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VP U Henry Van Thio inspects Kyerian Mountain national park project in Chin State

VICE President and National Tourism Development Central Committee Chairman U Henry Van Thio arrived at the viewpoint of Tikir Village in Thantlang Township and observed the ongoing works for development of the village and environmental greening yesterday morning. He was accompanied by Union Ministers Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and U Ohn Maung, Chief Minister of Chin State Salai Lian Luai, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut, U Kyaw Myo and U Myint Kyaing, Chin State ministers and officials.

The Vice President and party then inspected the construction of 13 miles and four furlongs long Tikir-Kyerian Mountain earth road. At the site where the Kyerian Mountain national park will be established Deputy Director-General of Forest Department U Zaw Min reported on natural flora species of the area, resident mammal and bird species, the projected area of the national park, type of forest and salient points of the park.

In response, the Vice President instructed the scheduling of a trekking route from the foot to the crest of Kyerian Mountain, systematic collection and studying of the detailed facts of the park, and raising of mythun (Gayal) (a kind of cattle with long horns) as the surrounding area



Vice President U Henry Van Thio observes plan for establishing Kyerian Mountain National Park. **PHOTO: MNA**

of the park has a lot of grazing grounds for the bovines.

Later, the Vice President and party posed for documentary photos with the Kyerian Mountain as a backdrop.

Located near Tikir Village in Thantlang Township, the 7,458.5-acre Kyerian Mountain National Park is made up of mountain evergreen forest, pine forest and savanna-like areas. The park is a

natural habitat of 92 tree species, 37 mammal species and 64 bird species, according to the first field survey.

During inspection of the Basic Education High School of Tikir Village, the Vice President encouraged the students learning lessons in classrooms and pursuing practical computer studies at the computer room and took documentary photos

together with teachers.

After this, the Vice President and party left Tikir Village by helicopter and arrived at Thantlang where they inspected the preparations for holding the 72nd Anniversary Chin National Day and opening of booths there.

On arrival at the Government Technical High School (Thantlang) Project, the Vice President heard a report on the

progress in building the lecture halls, workshop, hostels and staff quarters, budget allotment, extension of school compound, and employment opportunities for local students who have finished their studies at Government Technical High School (Haka). Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi also gave a supplementary report.

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MRTV celebrates its 74th founding anniversary

MYANMAR Radio and TV (MRTV) of the Ministry of Information observed its 74th anniversary at its head office in Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, at 4 pm yesterday.

First, a video documentary of MRTV's 74-year journey was screened.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said MRTV has successfully passed through a long period of 74 years. MRTV was born in 1946 as Bama Radio (Bamar Athan), and in 1958, it became Myanmar Radio (Myanmar Athan). In 1980 it became Myanmar Radio and TV by introducing the TV program. People have been watching the TV for 40 years and listening to the radio for 74 years. So, MRTV has a long history.

The Union Minister said the value of name rises together with the passing of time during which

more experiences are acquired. It has aired the events of the successive periods during the 74 years. As it appeared since the post-independence period, MRTV has witnessed many changes amidst the various political trends. The embracing motto "To inform, to educate and to entertain the public" of the Ministry of Information as well as the MRTV, remains loyal to the people despite the changes in political systems. Every government needs a mechanism that serves as its link with the public. There can be changes in name, but the substance remains the same. New methods will take the place of old ones, but the goal is the same. The age of the Internet also calls for public information, education and entertainment programs. So, MRTV must adopt innovative ideas in presenting programs in catching up with the advancing time. Despite the



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the 74th anniversary of Myanmar Radio and Television in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

changes in form, the substance must remain unchanged, and that is the important point.

MRTV staff should use the

time effectively and should make self-assessment of their own value by judging their creations and accomplishments. They should raise their value through studies and services for the State and the people. They should seek progress by fulfilling the sector-wise needs and concentrating on their work. The 75 anniversary or the diamond jubilee of MRTV falls next year. So the diamond jubilee should be held on a grand-scale like the Myanmar film centenary and the Yangon University centenary. All the activities, materials and memorial events throughout the past successive years should be displayed at the diamond jubilee. From now on, MRTV must air programs hailing the diamond jubilee, he said.

In giving away programming and broadcasting awards for 2019 of the MRTV, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint presented awards to staff of the National

Races Channel for their efforts in travelling to remote Khaunglanphu area in Kachin State and presented the daily life of teachers serving there in the program by the name "the long journey into the dreams", and U Khun Nay Win of Radio Department.

Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun presented radio presentation award to Daw Thae Su Moe of the Radio Division and TV presentation award to Daw Ei Mon Kyaw of the TV Division.

Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, heads of department then presented awards to the winners. The Permanent Secretary also presented uniform allowances for staff through officials and certificates of honour to MRTV's partner companies that rendered assistance in the ceremony. The ceremony concluded with a lucky draw program. —

MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presents the award to the staff of the National Races Channel for their efforts in travelling to remote Khaunglanphu area in Kachin State. **PHOTO:MNA**

Union Minister observes Myitayeik women welfare & vocational training center

UNION Minister Dr Win Myat Aye of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement observed the Myitayeik Women Welfare & Vocational Training Center in Shwebo in Sagaing Region yesterday morning.

The Union Minister and party watched the computer training hall, the art sale room, the beauty salon training room, and the building for young women of the Myitayeik Women Welfare & Vocational Training Center. The training center principal and in-charge

persons briefed on the plans to be carried out at the welfare and vocational training center.

Next, the Union Minister donated K 1 million to the welfare center's fund by buying 10 drawings.

The Myitayeik Women Welfare and Vocational Training Center is making efforts to give care for infants and orphans, to assist children for their further learning in schools, and to conduct vocational training, in cooperation with the organizations concerned. — MNA ■

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)



VP U Henry Van Thio inspects preparations for holding 72nd Chin National Day, Thantlang People's Hospital



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the preparation for holding the 72nd Anniversary Chin National Day yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the construction of Thantlang People's Hospital. **PHOTO:MNA**

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The Vice President made arrangements for work facilitation.

At the water collection tank installation project of Ward 3 in Thantlang, the Vice President looked into the requirements in building the tank for ensuring sufficient potable water supply to Thantlang, and observed the water intake.

If per capita water consumption is fixed at 25 gallons, Thantlang with over ten thousand residents will need over 260,000 gallons of water daily. Water which comes from 11 springs is stored in collection tanks to pro-

vide the town with over 100,000 gallons daily. After 216,000 gallons of water produced by Kwava Spring can be piped to the town, it will receive a daily supply of 320,000 gallons, which is sufficient for its residents.

At Thantlang view point, the Vice President enjoyed the scenery and posed for documentary photos.

During his inspection of Thantlang People's Hospital (50 beds), the Vice president inspected the construction of a two-storey lab and visited the patients.—MNA (Translated by TMT)



The site chosen for Kyerian Mountain national park. **PHOTO:MNA**

Union Minister visits MOGE office (Lower Myanmar), stresses safety of onshore, offshore oil exploration records

UNION Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing and the Deputy Minister visited Lower Myanmar office (Seinlae Wae) of Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) in Yankin Township and based camp of offshore oil rig in Thakayta Township in Yangon Region yesterday morning.

At the meeting hall of Lower Myanmar office (Seinlae Wae) of MOGE, the Union Minister heard a report on functions of the office, structure, upgrading programs of Oil and Gas Center, and keeping of papers and survey records of oil plots in tapes and digital system at Data Center. Managing Director of MOGE U Myo Myint Oo also gave a supplementary report.

In response, the Union Minister stressed the impor-



Union Minister U Win Khaing and officials hold the meeting for safety of the onshore and offshore oil exploration records in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

tance of keeping the reports and papers systematically and safely and installing fire alarms. Special attention should be paid for the safety of the records and papers as they contain data and

facts that are invaluable for the ministry.

The Union Minister and party checked the keeping of date tapes and data books on onshore and offshore oil wells.

Officials conducted them around the Data Center. At the meeting hall of the based camp of offshore oil rig of MOGE in Thakayta Township, the MOGE managing director and the gen-

eral manager of the camp presented a report on operations of the camp. The Union Minister looked into the requirements and looked around the facility.

The functions of the camp involve the logistic services for the success of onshore and offshore oil and gas exploration and drilling, the work of keeping and transporting the imported materials for onshore and offshore oil and gas exploration projects, the erection, maintenance and repair of natural gas control and distribution camps in Yangon Region, research centres, pipeline bases, test wells in lower Myanmar, the transportation and the supply of project materials and machinery, and the provision of dockyard services for the ships of MOGE.—MNA(Translated by Aungthu Ya)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITOR

Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR EDITOR

Aungthu Ya

SENIOR TRANSLATORS

Zaw Htet Oo

Aung Khin

INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR

Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

LOCAL NEWS EDITORS

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

TRANSLATORS

Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun

REPORTER

Nyein Nyein Ei,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

PHOTOGRAPHER

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar
Kyaw Zeya

COMPUTER TEAM

Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe,
Nyi Lin Thu

EDITORIAL SECTION

(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305

CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114

ADVERTISING & MARKETING

(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Over than 600 hoping to buy apartments in Myayee Nanda Housing

MORE than 600 people have obtained application forms to purchase more than 500 apartments at the Myayee Nanda affordable housing project, being carried out by the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) in Myayee Nanda Ward in Chanmyathasi Township, Mandalay, according to MCDC.

The Myayee Nanda apartments are being built for retired government servants, private companies' staff and the general public.

A total of 6,423 application forms have already been distributed, including 3,824 forms to civil staff still in service, 929 to retired staff, 470 to private companies' staff and 1,200 to members of the public who are serving or living in six townships in Mandalay region.

From 27 January to 7 February, apartment application forms were sold for K 1000 to those who wish to buy apartments. The completed applica-



The Myayee Nanda apartments are being built for retired government servants, private companies' staff and the general public. PHOTO:THAN ZAW MIN (IPRD)

tion forms are to be submitted from 17 to 28 February.

The 574 apartments are being built in 21 six-story buildings under the Myayee Nanda affordable housing project. Each

apartment measures 661 square feet in area. The ground floor apartment is being sold for K 288.4 lakh, first floor for K 257.5 lakh, second floor for K 231.75 lakh and third floor for K 211.15

lakh, fourth floor for K 195.7 lakh and the fifth floor for K 180.25 lakh. These prices include three per cent commercial tax. —Than Zaw Min (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Narcotic drugs seized in some townships

A combined team comprising members of antidrug police

squad searched the house of Hlu Hwa at No (1/C-3), upper Hmaw-

shan village, Hpakant Township on 14 February evening, and found 1,300 stimulant tablets, 0.06 kilo of stimulant powder. Similarly, a combined team comprising members of antidrug police squad stopped and searched a passenger car on Muse-Mandalay road near Oriental Toll Gate in Hsenwi, and found 1.1 kilos of heroin and a cell phone from passenger Ma San San Kyu (a) Ma Kyu, the same evening, a combined team comprising members of antidrug police squad halted a motorcycle driven by Yanchna Han (a) Archan at Hsanhsai 5th Street, Hsanhsai Ward (B), Tachilek, and found 2,000 stimu-

lant tablets at 12:30 pm, a combined team comprising members of antidrug police squad halted a motorcycle driven by Thaung Nyunt Oo on Momeik-Mabein road, near 7th Mile Junction, at the entrance of Kyauktaung village, Momeik, and found 121 kilos of heroin and cell phone at 1 pm on 14 February. Further information led to the seizure of Ma Kaunra together with Ks 1,500,000 and a cell phone, and the seizure of 0.363 kilo of heroin at the home of Ma Homlot Htuh-sai, who was at large. Legan action has been taken against the suspects, according to Myanmar Police Force.— GNLM



A suspect named Ma San San Kyu (a) Ma Kyu seen with confiscated drugs. PHOTO: MPF

Overturned fuel truck catches fire in Mawlamyine

A fire broke out when a road accident occurred in the early morning on 15 February in Mawlamyine Town in Mon State.

