happy to listen to.

Last month, he died of liver problem due to drinking. Alcohol-related liver disease (ARLD) is caused by damage to the liver from years of excessive drinking. Lying is too bad.

When I was young, I have had seen a movie entitled "Cho Ta Kuu Lay and Gon Yay Ma Tu" (Destitute and Up-scale Environment). I still remember all the woes and distress of Cho Ta Kuu Lay.

The movie depicted the sor-



GRAPHIC: BT

row and sadness of Cho Ta Kuu Lay, who wholeheartedly acted the distressing, upsetting, disturbing, heart-rending, sad, tragic, painful, and harrowing plots in the movie.

The sad movie made me cry --- silently.

At this juncture, I would like to recount my old mentor, who retired twenty years ago. He is a man of moderate drinking. On one occasion, I went to his home and complimented three alcohol bottles of genuine and original "Rum". The liquors are packed and sold in registered embossed glass bottles.

After two months, I visited his home again, where my old mentor blamed me that my gifts of bottles were "bogus". He showed me some empty bottles. When I checked the empty bottles, they were not embossed glass bottles. They were fraud bottles.

The reality was that the alcohol that my mentor consumed was sham, not genuine. When a person accepts and takes the "fake" as the "genuine", then he mistakenly considered the "authentic" as "bogus".

Concerning the whole world

Authentic "Shwe Wah Soap" was popular and favorite in our country in the past. It was commercially successful, and, therefore, bogus "Shwe Ngar Soap" and fake "Shwe Par Soap" popped up in the market. The forged soaps were sold at the same price as the genuine soaps.

Nowadays, fake goods are a real problem on our planet.

Fake beauty products have destroyed the beauties.

Bogus medicines have killed the patients.

Spurious edible oils have damaged the health.

Phony lubricants have spoiled the machines.

Sham cements have destroyed the buildings.

Counterfeit foodstuffs have created chronic diseases.

False fertilizers, disinfectants, and insecticides made the agricultural produce into spoiled condition.

On the upbeat shadowy segment are the bad guys in the world of fake manufacturers.

Researchers pointed out that the bogus markets are rampant in the developing countries where low-income earners and poor population lived.

Despite the fact the people knew about the sham products, they buy the goods on the basic grounds that they are cheap, and balancing their actual low income. Therefore, the bogus industry is making a lot of money. It has become a threat to normal economy.

Unhealthy economy is called "Second Pho Sein", in the local term of illegal trade manufacturing the bogus products. It was because, the original Pho Sein was an influential 20th-century traditional actor, singer, and dancer, who has been credited with innovating and modernizing Burmese performance arts, in dance, song, costumes, and stagecraft.

Grey area economy is operating fast and making a lot of

cash, hitting hard to normal and conventional legal trade and commercial sector. Fake goods issue has become an enormous problem and challenge to many countries on this planet.

Counterfeit and pirated goods have become an unlawful trade.

Illicit trade in fake goods is a major challenge in an innovation-driven global economy. World Trade Organization has been for-

The hard-headed traders in the counterfeit and fake item market are to be taken legal actions according to existing laws.

mulating effective solutions to combat and deter this scourge. The database on customs seizures was provided by the World Customs Organization.

Unwarranted trade on counterfeit and pirated goods could be categorized into four sectors.

First and foremost is making counterfeit goods and selling. The second sector is making counterfeit labels and selling. Coming next is making similar or indistinguishable labels and selling. Last category is parallel use of label through competition and selling.

Some countries in this world are rushing ahead in the legislation to curb the trade on counterfeit goods. Myanmar has already

equipped with enacted laws in curbing and fighting fake goods problems.

Enactment of some laws even dated back before the nation regained independence. They had become into force as it necessitated in applying in the country. In this connection, some laws could be referred as the Penal Code; the Custom Law; the National Food Law; the Pesticide Law; the National Drugs Law; the Central Bank Law; the Consumer Protection Law, and so on.

Counterfeit and fake goods issues have been taken up into the fold to fight in accordance with the existing laws.

Fading trends,

Due to the raging and overwhelming entry of bogus goods and products, the consumers are suffering such as that of loss of lives, that of inflicting from harmful toxic, and that of falling into chronic diseases.

Time is ripe to curbing the scourge and cleaning out the counterfeit and fake products from the consumer's markets. The hard-headed traders in the counterfeit and fake item market are to be taken legal actions according to existing laws. The government departments must come together in cooperation in the campaign to

eliminate the dishonest traders.

The labels of popular and famous brands in the market are being imitated and sell in the illegal trade circle.

Last five years ago, I was inside a private store and saw three bottles of black label whiskeys in a showcase. The bottles are identical in one liters capacity, but the tags showing the price were different.

When asked the salesgirl, I was informed that MMK 11,000 price tag bottle was bogus whiskey; MMK 15,000 price card bottle was half genuine and half sham; and that MMK 21,000 in pricey marker was the genuine whiskey.

Such illicit sale of alcohol is

punishable of one-year imprisonment and the goods were to be confiscated under the Penal Code article (486). Whether the store owner knew the stipulation or otherwise was unclear. Perhaps, they are doing illegal business for grabbing huge profits from sham goods. If and when the fake items were being imported from abroad, the wrongdoer is liable to be fined with cash for three times of the value and the goods be confiscated under article (167) of Customs Law.

The merchandise with fake labels is indeed not on a par in quality compared to original items, and therefore, they are sold out with much cheaper price. Since the items are cheap in price tags, the low-income earners prefer in buying them. They are not afraid of being inflicted with health hazards.

In this connection with the bogus goods, the genuine manufacturers and legitimate business people have embraced the damage and defeat, including hard-earned cash and reputation.

If this bogus and counterfeit production is pursued by most businessmen, then the whole sphere of commerce would be rotten and likely to suffer complete ruin and destruction.

According to the classic tale, one cold night, a camel asks his master if he can put his head in the tent for warmth. "By all means and welcome," said the man; and the camel stretches his head into the tent. Soon after; the camel inquires if he may also bring his neck and front legs inside. Again, the master agrees.

Then the genuine manufacturing industry would be gone.

This scenario must be protected in time.

Trademark counterfeiting refers to when an established trademark is placed on a product or service that is not one of the legitimate goods offered by the trademark owner.

Protection by the Law

Trademark counterfeiting could be ended up with prosecution through the Penal Law or Civil Law. However, the prosecution could be carried out only on a similar line of the identical business. For example, Maw Maw Sann Mandalay Pudding and Maw Maw Sann Hotel are the same in name, but the nature of trade is quite different. Therefore, legal prosecution could not be applied.

SEE PAGE-10



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 14th March, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 15th March, 2020: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be generally fair in Naypyitaw, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions and 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 off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Eastern Shan, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th March, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th March, 2020: Partly cloudy.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). - Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

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Fight against Fakes

FROM PAGE-9

In the business circle, the trade labels are to be registered, so that any bogus or counterfeit label that sneaks into the market would be taken legal action.

With regards to the use of same popular trade label among the family members or offspring, it does not come under the infringement clause as the case could be mutually negotiated among the concerned parties. Under existing laws, the use of a competitor's trademark in accurate and non-deceptive comparative advertising is legal and does not constitute trademark infringement.

A point to take notice is that the trade label could be handed down from one to another similar to property in the form of inheritance and legacy.

The counterfeiters usually target the most popular brands and well-liked labels as they could

fetch profit in a short period. That is why fake things are abundant such as counterfeit bank notes; bogus consumer goods; and fake household items.

The fake and counterfeit markets are growing due to various reasons such as that the prices are cheap; that the methods of production are sophisticated; that the consumers are lack in general knowledge; and that the individual income is low.

It is difficult to differentiate between the fake goods and the genuine items. That is why the names of fake goods are being sought from organizations such as the CID and other relevant government organizations.

Must be honest

With a view to making a balanced development in the commercial sphere, the government has made some concession connected with the rules, regu-

lations and laws. This relaxation must never be misused by the counterfeiters at the price of consumers.

Despite the success for the advantage and benefits of the consumers via the application of the Consumer Protection Law (2019), under the supervision of the Ministry of Commerce, some drawbacks are encountered as follows.

- (a) Different languages existed.
- (b) Lack of awareness and knowledge.
- (c) Need of understanding on the part of consumers.
- (d) Low income of each worker.
- (e) Shortage of expertise and resources to check the quality.
- (f) Weakness in standardization of good.
- (g) Need to apply good practice in production.
- (h) Not enough laboratories.

