

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 19 July 2020



BOGYOKE AUNG SAN

19th JULY 2020

73rd MARTYRS' DAY



THAKHIN MYA



DEEDOKE U BA CHO



U BA WIN



SAO SAN TUN



MAHN BA KHAING



U RAZAK



U OHN MAUNG



YEBAW KO HTWE



OUR TRIBUTE TO MARTYRS ON 73RD MARTYRS' DAY

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"People are the key"

MoSWRR Union Minister honours volunteers, CSOs in Rakhine State

UNION Minister Dr Win Myat Aye of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement presented certificates of honour, badges, facemasks and hand sanitizers to the volunteers and civil society organizations (CSOs) for protection against COVID-19 pandemic in Sittway Township, Rakhine State yesterday.

The Union Minister and party also provided cash aids to pregnant women, children under 5-years-old and the elderly after organizing the handover ceremony at a quarantine centre in Sittway Traditional Medicine Hospital.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement

Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and officials with General Administration Department, Public Health Department, and Department of Medical Services.

Officials from Rakhine state government, the General Administration Department and related volunteers steering committees will give the certificates of honour to 364 volunteers and 37 philanthropic organizations in the region. The handover ceremony was held in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presents badges and facemasks to a volunteer representative in Rakhine State on 18 July 2020. PHOTO:MNA



Myanmar migrant workers returned from Thailand queue at the Myawady border checkpoint in Myawady on 18 July 2020. PHOTO:HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

643 Myanmar nationals return home via Myawady border bridge

A TOTAL OF 643 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No. 2 Friendship bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 18 July.

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

The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 49,215 until now.

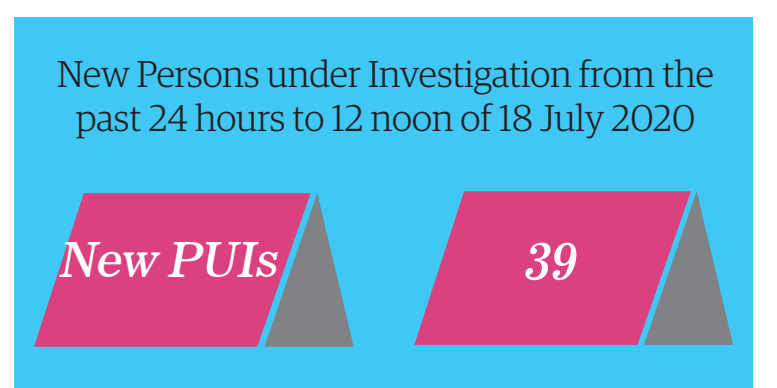
The latest group of returnees included 363 males and 280 females from different regions and states. — Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 340 after one new case reported on 18 July

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases reached 340 after one new case was reported on 18 July according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Case No. 340 returned from UAE. Out of the 340 confirmed cases, six died, 273 have recovered, 261 have been discharged from hospitals and 39 were held under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 18 July 2020



One new case of COVID-19 on 18 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

| Case No | Age | Gender | Address | Contact with positive patient | Overseas travel history | Hospital for medical treatment | Lab result | Remark |
|---------|-----|--------|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|---|
| 340 | 43 | Female | Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region | No | Yes, UAE | Weibargi Specialist Hospital | Positive | Held under quarantine (Mayangon Township) |

Ministry of Health and Sports

Only working in unison can benefit all

If you wish for the country to be developed and prosperous, all of the country's resources – financial, natural and human – have to be used together for the equal development of all races.

If the Bamar does what it wants, if the Kachin does what it wants, if the Shan, Kachin and Chin do not all cooperate, there will be no benefits for anyone. Only when you try working in unison will you know its benefits.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Bogyoke Aung San at the Panglong Dinner on February 11, 1947)



MoHS accepts contributions for prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, who is also the secretary (2) of National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, accepted the donations to the Ministry and the National-Level Central Committee in Yangon yesterday.

Firstly, the explanation of the reason for the donation from the donors of mobile swab vans was displayed in a video clip.

Then, Chairman U Zaw Moe Khaing of Myanmar Pharmaceutical & Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association explained the reason for the donation.

The Union Minister, Permanent Secretary Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win and Director-General of the Union Minister's Office

Dr Thar Htun Kyaw received the donations and gave certificates of honour in return.

In expressing words of thanks, the Union Minister said the preventive measures would be continued even though the country could contain the spread of the disease to a certain extent. He also mentioned that the contributions would benefit to the implementation of the prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19.

The donations included one mobile swab van from Sayadaw Bhaddanta Ottama (Bawdigone monastery, Thanlwin road), US\$402,000 worth of 11 units of SARs-COV-2 reagent and \$125,208.64 worth of anti-SARs-COV-2 test unit from Chairman U Zaw Moe Khaing and Dr Saw

Nay Nwe (Pacific AA Foundation, AA Medical Product Ltd, Success and Success Int'l Ltd) K267,000,000 worth of 1.5 million purified water bottles from Loi Hein Co Ltd, K23.5 million worth of one ventilator with humidifier (VG 70) from Myanmar seafarers donation group, one mobile swab van from Thu Zar Tar Foundation, logistics truck from U Thamadi International Services Co., Ltd, K11,340,000 worth of one AED machine, K5,473,000 and PPEs from doctors graduated in 1986 from the University of Medicine (1), the SARs-COV-2 reagent worth \$7200 from EMBA (14th) Batch of Yangon University of Economic, 10 million kyats as a provision to buy a mobile swab van from Myint Myat Phyu Sin Charity Specialist Clinic, K10



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe accepts the donations from well-wishers to fight against COVID-19 on 18 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

million from U Myint Htay and Daw Yin Thida Aye, K10 million worth of 220 boxes of ethanol (75%) from Progress Biochem Co.,Ltd, K1,750,000 worth 5 automatic temperature scanners from Managing Director U

Kyaw Nanda, Techmation MYANMAR Co.,Ltd and K1 million from U Tint Hlaing and Dr Hla Mya Thwae Eaindra family to buy mobile swab van. — MNA (Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Denmark-Myanmar sustainable coastal fisheries project provides 2 speedboats

The Director-General of the Department of Fisheries and party received two speedboats, which are provided according to the Denmark-Myanmar sustainable coastal fisheries project for combatting illegal inshore fishing, at the office of MSC Co., Ltd in Myeik on 16 July. "It is just a programme

of providing two speedboats under sustainable coastal fisheries project to conduct patrol for combatting illegal inshore fishing. We will implement security measures with groups at Katkuyan, the restricted area, to crack down the illegal fishing," said U Tun Naung Oo, Head of Myeik District

Fisheries Department.

The two speedboats provided for the sustainable development of fisheries were inspected by Director-General of Fisheries Department U Wai Lin Maung and departmental officials. The speedboat measures 10.54 metres in length, 3.7 metres in width and it can accommodate 15 people. Denmark-Myanmar sustainable coastal fisheries project has been implementing in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Region from 2016 to 2020. If the officials patrol with the crafts, it can crack down the illegal fishing boats and the fisheries sector will develop in the long run, according to Myeik District Fisheries Department. — Khaing Htoo (Myeik, IPRD) (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



PHOTO: KHAING HTOO (MYEIK, IPRD)

Village administrator in Kawa charged with corruption

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) received a report that the village administration officials of Kawa Township in Bago Region collected money instead of seizing the illegal timber from the boat that was stranded at the mouth of Sit-toung River.

The complaints filed with the commission alleged that the region-based military members, Wartaw Village administrator U Zaw Moe and some villagers collected money from the owner of a illegally logged timber without seizing the illegally logged timber on the motorboat.

According to ACC, U Zaw

Moe, village administrator, was found to collect K24.5million and charged at Kawa Myoma Police Station under section 56 of Anti-Corruption Law on 17 July for abusing power and taking bribe.

The two defence services personnel, who participated in that case, were investigated at the military court of Ministry of Defence and the court ordered them according to section 51(f) of the Defence Services Act on 31 March. U Min Min, owner of the timber died on 11 December 2019, and he cannot be sued anymore, according to ACC. — MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

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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.

Insects, falling price affect chilli growers in Kyaukse



Women harvest chillies in a farm in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region.

PHOTO : KO HTEIN (NGATHAYAUK)

THE local farmers from East Kyaukse township areas are unhappy with the chilli cultivation because the chilli price is on the decline and insects are destroying the plants, it is learnt.

"The chillies are grown with

the irrigated water system. Our region usually has a high yield of chilli in a time like this. However, the chilli plantations are damaged by the insects and the yield is lower this year. Last year, we got a yield of around 30

or 40 baskets of chilli per acre. This year, we got even not 20 baskets per acre. This year, the yield of chilli has declined and so is the price. The fresh chillies are sold for over K2,000 per viss. Today, the fresh chillies are sold

for only K1,100-1,200 per viss. The planting cost of the chilli is a bit high. So, the local chilli growers are facing the loss of their capital investment," said Ko Toe Toe Aung, a local grower from Pae Khin village in Kyaukse township.

Regarding the chilli cultivation, the chilli growing costs around K600,000-K700,000 per acre. Those growers who rent the land may pay the land rents as well. After over three months of the chilli growing, the farmers can pick up the chilli. But the picking job depends upon the labour. The chilli can be picked up after three or four months of growing. We could not tell the costs of every single step. However, the chilli price has declined. And the insects destroyed the chilli plantations, he added.

Kyaukse east side regions can grow the crops in any season with the irrigated water system. This year, the local chilli growers are encountering hardship because of the destruction by the insects and falling of chilli price. —Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Magway Region plans to plant over 3 million acres of monsoon crops

MORE than 3.1 million acres of monsoon crops including bean, sesame, and paddy will be cultivated in the 25 townships of five districts in Magway Region this year, according to the Region's Agriculture Department.

During monsoon, a total of 634,475 acres of monsoon paddy, 20,962 acres of maize, 489,390 acres of groundnut, 1,113,130 acres of sesame, 13,070 acres of sunflower, 475,488 acres of green gram, 184,449 acres of pigeon peas, 192,261 acres of cotton and 15,008 acres of sugarcane are being put under cultivation this year.

"Magway region grows the sesame mostly. There are more than 1.1 million acres of monsoon sesame. Then, Magway region also grows monsoon paddy

and variety of beans including groundnuts, green grams and pigeon peas. The department is negotiating with the growers to choose the long term crops to suit the changing climate," said Director U Lin Myat of Regional Agriculture Department.

The land samples are sent to the laboratory before planting. Then, the department is providing the awareness training courses to the local farmers to be able to use the fertilizer systematically, to use the pedigree seeds, to protect against the insects, to maintain the post-harvest crops systematically, said U Khine Min, the official of Regional Agriculture Department.

Magway region has already grown 2.5 per cent of monsoon paddy, 76.57 per cent of maize,

47.29 per cent of groundnut, 92.43 per cent of sesame, 18.73 per cent of sunflower, 33.35 per cent of green gram, 85.54 per cent of pigeon peas, 4.36 per cent of cotton and 109.20 per cent of

sugarcane, thereby having exceeded the target of this year, according to the official statistics of the Regional Agriculture Department —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Workers are seen in a farm in Magway Region.

PHOTO : ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

Myanmar's sea trade hit over \$20.46 bln as of 10 July

MYANMAR'S trade with foreign countries through sea route reached over US\$20.46 billion as of 10 July in the current fiscal year of 2019-2020, an increase of over \$1.46 billion compared to that of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During this period, Myan-

mar's maritime export hit over \$7.79 billion U while its import reached \$12.67 billion.

In the same period, the value of trade through border camps was over \$8.6 billion. External trade through both sea route and land borders amounted to over \$27 billion,

an increase from \$1.74 billion of last FY.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, fishery products, minerals, livestock, forest products, finished industrial goods, and other products while it imports the capital goods, consumer goods, and industrial raw

materials.

The country currently has nine ports involved in the sea trade. Yangon Port is the main gateway for Myanmar maritime trade and includes Yangon inner terminals and the outer Thilawa Port—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

We have to begin planning for the post COVID period. That is why I want our people to be open-minded, strong-willed, determined and united.



I think you would also begin to appreciate a multitude of other challenges being faced by Myanmar.

Being a developing country, we have emerging problems in health, economy, and making sure that the progress we have already achieved in the education sector is not unduly affected; the matter of a great multitude of workers returning home; the prevention of COVID-19 disease in the IDP camps in many areas under ethnic armed organizations related to internal armed conflicts; and the situation in northern Rakhine which is still unstable.

Other challenges will not disappear just because the COVID disease emerged. We have to begin planning for the post COVID period. That is why I want our people to be open-minded, strong-willed, determined and united.

People are the key, isn't it so?

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Facebook post on 29 April 2020)

Union Information Minister visits MRTV Office in Yangon

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint inspected the works of Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) in Yangon yesterday.

The Union Minister first inspected the renovation of Studio A, upgrading of Studio D, and practising of the national symphony orchestra.

He also viewed the shooting of 2020 General Election Theme Song and Public Service Announcement Programme for the election at the Studio 1.

Ministry of Information, Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV), Film Development Centre (FDC), Myanmar Motion

Picture Organization (MMPO), and Myanmar Thabin Association jointly filmed the song and announcement programme.

The Union Minister also held a meeting with MRTV's officials at its meeting hall.

