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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 52, 2nd Waning of Nayon 1382 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 7 June 2020

170 Myanmar migrant workers return home through Kawthoung border crossing

A TOTAL of 170 Myanmar migrant workers—97 males and 73 females— arrived back home by vessels 5 June through Kawthoung border crossing close to Ranong of southern Thailand.

They were stranded in the neighbouring country due to the closure of border between the two countries.

Scrutinizing and repatriation committee for Myanmar migrant workers in Taninthayi Region arranged their ways back to home.

Local authorities and NGOs conducted medical tests for COVID-19 to these migrant workers and provided foods and health services to them after immigration process. They were sent back to respective areas where they will have to spend 21-day community-based facility quarantine and 7-day home quarantine.

The residents of Kawthoung Township will be held for both quarantine periods and their swabs will be sent to the National Health Department for laboratory tests.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar migrant workers are being questioned by immigration and health officers at Kawthoung border crossing. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

4 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 6 June, total figure reaches 240

Updated at 8 pm, 6 June 2020



Recovery Update on 6 June 2020 after two consecutive tests



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 6 June 2020



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MoC organizes corn cultivation development forum in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint chairs corn cultivation development forum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

A forum on development of corn cultivation was held at the Ministry of Commerce through video conferencing yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

In his keynote address, Union Minister for Commerce Dr

Than Myint said as the country's economic growth depends on the private sector development, the Union Government is making arrangements for the facilitation of the sector through the relaxation and

simplification measures. It is also introducing necessary reforms involving the revocation or amendment of laws and rules hampering the market economy and adoption of laws and rules that meet the pre-

vailing trends. Myanmar is the second largest corn exporter among the ten ASEAN countries because of the annual yield of the crops that exceeds the local demand. Myanmar puts nearly two million acres of land under corn, and most of the corn produced in northern and southern Shan State, Kayah State, Kayin State, Ayeyawady Region and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area are exported to China annually.

Inclusive efforts of all the stakeholders are required as Myanmar has many opportunities for progress of the corn sector, and the private businesses should strive to be reliable for the country and the people. Online trading system must be realized between traders and exporters, and the sector-wise discussions should be

held for the development of corn business, said the Union Minister.

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo also took part in the discussions, followed a general round of discussions, during which the participants presented the collected efforts for the progress of the sector, use of seeds, cultivation, exportation, advantages and disadvantages, situation of corn market during the occurrence of COVID-19, plans for post-COVID-19 era, and manufacturing and distribution of mixed feedstuff. The Union Minister gave the concluding address. Officials of the ministry, Agriculture Department, experts, members of the related associations, entrepreneurs and farmers took part in the discussions.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

Construction Minister views development undertakings in Rakhine

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin and officials inspected the endeavours of the ministry for development of roads and bridges in Rakhine State in accord with the directives of the Union Government directly through videoconference.

Officials of the Road Department and Bridge Department of the ministry conducted a power-point presentation of the planned, ongoing and prioritized road and bridge construction projects in Rakhine State. Afterwards, officials of the Rural Road Development Department, Urban and Housing Development Department, and Building Department presented sector-wise progress of work with the help of power point. In response to the pres-

entations, the Union Minister and the Deputy Minister said the improvement of the transport sector is the core part for the development of Rakhine State. So, road and bridge projects should be prioritized. Single lane Bailey bridges have

been upgraded into double lane facilities, and durability of the suspension bridges has been reinforced with the use of modern technology. All the construction projects must meet the set standards, and the constant supervision and main-

tenance is required for uninterrupted flow of traffic and commodities. Safety measure must be taken at construction sites where unexpected accidents are frequent. Disaster prevention measures should be taken, especially during the

rainy season. They also spoke of the need to use only the chloride-free sand and apply anti-corrosive paint. Transport development will be followed by progress in multiple fields, they noted.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)



Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw and party (right photo) hold videoconference with the ministry's officials in Rakhine State (left photo) yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Anti-corruption body takes legal actions against two forest officers

THE Anti-Corruption Commission has taken legal actions against two forest officers as they misused authority to abstract certain amount of cash from the reforestation funds.

Assistant Director U Ngwe Soe Oo from Yamethin District Forest Department (now the Director Office of Mandalay Region of the same department)

and Yamethin Township Forest Officer U Aung Kyaw Htwe took out cash as a bribery from the funds of Myanmar Reforestation and Rehabilitation Programme in allocating budgets to respective areas through foresters. The former received K6.1502 million from six foresters, and the latter K3.767 million from four foresters.

The ACC conducted investigations on these cases trans-

ferred by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation after the Corruption Prevention Unit of the ministry carried out enquiries.

The cases have been filed as the first information report at the Yamethin Police Station on 5 June 2020 for further legal proceedings in accordance with the Section 56 of Anti-Corruption Law.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department and opens from 8 am to 8 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

“People are the key”

Union Information Minister inspects MoI branches in Yangon

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint visited workplaces of the ministry in Yangon yesterday.

He arrived at the Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) on Pyay Road in the morning, to inspect the works for MRTV Web portal, news and other TV programmes for its social media, newsroom, graphic design room, archiving room, Studio 1 where the campaign song for 2020 General Election was being produced with performance of famous vocalists and works of staff members in line with the COVID-19 guidelines.

The Union Minister and par-

ty also visited the Sarpay Beikman Book Shop and the Public Library on Merchant Road in Kyauktada Township.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister looked into the bookshop and newsroom of the Mirror Daily in Pazundaung Township before visiting the Global New Light of Myanmar for discussions about editorial works of the English language newspaper.

He then proceeded to the Myanmar Alinn Daily in Bahan Township to inspect the newsroom and printing section.

—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint discusses newsroom works at the Global New Light of Myanmar in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



Myanmar migrant workers from Thailand queuing for immigration process at the border checkpoint yesterday. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

1,784 Myanmar returnees arrive back home through Myawady border on 6 June

A total of 1,784 Myanmar citizens returned home from Thailand through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (2) of Myawady border town in Kayin State yesterday.

Among them, the 146 persons entered Myanmar by 7 buses under the arrangement of Thai government and Myanmar Embassy, and the remaining 1,638 persons returned from different areas of the Kingdom in their own schedules.

Myanmar local officials

helped them with medical tests and other supplies.

Myanmar migrant workers have been repatriated from Thailand since 1 May, and a total of 19,965 persons have arrived back home until now.

The latest group of returnees included 1,111 males and 673 females from different regions and states.

— Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar COVID-19 figure reaches 240 after 4 reported cases on 6 June

Myanmar's COVID-19 figure has reached at 240 on 6 June after four more cases were reported on 6 June.

The last four cases were those who returned from India.

Out of 240 confirmed cases in the

country, six died, 156 persons have recovered and 136 have been discharged from hospitals, while 30 new persons are

under investigation up to 6 June, according to the report of Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA ■

FROM PAGE-1

4 new cases of COVID-19 on 6 June 2020: Updated at 8 pm

| Case No | Age | Gender | Address | Contact with positive patient | Overseas travel history | Hospital for medical treatment | Lab result | Remark |
|---------|-----|--------|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|--|
| 237 | 32 | Female | North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region | No | Yes, India | Waibargi Specialist Hospital | Positive | Held under quarantine (North Dagon Township) |
| 238 | 69 | Female | Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw | No | Yes, India | Waibargi Specialist Hospital | Positive | |
| 239 | 72 | Male | Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw | No | Yes, India | Waibargi Specialist Hospital | Positive | |
| 240 | 38 | Female | Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw | No | Yes, India | Waibargi Specialist Hospital | Positive | |

Ministry of Health and Sports

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Eindu-Zarthabyin road section promotes transportation efficiency in lower Myanmar states



About 2,000 vehicles run on the Eindu-Zarthabyin road section every day, and its efficiency is expected to increase after bridges on this road are complete in 2023. **PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)**

THE road section between Eindu and Zarthabyin in Hpa-an Township of Kayin State has connected to Mon State via the Gyaing River.

Although its was a 12-ft wide tarred road in the past, it was upgraded into a 24-ft wide asphalt concrete road in 2016-2017 financial year.

It also connects to the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) East-West Economic Corridor, Hpa-an-Kawka-reik-Myawady Asia High-

way and Zarthabyin-Kyonephe-Kyarkalay road.

About 2,000 vehicles run on the Eindu-Zarthabyin road section every day for the flow of passengers and commodities along Asia highway to Mawlamyine, Mottma, Thaton and Yangon.

U Kyi Lwin, the officer of Road Department in Hpa-an District, said, "The Eindu-Zarthabyin road section has been upgraded to a 24-ft wide asphalt concrete with budget of K8,398.78 million. Two bridges of Zarthabyin and Atthayan are under construction with the JICA loan. The flow of commodities would surely increase after these bridges are complete in 2023."

This road section is also linking with the East-West Corridor that passes through Viet Nam, Laos, Thailand and Myanmar, and also a section of the Luang Prabang-Indochina-Mawlamyine Economic Corridor (LIMEC).—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)

(Translated by Aung Khin)

DHF outbreak increases in five months of this year

THE outbreak of dengue hemorrhagic fever (DHF) has increased in the first five months of this year in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions and Mon State, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The official statistics stated that a total of 1,208 people were infected with the dengue hemorrhagic fever from 1 January to 16 May in 2020 with eight reported dead. The DHF broke out mostly in Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions and Mon state. Among them, Yangon has seen the most cases with 325 cases and four deaths.

The DHF transmission rates in Yangon region are rampant with 24 people in South Dagon, 16 in Htantabin, 16 in

Shwepyitha, 15 in Hlinethaya, 14 in Dala, 11 in North Dagon, 10 in Thingangyun, 10 in Insein, eight in Thanlyin and seven in North Okkalapa townships respectively.

Therefore, the Public Health Department is conducting effective preventive and control measures against DHF under the programme of covering, emptying and cleaning of water storage containers and spraying of mosquito repellents. The department is also planning to provide awareness training courses for the local people to understand how to prevent the disease from breaking out.

In this case, people need to participate in the health department. Also, the ward and

township administrators need to announce in their wards and townships for the people to participate in the awareness training courses.

According to a WHO report, the dengue fever outbreak is significantly increasing in global countries. Myanmar saw 31,288 cases and 192 deaths in 2017 and over 4,000 cases and eight deaths in the first six months of 2018. Over 23,000 cases of DHF were also reported in 2019. Myanmar sees over 10,000 cases and about 60 deaths on an annual basis.

Dengue fever is transmitted by the bite of the Aedes mosquito and mostly occurs in June, July and August of the country's rainy season.

The Aedes mosquito can be recognized by white markings on its body. The Aedes mosquito is mostly breeding in the water bottle caps, the old tires and the vases. The Aedes mosquito is active during the day. Therefore, people need to protect themselves against mosquito bites during the day. The signs and symptoms of dengue hemorrhagic fever are high fever including headache, joint and muscle pain, vomiting and rashes. The patients suffering from DHF need to undergo emergency medical treatment if they have gone unconscious with the body getting cold.—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

All significant pagodas in Taunggyi to close until 15 June

ALL significant pagodas in Taunggyi will be closed until 15 June, according to the pagodas' boards of trustees. To prevent the spreading of the coronavirus and the crowd of the people in the pagodas in Taunggyi, the Shan

State government instructed the closure of all pagodas in Taunggyi starting from April.

"We do not allow the pilgrims to enter our pagoda in Taunggyi. If we receive the permission of the state government, we will

reopen our pagoda again. The government has extended the closure period till 15 June," said a member of a pagoda board of trustees.

The pagodas are closed to prevent the crowd and reduce

the number of pilgrims. The significant pagodas in Taunggyi are Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda, Mya Sein Taung Pagoda, Shwemawdaw pagoda and Sandamuni pagoda.—Kye Sin (Taunggyi)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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

Govt purchases about 32,000 tonnes of reserved rice as of 5 June

By Nyein Nyein

THE government has reserved about 32,000 tonnes of rice over a month, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), the authorized organization of the State and MRF implemented rice reserve scheme on 30 April. The state has purchased about 32,000 tonnes of rice from 110 companies as of 5 June and the rice has been stored at nine warehouses, in line with the set rules and regulations.

The exporters must sell 10 per cent of total export volume (25% broken, well-milled and sorted rice), stated in the export declaration as country's reserved rice.

The reserved rice must be sent to the state's warehouse. MITS, the authorized organization of the State, is to inspect and verify the quality and quantity.

The Yangon Region govern-

ment has been receiving the reserved rice proportioned by sea trade, while some percentage of the border export are being stored at the Consumer Affairs Department in Mandalay Region.

The country has the rice reserve scheme for emergency case beyond self-sufficiency in the domestic market. Myanmar's rice export has returned to normal in May and it intends to ship over 2 million tonnes of rice in the current financial year, according to the MRF.