- (i) Weakness in tracing production and distribution.
- (j) Fault of commercial ethics on the part of business people.
- (k) Less in responsibility and accountability on the part of business people.
- (l) Too much advertisement on goods and services.
- (m) Existence of bribery and corruption.
- (n) Need to understand the CPL by the producers and the consumers.
- (o) Existence of different stipulation of rules among departments.
- (p) Lack of cooperation among the departments.
- (q) Inadequate number of aid assistance equipments.
- (r) Need more participation of consumers in the consumer protection programs.
- (s) Lack of people's participation in the campaign.

At a time when these weak-

nesses have been fixed and mended, the problems of counterfeit and fake good would be solved.

In conclusion, I would like to urge to all concern in the commercial sphere not to produce and trade counterfeit, fake and sham goods in consideration of the (54) million populations of consumers in the country.

Ethics concern an individual's moral judgments about right and wrong. Ethical behavior and corporate social responsibility can bring significant benefits to a business. For example, they may attract customers to the firm's products, thereby boosting sales and profits.

Therefore, genuine and authentic items with the international standards are to be produced, imported and trade for the benefit of the good of the people in the country.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

US declares virus emergency as new epicenter Europe locks down

WASHINGTON (United States) — US President Donald Trump declared a national state of emergency as the World Health Organization named Europe the new epicenter of the coronavirus and more countries scrambled Saturday to slow the expanding pandemic by shutting borders and closing businesses.

Saudi Arabia said it would suspend international flights while Russia announced plans to close its land borders with Poland and Norway to foreigners as COVID-19 spreads relentlessly around the world.

That followed a rally on Wall Street Friday as financial markets endured a rollercoaster ride after a week of spectacular losses triggered by fears that the deadly outbreak will lead to a global recession.

"To unleash the full power of the federal government, I'm officially declaring a national emergency," Trump said, announcing \$50 billion in federal funds to battle the contagion. The measure came as infections and deaths soared in Europe, with WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus saying the continent now had "more reported cases and deaths than the rest of the world combined, apart from China." He described it as



COVID-19, which first emerged in China in December, has spread relentlessly around the world even as cases in Asia have levelled out in recent days. **PHOTO: AFP**

a "tragic milestone", and warned it was impossible to say when the virus would peak globally. The overall death toll jumped to more than 5,000, including nearly 1,500 in Europe, with total infections topping 140,000 internationally, according to an AFP tally based on official sources.

Italy, Spain as well as Iran — which have emerged as virus hotspots — all clocked a dramatic rise in cases and fatalities in the past 24 hours, while infections were reported in Kenya and Ethiopia, the first in east Africa.

Venezuela declared a "state of alert" after confirming its first two cases, and Colombia closed its border with Venezuela and

restricted the entry of foreigners who have been to Europe and Asia in the last 14 days.

Governments have been pushing through tough restrictions to contain the spread of the disease and unveiling big-bang emergency funding plans to try to limit the economic damage.

Trump said the US would buy large quantities of crude oil for strategic reserves and waived student loan interest during the crisis, stressing that the "next eight weeks were critical."

The US House of Representatives also overwhelmingly passed a virus relief package early Saturday for Americans hit by the outbreak. — **AFP** ■

Guinea sets March 22 for controversial constitutional referendum

CONAKRY (Guinea) — Guinea's President Alpha Conde has set March 22 for the constitutional referendum on his proposed reforms that opponents worry will allow him to bypass term limits and stay in power.

The vote, originally set for March 1 but delayed over local and international concerns about its fairness, will take place at the same time as legislative elections, a presidential decree said on Friday.

The campaign will run until March 20 despite some restrictions put in place on rallies since the first case of coronavirus was confirmed in the country.

The West African country

has seen huge opposition rallies over the proposal to change the constitution, which many fear will allow Conde, 82, to seek a third term in office this year.

Since the protests began in October at least 31 protesters and one gendarme have been killed, according to an AFP tally.

International powers have voiced concern over the referendum, and a US official on Friday renewed a call for an investigation into the deaths since October.

"The United States remains concerned about the Government of Guinea's plans to hold legislative elections and a constitutional referendum," a State Department official said. — **AFP** ■



Guinea's President Alpha Conde (center) arrives at the African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa in February 2020 amid opposition at home to a referendum that could extend his rule. **PHOTO: AFP**

Some Rome churches reopen after angry pope steps in

VATICAN CITY (Holy See) — Some of Rome's Catholic churches reopened Friday after Pope Francis voiced displeasure with the Italian authorities' push to shut them because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The rare standoff between the 83-year-old pontiff and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte's government came as Italy's death toll reached 1,266.

The Mediterranean country has suffered more than half the COVID-19 fatalities reported outside China and has seen the toll grow by hundreds each day.

Conte has responded by shuttering most shops and all restaurants and other public places in the hope of stemming contagion and easing the burden on overstretched hospitals.

Italians have been told to avoid going outside without a good reason and machine-gun toting soldiers now patrol city streets.

But churches have stayed open in the overwhelmingly Catholic country throughout what many now call Italy's biggest crisis since World War II.

That changed when the vicar of Rome said Thursday he could no longer withstand government pressure and was closing



A view shows the deserted Spanish Steps by the Trinita dei Monti church in central Rome on 12 March 2020, as Italy shut all stores except for pharmacies and food shops in a desperate bid to halt the spread of a coronavirus. PHOTO: AFP

all Catholic places of worship across the Italian capital. The Rome diocese lists slightly over 1,000 churches — about 900 of them Catholic ones.

The pope's response was unusually swift and blunt.

"Drastic measures are not always good," the Argentine-born pope said in livestreamed Friday morning prayer.

'Not closing doors'

He prayed for "pastors to have the good judgement... not to leave the holy, faithful people of God alone."

The vicar of Rome then issued a statement explaining that he had had "a further meeting" with the pontiff in which it was decided to let at least some churches to reopen their doors.

Vicar Angelo De Donatis said he ultimately decided that closing churches "will sow confusion" among the faithful and see some "feel even more isolated".

His decree explained that all of Rome's churches would remain closed to tourists.

But smaller houses of worship would open in some places specifically for the faithful.— AFP

Swiss army says preparing to deploy to assist virus fight

GENEVA (Switzerland) — Switzerland's armed forces said Saturday that the army is prepared to deploy to help in the battle against the COVID-19 pandemic, which has infected more than 1,000 people in the country.

The army will as of Monday deploy one of its four hospital battalions, army chief Thomas Sussli said in a tweet overnight.

The battalion will carry out a "special service towards the security and protection of us all," he wrote.

While he did not clarify the specific service to be provided, he pointed out that more than 90 percent of the personnel in Switzerland's hospital battalions "work in other professions, but have civilian-recognised, military-acquired basic care training."

Army spokesman Daniel Reist told AFP that the battalion, made up of between 500 and 600 people, will be prepared to support work at hospitals across the country if requested, especially taking on logistical tasks. "There has not yet been a request," he said.

The army, which in Switzerland is organised as a militia, with conscripts carrying out a short initial training and then

being called back in for several weeks of training each year, also counts doctors and specialists in its ranks, but they have been asked to remain in their civilian positions.

The army has already deployed 23 people to support two hospitals in Switzerland's southern Ticino region, which borders hard-hit Italy, Reist said.

The Swiss government meanwhile warned Saturday that cybercriminals had begun sending out emails purportedly from the country's health ministry, playing on people's anxiety over the pandemic to try to infect their computers with malware.

The news came after Switzerland on Friday announced a raft of measures to halt the spread of the coronavirus, including school closures across the country and tighter border controls, and said it would provide \$10 billion to help businesses and workers get through the crisis.

Ski resorts in the wealthy Alpine nation have also closed. According to the latest official count, 1,355 people have been infected in the small Alpine country and 11 have died from the virus.— AFP ■

Former NATO chief Javier Solana has coronavirus

MADRID (Spain) — Former NATO secretary-general Javier Solana is being treated at a Madrid hospital for coronavirus, a source close to the Spanish politician said Saturday.

"He tested positive and is evolving favourably," the source told AFP, confirming a report in conservative newspaper ABC which said he had been hospitalised for the disease in the Spanish capital on Wednesday.

In a tweet sent to a well wisher, the former Spanish foreign minister said he was "getting better".

Solana, 77, served as NATO secretary-general from 1995 to 1999, then as the European Union High Represent-

ative for Foreign Affairs from 1999 to 2009.

Spain confirmed more than 1,500 new cases of coronavirus between Friday and Saturday raising its total to 5,753 cases, the second-highest number in Europe after Italy.