At the meeting, MRTV's Director-General U Ye Naing reported on the broadcasting programmes including a live broadcast programme of 73rd Anniversary of Martyrs' Day, shooting and broadcasting of songs, short story movies, and election quotes, and centenary programmes of Myanmar's film industry and Yangon University.



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint inspects the practising of the national symphony orchestra at the Radio Master Room of MRTV in Yangon on 18 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Upon the reports, the Union Minister urged the media personnel to keep learning so that

they can keep up with changing technology trends, and analyze the effects of new media tech-

nologies on the works of the department concerned. — MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*

MoSWRR Union Minister discusses resettlement of IDPs in Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye held a meeting

with officials from Rakhine state government and departments concerned at the state govern-

ment office in Sittway yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the works being im-

plemented by the Committee for Regional Resettlement and Socio-economic Development and Reception and Resettlement Committee in cooperation with Rakhine state government.

UEHRD Committee is currently working together with the state Hluttaw and government, social organizations, and international organizations to resettle the IDPs at Kyauktalone IDP Camp in Kyaukpyu.

The meeting highlighted that it is important to cooperate in building temporary shelters and providing assistance for IDPs.

Officials concerned have prepared a quarantine centre, provided assistance, and implement-

ed social welfare programmes in Rakhine State to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The matters related to cooperation on disaster management and rehabilitation works were also discussed at the meeting.

The meeting, which was organized in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, was attended by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, state government ministers, the ministry's director-general and deputy director-general, and state-level departmental officials. — MNA *(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)*



The meeting between Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye and officials from Rakhine state government is in progress at the Rakhine state government office in Sittway on 18 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Director-General U Zaw Htay explains current national situation, including COVID-19 at press meet

DIRECTOR-General U Zaw Htay of the Department of Union Peace Formation, under the Ministry of Office of State Counsellor, met local and foreign media-persons at the Press Room of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 4 pm on 17 July in accord with the social distancing arrangement, and explained the current situation including the Covid-19 infection.

At the press meet, Director-General U Zaw Htay said this is the second such meeting during the time of Covid-19. Here, the provisions for the grassroots with no regular income will be explained. It is a programme under the CERP. During the Thingyan holidays, five kinds of basic food items were distributed to the grassroots with no regular income for the first time. It cost over Ks 50 billion in providing five kinds of basic food items to four million households during the ten days from 10 to 19 April this year.

Families that were not included in the first distribution for various reasons were listed in the whole country before the start of the second programme to distribute five kinds of basic food items. Then, each household was provided with K15,000. During the 12 days between 27 June and 12 July, over 1.4 million households were provided with K21 billion worth of assistance.

K20,000 each will be presented to over 5.4 million households in the third week of July under the distribution programme for the grassroots with no regular income. The test run of the distribution programme will be conducted in Pobbathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, Kalaw Township in Shan State, Meiktila Township in Mandalay Region through mobile payment application. During the fourth distribution programme each of the over 5.4 million households will get K20,000. It will begin in the last week of the coming August.

DG U Zaw Htay then answered the questions raised by the local and foreign media persons about the observance of the tender rules in reclaiming land plots for the low-cost housing project in Nay Pyi Taw, the invitation of the EAOs of the Northern Alliance to the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, the security programme for the elections in Rakhine State, the Government's process to systematically return



Director-General U Zaw Htay speaks during the press meet at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 July 2020. PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE

the seized farmland back to the original owners (farmers), the response on the involvement of the director-general of the Customs Department and the managing director of the Port Authority in the board of directors of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, action taken against the distribution of false news, the case of crime reporters, bilateral discussions in connection with the Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia, the report in connection with the Whaikha landslide occurred in Phakant, action taken against senior police officers, investments made by illegal foreigners, the current situation of the Silk Road, the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, the facilitation of news gathering functions at the ministries, anti-Covid-19 measures and the programme to ease the fears of parents in opening the schools, the request for a press conference of the Anti-Corruption Commission and whether the troop deployment of both sides was discussed at the recent JMC-U meeting.

As regards the case of the involvement of the director-general of the Customs Department and the managing director of the Port Authority in the board of directors of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited, the DG said the Union Attorney-General's Office has made an announcement from the legal point of view that under the sections 10 (f) and 37 of the 2013 Civil Service Personnel Law, their involvement in the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited is illegal. Hence, Managing Director U Ni Aung of the Port Authority have

informed the President Office about his resignation from the BOD of the Holdings of his own accord on 6 July. Director-General of Customs Department U Kyaw Htin had already sent an official letter, saying that this letter superseded the previous letter as his appointment at the job was illegal, to the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry and the Ministry of Defence.

As regards the government's preparations for the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, he said the third session was held from 11 to 16 July 2018, and there was a two-year absence till now. But during the two years, the government and EAOs held 10+10 summits. KNU and RCSS issued their own announcements in November. After the issuance of those announcements, the government could restore the correct path through many formal and informal meetings.

The eighth JICM formal meeting was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 January 2020 and an eight-point accord was reached. The eight-point accord includes the holding of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong in the first four months of 2020. Initially, the government hoped to hold it before the Thingyan holidays. Discussions were held to reach the accord under the three parts of the Union Peace Agreement made by the JICM meeting held at NRPC in Yangon on 2 and 3 February 2020. The part one is the NCA implementation framework accord, the part two is the implementation of a series of work programmes after the 2020 elections, the part three is the basic principles for the establishment of a Demo-

cratic Federal Union, and the decision has already made to hold the Conference and on the estimated date, he said.

The government held meetings with EAOs on 2, 3, 16, 17 and 18 February and 5 and 7 March, during which efforts were made with added momentum for reaching the Union Peace Agreement. Covid-19 was declared a global pandemic on 11 March. UPDJC meeting was held on 12 March, and on the following day, the President Office issued a public announcement on the Covid-19. Positive cases were first found in Myanmar on 23 March. The government met with EAOs on 2 and 3 April, and decided to wait till the end of April, as the Covid-19 prevention period was valid till 30 April. The government will meet with EAOs in the coming week, he explained.

Many of the accords of the sectors of the Union Peace Agreement may be reached there. The taskforce has agreed to hold the conference on 12, 13 and 14 August, and it is agreed to present it to the leaders for approval. The government and the Hluttaw have already agreed it. EAOs and PPSTs also agreed the provisional schedule at a meeting held on 10 July, and informed the government about their decision. So, efforts are being made in accordance with the schedule. The majority of political parties gave a positive response on it. The date will be fixed on 12 and 13 August as initially agreed by the taskforce. The conference will be minimized and a good result is essential. It will be held in accordance with the social distancing rules. The conference will be held at MICC (I) and MICC (II). UPDJC and JICM meetings will be held at the MICC (I), and the MICC (II) will be the venue of the opening and signing ceremony, he said. The media will not be allowed to gather news at the hotels where the representatives of the conferencing are staying, and the reporters may collect news at the press meets from the safe distance. Plans are underway to take group documentary photos in a safe way. The Ministry of Information will assist the media to collect news, the DG said.

As regards the reopening of basic education schools under the directives of the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS), the Covid-19 Prevention, Containment Treatment Central Com-

mittee led by the State Counsellor issued guidelines and standard operation procedures (SOPs). The SOPs include the specific rules for the parents and their children, teachers and their students and officials.

In the whole country 6,171 basic education high schools, 1,000 private high schools, and four monastic high schools will be reopened. According to the Ministry of Education, of the nearly 1.6 million high school students, 1.06 million had already enrolled till 14 this month, DG U Zaw Htay said.

The SOP version 1.3 which includes the rules to be observed by the students and teachers before coming to the school, on the school bus, during the break, and at the end of the school hour have already been prepared. So teams will visit the schools and fill the checklist to ascertain whether their safety measures are at the satisfactory level or not. Schools which has made perfect preparations for reopening will be listed at the A level, schools that need additional measures at the B level, and schools with serious deficiencies at the C level, he clarified.

The reopening of the A level schools will be permitted, and each township will have three inspection teams. A team will comprise representatives of the General Administration Department (GAD), the MoHS, MoE, parent-teacher associations and representatives of the local governments.

The teams have been instructed to start their work 17 July. They will examine the safety measures in accordance with the checklist, and the schools whose preparations are found to be perfect and reached the A level will be permitted to open. The inspection teams will revisit the schools in the B and C levels when they have completed their health measures. Members of GAD, fire brigades and social welfare organizations will help prevent the formation of crowds outside the schools. Disagreements are appearing on the social networks in connection with the reopening of the schools. The reopening of private schools which have hostels or linked with hostels, and subjective-wise private schools will not be allowed, he said.—Myo Han Kyaw

(Translated by TMT)

FROM SLOWING DOWN TO RISING

China's economic bounce good news for global recovery

CHINA has become the first major economy to grow since the start of COVID-19. The bounce-back smashes predictions by naysayers of China's economy and provides hope to other countries looking to recover from a crisis that has caused a global recession. The 3.2 per cent year-on-year growth in the second quarter of the year, versus a 6.8 per cent contraction in the first quarter, demonstrated that the world's second-largest economy has a solid base for further expansion.

Ever since the outbreak of COVID-19, China adopted comprehensive, strict and precise measures for prevention and control despite misunderstanding and smearing from some Western countries. The government has rolled out a raft of measures, including more fiscal spending, tax relief and supportive employment policies, to revive the economy.

Chinese economy has shifted from slowing down to rising,

strong evidence that the adverse impact of the epidemic can be overcome with resolve, courage and correct actions.

The world's confidence in the prospects of China's development is well-founded. The country's economic recovery will continue in the second half of the year, powered by the rapidly growing new industries and business models, as well as the strong support from macro policies.

China, now in a better position to handle any contingencies in the future, remains an important engine for global growth. Its market is still huge, inclusive and open where wise foreign enterprises have every reason to stay rooted and seek further development. The dark moment is passing, but the full recovery could take time. China needs to deepen reforms, expand opening-up and improve its business environment to achieve high-quality development.

SOURCE: Xinhua



People buy vegetables and fruits at a supermarket in Lianyungang City, east China's Jiangsu Province, May 12, 2020. China's consumer price index (CPI) grew 3.3 per cent year on year in April, moderating from the 4.3-per cent gain in March, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics. (PHOTO BY GENG YUHE/XINHUA)

A DIFFERENT WAY OF THINKING

How new inventions can fight spread of COVID-19 indoors

AS tens of millions of people return to public transit, their workplaces and schools, are current interventions enough? It's become a familiar mantra: masks, hand-washing and physical distancing can slow the spread of the coronavirus while work continues on developing the vaccines and treatments needed to rid the world of its threat. But as tens of millions of people return to public transit, their workplaces and schools, are these interventions enough? Researchers are increasingly looking at the pandemic through the lens of engineering, devising ways to make indoor environments safe

er. Here's a preview of what's in store.

Heated nickel air filters

Scientists are getting more worried about the potential airborne spread of the coronavirus, at distances far greater than the two metres (six feet) of spacing urged by guidelines.

Certain super-spreading events, such as a choir practice in Washington state in the spring, appeared to involve so-called microdroplets that became suspended in the air.

HEPA (high-efficiency particulate air) filters — technology that first came to market in

the 1950s — are used widely in hospitals, biocontainment labs and airplanes. These use a fan to draw air through felt-like filters to capture the tiniest of microbes.

But the filters become contaminated over time and must eventually be incinerated or autoclaved. A research team at the Texas Center for Superconductivity at University of Houston and Galveston National Laboratory has now demonstrated the efficiency of a new type of filter based on an ultra-fine foam made of nickel.

By heating the foam to 200 degrees Celsius (392 degrees Fahrenheit), the researchers were able to eliminate 99.8 per cent of airborne SARS-CoV-2 virus from a room on first pass.

New UV technology

Lamps that operate on a particular area of the ultraviolet spectrum known as UVC have long been used to kill bacteria, viruses and molds, notably in hospitals and in the food-processing industry.

But direct exposure to UVC is dangerous because the rays, which aren't present in regular sunlight, cause skin cancer and eye problems — meaning they can only be used once people leave.

Researchers at Columbia University have been working for several years on a new type of UVC lamp, whose shorter wavelength of 222 nanometers makes them safe for humans but still lethal to microbes. Last month, a team led by physicist David Brenner published a paper in the journal *Scientific Reports* showing that their technology killed 99.9 per cent of seasonal coronaviruses present in airborne droplets.

Antiviral coatings

Catching the virus via touch is also a potential risk, hence the directives to frequently wash our hands and use disinfectant on surfaces. Long-lasting antimicrobial surface coatings can also complement cleaning products, but the decade-old technology has thus far largely been confined to hospitals.

Researchers at the University of Arizona recently proposed widespread use of coatings as a new line of defense against SARS-CoV-2. An antiviral coating made of quaternary ammonium polymer, developed by Allied BioScience, was found to reduce the amount of a coronavirus closely related to SARS-CoV-2 on a surface by 90 per cent in 10 minutes.

SOURCE: AFP

Chatting banned on Metro Manila trains

PHILIPPINE transport authorities have prohibited chatting on Metro Manila trains as an added measure to prevent the further spread of the coronavirus, a spokesperson for the Light Rail Transit Authority (LRTA) said on Friday.

The new policy prohibits passengers from talking or answering calls on mobile phones, or through any other device while on the commuter trains in Metro Manila, the epicentre of the COVID-19 epidemic in the Philippines.