The Federation has been negotiating with the government concerning the export depending on the situations of the pandemic and local and foreign markets. Additionally, MRF, its subsidiary organizations and the rice traders are coordinating to have a much fairer price of rice for the consumers during the coronavirus pandemic.

Local market constitutes over 70 per cent of production, whereas 20 per cent go to the



Workers packaging rice bags at a warehouse in Yangon. PHOTO: TIN ZAR HLAING

foreign market. This being so, there is a balance between domestic market and export.

During the pandemic, the Ministry of Commerce and My-

anmar Rice Federation (MRF) have planned to export 100,000 tonnes of rice through sea trade and 50,000 tonnes through border trade every month.

They are negotiating with ASEAN and the neighbouring countries to sell the rice through government (G to G) plan.

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade tops \$6.4 bln in H1 2019-2020FY

THE value of Myanmar's trade with China through maritime and sea trade channels totalled over US\$6.4 billion in October and March of 2019-2020, including \$2.9 billion worth of exports and 3.4 billion for import, according to data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Meanwhile, Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries touched a high of \$6.9 billion.

Myanmar primarily exports agro products to China through the borders. Data from the Ministry of Commerce shows the value of Sino-Myanmar trade at all five borders has touched \$3.9 billion as of 29 May in the current fiscal since October, which significantly plunged from \$4.1 billion recorded in the year-ago period.

At present, China has been stepping up border control measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus. Therefore, Chinese buyers do not come to Myanmar borders in light of coronavirus fears, forcing Myanmar truck drivers to leave for Wanding area to sell the goods

and causing trade delay.

Next, the export of agricultural products is often halted, on account of China clamping down on illegal goods. Myanmar merchants are facing difficulties in exporting goods to China through the legitimate channel as they find the tax levied by China is too high. Therefore, rice confiscation and price manipulation are occurring often at the border.

The value of bilateral trade with China was \$11.36 billion in the 2018-2019 FY, \$6 billion in the past mini-budget period, \$11.78 billion in the 2017-2018 FY and \$10.8 billion in the 2016-2017 FY respectively.

Rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, fruits and vegetables, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer products and electronic tools flow into Myanmar.— GNLM

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

German-Myanmar bilateral trade nears \$400 mln in H1 2019-2020FY

TRADE value between Myanmar and Germany between October and March of the current fiscal year 2019-2020 crossed US\$398.85 million, according to the data of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's export to Germany surpassed its import, with \$302 million worth of export and \$96.5 million valued import, according to the statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Beyond regional trade regime, Myanmar has established trade links with EU members. Germany is the biggest trade partner in the European Union, followed by France.

The main export items are rice, pulses, tea leaf, coffee, garments on Cut-Make-Pack basis and fisheries. Meanwhile, machinery, data-processing equipment, electrical and optical goods, chemical products, motor vehicles and parts and pharmaceutical products, cosmetic, food and beverages and consumer goods are imported into Myanmar.

Myanmar reinstated EU's Generalized Scheme of Preference starting from 19th July 2013. Myanmar can enjoy GSP for export of fisheries, rice, pulses, agro products, bamboo and rattan fin-

ished products, forestry products, apparels and finished industrial goods. Nevertheless, the EU imposed a three-year tariff on Indica rice (long-grain rice) imported from Myanmar and Cambodia starting from 18 January 2019.

Trade value with Germany was registered at \$821.5 million in the last FY 2018-2019, \$373 million in the past mini-budget period (April-September 2018), \$584 million in 2017-2018 FY, \$342 million in 2016-2017 FY and \$153 million in FY 2015-16 respectively.— GNLM

(Translated by EMM)

Thai-Myanmar border trade reaches \$2.7 bln in this FY

THE trade volume between Myanmar and Thailand has reached US\$2.71 billion in total with the Hteekhee land border accounting for the largest volume of trade, according to the official statistics of Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar-Thailand border trade totalled \$2.711 billion between 1 October 2019 and 29 May 2020, which included \$1.95 billion in exports and \$757 million in imports. These figures declined by \$103.9 million com-

pared to the same period of last year. The bilateral border trade hit \$2.82 billion in last year.

Myanmar mainly conducts border trade with neighbouring Thailand through seven land borders — Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese.

From 1 October to 29 May this financial year, the Hteekhee border recorded the highest trade value of \$1.35 billion followed by Myawady with \$820 million and Kawthoung with \$

299 million.

Myanmar's exports to Thailand were primarily agriculture and livestock products and imports from Thailand were mainly non-alcoholic beverages, fabric and yarn, motorcycles and accessories and the construction materials.

Thailand is Myanmar's second-largest trade partner and third-largest foreign investor.— Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Endorsement of Myanmar Standards Adoption

IN accordance with duties and function of section 5, article b and vested mandate of section 33 article (b) of Law on Standardization, National Standards Council endorses the following 264 standards to adopt as Myanmar Standards.

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| 72 | MMS IEC 61009-1:2010+AMD1:2012+AMD2:2013 -Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral overcurrent protection for household and similar uses (RCBOs) - Part 1: General rules | 95 | MMS ISO 16212: 2017 Cosmetics –Microbiology- Enumeration of yeast and mould |
| 73 | MMS IEC 61009-2-1 :1991 -Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral over current protection for household and similar uses (RCBO's) - Part 2-1: Applicability of the general rules to RCBO's functionally independent of line voltage | 96 | MMS ISO 11930: 2012 Evaluation of the antimicrobial protection of a cosmetic product |
| 74 | MMS IEC 61009-2-2 :1991 -Residual current operated circuit-breakers with integral over current protection for household and similar uses (RCBO's) - Part 2-2: Applicability of the general rules to RCBO's functionally dependent on line voltage | 97 | MMS ISO 18416: 2015 Cosmetics – Microbiology –Detection of Candida albicans |
| 75 | MMS IEC 61048:2006+AMD 1:2015 -Auxiliaries for lamps - Capacitors for use in tubular fluorescent and other discharge lamp circuits - General and safety requirements | 98 | MMS ISO 22717: 2015 Cosmetics – Microbiology –Detection of Pseudomonas aeruginosa |
| 76 | MMS IEC 61049 :1991 -Capacitors for use in tubular fluorescent and other discharge lamp circuits-Performance requirements | 99 | MMS ISO 22718: 2015 Cosmetics – Microbiology –Detection of Staphylococcus aureus |
| 77 | MMS IEC 61347-2-3:2011+AMD1:2016 -Lamp control gear - Part 2-3: Particular requirements for a.c. and/or d.c. supplied electronic control gear for fluorescent lamps; Ballast for tubular fluorescent lamp (electronic ballast) | 100 | MMS 4:2020 Sunflower Seed Standard |
| 78 | MMS IEC 61347-2-8:2000+AMD1:2006 -Lamp controlgear - Part 2-8: Particular requirements for ballasts for fluorescent lamps; Ballast for tubular fluorescent lamp (magnetic ballast) | 101 | MMS 5:2020 Dried Chili Standard |
| 79 | MMS IEC 61558-2-5 :2010 -Safety of transformers, reactors, power supply units and combinations thereof - Part 2-5: Particular requirements and test for transformer for shavers, power supply units for shavers and shaver supply units; Electric Shaver Socket Outlets | 102 | MMS IEC 60601-1 :2005+AMD 1:2012 Medical electrical equipment - Part 1: General requirements for basic safety and essential performance |
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| 82 | MMS IEC 62040-1:2017/COR1:2019 -Uninterruptible power systems (UPS) - Part 1: Safety requirements | 105 | MMS ISO 11135:2014 / AMD 1: 2018 Sterilization of health care products -- Ethylene oxide -- Requirements for development, validation and routine control of a sterilization process for medical devices |
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| | | 110 | ISO 10993-1:2018 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 1: Evaluation and testing within a risk management process |
| | | 111 | ISO 10993-2:2006 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 2: Animal welfare requirements |
| | | 112 | ISO 10993-3:2014 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 3: Tests for genotoxicity, carcinogenicity and reproductive toxicity |
| | | 113 | ISO 10993-4:2017 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 4: Selection of tests for interactions with blood |
| | | 114 | ISO 10993-5:2009 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 5: Tests for in vitro cytotoxicity |
| | | 115 | ISO 10993-6:2016 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 6: Tests for local effects after implantation |
| | | 116 | ISO 10993-7:2008 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 7: Ethylene oxide sterilization residuals |
| | | 117 | ISO 10993-9:2019 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 9: Framework for identification and quantification of potential degradation products |
| | | 118 | ISO 10993-10:2010 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 10: Tests for irritation and skin sensitization |
| | | 119 | ISO 10993-11:2017 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 11: Tests for systemic toxicity |

Endorsement of Myanmar Standards Adoption

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| 120 | ISO 10993-12:2012 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 12: Sample preparation and reference materials |
| 121 | ISO 10993-13:2010 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 13: Identification and quantification of degradation products from polymeric medical devices |
| 122 | ISO 10993-14:2001 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 14: Identification and quantification of degradation products from ceramics |
| 123 | ISO 10993-15:2019 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 15: Identification and quantification of degradation products from metals and alloys |
| 124 | ISO 10993-16:2017 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 16: Toxicokinetic study design for degradation products and leachables |
| 125 | ISO 10993-17:2002 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 17: Establishment of allowable limits for leachable substances |
| 126 | ISO 10993-18:2020 Biological evaluation of medical devices — Part 18: Chemical characterization of medical device materials within a risk management process |
| 127 | ISO 14729:2001/Amd 1:2010 Ophthalmic optics — Contact lens care products — Microbiological requirements and test methods for products and regimens for hygienic management of contact lenses — Amendment 1 |
| 128 | ISO 14730:2014 Ophthalmic optics — Contact lens care products — Antimicrobial preservative efficacy testing and guidance on determining discard date |
| 129 | MMS ISO 81060-1:2007 Non-invasive sphygmomanometers -- Part 1: Requirements and test methods for non-automated measurement type |
| 130 | MMS IEC 60601-2-19:2009 + AMD 1:2016 Medical electrical equipment - Part 2-19: Particular requirements for the basic safety and essential performance of infant incubators |
| 131 | MMS ASTM C 150/C150M-18 : Standard Specification for Portland Cement |
| 132 | MMS ASTM A 615/A615M-18 : Standard Specification for Deformed and Plain Carbon-Steel Bars for Concrete Reinforcement |
| 133 | MMS ASTM C 204 – 18 : Standard Test Methods for Fineness of Hydraulic Cement by Air-Permeability Apparatus |
| 134 | MMS ASTM C 191-18 : Standard Test Methods for Time of Setting of Hydraulic Cement by Vicat Needle |
| 135 | MMS ASTM C 109/C109M – 16a : Standard Test Methods for Compressive Strength of Hydraulic Cement Mortars (Using 2-in. or [50mm] Cube Specimens |
| 136 | MMS 6:2019 Borax |
| 137 | MMS 7:2019 Ammonium chloride |
| 138 | MMS 8:2019 Copper Sulphate Pentahydrate |
| 139 | MMS 9:2019 Calcium carbonate |
| 140 | MMS 10:2019 AcoricalamiRhizoma (Acoruscalamus L.) |
| 141 | MMS 11:2019 (Andrographidis Herba)Andrographis paniculata (Burm.f.) Wall.exNees. (Acanthaceae) |
| 142 | MMS 12:2019 (Betel Folium) Piper betleL. (Piperaceae) |
| 143 | MMS 13:2019 (Black Pepper Fructus)Piper nigrumL. (Piperaceae) |
| 144 | MMS 14:2019 (CentellaeHerba) CentellaasiaticaL. Urban (Apiaceae) |
| 145 | MMS 15:2019 (Croton oblongifoliae Cortex) Croton oblongifoliusRoxb. (Euphorbiaceae) |
| 146 | MMS 16:2019 (Curcuma Rhizoma) Curcuma longa L. (Zingiberaceae) |
| 147 | MMS 17:2019 (EmbllicaFructus)PhyllanthusemblicaL. (Euphorbiaceae) |
| 148 | MMS 18:2019 (GalangaeRhizoma)KaempferiagalangaL. (Zingiberaceae) |
| 149 | MMS 19:2019 (Leadwort Stem)PlumbagoroseaL. (Plumbaginaceae) |
| 150 | MMS 20:2019 (Potassium Nitrate) |
| 151 | MMS 21:2019 (Sodium Bicarbonate) |
| 152 | MMS 22:2019 (Sulphur) |
| 153 | MMS ISO 289-1:2015 Rubber, unvulcanized — Determinations using a shearing-disc viscometer — Part 1: Determination of Mooney viscosity |
| 154 | MMS ISO 6101-3:2014 Rubber — Determination of metal content by atomic absorption spectrometry — Part 3: Determination of copper content |
| 155 | MMS ISO 6101-4:2014 Rubber — Determination of metal content by atomic absorption spectrometry — Part 4: Determination of manganese content |
| 156 | MMS ISO 2393:2014 Rubber test mixes — Preparation, mixing and vulcanization — Equipment and procedures |
| 157 | MMS ISO 1817:2015 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of the effect of liquids |
| 158 | MMS ISO 1853:2018 Conducting and dissipative rubbers, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Measurement of resistivity |

