

NATIONAL

Union Minister joins web-based seminar on S-Korea's success stories in fighting COVID-19

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

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PAGE-2

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We shall consider all aspects. State will coordinate and direct as needed: State Counsellor

COOPERATION of the people is the key. This situation is not easy for anyone, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her Facebook page yesterday, over the stay-at-home order in some townships in Yangon Region.

In her message, she said people gave different opinions over the stay-at-home order for some townships in Yangon Region. Different views from the health, transportation and livelihood perspectives.

We shall consider all points of view as much as possible, the State will coordinate and give directions as needed to ensure that essential businesses continue to operate without causing labour layoffs or reductions in salary. We will coordinate with departments and enterprises concerned and work together with them to ensure that workers perform their duties in accordance with the health guidelines.

“Let me say again, the cooperation of the people is the key. This situation is not easy for anyone,” said the State Counsellor.

In her message, she also recounted the video conference held with the front line fighters including two healthcare workers and one volunteer from the Wai-

bargi Specialist Hospital on Myanmar New Year Day in combatting the COVID-19.

When I saw how they were providing the patients with healthcare services though they have their daily challenges, making efforts with material and human resource constraints, I thank and respect them and take pride in their efforts.

I think that those who were listening to the discussions during video conference felt the same. Following the video conference, just before the sun set yesterday, a donor contacted us to take responsibility for the needs of the Waibargi Specialist Hospital; other donors wanted to donate materials and there were also those who wished to donate their labour. Measures are being taken today to help the patients and staff of the Waibargi Specialist Hospital.

Let me send good wishes to all those who are contributing to their communities, patients and the people, to the best of their ability, without bringing to the fore their self-interests, good health, peace and prosperity, not only in this New Year but also in their whole life.

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin & Kyaw Myaing)



Aung San Suu Kyi

State Counsellor

Message



Stay-at-home order imposed in Yangon Region's seven townships

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order No. 38/2020
11th Waning of Tagu, 1382 ME
(18 April 2020)

The Ministry of Health and Sports has issued this order in exercise of the rights contained in Section 21, sub-section (b) of the Prevention and Control of Communicable Diseases Law:

1. As the Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying

out preventive measures against (Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID-19) in real-time, people residing in some townships need to “Stay at Home” in order to effectively control the spread of the disease.

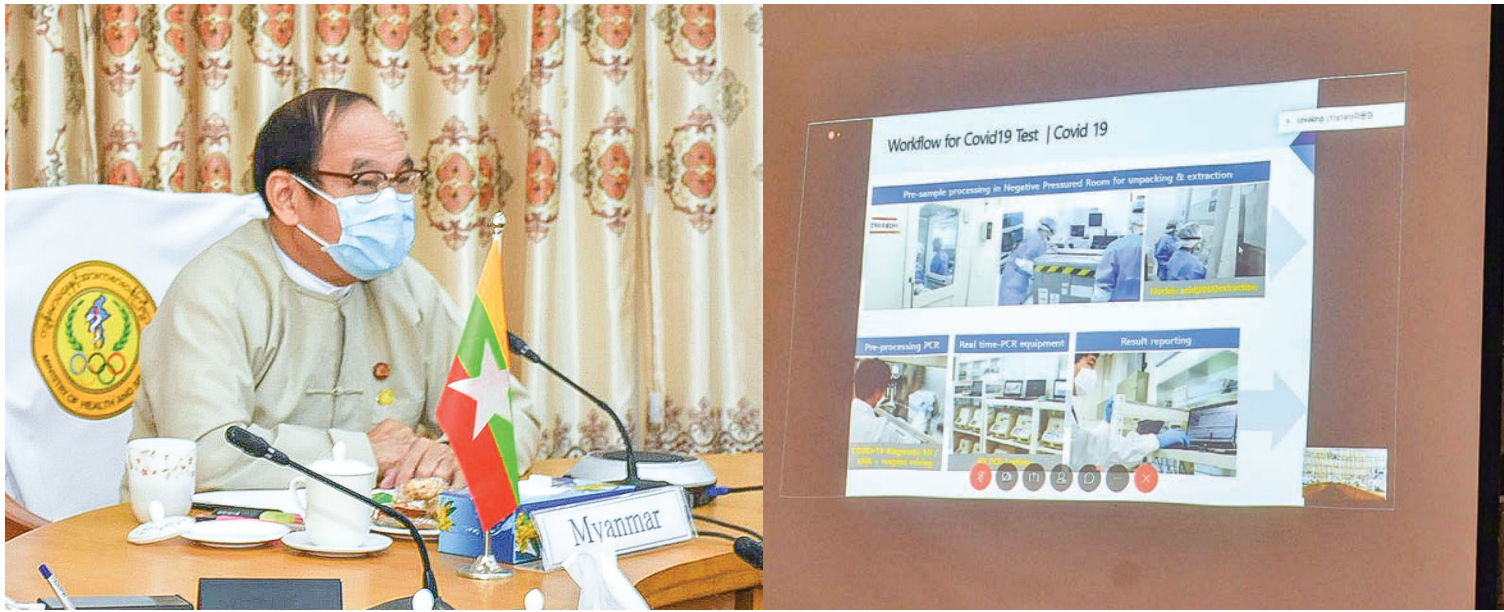
SEE PAGE-3

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Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe joins web-based seminar on South Korea's success stories in combatting COVID-19



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends the web-based seminar where South Korea shares its experiences on fighting against the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) through video conferencing. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe yesterday took part in a webinar, the web-based seminar, where South Korea shared its experiences on measures against the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) through video conferencing.

Professor Sohn Myongsei, the President of Institute for Global Engagement & Empowerment at Yonsei University of

South Korea, made an opening remark at the event which was participated by experts and officials who are heading anti-COVID-19 activities in Asia, Africa and Middle East regions.

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe made a discussion, acknowledging the South Korea's cost effective and efficient measures, as well as time efficient and responsive actions, in tackling the

outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic.

He also remarked the experiences of the East Asian nation would be helpful to the participating countries at the seminar.

The Union Minister explained the containment measure against the transmission of disease in Myanmar, while the country is facing a considerable challenge to monitor thousands of Myanmar migrant workers

who have recently returned from Thailand amid the outbreak of COVID-19.

He clarified the coordinated efforts of public, relevant ministries and civil societies to overcome the crisis.

Dean Professor Jonguk Won from the Graduate School of Public Health, presented current situations of COVID-19 in South Korea and their control

strategies.

Professor So Yoon Kim from the Yonsei University talked about the national management and public communications.

Professor Lee Hyuk Min from that university briefed on the topic of testing and laboratory arrangement, as well as the identification of suspects.

Chairman Mr Kyoung R. Lee discussed the preparation for pandemic laboratory competency.

Professor H. Kim held talks on infected isolation and tracing of contacts management, data reporting system, patient classification and treatment and treatment procedures and methods and organization.

In concluding remark, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe raised queries on the role of rapid diagnostic test kits, viral shedding duration in the COVID-19 positive patients, experiences and research findings of South Korea.

Those attendees at the seminar were Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein and senior health officials.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Four more cases of COVID-19 confirmed on Saturday, total number cases reach 98

National Health Laboratory (Yangon) announced four more confirmed cases of COVID-19 yesterday and the additional cases brought the total number of cases to 98.

The four new cases are as follow:

Case No.	Aged	Gender	Address	Contact with COVID-19 patients	Travel history to foreign countries	Hospital	Laboratory Results	Remark
95	18 months	Male	Pabedan Township	Yes	No	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	They are imposed under travel restrictions
96	43 yrs	Male	Tachilek Township	Yes	No	Kengtung People's Hospital	Positive	
97	43 yrs	Female	Thin-gangyun Township	Yes	No	S-Okkala Specialist Hospital	Positive	
98	20 yrs	Female	Mayangon Township	Yes	No	S-Okkala Specialist Hospital	Positive	

The remaining 181 patients are negative.

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Update of COVID-19 cases in Myanmar till 8:00 pm on 18 April

The National Health Laboratory (Yangon) took laboratory tests on the specimens of 3,880 persons under the investigations and quarantine up to 18 April 2020. A total of 94 persons were tested positive, while the remaining 3,786 persons negative.

Out of these 94 confirmed cases, there were 5 deaths and two discharged from the hospital after recovery.

The 87 positive patients are being provided with medical treatments at the hospitals listed in the table, while three patients are at the intensive care unit of Waibargi Special Hospital and the remaining patients are in good health conditions.

No	Hospital	No. of positive patients
1	Specialist Hospital (Waibargi), Yangon	72
2	South Okkalapa Maternal and Child Hospital, Yangon	3
3	People's Hospital, Tiddim	4
4	People's Hospital, Lashio	1
5	People's Hospital, Mawlamyine	1
6	Sao San Tun Hospital, Taunggyi	1
7	People's Hospital, Magwe	1
8	People's Hospital, Kengtung	1
9	People's Hospital, Kalay	2
10	Kandawnadi Hospital, Mandalay	1

There are new 124 persons under investigation from 12 noon of 17 April and 12 noon of 18 April.

According to the update report of NHL at 6:15 pm on 18 April, the first batch of laboratory tests on specimens of 91 persons has shown that 2 were tested positive and the remaining 89 persons negative.

These two confirmed cases will be transferred to the respective hospitals. (Translated by Aung Khin)

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"People are the key"

Stay-at-home orders imposed in Yangon Region's seven townships

FROM PAGE-1

2. It is hereby announced that people residing in the following townships in Yangon Region are included in the Stay at Home programme:

- South Okkalapa Township
- Pabedan Township
- Bahan Township
- Mayangone Township
- Insein Township
- Shwe Pyi Thar Township
- Hlaingtharyar Township

3. People from the said seven townships who are included in the Stay at Home programme shall follow the following rules:

- To stay only at their homes (Those who need

to perform their duties at government departments, organizations, companies, factories and workshops not included)

b. Only one person per one household to go out for shopping for unavoidable circumstances.

c. Only two persons per household to go to hospital or clinic if a need arises.

d. To put on masks when going outside.

e. To allow only authorized vehicles, and ferries providing transportation service to those who are to go to workplaces to perform their duties, to pass through the wards.

f. The vehicle is to carry only a driver and a passenger for going shopping in the ward, and only a driver and two persons for going to hospital or clinic.

4. Regarding matters relating to Clauses b, c and

f of Paragraph 3, if more passengers need to ride on the vehicle or to go for other emergencies, they are to seek approval from the respective Ward Administration Office to go outside, and the responsible persons of the respective Ward Administration Office shall not allow anyone to go out or come in to their wards except those who are going out and coming in to assume their charge of duties.

5. Action will be taken against those who fail to abide by this order under the Control of Communicable Diseases Law.

6. This order comes into effect from 6 pm on 18-4-2020.

(Dr Myint Htwe)

(Union Minister)

(Unofficial Translation)

Public announcement on COVID-19 mobile application

1. To assist the containment and emergency response process regarding COVID-19 by tracking and monitoring chances of getting infected, the COVID-19 Containment and Emergency Response ICT Support Group designed the 'Saw Saw Shar' mobile application.

2. 'Saw Saw Shar' mobile application will be able to discover whether people returning from abroad and the general public have higher likelihood to be infected and will support containment efforts of the virus as well.

3. Members of the public will gain the following benefits from installing 'Saw Saw Shar' mobile application in their mobile phones:

(a) The application can calculate whether you were in close contact with someone infected with COVID-19 based on both your travel history.

(b) The application can send alerts to registered people if they have been in the area where a positive case occurred or had traveled to so that appropriate action can be taken.

(c) Whether in quarantine or not, registered app users can report their health conditions via the application and receive appropriate medical treatment early on if necessary.

4. Telecom operators have cooperated to

ensure the 'Saw Saw Shar' mobile application can be downloaded and used without Internet or data charges. In addition, people using the application until 31 July 2020 will be gifted a 1GB data package valid for one month.

5. The application can be obtained at www.sawsawshar.gov.com and downloaded with permitted methods by telecom operators and the public is requested to do so.

6. Personal information will not be made public when using this mobile application and will only be used during the containment and treatment period of COVID-19. It will not be used in any other situation.

