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Sunday, 21 June 2020

May you all be able to overcome by working together strenuously for the country not only for COVID but for all other challenges that you might have to encounter: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor wrote on her Facebook page yesterday that she wished everyone would be able to overcome by working together strenuously for the country not only for COVID but for all other challenges that they might have to encounter. This was what she wrote:

Although I keep reminding again and again, it is not surprising that there might be some who might turn a deaf ear to my words. Among such people, there might be some who might have been deeply shocked by 19 June news that 23 new COVID positive cases have been found. I hope that instead of feeling troubled with anxiety, they would take this as a lesson.

Just as I have presented to the people a few days ago, we have been able to over-

come the first COVID wave by following the rules laid down by the Ministry of Health. We need to prepare ourselves to overcome bigger challenges.

These new cases are

this as an opportunity to learn. We must remember to be on our guard. We must not turn our backs on rules. We haven't won our battle against COVID. We are still fighting an offen-

I was encouraged and energized on my birthday by the voices of my supporters who were helping me in many ways for the fulfilment of my wish. I am also grateful.

people who came back from foreign countries but never had to live according to the necessary rules for protection against the disease. I don't wish to heap blame on anyone; rather I wish all to remember

sive battle against COVID so that it doesn't defeat us.

It is a lesson that life has taught us that just as there may be people who are easy to teach, there are also those who are difficult to teach. On

19 June I became 75 years old and thus I have experienced quite a large number of life lessons. Everyone can change to become better if there is a will.

I want our people to strive hard to become people with exemplary spiritual strength and will power. This is not my birthday wish but my wish for every day. I was encouraged and energized on my birthday by the voices of my supporters who were helping me in many ways for the fulfilment of my wish. I am also grateful. If I begin to tell you about how much I feel grateful, it would never end.

May you all be able to overcome by working together strenuously for the country not only for COVID but for all other challenges that you might have to encounter! ■

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

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One more COVID -19 case on 20 June, total figure reaches 287

MYANMAR COVID-19 figure reached 287 after one more case, who returned from Thailand, was reported on 20 June,

according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Out of the 287 confirmed cases, six

died, 196 have recovered and 177 have been discharged from hospitals. — MNA

(Translated by TTN)

MYANMAR FIRST WIND GAME FLYING FOR FUN



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“People are the key”



Union Minister U Ohn Win observes jades and gem stones displaying in the showcase at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

NREC Union Minister inspects register office for gem merchants

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win inspected the building to accept the registration of gem merchants and guests, who will come to the Myanmar Gems Emporium, near Mani Yadana Jade Hall and next to Jade Garden in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise and in-charge of the building accompanied the Union Minister at the building.

The Union Minister looked around the car parking and security buildings, and instruct-

ed the officials to plant shady trees and keep the Jade Garden clean.

He also said to make social distancing marks and put hand gel bottles at the places where gems will be displayed to prevent from COVID-19.

He instructed the staff to wear face masks, face shields and disposal gloves, and to systematically prepare the gems shops at the ground floor in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Myanmar seamen from Britain brought back home by special flight

A total of 250 Myanmar citizens—249 seamen onboard the cruise ships of the Global Cruise Line, Royal Caribbean Cruise Line, Carnival Cruise Line in harbours of Briatnain and Panama and a Buddhist monk — was brought back on a relief flight of Qatar Airways to the Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working in line with guidelines set by the National Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and cooperating with relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies abroad to repatriate Myanmar citizens stranded due to COV-

ID-19.

The returnees were given proper medical examination and quarantine for 21 days as organized by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government.

Next, another 250 Myanmar citizens and seamen already arrived in Britain will also be repatriated to Myanmar by Qatar Airways with arrangements of the Cruise Line Companies and Myanmar Embassy in London on 22 June, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Myanmar citizens and seafarers queuing for their immigration process at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

COVID-19 supplies reach four IDP camps in Sittway

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in cooperation with related departments and organizations, carried out prevention, control and response actions against COVID-19 at the IDP camps in Rakhine State.

The ministry's officials provided a total of 20,541 soap bars to four IDP camps in Sittway Township in Rakhine State

yesterday.

The ministry is not only continuously implementing control and response actions against COVID-19 but also organizing educative programmes, awareness activities and moral supports in all regions and states including Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



An official providing the medical supplies to the internally displaced person in Sittway yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe inspects MoHS's departments in Mandalay

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe inspected the Public Health Laboratory, the University of Nursing, and Central Medical Storages Depot in Mandalay yesterday.

The Union Minister first visited the Public Health Laboratory where testing of COVID-19, other viruses, and bacteria are conducted.

During the meeting with the laboratory's officials, Deputy Director of the Public Health Laboratory Department Dr May Wint Wah said the laboratory department was established in 1969, testing viruses and bacteria including Tuberculosis (TB), HIV/AIDS and measles.

Officials are trying to get the laboratory accredited by World Health Organization (WHO) for measles testing.

The laboratory has been testing COVID-19 samples since 1 June 2020. Fund Raising Committee for Mandalay Urban Development and well-wishers provided assistances including laboratory equipment for COVID-19 sample testing, she added.

She also reported on the conditions of laboratory, staff, and other requirements.

Deputy Director-General (Laboratory) Prof Dr Htay Htay Tin says the Mandalay laboratory is now testing COVID-19 samples from Mandalay and Sagaing regions and northern Shan State and also preparing for testing COVID-19 samples from Kachin and Chin states.

She added that COVID-19 testing in Taunggyi will be carried out, with the donation from Wai Aung Kabar Gem Company, at the Public Health Laboratory Department (Taunggyi) starting from early July.



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe and officials inspect the workflow of the Ministry of Health and Sports departments in Mandalay via CCTV. PHOTO:MNA

U Kyaw Kyaw Win from Fund Raising Committee for Mandalay Urban Development says a new two-storey building at the Mandalay Public Health Laboratory was being constructed with the use of K 800 million from the committee's fund. The Union Minister expressed thanks to the officials, staff and donors for their efforts and contributions.

He added that upgrading laboratories is very helpful not only for COVID-19 but also for other public health problems, will enhance public health producers, and are beneficial for medical treatment processes by testing with more accuracy.

More capacity-building trainings for laboratory experts, refresher courses for them, and more laboratory research will also be conducted, he added.

He continued that there are the ministry's funds for conducting researches and then coordinated over requirements.

He also inspected the place where the laboratory's two-storey building will be constructed.

The Union Minister, accompanied by Director-General of Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Soe Oo, Deputy Director-General (Academic) Dr Tin Tun, Mandalay Region Public Health and Medical Services Department's head Dr Than Than Myint and officials, went to the University of Nursing (Mandalay), and met the university's rector and lecturers.

Rector Professor Dr Khin Win Sein of the University of Nursing, Mandalay, reported on the university's brief background, staff population, lecture buildings, students' hostels, library, and other buildings matters.

She detailed the teaching and learning processes, formation of the departments, formation of new departments, conducting eight kinds of nursing diploma courses, and opening two new nursing diploma courses.

An IRB was formed in 2017, conducting researches, and arrangements for the tasks that will be implemented when the

university are open were also discussed.

The Union Minister expressed thanks to the university's rector, lecturers, and officials for their efforts for the university's all-round development.

He adds that developments of nursing and midwifery are the ministry's priority.

The curriculum that is used at the universities at present is a world-standard one and drawn in cooperation with WHO. If it is needed to be refreshed, the chapters that will be in line with our country will be added, he further said.

The ministry allocated K6,000 million from research funds from 2016 to 2019-2020FY, and planned to allocate K3,000 million for 2020-2021FY.

He urged the nurses to conduct more researches and attend capacity building training on research.

In this FY, the ministry will provide teaching aids and other materials for universities after allocating more budgets for De-

partment of Human Resources for Health.

He also urged the officials from nursing universities in Yangon and Mandalay and midwifery schools to organize regular meetings via videoconference, and use modern information and communications technologies (ICT). Department of Human Resources for Health's Deputy Director-General (Academic) Dr Tin Tun, Director (Nursing) Daw Htay Htay Hlaing, and the university's lecturers discussed the university's all-round developments.

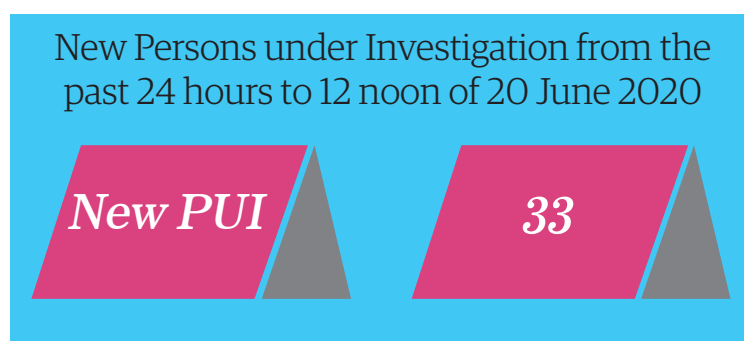
In the evening, the Union Minister, accompanied by Deputy Director-General Dr Win Naing and officials, visited Central Medical Stores Depots (Mandalay), and inspected the storages of medicines and medical equipment.

He instructed the officials to systematically store and distribute the medicines and medical equipment and coordinated over the requirements.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

One more case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 20 June, total figure reaches 287

Updated at 8 pm, 20 June 2020



One more case of COVID-19 on 20 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
287	39	Female	Paung Township, Mon State	No	Yes, Thailand	People's Hospital, Mawlamyine Township	Positive	Held under quarantine (Mawlamyine)

DG of Ministry of State Counsellor Office meets press

DIRECTOR-General of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor U Zaw Htay met the internal and external media in accord with the social distancing procedures at the Press Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 19 June, and explained the current situation.

At the press conference, the DG said first that he would explain the aid programme for the grassroots with no regular income. For the first time five kinds of basic food items worth K50 billion were distributed to four million households in the whole country during the period from 10 to 19 April before and during the Thingyan holidays. The distribution programme began in regions and states on 10 April and completed in the whole country on 19 April.

A review of the programme shows that Magway Region and Kayah State were the quickest in distributing the five items of basic food; that the two had fully completed the programme within four days; and that the slowest were Chin State and Sagaing Region which took 10 days to complete the programme. The review also indicates that although the area of Kayah was small, that of the Magway Region is large. The whole process from the collection of the list to distribution in Magway Region was reassessed. Chin State has places where transport is poor, so, there are difficulties in transporting food. So officials made a review of the programme, and sought better means for the next programme, he said.

The first point the review has indicated is that there might be families who were not included in the list for certain reasons because of the time limit in the collection process; and the second point is that there were returnees from neighbouring countries who could be missed out. So, a second programme was arranged to provide food items to the families who were missed out for certain reasons. According to the count, the number of missed-out families is 1.4 million, and an order has already been made to directly hand over K15,000 per family, the DG explained.

Various criticisms surfaced at the basic level during the first distribution programme, as some were not included in the programme for various reasons. Some officials started to consider the direct distribution system as the best way, and the officials have instructed to present



Director-General U Zaw Htay meets with the journalists in line with social distancing procedures at the Press Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

K15,000 per family, and the programme is underway, he noted.

Moreover, an instruction has already been given to present K20,000 per family to over 5.4 million households including those who were not included in the first programme and those who had received the five kinds of basic food items. So, the programme will be carried out. This time the mobile phone numbers of the listed households were also recorded to make mobile payments. As such programmes are available, discussions were held to know the right system for the right place. Three townships have been chosen for the pilot project before the start of the programme in the entire country. They are Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region and Kalaw Township in Shan State, and the mobile payment system will be conducted there. As for the remaining places, the system of distributing through the administrative machinery will be applied. The system is conducted under the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP). The experience in collecting the previous list in April shows occurrence of disputes on the categorization system. So, time is being taken to ensure satisfaction for all stakeholders, Director-General U Zaw Htay explained.

Then the DG answered the questions asked by internal and external media persons about the legal action taken against Dr Aye Maung, the involvement of heads of the departments in Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, the ICJ interim report, the control of the administrative machinery of Rakhine State, the repayment demand made by Daw Khin Sanda Win, wife of U Aye Zaw Win, for what

would be the receivables, according to her, from MPT, the matter of whether the President and the State Counsellor will stand for the 2020 election, the action taken against the senior officials of the Myanmar Police Force, the resignation of the high court judge of Mandalay Region, the financial provision programme for workers earning a bare living, without having any regular income, action taken against senior police officers in connection with the case of Victoria, the allotment of land for Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and the leaders of the State and Union level officials, the dialogue between the Government and the Northern Alliance, the control measures against the people entering the country from Bangladesh, and the matter of returnees from China, Thailand and Malaysia.

As regards the case of Dr Aye Maung, the DG said he had read articles about the case. Dr Aye Maung has faced legal action not for criticizing the

The expression of criticism against the Government is not a legal problem. But all must notice the articles that are concerned with the act of harming the interest of the State and the people. He was revoked from MP and barred for taking part in any future election under the relevant parliamentary laws and rules. The Union Election Commission has acted in accordance with the legal provisions. There would be no remarks as the parliamentary laws and rules have no direct relations with the administrative sector. It is obvious that the legal action was not taken against for criticizing the Government. A comprehensive understanding of the matter as required as his misdeeds amount to high treason and harming interest of the State and the people, he added.

As regards the allotment of land for Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and the leaders of the State and Union level officials, U Zaw Htay said the matter of issuing land permit for the Layaung-

An instruction has already been given to present K20,000 per family to over 5.4 million households including those who were not included in the first programme and those who had received the five kinds of basic food items.