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| 159 | MMS ISO 36:2017 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of adhesion to textile fabrics |
| 160 | MMS ISO 6502-1:2018 Rubber — Measurement of vulcanization characteristics using Curemeters — Part 1: Introduction |
| 161 | MMS ISO 124:2014 Latex, rubber — Determination of total solids content |
| 162 | MMS ISO 125:2011 Natural rubber latex concentrate — Determination of alkalinity |
| 163 | MMS ISO 48-1:2018 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of hardness — Part 1: Introduction and guidance |
| 164 | MMS ISO 8331:2016 Rubber and plastics hoses and hose assemblies — Guidelines for selection, storage, use and maintenance |
| 165 | MMS ISO 2285:2019 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of tension set under constant elongation, and of tension set, elongation and creep under constant tensile load |
| 166 | MMS ISO 8308:2015 Rubber and plastics hoses and tubing — Determination of transmission of liquids through hose and tubing walls |
| 167 | MMS ISO 2878:2017 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Antistatic and conductive products — Determination of electrical resistance |
| 168 | MMS ISO 18899:2013 Rubber — Guide to the calibration of test equipment |
| 169 | MMS ISO 8030:2014 Rubber and plastics hoses — Method of test for flammability |
| 170 | MMS ISO 1431-1:2012 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Resistance to ozone cracking — Part 1: Static and dynamic strain testing |
| 171 | MMS ISO 1827:2016 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of shear modulus and adhesion to rigid plates — Quadruple-shear methods |
| 172 | MMS ISO 188:2011 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Accelerated ageing and heat resistance tests |
| 173 | MMS ISO 6803:2017 Rubber or plastics hoses and hose assemblies — Hydraulic-pressure impulse test without flexing |
| 174 | MMS ISO 37:2017 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of tensile stress-strain properties |
| 175 | MMS ISO 48-2:2018 Rubber, vulcanized or thermoplastic — Determination of hardness (hardness between 10 IRHD and 100 IRHD) |
| 176 | MMS ISO 2930:2017 Rubber, raw natural — Determination of plasticity retention index (PRI) |
| 177 | MMS ISO 11852:2017 Rubber — Determination of magnesium content of field natural rubber latex by titration |
| 178 | MMS ISO 249:2016 Rubber, raw natural — Determination of dirt content |
| 179 | MMS ISO 5772:2015 Rubber and plastic hoses and hose assemblies for measured fuel dispensing systems — Specification |
| 180 | MMS ISO 4641:2016 Rubber hoses and hose assemblies for water suction and discharge — Specification |
| 181 | MMS ISO 4642-1:2015 Rubber and plastics hoses, non-collapsible, for fire-fighting service — Part 1: Semi-rigid hoses for fixed systems |
| 182 | MMS ISO 4642-2:2015 Rubber and plastics hoses, non-collapsible, for fire-fighting service — Part 2: Semi-rigid hoses (and hose assemblies) for pumps and vehicles |
| 183 | MMS ISO 2398:2016 Rubber hoses, textile-reinforced, for compressed air — Specification |
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| 186 | MMS ISO 4081:2016 Rubber hoses and tubing for cooling systems for internal-combustion engines — Specification |
| 187 | MMS ISO 8789:2018 Rubber hoses and hose assemblies for liquefied petroleum gas in motor vehicles — Specification |
| 188 | MMS ISO 11424:2017 Rubber hoses and tubing for air and vacuum systems for internal-combustion engines — Specification |
| 189 | MMS ISO 11425:2018 Rubber hoses and hose assemblies for automobile power-steering systems — Specification |
| 190 | MMS ISO 4927:2005 Road vehicles — Elastomeric boots for cylinders for drum type hydraulic brake wheel cylinders using a non-petroleum base hydraulic brake fluid (Service temperature 120 degrees C max.) |
| 191 | MMS ISO 3996:1995 Road vehicles — Brake hose assemblies for hydraulic braking systems used with non-petroleum-base brake fluid |
| 192 | MMS ISO 4928:2006 Road vehicles — Elastomeric cups and seals for cylinders for hydraulic braking systems using a non-petroleum base hydraulic brake fluid (Service temperature 120 degrees C max.) |

(TO BE CONTINUED)

Returnees are systematically being brought back home amid coronavirus pandemic

NEW coronavirus 2019 has originated endemically in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei Province, central China, in late last year; however, regrettably continued to spread both inside and outside China to other countries across the globe until the World Health Organization (WHO) has declared it 'pandemic' in March 2020.

Since then, governments have stringently imposed preventative orders and instructions including travel restrictions in almost all the countries. Therefore, people simply could not enter in and depart to another city or country through international gateways such as airports and seaports as well as land borders between the neighbouring countries.

Sadly, the viral infection does not care for all these human-stipulated limitations and it keeps spreading undisturbedly as much possible as it can. Yet, people capitulate to the barring of departure or entry domestically and between one country and others as well. It has consequently led many people to be stranded in foreign lands with difficult mobility.

In the meantime, as they were unable to lift travel restrictions widely and country-wisely as before, governments turn to find a solution to repatriate their citizens to respective home-countries on a basis of relief flights under their systematic arrangement in addition to bilateral collaborative actions since the stranded are in dire need of return.

Recent online discussions between the State Counsellor and three ambassadors of Thailand, the Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China has indicated how the Union Government is sparing no arduous efforts to bring back Myanmar citizens from the respective countries where they were stranded owing to no inbound and outbound flights as well as shutting down of land borders in the age of the coronavirus pandemic.

The State Counsellor stressed that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was responsible for making that happen and that Myanmar embassies played a crucial role in implementing the policies and directives properly issued by the MOFA. Thus, Myanmar citizens can rely upon them whatever countries they might be in and however difficult they might be there in the wake of the pandemic. Five-digit number of returnees has so far arrived back and they all have to undergo necessary quarantine procedures specified by the Ministry of Health and Sports— 21-day facility-quarantine plus 7-day home-quarantine.

Apart from health authorities responsible for screening and examination of the pathogen, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population has been monitoring and overseeing the immigration process and migrant labour issues at the airports and land border checkpoints through which all returnees are at present being brought back home by relief flights systematically arranged by the Union Government in collaboration with respective countries.

"You are the best protector against COVID", said the State Counsellor. Therefore, all citizens inclusive of returnees should be always vigilant during this time of the coronavirus pandemic as we are the best protectors against it.

Five-digit number of returnees has so far arrived back and they all have to undergo necessary quarantine procedures specified by the Ministry of Health and Sports – 21-day facility-quarantine plus 7-day home-quarantine.

countries where they were stranded owing to no inbound and outbound flights as well as shutting down of land borders in the age of the coronavirus pandemic.



COVID-19 VACCINE DEVELOPMENT

Are Human COVID-19 Vaccine Trials Useful?

By William A Haseltine

I WAS recently stunned to learn of the serious consideration being given to deliberately infecting human volunteers with the SARS-CoV-2 virus in order to assess the effectiveness of potential COVID-19 vaccines.

My first reaction was that the advocates of such "human challenge studies" had gone so mad with panic that they had forgotten the history and horrors of medical experimentation on humans. But on closer inspection, I saw that they included some of the world's most respected vaccine researchers and medical ethicists, and even the World Health Organization (WHO).

As far as I can tell, their principal argument is that waiting for an answer from naturally occurring infections will take too long. The new coronavirus has already infected 6.5 million people worldwide and killed more than 386,000, including 107,000 in the United States (US) alone. And in the absence of safe, effective vaccines and treatments, measures aimed at controlling the virus's spread are ruining economies around the world. The WHO's recent white paper on the use of human subjects for vaccine research makes it clear that such trials are a desperate last resort.

Vaccines are indeed the most

effective medications we have. Some have conferred long-term immunity against great scourges such as smallpox, polio, typhoid, diphtheria, typhus, and tetanus. But there are just as many diseases for which no truly effective vaccine exists, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis. And some vaccines can do more harm than good, as attempts to develop a dengue vaccine have demonstrated.

Caveats notwithstanding, the rush to develop a COVID-19 vaccine that will definitively end the loss of life and stop the economic devastation has already produced more than 100 candidates, all in very early stages of development.

With so many pharmaceutical companies and governments scrambling to get some skin in the game, each day seems to bring announcements of new programmes, most of them unaccompanied by supporting data.

But deliberately infecting volunteers with SARS-CoV-2 to test the efficacy of vaccine candidates is unnecessary, uninformative, and unethical.

Why Unnecessary?

Most vaccines are developed in the context of active epidemics. But one prominent British researcher recently opined that there is only a 50 per cent chance



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha (front L) receives an influenza vaccine injection in Bangkok, as Health Minister Anutin Charnvirakul (back L) watches on 26 May, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

that enough people in the United Kingdom (UK) will be infected with the virus for the University of Oxford vaccine field trial (as currently designed) to yield a statistically significant result. What a curious statement. Does it mean that the trial is too small, or too short, or that the Oxford team expects their vaccine to be only partly effective – or all three?

After all, there is no shortage of new infections. On an average day, close to 100,000 newly confirmed cases are reported worldwide, and I cannot recall another disease for which such a number was insufficient for a field trial of a drug or vaccine. Surely, with more time and patience, a real test is

possible. Moreover, the major departure from the norm entailed by human challenge studies presupposes a lack of alternative means to control the pandemic. But many East Asian countries, as well as some Nordic states, New Zealand, and Australia, have so far successfully controlled the virus in the absence of highly effective drugs or vaccines. And Wuhan, the Chinese city where it originated, is now essentially free of COVID-19, save for minor, containable flare-ups.

In each case, the relevant authorities have executed well-known, proven public-health measures: clear messaging, strong stay-at-home orders, vig-

ilant disease detection, contact tracing, and mandatory supervised controlled isolation for all those exposed to the virus.

Although not every country is capable of implementing what works, all should try their best to control the pandemic through proven methods, rather than pinning their hopes on a vaccine that either will be slow in coming or may not work at all. In addition, medical ethicists should consider governments' moral obligations to protect citizens through proper use of public-health measures, rather than by opening a Pandora's box of unnecessary human experimentation.

Challenge studies are also

uninformative. To the best of my knowledge, all current protocols for vaccine trials envisage enrolling only young, healthy adults. This is understandable from a recruitment perspective, but COVID-19 morbidity and mortality are highest among the elderly, who have a plethora of underlying chronic diseases.

Numerous studies have shown that vaccines that are effective among the young can fail in older populations – sometimes completely. Our bodies' ability to respond to most, if not all, vaccines declines precipitously with age. Are today's COVID-19 vaccine developers seriously entertaining the idea of trials that use a live virus in this vulnerable population?

Furthermore, preliminary studies using non-human primates have already shown that potential vaccines may not provide complete protection; when confronted with the virus, the vaccinated animals were spared serious infection of the lungs, but not of the nasal passages. The same was true of the wide variety of vaccine candidates previously developed for severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), also coronaviruses. And the implications of partial protection for both community spread and human disease are not well understood.

SOURCE: THE ASEAN POST

Challenge studies are also

Patient Safety in Health Care

By Lokethar

THE Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar embodies the Fundamental Rights and Duties of Citizens including the right to health care in line with the health policies of the Government. The consumer protection law lays down the rights of consumers with regard to products and services provided by the organizations concerned. Hence the rights of those citizens who seek medical or health care in the various medical clinics, centres or hospitals are subject to the provisions of the Union Constitution and the Consumer Protection Law. In addition they are covered by the various laws in

existence regarding health care by both public and private sectors.

It is learnt that the Ministry of Health and Sports is drawing up a new National Health Policy to replace that of 1993. It is drawing up the policy in "nine areas" one of which is "Patient Safety". It's most appropriate that "Patient Safety" has been included considering that in the "health system" the "patient" is one of the main "stakeholders". All health activities revolve around "the patient", whether in preventive or curative health care activities. After all "The People are the Key" and "Patients are of the People".

According to the World Health Organization, "Patient

Safety aims to prevent and reduce risks, errors and harm that occurs to patients during provision of health care". We can occasionally see such risks and errors in patient care generally in hospitals providing health care. It leads to infringement of the patient's rights as well.

For the information of the general public, according to World Health Organization "every year millions of patients suffer injuries or die because of unsafe or poor-quality health care.