All bars and restaurants have been closed in the Madrid region, where the bulk of the cases have been recorded, in an effort to stop the spread of the disease.

Among those who have been infected are two members of Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez's cabinet as well as the leader of far-right party Vox, Santiago Abascal.— AFP ■

Western couple abducted in Burkina in 2018 found alive in Mali



Seen in a photograph from the Facebook page dedicated to their disappearance, Luca Tacchetto and Edith Blais were freed two years after being kidnapped in 2018 in Burkina Faso by armed men. PHOTO: AFP

BAMAKO (Mali) — A Canadian woman and her Italian partner kidnapped in Burkina Faso in 2018 have been found alive in the northwest of Mali by UN peacekeepers, diplomatic and UN sources said on Saturday.

"UN blue helmets found an Italian citizen and a Canadian citizen near Kidal, who had been

taken hostage in Burkina territory in 2018," a security official from the UN mission in Mali, MINUSMA, told AFP.

A UN source said the pair, pictured smiling and clad in white t-shirts at a MINUSMA base in Kidal late Friday, arrived at an airport in Mali's capital Bamako around midday on Sat-

urday.

The source added they were to be handed over to Mali authorities in the presence of diplomatic staff from their respective countries.

A diplomatic source had earlier named the two as Edith Blais and Luca Tacchetto.

"Both are well. They are under our protection. They will be transferred to Bamako on Saturday and then flown home to their respective countries," the security official said before they were transferred to the capital, where AFP journalists witnessed their arrival.

MINUSMA mission head Mahamat Saleh Annadif explained some of the details surrounding their reappearance.

"We have good news. Yesterday around three in the afternoon our Kidal staff informed me they had found two hostages — a Canadian and an Italian," said Annadif.— AFP ■

Curfew to be imposed in Manila from Sun. to prevent virus spread

MANILA — A nightly curfew from 8 pm to 5 am will be imposed in the Philippine capital Manila from Sunday in a bid to contain the spread of the new coronavirus, authorities announced Saturday.

The nine-hour curfew will last until April 14, with workers, people delivering essentials and medical teams being exempted, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

MMDA general manager Jojo Garcia said violators of the curfew would only be issued with a warning and not be arrested.

The mayors of Metro Manila collectively called on all shopping malls to close during the period, with grocery stores, supermarkets, pharmacies, banks and restaurants offering home delivery being exempted.

The curfew follows Philippine President Rodrigo



A boy wearing a facemask peers out from the window of a bus about to leave Manila before it is placed on lockdown on 13 March 2020 in Quezon city, Metro Manila, Philippines. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Duterte's announcement Thursday that land, sea and air traffic into and out of the capital would be halted for a month from Sunday.

"To limit the spread of the virus, we need to limit also the movement of people. What they call lockdown, actually the purpose of that is really slowing

the movement of people in Metro Manila," Garcia said in explaining the purpose of the curfew.

As of Friday evening, the country has recorded 64 confirmed coronavirus cases, mostly in Metro Manila, with the death toll at six.— Kyodo News ■

Thailand reports 7 new cases of COVID-19, including TV celebrity

BANGKOK — Thailand's Ministry of Public Health on Saturday reported seven new COVID-19 cases, including four members of the same family and celebrity TV actor Matthew Dean.

"There have so far been 82 confirmed coronavirus cases in Thailand, with 35 having recovered, 46 in hospital and one fatality," said Dr. Suham Kanchanapimai, permanent secretary to the Ministry of Public Health, in a news briefing on Saturday.

"One of the new cases is the mother of one of the 11 patients who contracted the virus from sharing drinks and cigarettes. Another patient is a man who returned recently from Japan and infected his daughter, son-in-law and niece," Suham said.

"The 81st patient is a

20-year-old female student who returned from Japan, while the 82nd patient is a TV actor and owner of a boxing camp, who is now being treated at Rajavithi Hospital in Bangkok," Suham added.

The actor, Matthew Dean on Saturday posted on his social media page warning those who have been in contact with him, saying "Hello, I'm Matthew. This is NOT a joke, for those that have been in close contact with me the last few days please take precautions I have the COVID-19."

All staff working on the same floor of a Thai TV station building with Dean were asked to stay home for a 14-day quarantine period.

The floor of the TV station building was later cleansed with disinfectants.— Xinhua ■

Need to bring aviation turbine fuel under GST: Hardeep Singh Puri

HYDERABAD (India) — Union Civil Aviation Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Saturday said that there is a need to bring 'aviation turbine fuel' under the ambit of Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Puri, who was speaking at 'Wings India 2020' event here, said: "We are at a point where we need to bring aviation turbine fuel under the GST. By and large, there is an acknowledgment from across states to make it happen." He said the civil aviation industry has ushered in a new era of expansion, driven by factors such as low-cost carriers (LCCs), modern airports, FDI in domestic airlines, advanced IT, and our growing emphasis on regional connectivity.

The minister said the current situation arising out of coronavirus is a challenge, especially for the civil aviation sector.

"It is personally being monitored and directed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his office. Within hours of the first evidence becoming available, we had started screening passengers coming in from 12 most affected countries," he said.

"We then increased it to include the screening of passengers coming in from any country across the world. Our airports constitute a benchmark for how airports should be running across the globe, especially the 30 airports where proper screening is already in place," said Puri.

"We have screened 10,876 flights coming in from across the globe that includes 11,71,061 passengers, and 3,225 of these passengers required further screening. I am sure that once people get the right perspective, know where we are, look at the recovering numbers, we will not only overcome this challenge but will see robust vibrant growth in the civil aviation sector," he added.

Telangana Minister KT Rama Rao said that with respect to aviation and aerospace, there has been tremendous growth with further room to grow for us.

"Our focus should be on skill development. Maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) infrastructure have a huge potential for employment generation along with significant investments from overseas," he added.— ANI ■

S. Korea adds 107 new coronavirus cases, total tops 8,000

SEOUL — South Korea's health authorities on Saturday said 107 more cases of coronavirus have been confirmed, bringing the country's infection tally to 8,086 amid signs of the outbreak continuing to slow.

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there were five more deaths over the 24-hour period to the end of Friday, with the death toll standing at 73. Saturday marks the third consecutive day of decline in newly confirmed infections following a spike this week at a call center in Seoul. The pace of daily new infections has shown signs of slowing in recent days as health authorities completed extensive testing of 210,000 followers of a controversial church at the center



Workers in protective gear disinfect a subway train in Seoul on March 11, 2020, amid the spread of the new coronavirus. photo: Kyodo News

of the rapid spread, according to Yonhap News Agency.

Of the new cases, 62 were traced to the worst-hit city of Dae-

gu and six to North Gyeongsang Province, where Daegu is located, the KCDC said. The church is based in Daegu.— Kyodo News ■

Pakistan seals borders with Iran and Afghanistan over virus scare

ISLAMABAD — Pakistan's Interior Ministry said Friday that the country has decided to close off its borders with Afghanistan and Iran for two weeks to prevent the spread of the new coronavirus.

The decision, which was made at a meeting of the National Security Committee headed by Prime Minister Imran Khan, will come into force on Monday, the ministry said.

Separately, Education Min-

ister Shafqat Mahmood said in a Twitter post that the National Security Committee has also decided to close all of the country's educational institutions, including colleges and universities, until 5 April.— Kyodo News ■

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates leaves board

SAN FRANCISCO (United States) — Microsoft on Friday announced that co-founder Bill Gates has left its board of directors to devote more time to philanthropy.

The 64-year-old stopped being involved in day-to-day operations at the firm more than a decade ago, turning his attention to the foundation he launched with his wife, Melinda.

Gates served as chairman of Microsoft's board of directors until early in 2014 and has now stepped away entirely, according to the Redmond-based technology giant.

"It's been a tremendous honor and privilege to have worked with and learned from Bill over the years," Microsoft chief executive and company veteran Satya Nadella said in a release.

"Bill founded our company with a belief in the democratizing force of software and a passion to solve society's most

pressing challenges; and Microsoft and the world are better for it."

Nadella said Microsoft would continue to benefit from Gates' "technical passion and advice" in his continuing role as a technical advisor.

"I am grateful for Bill's friendship and look forward to continuing to work alongside him," Nadella said.

Computing and compassion

Gates left his CEO position in 2000, handing the company reins to Steve Ballmer to devote more time to his charitable foundation.

He gave up the role of chairman at the same time Nadella became Microsoft's third CEO in 2014.