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Containment and Emergency Response Committee

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

SMS Promotion Message

To safeguard the wellbeing of you and your family, and to be informed of the chances of COVID-19 spreading in your community, download the 'Saw Saw Shar' application for free [HYPERLINK "http://www.sawsawshar.gov.mm"](http://www.sawsawshar.gov.mm) and receive a 1GB

Yangon taxi drivers carry out disinfection campaign



Volunteers disinfecting the vehicle in Mayangone Township, Yangon yesterday to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

THE Happy Taxi operator organized a disinfection campaign in Mayangone Township, Yangon, yesterday as a move to prevent transmission of COVID-19 pandemic.

Ko Chan, the founder of operator, said, "We offered disinfection of all the taxis while we are spraying disinfectants on the roads in the residential wards."

They also donated breakfast to taxi drivers who accepted their offer.

A total of 1,000 automobiles, including private cars, were disinfected from 9 am to 12 noon.

U Sein Tun, the chairman of Mayangone Township Development Committee, said, "It is a good job. Prevention and containment of COVID-19 must be done by the community. People, both taxi drivers and passengers, need to wear face masks at the moment."

Disinfection campaign is being carried out at the taxi stands of airport, ports and railway station, while the civil organizations are spraying disinfections and lime powders at the residential quarters in Yangon.—Zaw Gyi

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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Shwedagon Pagoda continues to close



The view of the Shwedagon Pagoda. PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG

ACCORDING to the announcement 37/2020 issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) and to the current situation in Yangon, the Shwedagon Pagoda will continue to be closed, stated Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees.

During the Thingyan Festival, the Shwedagon Pagoda, one of the most famous pagodas in Yangon region, has been temporarily closed to prevent and control Covid-19.

MoHS issued the announcements of areal restrictions regarding Covid-19. According to the announcements, five or more than five people must not be assembled without good reasons. In order to help prevent the virus

spreading, the board of trustees has temporarily closed the pagoda to the public from 10 to 19 April. Now, the pagoda board of trustees has extended its closing period based upon the situation to prevent increasing number of the patients with Covid-19.

Shwedagon Pagoda is one of the most famous pagodas in the world and it is the main attraction of Yangon region.

This being so, the pagoda is always crowded with the local and foreign pilgrims.

The reopening date of Shwedagon pagoda will be announced by the Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 4,000 gallons of drinking water distributed in Natmauk

THE Rural Development Department staff led by Daw Kyi Kyi Khine, the township head, distributed 4,400 gallons of drinking water in Gwaykantaung village in Natmauk township, Magway region yesterday for sufficient supply of drinking water in summer, according to the Rural Development Department.

To prevent the insufficient supply of drinking water in the village, Natmauk township rural development department has distributed 4,400 gallons

of drinking water to 440 villagers from 120 households in Gwaykantaung village. The department supplied the water with the use of water bowser.

Those who wish to donate the drinking water can contact Daw Kyi Kyi Khine, the township head of Natmauk Township Rural Development Department phone:09-5333217. A bowser with a capacity of 2,800 gallons of drinking water will cost K55,000.—Nyein Thu (Salin)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Drinking water being distributed in Natmauk, Magway Region. PHOTO: NYEIN THU (SALIN)

Yangon heightens containment measure against COVID-19 spread

YANGON regional government announced yesterday that Yangonites are not allowed to go out at night to prevent further spreading of Covid-19 in Yangon region.

Yangon regional government sent the copies of this announcement letter to the general administration departments from all townships in Yangon region except Coco Island (Ko Ko Gyun) township. According to the announcement, people are

not allowed to go out between 10 pm and 4 am in every township of Yangon region starting from 18 April.

Covid-19 has started spreading in Myanmar on 23 March 2020. Currently, there are 94 people infected with Covid-19, according to the announcement of the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS).

Most of the infected patients are from Yangon region. They are living in Botahtaung,

Insein, Mingalar Taung Nyunt, Ahlon, Sanchaung, Bahan, Mingalardon, Tamwe, Mayangon, South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Hlaing, Hlegu, Shwepyitha, Pabadan, Pazundaung and South Dagon Township, according to the announcement of MoHS.

With the rising number of patients with Covid-19, the related townships and wards are taking preventative measures in such a way as to ensure ef-

fectiveness and efficiency in the protection and containment of the virus. Restriction of going out at night is believed to be an effective control measure.

Only a few were seen going on the road in Yangon region after the regional government had announced the local order for the people to stay at home during the Thingyan holiday period. —Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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

MNA to suspend local, foreign flights until 30 April

MYANMAR National Airline will temporarily suspend all its local and foreign flights until 30 April to protect from spreading of Covid-19 across the country, according to Myanmar Aviation Development Association.

MNA is offering the full refund and free date change of the tickets, which have been purchased by the passengers. Moreover, for those who have booked the tickets via agents can contact via the travelling agents to take

out their refunds and for those passengers who have bought the tickets via Website can send the mails to contactus@glymna.com to demand the refunds.

All flights will be resumed beginning from 1 May 2020. If

there will be any update, MNA will announce in time. For more information, please contact the following number of MNA call centre: +951378603-04-06-07-08 or +9513778490-41-42. —Thurein

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MSWRR provides soap bars, face masks for IDPs in Sittway amid COVID-19



An official from Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement donating soap bars and face masks to a displaced person in Sittway, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement donated soap bars and face masks for IDPs in Sittway, Rakhine State on Friday and Saturday as part of their prevention, control and response actions for COVID-19.

On Friday, the ministry's officials provided a total of 524 soap bar and 1,048 face masks for 524 households of IDPs in seven monasteries – Amyotha Monastery, Karuna Monastery, Yaw Thida Yone Monastery, Buddha Maw Monastery, Maha Muni Buddha Vihara Monastery, Maha Zeya Theikthi Monastery and Se Gyi Monastery, and one IDPs camp

Sarbarra.

The officials also provided 73 soap bars, and 146 face masks for 73 households of IDPs in seven monasteries in Sittway – Maha Vizayama Monastery, Su Taung Pyae Monastery, Detkawtan Monastery, Maha Aung Myay Monastery, Tajo Yama Kmahtan Monastery, and Sasana Beikhman Monastery.

The ministry is coordinating with related departments and organizations to implement the prevention, control and response actions for the COVID-19.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Strong winds destroy houses, monasteries in pre-monsoon period

STRONG winds damaged houses and monasteries in the townships of Ayeyawady Region, Sagaing Region, Shan State, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and Kachin State on Friday.

In the pre-monsoon periods of March, April and May, strong winds, heavy clouds, lightning, and sleet falling used to occur in Myanmar. On 17 April, strong winds in Ayeyawady Region destroyed seven houses, and blew off the roofs of 96 houses and a monastery in Kyangin Township.

Sagaing Region's strong winds also blew off the roofs of 21 houses in YeU Township, and three houses in Ayadaw Township. Strong winds on the same day destroyed the five houses' roofs in Monghkat and Pehkon

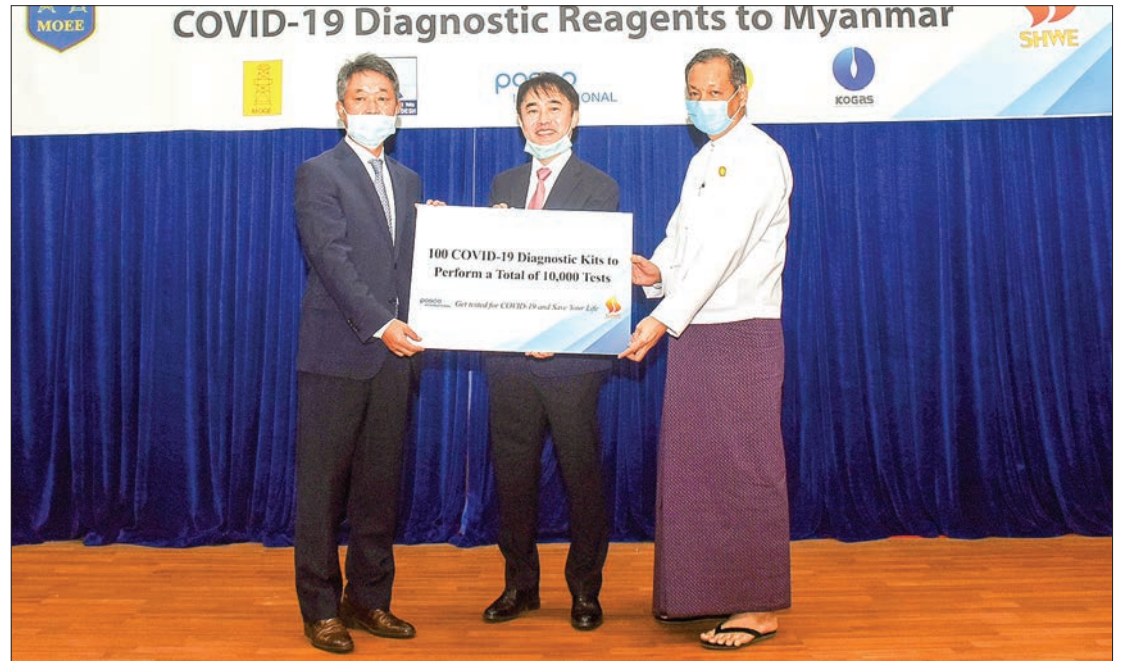
townships in Shan State, four houses' roofs in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, and the roofs of nine houses and a religious school in Mogaung Township, Kachin State.

Officials from the Disaster Management Department under Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement went to the places affected by strong winds and donated K 5.6 million for rice and house-construction materials.

People can contact at 067-3404666 and 067-3404777, the hot-line phone numbers of the MSWRR, if they need helps for the matters related to natural disasters, according to the ministry.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Posco International Myanmar donates COVID-19 diagnostic kits to MoHS



Professor Dr Zaw Than Htun accepts the diagnostic reagents handed over by Mr Lee Sang-hwa in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO ZAW MIN LATT**

A ceremony to donate medical supplies for prevention and containment of COVID-19 to the Ministry of Health and Sports was held at the Medical Research Department (Yangon Head Office) in Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday.

At the ceremony, Amba-

sador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Sang-hwa made an opening remark, followed by Professor Dr Zaw Than Htun, Director-General of the Medical Research Department.

Mr Song Hoon Lee, Managing Director from the Posco International Myanmar,

explained the purpose of the donation.

On behalf of the MoHS, Professor Dr Zaw Than Htun accepted the diagnostic reagents handed over by Mr Lee Sang-hwa, and returned certificates of honour.—Zaw Min Latt

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Seintalone mangoes fetch better price at China market

WITH a better price for the start of this harvest season, Seintalone (Diamond Solitaire) mangoes Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region, have been exported to China, according to the Myanmar Mangoes Market and Technology Development Association.

The association has urged the mangoes traders to export the quality fruits to China in efforts to avoid damaging the market as the price is profitable

at the beginning of the harvest season, said U Kyaw Soe Naing, secretary of the association.

“Current crisis of COVID-19 do not damage the mangoes market because the transportation to Muse border town is good and the price is profitable at the beginning of the harvest,” he said.

The association has requested the traders to export only quality fruits to the Chinese market, he added.

Seintalone mangoes are fetching around K25,000 for 16 Kg.

Despite fetching good price for mangoes, the growers are facing labour shortage for harvesting the fruits as daily-waged workers are facing difficulties to come to gardens due to travel restrictions, according to the association.

As per research, more than 190 mango varieties are cultivated in Myanmar, mostly in the Ayeyawady Region, followed by Shan and Kachin states. The majority of Seintalone mango plantations are found in Mandalay.

Seintalone is regarded as the best mango variety in Myanmar because of its aroma, sweetness, juiciness, and non-fibrous texture. The mango variety has become highly popular in the global market in the last three years. Myanmar exported more than 700,000 tons of Seintalone mangoes in the 2016-2017 and the 2017-2018 fiscal years.—Min Htet Aung

(Mandalay Sub-printing House)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Seintalone Mangoes are regarded as the best variety in Myanmar. **PHOTO : MIN HTET AUNG (MANDALAY SUB-PRINTING HOUSE)**

EXTREME CAUTION

Exit lockdowns with caution to avoid being confined again: experts

AS SEVERAL countries prepare to ease sweeping restrictions put in place to slow the coronavirus pandemic, experts say the openings should be enacted with extreme caution to avoid sparking a fresh wave of infection -- and another painful lockdown.

Many governments, faced with exponential growth of cases of COVID-19, have ordered people to stay in their homes as they try to reduce hospital admissions and prevent intensive care units from becoming overwhelmed.