In a direct message to Xinhua, LRTA spokesman Hernando Cabrera said that the Light Rail Transit Line 2 (LRT-2) has adopted the "no talking" policy "as an added safety measure" to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"We are strictly implementing the no talking policy," Cabrera said, adding this was already posted on the LRT-2 Facebook page to alert the train commuters.

SOURCE: Xinhua



A technician applies an anti-microbial coating developed by Allied BioScience's first generation antimicrobial coating.

PHOTO: ALLIED BIOSCIENCE/AFP/FILE

ARZARNIs – Commendable Late National Leaders

AMERCILESS round of bullets ricocheted across the Cabinet meeting room of the former Secretariat (former Ministers' Office) where the then eight National Leaders -- Bogyoke Aung San, Thakhin Mya, Deedok U Ba Cho, Mongpawm Chieftain Sao San Tun, Mahn Ba Khaing, U Ba Win, U Razak, U Ohn Maung, plus a bodyguard Yebaw Ko Htwe -- were deliberating on State affairs and assassinated them all on this very day 73 years ago. It was the gloomiest day for the entire nation and people of Myanmar. It was the most historically unforgettable incident, too. They all sacrificed their lives for the country and people. How admirable they are!

Certainly, in sadness, the whole nation commemorates an unhappy event or occasion on 19 July annually as a day of the Martyrs, 'Arzarni' in the Myanmar Language. Commemorative news, articles, stories, biographies, cartoons, books, documentaries, radio and TV programmes, etc. are also published and broadcast in a memorial gesture of this very day 73 years back on 19 July 1947.

Family members of the Arzarnis go and lay wreaths at the Martyrs' Mausoleum, and hold religious ceremonies and memorial services. People can go and salute the Martyrs at Arzarnis Mausoleum. Also, they can view documentary displays at the Bogyoke Museums both in Yangon and in Natmauk and the Secretariat Building (former Ministers' Office) in downtown Yangon. However, all should heed the health protocols issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, in this time of the coronavirus era.

Here, we would like to pay our heartfelt tribute to the Martyrs by quoting the speech by Bogyoke Aung San.

"If you wish for the country to be prosperous and developed, you should use all financial, natural and human resources together for the development of all races equally. If the Bamar do what they want, if the Kachin do what they want, if the Shan, Kachin and Chin do not cooperate, there will be no benefits for anyone. Only when you try working in unison will you know its benefits." Bogyoke stressed that 'only working in unison can benefit all'. The State Counsellor also highlighted that we need to be creative and innovative and figure out how to make our existing resources to be more valuable for ourselves as well as for the whole world.

Likewise, we all need to work in unison in combatting the coronavirus pandemic. We all need to be more united, more collaborative and more cooperative amongst us in the face of the deadly pathogen.

Be united and work together in unison for the benefit of all!

Aung San, the Man

THE writer got the above title from Bo Tun Hla [Tetkatho Nay Win] whom he met on many occasions and with whom he became thick friend. In his capacity as Director-General of Fine and Performing Arts, Ministry of Culture [1975-83] he had to chair the colonial committee for holding of the Anniversary of Martyrs' Day 19 July. Bo Htun Hla attended the committee meeting, and we two talked about Bogyoke's biography. Then, again, when we often met each other on our literary talks across the country in the month of Natdaw's Writer's Day, Bo Htun Hla often suggested me as follows:

"Ko Khin Maung Nyunt, you are an historian and also you are the Chairman of official Compilation of Bogyoke Aung San Biography. Surely you would treat him officially Aung San, The Thakhin, Aung San, Editor of Oway magazine, Aung San the President of Ta-Ka-Tha [Students' Union], Aung San the leader of Yebaw Thone Gyeik [Thirty Comrades], Aung San the founder of modern Army [B.D.A, B.I.A], Aung San the leader of AFPFL, Aung San the leader of First Pinlong Conference. Aung San the leader who parleyed with the British Prime Minister Clement Atlee in British Parliament from whom he got the promise of granting independence to Myanmar; Aung San who rejected the British Simla White Paper; Aung San who campaigned across the country for the Federal Union on the model of British Parliamentary System; Aung San who was assassinated with his colleagues on the morning of 19 July 1947 while sitting the Executive Committee which I narrowly escaped as Aung San asked me to get a file on his table. All these facts of his life would be recorded in his official biography;"

"But, Ko Khin Maung Nyunt, you should not miss Aung San, an ordinary man like you and me. He was human and he behaved humanly. He sung, he swore, he burst into laughter, ... he appreciated the feminine beauty and he wrote love letters. But

By Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

he was too outspoken... he sang May Shin's song "Kyaung Peik Yet" [ကျောင်းပိတ်ရက်] and May Than's and Daw Than Aye's songs. I had to prompt him where he forgot. He made music from his mouth and hand. While were campaigning in Rakhine State we had to use bicycle. He could not ride bicycle. He sat on the carrier at the back and gave political lectures. But he was a goes hiver and hues rider. He even wanted to pilot army plane.

"He wrote "Love" letters to pretty college girls. The writer got a chance to read his love letter to one Professor of the Institute of Education. Given at that time this Lady Professor was very beautiful. She showed me the love letter she received from Ko Aung San. When Bogyoke Aung San was in the kind cure of his private nurse Daw Khin Kyi, he found real love and life partner. He revealed that to Daw Khin Kyi and sang out to her the following piece of song of his own creation in the tune of the chorus of the recorded song of Singer Daw Kyi Aung " Ya Thi Dawoo: " ကတိသစ္စာပြုကာ နှစ်တာကိုပြောမည်၊ ဘယ်ခန်းမမှချစ်ခဲ့သည်၊ သခွဲကတိသည် ဆရာမကိုပဲ၊ အသစ္စာအောင်ချစ်မိပြီ [To speak the truth, I have never ever loved any fair sex, But now my entire love showers on my Nurse Saya ma with all my heart and soul.]

His bodyguard [အဝေးတော်ပြု] Bo Htun Hla [Tetkatho Nay Win] told me that he was asked by Bogyoke to pay him an engagement ring, a one karat diamond ring. It was later placed in the custody of the Myanmar Government. We can see it at National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.

Mr Lal, an Indian man, and the owner of cold drink shop at the Roundabout at Hletan told me: "Once Bogyoke Aung San visited my shop by surprise, greeting me very warmly, embracing me

and he yelled. Bogyoke said, 'Hey, Lal, I came to settle my debt for your cold drink."

"Oh. No. Ko Aung San. I have nothing of those days. I am very happy because you still remember me and visit me," said Mr Lal.

"When he was lying in State in Jubilee Hall with other assassinated bodies of his colleagues, I visited and burst out my uncontrolled weeping as I paid my homage.

"Oh, Thakhin Aung San, Bogyoke Aung San, why don't you take me with you? The crowd nearby watched me also weeping."

Pinlong U Pe Khin, I.C.S Myanmar Ambassador to Egypt, told me about impatience and short temper of Bogyoke Aung San. "He could not stand the long negotiation with ethnic leaders at Pinlong. He said he would leave by earliest plane. U Pe Khin claimed him down saying, "A negotiator's or diplomats' or statesman's patience is beyond measure." Bogyoke accepted his words.

Also Bo Htun Hla told me that Bogyoke Aung San was blatantly outspoken. Htun Hla (Tetkatho Nay Win) told me that blatant outspokenness of Bogyoke Aung San as follows:

"While we were political campaigning in Rakhine state, we were given bicycles. Bogyoke yelled out to me, "I don't know how to ride bicycle." "Don't yell out. Keep quiet. I'll carry you on the back seat," Htun Hla replied.

The writer himself a Mandalay born, Anya Thar, he learnt bicycle riding only when he reached high school. We, Anya Thars, walked and hitchhiked.

Bogyoke easily rode buffalo, bullock cart, elephant, horse, army jeep, truck, army water craft and even trying to fly army plane. He had never learnt bicycle riding.

"I have to teach him English table manners and etiquette. How to wear English suite smartly. I also told him about English hierocracy, English highbrowism. He learnt quickly. When he parleyed



with Mr. Clement Atlee, he could impress Atlee and colleagues. Atlee said, "I can work with Aung San. He is outspoken and honest. We would grant you independence soon. But, you draw up your constitution," said Bo Htun Hla.

The writer also learnt simple and frank character of Bogyoke Aung San from Darawan U Kan Thein, nightwatch man of Tetkatho (University) building.

U Kan Thein himself was an Anya Thar, always wearing some cotton garments with a turban of face towel. He recalled: "Thakhin Aung San was string headed. He forgot to bathe, change his dress and eat. I had to remind him often. He slept on a bamboo easy chair. I had to move him on bed under mosquito net. But when he was hungry, he would eat even the leftover rice from pet. He liked boiled bean and wheat naan with sesame oil [ပဲပြုတ်နံနံပြား]. I had to buy [ငှက်ခြေကြော်] from Pyapon Daw Aye Yin's shop at the back of Thaton Hostel. The owner did not take money for it. But Ko Aung San paid for it.

The writer had many data learnt from his friends in Natmauk Monastic School of U Thawbita in Natmauk, and his hostel mates of Pegu Hostel at Yangon University.



Foreword by Daw Khin Kyi, Wife of Bogyoke Aung San

MY husband Bogyoke Aung San was assassinated while struggling for independence on behalf of his country and his people.

As he is no longer with us, I don't want to focus only on him. If we really love him, we all need to strive to follow his example until we achieve his goal.

I considered it my duty to stand behind him, to care and encourage him, and when my husband

took on the heavy burden of responsibility for the country and its people, I considered it my duty to share that responsibility.

After he passed away, I redirected my devotion to him towards the movement he created and towards our children so they could follow their father's footsteps.

I'm sure that other bereaved wives of other

fallen leaders who have suffered the same fate as me are sharing my great sorrow. And if we really love them, we must follow their examples and prove our love for them through sacrifice. They could not witness the fruits of the movement they built, so we are obligated to pick up where they left off and continue their work.

The last thing I want to say to my people is this:

Gandhi's prayer for General Aung San

MAHATMA Gandhi, a man who is considered to be the leader of India's independence movement against British rule, had this to say the day after the assassination of General Aung San.

"Like India, Myanmar is going to gain independence. Myanmar's leader General Aung San is the architect of a new Myanmar, and he left Myanmar while it was on the threshold of independence. General Aung San is the young

hero of Myanmar. Due to his efforts, Myanmar is going to gain independence. A group of armed men assassinated him and his colleagues. This is not a trivial incident. No matter how far Myanmar is from India, this tragedy makes us painful and grieved.

In case of such kinds of tragedy, how would the world happen? I used to stay in Myanmar for a long time. I've been to Yangon and Mandalay.

Buddhism is flourishing in Myanmar. The majority of the people are devout Buddhists. Why did this bloody tragedy happen in a country where Buddhism is flourishing? It is very regrettable to see this while the country is stepping into the doorway to independence.

I hope that India will take a lesson from what happened in Myanmar. Because what happened in Myanmar is a sorrowful tragedy, not just for

I urge everyone to avoid rioting and to control your anger in the name of your leader's example and in accordance with what he would have wished.

Support the Pha-Sa-Pa-La League, which he established, and strive for the independence, which was his greatest aspiration.

Interpreted excerpts from the (*Hanthawady Daily*)... July, 1947 (Translated by Aye Min Soe)

Myanmar but also for the Asia region. My Lord, console Myanmar people who are struggling for independence like India, and give strength to the bereaved families of those leaders who were assassinated, I pray."

Gandhi's prayer at the prayer session for Myanmar Martyrs on 20 July, 1947.

(Excerpt from the *My Contemporaries by Paragu*) (Translated by Aye Min Soe)

In Commemoration of 73rd Martyrs' Day

19th July, 1947-19th July, 2020

To Aung San and Other Patriotic Idols

If he were still living today
That's what all our people strongly believe
He would unflinchingly make every effort
to take the lead in building
the destiny of his country.

If he were still living today
That's what all our people strongly believe
He would actively undertake as his responsibilities
the affairs for the essentials of life and health
of his poverty-stricken people,
as well as the education and culture of his nation.

If he were still living today
That's what all our people strongly believe
He would not exhaust his intellectual brains,
and the contributions of the people,
for the sake of his beloved family egocentrically,
but make endeavours to grow
the Tree of Love for his country, his world.

If he were still living today
That's what all our people strongly believe
He would sacrifice his flesh and blood
to safeguard his country
in times of foreign invasions.

If he were still living today
That's what all our people strongly believe
He would put an end to the ongoing civil wars
among our ethnic races of the same blood,
stirring up the brotherhood spirit,
going hand in hand.

The whole country bled to witness
his untimely fall at the daybreak of a new era;
His Soul, however, on his behalf,
the flaming torch shining through the dark way,
will be guiding, leading his people as before
That's what all our people strongly believe.

Tin Moe

From A Collection of Poems: Pan Zay Khin (1967)

Translated by Zaw Tun



OUTBREAK HOTSPOTS

Australian virus resurgence forces suspension of parliament



Parliament House in Canberra, Australia. PHOTO: AFP

AUSTRALIA'S parliament will be suspended for two weeks over fears that politicians could bring coronavirus from outbreak hotspots to the country's capital, Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced Saturday.

The postponement comes a

day after the nation's second-biggest city reported a record rise in COVID-19 infections.