Regularly listed among the world's richest people, William H. Gates was a geeky-looking young man when he and Paul Allen co-founded Microsoft in 1975.— AFP ■

Iran reports 97 new virus deaths, taking total to 611

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iran said on Saturday that the novel coronavirus has claimed 97 more lives, raising the country's total to 611, as the number of confirmed cases jumped again.

Health ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour said that "1,365 fresh cases have been added to the number of confirmed infections in the past 24 hours", bringing the total to 12,729.

Jahanpour told a tele-

vised news conference that more than 4,300 of those with confirmed infections had recovered so far.

Tehran province had the highest number of new cases with 347, followed by Isfahan with 155 and the northern region of Alborz with 134.

"Naturally, the number of confirmed cases will increase" even more as Iran steps up its laboratory sampling and tests, he said.

The outbreak in Iran is one of the deadliest outside of China, where the disease originated.

But Tehran's markets were still crowded despite calls for people to stay at home, with many shopping ahead of the country's New Year holidays which start on March 20.

The ministry said Friday that the average age of those who died was 67. The youngest was a three-year-old leukaemia sufferer and

the oldest 91.

Four times as many men as women died from the novel coronavirus.

But in some of Iran's provinces alcohol poisoning was killing even more people than the virus.

At least 92 have died from drinking methanol after rumours circulated that it can help to cure or protect from the virus, and the number has been on the rise for the past few days.— AFP ■

New rockets target Iraq base where US, UK troops killed

BAGHDAD (Iraq) — A fresh spate of rockets targeted an Iraqi base north of Baghdad on Saturday where foreign troops are deployed, Iraqi and US security sources told AFP, in a rare daytime attack.

It was the 23rd such attack since late October on installations across Iraq where American

troops and diplomats are based, with the latest rounds growing deadlier.

None of the attacks have ever been claimed but the US has blamed hardline elements of the Hashed al-Shaabi, a network of armed groups incorporated into the Iraqi state.

At least 33 rockets hit Iraqi air defence units

at the Taji air base on Saturday, the country's military said, in one of the largest such volleys yet.

"The initial toll is two wounded Iraqi Air Defence personnel who are in very critical condition," said Tahsin al-Khafaji, spokesman for Iraq's Joint Operations Command.

The US-led coalition said three of its members were also wounded in the attack.

Iraq's military said it had found another 24 missiles at a nearby launching site and had detained the owner of the plot of land as well as security forces from an adjacent checkpoint for questioning.— AFP ■



Bill Gates, pictured here in October 2019, served as chairman of Microsoft's board of directors until early in 2014 and has now stepped away entirely. PHOTO: AFP

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1116 S/N)
 Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1116 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/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 SHIPPING PTE LTD
 Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (048N/S)
 Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (048N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-3-2020 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 BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2007N)
 Consignees of cargo carried on M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2007N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
 Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
 No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE
 Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (256W)
 Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (256W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
 Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
 No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
 Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (010W)
 Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC HALONG VOY. NO. (010W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15-3-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT 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 SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD.
 Phone No: 2301185

WITH a growing number of people and changes in lifestyles, the population density has been gradually high in Yangon. When Yangon becomes a densely populated area, it leads to the limited safe drinking water available for the Yangonites to consume, with this matter encouraging the responsible governmental organizations to do a review. Efforts are being put into reforming the water supply system network that was running in the past in an unsystematic manner. Some parts of Yangon have seen a shortage of water for the reason that decaying and expired water pipelines are still operational.

The Water and Sanitation of the Engineering Department under the control of Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is a main engine han-

dling the water supply system for ensuring that the Yangonites are to consume sufficient safe drinking water. Safe drinking water is supplied to the whole Yangon on a daily basis by using the water resources from Hlawga, Gyobyu, Phugyi, and Ngamoeyeik Reservoirs. By using tube wells, water is supplied to the furthest parts of Yangon city and satellite towns where they have got less water availability. The water supplied from the reservoirs is purified by six water purifying plants to be able to distribute safe water to the Yangonites. The responsible persons are now striving to supply sufficient water to the Yangonites at reasonable price.

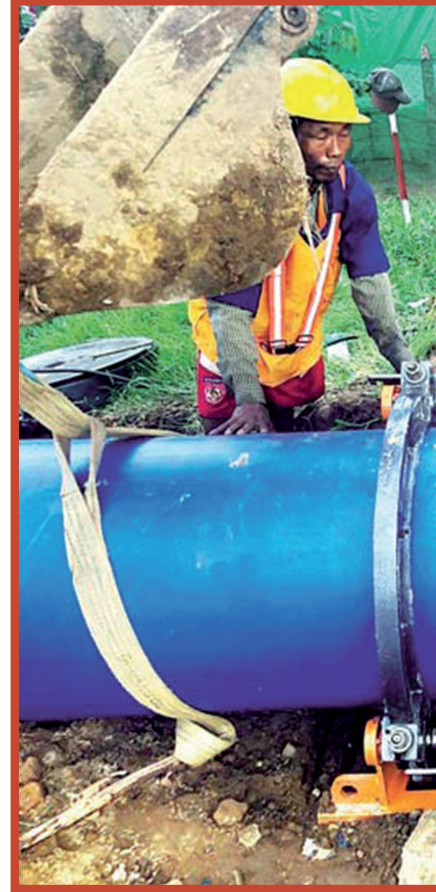
A main project is being set up

The population growth rate of Yangon that is the commercial city of Myanmar is fast going.

The current water supply of Yangon accounts for a 45% of the total population. For that reason the Yangon City Development Committee in collaboration with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) set up a main project to develop Yangon water supply system.

Measures to extend water supply

Apart from the rain water storage reservoirs, extensive exploration has been carried out in the search for other water resources. The river water is purified and then supplied to where necessary. With the intention of extending water supply area, Lagunpyin and Kokkowa water supply projects are under implementation. The main aim of the projects is to adopt a water supply system enabling an increased population to use sufficient water with the exten-



Minimizing water wastage ensures **drinking water** security of Yangon



Water pipelines are being laid in Yangon Municipality. **PHOTOS: HTEIN LIN**



Municipal workers check to assure proper maintenance of water pipe.



Municipal workers are replacing old pipelines with new ones in Yangon municipality.

sion of the urban area.

It was leant that yearly targets have been set up to improve water supply management in the future. According to the performance index of the strategic project planned until 2040, Yangon's population stood at about 5.9 million and it will stand at about 8.9 million 2040. The daily supply of water to Yangon amounts to 205 million gallons. The YCDC hopes that the daily supply of water will be increased to 285 million gallons in 2025 and

555 million gallons in 2040. The YCDC not only is exploring new water resources but also taking the measures to minimize water wastages and losses. These measures are a top priority that the YCDC is giving. There was a 66% reduction in water wastage in 2014 and a 46% reduction in 2020. It is expected that there will be a 15% reduction in 2040.

Water usage without receiving water supply bill includes use with water meter

and use without water meter

In an in-depth analysis of the official water usage, a daily official water usage in Yangon accounts for a 50.35% and a daily water loss for a 49.65%. Water bill is received from a 50% water usage with official permission. An official water wastage accounts for a 0.35%. Water usage receiving water supply bill includes the use with water meter and the use without water meter. The addition of these two is the total of water supply bill. The usage without receiving water bill includes the use with meter and the use without meter.

There are two root causes for loss of water and they are commercial loss and practical loss. The commercial loss includes dishonest use of water and use of imprecise water meter. The practical water loss includes leaking water sending pipes and water distribution pipes, leakage of water between household pipes and water meter and overflow of water from reservoirs. The addition of the usage without receiving water bill and water loss ensures the amount of water that does not receive water bill.

Difficulties in controlling water loss and wastage

Yangon's water system is based on a direct supply. Outdated pipes have to be relied on supplying water. Outdated pipes, related materials and power availability sometimes cause water supply shortage and less water pressure. There is a complicated system in the places where water is distribut-

ed. Not having a zone system causes difficulties in controlling water loss and wastage. With the assistance from international organizations, The YCDC is making efforts to reduce water loss and wastage. At present this measure is designed to reduce water loss and wastage in North Okkalapa, Yankin and Mayangon townships. Learning appropriate experience from these measures, the YCDC must lay down plans for a reduction in water loss and wastage.

Plan to build reservoirs to supply water within network system

The YCDC will designate 10 water supply zones in the future water supply system in Yangon city. Reservoirs like Kokkine will be built and plans are underway to supply water within a network system.

Measures to get rid of illegal connection of water pipelines

The responsible team of water availability and water supply under the YCDC is in the process of implementing repairs to unsystematic connection of water pipelines and termination of illegal water pipelines connections. Only if the matters have been dealt with in the places of less water pressure, of acquiring hourly water supply and of most water loss and wastage, can drinking water be distributed to all parts of the greater Yangon city in a systematic manner.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)

By Shin Naw



Municipal workers are in process of laying water pipelines to supply drinking water in Yangon municipality.