Firefighters were called to the scene at 3:05 am, and the fire was brought under control at 5:00 am, according to officials.

According to the witnesses, the fuel tanker, carrying 4,600 gallons of fuel and driven by Zaw Win Tun, 44, from Gawcho village, Chauk Township, overturned in Phettan Ward in Mawlamyine Town when the

driver lost control as he turned at the Myotaw Oo roundabout from Daw Khin Kyi. The accident caused the fuel to leak, resulting in the fire.

According to the fire brigade's estimations, the damages amount to K 68.4 million. The truck's driver and conductor suffered minor injuries in the accident. Mawlamyine Myoma Police have filed charges against the driver, Zaw Win Tun, for reckless driving.—Moe Tauk (Shwebo) (Translated by Hay Mar)



Firefighters extinguishing flames after crash in Mawlamyine on 15 February. PHOTO:MOE TAUk (SHWEBO)

Mandalay hospitals to accelerate preventive measures against COVID-19

A coordination meeting to accelerate the preparatory work for control and prevention of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) was held at Mandalay General Hospital yesterday morning.

At the meeting, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe of the Ministry of Health and Sports explained how the heads of Mandalay hospitals, the professors/heads of departments of the Mandalay General Hospital, the specialized surgeons and health personnel should involve in the preventive measures, being executed by the ministry, according to the prevailing situation both in China and in some countries. “We should keep a constant surveillance as many Chinese people are residing in Mandalay and its neighbouring towns,” he said.

The death rate is now soaring up to 2.8 per cent and transmission rate from the infected person is also high. So the control and preventive measures must be carried out in Mandalay and its adjacent towns as well as factories and workplaces. “We need to reinforce the measures being undertaken,” he added.

He pointed out that some in-patients are now under surveillance and treatment both in public and private hospitals in Mandalay Region. If some patients may be verified positive by laboratory tests or there may be some serious cases, they should be provided with quality treatment in line with the clinical management directives, compiled by the medical professors and issued by the ministry. Precaution measures should also be taken properly upon those, who cross the entry points legal or illegal and show no sign of

symptoms during their incubation periods.

In the implementation work, all the Mandalay Region health officials should lay down their decisions in accord with multiple perspectives such as public health, medical service, social, economic and trade. One of the important factors is that majority of Chinese people, who enter into Mandalay Region by air, are staying in the residences that they rented in prior. “We should need a mapping where they’re staying and accelerate our control and preventive measures by using the Chinese language,” he said.

Similarly, the health information leaflets in the Chinese language are being distributed at border entry points with China. Health information about COVID-19 should be well aware among the people in Mandalay Region as public involvement is also very important. There should be clear concise information and data for the people. Health personnel, who have to work closely with the in-patients in the quarantined wards, should also be kept under surveillance and in isolation from their family members so that it can benefit for all.

“We are making efforts to control and prevent the COVID-19. In such doing, the younger generation – doctors and personnel of medical profession alike – can draw many lessons and experiences they gained in order to prevent and contain any possible epidemic infectious diseases in the future,” he added.

A comprehensive written account should be done on the preventive measures being undertaken in Mandalay Region.



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe addresses the coordination meeting to accelerate the preparatory work for control and prevention of Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

After review and scrutiny, it is also necessary to prepare for any future threat of infections. In order to have an easier check on those who are in the quarantined wards of the Mandalay Region hospitals, there should be a format for a quick review of preparedness on hospitals. “We shall need to designate the Kandawnadi Hospital to prepare for control and prevention if any outbreak of infectious diseases may occur. Incorrect news and rumours should also be clarified to the public,” he said.

Correct information and data should be disseminated to all those who are undertaking the control and preventive measures and after review and scrutiny, they should reinforce the implementation work where necessary.

“The Mandalay General

Hospital will receive an additional supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) and suits as soon as possible as we have cooperated with the WHO and other UN organizations,” he added.

The meeting also discussed the matters pertaining to the WHO announcement of Global Emergency on Coronavirus on 30 January 2020 and its relevant information, the control and preventive measures undertaken by Myanmar on 5 February 2020, the health information awareness campaign, dissemination of correct and real-time information to the public to avoid fear and panic among them due to incorrect news and rumours, dissemination of information on work progress to those who are undertaking the control and preventive measures, necessary

preparation for adequate personal protective equipment (PPE), and progress in health condition of the in-patients who are in the quarantined wards of the hospitals.

The meeting was attended by the Director-General (Union Minister’s Office), the Director-General (Public Health & Medical Services Department), the Deputy Director-General (Medical Services), the Deputy Director-General (Control Diseases), the Deputy Director-General (Procurement & Distribution), Head of Mandalay General Hospital, professors, surgeons, the Director (Communicable Diseases Control – Central), the Director (Promotion of Health Education), and health officials among others.—MNA

(Translated by Aungthu Ya)



People enjoying the flower festival in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: HEIN MIN SOE**

Nay Pyi Taw Flower Festival attracts holiday makers

NAY Pyi Taw’s first-ever Flower Festival was crowded with people on Saturday.

Yesterday’s festival showcased some 250,000 flower decorations, with over 30 species. The Flower Festival will continue through 31 March.

The festival has also arranged to entertain visitors with concerts by celebrity vocalists.

“The Nay Pyi Taw Water

Fountain Garden has been revitalized due to the flower festival. Visitors can enjoy the entertainment programme and they can also take part in amusement programmes during the festival,” said Dr Nay Lin Tun, Chairman of the Hsan Myat Tun Company which organized the festival. —Hein Min Soe

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Total border trade value exceeds \$ 3.9 bln

The total border trade value through 7 February of this fiscal year (FY) exceeded US\$3.9 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 October to 7 February of 2019-2020 FY, the total border value amounted to \$3.981 billion, up \$584 million compared with the same period last year. The total border trade value included \$2.57 billion in exports and \$1.41 billion in imports.

Compared with the last FY, export earnings increased by more than \$221 million, while the import value increased \$362 million. At this time last year, the border trade was valued at \$3.39 million.

Myanmar conducts border trade with China through the Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung border points. The country carries out border trade with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese border points. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maunglaw, whereas the country trades directly with India via the

Tamu and Reed border points.

Among all the points, the Muse border point sees the largest volume and value of border trade, with an estimated value of more than \$1.92 billion in this FY, followed by Hteekhee with \$668 million and Myawady with \$390 million.

Myanmar's major export items are farm, animal, marine, forest, mining, CMP and other products. Myanmar mainly imports capital goods, industrial raw materials, personal goods and CMP raw materials.—GNLM

13.5 acres of poppy destroyed in Shan State

A combined team comprising police members of Tangyan Township Police Force in Shan State destroyed two areas of one foot high blooming poppies at Khama ME-548923 one mile west of Weinmaing village in Tangyan Township on 14 February.

Similarly, a combined team comprising Tatmadawmen of local unit destroyed 11.5 acres of three inches high young poppy plants in the surrounding area of Kaungkat village in Namhkam Township, Shan state.—GNLM



Opium poppy plants growing in Tangyan, Shan State.
PHOTO: MPF

Overheated brake causes wagon fire in Amarapura



Fire engulfing the mail train wagon in Amarapura on 14 February.
PHOTO:MPF

THE last car of the No (41) Mandalay-Myitkyina passenger/mail train caught fire resulting from overheating brake in Amarapura Township Mandalay Region at 5.30 pm on 14 February, according to Myanmar Police Force. The fire burned down the newspapers in the wagon that caught fire while the train was crossing the Inwa bridge on Ayeyawady River. The fire died down at 6.50 pm. It destroyed 500 copies of newspapers, 120 eggs, 150 coconuts and 20 plugs carried on the wagon. Legal action has been taken against U Phone Myint (60), a staff of Myanma Railways.—GNLM

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Rosewood Yangon soft opens as a center of culture and style

SHOWCASING a fusion of contemporary Myanmar style and old-world grandeur, Rosewood Yangon has soft opened its doors recently.

As Myanmar continues to welcome a fast-growing number of international travelers, the hotel takes on a transformative role in the country's largest city, combining an elevated level of luxury with strong cultural outreach.

Housed in one of the grandest and most expansive buildings built during the colonial era, formerly the New Law Courts built in 1927, the hotel is located in the heart

of the historic center amidst other heritage buildings at the junction of the famous Strand and Sule Pagoda Roads.

With its dramatic row of original three-story-high Ionic colonnades, the hotel forms a massive presence on the banks of the Irrawaddy River.

"Rosewood Yangon exemplifies a perfect balance between heritage and chic modernity in this vibrant city," says Sonia Cheng, chief executive officer of Rosewood Hotel Group. "We are thrilled to be a launching point for 'affluent explorers' to begin a journey of discovery in one of world's



Rosewood Yangon located at the junction of the famous Strand and Sule Pagoda Roads soft opens its doors recently. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

US denounces detention in Venezuela of Guaidó's uncle

WASHINGTON (United States) — The US State Department on Saturday condemned the detention in Venezuela of an uncle of opposition leader Juan Guaidó, saying the man was being held on “preposterous charges.”

“The United States strongly condemns the detention of Juan Jose Marquez, uncle of interim President Juan Guaidó, and demands his immediate release,” said a statement from State Department spokesperson Morgan Ortagus.

Marquez was detained Tuesday at the international airport near Caracas while accompanying Guaidó on his return trip from a three-week tour to several countries including the US aimed at building pressure on President Nicolas Maduro.

The US is one of some 50 countries that have recognized Guaidó as Venezuela's interim president after Maduro's 2018 re-election was widely denounced as rigged.

The US statement Satur-

day used uncommonly strong language.

“The preposterous charges that have been put forward further exemplify the increasing desperation of Maduro and his corrupt associates,” it said.

Venezuelan authorities claimed that Marquez had smuggled explosive material aboard a flight from Portugal, despite strong denials by Portuguese authorities that he could have done so.

“Manufacturing evidence to justify arbitrary, politically motivated detentions is a common tool of the illegitimate former Maduro regime,” the US statement said.

“These despicable actions by the former Maduro regime -- detaining innocent civilians and inventing false charges -- are sadly typical,” it said, accusing Maduro and his associates of “mafia-style practices.”

Guaidó was allowed to leave the airport unhindered on Tuesday despite being in defiance of a



Venezuelan opposition leader and self-proclaimed acting president Juan Guaidó (C) arrives at Simon Bolívar International Airport in Maiquetia, Vargas state, Venezuela on 11 February 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

government-imposed travel ban. He has denounced the treatment of his uncle as “a kidnapping.”

“I hold you responsible, usurper Nicolas Maduro...for

what happens to Juan Jose Marquez, an honest and brave man,” Guaidó tweeted on Wednesday.

During his three-week tour,

Guaidó met with the British, French and German leaders and was a guest of President Donald Trump at his State of the Union speech.—AFP ■

Google mulls licensing deals with news media: industry sources



In this file photo taken on 16 May 2019 a man takes a picture with his mobile phone of the logo of the US multinational technology and Internet-related services company Google as he visits the Vivattech startups and innovation fair, in Paris. **PHOTO: AFP**

SAN FRANCISCO (United States) — Google is in discussions on deals to pay media organizations for content, a move aimed at blunting criticism that it unfairly profits from copyrighted news, according to people familiar with the talks.

Negotiations between the internet giant and news outlets were said to be in the early stages, with most of the publishers located in France and other parts of Europe. Paying for news would diverge from the Alphabet-owned internet titan's practice of freely

mining the internet for material it displays in search results.

A licensing deal would likely be welcomed by news organizations that contend Google derives profits from ads alongside their news articles, including “snippets” in search results.