Many medical practices and risks are associated with health care are emerging as major challenges for patient safety and contribute significantly to the burden

of harm due to unsafe care." It lists some of the patient safety situation causing most concern as :-

- Medication errors
- Health care-associated infections
- Unsafe surgical care procedures
- Unsafe injection practices
- Diagnostic errors
- Unsafe transfusion practices
- Radiation errors
- Sepsis
- Venous thromboembolism (blood clots)

A further patient safety con-

cern generally met with, (but not probably included in the above list which applies more or less to the medical profession,) is in physically transporting and transferring of "patients" by the hospital "attendants". Examples are bed-ridden patient transfers from homes on to and from hospital ambulances, patients transferred from hospital beds to another floor or area of the hospital for X-Ray, or CT Scan or whatever. Such functions if not carried out by competent "Attendants" using the correct equipment and standard procedures can jeopardize "Patient Safety". Perhaps this particular aspect of "Patient Safety" as observed by the lay-

man, could also be considered in formulating "Patient Safety Policy."

Perhaps in drawing up of the new National Health Policy, consideration may also be given to including "Patient's Rights" as is seen in many countries. Some call it a "Patients' Bill of Rights". Future legislation on Public and Private Health Care should include provisions relating to "Patient Safety" and in conjunction, "Patients' Rights" as well.

With Charity to all and Malice to none.

● ● ●

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 6th June, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and weak to moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 7th June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Northern Shan, Chin and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing and Bago Regions, Eastern Shan and Rakhine States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon – Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)m.p.h. Sea will be slight to moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (6-9) feet in Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon –Taninthayi Coasts and about (4-6) feet off and along Rakhine Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th June, 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 7th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submission of poetries, opinions, 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 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 sent 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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COVID19: Emerging Trends in International Relations and Diplomacy

By Aye Thandar Soe (MOFA)

THE COVID19 pandemic has brought about a turning point in the history of diplomacy and international relations. It has caused changes in people's behaviour and the nature of their mode of communication and engagement. Around the world, it has also become savvier in the use of the internet and technology as leverage for better engagement. The impact of COVID-19 has the tendency to shift the core interests and aspects of the Foreign Service staff as well as the leaders across the globe on diplomacy and international relations. In light of this, the genesis of the concept of the "New Normal" surfaces. How do we come back to our normal daily lives in a new trend in post COVID19? How well can people adapt to this new change? Will they be able to adjust their normal daily lives to the 'New Normal' after COVID19? These are the questions we all need to ponder.

The situation is still volatile and it is beyond our reach to predict when this pandemic is going to an end. New confirmed cases are still growing in some countries. Borders and cities are in lockdown, airlines are suspended and people are following 'stay at home' order. Nonetheless, the flow of engagement and cooperation between and among the countries is neither stopped nor significantly disrupted.

Despite the fact that the COVID-19 forces people to refrain from travelling, impossible for physical interaction and in-person meetings and to follow stay at home order, pragmatic ways-out and sensible solutions are being designed by the various organizations including the United Nations and the ASEAN in order to have constructive and informative engagement between and among the world leaders by means of virtual meetings, taking into the advantage of the present-day technology amidst the crisis of pandemic.

This clearly demonstrates the willingness and efforts of the States to uphold the bilateral, regional, international and global responsibilities and to support each other, individually or multilaterally, in times of crisis.

E-diplomacy was intro-

duced to the people in 1992 where the civil society activists used e-mails and mailing lists for the purpose to lobby and for negotiation. Following this, the diplomatic services and international organizations included in the e-diplomacy the use of websites to reach out to the people across the world in a time with the necessary information.

At present, the nature and dynamic of diplomacy and international relations is shifting to a new trend. Thousands of online meetings are happening in teleconferencing rooms, webinars, zoom, skype or other internet platforms on a daily basis.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi expressed about the "Cloud Diplomacy" (during the press conference on China's Foreign Policy and Foreign Relations on the sidelines of the third session of the 13th National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 24 May 2020). Wang Yi stated that China's diplomacy has not paused for a moment despite COVID-19, instead embarked on "Cloud Diplomacy". Wang Yi refers to "Cloud Diplomacy" as the forms of phone calls, exchanges of correspondence and video conferences for engagement purpose.

The expression of Wang Yi is supported by the fact that a range of virtual meetings has been successfully held globally and the engagement and diplomacy have remained connected - the G20 leaders met on 26 March 2020 through teleconference to discuss the situation of COVID19 and its impact on the global economy. It was the first virtual summit in the history of G20. Even the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) conducted the virtual meeting for the first time on 30 March 2020 to discuss the situation in the Middle East. Likewise, ASEAN also convened a series of Summit meetings, Foreign Ministers' meetings, SOM meetings and Working Group meetings within the member states and with its Dialogue Partners. EU, IMF, World Bank and other regional and international organizations also adopted the same modus operandi.

Against this backdrop, are we in the position to say that we have already entered into the era of so-called "New Normal"? The answer is probably 'Yes' to some extent. People are trying to overcome the challenges posed by the pandemic and to accomplish their routines in new ways by leveraging on the advancement of technology. This is how people are getting back to their normal lives in a new trend - what people alternatively call 'The New Lifestyle'.

As mentioned earlier, the world leaders are now exercising new practices in diplomacy and the advance in technology is the key components of this new landscape. Without making a State visit, the leaders can now meet and discuss the matters

of the challenges created by the COVID19 pandemic. Although they cannot meet in a place or sit at the same table to discuss, the diplomatic relationship is maintained and moving forward. The key element, as stated earlier, is the technology which bridges and keeping them connected despite the vast distance between countries. On top of that, they are also exercising flexibility to adapt to the new environment in a timely fashion instead of wasting their time for the old fashions of communication to come back.

In the domestic front, the behaviours of public engagement and management of the governments are also changing. Let's take Myanmar as a case study. In comparison to the

important thing to bear in mind is that this is just the beginning of transitioning into a new trend and it does not seem to stop any time soon. It is likely to go on beyond the COVID19 pandemic. Therefore, we need to be prepared to be more flexible and adaptable to those behavioural transitions in our New Normal or New Life Style so as not to be left behind.

Nonetheless, security concerns should not be compromised in any way and under any circumstances. In the New Normal, it is paramount important for the foreign services and ministries to ensure the security and confidentiality when they are using internet platforms since some internet platforms are weak and not up to the standard in security protocol against possible hacking. Therefore, the traditional diplomacy of meeting in person with proper social distancing for some highly confidential and sensitive matters must remain as a preference even in the critical moment of the pandemic.

Echoing what the Foreign Minister Wang said, diplomacy should not pause even for a moment despite the challenges of COVID19. "Cloud Diplomacy" is the new model which many countries are putting in place as an emerging trend. We are just in a new chapter which demands new and innovative ways. To enhance the competency of our diplomats and Foreign Service personnel, up-skilling and reskilling are definitely required. It is needless to say and an obligatory requirement that all foreign service staff must have the ability to understand and uphold the degree of confidentiality. With the emergence of new trends in diplomacy and international relations, cybersecurity is also a companion that automatically comes together with the newborn diplomacy in the digital age. When the time in which the diplomats and leaders of the countries are embracing the new emerging trends, the security awareness should not be compromised but rather upgraded to a higher level.

■ ■ ■

Developing countries can also learn how countries across the world are strengthening and deepening their relationships through new model diplomacy being conceptualized as a result of the challenges created by the COVID19 pandemic.

of mutual concern or benefit over telephone conversations or video conferences. Surprisingly, we have even witnessed that some countries have signed the MoU(s) and bolstered their diplomatic relationship during the time the COVID19 pandemic hindered face to face meets. To give an example, the Singapore and Australian leaders held a virtual bilateral meeting on 23 March 2020 and during that virtual meeting, the two countries signed a treaty on military training and two MoUs on Artificial Intelligence and Data Innovation. It is a good sign that countries are strengthening their relationship and enhancing their cooperation despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Developing countries can also learn how countries across the world are strengthening and deepening their relationships through new model diplomacy being conceptualized as a result

past, people from the government sectors become relatively aware of the advantages of technology and adaptable to the Internet of Things (IoT). They are now familiar with the use of internet Apps, especially in the fight against the COVID19. Engagement among the central government, local governments and communities get improved through video conferences, Apps and social media. People are also participating in the process of government efforts. Sometimes, instructions from the central government go directly to the state and regional governments through those virtual interactions, if needed and upon circumstances, which could lead to quick and necessary actions. Such kinds of behavioural changes can be considered to be feasible, effective, practical and realistic to a large extent. Furthermore, it is a definite cost and time effective. The most im-

N. Korea vows to abolish joint liaison office with South: KCNA

BEIJING — North Korea has pledged to abolish an inter-Korean joint liaison office set up in the country's border city of Kaesong, while criticizing defectors for having sent leaflets lambasting Pyongyang, state-run media reported Friday.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo Jong, has warned that Pyongyang may scrap a military pact with the South and shut down the office if Seoul fails to prevent defectors from scattering such leaflets in the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas.

A spokesperson of the Workers' Party of Korea also said Kim Yo Jong, first vice department director of the Central Committee of the ruling party, has supervised policies toward the South.

"We will definitely withdraw the idling north-south joint liaison office housed in



Photo taken on Sept. 14, 2018, shows the opening ceremony for the inter-Korean liaison office in Kaesong, North Korea. PHOTO: KYODO

the Kaesong Industrial Zone to be followed by effectuation of various measures which we had

already implied," the spokesperson said in a statement.

"Today, our people are feel-

ing towering rage and disgust towards the act of scattering anti-DPRK leaflets by the 'de-

factors from the north' and the south Korean authorities' connivance at it," the statement said, referring to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's official name.

At their summit in April 2018, Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae In signed the Panmunjeom Declaration, in which the two Koreas agreed to establish a joint liaison office and cease all hostile acts, including flying leaflets, to eliminate the risk of war.

At a subsequent summit held in Pyongyang that September, the two sides agreed to a series of measures meant to reduce tensions on the border, including removing guns and guard posts from Panmunjeom.

The truce village was the only place along the border where troops of the North and South directly faced each other.—Kyodo ■

China plans to develop new solid-fuelled carrier rocket

BEIJING — Chinese engineers plan to develop a new solid-fuelled rocket with greater carrying capacity than the current model Long March-11 rocket, revealed China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation sources.

The upgraded carrier rocket, called the Long March-11A, will be designed for both land and sea launches, and its cost is calculated at 10,000 U.S. dollars per kg of payload.

According to the corporation, the design work is slated to complete this year, and the rocket is scheduled to embark on its maiden flight in 2022.

The Long March-11, mainly used for launching micro-satellites, is currently the only solid-fueled model Long March carrier rocket and China's first sea-launched rocket. It has a capacity of 500 kg for sun-synchronous orbit at an altitude of 500 km.

Its latest launch mission was completed last Saturday from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwestern Sichuan Province, which sent two technology experiment satellites into the space.—Xinhua ■

Singapore plans to launch wearable contact-tracing device

SINGAPORE — Singapore's government said Friday development is underway of a portable contact tracing device that can be worn by people everywhere they go, with plans to distribute it to everyone in the wealthy city-state to help curb the spread of COVID-19.

Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan made the disclosure in a speech to parliament, suggesting the government might be planning to make use of the device by the public compulsory.

As Singapore has begun easing some partial lockdown measures this month, the government stressed that it is even more critical that contact tracing be conducted quickly and comprehensively.

In his speech, Balakrishnan

said limitations the government has faced with its contact-tracing smartphone app called TraceTogether, launched in March, pushed it to develop the device.

"Because TraceTogether does not work equally well across all smartphones, we have decided, therefore, at this point in time, not to mandate the compulsory use of Trace-

Together," he said.

"Instead, we are developing and will soon roll out a portable wearable device that will achieve the same objective...but will not depend on possession of a smartphone," he added.

TraceTogether, which uses Bluetooth signals emitted by smartphones to detect other phones in the vicinity of a user, has been downloaded on a voluntary basis by 1.5 million people in the city-state, which has a population of approximately 5.7 million.

However, many users have complained that it does not work as intended on Apple Inc.'s iPhones, as the iOS operating system suspends Bluetooth scanning when the app is running in the background.—Kyodo ■



Commuters wearing protective mask ride the train on June 2, 2020 in Singapore. (Kyodo)

Defiant Australians protest racial injustice despite warnings

SYDNEY — Tens of thousands of Australians defied government calls to stay at home Saturday by spilling onto the streets for Black Lives Matter protests in major towns and cities across the country.

Marchers in Sydney, Melbourne and elsewhere rejected arguments from law enforcement and conservative leaders that mass protests could fuel the spread of coronavirus.

A court on Friday declared

the Sydney protest illegal on health grounds, although the ruling was overturned by an appeals court minutes before the march was due to start.