Citing medical advice, Morrison said the government could not ignore the risk that legislators might spread the disease to Canberra.

"The risks posed by a parliamentary sitting are significantly higher and unlikely to be resolved in the next month," he said.

Canberra and its surrounding Australian Capital Territory continue like much of the country to control the virus but cases

have been on the rise in Sydney and Melbourne. The announcement means parliament will not reconvene until at least August 24, having resumed on June 8.

The main opposition party accepted the decision but described the loss of political oversight ahead of a government update on the economy Thursday as "problematic".

"We expect to be consulted much further in advance from any decision being made than what's occurred with these circumstances," Labor Party leader Anthony Albanese told media in Sydney.

'Shocked us all'

On Saturday officials in the southern state of Victoria, for which Melbourne is the capital, said the region had recorded more than 200 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours following a rise on Friday of 438.

"217 is much better than a number above 400, but it's a num-

ber that would have shocked us all a month ago," Victoria's chief health officer Brett Sutton said.

"We need to remember it's still a high number."

Melbourne is battling a recent surge that has seen more than five million residents placed on lockdown.

The outbreak has also spread to Sydney, Australia's biggest city, where there have been growing numbers of locally transmitted cases after an initial cluster erupted from an infected Melbournian who visited a popular pub. Nationwide Australia has reported more than 11,400 cases of COVID-19 so far in a population of about 25 million, with 118 deaths from the illness.

The vast majority have been in Victoria and neighbouring New South Wales, the country's most populous state and home to Sydney. Other regions have not reported any new local infections in weeks.

SOURCE: AFP

VIRAL LINEAGES

Brazilian researchers detect six lineages of SARS-CoV-2 in whole country

BRAZILIAN researchers have detected six lineages of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, circulating around the nation, a Brazil's leading research centre for diseases has said.

The Oswaldo Cruz Foundation said on its official website Tuesday that the researchers conducted a wide genetic study involving almost 100 samples from patients from all Brazilian regions, which were collected between Feb. 29 and April 28.

Sequencing the full viral genome can help researchers understand how the novel coronavirus disseminates around the country, said Paola Cristina Resende, leader of the study.

"The characterization of viral lineages allows us to understand the type of virus that is circulating in a certain region and to make comparisons with the circulation of lineages between countries and even within the same country," said Resende.

SOURCE: Xinhua

TROTSKY AND RIVERA

Future of famous Mexican dance hall threatened by pandemic

MEXICO City's famous "Los Angeles" dance hall was once frequented by Soviet revolutionary Leon Trotsky and Mexican artist Diego Rivera.

It's an emblematic establishment where intellectuals rubbed shoulders with guerrillas, but now its future has been left hanging in the balance by the coronavirus pandemic.

Los Angeles, in the Guerrero neighborhood of central Mexico City, turned off its neon lights on March 22 and is showing no sign of reopening.

It's an iconic place where Mexican writers sought inspiration and Zapatista rebels discussed laying down their arms.

It's also here, amongst the red and fuchsia decor, that Mexican actor Cantinflas -- celebrated throughout Latin America -- met his wife, Valentina Ivanova.

But despite its 83-year history, Los Angeles is teetering on the brink of permanent closure, and its owner has launched an appeal for funds.

Miguel Nieto, grandson of the dance hall's founder, told AFP the club's financial situation was "already difficult," even before the pandemic.

Nieto has run the dance hall for 48 years and employs 25 people, although for special events that number can rise to 100.

What complicates matters even more for the club is that many of its clientele are pensioners, amongst the most at-risk group from the coronavirus, who used to come to dance the mambo, danzon or chacha-chacha.

It's not the only night club to be on the brink: some 2,600 establishments and their 380,000 employees are at risk, according to their union, Anidice.

'Still alive'

The importance of this bohemian corner of the capital city cannot be understated: it's said that "those who don't know the Los Angeles salon, don't know Mexico."

Nieto proudly lists the celebrities who have frequented the dance hall, including the actor German Valdes, known as Tin Tan, and painter Rivera, husband of the equally renowned artist Frida Kahlo.

In 1998, it was where Carlos Fuentes celebrated the 40th anniversary of his first novel,

"Where the Air is Clear", alongside Nobel Prize winners Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Jose Saramago.

The hall has been used to film countless movie scenes and was the theater for a 1997 meeting between Subcomandante Marcos and fellow Zapatista insurgents.

"So many things have happened here over so many years," sighed Nieto.

Mexico's culture secretary, Jose Alfonso Suarez del Real, says Los Angeles is "the only historic salon still alive in this country."

"It represents the Mexico of the 1940s and 1950s," he added.

'As long as the soul dances'

The salon is a place where older people can roll back the years and bask in nostalgia as they while away the hours dancing.

They're known as "Pachucos," referring to the Mexicans that lived in the southern United States in the 1930s and who, seeking social acceptance, would dress up in an extravagant manner.

SOURCE: AFP



The iconic Los Angeles dance salon has been empty since March 22, 2020 due to the coronavirus and its future hangs in the balance. PHOTO: AFP

Fire damages French cathedral, arson probe launched

NANTES (France) — Fire erupted in the gothic cathedral of Nantes in the western France on Saturday before being brought under control, sparking an arson investigation and leaving Catholic officials lamenting the loss of priceless historical artefacts.

The cathedral's 17th century organ was destroyed and its platform was in danger of collapsing, said regional fire chief Laurent Ferlay, but added the damage was not comparable to last year's devastating blaze at Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris.

Passers-by saw flames behind the windows of the Cathedral of St Peter and St Paul and alerted the emergency services just before 08:00 am (0600 GMT).

Around 100 firefighters rushed to the scene and managed to control the blaze at the gothic structure, built between

15th and 19th centuries, said Ferlay.

Nantes prosecutor Pierre Sennes noted that the fire had started in three different places, meaning a judicial investigation for possible arson was opened, although no conclusions had yet been drawn.

"When we arrive at a place where a fire has taken place, when you see three separate fire outbreaks, it's a question of common sense, you open an investigation," Sennes told AFP.

'An unimaginable loss'

Local Catholic official Father François Renaud, who oversees the cathedral, surveyed the damage with firemen on Saturday morning and told AFP the great organ had "completely disappeared", describing it as "an unimaginable loss".



Emergency teams managed to contain the fire at the gothic structure, built between 15th and 19th centuries. PHOTO: AFP

"The console of the choir organ has gone up in smoke along

with the adjoining wooden stalls. Original stained glass windows

behind the great organ have all shattered," he said.— AFP ■

Trump clashes with Fox interviewer over Biden police defunding claim



Chris Wallace (left) said that the interview was hot -- because the President Trump (centre) had decided to stage it outdoors in the nearly 100-degree Washington, D.C. heat. PHOTO COURTESY: FOX NEWS/AFP

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump has clashed with a Fox News interviewer over his claims that Democratic challenger Joe Biden plans to defund the police.

During the interview conducted on the patio outside the Oval Office, Trump blamed rising violence in some cities on their Democratic leaders.

"They've run them poorly," Trump said after reporter Chris Wallace pointed out that many of the cities had been run by Democratic mayors for decades.

"It was always bad, but

now it's gotten totally out of control. And it's really because they want to defund the police, and Biden wants to defund the police," Trump claimed.

"No, sir, he does not," Wallace countered during a tensity moment in the exchange shown in a clip tweeted by Fox News Sunday.

Trump then claimed Biden had signed a charter with left-wing Democratic Senator Bernie Sanders to cut law enforcement budgets.

When contradicted, Trump demanded his aides find the policy charter but was not able

to find any such statement, Wallace said in later comments on Fox.

The movement to defund the police followed the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis late in May when an officer held him to the ground with a knee on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

It has had some impact, with New York cutting its annual police budget by \$1 billion after weeks of protest in the city.

The full interview is scheduled to be broadcast on Sunday.— AFP ■

Racism in Cuba: banned by law, alive on the streets

HAVANA — Six decades on from Cuba's proclamation of equality and despite three top government officials being black, the Caribbean island nation has made little headway on racism.

"Racism in Cuba is very hypocritical ... No-one says they're racist, even if they are," researcher Tomas Fernandez, 79, an author of several books on the subject, told AFP.

Cuba used to have an open problem with racism until the communist revolution of 1959.

Some buildings had signs saying "no dogs or blacks" while there was also racial segregation that saw black people barred

from some clubs and schools. The government has enacted policies to address centuries of inequality due to slavery, which was abolished in 1886, and to promote access to higher education and public office.

But racism persists. In local jargon, a white woman with a black boyfriend is "burning oil" or "holding back the race" while he is "advancing" his.

Ethnologist Jesus Guanche has identified around 20 definitions to describe skin colour, including "blue-black" for someone with very dark skin, while Cubans often describe frizzy hair as "bad."— AFP ■

About 40 African countries under full border closure due to COVID-19: AU

ADDIS ABABA — The Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) on Saturday said that 40 African countries are under full border closure due to concerns related to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in Africa.

The Africa CDC, a specialized healthcare agency of the African Union (AU) Commission, disclosed on Saturday that some 40 African countries are still under "full border closure" while night-time curfew has been activated across 34 countries in an

effort to halt the spread of the infectious virus.

As of Saturday, the number of confirmed COVID-19 positive cases across the African continent surpassed 682,743 as the death toll from the pandemic rose to 14,671, according to the latest figures from the Africa CDC.

The continental disease control and prevention agency also said that some 362,071 people who were infected with COVID-19 had recovered across the continent so far.— Xinhua ■

New regulation to ensure timely payments to SMEs, improve business environment: officials

BEIJING — China's State Council has recently released a regulation on ensuring timely payments to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which will help improve the business environment, officials said.

The central authorities gave high attention to the problem of overdue payments to SMEs, officials with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology said.

The regulation, made public on Tuesday, standardizes the contract signing between SMEs

and government departments, public institutions, as well as large enterprises, noting that SMEs should not be forced to accept unreasonable terms, the officials said.

The officials noted that the regulation also introduced provisions in terms of payment deadlines, payment information disclosure and complaint handling, stressing that the regulation will help boost the SMEs' confidence in development.

The regulation will go into effect on Sept. 1.—Xinhua ■



Employees work on the production line of inductance components at a small company in Chenggu county, Shaanxi province. [PHOTO/XINHUA]

Hong Kong flagship carrier Cathay Pacific issues loss warning

HONG KONG — Hong Kong's flagship carrier Cathay Pacific on Friday issued a profit warning for the first half this year, citing an "incredibly uncertain" environment due to air traffic restrictions imposed amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The airline group estimates that for the first half of

2020, it will record a net loss of about HK\$9.9 billion (US\$1.28 billion), compared with a net profit of HK\$1.3 billion for the first half of 2019.

"The landscape of international aviation remains incredibly uncertain with border restrictions and quarantine measures still in place across the globe," the group's Chief

Customer and Commercial Officer Ronald Lam said in a statement.

"Although we have begun to see some initial developments, notably a slight increase in the number of transit passengers following the easing of transit restrictions through Hong Kong International Airport, we are still yet to see any significant signs of immediate improvement," he said.

The airlines carried in June less than 1 per cent of the passengers of that carried in the same month last year, while operating about 4 per cent of the normal passenger flight capacity.

As border restrictions and quarantine measures have eased in some countries since this month, the group is raising its overall capacity to 7 per cent and further up to 10 per cent in August.—Kyodo ■



A Cathay Pacific plane parked in Hong Kong International Airport on June 11, 2019. PHOTO: KYODO

Volkswagen vehicle deliveries down 17.5 pct in June

BERLIN — Worldwide vehicle deliveries by Volkswagen in June fell by 17.5 per cent year-on-year to a total of 804,100, the German carmaker announced on Friday.

In the first half of the year, global deliveries dropped by 27.4 per cent year-on-year to just under 3.9 million vehicles, according to Volkswagen.

The slump in sales in June was less pronounced than in the previous month when worldwide

vehicle deliveries by Volkswagen plummeted by almost 34 per cent year-on-year as a result of the COVID-19 crisis.

With 255,200 deliveries in Volkswagen's home market in Western Europe, unit sales recovered somewhat from the sharp drop in May but were still down almost 30 per cent compared to last year.

In China, Volkswagen delivered 341,000 vehicles in June

as year-on-year sales only decreased slightly by 3.9 per cent. In the previous month, vehicle deliveries by Volkswagen in China had even increased.

It had been a "difficult half year" for Volkswagen in China because of COVID-19, said Herbert Diess, chairman of the board of management of Volkswagen. He was "glad that fast recovery picked up since April." —Xinhua ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan joins \$14.4 bil. syndicated loan for LNG project in Africa

TOKYO — The Japan Bank for International Cooperation has announced a \$14.4 billion syndicated loan with domestic and foreign financial institutions for the development of liquefied natural gas in Mozambique, southern Africa.

It will be the biggest-ever loan to Africa, according to JBIC, a government-backed lender that will cover \$3 billion of the total.

The syndicated loan also involves the Export-Import Bank of the United States, UK Export Finance, the Export-Import Bank of Thailand, as well as three major Japanese lenders -- MUFG Bank, Mizuho Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. For Japan, the world's largest LNG importer, it will be the first import of Mozambique-made LNG. The project is intended to reduce Tokyo's reliance on the Middle East, such as Qatar, for LNG supply.—Kyodo ■

China unveils guideline on development of hi-tech zones

BEIJING — China will take measures to boost the high-quality development of national high-tech zones, according to a guideline released by the State Council.