Government or standing as an opposition figure. There is some misunderstanding of the case. The articles he was taken action under should be reviewed. He was taken action under the article 122 of the penal code for high treason, and the other case is under the article 505(b) of the penal code for causing fear or alarm to the public.

daw project of Daw Khin Kyi Foundation has already been explained in detail at the press meet held by the Nay Pyi Taw Development Council, the body that is mainly concerned with the issue, at the Ministry of Information. In four townships of Nay Pyi Taw end with the word "Thiri" in their names, land was allotted to 24 NGOs at the price

of K5 million per acre. Two acres of land were allotted to Yangon City Development Committee, 1.5 acres to Myanmar Fisheries Federation, 1.5 acres to Myanmar Livestock Federation, over five acres to Fisheries Association, nearly two acres to Mandalay City Development Committee, six acres to UMFCCI, 2.5 acres to Myanmar Medical Association, and Myanmar Dental Surgeons Association, Myanmar Computer Federation, Myanmar Midwives Association, Myanmar Traditional Practitioners Association, Myanmar Timber Entrepreneurs Association, Myanmar Women and Children Development Foundation, Pobbathiri Township War Veterans Office, Ottarathiri War Veterans Organizing Committee Office, Daw Khin Kyi Foundation, rural vocational education camp, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Central), (Central) War Veterans Headquarters, Myanmar Red Cross Society (HQ), Township War Veterans Supervisory Committee, Red Cross brigade office, Myanmar Physically Handicapped Association (Central), Myat Cetana Foundation, Nay Oke Education Foundation, Myanmar Anti-Narcotics Association Office, Myanmar-China Friendship Association Office, Myanmar Engineering Council (Nay Pyi Taw branch), Union Solidarity and Development Party HQ, USDP Office, Myanmar War Veterans Organization, All Myanmar Motherless Child Care, at a price of K5 million per acre.

Moreover, land was allotted in view of the security of the important departments in Nay Pyi Taw in connection with the proposed location and land use. Officials of Nay Pyi Taw Development Council have already answered that scrutinization will be based on the mission, project, location, potential benefits for the State and the people of the proposals in allotting land for new NGOs, the DG explained.

A lot of disinformation was found in the matter concerning the allotment of land for Union level officials and Union ministers. It is true that land was allotted. But in social media the measurement of a plot is stated as 700-foot by 500-foot which will be about eight acres. So, the intention of giving false and exaggerated information is clear in this matter. It is a disinformation campaign as the 2020 election is drawing nearer, he said.

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330 enterprises receive coronavirus soft loans in Mandalay

OUT of a total of 417 enterprises applying for the coronavirus soft loans, only 330 enterprises are qualified for funding in Mandalay Region, according to the Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI).

The government allocated K49.116 billion from coronavirus fund for the sixth time to the pandemic-impacted enterprises.

The enterprises have applied for soft loans through Mandalay MRCCI. A total of 330 enterprises have been granted the loans with 86 enterprises in the fourth time, 30 enterprises in the fifth time and 214 enter-

prises in the sixth time, said U Kyaw Soe Naing, an executive of the MRCCI in Mandalay Region.

A total of 417 enterprises have applied for the soft loan in Mandalay Region. Currently, a total of 330 enterprises have been granted loans for the sixth time. The loan granting letters are received with the seals closed. We are not sure how much they received. The enterprises have to come and take the granting letters at the MRCCI office in Mandalay Region at 2 pm on 22 June, he added.

The enterprises including hotels, rice mills and gem sectors are from Mandalay, Bagan,

Nyaung-U, PyinOoLwin townships. With the sectors of the businesses different, the loan amounts are also different and they have to withdraw through government banks. The duration of the loan period is only one year with one per cent interest.

The government provided K100 billions of coronavirus fund to the CMP, hotels and tourism and SME sectors.

A total of 4,259 companies and entrepreneurs have applied for the coronavirus soft loans from across the country. The government allocated K86.6669 billion to 3,094 companies and enterprises with 85 for the first



Officials from MRCCI giving service to a woman for coronavirus soft loan processes. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)**

time, 113 for the second time, 111 for the third time, 417 for the fourth time, 290 for the fifth

time and 2,078 for the sixth time. —Than Zaw Min (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar to export semi-processed mangoes on a trial basis to Malaysia

WITH the exporting of high-quality mangoes to foreign countries, Myanmar will export the semi-processed mangoes on a trial basis to Malaysia to be able

to prevent the mangoes from being waste, said Chairperson Daw Than Than Swe of Myanmar Mangoes Association.

“We have a high demand

for the dried mangoes. To export high-quality mangoes, we can find only one-tenth of the high-quality ones in a mango truck. If we can manufacture value-added mangoes from the remaining ones from the truck, the international market may be interested in our mango market,” she added.

The government also needs to provide some value-added production training. If we can manufacture the mango paste, the semi-processed mangoes and other value-added products, we can penetrate the international market, thereby saving the wasting of mango.

So, we are making the dried sheets of mango pulp domestically from almost rotten mangoes. Also, we are making the mango paste. Then, we are growing the mango seeds and sell them back.

The sheaths of the mango are also used as fertilizer, she said.

Although Myanmar is exporting the famous mangoes such as Shwehintha, Ma Chit Su and Padamyar Nga Mauk to the foreign countries, Seintalone species is one of the main export mango species. Myanmar needs to penetrate the international market by manufacturing value-added products from mango.

“Myanmar exports the mango paste. Singapore, Malaysia and Japan are using mango paste in making ice-cream and other snacks. Now, Myanmar is planning to export the semi-processed mangoes to Malaysia on a trial basis. The semi-processed mangoes are popular in foreign countries, said Daw Ohnmar Kyaw from NT Star Group. —Than Zaw Min (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Jams made from mangoes are popular snacks in Myanmar. **PHOTO: THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)**

8 hotels in Bagan granted to reopen

EIGHT hotels in Bagan region have reopened since 15 June because they already passed the inspection process and met with the criteria set by the Public Health Department, said an official from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism (DHT Bagan-branch).

To be able to resume the hotel operation, the regional government has issued the 57-point rules that the hotel owners must follow. At present, 22 hotels in

Bagan region have applied for reopening and are under inspection as to whether they abide by the 57-point rules or not. After being inspected, the inspection team submitted a report to the regional government for the latter to be able to grant resumption of the hotel operation. Now, only eight hotels have been permitted to resume their businesses.

The hotels in Mandalay Region were inspected for reopening at the end of May. The hotels

in Bagan and Mandalay need to undergo inspection in line with the health and workplace protocols announced by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, stated the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism. The inspection team was composed of the officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, the General Administra-

tion Department and Myanmar Hoteliers Association (Mandalay Zone). Then, the regional government grants permission to reopen. There are about 400 hotels, motels and guesthouses in Mandalay Region. However, the regional government shut down these hotels, motels and guesthouses and closed the tourist areas on 6 April to prevent further spreading of coronavirus pandemic.—Aye Maung ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Highway bus lines face loss during pandemic

HIGHWAY bus lines are losing during the pandemic period, according to the officials from the highway bus lines.

During the coronavirus outbreak, the highway bus lines have closed their operations starting from April (water festival period) and now they started their operations beginning from June. Authorities have instructed the bus lines to restrict the number of passengers on board the highway buses and the passengers are also taking alternative seats to prevent the spreading of viral disease. With the declining number of passengers, the highway bus lines are losing, according to the officials from the highway bus lines.

“The passengers are not travelling with highway buses as we expected. We couldn't increase the bus fare even though a passenger is using the two-seat space. Therefore, we are facing a loss and have to reduce the number of passenger buses. During this pandemic period, we have lost K40 or 50 million,” said an officer in charge from Arr Kar Min bus line.

During the coronavirus prevention period, we got instructions from the authorities to sell the tickets, keeping the social distancing rule. So, we are selling the tickets with affordable prices to cover the loss, said an official from the highway bus lines.—Aye Cho ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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657 migrant workers return from Thailand via border on 20 June

A total of 657 Myanmar migrant workers returned through the Friendship Bridge No 2 in Myawady on 20 June, since the government resumed accepting returnees on 1 May amidst the spread of COVID-19.

Among them, 534 migrant workers came back home under their own schedules with the approval of Myanmar Embassy in Thailand while another 123 workers came back home by six vehicles with an arrangement of Myanmar Embassy in Thailand.

Kayin State Hluttaw Representative U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.



A healthcare staff testing the body temperature of the migrant workers at Myawady Border yesterday. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

A total of 31,378 workers have returned home so far since 1 May. Local authorities are closely supervising the pro-

cess of accepting the returnees in line with the COVID-19 fighting guidelines. The latest group of returnees included 373 males

and 284 females from different regions and states.— Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Local authorities set systematic procedures for Myanmar migrant workers from China. **PHOTO: ZIN ZIN (IPRD)**

Myanmar migrant workers return home via Chinshwehaw border

A total of 47 Myanmar nationals who returned from China came back to Myanmar through Myanmar-China border in Chinshwehaw on 19 June.

The returnees include two from Yangon Region, 15 from Mandalay Region, nine from Sagaing Region, 11 from Magway Region, one from Kachin State,

45 from Shan State and nine from Rakhine State.

On 19 June, 45 Myanmar nationals also came back home through the border. So far a total of 11,609 returnees were already sent back to their native places via Chinshwehaw border gate.— Zin Zin (IPRD) ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

DG of Ministry of State Counsellor Office meets press ...

FROM PAGE-4

The DG said Nay Pyi Taw Development Council reclaimed 10 two-acre plots and six one-acre plots in Ottarathiri Township, and allotted them to the Union level officials and Union ministers who applied for them at a fixed price. In case a Union minister or a deputy minister presents an application, Nay Pyi Taw Development Council will send the application to the Union Government after scrutinizing it. In fact, a Union minister or a deputy minister is a politically appointed official, so, there is the practice of allotting land for the

official of a political post at that level by the State when he/she retires. It is true that land plots were allotted, but there are too much exaggerations on the social media platform.

It is true that land plots were allotted, but there are too much exaggerations on the social media platform.

Nay Pyi Taw Development Council is also reclaiming land plots for heads of departments and organizations who have

not received land yet. It is also building 3,000 two-bedroom apartments each with a space of 650 square-feet for retired government employees. Additionally residences for rent are being

built in Nay Pyi Taw for retired civil servants. The list of retired personnel who want to rent is being collected, and the 300

completed apartments are being rented under lucky draw system. Under a five-year contract, the per month rent fees are: K30,000 for ground floor; and K28,000 and K27,000 respectively for upper floors. The rent contract can be renewed. Rental arrangement will be under lucky draw when 100 apartments are completed in the coming September. A budget allotment has been requested to build 10,000 more apartments. Other means are also in hand for ensuring a safe future for the civil servants who are going to retire soon. — Naing Myo Aung

(Translated by TMT)

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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.

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

Each of us has the responsibility to prevent, contain and respond to COVID-19 and to adhere to directives and regulations issued. As COVID-19 draws on, there are worries about health, employment, financial issues, separated from family, discrimination, and other mental pressures. As the public works hard to overcome these mental hurdles, adhering to directives and regulations should not be viewed as additional mental pressure but the adherence to them should serve to make the public more resilient. They will aid in solving socioeconomic issues as well.

Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

World can recover and transform

By Li Yong

IN September 2019, the international community committed to step up its drive towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. As a result, the year 2020 was ushered as the beginning of a Decade for Action to enable the acceleration of sustainable solutions to the world's biggest challenges, aligned to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. From the industrial development perspective, the Decade of Action means that organizations like UNIDO, together with its development partners need to address industrialization challenges, particularly in least developed countries where progress is too slowly to meet the targets of the 2030 Agenda and particularly those of SDG 9 on resilient infrastructure, inclusive and sustainable industrialization and innovation.

With the onset of COVID-19, these challenges are amplified. The world is tackling a global health crisis that is destabilizing the global economy and posing a massive threat to humanity. Undoubtedly, progress made on the SDGs is being reversed. The United Nations has estimated that 60 million more people are now living in extreme poverty than before the crisis. Up to half the global workforce – 1.6 billion people are without livelihoods, with a loss of \$8.5 trillion in global output.

These estimates come on the back of slow growth in key economic sectors even before the crisis. In 2019, manufacturing output grew only 1.5 per cent from 2018, the slowest year-on-year growth since 2012. There is also a declining trend in the share of manufacturing employment in total employment and industry needs to significantly reduce greenhouse gases to meet the goals of the 2030 Agenda and Paris Agreement. Small-medium enterprises (SMEs) that at the end of 2019 accounted for 70 per

cent of employment and seen as businesses that have the propensity to drive innovation are now particularly challenged.

In the wake of the crisis, the concerns of UNIDO, as the specialized agency of the UN system to promote inclusive and sustainable industrial development and main custodian for SDG 9, are focused on the three main channels of the global economy: demand, supply and finance. Capitalizing on the Organization's effort to integrate and scale-up, we mobilized our intellectual and analytical resources, and developed a series of analytical tools on the effects and policy responses needed to address the pandemic. Our analyses show that many otherwise healthy firms are at serious risk of being unable to resume their business operations after the crisis, and jobs and incomes could be permanently lost, making global recovery more difficult. A loss of

capacity-building and knowledge exchange based on lessons learned, best practices and best available technologies.

In responding to the pandemic, we are currently supporting the protection of health workers and workers in general through the repurposing of existing SMEs to locally produce PPE and health equipment. By repurposing existing initiatives, we are providing capacity building support, training for entrepreneurs and workers to produce personal protective equipment, for example, in Kenya, Tajikistan, and Tunisia. We are also working with our UN sister agencies, such as UNDP, UNICEF, IOM and UNFPA to strengthen the capacity of industries and services critical to country economic resilience with a particular focus on youth and women working in SMEs.

Emphasizing the importance of protecting jobs, particularly informal sector work-

Programme (CIRP) to support governments in the restructuring of their industrial sector to transform and adapt to the post-COVID recovery phase.

An increased use of technologies and data applications can be witnessed in the current fight against COVID-19. In this regard, UNIDO Member States had the foresight of the growing importance of innovation and technology when they mandated UNIDO through the 2019 Abu Dhabi Declaration to scale up our programmes for developing countries that support technological learning, technology transfer, and innovation, in particular for SMEs, women and the youth.