"The fact that they have tried to push us all back and stop the protest, it makes people want to do it even more," said Jumikah Donovan, one of thousands who turned up thinking the ban was still in place. The Sydney march was largely peaceful, although one "All Lives Matter" coun-

ter-protester was taken away by police. Demonstrators brandished signs that read "I can't breathe", a nod to the last words of African-American man George Floyd, whose death while being arrested has sparked civil rights protests around the world.

Another read: "Same story, different soil."

The movement has resonated strongly with many in Australia — a country also wrestling with the legacy of a racist past.

Organizers said they hoped to highlight the high rates of imprisonment among Aboriginal Australians and large number of deaths in custody of indigenous people — more than 400 in the last three decades. No prosecutions have been brought despite dozens of investigations, inquests and in some cases video evidence of abuse. Many of the protesters wore face masks, brought hand sanitizer and tried to social distance as best they could.—AFP ■

Biden clinches Democratic nomination for 2020 race against Trump

WASHINGTON — Joe Biden said Friday he had secured the delegates needed to clinch the Democratic nomination and face Donald Trump in November's US presidential election.

"Folks, tonight we secured the 1,991 delegates needed to win the Democratic nomination," the former vice president said on Twitter.

"I'm going to spend every day fighting to earn your vote so that, together, we can win the battle for the soul of this nation."

Biden passed the 1,991 threshold to secure his party's nomination as counting contin-

ued from Tuesday's round of Democratic primaries.

He had been the presumptive Democratic challenger since Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders dropped out of the race in April and endorsed his onetime rival's run at the White House.

Biden reached the threshold with the country wracked by protests over the death of African-American George Floyd at the hands of police.

Floyd's death has reignited long-felt anger over police killings of African-Americans and unleashed a nationwide wave of civil unrest unlike any seen in the

US since Martin Luther King Jr's 1968 assassination.

"This is a difficult time in America's history. And Donald Trump's angry, divisive politics is no answer," Biden wrote in a post on Medium.

"The country is crying out for leadership. Leadership that can unite us. Leadership that can bring us together."

'Equal justice'

Biden's response to the protests has been in marked contrast to Trump, who threatened to deploy the military against American citizens.—AFP ■



Joe Biden describes his campaign as 'the battle for the soul of this nation'. PHOTO: AFP

US planning to slash troops in Germany: report

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump has ordered the Pentagon to slash the number of troops it maintains in Germany by more than a quarter in the coming months, the Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

The newspaper said the Defence Department would cut the number of military personnel by 9,500 from the current 34,500 permanently assigned to Germany postings.

The Journal also said a cap of 25,000 would be set on how many US troops could be in-

side German at any one time, whether in permanent postings or temporary rotations, half of the current allowance.

The move would significantly reduce the US commitment to European defence under the NATO umbrella, though it could also impact Pentagon operations related to Africa and the Middle East. White House and Pentagon officials declined to confirm or deny the story, which comes amid tensions between the Trump administration and European allies over longstanding

cooperation agreements.

Washington in particular does not think Germany spends enough for its own defence. John Ulyot, a spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said in a statement that as commander in chief, Trump is always reassessing the presence of US forces overseas.

"The United States remains committed to working with our strong ally Germany to ensure our mutual defence, as well as on many other important issues," Ulyot said.—AFP ■



US military personnel and M1 Abrams tanks in German ahead of war games in February 2020. PHOTO: AFP

Global race protests mark George Floyd's death

LONDON — Taking a knee, chanting and ignoring social distancing measures, outraged protesters from Sydney to London kicked off a weekend of global rallies Saturday against racism and police brutality.

The death during the arrest of George Floyd, an unarmed black man in the US state of Minnesota, has brought tens of thousands out onto the streets during a pandemic that is ebbing in Asia and Europe, but spreading in other parts of the world.

UK Health Secretary Matt Hancock spoke for many concerned officials as he tried to convince Britons not to gather for events involving more than six people this weekend, no matter the cause or their rage.

"Like so many people, I am appalled by the death of George Floyd. I understand why people are deeply upset," the UK health minister said on Friday.

"But we are still facing a health crisis and coronavirus remains a real threat."

Londoners intend to rally outside parliament on Saturday and hold a big demonstration in front of the US embassy on the opposite bank of the Thames River on Sunday.

Dressed in black

Aboriginal protesters performed a traditional smoking ceremony at the start of a "Black Lives Matter" protest in Sydney, which was sanctioned at the last minute after initially being banned on health grounds.

Tens of thousands of Australians defied government orders to stay home regardless, holding up signs and wearing face masks marked up "I can't breathe" — the words Floyd kept repeating while handcuffed as a policeman knelt on his neck.

"The fact that they have tried to push us all back and stop the protest, it makes people want to do it even more," said Jumikah Donovan, one of thousands who turned up thinking the Sydney ban was still in place.

Thousands more dressed in black to mourn Floyd's death in Melbourne and other Australian cities. Floyd's death came during the spread of a disease that has disproportionately affected black people and ethnic minorities in global centres such as London and New York. It also came in the throws of a historic economic downturn that has statistically affected the poor and marginalised the most.—AFP ■

EU countries agree on coordinated, non-discriminatory lifting of travel ban

ZAGREB — European interior ministers agreed on Friday that travel restrictions imposed to curb the COVID-19 pandemic should be abolished in a coordinated and non-discriminatory manner.

During a videoconference that was held within the framework of Croatia's Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU), the ministers noted that the coronavirus outbreak has threatened some of the founda-

tions of the EU, such as the European Single Market and freedom of movement. EU member states have gradually eased or abolished restrictive measures that were imposed on national or regional levels. In the last few weeks, some

countries have opened their borders for other nationals, but there has not been a comprehensive agreement on the EU level.

The ministers discussed the expected time frames within which border checks will be

abolished once the health situation in a particular member state makes it possible, but did not mention any timetable. They also discussed the procedure for returning to the full functioning of the Schengen area.—Xinhua ■

Ukrainian president floats visa liberalization for tourists

KIEV — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has floated the idea of liberalizing the visa regime for tourists, including Chinese citizens, visiting the country, the president's press service said Thursday.

In a meeting with representatives from the tourism industry on Thursday, Zelensky noted that visas could be cancelled for tourists from China, Australia, New Zealand, and Arab countries.

Zelensky called on representatives to join efforts to attract international tourists to visit Ukraine.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the closure of borders, opportunities have emerged for the development of domestic tourism, he said, adding that the Ukrainian government intends to increase the country's attractiveness for tourists.—Xinhua ■

U.S. allows Chinese airlines to operate two U.S. flights a week

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government said Friday it will allow Chinese air carriers to operate two weekly passenger flights to and from the United States, after China eased its restrictions on U.S. flight services amid the coronavirus pandemic.

On Wednesday, the Department of Transportation said it would block Chinese passenger airlines from flying into or out of the United States starting June 16, because China had effectively precluded U.S. carriers from restarting passenger flights to and from China.

Air transportation demand between the two countries fell off following the coronavirus outbreak, which was first detected in China late last year and then spread worldwide.—Kyodo ■

Marriott ceases Cuban operations after new Trump sanctions

HAVANA — Marriott has been ordered by the US Treasury Department to close its Four Points Sheraton hotel in Havana by the end of August and abandon plans to open others in Cuba, a spokeswoman for the American hotel group told AFP on Friday.

"We entered the Cuban market in 2016, with permission from the US government," the spokeswoman said.

"Our operating licence was reviewed and renewed in 2018. We have recently received notice that the government-issued licence will not be renewed, forcing Marriott to cease operations in Cuba."

Marriott's entry into the Cuban market came during the administration of US president Barack



Italian tourists sightsee in Havana after spending time in quarantine during the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

Obama, a Democrat.

The island nation had been subjected to a US embargo since 1962 but, under Obama, tensions were easing.

But since Republican

President Donald Trump moved into the White House, he has ramped up sanctions once more, cancelling or suspending many of the agreements made during Obama's

term.

"Marriott continues to believe that Cuba is a destination that travellers, including Americans, want to visit. Marriott looks forward to reopening in Cuba

if and when the US government gives us permission to do business there again," added the hotel chain.

In the latest move on Wednesday, the US State Department added seven Cuban companies and hotels to its list of sanctioned entities, including the financial company Fincimex, which makes money from remittances sent to Cuba, notably through Western Union.

These remittances, which economist Carlos Mesa-Lago estimated to be worth \$3.5 billion in 2017, are vital for many Cuban families, particularly during the coronavirus pandemic that has provoked food shortages and spiralling inflation in Cuba.—AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (026W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (026W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1120 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1120 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

INVITATION TO BID

Bid No. MM-09184-NCB-001, Updated design and construction works for the proposed renovation of the Information Counter Building in Mawlamyine, Mon State, Myanmar

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism of Myanmar (MOHT) through its procurement committee, invites all prospective/potential bidders to apply for bid with the above-referenced subject for:

Name of Project : Grant 9184-MYA Economic Empowerment of the Poor and Women in the East-West Economic Corridor Project
Procurement package : Bid No. MM-09184-NCB-001, Updated design and construction works for the proposed renovation of the Information Counter building in Mawlamyine
Contract Location : Lower Main Road 118 (MOHT Information Counter Building), Mawlamyine, Mon State, Myanmar.

The significant times and deadlines of procurement activities are shown below:

1. Issuance of Bidding Documents -8-6-2020,09:30 AM
2. Pre-Bid Meeting -15-6-2020,11:00 AM (To contact 09 420704808 with SKYPE)
3. Deadline of Submission of Bids -8-7-2020,15:45 PM
4. Opening of Bids -8-7-2020, 16:00 PM, PMU Office, Nay Pyi Taw (in the presence of bidders' representatives)

Submission of Bids : Project Management Unit Office-Grant 9184-MYA, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Building 33, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, email planandstat@tourism.gov.mm

Bid Documents : Bid documents (Soft Copy) may be obtained at Project Management Unit Office-Grant 9184 -MYA Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Building 33, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar or as follows:
• Online at www.empowermentmonstate.org
• Soft copies in pdf format will be available upon request via email at planandstat@tourism.gov.mm

To obtain further information and any clarification, please communicate with the contact person: U Tin Tun Aung, Project Director, Project Management Unit – (PMU), Economic Empowerment of the Poor and Women in the East-West Economic Corridor Project, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism of Myanmar, Telephone: +95 67 406102 Fax:+95 - 67 406098, E-mail: planandstat@tourism.gov.mm

Procurement will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedure in accordance with ADB procurement rules and regulations.

Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications should participate

A. Financial qualification The Bidder shall have a minimum average annual construction turnover of \$ 690,000, calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed, within the last Five (05) years. (refer to Section 4, form FIN-2 "average annual construction turnover"). The Bidder must demonstrate that its financial resources less its financial obligations for its current contract commitments meet or exceed the total requirement for the Subject Contract of \$ 115,000.

B. Construction experience requirement. The Bidder shall have experience that at least one contract that has been successfully or substantially completed within the last Five (05) years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds \$ 140,000, or at least two contracts each of that have been successfully or substantially completed within the last Five (05) years and that is similar to the proposed works, where the value of the Bidder's participation exceeds \$ 86,000 of each contract.

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Construction of two major bridges in Taninthayi Region nears completion

By Kyaw Htike Soe

TANINTHAYI REGION is composed of many islands and some residents in the region rely on the waterway to travel to other areas. The far southern region is Myanmar's main production market for bird's nest and sits close to the border with Thailand. Road transportation is considered to be the most important factor in the economic and social development of a region. Development of the road transport network plays an important role in the economic growth of a region.

The proper development of road transport network not only reduces the cost of transportation both in terms of money and time but also helps in the integration of various regions and states in the country and better understanding of neighbouring countries at the international level. Since assuming office, the local government has been trying its best to upgrade the road transport infrastructure, pouring majority of its budget into construction and maintenance of the transport road networks, to make operational in all seasons. Currently, three major bridges are being built in Taninthayi Region by the Ministry of Construction with the aim of improving income and the standard of living of local people, enabling them to visit other areas in a convenient manner, and promoting tourism industry in the region.

Tamote Lutlut Bridge being built near milepost 221/2 on

the Dawei-Myeik Road is one of three main bridges in Taninthayi Region, according to an official tasked with supervising the project. The river-crossing bridge is located about 16 miles north of Myeik and connects Myeik with Palaw and Dawei Townships. The Bridge Construction Group-4 of the Department of

Bridge under the ministry commenced construction of the bridge on 1 August 2017. The project as a whole is 94 percent complete and it is scheduled to be opened to traffic in early August this year, said U Aung Kyaw Soe, Assistant Director of the Bridge Construction Group-4. The bridge is 1,287 ft. long, 24

ft. wide and has a 3 ft. long pedestrian walkway on each side. The bridge's clearance is about 15 ft. and the waterway under the bridge is 164 ft. and it can withstand up to 75 tons of weight.