Noting the vital role of national high-tech zones in underpinning innovation-driven development, the guideline stresses efforts in spurring innovation, deepening reform, and expanding opening-up in this sector. In a bid to enhance national high-tech zones' capabilities for independent innovation, the country should integrate high-end resources, cultivate and attract talented people, as well as push forward the transformation of innovation achievements, according to the guideline.—Xinhua ■

Lockdown impacts real estate market dynamics in NCR, average deal size shrinks

NEW DELHI — The National Capital Region (NCR) residential market cracked by 73 per cent year-on-year in home sales to 5,446 units in the first half of calendar 2020, according to a new report by Knight Frank India.

The home launches in NCR saw an 82 per cent decline to 1,422 units, a record low in any half-yearly period in a decade. The city also witnessed a 6 per cent decline in weighted average prices to 44,617 per square metre (or 4,145 per square feet).—ANI ■

No deal yet as Dutch block EU virus recovery plan

BRUSSELS — EU leaders will meet again Saturday to try to save a huge post-coronavirus economic rescue plan after running into a brick wall of defiance from “frugal” countries led by the Netherlands and Austria.

Europe is in the depths of its deepest recession since World War II and the 27 national leaders are seeking common ground on the terms of a 750-billion-euro (\$857 billion) stimulus package that would help lift those hardest hit by the pandemic.

But 12 hours of difficult haggling on Friday failed to yield a result as Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte refused to give ground on his demand for

strict controls on payments to his struggling southern partners.

The 27 leaders are scheduled to reconvene at 11:00 am (0900 GMT) on Saturday but diplomats are increasingly gloomy about the prospect of a deal being struck this weekend.

The Dutch in particular — but backed by Austria, Sweden and Denmark — are reluctant to hand out cash to countries such as Spain or Italy they see as too lax with public spending.

Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Emmanuel Macron are backing a package of loans and subsidies to member states to revive economies shattered by

the virus and preventive lockdowns.

As she arrived for the summit — the first to be held in person since the pandemic began — Merkel warned that the differences among the leaders were “very very large”, while Macron described it as a “moment of truth”.

But, despite the long talks among all the leaders and small group meetings to try to break the deadlock, a diplomat said they had run into “a blockage on the question of governance for the recovery plan”.

According to diplomatic sources, European Council president and summit host Charles Michel had suggested granting the members a



The leaders elbow greeted each other and social distancing was strictly enforced. PHOTO: POOL/AFP

form of “emergency brake” on payments, to appease the Dutch.

This would enable gov-

ernments to call a summit if they have concerns about a national economic plan, but other members insist-

ed it must not amount to giving the Dutch a veto over recovery measures. —AFP ■

Saudi hosts G20 talks on virus recovery, debt crisis

RIYADH — G20 finance ministers and central bankers are set to hold talks Saturday aimed at spurring global economic recovery from a coronavirus-triggered recession amid growing calls to widen debt relief for crisis-hit poor countries.

The virtual talks, hosted by Saudi Arabia, come as the surging pandemic continues to batter the global economy and campaigners warn of a looming debt crisis across poverty-wracked developing nations.

The ministers and bankers will “discuss (the) global economic outlook and coordinate collective action for a robust and sus-



Saudi Arabia is the host of the virtual G20 talks, chaired by Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan (R) and central bank governor Ahmed al-Kholifey. PHOTO: AFP

tained global economic recovery,” G20 organizers in Riyadh said in a statement.

The talks, chaired by Saudi Finance Minister Mohammed al-Jadaan and central bank governor

Ahmed al-Kholifey, come a day after the European Union held its first face-to-face summit in five months to discuss a post-virus economic rescue plan.

Kristalina Georgieva,

the International Monetary Fund’s managing director, has warned that despite some signs of recovery, the global economy faces sustained headwinds, including the possibility of a second wave of COVID-19.

“We are not out of the woods yet,” Georgieva said in a message to G20 finance ministers, warning the pandemic was likely to increase poverty and inequality. Downgrading its growth forecasts, the Washington-based crisis lender last month said it expected global GDP to fall by 4.9 per cent this year due to a deeper contraction during lockdowns than previously anticipated.—AFP ■

Some small companies could get 2nd US relief loan: Mnuchin

WASHINGTON — Businesses suffering the most from the coronavirus crisis could receive a second round of financing under a federal emergency relief programme, US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Friday.

He said sectors that have been especially battered such as travel and restaurants are prime candidates for another round of support under the Paycheck Protection Programme, which was launched in April to provide support to smaller

enterprises devastated by coronavirus shutdowns.

“There should be a second check available to the businesses that are the hardest hit,” Mnuchin said in testimony before a House committee, noting the government has \$130 billion in unspent PPP funds. However, he said he favoured a revenue test to determine which companies should be supported, and pledged to work with Congress to determine the size of businesses eligible for a second round of financing.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1031 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALS SUMIRE VOY. NO. (1031 W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2020** 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.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S OCEAN NETWORK EXPRESS (S'PORE) PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (028S/029N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V MCC KYOTO VOY. NO. (028S/029N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2020** 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.

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1122 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1122 S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **19-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

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M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD



Yangon Planetarium is situated in People's Park opposite Summit Park View Hotel on Ahlon road in Yangon.

By Swe Oo Wai

Plans underway to upgrade Yangon Planetarium

THE plans are underway to upgrade Yangon Planetarium, one of the places of interest to make observation and it is also certainly worth a study not only for the Yangonites but also for those living countryside. Yangon Planetarium was inaugurated on 17 February in 1987 to mark the friendship between Myanmar and Japan and now it has been more than 33 years.

Negotiation with Japanese embassy and JICA

Negotiations are being conducted with the Japanese embassy in Yangon and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) so as to upgrade Yangon Planetarium, said U Maung Maung Soe, Mayor of Yangon City Development Com-

mittee (YCDC) at the fourth day's Yangon regional Hluttaw meeting on 25 February 2020.

The planetarium projector of Yangon Planetarium located near the back entrance of People's Park in Dagon Township, Yangon, doesn't work properly as it has been used for ages. It can't show a variety of images of celestial objects anymore and spare parts of projector become rare. For these reasons, negotiations are being conducted with the former donor of the JICA.

Handing over responsibility for Yangon Planetarium

Negotiation is being conducted with the JICA to upgrade the planetarium and get a new projector and moreover spend allotted budget sup-

porting Japanese culture. The first-ever department that was responsible for Yangon Planetarium was Sports and Physical Education Department of the Ministry of Health. In 1988, Yangon Planetarium was handed over to the Department of Archeology, National Museum and Library under the Ministry of Culture. On 3 February in 2009, the Department of Parks, Playgrounds & Gardens under Yangon City Development Committee continued taking responsibility for the preservation of Yangon Planetarium.

Worth-visiting spot

At a time when efforts are being made for all-round development of Yangon, plans are underway to upgrade Yangon Planetarium. It will be not only

a place for relaxation but also a place for seeking knowledge about images of celestial objects for all ages young and old.

Yangon Planetarium established by Japanese government

Yangon Planetarium situated in People's Park opposite Summit Park View Hotel on Ahlon road in Yangon is in a quiet locality. Yangon Planetarium was established by Japan to mark friendship between Myanmar and Japan.

Yangon Planetarium can be observed in person

Yangon Planetarium can accommodate up to about 200 viewers and an event showing time is just 20 minutes. An event is divided into two

parts. Pictures and paintings are shown in the first part, and stars and a collection of celestial objects in the second part. The viewer will be able to feel as if he was in the universe in which he can study planets, stars, and images of celestial objects in person.

Plan to upgrade Yangon Planetarium

The images of celestial objects can be seen together with voice over. In the past, the salient points of the images of celestial objects and stars could be learned only from the books. These views are really interesting for the young. Yangon Planetarium is a new site of interest. For that reason, plans are being made to upgrade the planetarium to become a place of interest, re-



laxation and knowledge. The mayor of Fukuoka from Japan who arrived in Yangon during November in 2018 said during his visit that negotiation on planetarium upgrade would be conducted for the emergence of the planetarium meeting the international norms.

The projector is placed on the stage in the middle of the booth of the planetarium and it is surrounded by seats. The visitors have to take those seats watching planetary stars studied collections appeared in the surface of the sky. The visitors young and old can understand the explanation of planets and star studied collections with the use of voice over.

The paintings as to celestial objects and the universe are hung on the walls outside the planetarium exhibition hall. The explanations for each painting have been given and the different paintings depict the sun and its organizations, the earth, clouds and star studied collections.

Nay Pyi Taw with the establishment of planetarium

Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium is located in Yezin in the out-

skirts of Nay Pyi Taw and it is between mile post No 256/1 and No 253/0 in the east of Yangon-Mandalay highway. The construction of Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium began 9 November in 2008 and ended on 20 March in 2009. Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium was established in agreement with the international design.

Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium can accommodate up to 160 viewers

Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium is made up of the planetarium booth, the main hall, the education booth, the entrance hall, the gift shop, and the food shop. The planetarium projector, three dimensional video systems, program broadcasting equipment and sound related devices were bought from the United States of America, Italy, Japan and France. Nay Pyi Taw Planetarium can accommodate up to 160 people who can watch the images of celestial objects and stars as well as the universe at the same time.

Translated by
Htut Htut (Twantay)



Grab launches GrabMart, an on-demand grocery delivery service which promises deliveries of daily essentials within an hour

GRAB, the leading everyday app in Southeast Asia, has launched GrabMart, a new on-demand grocery delivery service, in Yangon. GrabMart provides consumers convenience in purchasing various consumer goods, including groceries, home essentials, health and beauty items as well as gifts directly from hundreds of Yangon shops through the Grab App. Each GrabMart delivery will be made under one hour and can be tracked live from start to finish.

The launch of GrabMart is timely given the growing adoption and reliance on delivery services among people in the country during the ongoing pandemic. Grab's food delivery service, GrabFood, serves meals to thousands of people daily and with GrabMart, consumers can now order daily essentials for their home or office, or for their loved ones without any hassle.

"COVID-19 has accelerated the adoption of on-demand delivery services in Yangon, allowing Grab to tap on existing technologies, its extensive delivery network, and operational footprint to launch GrabMart. In a post-COVID-19 normal, we anticipate demand for delivery services to remain elevated. We will continue to double down on expanding our GrabMart service to support consumers' shopping needs, as well as to create more income opportunities for our delivery-partners and grow income opportunities for small and medium-sized retail businesses," said Cindy Toh, Country Head of Grab Myanmar.

GrabMart's growing list of store merchant partners includes neighbourhood mi-

ni-marts and specialty merchants offering pharmaceutical products, packaged consumer goods and fresh produce.

GrabMart includes an "Essentials" shop established in partnership with G&G, Myanmar's leading convenience store chain. Under this partnership, people from 11 Yangon townships - Kamayut, Dagon, Bahan, Yankin, Sanchaung, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Hlaing and South Mayangone - will have easy access to thousands of brand name essential items. They can order milk and dairy products, bread, instant noodles, snacks, as well as beverages such as water, juices, sodas and alcoholic beverages.

GrabMart's store merchant partners now benefit from a new online customer base, increased revenue opportunities, and access to Grab's technology platform to manage order transactions. They also enjoy the benefit of GrabMart's marketing power to attract new customers and sell products, with bundle promotions and special discounts examples of ways to increase order volume. Many more local businesses will be brought on-board the Grab platform as GrabMart store merchant partners in the coming months.

Said Mr Gabor Dolman-yos, CEO, Capital Diamond Star Group (CDSG) Retail, which operates G&G Convenience Stores, "We are delighted to partner with GrabMart. This partnership provides us with an additional channel to reach new customers and provide another service to our existing customers. We hope that being part of

a trusted single technology platform will bring greater positive impact to our relationships with valued customers."

GrabMart does not require installation of another app as users can access the new service via the 'Mart' tab on the home screen of the Grab application. Users can browse the list of store merchant partners, select the preferred store, and add items into their basket. To view, change quantities or remove items, users can press 'View Basket'. The order will be processed once the user taps on "Place Order" and sees an order confirmation message.

Consumers will benefit from the promise of home deliveries under one hour, especially during the ongoing rainy season. After an order is placed, Grab users can use features in the Grab App such as Live Order Tracking, direct messaging and calls with delivery-partners. They can also contact Grab's 24/7 Customer Experience team for assistance should the need arise.

To help Grab users comply with the requirement to wear a face mask in public, GrabMart is offering a special promotion of a MMK 100 delivery fee on certified 3-ply medical masks using the promo code 'MASKS'.

To date, Grab has launched GrabMart across 50 cities in Southeast Asia, in partnership with over 3,000 supermarkets and convenience stores. GrabMart is now available in all eight countries that Grab is present in - Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines, Cambodia and Myanmar.—GNLM



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Keeper Phone Thitsar Min ready for training exercises

Phone Thitsar Min, a goalkeeper of the Myanmar U-22 national football team and the reliable keeper of Shan United FC who had an injury on his right knee and underwent surgery in Thailand in January 2020 is now fully recovered and ready for rehabilitation exercises, according to the statement with the Myanmar Football Federation.