But the measures have taken a painful toll, both on economies and society itself.

"When the decision (to lock down) was taken, it was our only weapon with any hope of beginning to control the epidemic," French epidemiologist Dominique Costagliola told AFP.

But she said the measures in France, which are expected to begin lifting next month, were taken in an "emergency" and were "not bearable in the long

term, either for the people or for the country".

Antoine Flahault, director of the Institute of Global Health at the University of Geneva said lockdown was "a Chinese invention".

"The effectiveness of the Chinese version applied with rigor and force in Wuhan meant the least prepared countries -- most Western countries -- had no choice but to apply an adapted version when they found themselves facing the pandemic wave," he said.

In Britain, where restrictions are due to last at least several more weeks, the population is broadly supportive of the lockdown, according to Linda Bauld, a professor of public health at the University of Edinburgh's Usher Institute.

"Compliance is generally good and concern about the virus is at the forefront of people's minds," she said.

"But this won't last. The social, economic and health effects of lockdown are accumulating.



Spain eased some lockdown restrictions on 13 April, allowing construction and factory workers to resume work. **PHOTO: AFP**

There will come a tipping point when the cost of the current restrictions outweighs the benefits."

Most experts agree that the lockdowns have saved thousands of lives.

But they have given rise to a punishing worldwide economic slowdown.

The International Monetary Fund's chief economist Gita Gopinath has dubbed the crisis the "Great Lockdown" and said it is expected to be the "worst recession since the Great Depression".

In a blog this week, she said

the loss to global output over 2020 and 2021 could be around \$9 trillion, greater than the economies of Japan and Germany combined.

Specialists also fear growing risks to society: increases in inequality, domestic violence, mental health problems, alcohol consumption and the neglect of serious non-coronavirus health problems.

Balancing act

As the epidemic slows in some countries, governments are looking at ways to ease the economy back onto its feet, with

measures such as the reopening of schools and shops and the loosening of confinement rules.

In Europe, Germany, France, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark, Italy and Spain among others, are on track to ease or consider easing restrictions by mid-May.

In the United States, which has not yet passed the peak of its epidemic, Donald Trump has already said it was time to "restart America".

Whatever the country, the exit route for lockdown measures will look more like a tight-rope than a highway.—AFP ■

YINYANGISM

TCM aids elderly patients' fight against COVID-19



A pharmacist processes the granules of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) at Gansu Provincial Hospital of TCM in Lanzhou, northwest China's Gansu Province, Feb. 20, 2020. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

AFTER recovering from COVID-19, 95-year-old Xu Ming is now able to cook for himself at home, with the food materials delivered-

by community workers.

Xu is among a growing number of elderly patients who have recovered from the rampaging

infection in Wuhan. But when the retired engineer was first hospitalized with fever, cough and ground-glass opacity in lungs on Feb. 9, his doctor was apprehensive.

"As old and severely ill as he was, it was highly likely that his condition would turn critical," recalled Xu's doctor Zhang Jun with Wuhan Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine. The patient suffered from sudden dyspnea and went into a coma on the next day.

"From the perspective of Western medicine, a large amount of concentrated sodium should be injected. Yet considering Xu's age, such an infusion would cause further electrolyte imbalance, so we resorted to

traditional Chinese medicine (TCM)," Zhang said.

According to Zhang, TCM can reduce the side effects of drugs and minimize the pain of the elderly during treatment.

Doctors prescribed a tailored TCM remedy for Xu, which aimed to help improve his lung function, lower his body temperature and "dispel the dampness," together with an increase in his oxygen uptake.

"I had one decoction of herbal medicine twice a day, one in the morning and the other in the evening, and the doctor told me not to worry about the fees as the medicines were free of charge," said Xu, whose symptoms were brought under control after taking the therapy for six days.

Xu was clinically cured and discharged from the hospital on Feb. 23 to start a two-week home quarantine.

According to Li Xucheng, chief physician of the emergency department of the Wuhan Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine, a total of 675 COVID-19 patients have been treated in the hospital, with 60 per cent of whom aged above 65. The hospital combined TCM and Western medicine to cure COVID-19 patients. "TCM has been used on all of our patients, and no one in our hospital deteriorated from mild to severe condition," Li said.

"What we pursue is not 100-percent TCM treatment, but the one that benefits our patients," he noted.—Xinhua ■

COVID-19: Latest Developments In Asia

Here are recent updates in Asia related to the novel coronavirus.

Singapore infections surge

Singapore announced more than 900 new cases of coronavirus Saturday, a new record high, with nearly all infections traced to packed dormitories housing foreign workers.

The affluent city-state had initially been held as a gold standard in the global fight against COVID-19, but a surge in the number of cases has left the government scrambling to contain the spread.

Around 200,000 mostly South Asian workers live in 43 dorms across the island, forming an essential part of the country's workforce.

Tens of thousands defy Bangladesh lockdown

Tens of thousands of people defied a nationwide coronavirus lockdown in Bangladesh on Saturday to attend the funeral of a top Islamic preacher, even as authorities battle a surge in virus cases.

Police had agreed with the family of Jubayer Ahmad Ansari, that only 50 people would attend the funeral in the eastern town of Sarail because of the risk of spreading the disease.

But local police chief Shahadat Hossain said officers were helpless to stop the crowds who came to honour the 55-year-old popular preacher and seminary head, who died on Friday.

"People came in waves," he told AFP.

Organisers said some 100,000 attended the funeral. Aide to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Shah Ali Farhad, also said more than 100,000 were present.

Bangladesh imposed a nationwide lockdown on March 26 as coronavirus spread across the country of 168 million people.

The health department said

the number of cases had risen by more than 300 on Saturday to about 2,200, while nine more deaths in one day took the toll to 84.

Authorities have conducted few tests and experts say the number of cases is higher than officially recognised.

New rules ban more than five people taking part in prayers in the country's 300,000 mosques.

The prime minister has called on Bangladeshis to pray at home when the Ramadan festival starts this month. But a group of influential clerics has called on Muslims to turn out in their masses for daily prayers.

Last month at least 25,000 people attended a Muslim prayer meeting in a field in the southern city of Raipur to chant "healing verses" to rid the country of the deadly virus.

New coronavirus cases in S. Korea fall below 20

South Korean health authorities on Saturday reported 18 newly confirmed cases of novel coronavirus, marking the first time for the daily figure to fall below 20 in around two months.

Of the new cases recorded in the 24 hours to the end of Friday, nine were imported from overseas, according to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

There were two more coronavirus-related fatalities, raising the country's death toll to 232, it said, adding that the total number of infection cases now stands at 10,653.

The latest report of new infections is in stark contrast to the high of over 900 cases recorded in late February.

A health official voiced appreciation for the efforts made by South Koreans to observe social distancing practices, while urging continued vigilance as the transmission routes of some patients could not be traced.

Also Saturday, Prime Minis-



Tourist sites and entertainment districts largely deserted as people heed a government call to stay home to stop the coronavirus' spread. PHOTO: KYODO

ter Chung Sye-kyun asked people to refrain from going out and traveling as much as possible during the extended holiday period from the end of April to the beginning of May.

Hospital bed vacancy rate

Urban areas such as Tokyo and Osaka are among Japan's 47 prefectures where the hospital bed vacancy rate for patients suffering from the coronavirus is less than 20 percent, a Kyodo News survey showed Saturday.

The finding comes amid growing concerns over further strain on the healthcare system due to the increase in infections in the capital and elsewhere. All prefectures are now covered by the state of emergency declared by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday to curb the spread of the virus heading into the Golden Week holidays through May 6.

The survey, which was based on interviews with local governments on Friday, found that in addition to Tokyo and Osaka, hospital bed vacancy in six other prefectures is lower than 20 percent. The six are Shiga, Okinawa, Hyogo, Ishikawa, Kagawa and Fukuoka prefectures.

They were asked about the number of hospital beds and inpatients, and calculated the occupancy rate of the beds.

Based on the calculation, all hospital beds in Tokyo, Osaka and Hyogo would have already been filled as the figures for inpatients also include those at home who have not yet been hospitalized.

The total number of coronavirus cases in Japan has now surpassed 10,000, with Tokyo

confirming on Saturday 181 new infection cases. Tokyo has been reporting more than 100 infections on most days since April 4, while the rest of the prefectures, except for Iwate, have confirmed cases of infection.

Asia-Pacific countries on high alert

Asia-Pacific countries kept reporting more COVID-19 infections and deaths on Saturday, with Singapore recording the highest daily jump of the new cases. Singapore reported 942 new cases of the COVID-19 infection as of Saturday noon, the highest daily increase so far, the Ministry of Health said.

This increase brings Singapore's total confirmed cases to 5,992. Of the new cases, the vast majority are Work Permit holders residing in foreign worker dormitories, the ministry said.

The Indonesian government announced 325 new confirmed cases of the COVID-19, bringing the total number of infections in the archipelagic country to 6,248.

At a press conference, government spokesperson for the COVID-19-related matters Achmad Yurianto said there were also 15 new deaths, taking the total number of fatalities to 535, the highest in Southeast Asia.

Meanwhile, as many as 24 more people have been discharged from hospital after their recoveries, taking the total number of the recovered patients to 631. The Department of Health (DOH) of the Philippines reported 209 new infections from the COVID-19, bringing the total number of the disease cases in

the country to 6,087.

Chinese medical team arrives in Malaysia

A team of medical experts sent by the Chinese government arrived here on Saturday to help Malaysia fight the COVID-19 pandemic. The eight-member expert team was received by Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Bai Tian and officials from Malaysia's Ministry of Health upon their arrival at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport.

During the contingent's two-week stay in Malaysia, they will share experience and expertise on fighting COVID-19 with their Malaysian counterparts, which may help Malaysia's efforts against the pandemic, said the Chinese ambassador.

"This is the time when governments and the people of China and Malaysia work together and look after each other to overcome the difficulties. It also demonstrates the deep and warm relationship between China and Malaysia," Bai added.

Malaysian Health Ministry Director-General Noor Hisham Abdullah said the Chinese expert team and Malaysian experts would share and exchange experience and views regarding COVID-19. "We will discuss with our colleagues from China and we will see how we can cooperate, to improve our virus detection, our treatment and public health, and how we can work together with China," he told a daily press conference.

SOURCES: AFP; Kyodo; Xinhua Updated News



A man looks on from the balcony of a dormitory used by foreign workers at Cochrane Lodge 2, which has been made an isolation area, in Singapore on 15 April, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

Stay-at-home orders must be followed for as long as needed

WITH higher numbers of Coronavirus infection cases, compared with other parts of the country, Yangon Region's seven townships have imposed stay-at-home orders, taking effect today.

In its announcement, the Ministry of Health and Sports said that it issued the order to effectively contain the spread of the infectious disease.

The need for this move is not in doubt. The coronavirus is infecting more people every day in the Yangon Region. Nationwide, the number of cases reached 98 yesterday, of which about 80 are in Yangon.

Regarding the order, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a message to the people yesterday on her Facebook Account, stating "...The people cooperating is the key. This situation is not easy for anyone."

Yangon is expected to see more infections, which also means more hospitalizations.

"The people cooperating is the key. This situation is not easy for anyone."

The only way to reverse the increase in infections is with drastic stay-at-home orders which, like this one, should also become more prevalent across the country.

According to the order, people included in the Stay at Home programme in the seven townships must abide by the following rules.

a. To stay only in their homes (Those who are responsible for critical work at government departments, organizations, companies, factories and workshops will be excluded)

b. When going shopping, only one person per household may leave and only for unavoidable reasons

c. When going to hospitals or clinics, only one person per household may leave if the need arises.

d. To wear masks when going outside.

e. To allow only authorized vehicles to pass through wards, and ferries providing transportation service to those who are to go to workplaces to assume their charge of duties.

f. The vehicle is to carry only a driver and a passenger for venturing out to shop in the wards, and only a driver and two persons when going to hospital or clinic.

This situation is not easy for anyone. But, the rules are something we all have to comply with.

To contain the disease, the health authorities have also banned the gathering of five or more. But, the now-familiar term of "social distancing" still applies. We need to stay at least six feet from each other to avoid catching the virus.

The best way we can protect ourselves and our family members is to do what this order says: stay at home.

No one knows how long this order will remain in effect. All we can do is comply and help our families and neighbors, as much as possible.