In addition, a sea-crossing bridge linking Kawthoung Township with an island village named Pulone Tonetone Village is being

built in Taninthayi Region. Pulone Tone Tone, an island village in the Andaman Sea, consists of more than 1,000 households with a population of over 3,000. The village has abundance of marine products. In the past, residents from the village faced many challenges in health, education, and economic sectors as they had to



The Pulone Tone Tone Sea-crossing Bridge, the first of its kind in Myanmar is set to open to traffic soon. PHOTO: IPRD



Tamote Lutlut Bridge is one of the major bridges under construction in Taninthayi Region and is 94 per cent complete. PHOTO: IPRD

use motorcycles and boats to go to Kawthoung through Chaung-wa Village which is about 7 miles far from Kawthoung. Construction of a 2,690 ft. long, 15 ft. wide wooden bridge was completed on 6 December 2004. Now a new

sea-crossing concrete bridge is being built because the wooden bridge was badly damaged by the seawater.

The bridge piles are constructed from reinforcement cement concrete up to hard rock. They took at least two weeks to finish construction of a bored pile and focused on durability of the bridge, said U Nyunt Thein, a civil engineer from the group. The new facility is 2,400 ft. long, 24 ft. wide and has a 3 ft. long pedestrian walkway on each side. The clearance of the bridge is 80 ft. wide, 3 ft. high and the structure is constructed mostly from reinforced concrete. Construction of Myanmar's first sea-crossing bridge began in August 2017. The project has been 93 percent finished so far and the bridge is expected to be commissioned into service soon.

Once completed, local people hope to use the new bridge in all seasons with greater ease. Marine products from the region can easily be transported to other regions and states across the country, providing better road transportation for locals and contributing to the balanced growth between rural and urban areas. The bridge would promote development of the border trade, boost tourism in the region, facilitate commodity flow and help local people travel to Mon State, Bago and Yangon Regions by car round-the-clock.



Yoma Bank Protects Thousands of its Employees through Prudential Myanmar's Group Life Insurance Plan

YOMA BANK, one of the largest private banks in Myanmar, is providing PRUGroup Life, a life insurance solution offered by Prudential Myanmar Life Insurance Limited (Prudential Myanmar), to more than 3,000 employees across the country. The PRUGroup Life, a group term plan for companies and organisations, provides protection against financial loss should death, total and permanent disability, or disability happen to an employee covered under the plan.

While it is not mandatory for companies to provide life insurance for employees in Myanmar, Yoma Bank is providing PRUGroup Life on a voluntary basis to its employees, the majority of whom are not protected by individual insurance. By being covered under PRUGroup Life, Yoma Bank's employees can enjoy peace of mind knowing that their family and loved ones will be protected against financial challenges in the event of an unfortunate and unforeseen life event.

In addition, all Yoma Bank employees registered under PRUGroup Life can also enjoy free, additional coverage to help protect them against the threat posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the COVID-19 Free Cover initiative, Prudential Myanmar will provide lump sum benefits to any of Yoma Bank's employees who is unfortunately diagnosed with COVID-19 or passes away as a result of the disease.

Mr. Dean Cleland, CEO of Yoma Bank, said, "We believe people are the foundation of our success and as a company, we consider life insurance as an important form of financial protection for our employees across Myanmar. Our employees, who rely on their salaries to support their families and for

purchasing power, will be well-served by being protected under PRUGroup Life insurance coverage, which complements and supplements our employee benefits and welfare programmes."

Mr. Asit Rath, CEO of Prudential Myanmar, said, "Employee Welfare Schemes are core to the functioning of any modern organization. The provision of life insurance plans can substantially reinforce the employee centric initiatives of all companies, whether large or small. We are proud to be chosen as the insurer of choice for employees of Yoma Bank, which is widely considered to be amongst the best companies to work for in Myanmar. Prudential Myanmar is committed to offering products and services that will add to the existing employee welfare initiatives of corporates in Myanmar as well as help them attract and retain their talents."

In March 2020, Prudential Myanmar and Yoma Bank signed a memorandum of understanding to establish an exclusive partnership to distribute life insurance solutions to customers in Myanmar, helping them meet their growing long-term protection needs. Under the partnership, it is envisaged that customers of Yoma Bank will have access to Prudential Myanmar's savings and protection products via the bank's extensive branch network.

With Prudential Myanmar's significant investments in cutting-edge technology, combined with the nation-wide reach and market expertise of Yoma Bank, the partnership has the potential to create a truly digital, inclusive financial ecosystem through which Prudential Myanmar's suite of solutions will be distributed.



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Yoma Bank PRUGroup Life_Credit to Prudential Myanmar(1)



File photo shows team Myanmar (red) playing against team Japan (dark blue) during their World Cup Qualifiers at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 10 September, 2019. **PHOTO: MFF**

World Cup Qualifiers: Myanmar team's matches to be held in October

DUE to the better conditions of the global pandemic COVID-19, World Cup Qualifiers will start again in October, according to the official statement with the Myanmar Football Federation yesterday. MFF has stated that football authorities from Asian Football Confederation contacted the MFF for the Myanmar team matches of the World Cup Qualifiers to be held in October and November.

Away match of Myanmar vs Japan will be played on 8 October, 2020 and Myanmar vs Kyrgyzstan

match will be played on 13 October 2020 at the Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.

Myanmar will play another away match against Tajikistan team on 17 November 2020.

International football matches and other international sports tournaments were postponed over two months period due to the global pandemic but football officials are now arranging for holding the tournaments again with strict conditions according to the betterment of the pandemic condition.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Solskjaer encouraged by return of ManUtd 'edge'

LONDON – Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer is confident his side will hit the ground running when the Premier League resumes later this month.

The English top-flight will be back in action in two weeks after several months of coronavirus-enforced inactivity. United are set to resume the season away to Tottenham Hotspur on June 19 -- their first match since beating LASK 5-0 in the Europa League on March 12.

That victory in Austria extended United's unbeaten run to 11 matches and Solskjaer is in no doubt as to what his side must do to be ready as they continue their quest for a place in next season's Champions League.

"The first game is two weeks from today so we need to step up the training and get an edge to our game again," Solskjaer told United's website on Friday.

"Everyone knows that we

will have to be at our best, have to be focused (against Tottenham).

"We know it's a big game for everyone. We had Chelsea when we started the league this season so I'm confident that our players can go into the Tottenham game with that mentality of going there to play a very good game of football." Following the Spurs match, United face fellow European hopefuls Sheffield United at Old Trafford on June 24 before travelling to Brighton on June 30 -- after an FA Cup quarter-final at Norwich on June 27.

Former United striker Solskjaer said, however, his squad had been preparing for a congested fixture schedule.

"Training has been about recapping what we did well, tweaking maybe one or two things and looking at some new ideas, but hopefully we can see a lot of what we saw towards the end before the lockdown.—AFP ■

Bundesliga coaches call for easing of health regulations

BERLIN — Bundesliga coaches have called for some easing of the league's strict hygiene regulations, citing the general improvement of the coronavirus situation in the country.

Coaches and substitutes have to follow social-distancing guidelines and wear masks while on the bench and players are not allowed to hug each other during goal celebrations.

Germany has been easing its lockdown restrictions in the weeks since the Bundesliga restarted in mid-May.

"It's become difficult to understand why people can again have their cappuccino in a cafe without wearing a mask, while the substitutes and us directors in the stands are forced to keep our distance while outdoors and wearing a mask," said Bayer



Leverkusen boss Bosz has called for health regulations to be eased in Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

Leverkusen sporting director Rudi Voller. There has not been a positive case for COVID-19 in the Bundesliga since the resump-

tion, but teams are still subject to stringent rules regarding social distancing in hotels and in stadiums.—AFP ■

Djokovic worried by 'extreme, impossible' US Open health restrictions

BELGRADE — World number one Novak Djokovic described the strict hygiene restrictions under which the US Open is likely to be played as "extreme" and a cap on support teams as "really impossible" on Friday.

As doubts grow over whether or not the Grand Slam event can go ahead as scheduled in New York, the epicentre of the coronavirus outbreak in the United States, Djokovic admitted the demands of organizers

could create severe strain.

"Just yesterday I had a telephone conversation with the leaders of world tennis, there were talks about the continuation of the season, mostly about the US Open due in late August, but it is not known whether it will be held," the 33-year-old Serb told Prva TV television and quoted by Blic online daily.

"The rules that they told us that we would have to respect to be there, to play at all, they are

extreme."

Djokovic, champion at the US Open in 2011, 2015 and 2018, described planned limits on player entourages as "really impossible".

"We would not have access to Manhattan, we would have to sleep in hotels at the airport, to be tested twice or three times per week.

"Also, we could bring one person to the club which is really impossible.—AFP ■



Confident - Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer. **PHOTO: AFP**

The Contributions of Technology in the Sector of Education

SINCE the advent of technology, which is around the late twentieth century, it has been diffusing in almost every part of people's lives, from social affairs through economy to education. The idea of incorporating technology into education has also been accounted conducive to a more effective teaching and learning process.

The central role that technology plays in the education sectors has been growing important over the past decades. Technology is defined in the Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary as the study and knowledge of the practical, especially industrial, use of scientific discoveries. Despite a great many genres of technology, the most connoted components that will typically make up its general meaning may include computer, internet, social networks, websites, animated videos, some gadgets like Bluetooth devices, Mp3/ Mp4 players, mobile phones, iPads, and so on. The installation of internet networks has recently become essential for inner-and-inter-institutional data transfer; with an access to strong internet, it is possible to convey the necessary information within or from one institution to another - instantly. As suggested by the definition, it is obvious that these technology-based devices are, nowadays, of practical uses not only in studying but also in knowledge-providing industries.

It takes a considerable number of reasons to acknowledge that the employment of technology in language teaching brings about some positive results for the learners. With recourse to technology-based materials, there will probably be a certain degree of sound effect on the students' affective filters, especially on the primary school students. For example, a psychological study found out that the students' attention can only last at most 20 minutes, beyond which they may somehow undergo body movements, looking away, or talking, each demonstrating their distractions. In such situations, the teacher should be able to switch to some other computer-based activities like learning from animated videos or miming to a nursery song so that they will find learning enjoyable and can employ a different sense or channel to acquire the target skills or messages. Also, such high-tech materials as overhead projectors, laptops, smartboards, smart tables, tablets, digital textbooks, cameras, and even mobile phones and certain apps cannot be separated from the university life given that they can undeniably make the educational processes smarter. Some researchers have proved that the technology-assisted teaching can be said to encourage motivation, participation, interest, and autonomy, all combining to form 'student engagement' - which is proposed by the Flow theory to be essential for successful learning.

Moreover, the contribution of technology is not restricted only to the easy operations of in-class processes. It goes without saying that the extent of its use outside the classrooms is also remarkably high, for example, in the case of submitting homework assignments online, taking online certificate or degree courses, and so on. Furthermore, the social networks and websites have catered to people's love for knowledge of arts and sciences regarding various disciplines for their academic or professional purposes through free online video

SEE PAGE-S-8



By Thu Naung Kyaw
(Hledan)
Dip. in English (YUFL)



An Instructor?



By Edu Lin
B.Ed, S.I.O.E

All of us understand the number of effects and consequences of the current worldwide crisis called COVID 19. It contributes us numerous unwanted gifts. Although we are still fighting against it resolutely now, it is at its peak in some regions of the world. We can see somewhat conveniences in some countries but we dare not reduce our mindfulness yet. If we have taken the lessons it gave us, all human beings including us will survive for long, which was highlighted by Charles Darwin, a world famous biologist, who shared his knowledge about 'Survival of the existence and Selecting the fittest in nature'.

We can see the Corona Virus as an evil thing as well as a guide who leads us how to survive in the future. The followings are some of its instructions to our humanity.

The virus warns us that we all are but one, regardless of our customs and traditions, our religious faiths, our professions and ranks, our wealth, our poverty, our fame,

It treats us equally. So we all should treat ourselves equally.

The virus also reveals to us that we all are related to one another: the effect affected upon one can also affect another. As it does not need 'passport' and 'visa', it warns us again that our boundary or borderline we have strongly built are not very important. Its pressure is felt widely within a short while. As a result, it arouses our sympathy for the ones who are trying to survive under certain pressures.

Indicating to us how important health is, the virus also admonishes us that we have neglected about our health, consuming the drinking water that contains toxic or chemical substances and the food that contains low nutritious value. It points out to us that the life of man is just short and we need to help one another, especially the aged and the sick. Besides, buying tissue paper and masks is not an important one. It tells us our society values only the physical materials and properties and when it is really neces-

sary, just food, medicines, and water are the essential important things. Therefore, we are far away from the essential things apart from the ones that we value.