Contacted by AFP Friday, Google indicated it is seeking new ways to help publishers.

“We want to help people find quality journalism — it's important to informed democracy and helps support a sustainable news industry,” Google vice president

of news Richard Gingras said in a statement.

“We care deeply about this and are talking with partners and looking at more ways to expand our ongoing work with publishers, building on programs like our Google News Initiative.”

The Wall Street Journal reported earlier Friday Google was considering deals for a “premium” news product.

The California tech giant has remained steadfast about not paying for news article links displayed in search results and is not changing that position, people familiar with the matter told AFP.

It has argued that it drives traffic to news websites and thereby helps those publishers get ad revenues.

Google's News Initiative works with publishers to encourage readership and paid subscriptions to their offerings.

Facebook, which has been hit with similar criticism, last year launched a dedicated “news tab” with professionally-produced content — a move by the social network to promote journalism and shed its reputation as a platform for misinformation.—AFP ■

Iran to vote in general election many see as ‘lost cause’

TEHRAN (Iran) — Iranians vote next week in a crucial parliamentary election that is widely expected to herald the return of conservatives and heap pressure on beleaguered President Hassan Rouhani.

Friday's vote comes after months of steeply escalating tensions between Iran and its decades-old arch enemy the United States.

The Guardian Council, the body that rigorously vets candidates, disqualified more than half of the 14,444 who sought to stand -- including dozens of mostly moderate and reformist incumbents. A week of campaigning for seats in the Majles kicked off Thursday with little fanfare. Faced with the stark choice of voting for the conservatives and whether or not to vote at all, those who backed Rouhani in the past see this election as a lost cause and are expected to stay away in droves.

“The majority of the current parliament is composed of reformists, and people believe that they haven't done anything serious” since being elected in

2016, said independent journalist Farshad Ghorbanpour.

“The Iranian people have come to the conclusion that their choice has no impact,” he told AFP. The purge of candidates was “unprecedented”, said Ghorbanpour.

“Even some conservatives who were likely to speak independently and rationally in parliament have been disqualified.”

Sanctions and turmoil

Iranians are feeling the strain after months of turmoil.

In November, nationwide demonstrations over petrol price hikes turned violent before being crushed in a deadly crackdown.

Bread and butter issues have put Rouhani's alliance at risk of losing in a landslide.

A salesman in Tehran's Grand Bazaar summed up the mood, saying he would abstain as voting seemed “useless”.

Asked what might convince him to change his mind, Mostafa Hamidi, 37, said it would be if those in power lived up to “at least one of their promises. Just one, not 1,000.”—AFP ■

Time to prevent possible spread of Coronavirus infection in Mandalay

AS Chinese travellers and business persons are staying in Mandalay, the city must brace for the possibility of Coronavirus infections. We need to be prepared to take effective emergency measures to quickly respond to the infection, and to minimize damage in case of an outbreak.

The fatality rate from the deadly infectious disease has reached 2.8 per cent of those infected, and with higher rates of infection possible health authorities should beef up their current surveillance and preventive measures in Mandalay, especially at factories.

Hence, priority must be given to the monitoring of all travellers and patients who appear ill, so that they can immediately receive appropriate treatment in case they are confirmed to be infected by the Coronavirus.

Despite there being no great challenge in dealing with infected patients, so far, we should not reduce our current efforts. Some patients are still quarantined at hospitals in Mandalay, while others entering from China show no symptoms. We should not forget the fact that those who entered Mandalay over the border illegally can show symptoms of the disease anytime, though they display no symptoms during the incubation period.

Hence, priority must be given to the monitoring of all travellers and patients who appear ill, so that they can immediately receive appropriate treatment in case they are confirmed to be infected by the Coronavirus.

To make a decision on preventing the spread of the deadly disease, health authorities in Mandalay are urged to take approaches based upon social, economic and medical points of view.

The most important point is that most Chinese nationals who entered Mandalay by air are staying in rented homes. Surveillance in these areas should be speeded up and measures should be taken to provide rapid response to potential patients with the virus.

Probably, because of the nature of the new coronavirus, in some countries there have been cases in which medical institutions initially failed to correctly diagnose people displaying suspicious symptoms.

Similarly, to carry out the surveillance to seek out patients with suspicious symptoms, cooperation by local people is playing the most important role in this monitoring.

As the fight to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus is a long battle, the Ministry of Health and Sports, along with local health authorities nationwide, need to ensure that sufficient manpower and materials will be available, and the people are urged to cooperate with the authorities without leaving the burden of the mission entirely to medical bodies.

It is also important to distribute information about the infection by detailing what measures are being taken to deal with the situation to minimize anxiety among members of the public.

Full team of WHO experts to arrive in China over weekend

The top diplomats of Japan, the United States and South Korea on Saturday agreed to support China's efforts to contain a deadly new coronavirus, as the outbreak poses increasing health risks and threatens to undermine the global economy.



Michael Ryan, executive director of the World Health Organization (WHO) health emergencies programme, speaks at a press conference in Geneva, Switzerland on Feb. 13, 2020. PHOTO : (XINHUA/CHEN JUNXIA)

ALL members of the World Health Organization (WHO) team of international experts are expected to arrive in China over the weekend to work with their Chinese colleagues against the novel coronavirus pneumonia.

A WHO advance team, which arrived in China on Tuesday, and their Chinese counterparts have finalized the scope of work and design of the mission, while the rest of the team will start arriving in China over the weekend, said Dr. Michael Ryan, executive director of the WHO Health Emergencies Program, at a briefing in Geneva, without revealing more details.

Earlier, Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the advance group was led by Bruce Aylward, a Canadian epidemiologist and a "veteran of past public health emergencies," and the whole team will probably be made of 10 experts from around the world.

As part of the international cooperation and coordination against the virus COVID-19, a WHO-led global research and innovation forum on the control of the epidemic concluded on Wednesday, which set the most urgent priorities for the global

scientific effort to curb the virus.

Ryan also told the briefing that the first and foremost of the priorities are the demands of frontline clinicians and public health workers in China, including the development of better frontline diagnostics in emergency rooms, and immediate needs for clinical trials of drugs, such as the standard antivirals that were used in the past against MERS and SARS, as well as some anti-HIV drugs.

However, it could still be weeks before the trials are set up and generate some good information so as to "give us a large number of observations and a much stronger indication as to whether those drugs are working," he said.

Another urgent need has been the ability to do household studies and to develop a serology test that would "allow us to test populations to determine how many people in the population have been affected over time," he said.

Latest developments

Japan, U.S., S. Korea vow to back China

The top diplomats of Japan, the United States and South Korea on Saturday agreed to support

dam confirmed by Malaysia to have coronavirus

A woman from the United States who was among the nearly 1,500 passengers who disembarked on Friday from a cruise ship in Cambodia and flew to Malaysia has been confirmed as being infected with the new coronavirus, a Malaysian health official said Saturday.

The Westerdam, carrying 1,455 passengers and 802 crew, grabbed headlines after it was turned away by five ports in Asia over coronavirus fears before the Cambodian government allowed the ship to dock on Thursday on humanitarian grounds.

Noor Hisham Abdullah, the Health Ministry director general, said in a statement that the 83-year-old woman and her 85-year-old husband, also from the United States, were among 145 passengers who flew into Malaysia on Friday after disembarking.

Airport screening discovered the couple to have "symptoms," the statement said, adding they were sent to a hospital on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. A test for the virus now known as COVID-19 came back positive for her on Saturday.

Her husband tested negative although he remains hospitalized for treatment of his symptoms and observation.

The couple were among the total 405 passengers who, after disembarking on Friday, boarded charter flights to either the capital Phnom Penh or to Kuala Lumpur.

U.S. to evacuate Americans

The U.S. government will send chartered aircraft to Japan to evacuate American citizens and their families from a coronavirus-hit cruise ship quarantined near Tokyo, its embassy said Saturday, amid concerns about deteriorating sanitary conditions on the vessel.

Japan confirmed more infections on the Diamond Princess as monitoring continued for its passengers, while also announcing additional cases within the country including those at a hospital. Facing a number of cases whose infection routes cannot be tracked, the government admitted it is "facing a different situation."

The U.S. aircraft will arrive in Japan on Sunday evening and leave Tokyo's Haneda airport the following day, the embassy said.

The passengers will be transported to the airport on buses.

Man runs marathon in prevention of virus

A fanatical runner jogged the equivalent of an ultra-marathon inside his small apartment as people in virus-hit China desperately try to keep fit while cooped up indoors.

The country is at the centre of an outbreak of a new coronavirus, leaving more than 1,500 dead and sparking global alarm, but it is also in the grip of a health drive because the government is aggressively encouraging people to exercise to fight the disease.

With much of the 1.4 billion population ordered indoors and gyms closed, people are competing to outdo each other in how many bottles of water they can lift, how many push-ups they can do with their children on their backs or how many flights of stairs they can scale in their tower blocks.

But Pan Shancu has easily won the unofficial gold medal, saying he jogged 66 kilometres (41 miles) in a loop at home in six hours, 41 minutes.

REFERENCES

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Staff members consolidate a facility which was blown down by the wind in Xiaonan District of Xiaogan City, central China's Hubei Province, Feb. 15, 2020. Xiaogan witnessed a snowfall on Saturday as people around the city still fight in the battle against the novel coronavirus. PHOTO : (XINHUA/HU HUH)

တရုတ်ပြည်သူ့သမ္မတနိုင်ငံ၊ ဂူဟန်မြို့မှတစ်နေ့မှတစ်နေ့ အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောင် (2019-nCoV) မိမိတစ်ဦး ကာကွယ်ပါ။

ရောဂါကူးစက်နိုင်ခြေရှိသည့် နည်းလမ်းများ

- အသက်ရှူလမ်းကြောင်းမှတစ်ဆင့် တိုက်ရိုက်ထိတွေ့ရခြင်း၊ ကူးစက်ပျံ့နှံ့ခြင်း
- အရာဝတ္ထုများမှ တိုက်ရိုက်ထိတွေ့ရခြင်း၊ ရောဂါပိုးများအား လက်နှင့် ကိုင်တွယ်ထိတွေ့ရာမှတစ်ဆင့် ကူးစက်ခြင်း

သံသယဖြစ်ရယ် ရောဂါလက္ခဏာများ

- လွန်ခဲ့သည့် (၁၄)ရက်အတွင်း တရုတ်ပြည်သူ့သမ္မတနိုင်ငံ၊ ဂူဟန်မြို့သို့ ခရီးသွားခဲ့ခြင်း (သို့မဟုတ်) အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောင် (2019-nCoV) ဖြစ်ပွားသည့်ဟု အတည်ပြုခြင်းခံရသူနှင့် အတူနေထိုင်ခဲ့ခြင်းတို့ ရှိခဲ့ပြီး
- ရှားခြင်း (အပူချိန် ၃၈°C / ၁၀၀.၄°F နှင့်အထက် ရှိခြင်း)
- ရောဂါပိုးရှိခြင်း၊ အသက်ရှူရ ခက်ခဲခြင်း၊ အားအင်ကုန်ခမ်းခြင်း

ကာကွယ်နိုင်မည့်နည်းလမ်းများ

- အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောင်ရောင်ရောင် ခံစားနေရသူများနှင့် အနီးကပ်ထိတွေ့ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။
- လက်ကို စင်ကြယ်အောင် မကြာခဏ ခနစ်တကျဆေးကြောပါ။
- နားချရေချောင်းဆိုးသည့်အခါ နားခေါင်းနှင့်ပါးစပ်ကို လုံခြုံစေအောင်ဆိုးဆေးပါ။ (အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောင်ရောင်ရောင်)
- တစ်ချို့အသုံးပြုပါက အချိန်ပိုင်းသို့ ခနစ်တကျရှောင်ပါ။
- လက်ကို ခနစ်တကျ ပြန်လည်ဆေးကြောပါ။
- တစ်ကိုယ်ရေသန့်ရှင်းမှု ရရှိမြဲစေအောင်ရှင်းပါ။ အာဟာရပြည့်ဝစွာ စားသုံးပါ။ ကောင်းစွာ အိပ်စက်အနားယူပါ။
- တိရစ္ဆာန်များနှင့် အကာအကွယ်မပါဘဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထိတွေ့ခြင်းမှ ရှောင်ကြဉ်ပါ။

(2019-nCoV)

အဆုတ်ရောင်ရောင် (2019-nCoV) ဖြစ်ပွားသည့်ဟု သံသယရှိပါက နီးစပ်ရာကျန်းမာရေးဌာနများသို့ အမြန်ဆုံးသတင်းပို့၍ ကုသမှုခံယူပါ။

အဆေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက ဤ QR Code ကို Scan ဝတ်ပါ။

ကျန်းမာရေးနှင့်အားကစားဝန်ကြီးဌာန Version 1.0 (၂၀၁၉-၂၀၂၀)

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 15th February, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 16th February, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty of (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region, Northern Shan, Chin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th February, 2020: Fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16th February, 2020: Generally fair weather.