Let us again convey the message from the State Counsellor to our people. "The people cooperating is the key. This situation is not easy for anyone."



Primary Health Care Centres are Needed as First-Line Health Facilities in Combatting the Threat of the Coronavirus Crisis

By Lokethar

WATCHED the TV Video Conference today (13-4-2020) over the MRTV chaired by the State Counsellor about measures for guarding against the Corona Virus spreading. One gets the feeling that the Community Facility Quarantine Centres now being used, may even be needed in the future for placing in quarantine local people, whether from Yangon or the Districts, who feel

that they are sick and have the symptoms of the disease.

The point is who decides whether they should be confined in the Community Facility Quarantine Centre. In my opinion, as I have pointed out in one of my previous Article, we need to establish Primary Health Care Centres manned by experienced GPs and nursing staff for deciding whether a person who comes to them for

consultation to carry out routine examinations to determine the nature of the illness and then either give them the necessary treatment or send them to the Public Hospitals nearest to their place of residence.

The basic though very elementary Primary Health Structure is already in existence in the major cities and even in the large villages. In the cities they are the Township Health or Daythandra

Health Clinics manned by the "Township Doctor" and in the villages as basic health units manned by Health Assistants and Midwives and sometimes experienced nurses. My apologies for "Showing the King Crocodile the Waterway".

It is time now to upgrade these facilities, into a full blown Primary Health Care Service. When over the TV it is said that in case of fever or cough or some

other symptoms "to go to the nearest clinic" it's rather difficult to find "the nearest clinic". Of course there are "private clinics

" all over the city or towns, but they are not affordable by all. I am not complaining about the Private Clinics. In fact they are the source of health care for citizens of average income. However they might not be "willing" to send any of their patients to the "Community Facility Quarantine

Centre".

Hence it would serve the interest of Public Health, even in the long run, if the System of Primary Health Care is established with experienced doctors and nurses trained in detecting symptoms of the Corona Virus and the PPE required by them are provided by the Department of Health or donors.

With Charity to all and Malice to none.

Global supply chains

Freight trains connect China, Europe for stronger cooperation against COVID-19

By Xinhua writers Feng Yasong, Gao Wencheng, Zhu Sheng

THIS week in the western German city of Duisburg, after the arrival of a China-Europe freight train from Wuhan, once the epicenter of the COVID-19 outbreak in China, Chinese diplomats and local officials posed for a group photo while maintaining a safe distance from each other.

The train, which was loaded with medical supplies, auto parts, electronic products, and optical communication fibers, among others, was a stellar example of how China and Europe can stand together in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic and challenges posed by the contagious disease.

Around the time the train arrived in Germany, another two China-Europe freight trains, under the operation of China Railway Express, one departing from southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, the other setting out from the eastern Chinese city of Yiwu, also rumbled across the Eurasian continent and arrived in Europe.

BUSINESS RESUMPTION

Since it resumed intercontinental train service on March 28, Wuhan, the capital city of the central Chinese province of Hubei, has seen the departure of four freight trains, loaded with 195 containers of goods for Europe.

According to Wuhan Asia-Europe Logistics, the operator of the trains in Wuhan,



A China-Europe freight train bound for Duisburg of Germany pulls out of the Wuhan terminal of China Railway Intermodal in Wuhan, central China's Hubei Province, March 28, 2020. PHOTO: XINHUA/XIAO YIJU

their loading rate is above 98 per cent, and the goods, including face masks, surgical gauze and first-aid kits, were transported and then distributed to Germany, France, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland.

Gao Ruorui with the Wuhan operator said 90 per cent of medical goods carried by the freight trains from Wuhan were produced by enterprises in Hubei, which have gradually resumed business after a lockdown to stem the virus's spread.

"In order to help Europe's

fight against the pandemic, we have kept the transport price flat as that in the same period of last year," said Gao. "We will increase the shipment frequency according to the international market's demand, and help keep the global industrial and supply chains stable."

Trains from other parts of China have also been running steadily, with increasing transport frequency and volume, helping sustain international trade and global supply chains in tough times.

On Sunday, the "China Post" train, launched from Chongqing, arrived in Lithuania, opening a new logistics channel between China and Europe. By Wednesday, a total of 107 China-Europe freight trains had departed from Yiwu this year, which boasts the world's leading small commodities market in east China's Zhejiang Province.

Statistics from China Railway Group Limited showed that the first quarter of 2020 saw 1,941 China-Europe freight trains traveling from or to

China, carrying 174,000 TEU containers, which represented growth rates of 15 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively, year on year. In March alone, a total of 809 freight train trips were made, delivering 73,000 TEU of goods, both setting monthly high records.

RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION

On April 8, mobile cranes loaded containers onto a cargo train at Shenyang East Railway Station in Shenyang, capital of northeast China's Liaoning Province. Along with regular cargoes including machinery and small commodities, the train, destined for Germany, was also loaded with 200,000 sets of medical protective suits.

"Due to the epidemic, air freight is now facing strict restrictions and road freight came to a halt" in efforts to curb the contagion risk, said He Ruofan, a manager with the Shenyang branch of China Railway Container Transport, the company in charge of the China-Europe freight train operation. "Under such circumstances, the freight train is now favoured by many enterprises as the most economical means of international transportation."

Likewise, Juergen Friedrich, chairman and CEO at Germany Trade & Invest

(GTAI), said that demand for train services to Europe has recently increased, as airfreight and shipping services are restricted.

Also, when explaining the advantages of train services, Feng Xubin, chair of the freight operator Yiwu Tianmeng Industrial Investment Co. Ltd., said "China-Europe freight trains offer a closed and safe transport environment with low risk of virus transmission."

As analysts have said, the short transportation time is also a significant strength of the China Rail Express, especially during the current conditions where certain materials, especially medical equipment that is critical for saving lives, require rapid delivery.

What made this possible is China's efforts to extend a helping hand and to restore and raise the production capacity of medical and anti-epidemic supplies.

Carlos Santana, who is responsible for the company which operates the Yiwu-Madrid line in Spain, told Xinhua that return to work in China and the increase in industrial activity have made it easier for the materials needed to fight the pandemic to arrive in a safe and rapid manner.

SOURCE: Xinhua



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 18th April, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 19th April, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, scattered in Lower Sagaing Region, Northern Shan and Chin States and isolated in Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Shan(South and East), Kayah, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin States.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th April, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th April, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 19th April, 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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Coronavirus: latest global developments

PARIS (France) — Here are the latest developments in the coronavirus crisis:

Trump calls to 'liberate' states

US President Donald Trump issues calls to "liberate" Michigan, Minnesota and Virginia in a series of tweets, which are quickly rebuked by the Democratic leaders of all three states.

Demonstrators in the three states have staged public rallies this week to demand an end to lockdown restrictions.

China under scrutiny

Beijing hits back at growing criticism from world leaders for its handling of the pandemic, saying it did not conceal information about the illness.

On Friday China sharply raised its death toll, adding another 1,290 fatalities for the city of Wuhan where the respiratory disease first emerged, pushing the nationwide death toll up to 4,636.

Trump has accused Beijing of downplaying the impact of the virus within its borders while leaders in France and Britain have also questioned China's management of the crisis.

More than 154,000 dead

There have been more than 2,251,695 reported COVID-19 infections around the world, from which 154,188 people have died, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT Saturday based on official sources.

The United States has the most deaths of any country with 37,079 fatalities.

Italy is the second hardest-hit country, with 22,745 dead. Spain follows with 20,043, then France with 18,681 and Britain with 14,576.

UK unregistered deaths

Care England, Britain's largest representative body for care homes, says the number of virus deaths in Britain's care homes could be as high as 75,000, five



Hartmut Fey, a German citizen of Lauterbach, gets his French baguettes at the German-French border using his fisher rod to avoid a penalty of 250€ on April 18, 2020 in Carling, eastern France, on the 33rd day of a lockdown in France aimed at curbing the spread of the COVID-19 infection caused by the novel coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

times more than the official estimate.

Silicon Valley cases 50 times higher?

The true number of cases in California's Silicon Valley is at least 50 times higher than the official figure, according to a preliminary study that took blood samples from a group of residents and tested them for vi-

ral antibodies. US government scientists also report that the experimental antiviral drug remdesivir has proven effective against COVID-19 in a small experiment involving monkeys.

1,046 cases on French aircraft carrier

Nearly half of the 2,300 sailors who were aboard France's aircraft carrier and support craft

when an outbreak occurred at sea have tested positive for the virus, the defence minister says.

With 1,760 tests conducted so far, 1,046 have come back positive.

Undoing gains in poor countries

The World Bank warns the pandemic could wipe out recent development progress made in poor countries. — AFP ■

Japanese customs: a guide in brave new coronavirus world?

TOKYO — As the coronavirus pandemic rages unabated, nations around the world have started looking at each other to understand how they might impede the virus' spread.

Some experts say customs and social habits in Japan such as wearing face masks during seasonal flu outbreaks, bowing rather than handshaking, and removing shoes at home might play some role in hindering transmission of the virus, although to what extent is still unknown.

But even as the scientific evidence remains pending, populations in Western countries have embraced at least one habit — the donning of face masks in public — that just months earlier they had seen as a quirk of Japanese or East Asian behavior.

At the same time, Japan's apparently robust practices of social hygiene could have a downside, too — the lack of urgency with which Japan is embracing social distancing, possibly due to overconfidence in the protection afforded by its hygiene habits.

Wakaba Fukushima, a

professor at the Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine in the Department of Public Health, said in an email to Kyodo News that particular social customs found in Japan and other East Asian cultures are "potentially effective in fighting the spread of coronavirus."

"However, results have not been reported, and we do not know at present to 'what extent' it might be valid based on proper epidemiological research, such as for example comparing the differences in infection rates and morbidity rates of people who practice these customs against those who do not," she said.

Josh Santarpia, an associate professor of pathology and microbiology at the University of Nebraska Medical Centre and research director of Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction at the University of Nebraska's National Strategic Research Institute, acknowledged such Japanese customs "probably didn't hurt."

"Rigorous hygiene practices are very important to preventing the spread of disease, so anytime these practices are

already ingrained it helps," said Santarpia.

But he added that there were dangers in the adoption of mask-wearing by populations unaccustomed to it. In the United States, people frequently touch or adjust them, posing significant contamination risks. To have a "positive effect," people need to "wear them properly," he said.

Experts have warned about how the coronavirus can cling to non-human surfaces, such as keyboards, doorknobs, countertops and even cardboard boxes, and some are now acknowledging what might seem obvious: it could last for days on the soles of your shoes.

That said, Dr. Amira Roes, a professor of global health and epidemiology at George Mason University, says person-to-person transmission through "respiratory droplets" poses a much higher risk of infection than from contaminated surfaces.

So what explains the discrepancies in confirmed infection and death rates among countries of similar socioeconomic levels? Is it an issue with

cultural norms helping slow the spread of the disease, implementing proper testing protocols or other underlying factors?

In Japan, the confirmed rate of infection has been low thus far — about 72 confirmed cases per million people in a population of 126 million, according to data from the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control and the United Nations as of April 17.

One factor that may be keeping the figure low is Japan's modest testing rate compared with other countries. As of Thursday, Japan had tested about 100,000 people, or a rate of 0.8 tests per 1,000 people, compared with over 540,000 tests (10.46/1,000) in South Korea, according to Our World in Data.

But even taking that into account, the comparison with infection cases in other developed countries — over 2,000 per million people in the United States and 3,900/million in Spain — is stark, especially considering Japan's huge population of elderly people, who are seen as more susceptible to the virus.

When celebrities in Japan

call on fans on social media to take precautions against the virus with protective measures, they generally appeal for people to just do more of what they are already used to.

"Let's strive to practice our everyday customs of gargling and handwashing, especially when we go into large crowds. Protection starts with small things. I don't doubt this," actor Koji Matoba wrote on his official blog on Jan. 30.

Rena Kato, a member of the female idol group AKB48, posted on Twitter the same day, "It pains me that our New Year handshaking fan event had to be canceled. Everyone, please take care of your health. Wash your hands and gargle! And don't forget your masks!" The question of why Japan remains one of the least impacted countries by COVID-19 has also been a talking point on social media.