The virus says how we have ignored our family lives which are important so we need to stay home and reconstruct our family unity and warmth. It teaches us what we really work and earn is to look after and bring benefits to one another. It also makes us contemplate over our ego and pride. No matter how powerful we are, we cannot stop the world but the virus can. What is more, the choice is just in our hands. It will be our choice whether we collaborate and cooperate with one another and share our possessions instead of storing them selfishly. In fact, our difficulties bring our invisible characteristics out in the sun.

In history, a situation like this has occurred in the world many times. Therefore, should we be patient or should we go panic? Don't you think everything will soon be fine? Don't you think it

would bring just disadvantages to the world through panics? The Virus can be an 'Endpoint' as well as a 'Starting point'. It's time we contemplated over our work and took important lessons. Otherwise, it can be the starting point of a circle going round and round until we get serious lessons.

The world is at risk. It is necessary for us to take notice of the rate of deforestation like checking the sale rate of commodities on the display shelves. If the world is sick, we are sick. After dark, there will be light. In reality, life is like a circle and now is the step we have to overcome. No need to be panic-stricken. Things will pass when time is due. Most people will view the Coronavirus as an immense destructive element. But, from my point of view, the virus is an instructor whose job is to remedy our great mistake. It has been sent to us as a warning not to forget the important lessons to be taken, I suppose. Learning the salutary lessons or not depends upon our decision.

■



Should't we build up a society free from **biased judgements?**



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

DEAR readers, have you ever labelled towards the others in the society? To be frank, I, myself used to put on wear sunglasses and outlook the other's actual true self and make my own biased judgements. Let's omit the society for a moment, if the readers oversee for the world, many countries, which many nationalities of different cultures belong to, exist. If so, these many people are driven by diverse cultures, lifestyles, religions, aren't they? How are we attempting not to make biased judgements towards them with the fact that they have different ideologies, ways of thinking, traits, cultures, physical features, values? Do

we have remedial measures for that?

In my perspective, every human are born to be different. Even between the family members, each person's values, passions, philosophies cannot be the same, and this differences should not the birthplace of biased conclusions towards one another. So, favoritism should not be existed between the people who share the same thoughts, and the same careers. It is important for people to instill the sense of valuing people who is a different version of you to make the society a happy place. If everyone has got that sense, the society can be alright.

Another is people tend to have prompt assumption before knowing a person well. The reason is people are automat-

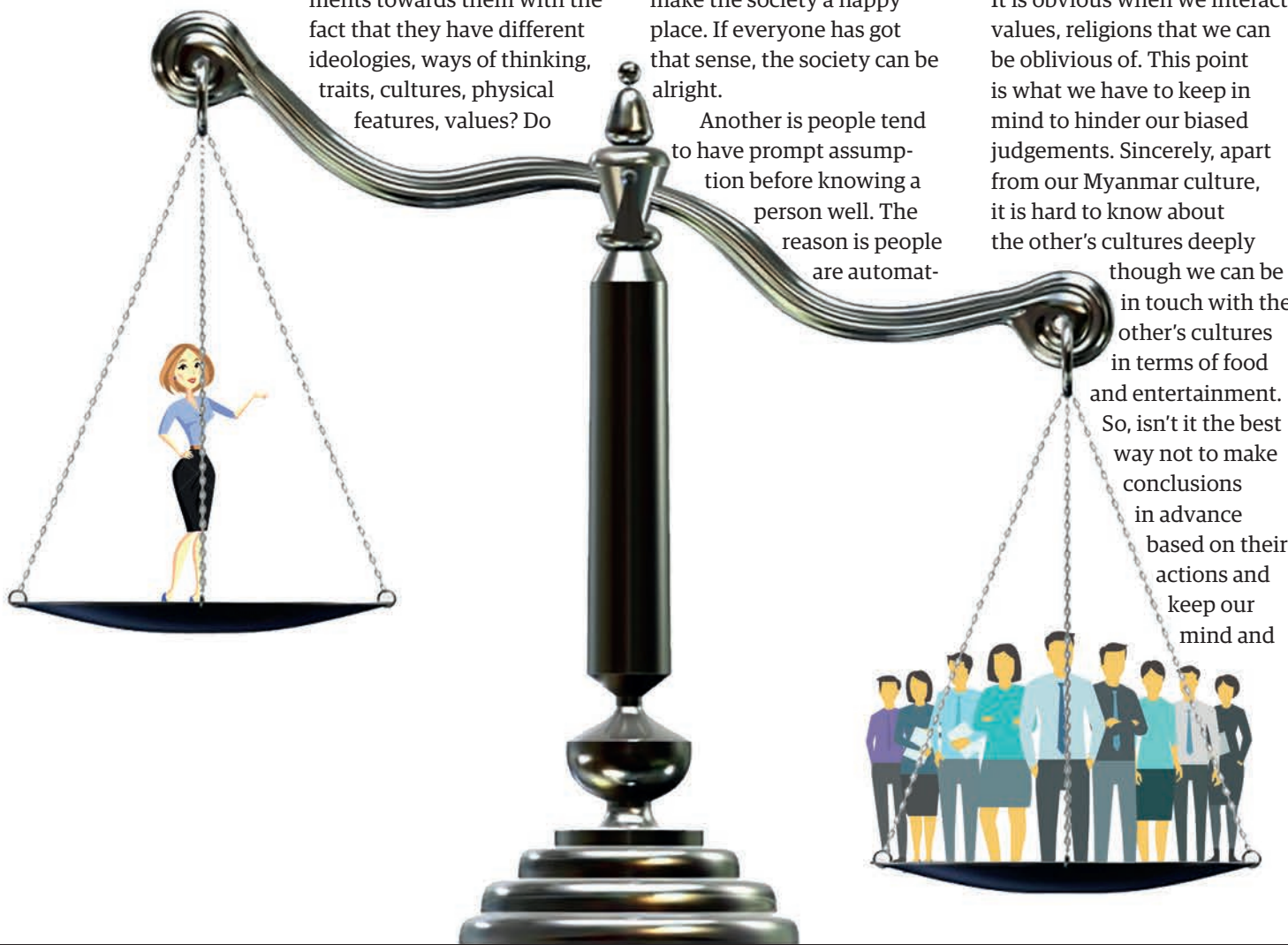
ically eager to make judgements on some groups with the information they have accumulated within the society. Due to human nature, it is not strange that myriads of words and rumours spread from one another within a society. For example, in our society, people tend to think that stepmom and stepdad can never be good towards the children, however, at least, shouldn't we give them a chance to show their true self? At least, every stepmom and stepdad cannot be evil ones.

Sometimes actions cannot explain a man's deeds. It is obvious when we interact values, religions that we can be oblivious of. This point is what we have to keep in mind to hinder our biased judgements. Sincerely, apart from our Myanmar culture, it is hard to know about the other's cultures deeply though we can be in touch with the other's cultures in terms of food and entertainment. So, isn't it the best way not to make conclusions in advance based on their actions and keep our mind and

thinking open?

I am sure that as long as the people in the society wear the sunglasses, the stereotypical judgements are not sure to be eroded as the people cannot see that the people are born differently, every person has own capabilities, every group should complement each other, and create the society avoid of biases. In the society, every human is in trace of success, wealth, health, thus on every man's route, isn't it good not to make any biased judgements?

Biased judgements can virtually turn the society into chaos, break up the friendships, as well as can dim a person value. Regarding a person's passion, thoughts, only if they are free and different from the others, this person can be more destined to be successful. Nevertheless, some people in the society will judge you "Why your dream cannot be conventional like this and you are destined to confront the defeat?" What's more, when your thoughts start to evade from the group, the society will sometimes not hesitate to enlist you as the out group member. If so, as long as people make biased judgements towards the others, the society cannot be a fair and happy zone for all people. Thus, we should keep track of our words not to harm the others and erode biased judgements towards the others and keep our mind open to get along with someone who areL different with us.



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

AUTHENTIC LOCAL EXPERIENCE

CHIN STATE is rich with its culture and tribes, giving tourists ample opportunities to learn more about the unique place and its people. Visitors get to witness up-close the daily routines of the locals, like dressing up in traditional dresses, accessories and huge earrings, ploughing and harvesting paddy from the paddy fields, and joining them in fun festivals.

Tourists can also interact with the villagers to understand more about each ethnic group in Chin. The locals are more than willing to show their village to tourists, and will take them on a tour around the exotic area only known to the local people residing on the land.

Chin State sees potential for development of mithun (Gayals) cattle farming, tourism

By Kyaw Zeya

CHIN STATE, located in the north-western highland area is rich with its culture and hill tribes. Out to its difficult and mountainous terrain, Chin State is one of the poorest states in Myanmar with the least investment.

However, with its unspoiled forests, fertile soil and cool summer weather, Myanmar's

western Chin State is considered the "next opportunity" for tourism development, agriculture, livestock and electricity generation in the state.

The state is also the only region in the country that breeds mithun, also known as gayal, a semi-wild species of buffalo as livestock.

In terms of livestock, mithun are currently bred

using traditional methods in rural areas, so modern breeding techniques and facilities would boost production of another good source of meat.

At present, there were over 70,000 mithun in the state.

They are not like cows but with hanging necks and hairs have grown long enough to reach their ankles. Most of them are found grey in color; black

and white gayals are also found in bright colors. Gayals have generally four white legs below knees; gayals with hair on the belly are also found. If gayals are looked right in front, their triangular heads can be seen. The base of the horn is slightly flat with pump backbones in a strong tail at the base.

Called as Gayals in neighbouring India, they are termed as Sials by ethnic Chin nationals; they are usually bred for meat. They are naturally found between 3000 and 10,000 feet above sea level. They are found roaming in shady gorges in townships in Chin State, Khaunglanphu and Nagmon townships in Northern Kachin State and Leshi township in Sagaing Region.



LEGENDARY LAKE

FAMOUS for its resemblance to the shape of a heart, the Rih Lake is also known for turning into a reddish colour every December. The scenic lake is full of water all year long, providing visitors with ample opportunities to visit the lake at any time of the year. Located at the western part of the Falam Township, the lake is accessible by car and bus rides.

The lake is also famous for the legend of two sisters. After the death of her younger sister, the older sister, Rih-i brought her back to life. Rih-i transformed into a pool of water to quench her sister's thirst. She then roamed around as a mithun(ox) and, while searching for a safe place, settled in the present location, the Rih Lake.

In Chin State, the wealth of a family is measured by a number of mithun. Visitors are served with mithun meat in traditional festivals, social occasions of joy and grief. By assessing the value of mithun, wedding ceremonies and several kinds of compensations have been awarded up to this day. That might be the reason that the more mithun a man belongs, the wealthier he is regarded.

An adult mithun produces 100 to 150 viss. Chin ethnic people farm mithun with the free grazing system and about 4 acres of graze land is needed for a mithun.