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Australian bushfires extinguished, but climate rows rage on

SYDNEY (Australia) —Australia's "black summer" of devastating bushfires is finally coming to a close, but bitter arguments over how to tackle climate-fuelled disasters are raging on.

When firefighters announced this week that all blazes in the hard-hit state of New South Wales were under control for the first time since September, the relief was palpable.

In other regions, a few fires are still being contained, but most Australians can finally abandon the grim rituals of the last half-year -- morning checks of smog monitors and "Fires Near Me" apps, deciding whether the kids can play outside, whether to flee or defend their homes.

But the after-effects will endure, and national soul searching has already begun.

"We know events like these can challenge the way we think about the world, undermine our perceptions of safety, and rupture social bonds," said disaster response expert Erin Smith.

Dozens of families have lost loved ones, thousands of homes and farms have been gutted,



Dozens of families have lost loved ones in the bushfires, thousands of homes and farms have been gutted and swathes of the east coast are scarred charcoal-black. **PHOTO: AFP**

swathes of the east coast are scarred charcoal-black and millions have had their sense of security shaken.

"It will likely take years and a great deal of imagination for us to figure out where we go from here," said Smith.

The question of what is next for Australia is already being asked, most of all of politi-

cal leaders, and it is being met mostly with finger-pointing and recrimination.

'Heads above the parapet'

While scientists agree climate change created favourable conditions for the blazes, politicians of all stripes are acutely aware how sensitive the issue is in Australian politics.

In an arid nation whose economic strength is intimately tied to the mining and export of fossil fuels, at least four prime ministers have been ousted in part over their climate policies.

In recent weeks, Prime Minister Scott Morrison has seen his ruling conservative coalition threatened by members in rural constituencies demanding fund-

ing for more coal-fired power plants.

At the same time, the centrist wing of his party has criticised his climate targets as inadequate.

Meanwhile rebel members of opposition Labor met secretly to steer the centre-left party's leadership toward a more overtly pro-coal stance.

The party's deputy leader awkwardly refused to rule out more coal subsidies, months after vowing they should end.

"They don't want to stick their heads above the parapet, at least when it comes to suggesting substantive policy," said Matt McDonald, an expert in climate politics from the University of Queensland.

One reason, he explained, is that while the hot and dry Australian continent is uniquely susceptible to the impact of climate change, it is also a world-beating source of coal.

Coal accounts for around 75 percent of Australia's electricity generation and exports of the fossil fuel are worth Aus\$60 billion a year; the country's largest export after iron ore. —AFP ■

Weinstein prosecutors urge jurors to convict 'predator'

NEW YORK (United States) — Harvey Weinstein was a "predator" who used his status as a powerful Hollywood producer to take advantage of the women he attacked, prosecutors said Friday as his sex crimes trial drew to a close.

The disgraced movie mogul, 67, faces life in prison if convicted of predatory sexual assault charges in the high-profile trial that marks a watershed moment in the #MeToo global reckoning against men abusing positions of power.

Weinstein believed he was "the master of his universe, and the witnesses here were really ants who he could step on without consequences," said assistant district attorney Joan Illuzzi-Orbon in the final day of closing arguments.

"He had a surefire insurance policy: the witnesses were standing in line to get into his universe," she added.

Weinstein, the first man accused of abuse in the #MeToo movement to face a criminal trial, has been accused of sex-

ual misconduct by more than 80 women. He denies the allegations against him.

Six women took the stand to say the ex-Miramax Films boss had sexually assaulted them, but the jury is considering charges related to just two: ex-actress Jessica Mann and former production assistant Mimi Haley.

Mann says Weinstein raped her in March 2013, while Haley alleges he forcibly performed oral sex on her in July 2006.

Illuzzi-Orbon argued that the six women who testified had "no motive to lie."

"They sacrificed their dignity and privacy and peace for the prospect of having that voice" heard, she said.

On Thursday, defense attorney Donna Rotunno argued the women had used sex with Weinstein to advance their careers, saying they only decided they had been assaulted after Weinstein became a global pariah when allegations against him ignited #MeToo in October 2017. —AFP ■

Germans hit the streets against deals with far right



Demonstrators rally for a protest themed "Not with us! No pacts with fascists any time or anywhere!" on 15 February 2020 in Erfurt, capital of Thuringia state in Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

FRANKFURT AM MAIN (Germany) — Ten thousand people are expected to join a demonstration Saturday in Erfurt, capital of Thuringia state in Germany's former communist east, where far-right lawmakers last week helped install a new state premier.

"Not with us! No pacts with fascists any time or anywhere!" is the motto for the protest, organised by the DGB trade union federation, NGOs, artists and

politicians belonging to the "Un-
teilbar" (indivisible) movement.

Thuringia rocked national politics on February 5, when state lawmakers from Chancellor Angela Merkel's centre-right CDU party voted with far-right, anti-immigrant AfD representatives to elect liberal politician Thomas Kemmerich state premier.

Spontaneous demonstrations quickly broke out across Germany in response, targeted

especially at the CDU and Kemmerich's Free Democrats (FDP).

Barely 24 hours after accepting the vote, Kemmerich agreed to step down. But outrage at the centrist parties accepting help from the far right, a first since the founding of the Federal Republic in 1949, remains deep-seated among the protest organisers.

End of a taboo'

"This election was the end of a taboo" against cooperation with the far-right, Unteilbar spokesman Maximilian Becker told Berlin's Tageszeitung newspaper.

"We want to show that what's going on in Thuringia will not go unanswered." While Saturday's demonstration is supposed to be peaceful, some have taken out their rage in attacks on FDP offices around Germany, Der Spiegel reported, a sign of festering political tensions nationwide.

Mainstream politicians charge that one of AfD's aims is to paralyse or render ridiculous the normal functioning of the country's institutions. — AFP ■

Syrian chopper downed over rebel area, killing crew

DAMASCUS (Syria) — A Syrian military helicopter was shot down over the last major rebel bastion in northwest Syria on Friday, the second such incident in a week of high tensions with Turkey.

The attack in a region where Turkish troops and Russian-backed government forces have engaged in multiple clashes came as Washington urged Ankara to look to its Western allies in light of Moscow's actions.

Syrian and Russian forces have pressed a deadly offensive against the shrinking pocket in the country's northwest since December, claiming the lives of nine civilians on Friday.

"At approximately 13:40 (1140 GMT), one of our military helicopters was hit by a hostile missile in the western countryside of Aleppo," Syrian state news agency SANA said.

"This led the helicopter to crash, killing all crew on board."

SANA said the aircraft was downed near the town of Urum al-Kubra, where Turkey-backed

rebels operate, but did not say who fired the missile.

The Turkey-backed National Liberation Front rebel group claimed responsibility in a statement posted on the Telegram app.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the helicopter's two pilots were killed.

An AFP correspondent saw the chopper's mangled remains and the blood-stained fatigues of one of the pilots.

Three days earlier, another Syrian military helicopter was downed over Idlib province, killing at least three crew members.

Turkish media blamed that attack on rebels but the Observatory said Ankara's troops had fired rockets at the aircraft over the village of Qaminas, southeast of Idlib city.

Turkey did not claim responsibility.

Turkey tensions

Since December, Syrian government forces have pressed a blistering assault on the last



Syrians inspect the wreckage of a regime military helicopter after it was brought down over western Aleppo province. PHOTO: AFP

major rebel pocket in the northwestern Idlib region and parts of neighbouring Aleppo and Latakia provinces. Eight civilians including three children were killed in bombardment Friday, the Observatory said, adding that five died in Russian raids near the almost deserted city of Atareb.

Government forces are within five kilometres (three miles) of

the city, the monitor said.

The assault has sparked the largest wave of displacement in the nine-year conflict, with 800,000 people fleeing since December, according to the United Nations.

Among them, some 82,000 people are sleeping rough in sub-zero temperatures.

European members of the UN Security Council called Friday

for an immediate end to the Idlib offensive to save lives.

"We demand that the parties, especially the Syrian regime and its allies, immediately end their military offensive, establish a genuine and lasting ceasefire," said permanent member France and non-permanent members Belgium, Estonia and Germany.— AFP ■

US to evacuate Americans from virus-hit cruise ship near Tokyo

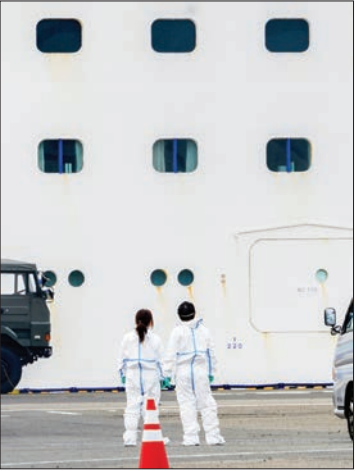
TOKYO — The US government will send chartered aircraft to Japan to evacuate American citizens and their families from a coronavirus-hit cruise ship quarantined near Tokyo, its embassy said Saturday, amid concerns about deteriorating sanitary conditions on the vessel.

The aircraft will arrive in Japan on Sunday evening and leave Tokyo's Haneda airport the following day, the embassy said. The passengers will be transported to the airport on buses.

"We recognize this has been a stressful experience and we remain dedicated to providing all the support we can and seeing you safely and expeditiously reunited with family and friends in the United States," the embassy said in a letter to the American passengers, posted on its website.

About 380 people aboard the Diamond Princess will be offered seats on the evacuation flight from Japan back to the United States, The Wall Street Journal reported Friday.

Japan will also cooperate with other countries that make similar arrangements to evacu-



People in protective suits stand in front of the Diamond Princess cruise ship docked at Yokohama near Tokyo on 15 February 2020. The ship has been kept in quarantine amid the spread of a new coronavirus among people on board. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ate their citizens on the ship, a government official said.

More than a week has passed since the cruise ship, now with around 3,400 passengers and crew aboard, was put under a two-week quarantine at Yokohama Port after a passenger who disembarked in Hong Kong was found to be infected with COVID-19, the pneumonia-causing

new coronavirus.

The number of infections confirmed on the ship expanded to 285, with the government newly reporting 67, including 38 who showed no symptoms such as fever.

The monitoring period for its passengers and crew will last through Wednesday.

Japan has increasingly confirmed COVID-19 cases from people with no direct connection to China, where the virus originated.

On Saturday, eight more cases were announced in Tokyo. Seven of the people had had close contact with a taxi driver who was found this week infected with the coronavirus, according to the metropolitan government.