During this crisis, we are supporting the establishment of technological start-ups to countries like Armenia to provide employment and capacity-building opportunities for rural youth. We offer the use of 3D modeling and web design services on a commercial basis to ensure the sustainability and development of different products, including personal protective equipment. In India, an online knowledge platform for MSMEs was launched to support efforts to restart, recover and revitalize business. We further launched a global call for developing countries for "Innovative ideas and technologies vs. COVID-19 and beyond" this month to further identify and promote innovative solutions to tackle this crisis.

As we support our Member States to recover, the recovery must be one that leads the world onto a safer, healthier, more sustainable and inclusive path. In this regard, we have repurposed our ongoing waste-management programmes and projects to manage and dispose hazardous medical waste, to mitigate the immediate risk of contagion, in particular for healthcare personnel. In China, UNIDO procured a set of mobile medical waste disposal equipment to Wuhan, which greatly reduced the infection risk for local people. In



The author is the director-general of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO).

Iran, we hope to deliver similar support with funding being pursued through the China-established South-South Cooperation Assistance Fund. In India, an ongoing Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on biomedical waste management has been extended to enhance capacity in the country to address this important issue with the pandemic. Similarly, in the Philippines, also working with GEF, UNIDO is also strengthening infectious waste management capacities in the country.

UNIDO will continue to stand in solidarity with our Member States and alongside the United Nations system to address the impact of this devastating crisis and build a better future. In addressing this impact we will work closely with countries like China and other partners taking benefit of South-South and triangular cooperation opportunities to link existing demands to appropriate responses. If responses are implemented well, the global community has an opportunity to emanate from the current crisis stronger and to transform into inclusive, resilient and sustainable economies, built on innovative manufacturing and industrial development. For all of us, the call of the day is for more multilateralism and not less, and for solidarity with those that require our support.

In responding to the pandemic, we are currently supporting the protection of health workers and workers in general through the repurposing of existing SMEs to locally produce PPE and health equipment.

firms and factories has extensive impact on the lives of those who are directly employed in the firm, as well as many vulnerable persons who eventually benefit from the firms' production and wealth distribution.

Premised on this, and aligned to the UN Framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, the UNIDO response to the pandemic is to prepare and contain, respond and adapt, and recover and transform. Our approach is based on mutually inclusive pillars, namely strong partnerships with countries like China to accelerate the global response, integrated service packages tailored to our Member States' particular situations and needs,

and those offered by SMEs, we are supporting our Member States, such as Colombia, Egypt, and Lebanon to develop norms and standards. These include health and safety guidelines around preventive measures to help local businesses to cope with the effects of the COVID-19 crisis, prevent the spread of the pandemic, and to reactivate production. We have also developed a step-by-step business-recovery guidance document for MSMEs in China, and are scaling-up the guidance to support MSMEs globally. Drawing on our longstanding experience with industrial upgrading and the modernization of enterprises and institutions, we launched the COVID-19 Industrial Recovery

Notification on overcoming anxiety during COVID-19

Anxiety is a natural process and emotion of life and can be acknowledged and resolved. Anxiety can become mental fatigue if it is left unchecked and become severe.

Anxiety symptoms include insomnia, excessive enthusiasm, fatigue, eating disorders, indigestion, headaches, joint pains, anger, fear, worry, sadness, guilt, memory issues, pessimism, hopelessness, loneliness, blaming others, and reduced productivity.

If these feelings are not resolved in a proper manner they can become mental fatigue and can lead to an inability to resolve challenges. This can lead to socioeconomic challenges and should seek motivational support before this stage is reached.—Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement & Myanmar Medical Association (Mental Health Unit)

Schoolgirls and schoolboys – future generation – are they ready for the reopening?

SCHOOLBOYS and schoolgirls are partaking in the roles of the chief partners of every society as well as the major investment actors for the generation to come in a nation. They are also one of the keys to driving towards the sustainable development of a nation.

They are always the very basic element to the all-round development of a country sustainably for many consecutive generations to come. They are the major architects to build a future nation, too. One country needs a new generation to ever revive its continuous existence throughout history.

... the education of a country should not be stopped; Children might lose their enthusiasm for education when they are away from classrooms for a long time.

Different countries have run into dissimilar situations to tackle preventative measures against the coronavirus pandemic. However, schools should be reopened while the stakeholders should abide by the advisories released by relevant health authorities.

Here, we need to quote the State Counsellor emphasizing that the education of a country should not be stopped; Children might lose their enthusiasm for education when they are away from classrooms for a long time.

Taking into serious and careful consideration the views of the Ministry of Education, teachers and parents, the Union Government has decided to reopen all the schools in Myanmar in July starting from the higher-level classes in the first phase. The lower-level classes will be followed up on later dates.

It is a welcoming sign for all schoolboys and schoolgirls. They are eager to embrace it cheerfully. They are ready to go to school once again.

But, always be vigilant on the coronavirus disease as well as common monsoon diseases in all schools. Also, always do follow the health protocols issued by the health authorities.

Post-COVID-19: Reintroducing traditional handloom fabrics in Myanmar

By Khun San

TRADITIONAL weaving on handloom of colourful cotton fabric has a long history in Myanmar being undertaken as livelihood by fair gender on manageable scale in their cosy cottage industry.

“Ma Lay Let Khat Than” still lingers on as the most popular Myanmar country song being heard across the rural areas for decades highlighting the typical pretty girl working at a traditional handloom, releasing pleasant noises from the conventional apparatus.

A loom is a mechanism or tool used for weaving yarn and thread into textiles. Some handlooms are fairly small and simply mastered by their users.

Stepping into the 21st century, Myanmar male still wears “Longyi” and the fair gender wraps the tender waist in “Htamein”, simply for the love of tradition.

Comfortably placed in the olden days at the household are the blanket, bed sheet, table cloth, and napkin, the usual products of Myanmar traditional handloom industry.

In the recent past, the whole country was flooded with Pakokku blankets, Monywa blankets and Mudon blankets, domestically most popular brands in every nook and cranny of the country.

In simple grandeur, “Wada Blanket” was the most popular item of Pakokku, and that it was dyed with most striking contrast colors of red and black in modern design.

With favourable view, “Monywa Cotton Blanket” was user friendly as the blanket offered adequate warmth cold weather and the people loved to have one for the night.

Motley assortment of colours such as red, yellow, blue, green, orange and pink were artistically combined together for the delight of the users on traditional fabrics produced on handloom.

However, time has changed with modern technology, and that colorful and trendy blankets rolled into Myanmar from neighboring countries, which wreaked havoc on traditional weaving industry. Weaving livelihood faded out.

Good for health
These traditional blankets



A woman is weaving traditional fabrics on the loom in Mudon township, Mon State. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

were most suitable for all sorts of weather conditions in Myanmar as they did not emit chemical reactions in summer, monsoon and winter.

Intimidating the industry, the foreign blankets rolled in and the traditional weaving industry has been knocked down.

Polyester fibre blankets

Synthetic fibres such as polyester, nylon, and acrylic tend to be ultra-soft, but they are made from nonrenewable fossil fuels. The blankets made from such items are not good for health especially the children and the elderly persons.

It could even breed bacteria when the weather is unruly creating health hazard. Yarn fabric blanket is the best option for health.

Traditional items to be proud of

Until today, Pakokku traditional handloom industry remains, withstand and survive against all odds. Pakokku blankets are useful in all seasons and that the designs are updated to the preference of the users. As the price tags are acceptable to the public, the number of buyers is on the rise.

Remarkable aspect is that the items are produced with natural dyes derive from the trees, the

fruits, the leaves and the barks, leaving no room for health problem. Therefore, the products have become popular and to take pride in the traditional aspect.

Due to the use of natural dyes, the fabrics items are free from health problem, and the users feel comfortable. The visiting foreigners customarily purchase traditional short mini blanket before going home

In the eyes, it is like a shawl or a wrap, a large piece of material that one wrap around the shoulders. Shawls are often triangular shaped, and wraps are often rectangular. They are like a mini blanket, but fashionable.

In January 2020, an exhibition on traditional handloom and fabric design was convened at Saunders Weaving and Vocational Institute in Amarapura of Mandalay.

In ultimate revelation, the show highlighted the Myanmar tradition of making cloth with lotus fibers, which has a much longer history. Once widespread throughout Buddhist countries in Southeast Asia, the practice has today faded into relative obscurity, and Inle Lake is one of the only places on earth where one can still observe this ancient technique.

Another show that attracted the audience was how to make dyes from natural plants.

Exhibition booth of Kaing Ngai Lay Village of Min Hla Township in Magway Region has offered fabric items including fashionable mini blankets that are coloured with natural dyes totally free from harmful chemicals.

Interested visitors rushed in buying the environment friendly items at the show. Perhaps, it was a good omen for the possible development of Myanmar traditional handloom items in the post COVID - 19 scenario.

Looking closer, the Myanmar traditional handloom industry is most suitable for women in Myanmar as they could work from home with only a small amount of investment. Thinking further, this industry could be expanded among the community, which could create considerable number of job opportunities.

There are (14) Weaving and Vocational Schools across the country under the Small Scale Industries Department, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

Interestingly, those who passed the Matriculation Examination could enroll at the Saunders Weaving and Vocational Institute for one year diploma course on weaving and cloth designing subject.

Six month course for “acheik” and three month course for “embroidery” are also offered at the

school. In every century Myanmar women valued “acheik” which are made with more than a hundred shuttles. These acheik are called “Lun Yar Kyaw Cheik” or “Kyoe Gyi Cheik”.

“Shwe Chi Hto” or Gold Embroidery is the most gorgeous and exquisite craft work of Myanmar and originated a thousand years ago.

It is an art of Myanmar tapestries woven with silver or gold thread and different coloured cloth on which the depiction of tales of Buddhist scriptures and mythical animals are appliquéed.

MMK30,000 stipends granted

There are (13) Weaving and Vocational Schools across the country.

- 1. Myitkyina in Kachin State
2. Loikaw in Kayah State
3. Hpa-an in Kayin State
4. Falam in Chin State
5. Mindat in Chin State
6. Monywa in Sagaing Region
7. Shwedaung in Bago Region
8. Pakokku in Magway Region
9. Meiktila in Mandalay Region
10. Mudon in Mon State
11. Sittway in Rakhine State
12. Taunggyi in Shan State (South)
13. Kyaukse in Shan State (North)

Those students who passed the Basic Education Middle School may enroll one year course on Yarn and Fabric Skill Course. Those who passed the Basic Education Primary School may apply for six month course on handloom skill course; on fabric dye skill course; and design printing skill course.

Students are provided with MMK30,000 for each month by the government as stipend throughout the course.

With the intent for the sustainable development goal, the Small Scale Industries Department has imparted training courses to (122) diploma course, and (1,813) skilled courses from 2016 to 2020 academic year.

Moreover, the doors of the schools are opened for those who wish to enroll, and people in quest of establishing manageable scale of handloom weaving industry are provided with necessary inputs.

Creating more jobs
In the wake of COVID - 19 pandemic, Myanmar citizens

working abroad and in neighbouring countries have returned back home on various grounds, and that some may have interest working in traditional weaving industry.

Possibly, the attractive and fancy traditional fabric items such as the table cloth, the bed sheet, the napkin, and mini blanket and sleeping blanket would be flooded in towns and cities across the country.

Probably, fabric items that are used in the households, the offices, and the hotels would be seen everywhere in colourful designs of Myanmar culture.

Adding the ethnic nationalities drawings and colourful designs in the expanded fabrics products, it could give way to penetrate to international market. Making the domestic manufacturing developed and at the same time generating income for the workforce and the community in the cottage industry.

Anytime, anyplace and anyone wishing to establish the traditional handloom business may contact the vocational school located at states / regions under the Small Scale Industries Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation for necessary assistance on technical aspect as well as financial soft loans under MSME scheme through the Myanmar Economic Banks.

Those wishing to devote the livelihood in traditional weaving jobs may communicate the same with full confidence.

In the post COVID - 19 scenarios, we can think of new and maybe better futures for livelihood that truly benefit our societies and help prevent a climate disaster.

In conclusion, the writer would like to say that we have learned the side effect, the spin off and the sidebar of the ultra-modern way of life, and that the world is returning to the traditional way of life.

As part of the economic recovery, the people in ward / village/ small town may jump on the economic bandwagon of traditional weaving of handloom cottage industry on manageable scale.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)



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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 21st June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Napyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, scattered in Shan (North and East) and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Southern, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with isolated heavyfalls in Rakhine State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Decrease of rain in the coastal areas.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st June, 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 21st June, 2020: Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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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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A STRONG IMMUNITY

Indian PM Modi promotes yoga against coronavirus



YouTube message ahead of World Yoga Day on Sunday.

“We all know that until now nowhere in the world have they been able to develop a vaccine for COVID-19 or coronavirus,” Modi said in the video published Thursday.

“Which is why right now, only a strong immunity can act as a protective shield or a bodyguard for us and our family members... yoga is our trusted friend in building this protective shield (of immunity).”

The Indian leader, a teetotal vegetarian, set up a ministry to promote yoga, Ayurveda and other traditional Indian treatments when he came to power in 2014.

Modi initially proposed World Yoga Day to the United Nations, winning approval in 2014.

The day normally see masses of people gather for public yoga events not only in India but worldwide but Modi called for people to this year “go indoors”.

Modi also hailed yoga as a way to ease the extraordinary stresses people are enduring because of the virus.

“Yoga has the potential to cater to the mental, physical and psychological challenges. It puts to test how one can live in challenging times,” he said.

In January, the Ministry of AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa

Rigpa and Homoeopathy) released an advisory on how ancient homeopathy and Ayurveda remedies could help Indians combat the coronavirus.

But experts, including the US’ National Institutes of Health, have warned that “no scientific evidence that any of these alternative remedies can prevent or cure COVID-19”. India’s national and state governments have also stressed the importance of mask-wearing and social distancing. The South Asian nation of 1.3 billion people is the fourth worst-hit country in the world with more than 380,000 virus infections, official figures show.

SOURCE: AFP

FILE PHOTO: Modi gave the advice in a YouTube message ahead of World Yoga Day on Sunday. PHOTO: AFP

INDIAN Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extolled yoga as a way of building a “protective shield” of immunity against the coronavirus, as his nation battles

a surge in infections.