Phone Thitsar Min had injured his knee during a training session with the Myanmar U-22 team in the second week of October, ahead of the 2019 SEA Games and missed important matches of the men's football event of the 2019 SEA Games in the Philippines.

After a two-month rest, Phone Thitsar is now doing his rehabilitation exercises after making medical check-ups for his physical wellness



Myanmar U-22 and Shan United goalkeeper Phone Thitsar Min. **PHOTO: SUFC**

on 16 July.

The Myanmar Football Federation helped Phone Thitsar pay for the operation,

and football fans will see him on the pitch in near future, according to the MFF statement. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Leeds promoted to the Premier League

LONDON—Leeds United were promoted to the Premier League on Friday (Jul 17) after West Bromwich Albion's 2-1 defeat at Huddersfield ensured the Championship leaders will end their 16-year exile from the top-flight.

Marcelo Bielsa's side were able to celebrate promotion without kicking a ball as second placed Albion's failure to take three points guaranteed Leeds

will finish in the top two.

West Brom fell behind to Chris Willock's early goal and although Dara O'Shea equalised, Emile Smith-Rowe won it for struggling Huddersfield in the 86th minute. "We are back. Leeds United are Premier League," the club said on their Twitter account moments after the final whistle.

Leeds are points five clear at the top and they can clinch the

Championship title with a draw against Derby at Pride Park on Sunday.

A tense 1-0 win over Barnsley at Elland Road, secured by Michael Sollbauer's own goal, had moved Leeds to the brink of promotion on Thursday.

Now they can look forward to renewing old rivalries with Manchester United and Chelsea next season.—AFP ■

Lampard tells Chelsea to forget revenge talk against Man Utd

LONDON—Frank Lampard has warned his Chelsea stars not to get distracted by talk of revenge against Manchester United when they clash in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final.

Lampard's side have been beaten three times by United already this season.

Chelsea were thrashed 4-0 at Old Trafford in Lampard's first Premier League game in charge.

They also suffered a 2-1 loss to United in the League Cup fourth round, while Ole Gunnar Solskjaer's team extended their dominant run against the Blues with a 2-0 league victory at Stamford Bridge in February.

Lampard conceded United were largely the better team on those occasions and the Chelsea manager is focused only on getting his

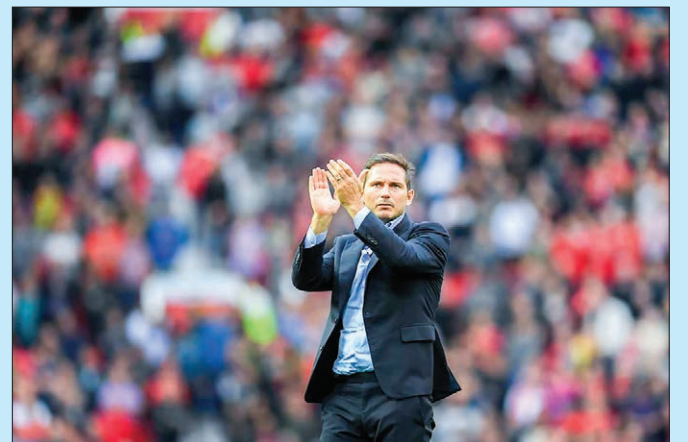
side set up right this time.

"Knowing the circumstances of the games, fair play we've lost three, that's just a fact, and I'm not into revenge, I just want to win the game in front of us on Sunday," Lampard told reporters on Friday.

"We played some good stuff in the Carabao Cup. We played a very changed team and played some good stuff, but you still lose.

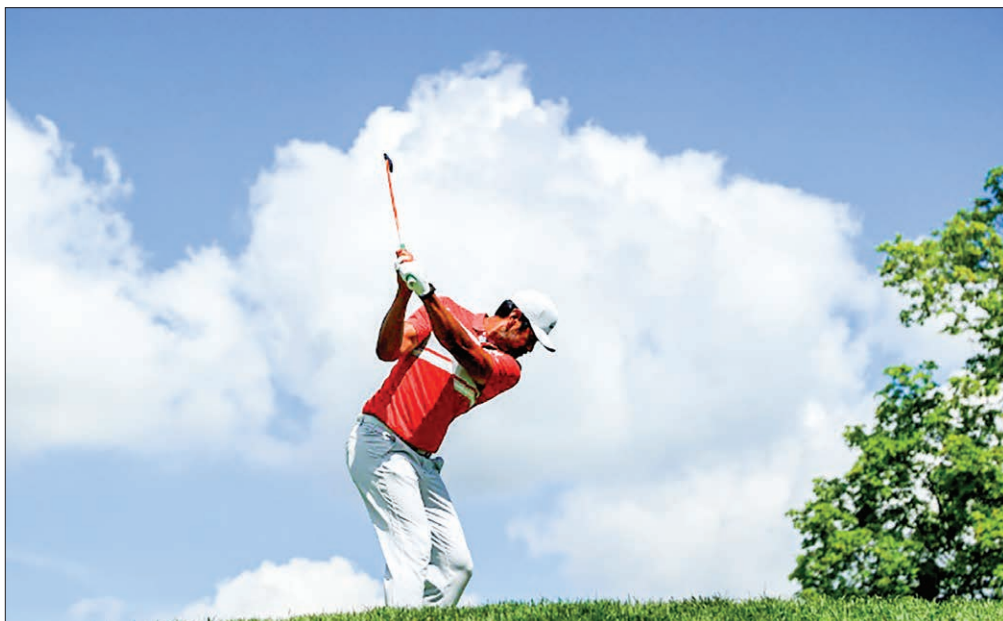
"And in the league we had a good first half, missed opportunities and they took theirs.

"So I think you have to respect the fact that they're a good team, we can all see that in their recent performances, but I'm not overly concerned with the games that have gone by. I just want to win the one in front of us."—AFP ■



Chelsea manager Frank Lampard. **PHOTO: AFP**

Finau, Palmer share Memorial lead as Woods struggles



American Tony Finau shared the early second-round lead with Ryan Palmer at the US PGA Tour Memorial tournament. **PHOTO: AFP**

LOS ANGELES—Tony Finau shook off two early bogeys to post a three-under-par 69 on Friday and maintain a share of the lead alongside Ryan Palmer early in the second round of the US PGA Tour Memorial.

As reigning Masters champion Tiger Woods struggled with back issues on his way to a four-over-par 76 -- and possibly his first ever missed cut at the Memorial -- overnight leader Finau and Palmer, who started the day one back, steered a steady course.

Finau capped his round with an approach to two feet for his fifth birdie of the day at his final hole, the ninth, finishing 36 holes on nine-under par 135.

"I was really happy with the finish, the way I finished," said Finau,

who opened with a bogey at the 10th and dropped another shot at 12 before rolling in an 11-foot birdie putt at the 15th and a two-footer at 17.

"Not the ideal start, but I knew I couldn't look back after 12, just keep on plugging along and try to hit good shot after good shot, and was able to execute a lot better after that," added Finau, who birdied five and seven before his impressive closing flourish.

Palmer also bounced back from an early bogey, notching five birdies in his four-under 68.

Their closest pursuer in the clubhouse was Spain's Jon Rahm, who carded a 67 for 136.

Reigning US Open champion Gary Woodland fired a 70 and was two adrift.—AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

19 JULY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

As a common social quote goes “ Half of the troubles of the life can be traced back to saying ‘Yes’ without consideration and not saying ‘No’ soon enough.” It shows that there is no equal balance between two ends of always saying Yes and always saying No; in fact, it runs as a common social problem happened in either personal or professional environments.

As a person who always say Yes, I want you to understand that everyone ought not to forget thinking the way of our well-being in the process of dealing with the others. For that kind of communication, there must have a clear set of boundaries favoring ourselves as first all of the time. Moreover, stop thinking about that saying Yes ever is the essential key to build a deep and strong social bonds in humans affairs, and set the limits on yourself not to give in to manipulation and various emotional blackmails.

It comes no surprise on letting the fear of being disliked, judged, rejected or blamed by the others if we refuse someone's request. Having said that though, we are the very first ones who must be satisfied with our behaviors. Therefore, we all have to learn about how to say No when necessary not to take any consequences of not knowing it. We must try to be assertive for not doing what we really don't want to; however, it cannot say that who ignores the needs of the others are being egoistic; that means, we own ourselves, and we were born to be us: so, we are not responsible for other's satisfactions.

Not strangely, it is normal to get nervous or feel uncomfortable when we deny someone's request, and it doesn't mean we are bad persons or being selfish. Factually, having too many commitments and being at the whim of other's people request can make us no longer focus on our own affairs. Thus, the supportive idea is to dread the idea of saying yes without sleeping on it. So, decide that is it worth enough?

Feel freely and vigorously challenge ourselves in networking because the taste of prioritizing ourselves first can absolutely polish your personal boundaries brighter more and more. For such kind of social problem, I would like to share a special technique nailed down by excellent socialists in this article named “The Sandwich Technique”. This starts with positive statement and follows by saying No in a polite manner and then amends with another positive statement when you want to refuse what they ask for.

As a whole, to sculpture an authentic life, effort should be made to say No when necessary without being afraid missing out of opportunities and open space for something does not depend on how much you have done for other people. We all must be alive for our own selves to set up free and marvelous in our lifetime; as a matter of fact, honestly say No if you are not able to succor and never be a sucker of saying Yes in every conditions.

SAY NO



By Hnin Wint

On Survival



By Myat Lay Ayeyar,
BA (English)
East Yangon University.

LAST week, you may have heard or seen the news that made you feel sad or unpleasant. It was about the Phakant jade mine landslide that killed over one hundred people and injured at least twenty six people in early July.

That tragic accident gave us many thoughts. You also saw the photos and videos on the landslide and they have showed all the physical and mental situations of the workers. After I had watched them, my first thought went to the current situations of employment. Frankly speaking, enough job opportunities are not being supplied for those who are seeking for jobs in our country. As a result of that, they seek for the easy ways for their living. Some of them follow these easy ways out of their avarice while others do for not having any other choices for their life. Whatever they do, their purpose

is to earn money and to raise their living standard. But, they are all different, that is, some of them are trying for their families including wife, sons and daughters, and others for their parents. Now, they left their families forever without saying even good-bye. Even though they might have wanted to create a better life, many lives have sadly ended up under the earth and their wishes were washed away while toiling for a morsel of rice. Thus,

I feel

sympathy for them and their families and I pray that they may rest in peace.

What my second thought is that we have to pick up a job or a career in our life when we grow up. There is a question that does not need an answer: "What do we do it for?"_ the basic fact is to fill tummy, which plays an important role in our daily life. Let us have a look at some examples that are familiar with us in our daily life. It is not easy for people to make money in life. For a manual worker in construction sites, it will be sure that all the work cannot be done without his physical effort. He has to work hard till the sweat on his forehead touches the ground. In spite of feeling very tired, his tiredness disappears by his emoluments, his daily wages, in the evening. His wife can serve him with dinner only when he gets back home.

Another example is that we can see those old people on the platform who are selling things such as books, slippers, etc. In fact, they should rest in bed peacefully at home, but they have to struggle for their survival. After that, let us focus on another example. As you know, most people are currently facing difficulties in their career or business because of Covid-19. Even some celebrities are selling snacks. What I am trying to say is we all must work for our own survival.

In my conclusion, I would like to present my last thought. As we are humans, we, people, are struggling every day. Even though we choose different careers or businesses in life, we are on the same boat and we are struggling each and every single way and working for our basic needs. Life may be easy for some people but difficult and rough for others. We may choose our career as a doctor, a teacher, a writer, an artist, a shopkeeper and so on. Whatever we are, we try hard every day to fill our tummy just as wide as the fingers' breadth, but as deep as an endless pit. So are we struggling for a morsel of rice? Or does a morsel of rice continue to support our survival? The questions remain unsolved.





Why we should go to school when we are young



By Phyu Min
BA (English); Dip in ELTM;
Dip in English.

SCHOOL is a preparation for life. All boys and girls should go to school. They should go to school for two main reasons. First, this is because at school they get a training that prepares them for the life they are to lead later on. Secondly, this is because youth is the best time to learn.

A tree, when it is young and small, can be trained to grow as we wish. In the same way, the mind of a child can be trained in a way that its parents and teachers desire. Good habits can then be formed and the pupils set upon the right path in life.

If we wait too long, the mind of the child, like the tree, grows stiffer and harder, and can no longer be guided this way and that. When the habits of older life

have fixed themselves upon the man, it is no longer easy to turn him into fresh ways, nor do new ideas easily find an entrance into his mind. The shape of his mind, like that of his body, becomes set and fixed. It cannot now be altered.

What does the pupil then gain by going to school? First of all, he or she gains knowledge. It is a shameful thing for a man or a woman to be an ignorant fool. It is something we should all wish to avoid. The best way to store our minds with knowledge is for us to go to school when we are children, and try our best to learn all that our teachers try to teach us.

There are other things that are important to be learnt at school. Among them are good

manners and discipline. A diligent student may acquire a considerable amount of learning by self-study without going to school; but for most children, this is a difficult thing to do. But good manners can be learnt by mixing with other people.