In Wakayama Prefecture, western Japan, three more people, including a doctor, tested positive for the virus, the prefectural government said.

A total of five people related to a hospital in the town of Yuasa in the prefecture have now been confirmed infected — two male doctors in their 50s, the wife of one of the doctors in her 50s, and two male patients in their 60s and 70s.— Kyodo News ■

Fifteen children killed in Haiti orphanage fire

KENSCOFF (Haiti) — Fifteen children were killed when a fire swept through an unlicensed orphanage outside Haiti's capital Port-au-Prince, a judge told AFP on Friday, highlighting the severe shortcomings of the island nation's child welfare institutions.

Two children died in the blaze and 13 others died at a hospital as a result of smoke inhalation, said magistrate Raymonde Jean Antoine.

The building — which had not been authorized to operate as an orphanage since 2013 —

housed about 66 children, she said.

The fire in Kenscuff — a town of 50,000 south of the capital — began shortly after 9:00 pm Thursday (0200 GMT Friday), Antoine added.

According to one of the children, the fire was ignited by candles that the young occupants had lit in their rooms because the electricity was out, she told AFP.

An investigation is underway to determine the exact cause of the fire and identify the people responsible for the orphanage.— AFP ■

United Airlines pushes 737 MAX flights to September

NEW YORK (United States) — United Airlines announced Friday it was pushing back to September 4 the resumption of flights using the Boeing 737 MAX aircraft, grounded worldwide following two deadly crashes.

The US air carrier had said in December that it was eliminating flights using the aircraft from its schedule until June, and

last month the company's commercial director said United had decided not to fly the aircraft this summer.

"We'll continue to monitor the regulatory process and nimbly make the necessary adjustments to our operation and our schedule to benefit our customers who are traveling with us," United said in a statement.— AFP ■

France confirms first coronavirus death outside Asia

PARIS (France) — An 80-year-old Chinese tourist has died from the new coronavirus in France, the first death confirmed outside of Asia, French Health Minister Agnes Buzyn said on Saturday.

Buzyn said she had been told about the death of the patient — in hospital in Paris since late January — late on Friday, adding that his condition “had deteriorated rapidly” after several days in a critical condition.

Six people with the virus remain in hospital in France, Buzyn said, adding that none were seriously ill.

One of them was the dead Chinese tourist’s 50-year-old daughter and the rest were British nationals who were infected by a compatriot at a French ski resort.

The virus originated late last year in China, where it has since infected more than 66,000 people and killed more than 1,500.

Three deaths from the virus have so far been recorded outside mainland China — in the Philippines, Hong Kong and Japan.

The scale of the epidemic ballooned this week after officials in the Chinese province of Hubei — the epicentre of the outbreak — changed their criteria for counting cases, adding thousands of new patients to the tally.

Some 56 million people in Hubei and its capital Wuhan are now living under quarantine, virtually sealed off from the rest of the country in an effort to contain the virus.

‘Preparing for pandemic’

Away from China, almost 600 cases have been confirmed — roughly 35 of which have been reported in the European Union.

The most concentrated number of cases outside China is on a cruise ship quarantined off the Japanese coast, which is holding at least 285 people with the virus among its 3,700 crew and passengers.

The US embassy has said it will fly roughly 400 Americans on board the ship back their home country and Buzyn said France was “always ready to repatriate its nationals”, though she made no firm commitment.

There are believed to be four French nationals on the Diamond Princess, where all those on board are mostly confined to their cabins and required to



Buzyn said six people with the virus remain in hospital. **PHOTO: AFP**

wear masks and keep away from others during brief outings on deck. “We are following the international situation very closely,” Buzyn said.

“We need to prepare our health system to deal with a pos-

sible pandemic and therefore the circulation of the virus on national territory.” She said she would take stock of the situation on Tuesday in a meeting with health experts and officials. — **AFP ■**

US, Europe clash over Washington’s global retreat

MUNICH (Germany) — US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Saturday traded barbs with European leaders over diminishing Western influence, rejecting as “grossly over-exaggerated” their claims that Washington had retreated from the global stage.

Speaking at the Munich Security Conference, Pompeo sought to assuage European anxiety over the transatlantic bond under an unpredictable President Donald Trump.

“The West is winning and we’re winning together,” Pompeo said.

But he was immediately contradicted by French President Emmanuel Macron, who warned of “a weakening of the West”.

The annual gathering of world leaders, generals and diplomats to discuss security challenges has been dominated by fears over the West’s diminishing role in the face of a more assertive China and Russia.

In his opening speech a day earlier, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier suggested that the United States rejected “even the idea of an international community” and was acting “at the expense of neighbours and partners”.

“Those statements don’t reflect reality,” Pompeo retorted.

“I’m happy to report that the death of the transatlantic alliance is grossly over-exaggerated,” he added, paraphrasing a famous Mark Twain quote.



Mike Pompeo said Washington was leading a multinational effort to defeat the Islamic State jihadist group. **PHOTO: AFP**

He said Washington was playing a key role in keeping Europe safe by reinforcing NATO’s eastern flank on the border with Russia, as well as leading a multinational effort to defeat the Islamic State jihadist group.

“Is this an America that ‘rejects the international community?’” he asked.

“The free West has a brighter future than illiberal alternatives,” Pompeo added, urging allies to have “confidence” in the transatlantic bond.

He stressed the need to work together against threats posed by Russia’s territorial ambitions, China’s military build-up in the South China Sea and Iran’s “campaigns of terror” through proxy conflicts in the Middle East.

NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg, who also took to the stage in Munich, joined Pompeo in voicing dismay at the gather-

ing’s pessimistic tone.

“There is a competition out there in so many areas, with so many different actors, but simply lamenting that we have lost our way will not provide us with a way forward,” Stoltenberg told the audience.

“Europe and North America are indispensable partners.”

But France’s Macron echoed the German concerns.

The US was undergoing “a rethink of its relationship with Europe”, Macron said, strengthening his belief that the continent had to take charge of its own destiny.

“We need a European strategy that renews us and turn us into a strategic political power,” he added.

The divisions were underlined in the growing spat over Chinese tech giant Huawei, another dominant theme in Munich. — **AFP ■**

South Sudan president offers key compromise for peace

JUBA (South Sudan) — South Sudan’s president said on Saturday he would return to a system of 10 states, a key opposition demand, paving the way for a unity government and an end to the country’s civil war.

“The compromise we have just made is in the interest of peace...I expect the opposition to reciprocate,” Salva Kiir said, after a meeting of top government and military officials in the capital Juba.

Kiir said the country would now be divided among the original 10 states, plus three “administrative areas” of Pibor, Ruweng and Abyei.

The opposition welcomed the move but immediately raised questions over the fate of Ruweng, a key oil producing zone.

The number of states is contentious because the borders will determine the divisions of power in the country.

Oil zone arguments

Kiir and rebel chief Riek Machar — who lives in exile — are under increasing pressure to resolve their differences by February 22 and form a unity government as part of a peace agreement.

They have already missed two previous deadlines to enshrine peace and end a six-year conflict that has left at least 380,000 people dead and millions in dire poverty.

Kiir and Machar met last week in neighbouring Ethiopia but the talks ended in deadlock.

However, Saturday’s announcement meant a key concern of Machar appeared to have been resolved.

“This decision may not have been the best option for our people, but for the sake of peace and unity in the country, the Presidency sees it necessary,” a government statement said.

But after the surprise announcement, Machar’s party said they welcomed Kiir’s compromise but opposed splitting off oil-rich Ruweng.

Oil provides almost all of the government’s revenue in South Sudan, one of the most oil dependent nations in the world.

Ruweng has been one of the most heavily fought over areas in the civil war and is claimed by both the Dinka people of Kiir and the Nuer of Machar.

“We welcome this decision but we only have one complaint; the establishment of Ruweng Administrative Area,” said opposition party spokesman Pouk Both Baluang. “The issue of the states has not been resolved completely.”

But Baluang said he expected Kiir and Machar to meet soon to discuss their differences. Kiir said the final matter of states would be debated once the unity government forms. — **AFP ■**

Chinese, Vatican foreign ministers hold first meeting

BEIJING (China) — The foreign ministers of China and the Vatican have met in the first high-level encounter between the sides – a new sign of improving relations between two states with no diplomatic ties.

The talks between China’s Wang Yi and Archbishop Paul Gallagher in the German city of Munich on Friday come as relations steadily improve following a landmark agreement on the appointment of bishops in 2018.

“Today is the first meeting between the Chinese and Vatican foreign ministers,” Wang said, according to the People’s Daily newspaper, a Communist Party mouthpiece.

“This is a continuation of the exchanges between China and the Vatican for a period of time. It will open



Relations between the two sides have steadily improved following a landmark agreement on the appointment of bishops in 2018. PHOTO: AFP

up more space for the future exchanges between the two sides,” he said.

Wang, who met Gallagher on the sidelines of the Munich Security Conference, called the 2018 agreement “groundbreaking”, adding that it “has achieved positive results”.

First bishop

In a statement, the Vatican said the talks

were “cordial” and that contact between the two sides had seen “positive developments”.

Wang and Gallagher “highlighted the importance” of the 2018 deal and reiterated a willingness to continue “the institutional dialogue at the bilateral level to promote the life of the Catholic Church and the good of the Chinese people”. — AFP ■

Deadly Taiwan helicopter crash blamed on fog, human error

TAIPEI — Taiwan’s Defense Ministry on Saturday blamed human error and bad weather for last month’s crash of a helicopter that killed the military’s chief of general staff and seven others.

The UH-60M Black Hawk crashed on Jan. 2 in a mountainous area of New Taipei City while flying on a routine mission to a military base in the island’s northeast from the capital Taipei.

Maj. Gen. Huang Chih-wei, of the Air Force Headquarters, told a press conference at the Defense Ministry that the chief pilot failed to monitor altitude while flying in fog that suddenly appeared.

The helicopter took off from Taipei’s Songshan District at 7:54 a.m., carrying Air Force Gen. Shen Yi-ming, the military’s chief

of general staff, along with seven other officers, a senior enlisted adviser from the General Staff Headquarters, a military correspondent, and three crew members.

The chief pilot reported in his last radio contact at 8:03 a.m. that visibility was clear.

However, in less than a minute afterward, the hel-

icopter suddenly entered thick fog that had descended. About one minute before crashing at 8:07 a.m., the co-pilot reminded the chief pilot twice of the altitude of the chopper.

The flight data recorder showed that the chief pilot attempted to climb out of the fog by pulling up the chopper 12 seconds before the crash. — Kyodo News ■



Rescuers search through the debris of a crashed military helicopter on 2 January 2020. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Four children die after school van catches fire in Punjab’s Sangrur

SANGRUR (India) — At least four children died on Saturday after their school van caught fire in Punjab’s Sangrur district.

Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh has ordered a magisterial inquiry into the incident. “Very sad to learn of the news from Sangrur, where we lost four children because their school van caught fire. Injured have been rushed to the hospital. The District Collector and Senior Superintendent of Police of Sangrur are on the spot and I have ordered a magisterial enquiry. Guilty will be strictly punished,” Amarinder Singh tweeted.

According to eyewitnesses,

there were 12 children onboard the van.

Eight children were saved by the people who were working on the farm and came rushing on seeing the school van in flames.

The children who died in the incident were four to five years of age.

The van was heading to drop the students to their homes after school.

“The van was heading to drop the students at their home. 12 students were there inside the van. People here broke the windows of the van and somehow saved eight students but four students were burnt alive,” said a local. — ANI ■

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

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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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Four Japanese loan projects to contribute to socioeconomic life of local residents soon

By Htut Htut (Twantay)

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's first visit to Japan early November in 2016 was a historic one for the country during which she met with Mr Shinzo Abe, Prime Minister of Japan, and held discussions about various areas.