Modi, a keen yoga practitioner who has long espoused the benefits of the ancient Indian practice, gave the advice in a

TWO PER CENT OF GLOBAL EMISSIONS OF CO2

Green aviation still has electrifying future despite virus

THE aviation industry has long been under pressure to reduce pollution, and while airlines have taken a financial wallop from the coronavirus crisis it may not stop a greening of the skies.

What promises have been made on pollution?

Aviation accounts for around two percent of global emissions of carbon dioxide (CO2), one of the major greenhouse gasses that causes global warming, according to the UN’s International Civil Aviation Organization.

Airlines transported 4.5 billion passengers in 2019, an increase of 4.2 per cent from the previous year, according to the industry’s leading trade body, IATA.

Before the coronavirus pandemic broke out the industry was counting on traffic doubling in 15 to 20 years.

At the same time, it had promised to reduce CO2 emissions by half in 2050 from 2005 levels. Considering the expected increase in traffic, that works out a 90 per cent reduction by flight.

IATA maintains the promise is being kept, but in January a report from by three European organizations including the European Environment Agency, emissions have been rising in Europe even if advances in technology were helping limit the increase.

While the number of passengers jumped by 20 percent between 2014 and 2017 in Europe, CO2 emissions rose by 10 per cent.

What impact will the coronavirus have?

While the lockdowns imposed by governments to stem the spread of the coronavirus

have been financially devastating to airlines which will need to invest in cleaner aircraft in the years to come, there are positive elements.

“Even if the financial capacity of airlines to renew aircraft

fleets is weaker -- and they will seek to delay the process -- they now have excess capacity that will lead to them removing the oldest and least efficient aircraft from their fleet,” said Bertrand Mouly-Aigrot, an air transporta-

tion expert at Archery Strategy Consulting.

“This will improve the average performance of the fleet,” he added.

Delta Airlines in the United States is finally putting its last MD-90s -- which were built between 1995 and 2000 -- out to pasture.

Meanwhile, Air France and Lufthansa are taking their fuel-guzzling A340 and A380 aircraft out of service ahead of schedule.

Air France has made promises to cut pollution as part of its state rescue package.

The drop in air traffic due to coronavirus lockdowns is translating into a reduction in pollution, and the industry doesn’t expect to recover fully before 2023.

SOURCE: AFP



A converted 1940s de Havilland DHC-2 Beaver became the first all-electric commercial plane to take to the skies last year in Canada. PHOTO: AFP

HARD-HIT INDUSTRY

US travel industry to see 40% drop in spending: study

DOMESTIC US travel spending is expected to collapse this year amid the coronavirus pandemic, suffering a 40 percent decline compared to 2019, while international spending will plunge 75 per cent, according to new research.

The report, commissioned by the US Travel Association, showed spending by US residents will drop to \$583 billion this year from \$972 billion last year.

Total travel spending, including domestic and international visitors, is projected to fall 45 per cent to \$622 billion, according to research by Tourism Economics, a division of Oxford Economics.

That decline follows three years of steady, albeit modest, growth of around four per cent a year, although international travel dipped in 2019.

The association labeled the downturn “The Great Travel Depression,” and said 8.1 million travel jobs have been lost.

The group is lobbying Congress to provide additional support for the travel industry, including expanding the popular Paycheck Protection Programme (PPP) to include organizations that promote tourist or business venues and also

provide \$10 billion in grants to provide healthy travel practices.

These destination marketing organizations “drive demand and economic development to communities across the country and are vital to recovery,” the association said in a LinkedIn post Thursday.

“We need relief, protection and stimulus to revive the travel industry and set America on the

path toward recovery.”

Other sectors also are seeking more support beyond, and a bipartisan group of lawmakers are crafting legislation to help the food services industry, which has been hard hit by the shutdowns and fears of the virus, leaving businesses struggling to attract customers and remain profitable.

SOURCE: AFP

France's Macron seeks review of fraud case against ex-rival and PM Fillon

PARIS — President Emmanuel Macron has called for a probe into claims that prosecutors were pressured to move fast in a fraud inquiry against former prime minister Francois Fillon, his main right-wing rival in France's 2017 presidential race.

Fillon lost what many considered a walkover vote after a newspaper report claimed that he orchestrated a fake parliamentary assistant job for his wife that saw her paid hundreds of thousands of euros (dollars) in public funds.

A ruling will be handed down on June 29 after a trial in which Fillon vigorously denied

the claims, saying he was the victim of a political hit job.

The scandal flared anew this week after it emerged that the former head of France's Financial Prosecutor's Office (PNF) told lawmakers she had sustained "pressure" and "very strict oversight" aimed at bringing charges quickly against Fillon.

Fillon's supporters seized on the comments as proof that the prosecutor's superiors, possibly acting at the behest of justice ministry officials, had infringed on the judiciary's independence to speed his downfall.

He was charged six weeks

after the fraud claims emerged in the *Canard Enchaîné* newspaper, an unusually swift move in a country where legal inquiries can take years.

The top Paris public prosecutor denied exercising any undue pressure and on Friday the former financial prosecutor, Eliane Houlette, tried to walk back her statements, saying she "regretted" that they had been "distorted or misunderstood".

But the uproar prompted Macron's office to say late Friday that the president had asked France's judicial watchdog, the Supreme Judiciary Council, to investigate the claims.—AFP ■



President Emmanuel Macron has called for a probe into claims prosecutors were pressured to speed up the fraud inquiry into Francois Fillon (centre), his right-wing rival and then favourite for the 2017 French presidential election. PHOTO: AFP

Hungary enlists army in fight against virus joblessness

BUDAPEST — As Hungary's coronavirus-hit economy shrinks and unemployment soars, thousands of Hungarians are seeking to join the army, attracted by job stability and a government scheme that fast-tracks recruits toward a military career.

Military service is also one of the Hungarian government's weapons to keep a lid on joblessness.

"Since the crisis began the number of applicants has risen by 100 percent," Major Tamas Durgo, head of military recruitment, told AFP at an army office in Budapest.

"We have loosened the admission procedure, that doesn't mean it's easier to get in now,

just faster," said Durgo in front of an advertisement for military careers.

After a simplified medical test, applicants can sign up for six months of paid training after which they can either return to civilian life or -- if they make the grade -- embark on a career path in the army.

Apart from traditional military careers, the army also has jobs for engineers and IT experts, drivers and catering staff, said Durgo.

And besides defending the country's borders, or taking part in foreign missions, soldiers also help out during emergencies like floods and epidemics, he said.

Nationalist Prime Minister

Viktor Orban has long underlined the importance of beefing up the military.

His government has been hiking spending on the previously underfunded military since well before the pandemic, with the proportion of GDP spent on defence rising from 0.95 per cent in 2013 to 1.21 per cent in 2019.

The army has had a high profile in the coronavirus crisis, for example being dispatched to look after hospitals.

Orban has emphasised patriotic education in schools while the Hungarian army has expanded a cadet programme and unveiled plans this month to operate up to 10 new military high schools by 2030.—AFP ■



On the attack against joblessness - Hungary hopes military service can help get people off unemployment. PHOTO: AFP

North Korea preparing anti-South leaflet campaign: KCNA

SEOUL — North Korea is preparing to launch an anti-Seoul leaflet campaign, state media said Saturday, prompting sharp criticism from South Korea with tensions high on the peninsula.

Pyongyang has recently issued a series of vitriolic condemnations of Seoul over anti-North leaflets, which defectors based in the South send across the border -- usually attached to balloons or floated in bottles.

North Korea has upped the pressure over the campaigns with a dramatic demolition of a building on its side of the bor-

der that symbolized inter-Korean rapprochement, threats to bolster its military presence at the border, and now leaflets of its own.

"Enraged" North Koreans are now "pushing forward with the preparations for launching a large-scale distribution" of "leaflets of punishment" into the South, the official KCNA news agency said.

"Every action should be met with proper reaction and only when one experiences it oneself, one can feel how offending it is."—AFP ■

US protesters topple Confederate statue after Juneteenth rallies

WASHINGTON — Protesters in Washington toppled a statue of a Confederate general late Friday, after nationwide rallies to demand racial justice on a day heavy with symbolism -- the Juneteenth holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the United States.

Demonstrations were held in Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Washington against a backdrop of weeks of protests fueled by the deaths of African Americans at the hands of police.

In a stark illustration of the tensions roiling the nation, President Donald Trump issued a solemn White House statement commemorating Juneteenth, while also threatening protesters on Twitter ahead of his contro-

versial rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma on Saturday.

Juneteenth marks the day -- June 19, 1865 -- when a Union general arrived in Galveston, Texas and informed slaves that they were free -- two months after the Civil War had ended and two-and-a-half years after president Abraham Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation.

The date is generally celebrated with prayer services and family gatherings, but comes this year amid a national soul-searching over America's legacy of racial injustice.

The United States has been gripped by daily "Black Lives Matter" protests since the May 25 death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man killed by a white police officer in Minnesota.—AFP ■

Japanese travellers emerge on 1st advisory-free weekend

TOKYO — People started travelling en masse again in Japan on Saturday, a day after the government lifted its last-remaining advisories recommending against inter-prefecture travel due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The government, however, still faces a difficult task to keep the spread of coronavirus to a minimum while accelerating economic activity to help businesses recover.

At JR Tokyo Station, face mask-wearing East Japan Railway Co. officials were busy serving luggage-carrying travellers at service windows partitioned by vinyl sheets installed as part of anti-virus measures.

Kota Kikuchi, a 10-year-old fifth-grader from Tokyo, was heading to Tochigi Prefecture by shinkansen bullet train to take part in horseback riding club activities with his mother, 42.

“It’s been a while (since I have traveled) because I was not able to go to the club due to the coronavirus,” Kikuchi said.

The central government on Friday withdrew its request that people in Tokyo and the neigh-



Passengers wait on a platform to get on a shinkansen bullet train at JR Tokyo Station on June 20, 2020. **PHOTO: (KYODO)**

bouring prefectures of Saitama, Chiba, and Kanagawa, as well as Hokkaido in northern Japan, refrain from traveling across prefectural borders.

The areas were the last in the country to see the request lifted and were also the last group of prefectures where a state of emergency was lifted by

the government in May.

Natsuko Negishi, a 51-year-old housewife from Tokyo, was heading to Sendai, northeastern Japan, on Saturday to meet up with a friend for a trip to the Akiu hot spring resort in Miyagi Prefecture.

“I heard some people are worried about travellers arriving

from Tokyo, where infection cases have been reported,” Negishi said. “We will take extra precautions so as not to upset them.”

A 41-year-old woman from Tokyo was on her way to visit her in-laws in Hachinohe, Aomori Prefecture, northeastern Japan, with her 6-year-old and 1-year-old daughters.—Kyodo ■

German payment provider Wirecard CEO resigns amid accounting scandal

BERLIN — German payment service provider Wirecard said Friday that its CEO Markus Braun resigned with immedi-



Shares of Wirecard collapsed immediately and temporarily fell by more than 60 per cent on Thursday. **PHOTO: AFP**

ate effect.

The supervisory board of Wirecard said that James Freis Jr. had been appointed as member of the management board and interim CEO with “sole power of representation.”

On Thursday, Wirecard postponed the presentation of its 2019 financial year results for the fourth time, after auditor Ernst & Young (EY) refused to certify the company’s annual financial statements.

Shares of Wirecard collapsed immediately and temporarily fell by more than 60 per cent on Thursday. On

Friday before the resignation announcement, shares of Wirecard temporarily lost half of their value again, hitting a low at around 19 euros.

Wirecard AG said Friday that the company was in “constructive discussions with its lending banks with regard to the continuation of the credit lines and the further business relationship.”

Following the resignation, shares of Wirecard started to recover from their low and were trading at around 29 euros on late trading Friday.—Xinhua ■

NEWS In BRIEF

China-developed AG100 trainer aircraft makes successful maiden flight

BEIJING — China’s domestically-developed AG100 trainer aircraft made its maiden flight successfully Saturday morning, announced Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC).

The AG100, which is a new generation aircraft, conducted its maiden flight at the Moganshan airport in Deqing County, east China’s Zhejiang Province.

According to the test pilots, during its 10-minute flight, the aircraft showed good maneuverability and stability, and all systems were operating normally.

The AG100 primary trainer was developed by the Zhejiang China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Institute under the AVIC China Aviation Industry General Aircraft Co., Ltd. The AG100 trainer model was developed to meet the strong demand of the Chinese and global markets. The aircraft’s design team has solicited opinions on the trainer model from potential buyers.—Xinhua ■

Courier giant SF Holding reports big revenue growth

BEIJING — China’s express delivery giant SF Holding reported notable revenue growth in its core business in May, according to a report the company filed to the Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

SF Holding’s revenue in express delivery last month rose 41.46 percent year on year to 11.45 billion yuan (about 1.61 billion U.S. dollars).

The business volume of the Shenzhen-based courier in May reached 636 million pieces, up 83.82 percent from last year. SF Holding shares edged up 0.04 percent to close at 55.99 yuan apiece Friday.—Xinhua ■

Tech Mahindra recognized among India’s 50 best companies to work for in 2020

MUMBAI — IT major Tech Mahindra said the company has been recognized amongst India’s 50 best companies to work for in 2020 by the Great Place to Work Institute.

Listed amongst the ‘Best in Mega Employer’ (organizations with more than 50,000 employ-

ees), Tech Mahindra is also one of the five ‘Best Companies in Career Management’. Tech Mahindra has achieved the 21st rank among India’s 100 ‘Best Companies to Work For 2020: Top 50’ by the Great Place to Work Institute. This was one of the largest workplace study in

India, representing the voice of more than 2.1 million employees, over 21 industries.