Some posters have pointed to a list of personal hygiene norms, such as face masks worn zealously during the flu season, the use of toilet bidets, and baths taken almost daily.— Kyodo News ■

Canada funds oil sector environmental cleanup during pandemic

OTTAWA (Canada) — Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Friday announced Can\$1.7 billion (US\$1.2 billion) to help Canada's oil sector, struggling with low prices, survive a pandemic-related downturn by cleaning up environmental messes.

The money will go specifically to clean up orphaned wells — inactive and abandoned by defunct firms that may now be contaminating groundwater and leaking greenhouse gases.

The prime minister also announced a Can\$750 million (US\$535 million) fund to help energy companies cut methane emissions under new, stricter environmental regulations.

"Just because we're in a health crisis, doesn't mean we can neglect an environmental crisis," Trudeau told a daily briefing in Ottawa.

Most of the wells are in the prairies of Alberta and Saskatchewan, where "thousands of energy sites, no longer in use, dot the landscape in various states of disrepair," according to the Alberta Energy Regulator website.

Trudeau said cleaning them up will be good for the environment, for landowners who have to contend with them, and for 10,000 workers the remediation effort



The money will go specifically to clean up orphaned wells; pictured is Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on 29 March 2020. PHOTO: AFP

will employ. The issue of orphaned wells "has been festering for years or even decades. Cleaning them up will bring people back to work... and support our environmental targets," he said.

"Many, many energy firms are experiencing a cash crunch, so they don't have the funds to invest in technologies to reduce emissions, or fix methane leaks.

"Today's announcement will allow for this kind of work to be done and create jobs people need during this difficult time."

Greenpeace applauded the move, saying it rightly "helps workers and not polluters."

The Business Council of Alberta agreed in part, saying the federal aid will help many in the oil patch to keep working, but added that the nation's larger oil companies still need help.

"We will continue to look at ways we can support important industries in this country including the oil and gas sector," Trudeau said.

Canada is the world's fourth-largest oil producer, accounting for five per cent of global output. But it has been devastated by oil prices that have fallen as economies ground to a halt because of the coronavirus pandemic.— AFP ■

Horrors revealed at virus-hit Canada nursing home

MONTREAL (Canada) — Elderly residents left soiled and unfed after their caregivers fled the premises, 31 deaths in the space of a few weeks: a nursing home in Montreal has become the symbol of the terrible toll coronavirus is taking in Canada's long-term care homes.

The bleak situation discovered at the Residence Herron, in the Montreal suburb of Dorval, has triggered an investigation for gross negligence and a national reckoning about the conditions in long-term care homes which account for half the country's more than 1,250 COVID-19 deaths.

"I was sick to my stomach, I was really sick to my stomach," Moira Davis, whose father Stanley Pinnell died at the Herron facility on April 8, told AFP.

"All of a sudden these questions started flying through my head, 'What could we have done differently? Why did nobody tell us?... Why, why, why?'"

Called to the rescue after most of the staff deserted the facility, health authorities found residents dehydrated, unfed for

days and lying listless in bed, some covered in excrement. Others had fallen to the floor. Two deaths had gone unnoticed for several days.

At least five of the 31 recent deaths at the home have been officially attributed to the virus, with the others still being investigated by a coroner.

From her home in Creighton, Saskatchewan, Davis said she became concerned about her 86-year-old father, who is believed to have contracted coronavirus a week before his death, as he sounded weaker and weaker on the phone each time they spoke.

Davis says Residence Herron is a "poster child for what is wrong in our senior health care" — but she is also certain it is not unique.

"There are other homes, I am sure, in every country of the world, where families have experienced a similar situation."

"It scares me, it terrifies me to think that I am 60 years of age, and I may someday end up in one of these homes." — AFP ■

Japan firms making medical gowns, sanitizer amid virus spread

TOKYO — Major Japanese companies are branching into new fields to make medical gowns and hand sanitizer to ease shortages amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Textile maker Teijin Ltd. will begin production of medical gowns and is planning to supply 9 million to relevant government ministries and agencies by the

end of June.

Teijin will utilize the materials and know-how of its Osaka-based unit Teijin Frontier Co. to produce 50,000 gowns a month from May at the latter's factory in the Fukuoka Prefecture city of Omuta. Overseas plants, including those in China and Thailand, are also expected to start production.

Medical gowns come in two types - surgical and non-surgical. Teijin will upload the gowns' design on its website so that other businesses can follow suit and help in easing the current shortage.

As for protective gear used by medical workers, Japanese chemical fibre maker Toray Industries Inc. is more than tripling production from the previous year with a view to supplying to the domestic market.— Kyodo News ■



A Japanese Self-Defence Force soldier wears a face mask as adjust his face cover while he demonstrates how to use protective suits to hotel staff during the hotel transformation as accommodation facility and treatment for patients of mild coronavirus (COVID-19) diseases at a Rib Max Shiyakushomae hotel on April 13, 2020 in Himeji, Hyogo prefecture, Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Astronauts land back on Earth transformed by pandemic

ALMATY (Kazakhstan) — Two NASA astronauts and a Russian cosmonaut on Friday made a safe return from the International Space Station to find a "different planet," transformed by the coronavirus pandemic.

Andrew Morgan, Jessica Meir and Oleg Skripochka touched down in central Kazakhstan at 0516 GMT in the first returning mission since the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 a global pandemic in March.

Morgan had been on the ISS since July last year, while Meir and Skripochka arrived in September.

"TOUCHDOWN! Welcome home, Oleg Skripochka, Andrew Morgan and Jessica Meir!" Russia's Roscosmos space agency wrote on Twitter.

Unusually, NASA and Roscosmos did not show live footage of the trio parachuting down in their Soyuz landing capsule.

This was scrapped "due to technical limitations associated with the epidemiological situa-

tion," Roscosmos said. Subsequent footage from the landing site showed recovery crews wearing face masks and rubber gloves as they hauled the crew members out of the Soyuz MS-15 capsule, which was lying on its side.

"Please keep your distance," one ground crew member could be heard telling another.

While the trio's landing site southeast of the Kazakh town of Dzhezkazgan is the same as for previous crews, the pandemic has forced changes to mission-end protocol.

The crew will not be flying back home via Kazakhstan's Karaganda airport as usual because it has been shut down, like so many other airports across the world.

Instead, Skripochka will fly from the Baikonur cosmodrome used to launch missions to the ISS while the NASA duo will take off in a plane from the steppe city of Kyzlorda after a drive of several hours.— AFP ■

Landmark Lebanon hotel closes over economic crisis

BEIRUT (Lebanon) — A five-star hotel in Beirut that once hosted royalty and survived the civil war has been forced to close over Lebanon's economic crisis and coronavirus lockdown, its manager said Saturday.

Lebanon is grappling with its worst financial crunch since the 1975-1990 civil war, now compounded by a nationwide lockdown since March 15 to stem the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The crisis has pushed the owners of Le Bristol to close down the landmark hotel after almost seven decades in business, its general manager Joseph Coubat said.

"It's because of the economic situation which has become unbearable," he said.

"Now with the coronavirus, and with the financial problems we are going through in the country, the level of occupancy has fallen very low," he told AFP, saying it was less than 10 per cent.

He said the owners had decided to shut the hotel "while waiting for better days", but that for the moment the closure was definitive.

Designed by French in-



This picture taken on April 18, 2020 shows a view of the exterior of the five-star "Le Bristol" in the Hamra district of the Lebanese capital Beirut, which was forced to close for the first time since its opening in 1951 due to the worst financial crunch since the 1975-1990 civil war, now made more acute by a nationwide lockdown since mid-March because of the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

terior designer Jean Royere, Le Bristol was first opened in 1951.

It boasts the oldest ballroom in Beirut and once housed Lebanon's first ever skating rink before it was turned into a conference room.

Its guests have included the late shah of Iran Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and his wife Soraya Esfandiary-Bakhtiari, American jazz trumpeter Dizzy

Gillespie, and former French president Jacques Chirac.

Le Bristol never closed during the civil war, when it hosted foreign journalists, though it was shuttered for refurbishment between 2013 and 2015, when owners poured millions of dollars into its renovation.

Between 2004 and 2005, the political opposition met there in what was the first large

gathering against the then Syrian presence in Lebanon. The group was dubbed the "Bristol meeting".

Occupancy at the hotel started dropping from October last year, Coubat said, when a crumbling economy and frustration with the political elite led to an unprecedented anti-government street movement.

After the COVID-19 pan-

demic reached the country, the airport's closure from March 19 as part of measures to halt the spread of the virus dealt a further blow to the hospitality sector.

Many hotels have zero occupancy at the moment, the head of the hotel owner syndicate has said.

"It's catastrophic. Those in charge now need to really think up a rescue plan," Coubat said, referring a new government struggling to redress the economy since January.

Over the past months, tens of thousands have lost their jobs or part of their salaries in various sectors due to the economic crunch, even as the cost of living has soared.

The value of the Lebanese pound has plummeted by half on the parallel exchange market, and poverty has risen to 45 per cent, according to official estimates.

With a debt equivalent to 170 per cent of its gross domestic product, one of the highest in the world, Lebanon defaulted on its payments for the first time last month.

The country has registered 672 cases of COVID-19, including 21 deaths. — AFP ■

Leaders warn Africa short of funds to fight pandemic

WASHINGTON (United States) — International financial institutions and African leaders warned on Friday the continent needs tens of billions of dollars in additional money to fight the coronavirus pandemic despite debt freezes and massive pledges of support.

In a joint statement, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund said they had each contributed to the \$57 billion mobilized by official creditors to support healthcare and economic recovery on the world's poorest continent, while \$13 billion came from private funds.

"This is an important start, but the continent needs an estimated \$114 billion in 2020 in its fight against COVID-19, leaving a financing gap of around \$44 billion," the statement said.

The Washington-based institutions finished up their spring meetings this week, rolling out a slate of financing programmes directed at combat-

ting the pandemic, which World Bank President David Malpass said could undo development in poor countries.

Africa is seen as particularly vulnerable to the disaster, which the IMF has dubbed "The Great Lockdown" as it warns of the worst financial crisis since the Great Depression.

Experts fear the continent's notoriously weak health systems may not be able to stop the spread of COVID-19 while the combined effects of a slump in demand for minerals and tourism together with lockdowns to stem the contagion could wallop economies.

"This pandemic has already had a devastating impact on Africa and its effects will deepen as the rate of infection rises," South African president and African Union chairman Cyril Ramaphosa said in the statement.

"It is a setback for the progress we have made to eradicate poverty, inequality and underdevelopment." — AFP ■

Still-edible food waste in Japan drops in FY 2017

TOKYO — Japan discarded an estimated 6.12 million tons of still-edible food in fiscal 2017, down 310,000 tons from the previous year, as increasingly cost-conscious restaurants and convenience stores dumped less food, according to government data.

The figure is the lowest since comparable data became available in fiscal 2012 and in line with the country's goal to halve such food waste from fiscal 2000 to 4.9 million tons by fiscal 2030.

In the reporting year, still-edible waste from food-related business operators fell 240,000 tons to 3.28 million tons and that from households dropped 70,000 tons to 2.84 million tons.

But Environment Minister Shinjiro Koizumi said the amount of food waste could increase this year due to the new coronavirus pandemic, which has led to school closures across Japan with lunches for students cancelled as well as the shutdown of some eatery businesses.

"It cannot be helped, but I hope it will serve as an oppor-



File photo of food waste. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

tunity to think about food waste and establish the culture of using leftovers home," Koizumi said at a recent press conference.

Based on a law promoting food waste reduction that came into effect in October, the government aims to further promote the use of containers to take home leftovers and raise awareness of the move through campaigns.

The concept of doggy bags has yet to take root in Japan.

Food waste produced during the processing process, such as vegetable peel and fish bones, fell 2.09 million tons from a year earlier to 25.5 million tons in fiscal 2017, of which 17.67 million tons was dumped by business operators and 7.83 million tons by households. — Kyodo News ■

Night curfew imposed in some townships

PEOPLE in some townships of Myanmar are banned from leaving home from 10 pm to 4 am starting 18 April to contain the spread of COVID-19.

There are some exception to the new measure, including government duties, health affairs and funeral.

Administrators of eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw made the announcement yesterday.

The night curfew has been ordered in all the townships in Yangon Region (except Cocogyun Township), Mandalay Region, Sagaing Region, Dawei, Myeik and Pulaw townships of Tanintharyi Region, Ayeyawady Region, Kachin State, Kayah State and Kayin State.