We must never think that manners are mere trifles and of little importance. They are very important indeed because our happiness and success in life depend on them, to a very large extent. When we meet people for the first time, they notice our dress and general appearance. Then they notice our manners. If we are polite and well behaved, they will have the first impression, at once, that we have been well brought up and come of a good family. But if we are rough

and rude in our manners, they will think, "This is an ill-mannered, rude boy. He has evidently been brought up in low company". So, we see how important it is to learn good manners at school, as well as the things we read in books. In the same way, discipline starts at school. We have to abide by the school rules and regulations. They are the basic foundations for us to lead a successful life.

In conclusion, when we are young, going to school is the best way for us to store and enrich our minds with knowledge. We can also learn good discipline and good manners that are of great importance to lead the right path in life. For these reasons, we should go to school when we are young. ■

The Conclusion Everyone Should Ponder



EVERY Myanmar has already heard an old saying, "Medicinal if taken in proper amount; Harmful if taken excessively."

These are the warnings, the wise words, said by the elders. Everyone who comes into existence in the world wants to get wealthy. There is no one who does not want wealth. Only when one becomes wealthy will he or she be able to live with a high standard of living. Right? However, some people become extremely rich. Their possessions are too abundant to be kept somewhere. In fact, I am not exaggerating. In reality, they are so wealthy that their possessions including physical properties and assets remain uncounted. On the other hand, other people are in



By Angel Linn
M.Ed, Y.I.O.E

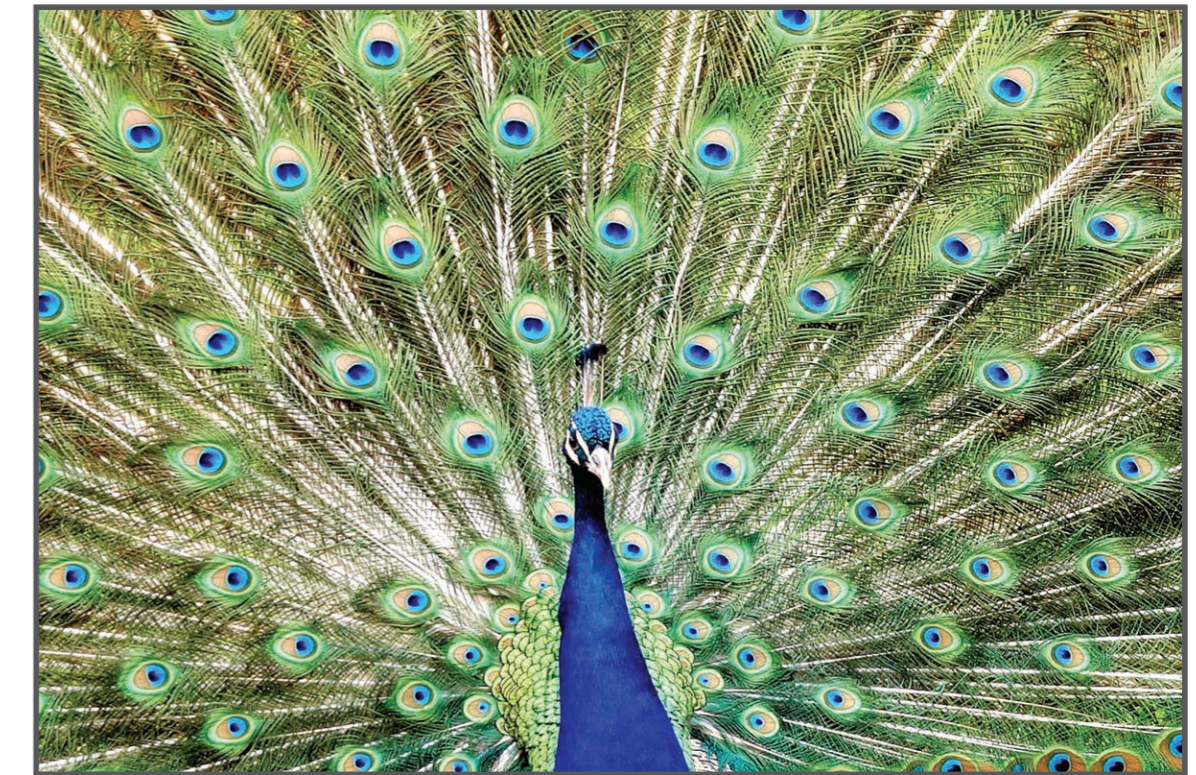
the pit of the deepest poverty, suffering the worst hunger. They possess nothing to pick up. These are the inequalities of the world.

The wealthy people get wealthier and wealthier. They are trying to own one car after another, one house after another, one compound after another. If possible, they would even gild their mansions with gold and decorate the

SEE PAGE- S-7



| |
|--|
| Fast Facts |
| Location Myanmar |
| Size 291,680 acres |
| Key Species Asian Elephant (EN), Sunda Pangolin (CR), Chinese Pangolin (CR), Eastern Hoolock Gibbon (VU), Green Peafowl (EN) |
| Habitat Evergreen, mixed deciduous forests |
| Threats Deforestation, agricultural encroachment, poaching |
| Action Establishing the Mahamaing Wildlife Sanctuary |
| Local Partner Friends of Wildlife (FOW) |
| Cost Per Acre \$0.68 |



New Wildlife Sanctuary in Myanmar

■ By Rainforest Trust

Formerly known as Burma, Myanmar conjures up images of archetypical Asian jungle: lush rainforest dripping with moisture, great muddy rivers snaking across broad valleys peppered with conical pagodas, forests alive with the trumpeting of elephants, and the crooning songs of gibbons.

As a country, Myanmar has a greater diversity of ecosystems than any other nation in mainland Southeast Asia, with some of the most intact natural

habitats and communities of species remaining in the entire region – including many endemic and globally threatened species.

In North-central Myanmar's Sagaing Region, the fantasy

image comes to life as mountainous peaks slope down to fertile lowlands hosting fantastic wealth of flora and fauna. Iconic species such as Clouded Leopards, Golden Cat, Banteng, Sunda and Chinese

Pangolin are all found in forests here, as well as a small population of Endangered Asian Elephants.

Additionally, these forests are very important for the long-term conservation of Vulnerable



Eastern Hoolock Gibbons – a rare Asian primate with distinct facial markings and loud haunting calls. With a total population estimated at only 10,000-50,000, this area is a stronghold for the species across its global range.

To protect Central Myanmar's wildlife, Rainforest Trust has teamed up with local partner Friends of Wildlife (FOW) to help establish the Mahamaing Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS). The 291,680-acre reserve will provide critical protection for Eastern Hoolock Gibbon and other rare species,



while providing an outstanding opportunity for expansion of Myanmar's network of protected areas.

fly and a diverse suite of flora have also been documented.

CHALLENGES

Forests in Central Myanmar are becoming increasingly strained by demand for illegal timber and food crops, while poaching for the illegal wildlife trade decimates rare species that are outside protected areas.

Threats to the proposed wildlife sanctuary come mainly from extraction of timber and the encroachment of roads that degrade and fragment habitat. In addition to these threats, a lack of effective management and institutional support of protected areas in Myanmar hampers protection efforts.

COMMUNITIES

There are 24 villages in and around the proposed Mahamaing Wildlife Sanctuary, including two inside the sanctuary. Communities here live at a subsistence level relying on farming, small scale trade and hunting for their livelihoods.

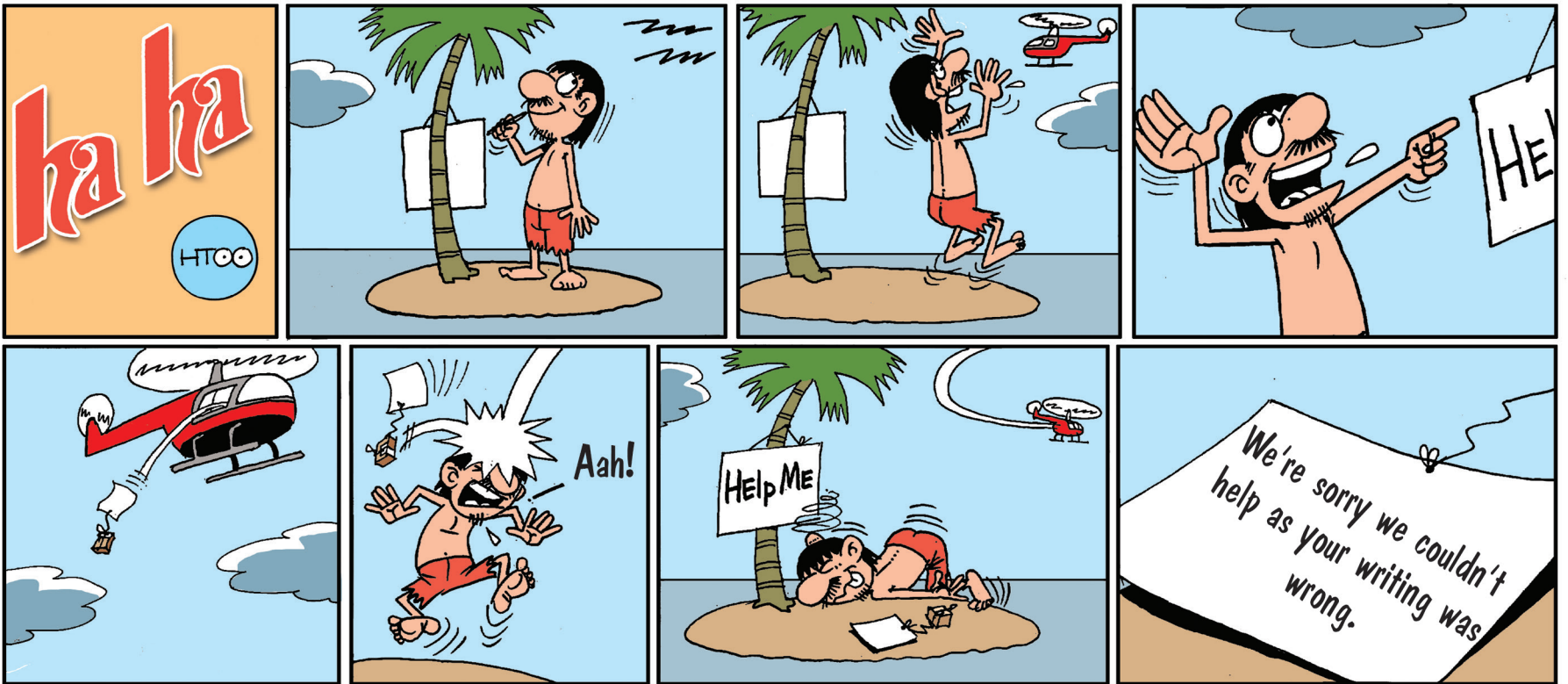
However, FOW is working to empower villagers with alternatives to extractive industries through promotion of customary land rights and conservation education. Already, FOW have carried out gibbon census surveys together with local villagers and rangers from the Nature- Wildlife Conservation Division in charge of all protected areas. Collaborative projects such as these create a culture of inclusiveness and shared responsibility essential for community-based conservation efforts to succeed.

BIODIVERSITY

The proposed Mahamaing Wildlife Sanctuary (MWS) hosts a particularly rich and intact assortment of Asian wildlife. Biodiversity surveys have recorded Clouded Leopard, Fishing Cat, Chinese Serow and the Critically Endangered Chinese and Sunda Pangolins.