Myanmar National League II: Mawyawady defeats Silver Stars 1-0

AS part of the final match of the first round of the Myanmar National League II 2020, Mawyawady FC defeated the Silver Stars FC 1-0 at Salin Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The winning goal for Mawyawady FC was scored by foreign player Abass in the second half. Both teams played energetically from the kick-off, in a bid to score the opening goal. Though scoring opportunities were created by both sides' strikers, they could not convert the chances to goals and ended the first half with a scoreless draw.

The second half saw a bit change of match strategies and Mawyawady's players were more active as they sought their

equalizers.

Mawyawady's systematic attack frequently rankled the Silver Star's defence line in the second half.

Taking advantage of errors by the Silver Stars' defence line, the single and winning goal was scored by Mawyawady striker Abass at 66 minute.

After 1-0, Mawyawady changed to the defense style, making it difficult for the opponent to attack.

Mawyawady could defend their winning result until the final minute to earn a full point.

The win has built the confidence of Mawyawady in dreaming for their upcoming season in the Myanmar National League II.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



A player from Mawyawady FC (red) controls the ball against a Silver Star FC player during yesterday's MNLII match at Salin Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO:MNL

Japan's Abe pledges Olympics to go ahead despite virus havoc

TOKYO (Japan)—Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Saturday resisted pressure for changes to the Tokyo Olympics schedule even as sporting events worldwide fall victim to the coronavirus pandemic. Abe pledged Japan would host the Games as planned in July and said he had no immediate intention to declare a state of emergency over the virus outbreak, which has now seen more than 140,000 people infected across the globe and over 5,400 killed.

His comments come two days after US President Donald Trump suggested the Japanese capital postpone the Games for a year as the spread of the virus wreaks havoc on the sporting calendar.

"We will respond by closely coordinating with officials concerned, including the IOC (International Olympic Committee). There is no change in this," Abe told a news conference.

"We want to hold the Olympics as planned without any trouble by overcoming the spread of infections," he said.

Organisers, Japanese government officials and the IOC have insisted preparations are on track and there will be no postponement or cancellation.—AFP ■

AFC Cup 2020: Yangon United in second place in Group F



Yangon United's Ernest Barfo (green) carries the ball against Houngng United in their previous Group F match in the AFC Cup 2020 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon. PHOTO:MNL

REPRESENTING Myanmar, Yangon United Football Club is currently standing in second place of Group F in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Cup 2020 after playing three matches.

Yangon United had two wins and one draw, earning seven points, in total.

In first place of Group F,

Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City FC has the same points as Yangon United, but gained due to a difference in goals.

Meanwhile, representing Singapore, Hougang United, is standing in third place with one win and three losses and three points earned.

At the Group F bottom place, the Lao Toyota team had

no wins, with three losses and no points earned.

In the other Group H play, representing Myanmar, Shan United is falling together with Tampine Rovers FC, Kaya-Llolo FC and PSM Makassar FC.

Shan United currently has no wins after three matches played in the group.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Premier League 'may not finish', says FA chief

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Football Association chairman Greg Clarke has reportedly told the Premier League he does not believe the domestic football season will be completed because of the coronavirus pandemic. The Premier League suspended all fixtures at an emergency meeting on Friday. Matches in the English Football League, FA Women's Super League and Women's Championship are also on hold. "It was unanimously decided to suspend the Premier League with the intention of returning on 4 April, subject to medical advice and conditions at the time," the Premier League said in a statement. Clarke said at the meeting that he did not think it was feasible for the season to be completed, accord-

ing to a report in the Times.

The virus is not expected to peak in Britain for many weeks, raising doubts over an early April re-start for the Premier League. The Times said it is understood that Brighton and Hove Albion chief executive Paul Barber also questioned the brevity of the suspension. Richard Masters, the Premier League chief executive, is reported to have said it would at least allow time to consider the potential consequences and debate the possible solutions.

The decision was taken after Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta and Chelsea winger Callum

Hudson-Odoi tested positive for COVID-19.—AFP



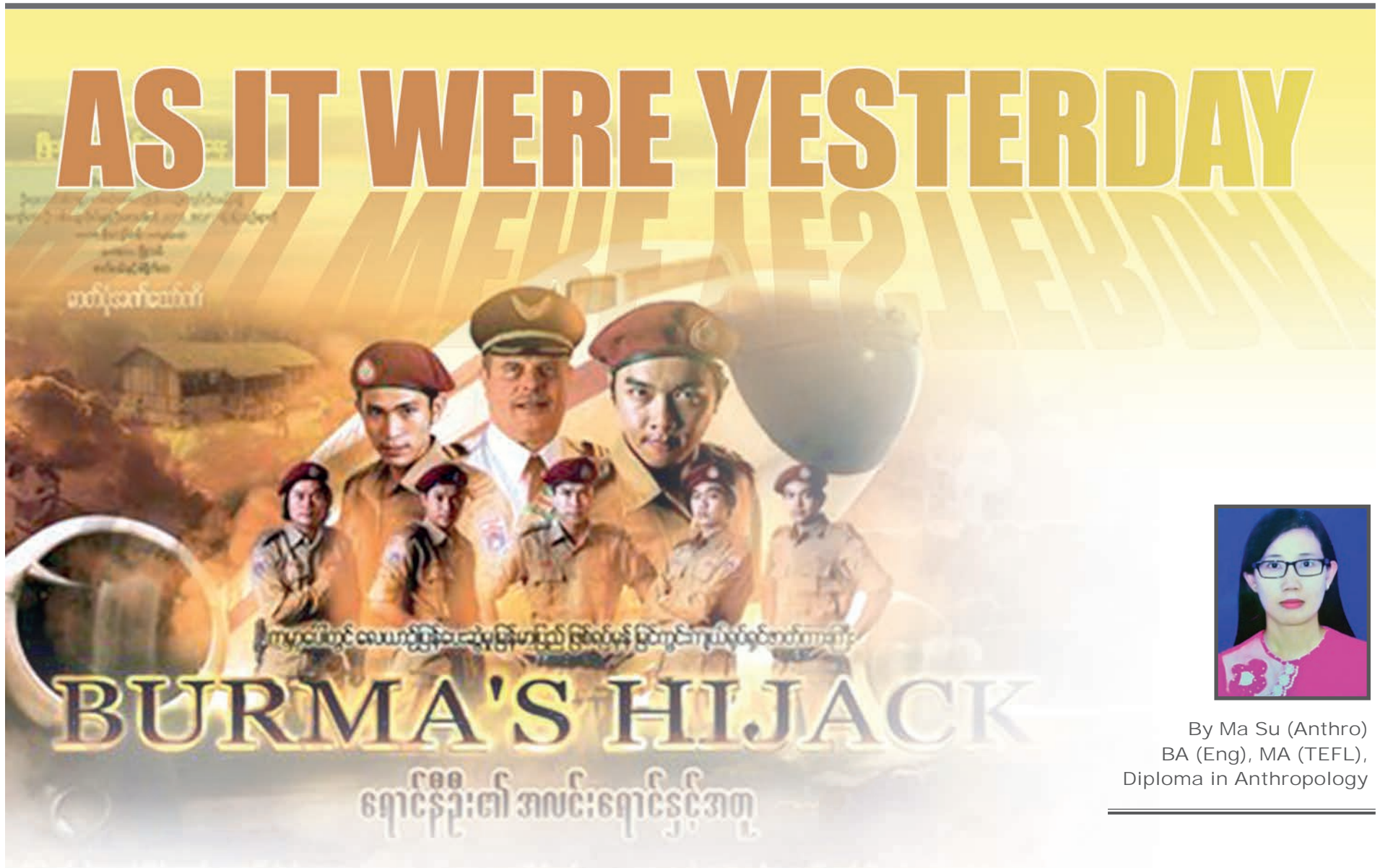
Liverpool's Brazilian midfielder Roberto Firmino (CL) celebrates with teammates after he scores the team's second goal during the English Premier League football match between Wolverhampton Wanderers and Liverpool at the Molineux stadium in Wolverhampton, central England on 23 January 2020. PHOTO:AFP

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

15 MARCH 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



By Ma Su (Anthro)
BA (Eng), MA (TEFL),
Diploma in Anthropology



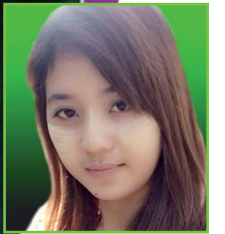
Why do we regret something if there is nothing you can do to change the past? This month on March 4, 2020, I realized that I did have one regret—not spending more time with him when he is alone with heart disease. He was a carefree person, someone who could make you smile and at the same time, make you sad or depressed or some strange feeling you could not manage to stay away from that feeling that the conversation with him made. He very recently suffered from heart disease and on March 4, 2020, at 5:30 am he passed away in his mid-70.