Tech Mahindra has earned this recognition for creating a great place to work for all the employees and has excelled on the 5 dimensions of building a High-Trust, High-Perfor-

mance Culture™ – Credibility, Respect, Fairness, Pride and Camaraderie. The awarding organization, Great Place to Work® Institute, is the ‘Global Authority’ for creating, sustaining and identifying High-Trust, High-Performance Culture™. Great Place to Work® is con-

sidered the ‘Gold Standard’ in Workplace Culture Assessment and they identify Best Workplaces solely on the basis of Employee Feedback and quality of People Practices in an organization. No jury or individual can influence the results of the assessment.—ANI ■

Argentina debt restructure 'progressing' as deadline extended



Argentine President Alberto Fernandez, pictured in May 2020, has said the country's debt restructuring plan is progressing. PHOTO: AFP

BUENOS AIRES — Argentina's tug-of-war negotiations with creditors over a \$66 billion debt restructure plan was progressing, President Alberto Fernandez said on Friday, as the deadline to find a deal was extended once again.

"The negotiations are progressing in fits and starts. In 2005, when we renegotiated the debt, a

year went by. Now two or three months have gone by and we're being asked for results. What's needed is less worry and to keep on working," Fernandez told Radio Nacional as Argentina extended its deadline for a fourth time.

The new deadline has now been set for July 24 "to continue discussions and allow the investors to contribute to a successful

restructure," the government said in a statement.

The news sparked an eight percent surge in the Buenos Aires stock exchange.

It comes during a week in which the renegotiation talks appeared to have broken down after one group of creditors, Ad Hoc, which represents 13 international funds, revealed on Tuesday night

it would not accept Argentina's latest offer and was considering taking the South American country to court in New York.

Crisis-wracked Argentina has proposed an exchange offer to bondholders under foreign law, but has yet to find common ground over interest rates and a grace period.—AFP ■

Global stocks mixed as WHO warns of worsening virus

NEW YORK — Global stocks were mixed Friday as markets weighed hopes that business activity would get back to normal against worrisome coronavirus trends in several parts of the United States, while the World Health Organization warned of new outbreaks.

Bourses in Europe and Asia finished higher and the US at first seemed headed for another positive session as well.

But the tide turned around midday on Wall Street after Apple announced that due to rising coronavirus cases, it would close some stores that had reopened.

While coronavirus figures have fallen sharply in the Northeast and much of the Midwest, states including Florida, Nevada and Arizona have reported record case counts in recent days.

Apple's announcement sent all three major US indices into the red, although the Nasdaq eked out gains to close narrow-

ly higher.

Maris Ogg of Tower Bridge Advisors said Apple's move reflects "the way this virus cycles geographically" and shouldn't meaningfully affect the outlook for the US.

"We have some major things that can be working toward improvement," Ogg said, pointing to the bounce from

reopening the economy and rising strength in the housing market.

The World Health Organization warned of a "new and dangerous phase" of the coronavirus pandemic, with people tiring of lockdowns despite the disease's accelerating spread.

"What's become clear this week is that any second wave isn't going

to necessarily prompt governments to return to draconian lockdowns," said Vandana Hari at Vandana Insights.

The virus, which has now killed more than 454,000 people and infected 8.4 million people worldwide, is surging in the Americas and parts of Asia even as Europe starts to ease restrictive measures.—AFP ■



People queue outside a store in the Colombian capital Bogota as the World Health Organization warned of new coronavirus outbreaks. PHOTO: AFP

IMF deploys emergency financing for 70 countries amid COVID-19 pandemic

WASHINGTON — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has said it is expected to deploy emergency financing for 70 countries by Friday as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to ripple across the globe.

IMF spokesperson Gerry Rice said at a virtual press briefing Thursday that "tomorrow we expect that number to be 70, so 70 countries supported by

the IMF with emergency financing roughly about 25 billion dollars."

"This emergency financing is very fast-disbursing, countries receive the money within days, it does not carry traditional IMF conditionality," Rice told reporters. "It is money to be spent on paying for things like nurses' and doctors' salaries, and equipment, and medical

equipment to deal with the crisis."

For the Asia and Pacific region, seven countries have received emergency financing totalling about 1.5 billion dollars, Rice said.

And in Sub-Saharan Africa, 28 countries have received emergency financing totalling almost 10 billion dollars, Rice said, noting that the fig-

ure is much higher than the IMF's average yearly lending of 1 billion dollars to the region.

Over 100 countries have asked the IMF for emergency financing amid the pandemic, and the multilateral lender said earlier this year that it had doubled access to its emergency facilities to meet the expected demand.—Xinhua ■

Pakistan, Afghanistan to open key trade route on June 22: officials

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani and Afghan officials have agreed to reopen a key route for cross-border trade between the two countries starting next Monday, aiming to give a major boost to bilateral trade as it will facilitate economic activities in both countries.

Pakistan had closed the Ghulam Khan border in North Waziristan tribal district in June, 2014 after the military launched a major operation against the Pakistani and foreign militants in the area, and conducted trial run for reopening the border crossing in March, 2018.—Xinhua ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY. NO. (024S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY. NO. (024S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (720W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO. (720W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GOLD STAR LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Ahlon and Kyunchaung power plant projects succeed in fulfilling power requirement of people

By Maung Lwan Ni (Yesagyo)

**Yellow like gold and fragrance like flower
Two power plants,
Like the country full of gold,
Power to come in large amount
Thanks to further newly-built power plant projects
Myanmar people to be highly pleased
As said by the original situation
Although the gas is thought to run out
Ahlon installed with the new turbine
It will change into a new age
Similarly, Kyunchaung installed with the new turbine
If Ahlon and Kyunchaung are merged into
A total of 10,000 universes to be full of light**

GOLD is a very precious metal and everyone loves gold and everyone wants it. If the entire people of Myanmar have something they value like gold, it might be electric power for certain.

The government is striving for all-round development in all aspects in order to raise standard of living and promote socio-economic life of the people. In an attempt to achieve success in multiple areas, transport, communication and electric power play a crucial role. Decisive policies are being laid down for the

rapid equitable development in all these areas.

Always estimating that annually increasing power demand would be fulfilled, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy is in the process of implementing the projects designing long-term and short-term plans. Power generation, power transportation and power distribution are being carried out for equitable development across the country regardless of discrimination of regions and states for ensuring that all our national brethren should enjoy the fruitful results.

With such noble goodwill and



Ahlon power plant.

strenuous efforts, the power consumption of the whole country accounted for 34% before 2016, but was up to 50.09% in 2019 December and it is a proof of noticeable progress. The ultimate goal of the government is that every part of the country will have access to power in 2030.

At a time when the good foundations of socio-economic life are becoming stronger, power demand is also increasing year after year. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is tackling

increased power demand with the use of all different means in a synchronous manner as much as possible. Under the guidance of the government, with the purpose of fulfilling the need of increased power demand speedily during this summer, many power plants including the projects of liquefied natural gas to power are being built in Ahlon, Thanlyin and Thakayta in Yangon Region, Magway and Kyunchaung in Magway Region, Shwetaung in Bago Region, and Kyaukphyu in Rakhine

State. It's unbelievable that all seven power plants are under implementation to generate 1,166 megawatt within a short time.

What you said is easy but what you do is difficult in the fulfillment of the need for power sector. Imagination is impossible. Based on the prevailing economic situation of the country, mineral resources and human resources, the country has to struggle with the difficult situation. Criticism and challenges have to be bravely overcome. As the fruitful results



Kyun Chaung power plant.



Kyun Chaung power plant.

on account of vigorous efforts, a 66MW power plant built in Magway town, Magway Region joined the national grid on 13 December in 2019 and is now serving the public duty.

Out of remaining six power plants, a 151.54MW facility established in the compound of Ahlon power plant in Ahlon Township, Yangon Region and a 20.54MW facility in the compound of Kyunchaung power plant in Pakokku District, Magway Region have begun power generation.

In Ahlon, there is a department-owned gas-fired power plant. The performance of the gas-fired plant is slowing noticeably down as it has been used for long. Even if the gas-fired power plant consumes 36 million cubic feet of gas a day, it can generate only 70MW. As a result of that the old turbines were substituted with new high-capacity ones. The new power plant built on a plot of land having 5.9 acres in the compound of Ahlon power plant will consume the current amount of natural gas used for the old turbine. The installation of the new turbines can generate an output of 151.54MW up more than 80MW compared to the previous power generation, and this surplus amount is as valuable as gold.

Tenders were invited for new Ahlon power plant project on a basis of international competitive bidding (ICB) on 28 June in 2019. The Consortium of China Energy Engineering Group Hunan Electric Power Design Institute Co., Ltd. China its (Holding) Co., Ltd and Shenzhen Shennan Power Gas Turbine Engineering Technique Co., Ltd won the tender and began work on 2 September in 2019. This project has two steps—one is natural gas turbine and another is steam turbine. The first-step gas turbine manages to generate an output of 100MW and the second-step steam turbine capable of generating an output of 51.54MW is nearing completion.

The gas turbine installed at Ahlon power plant was made from GE Company of the United States and it is a modern turbine of Frame 9E and it is also a short-term plan of five years. As a long-term plan, a new State-owned power plant will be built. The already-built natural gas pipelines and power lines will remain ready for the project to be intended for long-term plan. The power output generated from Ahlon power plant will be distributed to Yangon through 230KV Ahlon main power station and the surplus power will be sent to the national grid and it is very beneficial for the State.

The Yangonites have begun enjoying the fruitful results of new Ahlon power plant project that could be implemented within 270 days. This project has to overcome different forms of difficulty. Especially it coincides with the outbreak of globally-terrifying COVID-19. The project has met the challenge of the timely arrival of the machines, engineers and skilled workers though the country is in crisis of COVID-19.

In spite of having the challenges amid COVID-19, the department managed to implement the project in coordination with local authorities and ministries concerned observing the guidance given by the State at a time when anti-COVID-19 measures are being carried out by forming the national level committee for prevention, treatment and control of the COVID-19. Similarly, a 20.54MW facility built in the compound of Kyunchaung power plant in Pakokku District, Magway Region is now generating power. Tenders were invited for Kyunchaung power plant similar to Ahlon on a basis of international competitive bidding (ICB) on 28 June in 2019. The Consortium of V Power Group Holdings Ltd and V Power Holdings Ltd won the tender and began construction tasks on 6 September in 2019

with the use of 11 Germany-made MTU 2.026MW gas engines. This power plant project is using 5 million cubic feet of inland gas a day, and this amount of gas is taken from the previous department-owned power plant which could generate only an output of 5MW. Kyunchaung power plant installed with new machines can now generate an output of 20.54MW, up 15MW compared to the power generation from the previous department-owned power plant. Such more generation of power is due to the utilization of the new technologies. The period of Kyunchaung power plant project is five years from the date the operation started. The output of power will be sent to the national grid connecting with 66 kV bus in the compound of Kyunchaung power plant. As said above, efforts have been made for ensuring sufficient power generation in the summer of 2020. Out of seven shortly-built power plants capable of generating 1166MW, three can output 186MW fulfilling the power requirement of the people linking with the national grid. Strenuous efforts are being made for ensuring that the remaining power projects will be able to generate the power rapidly.

Now restrictions on travel have been still placed in the coun-

try as part of preventive measures against the possible spread of COVID-19 infection. Health guidelines have been released from the Ministry of Health and Sports and instructions have been given to the people to follow stay-at-home-plan as well. During the COVID-19 outbreak, the government reduced the number of civil servants to half to operate the functions. At that time, some factories, industries and services came to a stop, but the power consumption of the whole country is going on without breaking down. The power demand of the people is not going to stop, too. Anyhow, the employees of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy are engaged in generating, sending and distributing power despite the possible risk of COVID-19 infection.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy is constantly fulfilling the power requirement of the people while the people are enjoying the fruits of development of the power plant projects undertaken across the country. As mentioned above it is an undeniable fact that both Ahlon and Kyunchaung power plants are like gold, a precious metal everyone loves and wants.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)

Ayeyarwady United coach: Players are well experienced

AYEYARWADY United Head Coach U Myo Hlaing Win has expressed that his players are well experienced and ready for upcoming Myanmar National League matches.

Players are well experienced as most have passed in their professional footballer lives for about nine or ten years.

They already have known how they train, how they play

and how they react on the pitch. Even in current pandemic situation, they could do workouts in their own style at their homes.

Staying at home for two months could not affect their playing style in the upcoming football matches as most of the team players are composed with Myanmar National Team players and talented youths. Expatriate fitness coaches

also sent workout instructions to them via internet during the stay-at-home period and that really helped them.

We have one-month period to prepare for the Myanmar National League and now it is an enough time for us to call back all of our actions on the pitch.

Myanmar National League matches will resume on 16 July.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

MFF president provides aids for migrant workers

MYANMAR Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw contributed aids recently through Ayeyarwady Foundation for 200 migrant workers who returned from Thailand, according to the Ayeyarwady Foundation.

The foundation handed over quarantine facilities for four buildings, owned by Max Myanmar in Myawaddy, Kayin State, and provided K20,000 for their transportation to home after quarantine. For their ease of accommodation, MFF president's

foundation donated 100 carpets and K10 million to the quarantine centres in Myawaddy.

With a request of Dr Myint Myint Maw, Head of Health Department from Yamethin township and Secretary of COVID-19 Committee, Ayeyarwady Foundation, through the staffs from AYA Bank, contributed cash aid of K3 million for 539 migrant workers, along with 200 rice bags and other food stuffs, according to the Ayeyarwady United.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Neymar ordered to pay Barcelona 6.7 million euros as case against club dismissed



Neymar, the Paris Saint-Germain forward, sued Barcelona for 43.6 million euros (48 million U.S. dollar) which he claimed he was owed from his contract bonuses before he left for France in 2017.

PHOTO: AFP

MADRID — A Spanish court on Friday dismissed Neymar's suit against Barcelona over a signing-on bonus dispute as the Brazilian striker was ordered to pay 6.7 million euros (7.53 million U.S. dollar) back to his former employer.

The Paris Saint-Germain forward sued Barcelona for 43.6 million euros (48 million U.S. dollar) which he claimed he was owed from his contract bonuses before he left for France in 2017.