Speaking at the meeting, Japanese PM Abe said he expressed respect for Myanmar's

support at public and private levels to the new government as a friend of Myanmar. He also conveyed his hope to work with State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, building upon this visit, to dramatically advance the relationship between Japan and Myanmar.

In response, State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her gratitude for the



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was welcomed by Myanmar nationals in Tokyo in 2016. **PHOTO:MNA**

efforts on nation building under the leadership of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi who shares the fundamental values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and rule of law with Japan and explained that Japan intends to give its full

warm hospitality and while noting the historically good ties between Japan and Myanmar, she also voiced a desire to maintain the ties and move forward together with Japan as a trustful partner rooted in a longstanding friendship.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe in Japan in 2016. **PHOTO:CABINET PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE**

She thanked Japan for its assistance, including in areas of peace and stability, up to now and the Japanese people for their warm support.

Prime Minister Abe explained that Japan fully supports Myanmar's policy of promoting balanced development among states and regions to provide an economic buttress to national reconciliation that targets balanced development of rural and urban areas, and that Japan plans to contribute 800 billion yen over five years, starting 2016, at public and private levels in areas including assistance to areas with ethnic minority peoples, agriculture, Yangon urban development, electric power, airports, and human resource training, and to support renovations to hydropower facilities and expan-

sion of regional hospitals as part of these activities.

On 21 January 2020, Mr MARUYAMA Ichiro, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry signed the Exchange of Notes with regard to the four projects, which will be implemented with the loan from Japan worth about 120,915 million Yen (approx. 1.1 billion USD), in Nay Pyi Taw.

The following projects are part of the implementation of the commitment of 800 billion Yen private-public assistance, which Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stated during the meeting with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in November in 2016, within five years.

Yangon sewerage system development project

Loans of 45,900 million Yen will be provided to Yangon sewerage system development project for extensive renovation work as to the plans to expand waste water treatment, construct sewer pipes and improve the living environment of local residents in the commercial city of Yangon where a 10 % of the total population of the country is residing. Currently, most of human waste, domestic waste-

water and wastewater from commercial entities flow into the river with untreated sewage, causing deterioration to water quality. By implementing this loan project, the capacity to treat the wastewater will be increased up to about 7 times by 2030 (two years after project completion), and the amount of wastewater treatment is expected to be about 130 times of the current amount. It is expected that the project will support the improvement of the living environment of the local residents.

Urban development project for reduction of traffic congestion and damages affected by the flood in Yangon

Loans of 24,085 million Yen will be provided to urban development project for the reduction of traffic congestion and the damages affected by the flood in Yangon with the intention of improving drainage and take measures against traffic congestion at level crossings on main roads and Yangon circular railway road in Yangon, the largest city of Myanmar with high economic growth. In the Yangon metropolitan area, there has been a five-fold increase in the number of registered motor vehicles as a result of high economic growth and the traffic congestion has been serious for a long time. In addition, due to the poor and capacity of existing drainage channels, floods occur during the rainy season, and it causes the deterioration in the traffic environment of the region and

threatens the safety of citizens' lives. With this loan mentioned above, about one third of the main drainage channels of the region will be improved and the measures for reducing traffic congestion and ensuring traffic safety on the main roads and Yangon circular railway road will be taken. Therefore, it is expected that the project will contribute to the economic and social development of Yangon City.

Power distribution improvement project in Yangon and Mandalay

Loans of 12,288 million Yen will be provided to power distribution improvement project in Yangon and Mandalay, the major commercial cities in Myanmar. It is aimed at repairing and expanding electricity distribution facilities in order to improve power supply in the major cities. In Myanmar, there has been a rapid increase in power demand due to recent developments and investments. In 2017, the maximum power demand was about 3,075 MW nationwide. In 2020, power demand is expected to increase up to 4,531 MW and the government of Myanmar is planning to boost the amount of power supply. However, measures to renovate and improve power distribution facilities have been delayed. But it is expected that there will be more power distribution facilities exceeding their capacity during 2020. Therefore, there is an urgent need to renovate and expand the power distribution facilities. Spending the

loan mentioned above on the project, the distribution loss rate will be decreased only by 1 % in each city and reduce power outages caused by the insufficient capacity of the distribution facilities. Eventually, it is expected that the project will contribute to the economic development of Myanmar and the improvement of socio-economic life of the citizens especially in Yangon and Mandalay.

Regional infrastructure improvement project in Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and Taninthayi Region

Loans of 38,642 million Yen will be provided to regional infrastructure improvement project in Chin, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and Taninthayi Region with the aim of improve the lives of local residents through new construction, renovation and installation of infrastructures necessary for life such as roads, bridges, electric power and water supply in rural areas of Myanmar. The poverty rate in the country is the highest in Chin State (73.8% poverty rate) and Rakhine State (43.5% rate), and the electrification and water supply rates are very low. The development of infrastructures has been a challenge for the economic development in the States and Regions with higher poverty rates. In addition, the development of those regions is emphasized in the "Ayeyawady, Chao Phraya and Mekong Economic Cooperation Strategy" (ACMECS). It is of importance to promote the stable economic development in the rural areas through progress of infrastructures in Mon and Kayin States and Taninthayi Region situated along the East-West Economic Corridor and the South Economic Corridors and it is expected to be improved in the future. With the loan mentioned above, 70 sub-projects including 35 for roads and bridges, 25 for electricity and 10 for water supply will be implemented to improve socio-economic life of local residents from those regions, thereby contributing to the stable socio-economic development in rural areas.

References: Press Release of Japanese Embassy to Myanmar and joint-statement of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan



Mr Maruyama Ichiro, Ambassador of Japan, and U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry, and officials pose for documentary. PHOTO: SUPPLIED



MYANMAR Imperial University Futsal Club won the Myanmar Futsal League 2019-2020 following a 4-4 draw to the Victoria University College Futsal Club in their final match played at National Indoor Stadium II in Yangon yesterday.

Due to the Myanmar

Futsal League head to head decision, MIU FC secured the championship position, as the two teams met in a previous group match that ended 2-2.

After the final match, an awards ceremony was held.

The winning team, MIU FC, was awarded K 10 million

and the championship trophy by Myanmar Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw, while the first runners up VUC FC received K 7.5 million.

The third placed team, GV FC, was awarded K 6 million and fourth place team On Doctor FC received K 4 million.

The fifth place team in the Myanmar Football Federation U-19 Team received K 2.5 million.

The most valuable player award went to De Carvaiho Junior of VUC FC, and he received K 300,000.

The best goalkeeper

award was earned by Nyi Nyi Thant from VUC FC and he also received K 300,000.

The fair play award went to the Myanmar Football Federation U-19 Team, and officials awarded K 500,000 to the team.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

MFF seeks to create new generation referees

WITH the aim of raising a new generation of referees, Myanmar Football Federation is seeking to open new referee courses in states and regions in Myanmar, according to the federation statement.

MFF is aiming to host 30 courses, with 24 being launched in Yangon and another six courses will be held in towns and cities throughout Myanmar.

The MFF is also arranging to contact the Asian Football Confederation so Myanmar might send new referees to attend the AFC Referee Academy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. MFF hopes to send two men and one woman referee to the AFC Referee Academy in Malaysia in November.

Currently, Myanmar's youth referee U Phyo Htet Aung is attending the Academy, and he will next referee the AFC football matches and FIFA matches, the MFF stated. MFF is now seeking referees under 35 years. Interested persons can contact the Referee Department of the MFF in Yangon for further information.

Currently, Myanmar has 16 FIFA recognized referees, including four men, three women and nine assistant referees.

Myanmar has the second most FIFA referees in South East Asian and Thailand, having 19 FIFA referees, which is also the highest number in ASEAN countries.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)



Yangon United FC players seen on the pitch before a previous match. PHOTO:YUFC

Yangon United to play Southern Myanmar FC today

YANGON United will play against Southern Myanmar FC at Mawlamyine stadium in Mawlamyine today at 3:30 pm.

Regarding the match, Aboubacar, foreign defender of Yangon United, expressed his feeling about the match against Southern Myanmar.

Aboubacar had scored the team's first goal in the opening season match against Institute of Sports and Physical Education FC.

"Currently, the opponents are sitting at the bottom. So they will play hard and try to take points while at their home. We need to put a double effort into playing that match.

"Now, all of the teammates are getting ready for the coming match. I will play not to concede any goals. And I am getting more understanding from my teammates, which encourages me to show a greater performance on the pitch", Aboubacar added.

Also, Aboubacar welcomed the team's fans to enjoy the match.

"I want to invite the fans to support us through TV or anywhere. We need their support in every game", said Aboubacar.

The match will be broadcast live on Fortune TV, and will also be streamed live on MySports Facebook Page.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION REFORM

16 FEBRUARY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



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

STRENGTHENING DEMOCRACY IN MYANMAR

Our country, Myanmar has been crossing over the authoritarian political system to the democracy. After 2010 general election, the president U Thein Sein government took office on March 2011 and governed the country with a democracy system. Now, the incumbent government led by President U Win Myint and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi alive democracy in the country. It is not wrong to assess that democracy is a form of political system that leads to good governance, populace participation in the politic as the people have to elect the party and the people to represent them. On the other hand, every political system has its weak point and this is what all our Myanmar citizens and governors should not be taken for granted to build up democracy in Myanmar. If governors and populace hand in hand implement democracy, our democracy path cannot be deterred by any leak.

Comparing to other political systems, democracy system has many strong points if applied thoroughly. In a democracy, as governments and parties are elected through elections for certain terms, this system makes the government fully committed to the populace's needs, people's satisfaction, so that they can regain the public trust again and be elected for the next term. Here, in the election, if Myanmar citizens do not assume their votes as their obligations and ignore their privileges to vote, this can turn out like "our democracy system just represents the minority, not about 50 million people."

As repeatedly mentioned in the public newspaper, in the democratic system, media plays as an important pillar as they inform the performance of the government to the public. Here also, on the part of the media, as a mean of enhancing democracy, before broadcasting information, they need to ensure that the news come from reliable sources so as not to disperse fake news, misinformation. If the populace's decisions are enticed by fake news, the representatives cannot be elected on their own merits and this is the loss in the democracy system.

In the democratic system, the power is not centralized and is transferred between parties. Thus, in some way, it prevents the monopoly of the ruling system. On the other hand, it takes time to make decisions to implement some plans for the incumbent government as the system goes with the majority voting system. The faster the agreement within representatives achieves in that system, the more progress in administration, legislation, jurisdiction, economic growth, infrastructure, education, and the concerned matters of the public can create.

Overall, "DEMOCRACY" is such a good political system as it can cause less violence and enhance transparency. Nevertheless, the parties and politicians have to do campaigns to get the votes by using the budgets and even after being elected, they only get the 5-year term, which hold them highly responsible for the goals to be implemented within that term. To conclude, if we can let exist the weaknesses of democracy, like public involvement, implementing the people's needs and goals without taking a long process by the mutual agreement and support between the representatives, it is certain to strengthen the power of democracy in Myanmar.



Are homes the runners or are we the runners from them?



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

Although we did not know whether the roads were long or so were our legs, the legs of the home-runners were long. To know the depth of ego, to catch the shining moon and to clear the roads like a network, we rubbed many things called nights again and again. When the nights were darker and the days were like them more, home-runners sang the songs entitled 'One who is far away from his abode', running with wounds.

We wanted to go home back. In spite of being homeless, we still wanted to go home back. In spite of our homes to go back not being similar to the homes, we still wanted to go home back. Although we did not know how the road was far and how vague our goal was, we still wanted to go back. In this way, when we heard the sound of the wound that we had been wrong, we had already been very far away from our homes. We became aged and so were our homes which were singing the songs of tears.