When I was on the way to the Yangon University, one of the sayars phoned me that maybe sayar U Hla Thaung had passed away because he got the news from Facebook that he even could not agree yet as he in two-yesterday heard the news of his OK enough to get recovery soon. For a few minutes my sight was a blur. I could not cry. My hands went trembling. When we got his house, the standing mountain of sorts of books were welcoming us. Yes, the bestselling book

“Burma’s First Hijacking” belongs to him. The airplane hijacking was not actually the world’s first, although it was Burma’s first. His book was soon on film with the name “Glow of Dawn (Yaung Ni Oo Ei Aling Yaung)” which will tell the true story of Karen rebels who hijacked an airplane in 1954 with hopes of finding Japanese weapons hidden in the mountains. He is a writer pen-named of Hla Thaung (B.Dh) of political issues, the book “Insein Battle” is also his masterpiece. He is a well-known lecturer of “Mahavihara Dhamma-Vinaya University, Mhaw Bi”, a regular Facebook user whose most posts are educational and very updated with special issues. He is also a translator of many subjects. A keen sportsman, he played bodybuilding, exercised regularly and remained a healthy man all his life. He looks always athletic and well-built in his old age as he is a member of the Inya Lake walking Club. U Hla Thaung was on average high, fair and handsome and known for his frankly speaking, active manner, even temper and self-living.

I remember the day as if it were yesterday. The day before, the sayars including sayar U Hla Thaung and I met at Yangon University and chatted about our lives experience as we have not met for a long time. Since sayar U Hla Thaung is a conversationalist, he only led the conversation in whatever discussion. That time I was boastful and enjoying about my third MA degree, I remem-

SEE PAGE- S-8



By Ms. Moon
Final year Honours
(English) Dagon University

A record of life associated with the eggs

When young, the dream in which I would be able to eat a whole egg had occupied my life. Although it will be good enough to smile now whenever it is thought, that a half part of the egg for a meal could make one like me who was scanty in everything contended is not peculiar. In spite of being a half egg, it was with tomato gravy and had a pleasant taste. It was enjoyable for me to eat.

However, I wanted that I had eaten the whole egg and rice cooked equal with an empty tin of condensed milk. I had ever thought I would have been a really happy girl

if I had had an opportunity of eating the whole egg. In fact, getting an opportunity of eating the whole egg was a dream of my young life but it never occurred even for once. The egg I dreamt never came to me carrying the happiness I expected. My Mom was a good house-wife who could manage the family with low income very well.

When I had a chance to eat the whole egg every day, I was not happy again. My happiness was not the whole egg, I saw. In my hostel life as an ordinary staff a company, whenever I sat for dinner with my roommates in a little teashop near the hostel, I often ordered a plate of rice

mixed with a little cooking oil and a fried egg for it was the cheapest dinner. As I had had my lunch in a shop near my office with some kinds of meat curry, my budget allowed me to have my dinner with just a fried egg. When it was a payday and a few days after it, I happened to change my meal for dinner with fried chicken but, soon, my stomach of the ship approached the jetty of fried egg.

The egg I thought as happiness when young again arrived underneath the title of unhappiness. It was the moment that I had a chance to understand that nothing was valuable unless it was obtained at the moment in

which it is really wanted. How happy I would have been if I had got it when I wised for. It is not impossible to go back to the past with many eggs being bought.

While I was in the hostel, I had another dream. It was to write essays, articles, and short stories. I happened to write to them and send them to the Sunday Special Section of the GNLM newspaper. When some of them were chosen and published on the page of the paper, the little boy who lived near my hostel asked me how much my honorarium for a published manuscript was. I answered him, 'Ten thousand Kyats, which I have been given most.' The boy was silent for a while and he told me, 'Then, it is equal to a hundred eggs, isn't it?' In spite of not telling him my past and present connection about the eggs, he made a

connection of my honorarium with the eggs. It was amazing for the attachment of an egg and myself!

When I was in rather a convenient situation of finance after having eggs for ages, I thought I would be going to avoid having the eggs as possible as I could.

I did not know which string of attachment made me connect with the eggs as I could not avoid the eggs again due to my pregnancy. I had to try and eat one or two boiled eggs for my baby who did not come into the world yet. Amazing again, as loving-kindness led, I could swallow my hated egg well.

What is more, my baby who was born by the mother who hated eggs was the one who liked eggs a lot. I had to continually buy the eggs again which I bought off and in before starting at the moment she was about six months old.



Invitation to young
writers for Sunday
Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**



By **Kyaw King**

Awful creaking sounds of COVID-19 outbreak

A few days ago, I went to the City Mart supermarket located at Thamine Junction to buy some snacks that were asked by my brother. When I reached its upstairs where most of products are displayed and sold, I was surprised at seeing that every counter of the floor was busy with people in long queues. For two packs of snacks, I had to wait for about 20 minutes. The whole area was noisy as women bathing in a river.

When I reached home, I saw my brother and his wife busy with their mobile phones playing games and using social media while they were waiting for me to have dinner. My brother asked, "Why were you delayed?"

I replied that the supermarket was unreasonably busy at the time and I had to wait for nearly 20 minutes there. My sister-in-law joined our conversation saying that it is because of coronavirus that makes people worried. Some people are panic buying like being the persons who know the world is ending.

We had dinner talking about many issues including fake news on social media that sparks problems, in particular, for COVID-19. Several days ago, a rumour of dying 40 people in Hpakant spread on social media and made some people fear. Social media giants like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube are fighting against fake news and false reports, especially about coronavirus fake news.

In our country, Fake News Monitoring Network. Myanmar is also combatting fake news on social media, especially on Facebook. But fake news is still spreading like wildfire.

On the evening of the following day, I visited a squatter ward in Dala where one of my childhood friends was living with his aged grandfather and two younger siblings whom he was taking care of after Cyclone Nargis killed his other family members.

When we were speaking about the health condition of his grandfather and our childhood memories, a man whom we smell alcohol on his breath, joined our conversation. He complained that the shop he

went, named xxx at the market was selling rice at higher prices. He asked whether we know why the rice price was suddenly high.

My friend replied, "It is because of coronavirus." He then added that it became a pandemic, and so far there is no treatment for the new disease. The man being slightly drunk said in an unclear voice, "If there is no medicine for it, all the people who were infected should be killed in order to prevent its spreading." At the time, "Ko Thauang Soe, where are you going around?" a woman shouted, "You don't finish carrying water. I will kill you." The man, in a hurry, stood up and left us saying "it is my wife." My friend seeing the man's back commented, "Every virus is contained at a certain time, but most of the men here cannot contain their addiction to alcohol until they die."

At around 12:00 pm on 13th

March, I was surprised at seeing many happy faces and hearing many hopeful voices amid panic faces and noises. They are matric students going out of their exam centres. They did well on their subject of that day and got two holidays. "Their happiness was like sunshine in a gloomy sky." I thought.

With the days coming close to the Water Splashing Festival of Myanmar, people's hopes of celebrating it faded away following the announcements of the ministry of health banning mass gatherings and festivals until 30th April. Those who prefer staying inside home are grateful for the announcements, while those who are prepared to celebrate the famous festival feel sad.

During these days, wherever I go, I saw people saying about the coronavirus. It seems people are duty-bound to deliver the awful sound.

I closed my eyes and told myself silently that the sound of COVID-19 is travelling worldwide. Be a positive one. May all people be safe from COVID-19.



Endangered Loggerhead turtles to be hatched on Nyaung Oo Phee Island in Andaman Sea

BY KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)



Local hotels are planning to breed Loggerheads, a species of sea turtle facing extinction, on islands in the Andaman Sea, in a bid to conserve the endangered species.

The Loggerhead turtle is one of five species—Green turtle, Hawksbill turtle, Olive Ridley turtle, Leatherback turtle and Loggerhead turtle – that inhabit Myanmar’s seas. There are seven turtle species in the world. Two of the five species, the Leatherback and the Loggerhead, are on the verge of extinction, according to sea turtle conservationists.

In the past, all five species could be found laying eggs on the shores of Kyeintali, but now they are at risk of extinction from various causes.