However, the court decided to side with Barcelona, who released a statement on its of-

icial website: "the judgement dismisses the player's claim in its entirety, which demanded the payment of 43.6 million euros, and estimates a large part of the claim filed by FC Barcelona, under which the player must return the club 6.7 million euros."

"FC Barcelona expresses its satisfaction with the verdict announced today," the statement added.

Neymar has five days to appeal the decision, but Barcelona claimed that "the club shall continue to fervently defend its legitimate interests."—Xinhua ■

Sane wants to leave Man City, says Guardiola

LONDON — Leroy Sane is heading for the Manchester City exit door after rejecting a new deal, manager Pep Guardiola said on Friday (Jun 19).

The Germany international has 12 months left on his contract and has been heavily linked with Bayern Munich, with the City boss saying he would be able to leave if the club could find a buyer.

"Leroy has rejected to extend his contract," Guardiola told reporters on Friday.

"Everyone knows. If at the end of the season two clubs agree, he can leave. If not, he will leave at the end of his contract."

"The club offered two or three times and he rejected it."

Winger Sane, 24, has won the Premier League title twice at City since joining from Schalke in 2016. However, he has not played for the first team since suffering a torn knee ligament in the Community Shield match against Liverpool in August.

"When we make an offer to a player it's because we want him," Guardiola said at his pre-match press conference.

"He has special quality. We want players who want to play with the club to achieve targets. He is a nice guy and I love him so much. I have nothing against - but he wants another adventure." —AFP ■

Former US Open champ Simpson seizes RBC Heritage lead

WASHINGTON — Webb Simpson fired nine birdies in fashioning a six-under-par 65 on Friday for a one-stroke lead midway through the US PGA Tour RBC Heritage.

Simpson said distance control was the key to his second straight six-under effort at Harbour Town Golf Links in Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, where his 12-under total of 130 put him one clear of American Bryson DeChambeau and Canadian Corey Connors.

Simpson and DeChambeau were a study in contrasts playing in the same group. DeChambeau is cutting an impressive figure after using the coronavirus hiatus to add about 20 pounds (9kg) in a quest for more strength and speed that he launched late last year.

He said the narrow Harbour Town layout didn't allow him to make the most of his newfound power, but he still grabbed eight

birdies in a seven-under-par 64 for 131. "It's just this golf course, it's so difficult to try to fit into these tight areas where, if you

miss it offline, like I did last week a couple times on a couple holes, I'll be blocked out," DeChambeau said.—AFP ■



American Bryson DeChambeau on the way to a second-round 64 and a share of second place in the US PGA Tour RBC Heritage. PHOTO AFP

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

21 JUNE 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



A Vignette of an Owl

By Maung Nyein Lu

WHEN I say, "owl", some of you, especially the young fans of Harry Potter, might recall the thrilling movie scene in Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. No sooner had that nasty, "perfectly normal" guy named Mr. Dursley burned a number of letters from Howards to Harry than hundreds of owls mysteriously fluttered around the house. Then, through the chimney, and through the mail slot, fell a sudden downpour of hundreds of sealed letters, bombarding the whole living room. But I am not going to talk about those owls.

What I am going to tell you is a story of a guy who works through the night without sleeping a wink. That's why I call him the Owl.

It was in his small office that I met him for the first time. It was his senior, UKMA, who first introduced me to the Owl. He is a bit plump. He wears a pair of square matte black frame eyeglasses. He was then dressed in a long-sleeved, white shirt. How could a snowy owl

of the Artic regions find room here? I wondered. Yes, like his colleagues, the Owl hardly sleeps at night. He keeps vigilance like a sentry soldier serving his night duty.

My first meeting with him made me recall the words of Sonny Swe, a successful newspaper man in Myanmar: "I love the smell of inks, I love the smell of the paper. I love the noise of the running printing presses." It is here in this small office where he and his staff cope with the most timebound pressures. Every night they burn the midnight oil while the rest of the world is in a deep slumber, floating in own dreamworlds. They are the Owls who work through the night without sleeping a wink.

The office was brightly lit with fluorescent tubes. There was a long table in the centre of the floor, filled with neat piles of newspapers. I also found some parcels of food on it, which, the Owl said, were shared by all staff like having a potluck supper. It was nice and quiet. (But I later discov-

ered that though they all are working quietly, it is under the constraints of time that he and his colleagues pour blood, sweat and tears every night.) His colleagues were then working with their own computers at their own desks, absorbed in their assignments. Here, in this world of their own, they follow their routine, dedicated to their never-ending mission. The staff work from 9:30 am. It gets busy at 1:00 pm. It is around 4 pm that all the information has been pooled and the mission starts till the clock strikes 1:00 am, or sometimes 2:00 am, the following morning.

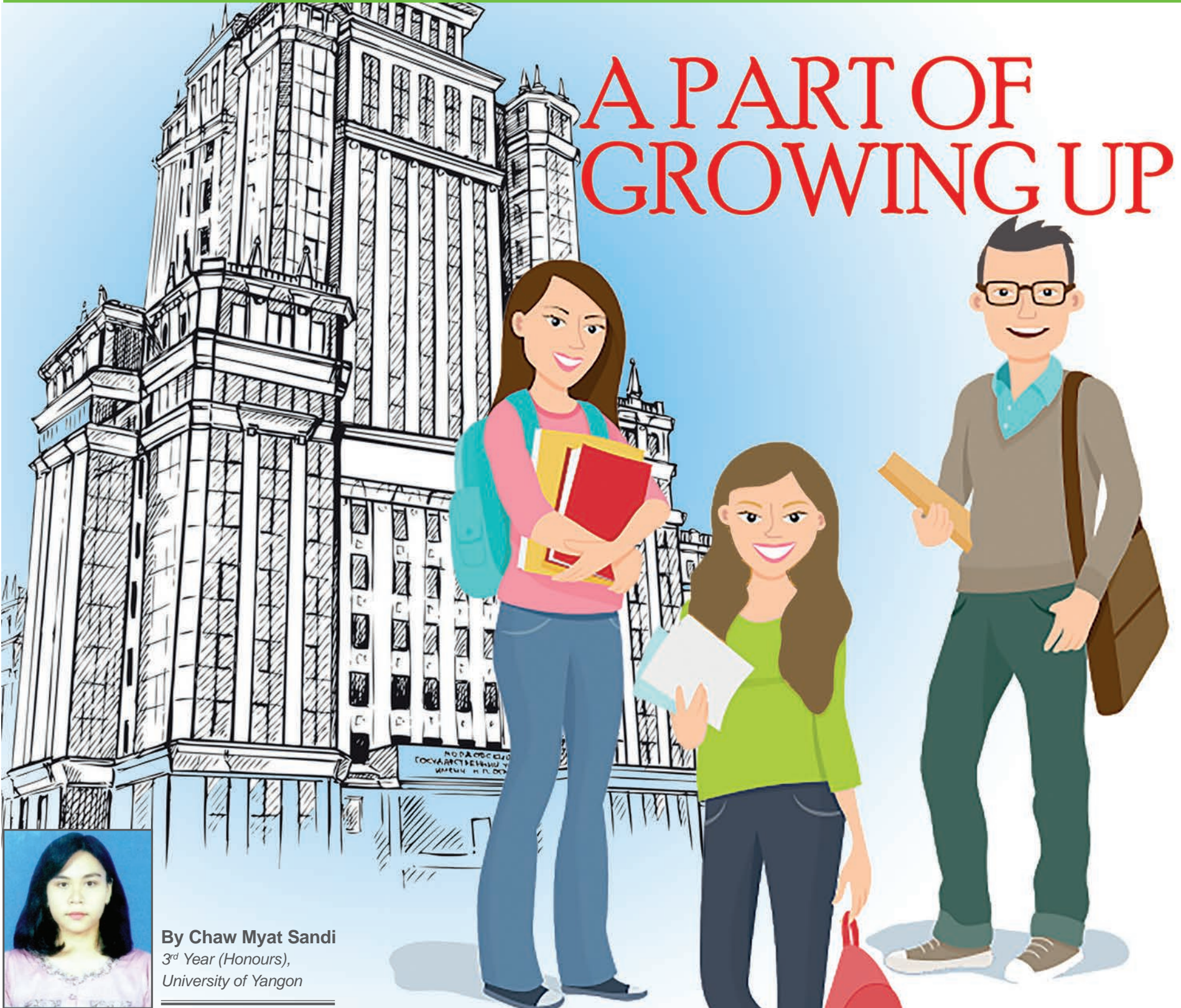
The Owl's life is a sort of monotonous drudgery, you might suppose, on the contrary, every day is a new day for him because, as you all know, new events are happening in the world every minute. His life is both nocturnal and diurnal. During the office hours he checks the emails and reassesses and rewrites TDL (to-do list) according to daily priority. And he has to prep everything so as to catch up with the

changes. Poor Owl, his working hours do not give him a chance to see the sunset.

In the afternoon he sometimes lunches out at a nearby tea shop. He often has a late lunch. He surfs the internet or flips Facebook while eating. Every evening, together with the other department heads, he is engaged in video conferencing with the authorities, and discusses the topics of interest and priority. As the daytime shifts into evening through the night, he and his colleagues find themselves swamped with work. They have the accurate eyesight of an owl so they can pay attention to every detail and work independently. Around 6 pm, he usually seats himself before the computer, racking his brains to write an editorial on a topic of current significance. These walking Owls might also be figuratively called Nya Minthars (Princes of the Night), who hardly sleep at night. Yes, they are the Owls who work through the night.

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A PART OF GROWING UP



By Chaw Myat Sandi

3rd Year (Honours),
University of Yangon

IN days of our childhood, I am sure most of us have dreamed of growing up into adulthood as soon as possible and trying many things we can't do as kids. Yet, do you really feel your wish was satisfactorily fulfilled as you grow up gradually? Entering into adulthood will paint our lives in various ways, some things we want, some things we don't want and some things we have never ever expected to welcome as parts of us. Days of childhood are simple without responsibilities lying ahead of us, burdening our soul. Undoubtedly, future would be a utopia if we can do whatever we want without those burdens. However, if things keep falling apart while adapting to adulthood and the future which was once a utopia still lies far away from us, is it still alright to keep our heads up and hope more for the future despite our poor adaptation?

Mostly, expectations on us

by society or our elders tend to exist since we were born as if it has been stamped permanently. We may also have dreams of our own apart from our childish, unreal imaginations such as to be a dancer, an artist, a scientist, and so on. On our own way to adolescence, we may have achieved what the society considered as something to be proud of, for example, an intelligent, hard-working student, a clever boy or girl of our parents and other different versions shaped by our surroundings.

Life goes on and there come those years when we come out of our old shell, start to learn new things and also try to stand on our feet. One significant example would be entering into a higher academic level: attending university. Honestly, there are high possibilities that reasons behind students' choices for majors would simply lie behind forces of parents, marks or hope for future career while

a little percentage lie on their interest. Most students don't know why they should choose their majors or what they would have to learn for the next four years. As far as my experiences can say, most have lots of hope for their university student life until they finally learn there are subjects far beyond their abilities or interest. So, the one who was once an outstanding student in high school can finally end up with identity loss, finding oneself in poor capabilities.

This is just a common example that comes from my surroundings. There can be many identity loss cases which I have never heard or thought of. Things, people, promises, relationships and dreams that were once so sure and clear as the blue sky on sunny days can become things we are barely holding on. There are moments when we can't help but compare our current days

way to get ourselves out from our failures; rethinking what we want, who we want to become and how much we have fought for our wants, plus, other alternative plans. Options never end in life unless the death finally calls us whether we want it or not.

Just to be a little help through chaos, I would say it is alright to be reckless, clueless or lost in our early years of adulthood. You would get lost, feel suffocated and even find yourself drowning in emotions and problems. What I am presenting now is not the pessimistic view on adulthood; we all know these things naturally happen. I have been there, too and I have witnessed other youths have to struggle hard with this. It is a kind of youth thing to challenge failures, I think. At the end of a year, we may find ourselves still struggling with our present, yet, the present itself becomes the past as we keep going on.

SEE PAGE-S-3

with our past where things were less complicated. If possible, we would find a time machine and even go back to the past. However, we still find ourselves stuck in present situations, sometimes, getting lost at the same time. I think that failed adaptation is where all of our adulthood problems begin.

What can we do to prevent ourselves from this then? Nothing. Things happen when they are supposed to and there is nothing we can do. So, we will just sit back and relax then? Giving up everything and throwing ourselves into life shouldn't be an option. We need to find a

INSIGHTFULLY MEDITATE ... TO KEEP MENTALLY HEALTHY DURING COVID-19



By Kyaw King

A week ago, my childhood friend who is now working in Yangon called me, said he was very bored as he stays at home for long-time.

He was asked to work from home. He doesn't like to work from home. Some people prefer to work from home, while others don't like. My friend is one of those who don't like working from home.

Before COVID outbreak, he was rarely seen at home. Most of the time, he was outside. Now he said he sometimes felt bored and stressful due to staying at home for nearly three months, and don't even know what to do in his free times.

He said during his previous days he spent his free times playing games, listening to music, watching movies and reading. His mind is dull now.

He asked me, "What should I do?"

I smiled and asked him back, "Do you do any workouts or meditation practice?"

He replied, "No."

I advised him to do workouts and meditation. I add it will

protect you from the anxieties that come from coronavirus. I also shared him two news stories that I read recently.

Very recently, a news website writes "India's Modi says yoga a 'protective shield' against coronavirus."

Prime Minister Narendra Modi also says yoga is a 'trusted friend in building immunity'.

Yoga, as much as I know, is a group of physical, mental, and spiritual practices or disciplines which originated in ancient India. Yoga is one of the six Āstika (orthodox) schools of Hindu philosophical traditions.

Another story dated on 29 March was titled "Coronavirus: Spanish hospital workers meditate as virus 'arriving at peak'".

The news of even westerners practicing meditation made me feel amazed and happy, especially during the coronavirus period.

In our country, Yoga is not famous like Vipassana meditation (Insight Meditation). Most of us are only used to the Vipassana meditation.