At the moment, our muscles are not swollen and hard and our mind is not also decisive and steadfast. Our ways are not straight and unenjoyable. Now, we want to go home back. When it is aged and we do not find what we are looking for, we start to realize that it is the homes that we have to take the shelters. What we are thinking now is why we have given our time and what we have received in return; where we are now and what we would keep on doing. We are, in awe, standing like a lamp running out the oil among the complications of the era. We are flowing like an ox-bow lake in the region where it is scanty of love.

The nights in which we target our temples loading the bullets into our egos, the smiles that are cushioned by the technology, the jokes that are not

able to have laughed, they all make us want to go home back more when the numbers of them increase. When our beliefs topple down when our mind is chopped quite thoroughly and when everything we have already thought cannot be accomplished, we want to go home back. We want the nights in which the ones who love us are crowded around us. Now, we are startled up with half-sleep. We are suffering from the intimidating of the nights.

We have climbed up the summit of the mountain with the thought which we will be happy in our last days. However, when we get there we again become realized that there are still many summits left we will have to be going to climb. It is said family can never be chosen. However, it is said again we can learn how to live together with a family. Can we go home back embracing the dreams? Although we are called as home-runners, we are always longing for going home back, aren't we? In spite of saying that homes do need magnificence, a hut is our home if we are with our families. Everywhere with our families is a home. We should have homes when we become exhausted looking for dreams.

The more we try to go home back, the farther we are from homes. Our lonely nights are cool and hard like the eggs without nests. Lying our spouses, saying that we are OK, shouting we do not want to go home back, gazing at the family's rice-having table on TV, washing our clothes by ourselves and waking up lonely, we have made our long with our egos. How long the roads are, how long the trips are, we happen to want to go home back one day. In spite of having no home to go back, we always want to go home back...



VALENTINE'S DAY 2020: the day that I fall in love with new lover

By Zin Wai

It was the second Friday of February 2020 in the city of Yangon. People were happily celebrating Valentine's Day.

Supermarkets were decorated with heart-shaped accessories, and have displayed various brands of chocolates, flowers and gifts. People, in particular couples, were wearing smiles on their faces. Most of them held flowers and gifts on their hands.

No doubt, people are happy because of love. Even there is a quote "Love is life. And if you miss you, you miss life." I don't want to miss life. Therefore, I was also among them. I felt happy seeing the couples' happiness.

Apart from seeing the other couples, I have nothing romantic to do, and was using Facebook which I didn't use the previous day in front of the ninth mile Ocean. Most of the posts were about Valentine's Day.

A few posts were about the birthday of Bogyoke Aung San on 13 February. I then saw a post about the children injured during armed conflicts in Buthidaung on 13 February, which is also "Children's Day" of Myanmar. Myanmar's Children's Day is celebrated on the birthday of Bogyoke Aung San

who is the Father of the nation and who fought for Myanmar's independence from Japan and the United Kingdom. The UN celebrates the day on November 20, and most of the countries celebrate on 1 June since 1954.

A thought of comparison came into my mind that some people are enjoying love, but some people are suffering from hate. Then, I thought that if I can change the world, I want to change the world full of true love in which people in every corners of the world don't hurt one another like the couples on Valentine's Day.

Thinking that people hurt one another after love among them disappears, I entered the Ocean which is lovely with V-day decoration. I went to the book store of underground floor, and browsed a few books. On the shelf of religious books, I found a little book written by Sayadaw Ya Wai Nwe (Innma). Its name is "the work of noble persons" in which "The Ten Perfections of the Buddha" are explained in an essay form accompanied by stories.

I read the ninth perfection of loving-kindness (Metta Parami) of the little book. After I had read that chapter, I came to know that there are many kinds of love.

Some sorts of love are suffering, while some are beneficial for the world. In

brief, there are three kinds of love, sexual love (love between men and women), family love (love among the families), and perfection love (the sort of love has to be fulfilled by Bodhisattva in order that they become the Buddha).

The romantic (or) sexual love and family love can lead to suffering, but the perfection love, I called it true love, is always beneficial for the people.

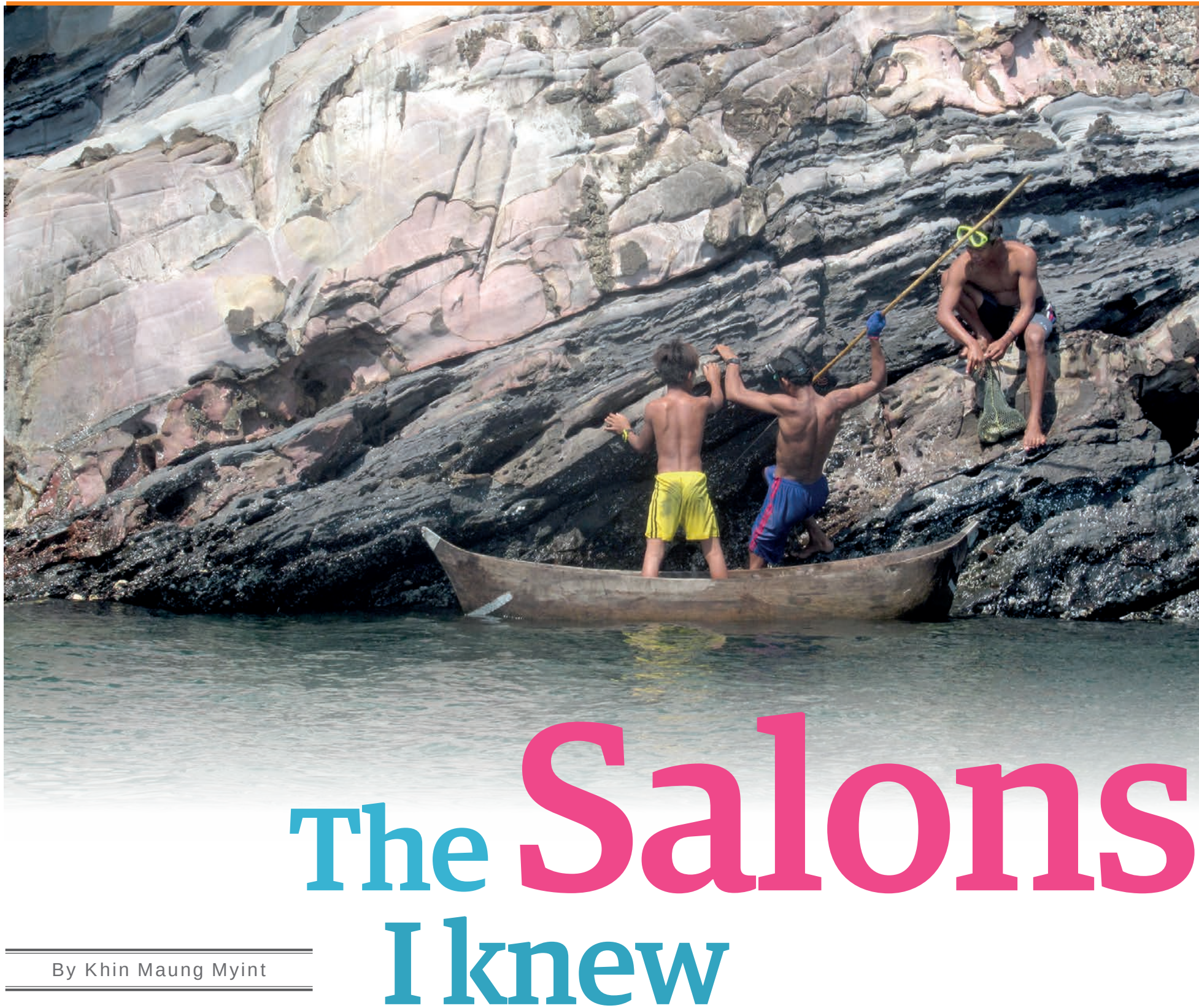
The perfection love can always generate a feeling of joy and happiness, and also help other people to generate a feeling of joy and happiness.

Those who cultivate perfection love always think about for the benefits of other people, instead of benefits for them. For the sake of others' benefits, they give all they can without thinking about themselves.

I couldn't help fall in love with the idea of perfection love or true love, and it became 'my new lover' for the 2020 Valentine's Day. How about you? With whom did you fall in love with?

Then, I continue to think with the help of my new partner "true love" that: "May all children be well and happy. May their hearts rejoice. May they be free from suffering."





In my previous article---The Salons: Sea Gypsies of Myanmar (17/2/19 - GNLM)---I had written who the Salons are in general. Now, I will be describing their natures, behaviours, habits, customs and traditions or in short---their ways of life. I will base my narration on my experiences with these mysterious tribesmen whom I encountered over five decades ago.

They have an identity of their own, which is unique and has nothing in common with any other ethnic races of Myanmar. Today, they are quiet, timid, meek and shy by nature and tend to be unsocial, but their ancestors were said to be aggressive fierce warlike people, whom even the European and Persian sea-farers feared in ancient times. How their mannerism had changed so drastically from aggressive and fearsome warlike people to quiet, meek, timid and shy people is a mystery.

It may be due to the language barrier or their inferiority complex, they kept to themselves without socializing with other races except to do business. Thus they lag behind in development compared to other national races. Every nationality or race has their own unique identities. Those identities should not be subjected to abrupt changes, but should be given the freedom to evolve naturally and allowed to freely preserve them. The identity of a nation, race or tribe is their pride, they should not be suppressed. As they like to live freely they detest oppression. Though they may be still much behind in development in culture, civilization, literacy and social sectors, they have unique

qualifications and skills in boat building, sailing, swimming, diving and hunting.

In the mid-nineteen sixties, the nature of my duty took me to the Myeik Archipelago, where I spent more than six months altogether, during my two tours of duty in that area. During those times, I had traversed that area from North to South, criss-crossing among the numerous islands and became familiar with the islands and the people of that area. I used to boast that I know the area like the palms of my hands. I had also made many contacts with the Salons and became friendly with one headman of a group.

Salons used to live in groups that may consist of ten to twelve houseboats, each sheltering a family. There were about ten, plus or minus one, groups in those days. To my knowledge, but would need confirmation, the members of a particular group belonged to the same clan. They were always on the move on the sea, never staying put in one place for long and never had permanent homes on dry land, except during the monsoons when the seas were rough. Then only they will build shanty huts on land, inside a sheltered bay, cove or nook. Otherwise the Salons always kept hopping islands in search of good hunting and gathering grounds.

As hunter-gatherers, they foraged the sea beds, comb the sand beaches and the woods on the islands in search of anything that they can sell or barter. During my contacts with the Salons, I took advantage of whatever opportunity available to learn about them. As there was a language

barrier because they spoke only limited Burmese language in those days, I wasn't able to learn very much. Anyway, I had some knowledge of their ways of life or their cultures, customs, traditions, behaviours, habits, hunting techniques, diving skills and etc; from close observations.

As birth and death are the two most important occasions in any human being's life, I will discuss briefly the Salons' customs or traditions related to them first. I had witnessed their custom of bathing the newborn babies in sea water. It may be due to scarcity of fresh water, as they live in boats on the sea. In those days they were never known to seek medical help from clinics or hospitals on their own accord. Thus it can be assumed that they always gave birth by themselves out at sea and the sea was the only source of water. However, another theory is: it was a sort of a ritual handed down through the generations, thus may have a more mystical significance.

Concerning death, the Salons were known to have a very unique burial rite. Though they were nomads, they never bury their deaths randomly, but have burial grounds, where it was customary to see grave markers erected at the heads of the graves. The markers were wooden planks with strange and curious looking carvings resembling fearful images. Another interesting thing was they plant a coconut palm at the head of the grave.