Of the world’s seven species of sea turtles, five can be found in Myanmar’s coastal waters.

About 20 baby Loggerhead turtles from the Hai-

gyi Island area in Ayeyawady Region will be bred on the sandy beach of the Nyaung Oo Phee Island and other islands in the Andaman Sea, until they become adults and are released into the sea.

Nyaung Oo Pee Island is one of 804 islands of the Mergui Archipelago in Tanintharyi Region, southern Myanmar. Nyaung Oo Phee island is located in the Andaman Sea.

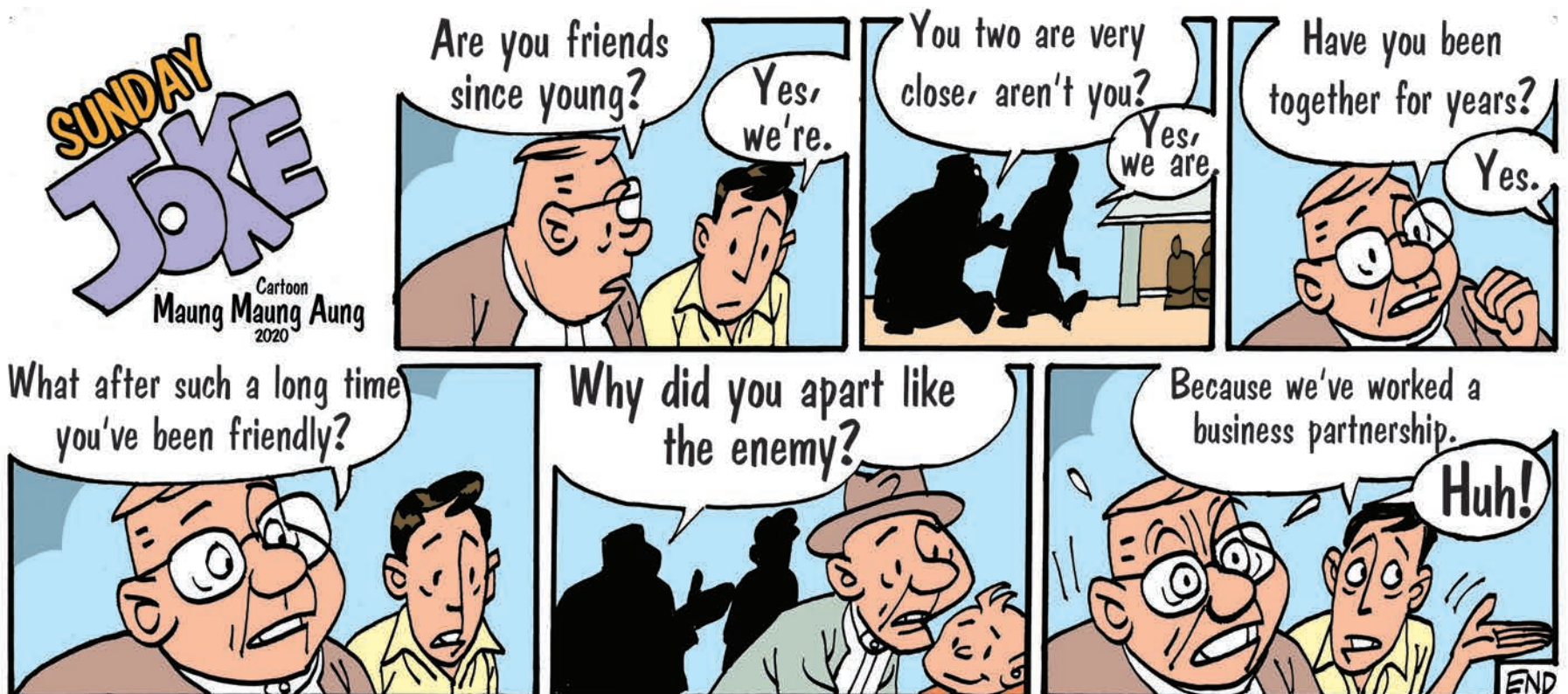
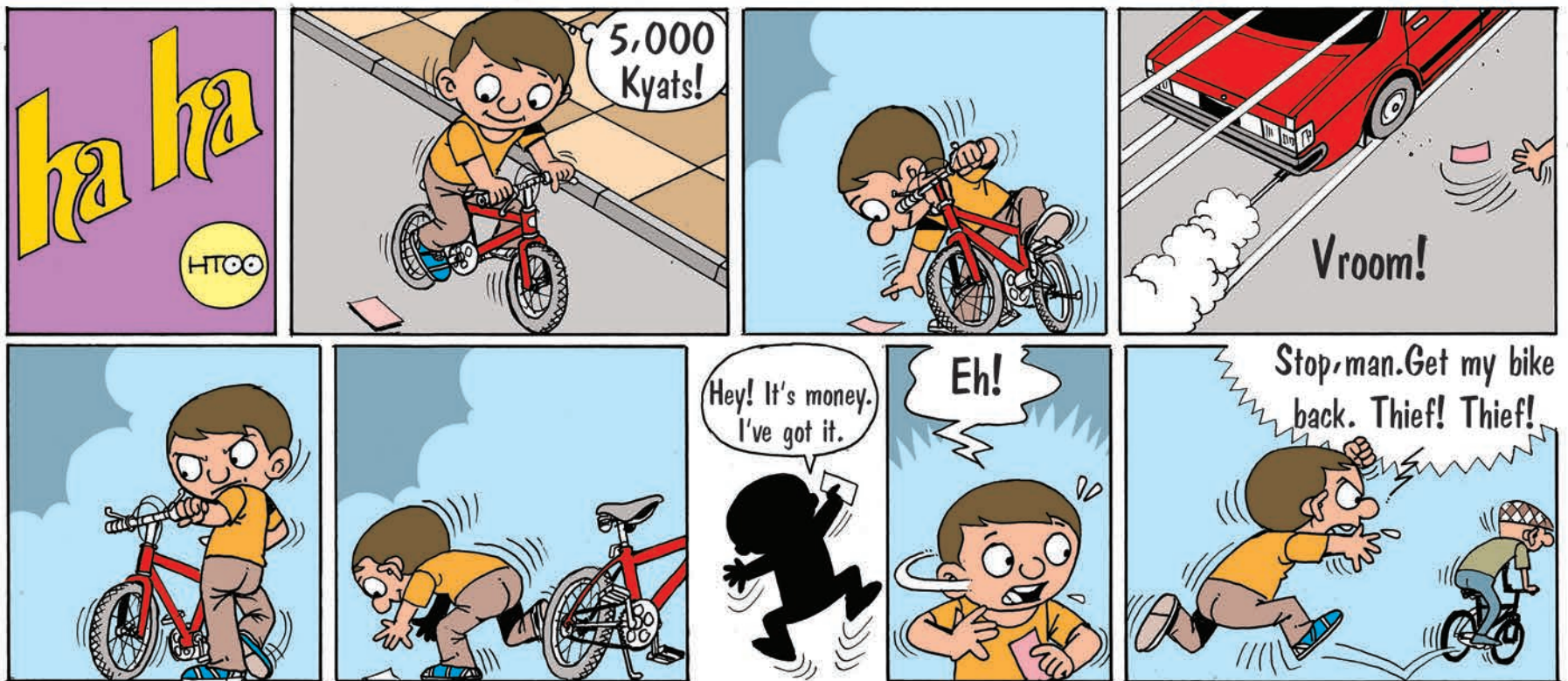
The conservation of the endangered turtle species is considered helpful for the ecological system, marine resources and tourism sector in the region, said an official of the TZK Hotel and Tours Co.

The population of all five species has dropped in the past two decades due to excessive fishing and environmental degradation.

Translated by Nat Ye Hla



SUNDAY COMICS





Waiting patiently for living a well balanced life



By S. Shwe Lin Yaung
B.Sc, Patheingyi University

It is the paintings of the delta region that are being decorated with the various colors of wished paints and are beautiful as much as they could. Wherever one looks at is greenish, yellowish, bluish and with deep golden color. The scenes are much pleasing, charming and also yearning.

Look! There is an island in the middle of the stream which is being steadily risen by a tide. It is situated between two villages: one is seen as a brownish-green jungle with the rows of nipa palm trees along the coast of the stream and on the opposite side of the stream, the other is standing comely with two twin coconut trees.