Therefore, I shared with my friend how to practice the Vipassana meditation during the COVID days.

I said my friend that Vipassana meditation is very helpful for us, sharing my 10-day experience at Dhamma Joti Meditation Centre, where not only locals but also foreigners come and take the meditation course.

The course trains us to see the things differently. Most of us see the things permanent, lovely, and have self or soul.

Vipassana is very different from these views. There are three characteristics in Vipassana. They are annica (impermanence), dukkha (suffering), and annata (non-self).

During the ten-day course, we have to take meditation the whole days, from early morning to till night.

After the course, the meditation teachers advised us to meditate at least two times of about an hour a day before going to bed, and after getting up in the morning.

I tried first, and then failed to continue. Now, I remember sometimes to meditate, and tried to meditate for about 10 or 15 minutes. Though it is very short moment, it made me feel calm. It can drive away my anxiety.

I know that meditation can drive away my worry and anxieties. Therefore, whenever negative or bad feelings come into my mind, I tried to meditate.

When I practiced, I tried to bear this attitude, which I got from a book: "Never mind what

I have been taught. Forget about theories and prejudices and stereotypes. I want to understand the true nature of life. I want to know what this experience of being alive really is. I want to apprehend the true and deepest qualities of life, and I don't want to just accept somebody else's explanation. I want to see it for myself."

The Buddha said, "The mind is everything, what you think you become". Therefore, I believe that it is worthy to train our mind.

For me, Vipassana is the best method to train my mind. How about you? I would like to invite you to come and see the real nature of the things by practicing Vipassana meditation.

I wish you be happy and blissful by practicing Vipassana during the coronavirus days.

FROM PAGE-S-2

When we look back, we would get a feeling that we could manage to survive our hard days somehow. People would come in and out from our life, but, at the end, we will find ourselves left with the ones we really care about

or with whom we can create good memories. We still have a chance to feel the satisfaction of accomplishing something we have planned for years even if it is too late. Who knows? There can be luck and unexpected opportunities lying in our future. I think it is alright to pass our early

adulthood days with instability, uncertainty; it is just that we shouldn't end only in disappointment. How would golden rays of the sun, smell of flowers and gentle breeze come into our life if we always shut the doors in the fear of windy days? ■



Scientists discover cockroach fossils from the dinosaur age

By Joseph Ulbrich

Two new species of cave dwelling cockroaches have been discovered from a cave in Myanmar. They have been dated to be 99 million years old making them the oldest cave animals known to date.

HOW can you forget the timeless 1993 classic film "Jurassic Park"? Spoiler alert! In the movie, paleontologist Alan Grant recreates dinosaurs from DNA found in the blood of a mosquito preserved in amber. While that may seem like fiction, animal fossils have been found in amber since the time of the ancient Greeks. Even though cloning

hasn't been performed from amber fossils, they provide a window into the past and the history of life on Earth. Recently, a team of scientists have discovered a unique insect fossil from an amber sample. In the Hukawng Valley of Myanmar, just south of India, a huge sample was extracted from the mines there. The amber from this valley is specifically called burmite, and is world-re-

nowned for preserving all sorts of life. The researcher dissected and used microscopes to make images of the massive burmite sample and discovered two new species of cockroaches. The two new species identified were *Crenoticola svadba* and *Mulleriblattina bowagi* (*Gesundheit! Am I right?*). Besides their fun and wacky names, these cockroaches are exceptional

because they are the oldest cave dwelling animal ever recorded. The scientist predicted the age of the cockroaches to be at least 99 million years old. Their age was determined using a mineral called zircon that is formed in volcanic fragments from the cave. Zircon is found combined with uranium, lead, and other heavy elements. The elements found within the zircon exist in different

isotope states which were measured to reliably determine the age of the rocks. These two cockroaches are part of a unique population of organisms called troglobites. Troglobites are animals that are native and thrive in underground habitats like caves. These animals are adapted to these environments through gradual gaining and losing of traits to survive in dark caves with little nutrition. These cave-dwelling creatures are known to have smaller eyes and wings, lack pigment, and increased length and size of sensory organs and antennae. The two new species discovered possessed some or all of these traits and also seemed to have smaller leg spines. These cockroaches

cockroaches now the oldest known troglobites. The end of the Cretaceous period marks the extinction of the dinosaurs and much of life on earth. The newly discovered *C. svadba* and *M. bowagi* are part of Nocticolidae family of cave cockroaches, which lived at least 120 million years ago and are still present today. This suggests that these cave dwellers could have been some of the few animals to survive the mass extinction 66 million years ago that famously killed three quarters of plant and animal life on Earth (including the *T. rex* and other land-dwelling dinosaurs.)

Caves experience flooding and rock collapses, resulting in the destruction of habitats and fossil records. The unstable nature of caves over the long term leaves these scientists uncertain they will find a more recent fossil of these species. This may be why no fossil evidence has been found of these species prior to the mass extinction event, suggesting that these bugs roamed before, during, and after the *T. rex*. Nonetheless, cockroaches have always been considered "indestructible" and it seems that at least the Nocticolidae family has persisted through the ages. Questions still remain if *C. svadba* and *M. bowagi* are



Here is a younger cockroach, "only" 40-50 million years old and about 4.5 mm long. SOURCE: ANDERS L. DAMGAARD / CC BY-SA

face less predators in caves and therefore have decreased defense mechanisms like leg spines. Since there are such limited resources in caves, these cockroaches may have fed off dinosaur droppings or guano. Prior to the discovery of *C. svadba* and *M. bowagi*, the oldest known cave-adapted animals lived 66 million years ago during the Cretaceous period. That makes these

still alive today and if there is any evidence of older animal cave fossils. Paleontologists are certain that organisms inhabited caves prior to these cockroaches, but only time will tell until new fossil evidence is discovered. One thing is for certain though, to paraphrase Dr. Ian Malcom (Jeff Goldblum) from Jurassic Park, "life... finds a way."



The Kan-thar-sein-lei Literary Group

By Dr. Saw Mra Aung

It is a little known literary group which emerged in Yangon in the early 1950s. It is so named after the Kan-thar-sein-lei Sardans (ကန်သာစိမ်းလှဲစာတမ်းများ) written by ivts members. Although the sardans or research papers published by it were limited in number, they can still serve researchers as valuable assets for their comprehensiveness, reliability and profundity.

Some literary enthusiasts from Yangon University met together in August, 1953 and discussed exchange and sharing of knowledge among themselves. And they decided upon forming a literary group during the meeting to seek knowledge through discussions and seminars. Thus, Kan-thar-sein-lei literary group (ကန်သာစိမ်းလှဲအဖွဲ့) came into existence in September that year. It is said that the group name was taken after the residence where they made their literary talks and that the residence-owner, a literary enthusiast, got that name from the inspirations prompted by the *Zeyya Shwe Myae* classical song (သော့ရွှေမြသီချင်းခန့်) composed by *Myawadi Mingyi*, which goes "...ကန်သာစိမ်းလှဲ... ဝန်းကြည်စိမ်းလှဲ..." meaning "... the pleasant lake brimming over with water clear, green and sparkling ...". The badge of the group was designed by Dr. Than Tun. It contained a picture of rippling lake with a clump of trees on its bunds and a motto above it, which reads "နုလုံးပွေ့လျော်ဖွယ်ရှိသော" meaning "To be delightful". Sayagyi took the motto from a Bagan stone inscription dated A.D 1236 and the lake with a clump of trees from a mural on the interior wall of the Tanbula temple in Bagan.



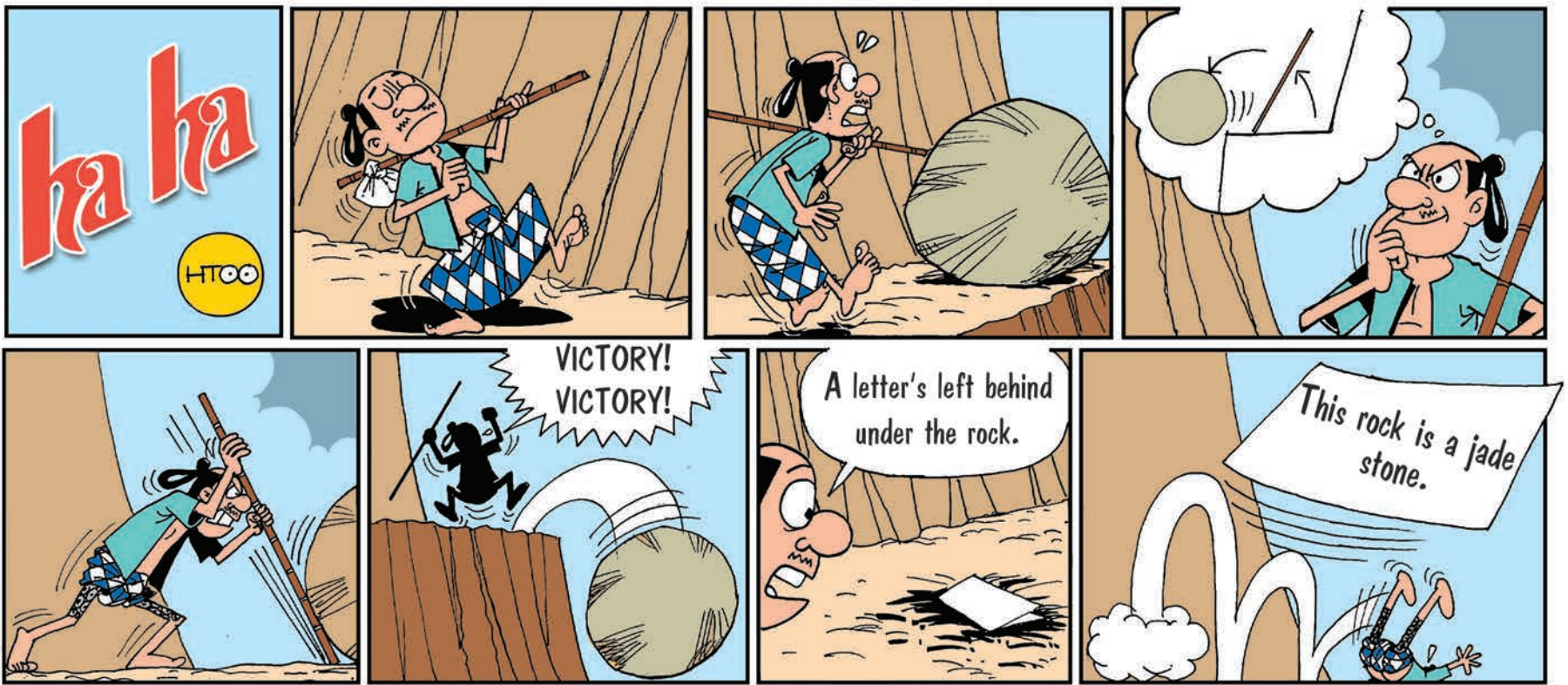
As it was informally founded and the members were small in number, the term 'group' was intentionally chosen to refer to it. There were no chairman and executives nor rules for the members to follow. There were no constraints on the members. They could undertake their literary activities freely. Membership was given free to all who wanted to enter it. There was no discrimination among the members nor anyone particular who held the reins of the group. All could enjoy equal status. Even though some members were renowned, charismatic scholars and professors, they never threw their weight in others' favour. Although membership was confined only to the students and products of Yangon University in the beginning, it was later extended to all those who were intelligent and eager enough to do research. The seminars and discussions were held on every second Sunday of a month. The subjects the members used to discuss were music, literature, psychology, politics, chemistry, education, painting, architecture, linguistics, economics, geology, anthropology, movie, marionette, sociology, history, Abhidhamma, administration, law and archaeology. When it came to 1959, Yangon University authorities, on the request of Dr. Than Tun, permitted this group to make discussions in the precincts of Yangon University. This precipitated participation of more Yangon University teachers in the seminars and other literary activities of the group. Thence-

forth, the activities of this group gained more speed and it sprang into prominence among researchers. The papers read by this group were published in three separate volumes under the title of Kan-thar-sein-lei Sardans. All the papers were sequenced chronologically in the volumes. Vol. I was published in January 1959. It was *The Laureates of Myanmar Epic-poems* (မြန်မာရတုစာဆိုတော်များ) written by U Min Swe (Min Kyaw) and Vol. II was published in February the same year. It included four sardans or reresearch papers- *Education of Bagan Period* (ပုဂံခေတ်ပညာသင်ကြားရေး) by U Tin Hla (M.A.), *Myanmar Laureate and Love* (မြန်မာစာဆိုနှင့် အချစ်) by U Ohn Khaing (B.A), *Quick Wit and Innovative Wit of Ancient Laureates* (ရှေးစာဆိုတို့၏ ရှင်ညက်နှင့် ထွင်ညက်) by U Kyin Sein (B.A) and *The Myanmar Literature of Ancient Times* (ရှေးခေတ်မြန်မာစာပေ) by U Ant Maung. Vol. III was brought out in 1969.