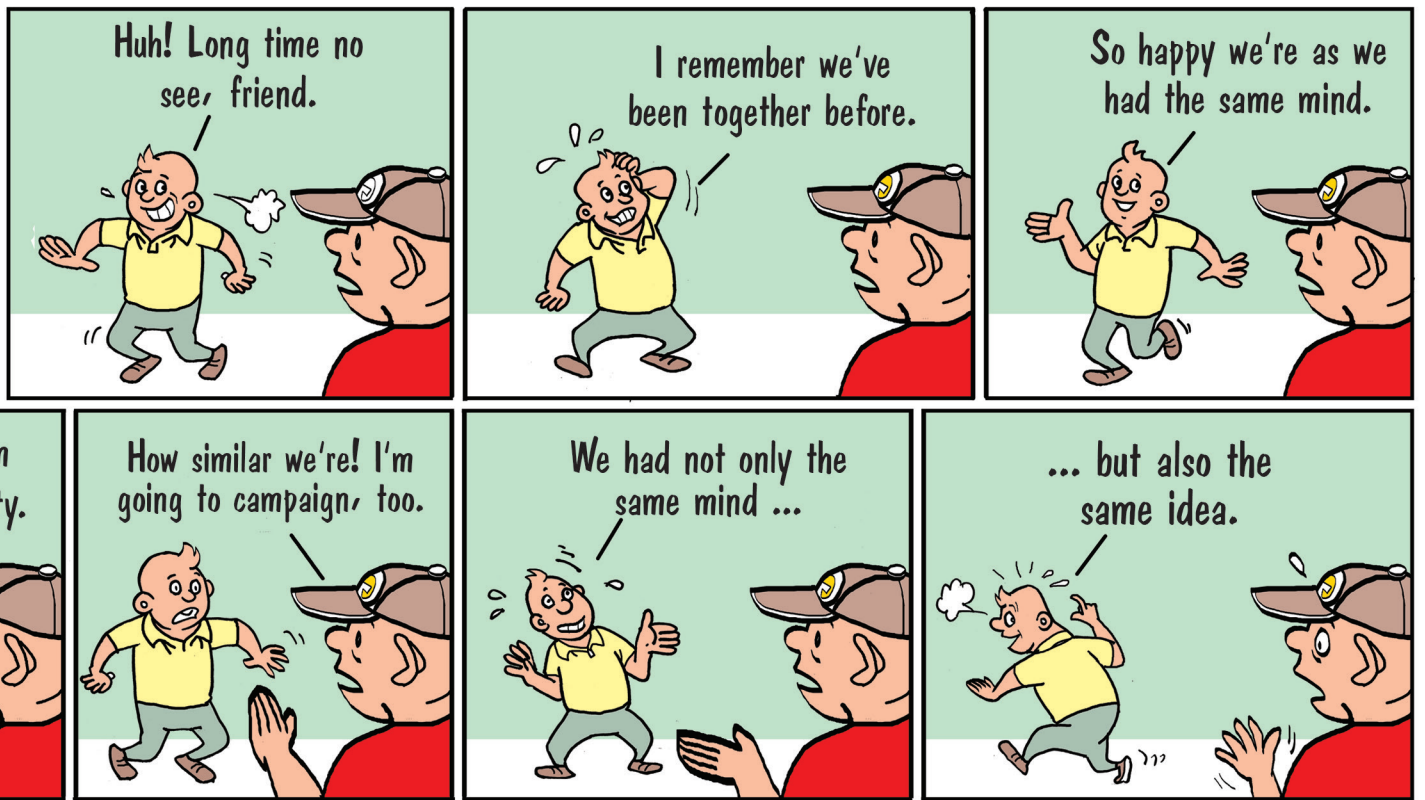
A significant portion of the global population of Eastern Hoolock Gibbon – a rare Asian primate with distinct facial markings and loud haunting calls – is found in the sanctuary area, representing at least 10% and probably over 25% of the global population. The reserve also serves as an important corridor and refuge for an estimated 60 Endangered Asian Elephants, which are becoming increasingly rare across their range. In addition, the area has been designated an Important Bird Area (IBA). Over 86 bird species have been identified in the proposed sanctuary including the strikingly beautiful and Endangered Green Peafowl. Over 74 species of butter-

SUNDAY COMICS



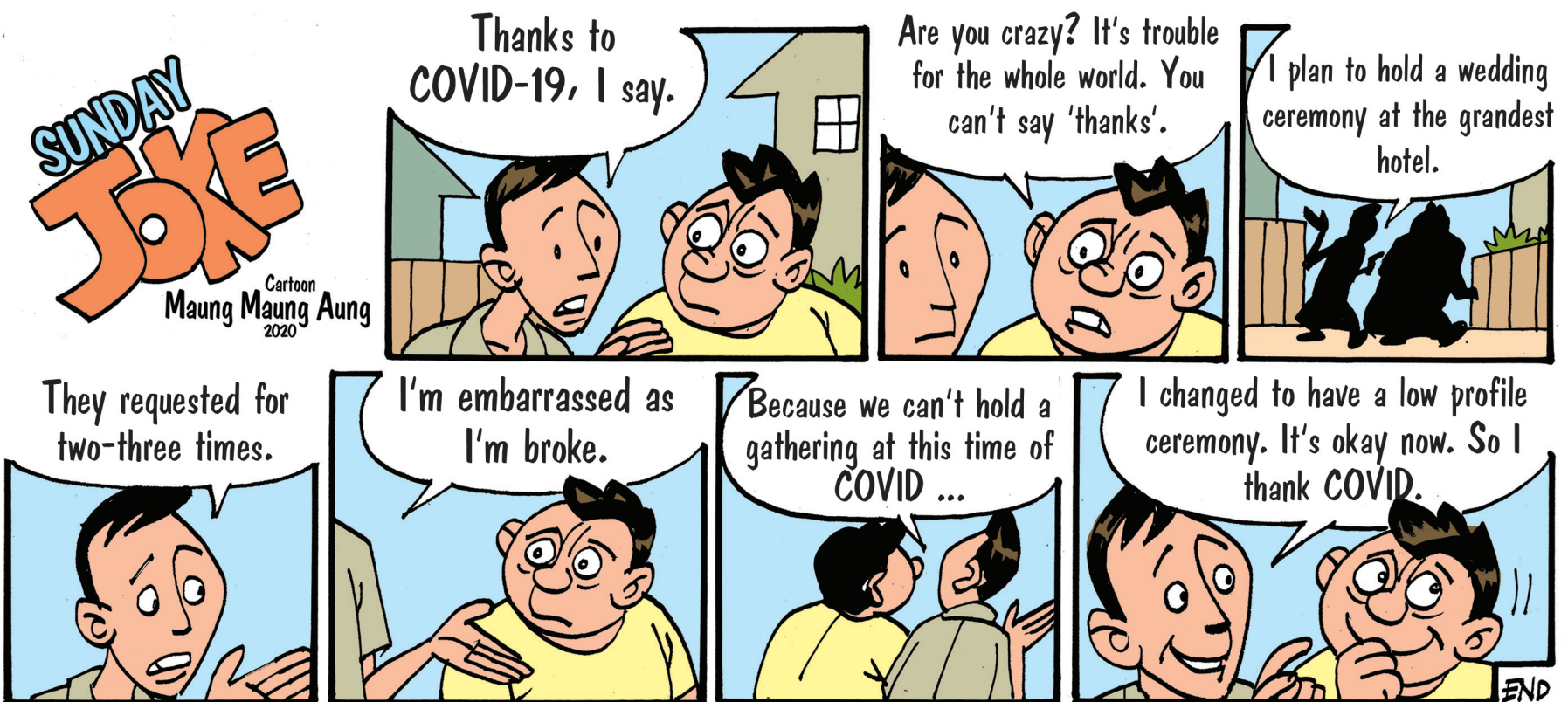
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020



Exclusive interview with EU Ambassador Mr Kristian Schmid

In the following interview for the Myanma News Agency (MNA), the EU Ambassador Mr Kristian Schmid discusses the economic development in Myanmar.

Q 1: May I know your overall outlook on the country of Myanmar?

A 1: I think the country has a bright future. You decided to warm up, catch up with the neighbors and I think that is happening but obviously, both in the area of economy, politics and democracy, the European Union will have to stay your friend for a while and I am sure it is a question of time before Myanmar fully finds harmony and unity.

Q 2: Could you share your opinion on the business environment in

Myanmar?

A 2: I think the government has taken good steps over the last four years to improve the business environment. When I talk to European companies, broadly speaking, they are happy. They have a positive outlook on doing business in Myanmar. Of course, there is one thing that they worry about and that is the political risks linked to the crisis in the Rakhine state. If you are a company setting to European markets then the human rights situation does play a role. So, the political risks of producing or buying in Myanmar is

something that we have a joint interest in addressing so that you will get more investments and more trade. I think there is a trade surplus, Myanmar is exporting very well to the European markets, but I think it could still grow. I think there could still be more European companies coming to Myanmar.

Q 3: Small micro and small medium enterprise are very important role in developing countries like Myanmar. But they have lack of access, lack of market for selling their products. What could we do for them?

A 3: There are a number of things that one needs to do to support these small enterprises. One of the first things is access to credit. If you compare the cost of credit - so going to the bank, you are investor, you want to invest in a good idea; you go to a bank, they will offer you a loan, may be 17 and 20 per cent. It is very difficult to be profitable if that is the cost of money, and it is certainly a lot of higher than other competitors in either Thailand or neighbouring countries. So this is one of things where I hope liberalizing the financial markets and opening up in Myanmar also to foreign banks and others would help bring down the costs of credit.

The other thing is if you want to go to the global market you need to be well organised. And this is one area where the European Union with the Ministry of Commerce is supporting the companies to, first of all, know about the opportunities but then also to be able to meet

the standards. Let's take an example - fisheries. Myanmar has huge potential in agriculture - fish farms, shrimps, crab meat and all that. But you need to meet the health standard. You need to meet the vital sanitary standard. So, we are helping with that. And in this particular sector you have seen the export to Europe grow very well so there is great opportunity in this area.

Q 4: What would you advise to the SME sector in Myanmar?

A 4: I think one of advantages that Myanmar has is that it has a large, hardworking labour force and the minimum wage, which is a good idea, is still lower than the countries competing with Myanmar in the region. So labour intensive manufacturing like the garment sector, for example, is an area where Myanmar can certainly play a role in the global economy. But again, it takes organization and also takes an environment free of internal bureaucracy, registration, corruption etc, to help them grow.

I think overall, it is very important that Myanmar does not stay as a country that simply exports raw commodities - pulses, beans and watermelons, fresh fruit to China for instance, because there is a limit to how much money you can make in just producing raw agriculture products. Every country in the world that has grown and developed has managed to start processing, manufacturing, added value, and as we've seen move up the value chain and then gradually into manufacturing

to services and to other areas where you keep more of the profits within the country. I think for that the European markets are excellent because we would be a complementary market for Myanmar's export. But exports from Myanmar should not be jade and watermelon. It should be more sophisticated products over time so that you get more skilled jobs, more skilled workers, and better educated workforce and then you will prosper.

Q 5: Could you please share your opinion on energy sector in Myanmar?

A 5: I think Myanmar has huge potential in the energy sector and then the renewable energy sector; not just oil and gas - these are sort of sectors of the past. Climate is going to impact everyone in Myanmar very, very strongly. Hydropower, solar, biomass these various sources of renewable energy. Myanmar could become the cleanest country in Asia in terms of its energy production because you have the energy potential, you have the space, and you need to satisfy the demand that is growing for energy, electricity, and so you could actually be, from being one of the least (developed) countries in Southeast Asia, turn into the most advanced green economy and it is certainly an area where the European Union over the next many years will be looking for opportunities to work with Myanmar to build a green future - one that respects the environment and produce renewable energy.



The Conclusion Everyone Should Ponder

FROM PAGE-S-3

buildings with diamonds. They are really so rich. No matter by what efforts they are craving to run after the physical wealth without limiting their greed, they will surely bring none with them when they die. What they can bring is just the clothes they wear. Will their children who inherited from them use the properties be able to benefit for them in their new existence? If so, will they really enjoy such consequences? In reality, they have to make donation, to preserve morality and to do meditation practice which can be conveyed along with them

to their new existences.

When one looks around the world, one will see the superpower countries. They are stepping outside of the globe and trying to influence the other planets. They are not satisfied with their success on earth and want to extend their power onto the other planets. Well, maybe, even if they have conquered the whole Universe, what will they be able to bring along with them when they die? When the time comes, they surely possess just 6 by 4 feet ditch, don't they? Instead of trying to extend their power into the four corners of the

world, they should help those who are starving, those who are in the depth of poverty, those who are suffering from various kinds of diseases and those who are encountering the consequences of the natural disasters with the exercise of goodwill and humanitarianism.

They are great experts and highly intellectual ones. In a poem, the poet uses a simile to show that they are so intelligent that the computers would kneel down on the ground, defeated. He continues to mention that they are Mr. Have-all, Mr. Mighty, and Mr. Know-all. How will it be good if they utilize their

all-round abilities and power to maintain and expend the peaceful human society for its sake? Instead, they waste their energy in arguing with those holding opposite opinions and haughtily try to extend their superpower everywhere in the world and even on the other planets.

In the end, could those Gurus and billionaires mentioned above read out the spellings of one or two phrases inscribed on their tombs with correct stress and intonation yet? It is worthy to substantiate the truth called Dharma.

Confiding ourselves to those we love



By May Than Htut
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MOST people are facing various kinds of difficulties nowadays. Family problems, financial matters, issues in workplace and even mental problems are parts of these.

In this global age, the more competitive we are, the more stress and worry we get. Once in a while, we do not know how to end up with perfect solutions for them. Most troubles are solvable but some are difficult to handle on our own. At that time, we need to unburden or confide ourselves to someone who is credible. For some, those unburdened people may be their parents, siblings and relatives but those can also be their beloved, friends and teachers. Most of them are regarded as convincing persons in society. Primarily, most of us usually confide our private matters to them. I have heard many stories and experiences about being betrayed by confiding serious matters and those traitors even spread negative rumors and scandals of the one who trusted them. They even use spilling secrets of others as their power or advantages. I also heard those trusted people depress again and again because of their drastic actions. Is confiding ourselves to others a bad one?

From my point of view, we should choose carefully the individual whom we want to unburden ourselves to. We should search the one who is believable and good at keeping promises and secrets. In my opinion, confiding ourselves to our trusted persons can make many profits for us. Based on my own experiences, I can ease my mind by confiding myself to my friends. I think I can perfectly end up my matters with their help. Sometimes, I get many ideas, thoughts, inspirations, strength and even motivation from them. One of my classmates confessed that she feels better and is not lonely anymore because she has credible and helpful persons who make a lot of strength for her and she even finds out some people who accept her true personality and mind. Confiding myself to those who I love can also get a kind of encouragement, sympathy and acceptance for me whenever I feel hopeless, helpless and have negative thoughts about myself.

According to Albert Camus, a French philosopher, "You do not have to unburden your soul for everyone. It will be enough if you do that for those who you love." Our true emotions, feelings and souls are only needed to know by those who we love. I hope people to have someone who can accept their true colours, bad side, what they really are and can listen our matters patiently. I also hope those persons can provide suggestions and lead the right way to success whenever they need.

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