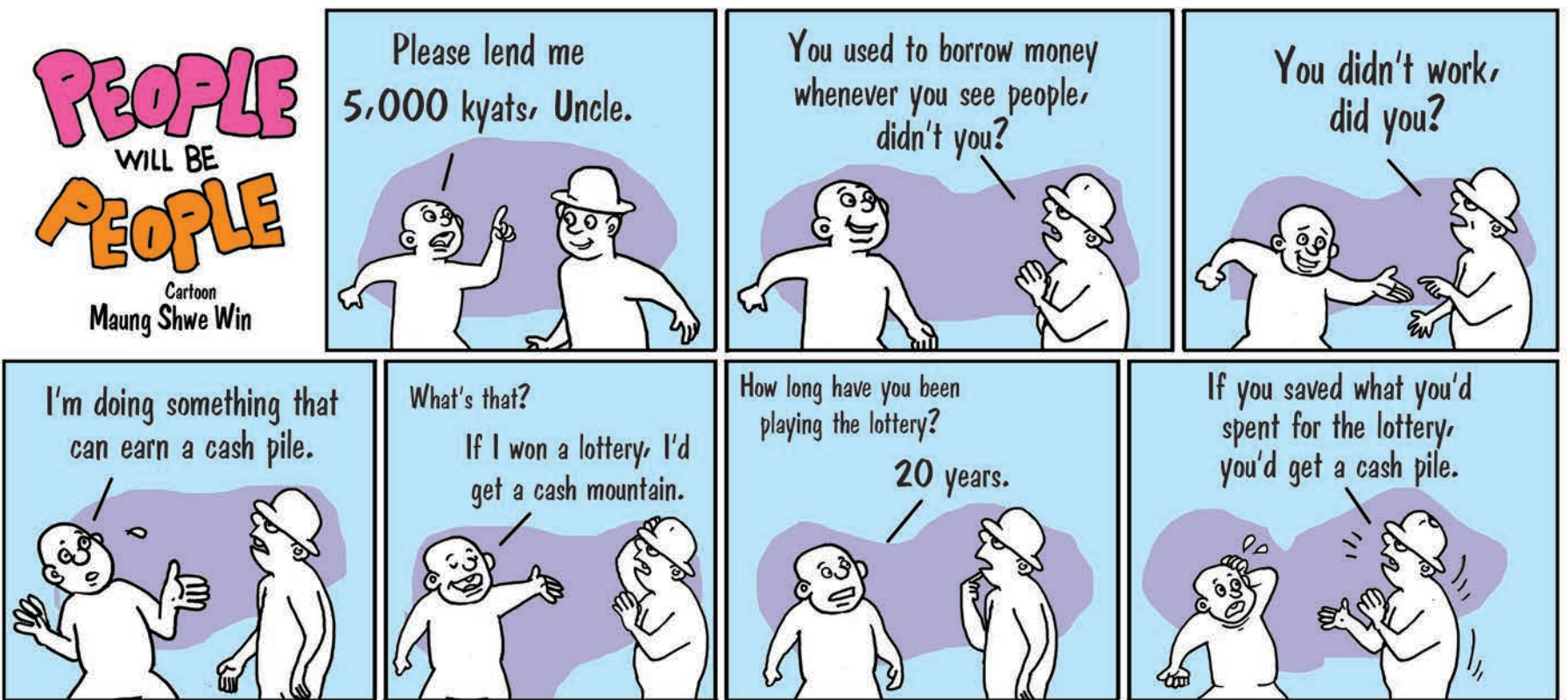
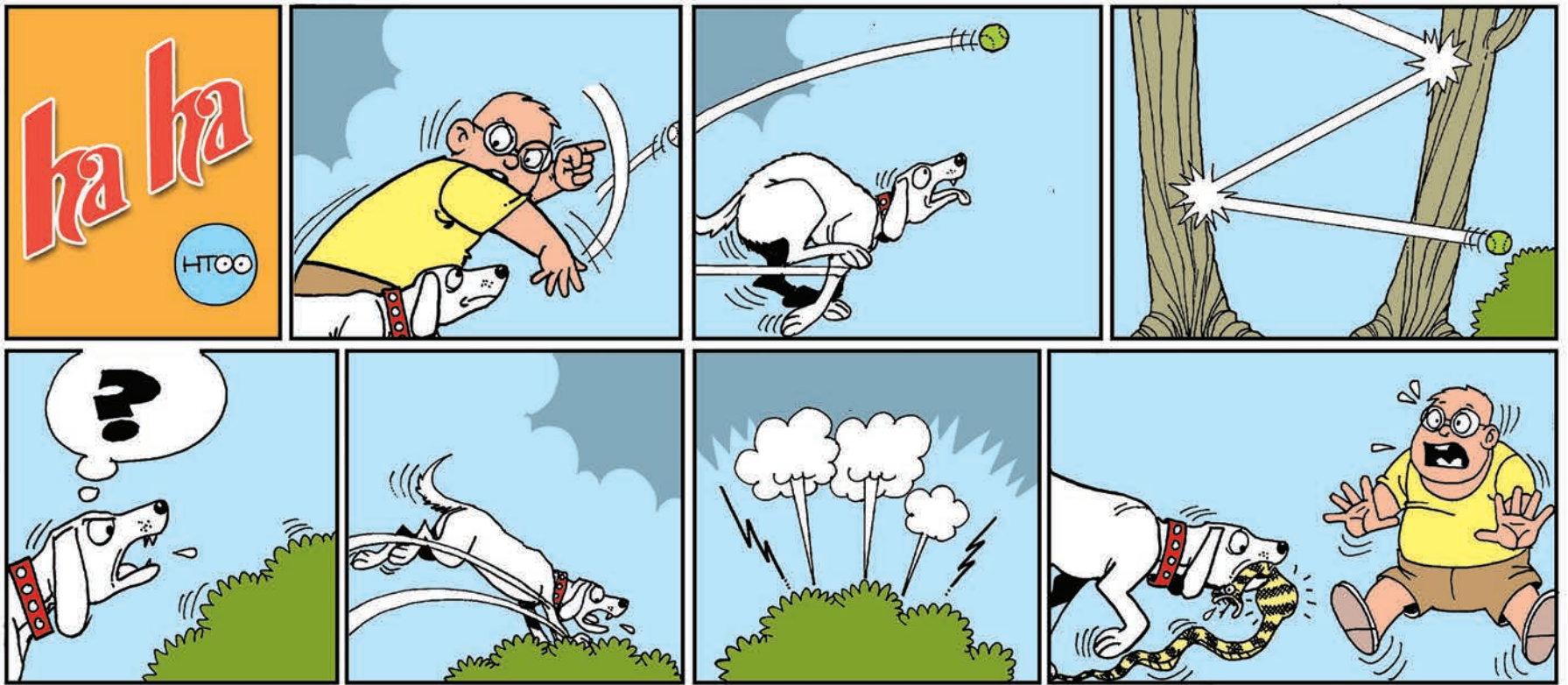
Due to the free grazing system, the cattle occasionally fall prey to the wildlife. Besides, the system has allowed the cattle to invade the agricultural plantation.

Experts has recommended to farm the mithun by the semi intensive system.

Today, a research farm on mithun is established on 100 acres in Mindat, Chin State, in efforts to develop meat production in Chin State.



SUNDAY COMICS



Messages from the Animal World

Hi! My name is Moggy, a Pomeranian kind of dog. I lived in MWEA Tower with my beloved masters, Dennis and his mom. He is 9 years old. He used to play with me before and after school since I have arrived here for 1 year.

Now I am alone in the kennel outside of the apartment. I don't know why at first and for about a week, I noticed that whenever Dennis stealthily comes near me, his mom shouts and reminds him about the COVID-19. I hate that COVID-19 which keeps pets and their master apart. Without the physical activity and getting outdoors, I have gained weight. The additional weight of the Coronavirus pandemic makes me lonely and unhealthy. What is more, the fleas started swimming on me and not to spread the fleas around the house, Dennis's mom gave me trimmed. At night I am so cold outside, missing Dennis and his warm hug. Now I am counting my days, I am going to die of loneliness and heartbreak. Humans are often cruel and do not realize that domesticated dogs like me, cats like Tin and Tan and other small animals, can feel a host of emotions similar to those experienced by people. Fear, pain, abandonment and longing are all things which we are capable of experiencing. I am still confused and sad about being left, removed from the only family that I have ever known.

Hello! We are Tin and Tan of Persian cats from Shwe Mya Yar Condominium. We sympathize with Moggy because we are abandoned, as well. Our owner doesn't seem to know the animal behaviour, including that of dogs and cats who can experience severe health impacts from abandonment. Although we are capable of using basic hunting skills, many of us have become less developed due to domestication. We, too, have gained weight and now Tin is starting shed hair because of the hot summer and he looks unhealthy. However, Moggy, there are many stray animals who are homeless and without food, and they are far worse than us. From the window, we saw many dogs and cats including some birds starving or suffering adverse health effects from malnutrition due to abandonment. Actually, pets looked after at home are highly unlikely to spread any disease. We want to tell our master



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

that we don't transmit the coronavirus. Please don't be afraid of us. They should realize that by abandoning us they put us at risk of death.

Hello! There, we are pigeons near the Shwedagon pagoda. We are commonly found in cities around parks, buildings, bridges, and any other structures. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, people hardly feed us because of the financial burden and lock-down everywhere. So we are left abandoned and starving. As you know, we are dependent on humans to provide us with food and nesting sites, when we are abandoned, we go nuts.

Hi! I am a crow. Before starting my history, I want to say 'thank you' to Coronavirus. Why? You might ask. Ok, do you know? Pigeons are clever to ask food and a kind of lazy pests to find food. They do not need trees for nesting, they need not to find high-protein food for their young, and they have an amazingly long breeding season. Moreover, they are filthy birds, causing disease and damage. Their droppings are known for triggering human slips and falls, as well as accelerating the aging of structures and statues. This makes it vital to get rid of pigeons in highly trafficked areas. Other pests may live on these birds, including fleas, lice, mites, ticks, and other pests. Me, the Crow is tree nester, we require trees to breed. So,



whatever the diseases, we are not that much affected. As they indulge in human's feeding, they misuse their activities of birds' habit. For living beings, status quo is Nature's law to practise.

Hi there! We are sorts of monkeys from Hlawga Wildlife Park. To limit the spread of the Coronavirus, visitors are restricted to go on a safari-style bus ride or an elephant ride through the park, hiking or bird watching. As usual, we long for visitors and we are in the habit of begging food from them. We are no longer interested in hunting and in searching of food ourselves. Long before the COVID-19, our leader reminds us several times that visitors come and confuse us and disrupt our natural way of living. This leads to habitat fragmentation and separate us from one another and from our food source. Now we are in chaos and hard to restart our old habits of being wild lives. Although we as well are skillful at hunting, many of

these skills have become faded and blunt due to being fed. Ok, whatever! 'How about other animals of different places?' asked our leader.

Hi! Everyone, on behalf of marine animals, I would like to share my experience of being a sea turtle. The temporary shutdown of activities due to the disease, as well as reduced traffic on the seas, give oceans her original breathing space to recover from pollution, overfishing and the impacts of climate change. The oceans are healthy now. How about air pollution?

Hey! Buddies. We are sparrows and tits. As there took place local outbreaks, the governments began to impose restrictions so as to slow the

spread of COVID-19. Measures have included limiting travel, stopping factory production and authorizing that people work remotely. With so many people working from home or sheltering in place, automobile emission is reduced. Air pollution has drastically decreased around the world during that pandemic. So our life is in situ; however, a bit change is that we have more opportunities to find food elsewhere, to make nests peacefully on the trees and no need to worry about bird-catchers to sell us back for the well-wishers to set us free.

However, be careful again, Bro and Sis. We all are worried that, as lockdown restrictions loosen and regular activity resumes, not only emissions will return, but also the pandemic levels continue to increase. Global virus spreading rates are still on the rise if people cannot stand social distancing and home-stay.



MYANMAR, A lovely Village

In the eastern part of Myanmar as a Ywa
There's pleasant music mixed with drama.
Shan Ozi and Kayin Doun Yein advanced
Kayah Keinnari and Mon Hintha dance.
Lo and behold, the part of western
The songs of Rakhine and Chin overwhelm,
You can hear the laughter
This is the Village, Myanmar.
It you travel towards the upper lands,
You'll see the lovely Kachin and Naga clans
From remote Khaung-Lan-Phoo to the delta.
The Ayeyawaddy will tell you about
Myanmar's ever-flowing veins
Flowing from the hills to the plain;
With a rich variety of fruits and snacks you will
be entertained.
All the jewels and gems are attractive,
For Myanmar is the Golden Land where we live.
Seeing Bagan, the world's heritage,
They say it's the heart of Myanmar image,
Seeing the pagoda and arts of culture
You may mistake this village with the fairy land in
wonder,
O! our beloved friends,
Tell the world about our land.
We, all the natives welcome you
From where love and peace we value.

By U Thein Aye



FROM PAGE-S-1

lessons, especially on Facebook and YouTube. They can also do "blended learning, which combines face-to-face instruction with online-based learning" (Richards 2017, 253). It is good for those who are too busy to commute to the courses; they can learn as the "deck-chair learners" with much comfort at their convenience without the need to leave home.

Additionally, the year 2020 has been the period in which the integration of technology into teaching and learning is a must, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 the pandemic, affecting the regular operational processes of schools, colleges and universities worldwide. It is said by BBC that with the need for social-distancing in order to prevent the candidates from being touched by the plague, Cambridge University has announced the delivering of all lectures online only until the summer of 2021.

As far as I am concerned, the scope of education should also be extended to raising the public awareness of what is happening to the contemporary world, apart from the class-directed instructions. So it is undeniable that the benefit of technology in education is particularly evident during the outbreak of COVID-19. For instance, there have been a lot of TV programs and online videos educating people about the precautions against the plague. They do assist a prompt distribution of reliable information, issued by the relevant healthcare organizations, to every nook and corner of the world. But for these high-tech inventions, these preventive tips would not have reached for them in time; then, it stands to reason that the death toll could have been by far higher than now. And, during these days when social-distancing is a must for everyone, there are some knowledge-seekers who find it worth spending their time educating themselves in different subjects available online.

In a nutshell, the conducive support of technology for the betterment of education is remarkable at the different educational strata. Last but not least, it will henceforward remain an essential asset for the nation-wide or worldwide raising of public awareness as one of the aspects of education to date, and the better future will even see more technology-based investments for greater progress in both processes.



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**