The rivers and the streams in this region do

not always flow downstream because they have got tide-rise and tide-fall. Viewing them, the tide can be able to rise and it can be able to fall. While saying so, the island in the middle of the tidal stream is being dashed against by the rising tide. There is nothing on the island but two or three reeds are growing there. Due to the dashing against the rising tide, the reeds are swaying hard with repeated snatches. Their movements are like the fingers of the woman of the spirit-medium. The situation is like that in which it is suitable to politely apologize to the king of spirit, 'Nat'. Please, bring the coconut and also jaggery. "Oh, little reed, be quiet, please."

If not so, where will

the dragonflies rest? They have nowhere else to take shelter for their rest. There is nothing to take rest for them here and there except those reeds. They often take a rest on the tops of those reeds. Now, they are swaying hard. How do the dragonflies do? Is it due to the time of the rising tide?

Even all of us sometimes look for shelters like those such reeds to take a rest and sometimes contribute helps to those like the dragonflies who come to us in order to rely upon. The tide has specific times of rising and falling in nature. However, the worldly tide does not have specific times of rising and falling. Its strength of rising and falling cannot be guessed

by anyone ahead of time. If one makes an apology to the woman of the spirit-medium with the coconut and jaggery, she is more or less likely to accept it. However, with which can it be possible to apologize to the king of spirit, 'Nat' of the way of the mundane world?

In the middle of the water, a certain flying dragonfly is waiting for the time to take a rest on the top of the reed being dashed against by the rising tide with much patience.

Similarly...

In the world, I am the one who is still waiting for the time of the stabilizing of the swaying the way of the mundane world without any disappointment.



FROM PAGE-1

bered his every single word that made me feel something inexpressible that "Su Su, it's easy to manage to get MA if you tried hard but it's important to expertise in that particular subject or field. Do you?" So true he is, later with the profound gradual thoughts I realized how much and whether I am qualified enough in my certain field or not. But at the very beginning, I got red and felt odd. That sayar always looks down on me. When we first met as I was a graduate girl, I cannot cope with the political affairs he discussed and I was too naïve to understand and reply to what someone says. If so, he guffawed (guffawing to someone is one of his identity) me and asked "Here, haven't you read anything, what kind of articles, newspapers and books you read? Only cartoon?" you should always catch the latest news as you are a new generation." I had a wrong thought with him since I was being

disappointed by him whenever we met. I called him sayar as he is a friend of my sayar although we were not friends, not colleagues, not sayar and pupils but I have learned from him a lot as he is a teacher of experience. So I can definitely say that we have been building some kind of deep-relation since 2010.

As time went by I started to think of all the things he and I had, all the things he missed in life as he was alone and had not the family love for a long time. The last time I phoned him, he was so delighted that he felt lonely caused by his disease (usually he was never in bed as such a long time) and wanted to speak with someone that I can feel. He said he lost appetite since he was ill (actually he was always in good-appetite and not a pickyeater). We talked about an hour instructing me not to get so depressed, to keep in touch with them, do not stay alone, do some healthy exercises, you look unhealthy, and so and

so. He remained me again and again to visit him. I regret not telling him to thank you for all the things he said for me. I regret not saying sorry for telling him back or for upsetting him. I regret not making an effort to visit him when he needed someone to talk to. I regret not being to him to bring the food he likes. I have many regrets when it comes to all of the things I could've done and did not do.

Now that he is dead but so sure he is in heaven. I realize how much relationships between friends, lovers, couple, and relatives, old and young, each and everyone is treasurable, cannot buy but feel in soul and mind. When they are alive, do value their value and it is no use crying over spilled milk. I decided I would change my attitude, love myself and to others who I love around me much more which is the perfect opportunity for me to let go of all the pain I feel.



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Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily	
8M335	7:30	9:15	Daily	
UB019	7:25	9:20	Daily	
TG2304	9:35	11:30	Daily	
PG702	10:30	12:30	1,2,3,4,6,7	
TG2302	11:20	13:15	Daily	
PG708	15:35	17:35	Daily	
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily	
UB017	17:35	19:30	Daily	
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily	
TG306	19:50	21:45	Daily	

BANGKOK TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
TG2303	7:50	8:45	Daily	
PG701	8:45	9:40	1,2,3,4,6,7	
TG2301	9:35	10:30	Daily	
8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily	
UB020	10:20	11:15	Daily	
PG707	13:45	14:40	Daily	
PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily	
TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily	
8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily	
PG705	20:30	21:55	Daily	
UB018	20:30	21:25	Daily	

YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily	
MH741	11:15	15:45	Daily	
OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7	
MH743	16:10	20:30	1,4,6,7	
AK503	19:10	23:30	Daily	
OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6	

KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
AK504	6:45	7:55	Daily	
MH740	9:10	10:25	Daily	
OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7	
MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7	
AK502	17:20	18:30	Daily	
OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6	

YANGON TO KUNMING				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
MU9750	15:55	19:35	2,4,6	

KUNMING TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
MU9749	13:45	14:45	2,4,6	

YANGON TO DON MUEANG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
DD4231	8:05	9:50	Daily	
FD252	8:45	10:30	Daily	
SL201	8:30	10:20	1,3,4,5,7	
FD254	17:40	19:25	Daily	
FD258	21:40	23:30	Daily	
SL207	19:35	21:25	1,2,4,6,7	
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily	

DON MUEANG TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
DD4230	6:20	7:05	Daily	
FD251	7:30	8:15	Daily	
SL200	6:45	7:35	1,3,4,5,7	
FD253	16:25	17:05	Daily	
FD257	20:30	21:10	Daily	
SL206	18:55	19:45	1,2,4,6,7	
DD4238	19:30	20:15	Daily	

YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KE472	23:30	7:25	1,3,5,6,7	
8M801	16:50	0:50	2,4,6	

SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KE471	18:15	22:10	1,3,5,6,7	
8M802	1:50	6:00	3,5,7	

YANGON TO CHIANG MAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG724	13:40	15:30	1,3,5,7	

CHIANG MAI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG723	12:05	12:55	1,3,5,7	

MANDALAY TO BANGKOK				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG710	14:30	16:55	Daily	
PG714	19:15	21:40	Daily	

BANGKOK TO MANDALAY				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG709	12:15	13:40	Daily	
PG713	17:00	18:25	Daily	

YANGON TO GUANGZHOU				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,5	
CZ3056	12:05	16:35	2,6	

GUANGZHOU TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
CZ3055	9:05	11:05	2,6	
8M712	14:15	15:50	2,5	

YANGON TO DHAKA				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
BG061	14:15	16:00	1,3,6	

DHAKA TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
BG060	10:45	13:30	1,3,6	

MANDALAY TO DON MUEONG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FD245	12:55	15:20	Daily	

DON MUEONG TO MANDALAY				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FD244	11:10	12:25	Daily	

YANGON TO DUBAI				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FZ1586	1:50	5:45	Daily	

DUBAI TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
FZ1585	10:30	16:15	Daily	

NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG722	20:00	22:50	1,2,3,4,5,7	

BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
PG721	17:25	19:20	1,2,3,4,5,7	

YANGON TO SINGAPORE				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
UB001	7:15	11:45	Daily	
8M231	8:20	12:40	1,2,3,5,6,7	
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily	
3K582	11:30	16:05	1,4,5,7	
UB003	16:00	20:30	Daily	
MI519	17:35	22:10	1,2,4,6,7	
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,4,5,6	
3K584	19:40	00:10	1,2,3,5,6,7	

SINGAPORE TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily	
3K581	9:10	10:35	1,2,3,5,6,7	
UB002	13:00	14:30	Daily	
8M232	13:45	15:15	1,2,3,5,6,7	
MI518	15:15	16:40	1,2,4,6,7	
MI520	14:10	17:35	3,4,5,6	
3K583	17:30	18:45	1,4,5,7	
UB004	21:15	22:45	Daily	

YANGON TO HANIO				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN956	19:00	21:30	Daily	
VJ918	18:55	21:20	Daily	

HANIO TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN957	16:40	18:05	Daily	
VJ917	16:30	17:55	Daily	

YANGON TO HO CHI MINH				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN942	12:10	15:05	1,3,4,6,7	

HO CHI MINH TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
VN943	9:30	11:05	1,3,4,6,7	

YANGON TO TOKYO				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
NH814	22:10	6:45+1	Daily	

TOKYO TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
NH813	11:00	16:25	Daily	

YANGON TO DOHA				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
QR919	7:50	12:00	1,3,7	
QR916	8:25	17:50	1,3,4,5	

DOHA TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
QR918	20:10	5:35	2,6,7	
QR917	1:05	4:55	2,4,5,6	

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

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

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