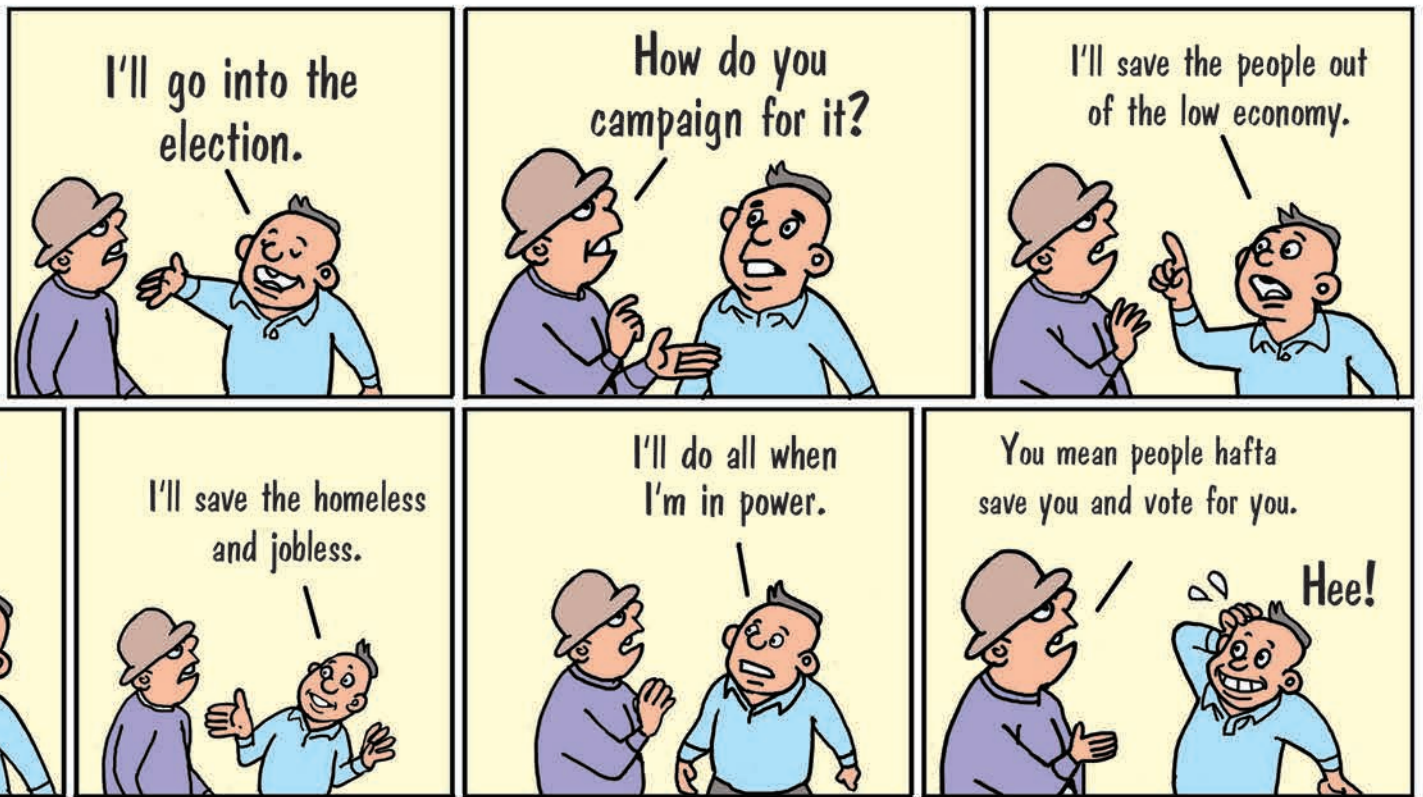
It comprised six research papers- *Myanmar Agriculture* (မြန်မာနိုင်ငံစိုက်ပျိုးရေး) by Dr. Than Tun, *Problems on Treatises of Royal Campaigns* (အရေးတော်ပုံကျမ်းပြုသင်္ချာ) by Dr. Yee Yee, *The Age of the Shwedagon Pagoda* (ရွှေတိဂုံစေတီ၏ သက်တမ်း) by U Tin Hla Thaw, *Myanmar Royal Capital and Dangers of Fire* (မြန်မာမင်းနေပြည်တော်နှင့် မီးဘေးပြဿနာ) by U Tint, *Myanmar Novels with the University Background* (တက္ကသိုလ်နောက်ခံမြန်မာဝတ္ထုများ) by Aung Pyae and *The Origin of Pali-Myanmar Nissaya Treatises* (ပါဠိ-မြန်မာနိဿယကျမ်းများ၏ မူလအရင်း) by U Tin Lwin.

In conclusion, it is found that the Kan-thar-sein-lei literary group survived for nearly two decades from 1953 to 1969, that, in the meantime, it published over ten research papers and could motivate its members to do more research and that, however, these papers were circulated only among the members. As a consequence, today, *Kan-thar-sein-lei Sardans* remains unknown to some new generation researchers and readers. To our chagrin, some of these papers can be obtained only by scrabbling in the heaps of old books at road-side book-stalls. Therefore, the authors would like to suggest here that these *sardans* should be re-published and this group rejuvenated, if possible.

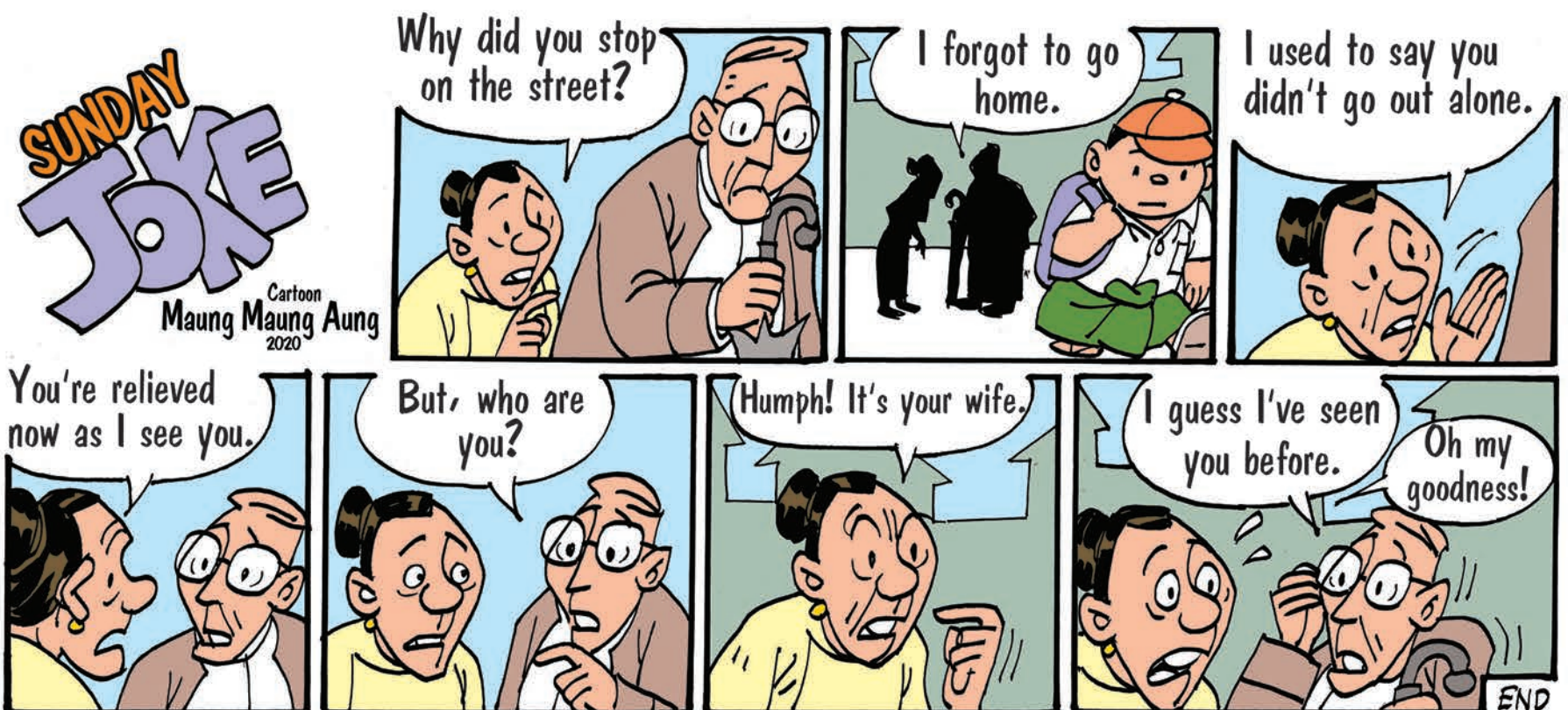
SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE
Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020





Red is Her Heart

Red is her heart

Red as ruby;

Her heart is her people,

Her people are her family.

She is a kind, loving mother;

Taking her children under her wing is her Duty.

As gifts, she brings Hope and Joy,

Her smile is her Beauty.

To build peace and progress is her goal,

A noble soul is she.

Red is her heart

Red as ruby.

By Zaw Tun

FROM PAGE-S-1

And this also makes me recall the famous Japanese contemporary artist Takashi Murakami, who sleeps little and works very hard. Says the artist: "If I relax for more than six hours, I feel like I'm being extremely lazy and I have to get back to work." There goes another Japanese Owl!

Actually, though his workplace is in Yangon, the Owl's home is forty-two miles (68 km) from the city. So, he has to shuttle back and forth between his hometown and Yangon. But there are days when he has no chance to go home but has to tuck himself in his small office and spend the night there. No choice. He's the Owl who works through the night without sleeping a wink.

An interesting Owl. He also paints. As for a prepress technician, artistic ability is a plus, you know. This ability comes to his aid when he discusses the layout, design and illustrations with the art director. I wonder how he could find time to do painting, another kind of nerve-breaking stuff, you know. Out of curiosity, when I ask him about the subject he paints, he says, "Ogres." My Gosh! He also suggests me that we should one day hold a joint art exhibition at the famed Lawkanat Gallery. Wow! The show could attract the attention of the audience because his paintings have the subject of ogres adorned with the backdrop of traditional arabesque, and my subject is the impressionistic paintings of the Buddha.

In fact, sometimes, I am also an Owl like him. In Year 2000, there was an ASEAN Art Awards competition, and I was seized with a desire to enter the contest, which aimed at reflecting "the dynamic developments in contemporary art practice in the region". I was, then, serving the duties of Associate Professor in a city seventy-seven miles away from Mandalay, where my family is living. Every evening, I took a bus, got back home, worked on my three paintings (Acrylic; 3 feet x 4 feet) the whole night through, and before daybreak, took a bus, snatched my sleep on the bus, got back to my mother unit, and served my duties without fail. Seven days! Yes, I was an Owl who worked through the night, without sleeping a wink.

The other day the Owl and I were sitting in a corner of a clean, well-lighted café at a supermarket. We had a steaming cup of Lipton tea each before us. We are close friends already, and we often pour our hearts to each other.

I usually whimper about how my practical-minded wife dislikes art and artists. And the Owl might take his turn and give vent to his feelings about his family problems.

"My aunt is so crazy, you know," said the Owl, in a tone of melancholy. "She wants me to get married." He sighed, as if he were already determined to remain a FA (Forever Alone). I understand what kind of life he's living. An owl works the whole night through and sleeps in the daytime while a human being sleeps at night and works the whole day, so how can the Owl marry a female human being? I wonder. I could sense, from his stories of tug-of-war between his profession and his family, that he's been driven into a corner. Sorry I can't help him out. This Owl must be sent right away to a heartbreak hospital! He's the Owl who does not suffer from insomnia but does not sleep a wink at night.

In Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, the hundreds of owls did not fail to bring letters from Hogwarts to Harry. Similarly, these nightshifts, newspaper staff, working day in and out and through the night, always bring the latest news to the rest of the world in a timely fashion. Relaxation is a part of their work, I suppose. To use the words of the executive editor of Mobile Press Register Mike Marshall, "I'm always working ... Since I love what I do, I don't even really think about it as work. There's no division between my relaxation and my work." For this same kind of work attitude, I raise my hat to you, dear Owl. I'm afraid though many people always look forward to the arrival of today's paper in the morning, they have not yet given due recognition to the efforts of these staff, the Owls who work through the night without sleeping a wink.

Owls do nesting in winter while most other birds are quiet. Similarly, while other people are asleep, the nightshifts perform their duties. Later, I've come across in my life many other walking Owls like him, who hardly sleep at night but serve their assignments dutifully. For example, young doctors serving the OPD night duty; some doctors (like my son) serving even thirty-six hours duty in the General Hospital, the hardworking, young Owls who has changed the night into day.

Yes, I must write a story about the Owls.

Tu-whit tu-whoo!

■



By Htar Sandi Naing
3rd Year Honours,
English Specialization,
University of Yangon.

Thank you, Daddy!

ANYONE can be a father, but not a dad. There is a huge difference between a 'Father' and a 'Dad'.

Dad is the one who supports you and cares about you. Dad plays an important role in the child's life. As for me, Daddy means the whole world to me.

First of all, Daddy is my Superhero. He is my favorite superhero. He always smiles no matter how tired he may be from work. He works very hard for the whole family. Though he cannot be with me the whole time, he always finds time to be with me. Regardless of all the stress he may have, he is there to play with me. He is available to me every time I want him. I hold his hand every time we walk together as I always feel safe. I feel protected as well whenever he takes my tiny hands. Every time I run into his loving arms, I feel like no one can harm me anymore. He is always there for me. Thank you for always being there when I need you, Daddy!

Moreover, Daddy is my everything. He loves me unconditionally. He taught me how to be brave. I used to be a little girl who runs towards Daddy whenever I face problems. There was a time when I had to wait for the school bus. I kept on waiting, but the school bus didn't show up on time. As tears started to flow from my eyes, Daddy showed up. He was there looking at me from far. He just wanted me to take the school bus as for me to handle things on my own. In that way, he showed me the way of handling all the problems on my own. He has told me countless bedtime stories as well to become a good human being. Because of Daddy. I now have courage to face all the problems in life. Thank

you for all the guidance, Daddy!

In addition, Daddy is my best friend. I can always open up to him whenever I feel stressed. He is the one who keeps on reminding me to work hard. He is the reason why I never give up. He always lets me make my own decision as he believes in me. Whenever I succeed in something, he always claps his hands and congratulates me. Therefore, I always want to make him proud of me as I want to see his smile. If there is an award for the "Best Dad," Daddy would have earned it. If I have to choose the best supporter in my life, I would have pointed at my Daddy. Knowing that Daddy has my back, I feel stronger. Whenever I want something, he always fulfills my needs. Thank you for motivating me whenever I lost confidence, Daddy!

Till now, I am still a Daddy's little princess. No matter how old I get, I am still a little kid in front of my Daddy. There are no words to express my love and gratitude to you. Thank you, Daddy!

Happy Father's Day to all the Dads out there!



Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting the submissions 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, 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 colour 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**