Local authorities have also advised on travel restriction and wearing masks in market places and outside homes.

Violation will result in legal actions.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Rescued from Himalaya trails, trekkers find world in turmoil

KATHMANDU (Nepal) — Stranded in Kathmandu, running out of cash and with no way to get home, Alexander Sys is one of hundreds of tourists whose Nepal trekking adventure abruptly ended in lockdown.

The Russian is among mainly European, Russian and Chinese foreigners stunned to discover the scale of the coronavirus pandemic after being rescued from their Himalayan treks.

“For now it is okay, but we don’t know how long we have to wait for our flight, there are problems for us to return home,” said Sys, who was in the Annapurna region when Nepal ordered a lockdown on March 24.

“Sometimes I panic

and wonder what is happening,” added Latvian Aleksandra Terandjaka.

Spring is the high season in Nepal’s snow-capped peaks and trekking routes attract about 150,000 people every year.

The lockdown caused authorities to block the isolated, high trails and trekkers were ushered down to pick-up points and airports.

More than 1,700 people, including Sys, were evacuated in buses and chartered flights to the capital, where around 1,000 remain.

“We were supposed to fly from Jomsom to Pokhara, but all flights were cancelled. We waited two days and then came to Kathmandu on a bus,” he said.—AFP



Around 1,000 tourists remain stranded in Kathmandu after being rescued from hiking trails. PHOTO: AFP

Hong Kong activists arrested over last year’s democracy rallies

HONG KONG (China) — Police in Hong Kong carried out a sweeping operation against high-profile democracy campaigners on Saturday, arresting 14 activists on charges related to massive protests that rocked the Asian financial hub last year.

Among those targeted was media tycoon Jimmy Lai, founder of anti-establishment newspaper Apple Daily, who was arrested at his home.

The group also included former lawmakers Martin Lee, Margaret Ng, Albert Ho, Leung Kwok-hung and Au Nok-hin, who are accused of organising and taking part in unlawful assemblies in August and October, according to the police.

Five were arrested under suspicion of publi-

cising unauthorised public meetings in September and October.

“The arrestees were charged or will be charged with related crimes,” superintendent Lam Wing-ho said.

All 14 are due to appear in court mid-May.

Media boss Lai was previously detained in February over his participation in another August rally that was banned by police for security reasons.

Hong Kong was shaken by widespread and sometimes violent street protests in 2019 sparked by a now-abandoned proposal to allow extraditions to the authoritarian Chinese mainland and its opaque judicial system. The rallies in the semi-autonomous city morphed into a wider movement calling for



Hong Kong was shaken by widespread and sometimes violent street protests in 2019. PHOTO: AFP

greater freedoms in the most concerted challenge to Beijing’s rule since the former British colony returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997.

The protests and clashes with police have since died down, partly due to exhaustion and arrests but also because of the emergence of the deadly

coronavirus.

China’s leaders have refused to accede to the protesters’ demands, which include fully free elections in the city, an inquiry into alleged police misconduct during the protests and an amnesty for more than 7,000 people arrested during the movement.—AFP ■

N. Korea announces release of all foreigners from quarantine

BEIJING — North Korean state media reported Saturday that all foreigners in the country who had been subject to measures aimed at preventing a local outbreak of the new coronavirus have been released from quarantine.

The Korean Central News Agency also said that the country’s borders would remain completely closed until COVID-19 infections are curbed globally.

North Korea had as of late February reportedly quarantined some

380 foreigners, including diplomats stationed in the capital Pyongyang.

The country continues to insist that it has no cases of the deadly virus, but some international experts are skeptical of the assertion.

KCNA also said that there is no longer anyone under medical monitoring in South Pyongan Province and Rason city bordering Russia. Of the country’s nine provinces, only two apparently still have people under medical observation.—Kyodo News ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1119 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT/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.

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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.

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Equal access to education is a powerful drive for peace and development of Myanmar

By Moe Min

MYANMAR government has a very high expectation for implementation of comprehensive reforms in the education sector to ensure equal access to education for all the school-aged children in the country.

The National Education Strategic Plan 2016-21 was designed to fully realize the benefits of a quality national education system. It is also a road map to undergo a major transformation over the five years. The government is of the view that quality, equitable and relevant education is essential for the country, it also plays a central role in reducing poverty and inequality, increasing household incomes, improving individual and family health, strengthening communities and peace and development.

The plan is also expected to transform Myanmar education system, to achieve dramatic improvements in teaching and learning in all educational institution of the country.

A key reform focus of the present government is the provision of quality, healthy, play-cen-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi engages with the students at Basic Education Post Primary School in KalarKone Village-tract, Hmawby and B.E.M.S (5), a B.E.H.S branch in Hlinethaya, Yangon Region, on 25 January 2019. **PHOTO: MNA**



Reconstructed primary school in Rakhine State, financed by the EU. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**



Students in practical session. **PHOTO: MO**

tred pre-school and primary education for all children, including those living in remote rural areas.

The Ministry of Education is implementing the goal of being all-inclusive, providing equal access to equality and quality education and the Sustainable Development Goal, while taking assistance from international development partners.

One of the recent financial was provided by the European Union with the disbursement of euro 32 million (51 billion Myanmar kyat) on 23 March.

The funds are to assist Myanmar government's efforts in improving the quality of education and vocational training in the country.

At the handover ceremony in Nay Pyi Taw, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi expressed his appreciation, saying, "Equal access to education for all school-aged children in Myanmar is a priority of our education sys-

tem and a crucial basis for peace and development."

Mr Kristian Schmidt, the EU ambassador, made a constructive comment on the Myanmar government's efforts to provide equal access to equality education for all the children in Myanmar.

The recent financial assistance is as part of 221 million euro grant of EU to the Ministry of Education. The EU assistance includes the 175 million euro programme which delivers the support in direct cooperation with the government of Myanmar. Of which, the EU has disbursed 67 million euro (K105 billion) to day; and the 46 million euro (K80 billion) for technical support for the improvement of Secondary Education and Technical and Vocational Education and Training, as well as Public Finance Management.

The EU programme is aimed to implement major reforms in the National Education Strategic

Plan 2016-2021, focusing on equal access to better quality secondary education and technical and vocational education and training (TVET).

The EU also supports education in the ethnic areas with an additional 20 million euro grant (K 35 billion) to support mainstreaming education reforms, and to promote collaborative engagement between the Ministry of Education and ethnic education providers.

Whatever system or assistance to the country, it is not easy to implement the reforms for equal access to education. The stakeholders in this process need to have an alternative mindset for genuine desires for development goals.

References: 1. *The National Education Strategic Plan 2016-2021*

2. *Press Release of EU on 23 March 2020*



Children learn lessons at a school. PHOTO: JICA



KBZ Bank extends support for COVID-19 relief efforts with donation of 21,000 bags of rice for distribution across the country



KBZ Bank donated bags of rice which will be distributed by the COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee to the 15 States and Regions in Myanmar. PHOTO: KBZ

KBZ Bank has extended its support for COVID-19 relief efforts in the country by donating 21,000 bags of rice, valued at more than MMK 600 million, to Myanmar's Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Control and Emergency Response Committee which was formed under the guidelines of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019. The COVID-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee, established on 30 March 2020, is an emergency task force comprising various ministries to support measures around law enforcement and stability, as well as to step up government efforts to respond to the pandemic in the country.

The donation of the 21,000 bags of rice by KBZ Bank was made in collaboration with the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) during the Thingyan public holidays. Over the coming days and weeks, the bags of rice will be distributed by the committee across the country to people whose livelihoods have been impacted by the necessary measures to combat the virus, and who are in need of food supplies.

The bags of rice will be distributed to the 15 States and Regions in Myanmar according

to the following:

- 3,000 Bags of Rice: Shan State, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region
- 1,000 Bags of Rice: Chin State, Kachin State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon State, Rakhine State, Ayeyarwady Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Nay Pyi Taw Region, Sagaing Region, Taninthayi Region

Since 26 February 2020, KBZ Bank, KBZ MS General Insurance, KBZ Life Insurance, Myanmar Airways International (MAI) and Air KBZ have together made donations valued at MMK 3.1 billion to support the containment, prevention, and treatment processes related to COVID-19.

The items donated include hospital equipment and supplies: European CE Standard PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) suits with full sleeves, medical protective goggles, medical protective shoes, surgical gloves, short and long medical gloves, headgear, surgical face masks, N95 respirator masks, hand sanitizer and thermometers.

This is in addition to other donations provided: emergency food packages, monetary funds, billboard sites used to educate people about COVID-19 and transportation arrangements.—KBZ

Premier League return date still not clear, says Brady



Brady says the Premier League's return date is still unclear.

PHOTO: AFP

LONDON (United Kingdom)—West Ham chief executive Karren Brady claims the Premier League's return date is still unclear despite hopes the top-flight season can restart in June.

The Premier League said on Friday that wrapping up the remaining 92 fixtures remains their goal, but the on-going coronavirus crisis means no fixed schedule can be drawn up yet.

Brady's West Ham were perilously placed in the English top flight when football was suspended, sitting above the relegation zone on only goal difference with nine games remaining.

"Players will have been able to retain some physical fitness at home," Brady wrote in her column in *The Sun* on Saturday.

"But if social-distancing rules are still in place, physical match-play training will not be allowed -- you can't tackle from two metres away. "So, how match-fit will players be if the season commences, as we all hope it will, by mid-June?"

With most clubs having nine games left, it was reported that Friday's meeting of the 20 clubs discussed finishing the season in a 40-day window.

There have been claims that clubs were told domestic seasons must end by July 31 and the 2020-21 campaign must start by the first week of September at the latest.

But Brady is adamant difficult questions over training, testing of players, hygiene and medical protocols will need to be resolved first.

The Premier League has been suspended since March and the UK's lockdown is in place until May 7 at the earliest.

Brady questioned how Premier League clubs could regularly test players for the virus when the same situation is not yet in place for all NHS workers.

She also highlighted a potential unfairness in some squads having a number of players in self-isolation.

"Police officers will need to be at games even if they are behind closed doors as some supporters will travel to the stadium, even if they cannot come in to watch," she said.

"Everyone at the stadium -- and even behind closed doors this is about 300-500 people -- including security, staff, medical officers, players, referees and media, will have to have temperature checks, fill out health questionnaires and observe social distancing. "Then there is the issue of injuries. All this is manageable but what if a player gets injured, where do we send him?"

"It can't be to an NHS (UK National Health Service) hospital that is already under pressure and private hospitals are carrying out NHS procedures and not taking in injured footballers. So then what?"—AFP ■

MFF president donates food boxes for quarantined persons

MYANMAR Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw, who is also chairman of the Ayeyarwady Foundation, has made a fresh food donation plan for quarantined persons in Yangon starting from 23 March, according to the statement with the Ayeyarwady Foundation.

The fresh food boxes are prepared well by special chefs from Novotel Hotel and Max Hotels Group and cooking processes are performed under the strict hygiene condition which is aimed to be safe from coronavirus.

The food boxes are being sent to the quaran-

ted persons and frontline healthcare providers and volunteers at the quarantined sites: Hlyaug Taw Oo Monastery, Aung Academy, Thel Inn Gu Monastery, Thein Phyu Monastery, South Okkalapa Hospital, Pale Condominium, said the source with the Ayeyarwady Foundation.

Also, the Ayeyarwady Foundation has already arranged transportations for volunteers who are helping to fight the global pandemic Covid-19 and the training centre of the AYA Bank is also providing accommodations for the volunteers. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Chefs preparing the food boxes before sending them to the quarantined sites in Yangon. PHOTO: AYEYARWADY FOUNDATION

Senegalese wrestler keeps training with an eye on tiny but dangerous foe

DAKAR (Senegal)—One of the rising stars of traditional Senegalese wrestling, Moussa Diop has been driven off the beaches of Dakar, where he usually trains, and behind closed doors by the country's coronavirus lockdown.

Diop, a fighter who "packs a punch", is due to fight again in June and is working at keeping up his training in an unfamiliar environment.

Diop fights as "Serigne Ndiaye 2", in homage to his father, but is known to friends as "Coriace." Every morning at seven he leaves the Medina, a poor neighbourhood in the centre of Dakar, to go to the "Body Max" gym which is opened especially for him by his trainer, Maguette Seydi, who has had to close his gym to the general public.

"Before, there were other

wrestlers and other people who trained for fitness here. Now it's just me, my brother and the coach," Diop said.

Alone, the 24-year-old heavyweight works through his reps.

"A lot has changed," said coach Seydi. "We train in private, which I've never done before."

"With coronavirus, I have to protect Serigne Ndiaye 2 and myself. We've increased our hygiene and we're working carefully," the coach said. Traditional Senegalese wrestlers compete bare-handed and shirtless, in loincloths, in full stadiums. Their fights are broadcast live.—AFP ■



Moussa Diop trains under the eye of Maguette Seydi. PHOTO: AFP

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

19 APRIL 2020

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

A TEENY-TINY ACTION



By Htar Sandi Naing
English Specialization,
University of Yangon

Have you ever skipped steps on the stairs while you are in a hurry? As for me, I always do so every time I am in a rush. I tend to do that as I believe I can get to my destination earlier than usual. It is an undeniable fact that we do need to take massive actions in order to reach our goals. However, we need to know the ways of taking massive actions whether they are risky or not. One of the things we need to bear in mind is that if it is too risky, there is a higher chance that it might lead to epic failure. What will happen if we miss a step? Can we get faster to our goals? Do we get back to the beginning? Do we have to climb up the stairs again? The answer is 'YES!' There is a higher percentage that you will definitely fall back down which may even take more time than usual. We definitely have to get up again. We can't just keep lying there. If so, what should we do?

Sometimes, it is better to take teeny-tiny actions rather than taking massive actions. One of the scariest things

is that once you've faced failure by taking massive actions, the fear started to bear within our souls. That epic failure can make the person not to try again. As the person is feared to fail again, he will tend to give up easily. That kind of feeling can definitely drag the person down. Instead of taking a big risk, it is better to take small actions and achieve slowly and steadily until you reach your goal. Though it is a teeny-tiny action, it can definitely have more impact than the others. Equal amount of effort can be put in these kinds of actions. Slow and steady wins the race.

Moreover, we have to be prepared beforehand. We need to know what we would do if we encounter unexpected things. We need to have a second plan in our pockets. It is a must to have high expectations but we shouldn't ever overdo it to achieve it quickly. Let's say if we want to learn a new language, we should learn new words every single day. We can't just become proficient in a short amount of time. We have to be patient as everything takes time. The consistent effort will indeed lead to success. Always have a backup plan. By taking teeny-tiny actions, you are playing safe.

Overall, we all have to try

our best to get our expected results. Instead of sitting and dreaming to achieve, we have to DO it. A teeny-tiny action means a lot. Though it may be teeny-tiny, it can indeed bring a change. Sometimes, what we consider a teeny-tiny action can lead to success. Instead of skipping the steps, step every step on the stairs to get to your goal. Risking is not always the best way to get to the aim. The speed doesn't play a significant role. What only matters is that you are moving forward. A few more steps and you will be there. Take your time. At last, you will get there for sure. Instead of sweating excessively for just a day, it is better to break a sweat everyday to get healthy skin. All that matters is that you are moving forward.



2020 MARCH: A REMARKABLE DATE



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

In Myanmar, summer is blazing hot. No leaves are there on the branches of the trees. Thirsty and yellow leaves remain are dwindling here and there on the ground. Trees with skeletal branches look boring but stunning in their own ways. Particular summer flowers are in multicolor. The seasonal Kantkaw are in full-bloom. Drowsy Ngu in yellow clusters make the summer brighter. The purple pyinma and red seinpan flowers beautify the season. The wind bringing the singer cuckoo koo-kooos the boredom of summer. However, this year the usual tunes of Thingyan songs are lightly heard here and there.

March is a month of transition from the cool to the hot season. As the March dawns, no rain is expected, and it is hot and dry throughout the month making it become one of the best time to visit Myanmar. Everywhere is drenched in sunshine. From the beginning of March onwards, temperatures increase steadily and the weather is scorching hot during the day. March is the month of travelling in Myanmar because the weather in most parts of the country is still perfect for travelling and outdoor expeditions. The weather is warm and comfortable, so landscapes are attractive and outdoor activities are recommended. This year 2020 is an awesome year for the Myanmar worldwide.

There are various religious festivals in March, such as the Shwedagon Pagoda Festival. We can gain some insight into Buddhist culture and local traditions by participating in the festivals. It also has a significant national holiday, Armed Forces Day which is celebrated on 27 March in commemoration of the start of Burmese army's

resistance to Japan in 1945. Moreover the matriculation examination of 2019-2020 academic year commenced in the whole country on 11th March. The countrywide University examination started in 18th too. Before the exam, the university student stroke for not to sit the exam reasoning to COVID-19. In my opinion, every event that may attract crowds should to be shut down now. YUSU's efforts to postpone exams were unnecessary, but they had a chance to re-take the exam in June which makes both the examiners and examinees chaos.

By the way, that day when I was preparing alms food for the monks for my mom's two years-death anniversary I found out the news on Tuesday that two tests of COVID-19 showed positive for the infection. Coincidentally that 24th March is a serious for me, the time my mom left me forever. The news was sadly true and pandemonium. This is all such a sudden shock for the Yangoners. In my ward, people including my family members were rushing to the stores, panic-buying everything whether they are needed. They are obviously unaware of the social-distancing protocols recommended by health experts. I was shocked to see people panicking the outbreak which reported only two people were infected. What if more or dead? The way people are reacting to this makes burden more than the virus itself. They will be dying of freak out.

All exams are postponed open-endedly. Universities are closing temporarily. Worse is that the University of Yangon is to celebrate its 100th birthday this year and was sad for the YU'er (student of University of Yangon), who are all eager to celebrate the alma mater's centenary, which is

SEE PAGE-8





The Joy of Silent New Year

By Kyaw King

I FEEL happy today (17 April). Thankful for the beautiful sunlight as it streams in slowly through my front door: I smell the fresh air, and the sweet scents of roses that are grown in front of the house.

Rolling on the bed, I am thinking about Myanmar New Year, the day that falls today. It is amazingly silent. Except the voices of little birds, the sounds of vehicles and people celebrating New Year are muted this year.

On last year's New Year Day, people cheerfully organized and took part in fun activities. Most of the people stayed outside, going to the pagodas, monasteries and taking part in fun activities.

I get up from the bed, go in front of the house, and look at the sun which is brightly shining. After a few minutes, my eyes became itchy viewing the bright sunlight. It is just 8am. What I have to do on the New Year Day, I think. Nothing exactly comes out.

Therefore, I do my daily

routines. Brush my teeth, take a bath, and have breakfast. I want to make a worthwhile New Year Day 2020. Cancelling festivals, authorities urged people to stay at home to control the spread of Coronavirus.

I must stay at home, I know. I take my mobile, which is mostly on my hands during the days, and turn on internet. I watch a TED Talk video about New Year's resolution. No idea about how to spend the day comes out.

Of course, everyone wants to celebrate New Year Day with massive celebrations. However, COVID-19 makes people to stay at home.

Some of my university classmates are online; one of them called me on messenger, and two other friends also joined our video chat. Though we are staying at different towns at present, we all are staying at home and using mobile phone. We spent about an hour talking about all the beautiful memories we had shared, joking and laughing.

People say goodbye to the

old year, and are welcoming New Year on Facebook. I see a Facebook post about this year's Thingyan festival. The poem is as follow;

"A chatbox Thingyan"

The COVID-19 pandemic pushed 2020 Water Festival to be stopped, forcing people to stay at home. Staying at home, and surfing Facebook, Thingyan-lovers are splashing water in the chatbox. Splashing water in the chatbox, people are celebrating this year's water festival in social media form.

#KZT

After I read the poem, I give the New Year Day "Silent New Year" reflecting the situation of no one is on the road, and all are staying at home.

I then meditate, listen to music, eat snacks and read books. I do these things alternatively. Time flies quickly. I even don't notice that the clock struck 9pm. I take a bath, and go to bed

reflecting the New Year Day that I spent.

I am satisfied with the day. Taking the example from the New Year Day, I set goals for the whole year, which includes staying at a silent place, meditating and reading books.

Before going asleep, I use Facebook. When my friends ask me in the chat box about my New Year Day 2020, I reply "it was joyful." "Staying at a silent place, meditating, and reading books make my New Year Day joyful."

Then, I fell asleep, and got a dream.

In my dream, an old man with long white beard comes to

me, and says "Dear boy, try to make your remaining days of the year joyful like the New Year Day."

"Try to stay at a silent place, meditate, and read a lot of books. These are the causes of your joyful day."

"Keep these three things to be included in your daily routines." "You will be a happy person in the remaining days of the year as well as your whole life." the old man says.

"Also, don't forget to share the joyful message." the old man says, and disappears in my dream.



BY THITPINCHIT (Env Eng)

Newly discovered primate bones in Ywaghan town, a place belonging to Danu tribe

When you mention Ywaghan, you can imagine a Danu tribe, a blue lake and mercury cave in your eye. Small Ywaghan town, reached first upon the plain, after covering many forested areas. Small villages in Ywaghan are totally different from those of other names of the Shan State. You get to a village of Hsinetchaung in Ywaghan town. On the way to seize Ayudaya town, there are a lot of resting places for elephants and horses after crossing mountain ranges. After overtaking Hsinetchaung, you get to a crossroad between Ye-Oo village

there is especially Linway cave in Linway village whose mural paintings on the mountains look astonishingly beautiful. On the northern side of Ye-Oo, there are villages such as Kaset, Kapyin, Oatwinn, Kyuaknet, Htanminpaung and Sensor. In Kapyin village, successive kings have worshipped a four-sided Minzon Pagoda. An old painting such as a lion belaiankite shrines can be seen. These shrines are believed to have mended bad lucks. Bricks need to build are called Oat-twinns; good lucks successively lead to the Kaset, thereby Kazet.

In the same way, cooking



Historical antiquities found near the Kyauk Kaung Retreat Monastery.



The senior Buddhist monks who are keepers of antiques.



2020/2/29 12:59



2020/2/29 12:54

Primate bones found on cave walls.

and inner part of Ywaghan town. Ye-Oo village is on the east side of Ywaghan town. When you continue to go to the northern side of Ye-Oo, you get to small villages of Inngyi, Dalabin, Kyaukpsak, and Linway. In connection with the names of these villages, a beautiful today-palm tree leads to the name of Htanpinhla village, according to the locals, finally resting with Dalapin village. In the same way, performers who dance to the satisfaction of soldiers and their village, leading to the mane of Thabinpyaw gradually becoming Tabinpyaw village. There are a lot of waterfalls and limestone caves in those villages;



Historical antiquities found near the Kyauk Kaung Retreat Monastery.

place for soldiers becomes Htanminbaung village. These villages are situated on the east of Ywaghan town; a continuous-flowing Karani stream enters Zawgyi river where Pa-oh and Palaung ethnic nationals live. There are many old people in these villages; 99-year-old man is seen to slash and burn plantations and he himself weaves baskets. From Hsinetchaung village along due north of Ywaghan main road, there are villages of Yebra-I and Meimaye. On the way to Yebra-I, old soldiers stationed Takon village near where white water flows and it remains tourist attractions. On the west-

ern part of Ywaghan main road, a beautifully planted plain where coffees can be seen as well as paddy fields looking towards the mountains, thus dubbing Switzerland of Myanmar. There are many villages such as Nyabingyi, Myogon, Tetan., Myagalay, Inndaw and Legaing. Through Myagalay and Inndaw village roads, it is very important for historical record that stone-age mural paintings lead to mercury caves. On mercury caves, evidences supporting mural paintings can be found. Stalactites in limestone are believed to have been built by human beings but mural paintings on the walls of mercury caves can be found,

but the stone caves, there are many primate bones in Legaing village.

Legaing village is situated beyond Myagalay village and stone age human beings were able to live in big caves in the mountain ranges. In 2019, a Sayadaw found radius and ulna together and femurs, molars, and bones in the ceilings on the surface of caves, thus limestone seemed to have formed and left bones on the cave ceilings.

There are old Buddhist images

In the same way, near the cave, stone age humans were able to live in big caves. Near the cave and among bricks, there are potsherds, historical printed lacquer boxes and miniature images of Buddha in a monastery away from lay habitat where the Sayadaws U Ottama and U Damadata kept them under lock and key. The estimation of scholars on these objects are believed to be millions of thousands of years Sayadaws, on the other hand, are responsible for keeping ancient objects safe, thus neglecting duties and responsibilities. Therefore, authorities concerned should take an action as possible as they can to keep them safe for the long-term purposes. (Translated By Arakan Sein)



A combination photo shows a street scene from normal celebrations for Thingyan a few years ago compared to this year's festival. PHOTOS: AFP, YE AUNG THU

Silent streets for water festival

Myanmar's New Year festival of Thingyan is the country's biggest public holiday — normally a week of nation-wide celebration and water-fights, with soaked revellers partying late into the night.

But this year, in an echo of cancelled Easter celebrations elsewhere in the world, the country's commercial hub Yangon is locked down, with residents confined indoors because of the coronavirus.

Food delivery bicycles and rickshaws have commandeered the city's usually traffic-choked streets after the government ordered people to stay home unless for essential food and health-care needs.

By Sunday Myanmar officially had just 38 confirmed cases — including three deaths — but many fear the low number of tests mean the real figures are likely many times higher.

Images from last year's holiday show a different city, hoses trenching cheering crowds dancing to deafening techno beats pumped out from mammoth loudspeakers.

This year the silence is broken only by the cawing of crows and cooing of pigeons, and the motor of an occasional taxi searching for custom. "Thingyan's in the heart of every Myanmar person," a sad Soe Moe Aung, 36, told AFP.

Both the public holiday and lockdown is due to end next Sunday, but efforts to prevent the spread of coronavirus could be extended.

Yangon-based public health expert Dr Frank Smithius warns any sustained lockdown would be "devastating" for Myanmar — and other under-developed countries in the region — where many live hand-to-mouth.—AFP

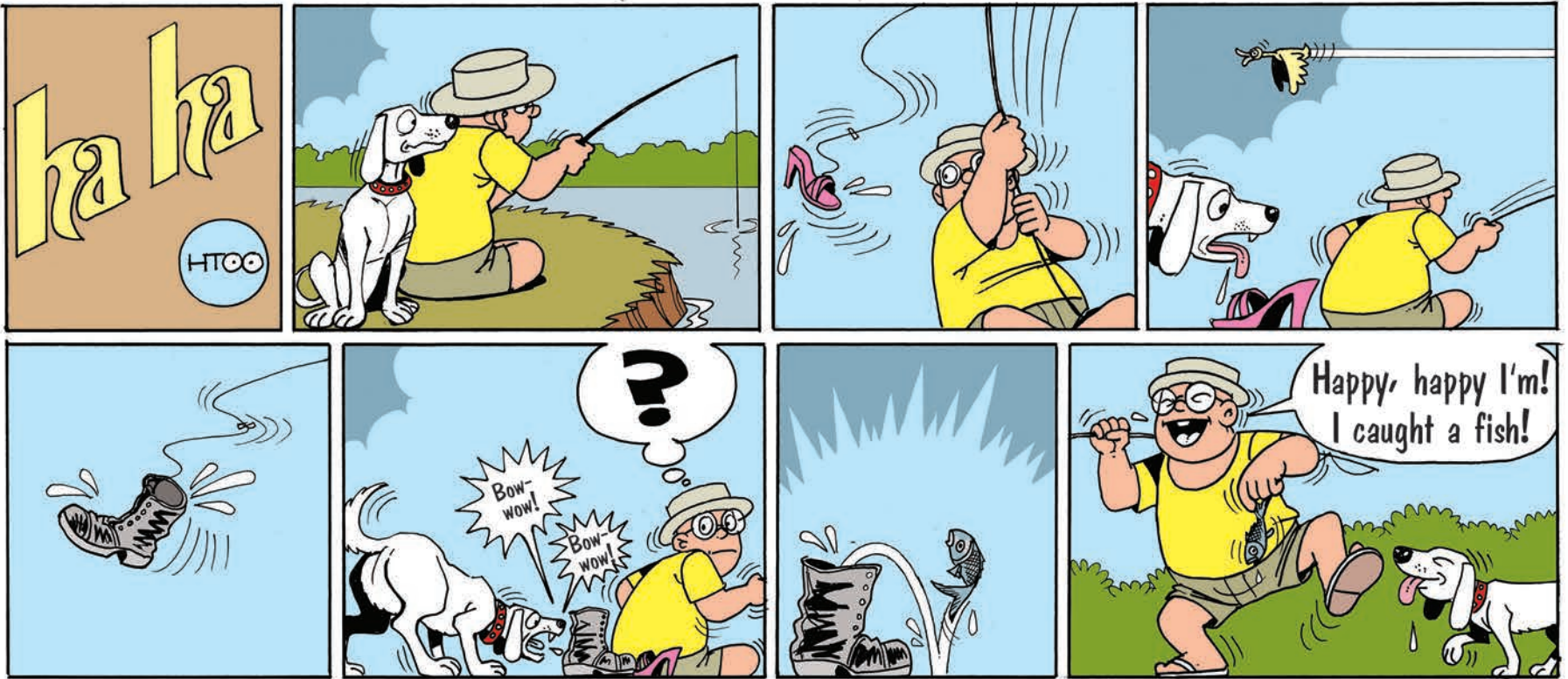


Punks gathered in a Yangon park to celebrate the New Year water festival in 2019, but this year it was deserted.



Yangon's streets are usually packed with revellers during the water festival, but this year everyone has been ordered to stay indoors because of the lockdown.

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win

My brother's touching his.

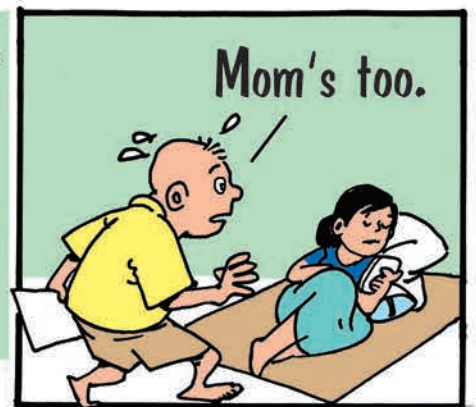


Hah!

So silent they're!



Dad's touching his phone.



Mom's too.



My sister's on the phone, too.



We stay home and safe from Covid-19!



But if we're on the phone



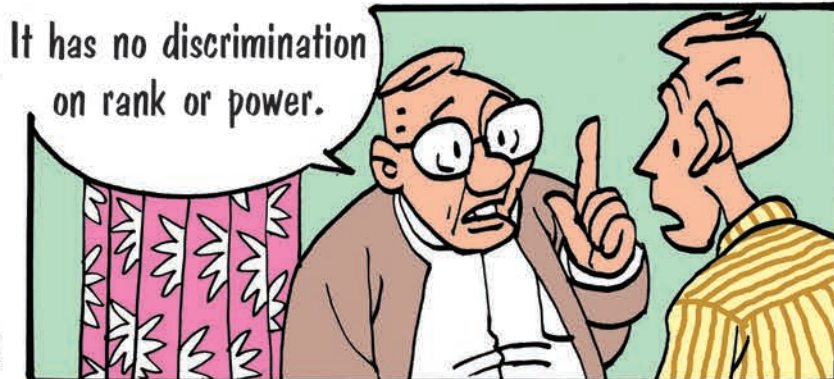
It would surely harm our eyes.

END

SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020

No bias at all on beauty or ugly!



It has no discrimination on rank or power.



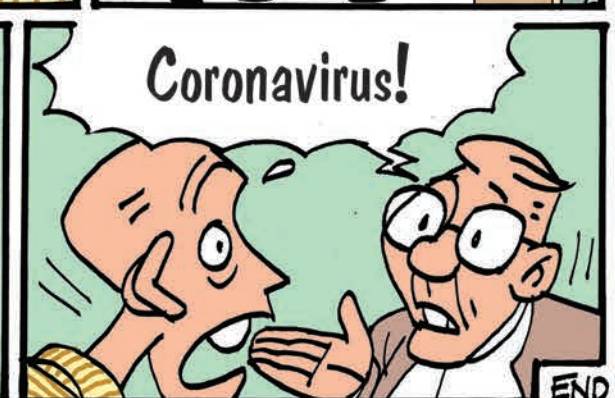
It doesn't separate any faiths.



So interesting it is! What's that?



Nor it favours rich or poor.



Coronavirus!

END

What is the most **BEAUTIFUL** thing you've ever seen?



By Mg Htike Aung
M.A. (English),
Yadanabon University
(completed M.A. in 2019)

Life is funny, but it's too often serious. If it is a stage, we all are actors trying to best perform the roles we are taking. Nowadays, it, however, seems we are asked to be in much scene more than we can live up with. Trying to make up the scenes calling upon us, we are getting scarce of time to aesthetically sense and appreciate the things at their best.

In younger ages, human beings have to go to school, battle against homework, and, even after school, have no time to chat up and to sense the beauty, taking home tutoring if necessary.

For a kid who can't go to school in his undesirable fortune, life is likely to be harder as he has to work from the dawn to dusk. Career is the best challenge for the adults and it usually conquers most of the waking hours. The more we get older, the more demands there are in life. Thus, we usually, sometimes deliberately, forget about how to fully feel what the beauty is.

For the past eight years, my life was tremendously in ups and downs. Things were highly in demand on me, as any other creatures in the world, for the survival and then



for the ease of living. I put aside my habits sitting by a river bank to watch the sunset, quietly laying down to bathe in the moonlight. I have spent most of my days burying myself in school books and then throwing into duties and responsibilities.

Backing off the sunset, the stars twinkling at night in a milky way, the tweets made by morning birds, I have worked, looking towards the survival. However, luckily enough, I got a chance to feel the taste of the most beautiful thing four years ago. As the word 'beauty' is defined as the quality of being pleasing to the senses or to the mind, the thing was so pure, altruistic and aesthetic in its own way.

Mom's smile with joy at its highest... it's the most beautiful thing I've even seen in my entire life. It showed up when I bought her the tiny diamond earrings.

When she got the present, she seemed stunned and then, after a while, she burst into the tears. No whisper interrupted her smile started softly burning on her face and nothing was there to come into that beautiful silence. Later, her sweetly pitchy voice came out as if it had come through so far. She smiled and took the earrings with her clumsy hands and whispered that she was getting ready to welcome the death without any fear. The smile, ...gently holding the earrings and looking into my eyes in search for the soul,

SEE PAGE- S-8

**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**

FROM PAGE-2

a once in a lifetime chance. Church ceremonies and attending mosque are cancelled. Currently, more than 10 garment factories have shut down due to losses caused by the outbreak COVID-19. Least people dare to go out. I was really upset and there is no word to describe my worry and sadness about my loved ones who are far away from me. No one is immune from the infection. Even if they have high immunity, what about elderly and sickly people around them? Will they be able to resist it? Right now, self-isolation is a must. How about those blue-collar workers who cannot stop work even for a day because their family meals depend on their daily

wages?

The best and safe way to protect the problem is like the guidelines followed around the world, stay inside the house as much as possible. The antidote for COVID-19 is still experimenting. So, it will take time, maybe a long time but everything will be fine in near future. Just staying at home, having good hygiene habits and eating well will better help. Hopefully these preventative measures will help in the future, from stopping the virus spreading even quicker throughout the country by following the precautions issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports (MOHS) as well as the World Health Organisation (WHO). I do hope this cataclysm will be over soon.

FROM PAGE-7

with tears was totally peaceful in tranquility.

Worn that smile, she recounted the days I had rarely thought of. She told me she had known that things would be better as a result of persistence and perseverance of a boy reading books by a fireplace, looking after the boiling bean pot. Then we quietly went into silence to chase the

words as "Peace begins with a smile", said Mother Teresa.

The smile also taught me how a man should live in a life even before I found the quote that reads "The most beautiful thing in the world is to see your parents smiling, and knowing that you are the reason behind that smile." I was overwhelmed as I was the reason my mom smiled.

Anyway the wind blows in all seasons,

we have, or we can have if we want, the moments to fall into the things beautiful and authentic. Go get something, whatever it is, and place it before your mom and then say "I love you, mom". We still have a chance to have dinner with the moms, chatting up and recounting the time how we have spent so far. In doing so, let's us together find the most beautiful thing in the world.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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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 HONG KONG				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KA251	1:25	6:00	1,2,4,5,6	

HONG KONG TO YANGON				
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE	
KA250	21:50	23:35	1,3,4,5,7	

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

Subjected to change by respective airlines.
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