These rituals indicate the level of their custom or culture that they inherited from their ancestors can be assumed to be quite developed since ancient times. Here it



PHOTO: MOWKUN

is another mystery: why the evolution of a people with somewhat developed culture and civilization had been retarded to render them to be still semi-primitive in the 20th or early 21st century?

To give the readers a glimpse of their ways of life, I would like to share one interesting habit of theirs. I had frequently seen the Salons foraging the beaches at low tides. If they find an exposed rock boulder covered with sea clams or small oysters, they would heap dried leaves and twigs gathered along the sandy beaches to make a fire over the rock. The heat of the fire caused the clams or oysters to open and the creatures inside were half cooked. They would eat them, then and there, with the rice they brought along. Those were strange and peculiar sights I had ever seen.

Their hunting techniques too were very interesting. They just released a few hunting dogs, which stayed with them on their houseboats, onto an uninhabited island and patiently waited and went about their other chores. When they hear the sounds of the dogs barking, they stopped all activities and listened intently. When the barking of the dogs became fixed in one place, they knew right away that the prey was cornered and was time for them to act. Two or three persons would pick up their harpoons and machetes and went ashore. Then, in no time, they would return with a wild boar or a deer or any other small animal carcass.

How they trained their hunting dogs were also very interesting. When there was a litter of pups born to one of their bitches, they would cut off the tails while young. When the mother stopped suckling her babies, they would be taken and abandoned on the uninhabited islands. After a few months, the Salons would go back to those islands. If a dog was thin and came towards them wagging its short tail, they wouldn't take it back, because in their opinion that dog haven't learned how to fend for itself and wouldn't make a good hunting dog. However, if a dog seemed to be well fed and shun people, they deemed that dog would make a good hunting dog and would try to catch it. By that way, some dogs left behind became feral dogs and multiplied on some deserted islands. Judging on this training method, it can be assumed that the Salons, though uneducated are well familiar with the ways of nature.

In the previous paragraphs, I had raised two questions. Those questions had been nagging me for quite sometimes. If I were to recall them, the first question is: how their mannerism had changed so drastically from aggressive and fearsome warlike people to quiet, meek, timid and shy people? The second question being: why the evolution of a people with a somewhat developed culture and civilization had been retarded to render them to be still semi-primitive in the 20th or early 21st century? Both questions can be answered by just one answer that was agreed upon during a conversation with my friend, a retired Philosophy professor.

SEE PAGE-S-8

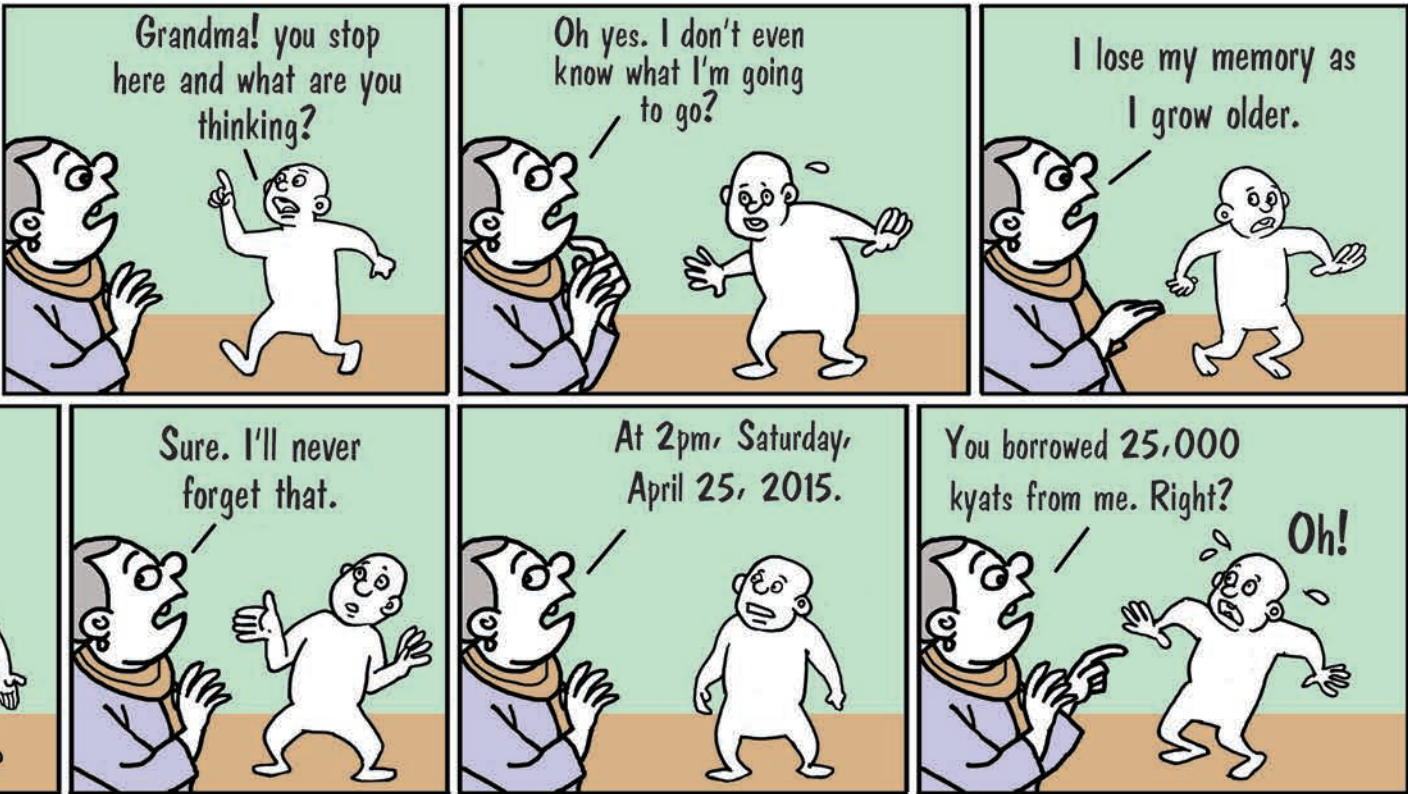


SUNDAY COMICS



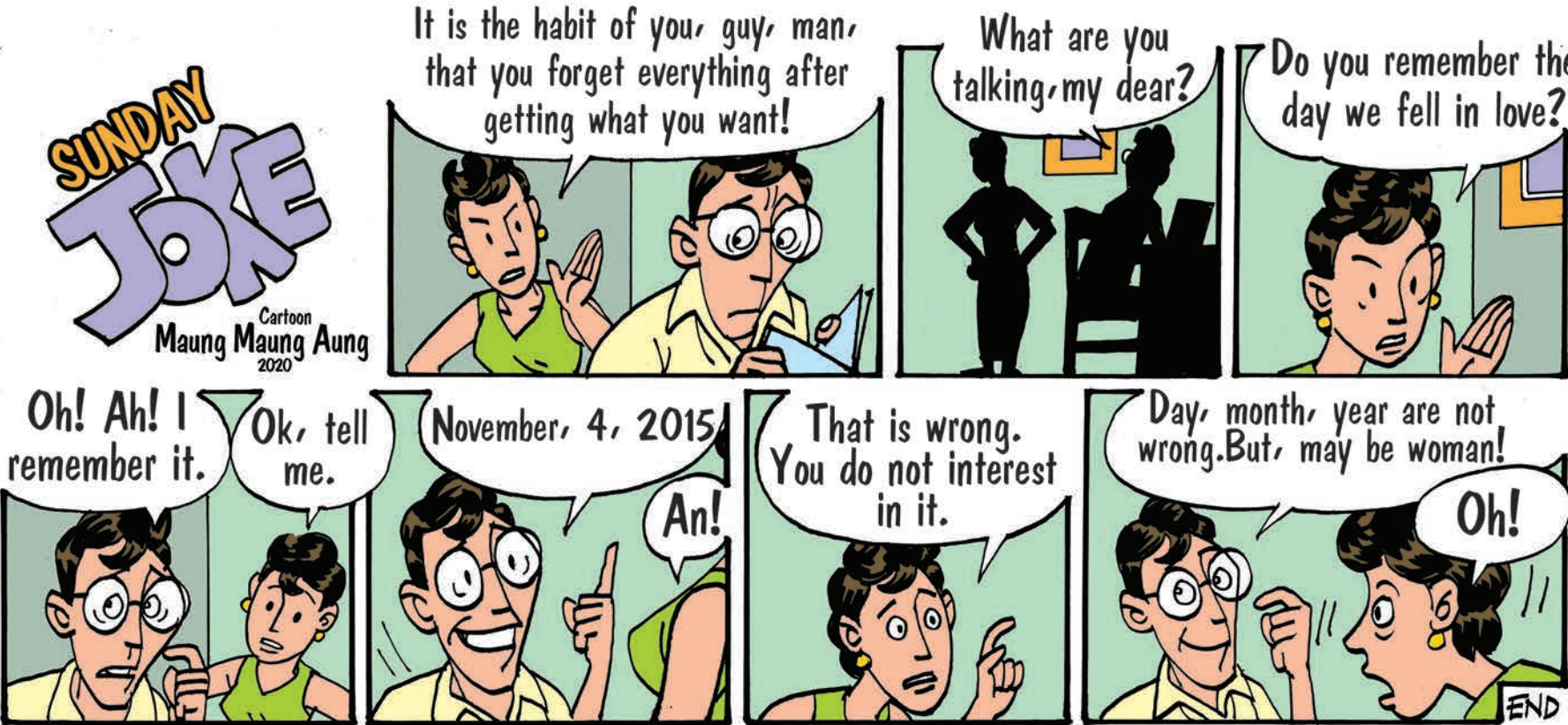
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung 2020





May physical body be carried along wherever mind goes



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

There had been a flourishing culture in our society when we were young. It was a mini business of the book-hiring shop. When the late afternoon came, people especially youths were crowded at those shops choosing which books they liked reading. Those shops could be said as a simile viz. 'Doors of the heart' established by enthusiasts of books. They were not systematic like a library but they displayed various kinds of books - knowledge and aesthetic enjoyment which would often be liked by regular customers. It is great to taste and comfort for me sitting in the teashop and reading a newly issued magazine at that moment. I think that comfort was much better than using the internet under the free wifi network shared by the teashop these days.

However, such book-hiring shops have disappeared one by one for a few years. Their disappearances were like that of dinosaurs in the world. There might be a query associated with the disappearance of book-hiring shops. Who has ever looked for the solution to the query? Although there are few book-hiring shops these days, the flourishes of libraries in the wards have not been seen. I have heard one or two libraries can be running in a certain town or ward but the founders of them encounter countless numbers of difficulties such as cash, site, building, cost of maintenance, increasing prices of books, salaries of staff for the long term. I cannot help praising their steadfastly withstanding mindset.

In the current situation, our nationals especially the youths cannot be reading books. The people who do not read books are like the ones whose minds are disorder and scattered. At that moment, such ones will not accept the masterpiece that was created by an even very clever and well-known writer. "If a race who are looking down on the literature, science, art, life, loving-kindness, and sympathy but desirous and chasing the cash, that race cannot last long in the society." These words were told by John Ruskin, an English critic. Our country was still in poverty but it is not possible to give a book to the one who is poor. In fact, man needs nutrition for their physical bodies as well as books to feed their mind.

What is more, there is a quote that has been said by Ludu U Hla, a well-known journalist, "Opening of a door of a library can make a door of a prison close." Those were the words of wisdom. For our country that is not flourishing the culture of the library, we cannot guess how many doors of the prison have already opened. I have heard that the numbers of best-seller's books are over the numbers of seven digits. However, Myanmar's best-selling books never turn to ten thousand in number. Most people in the world assume that the standard ruler of the culture of a country is just literature.

All in all, animals do not read books. The reason why man escaped from hostile terms and lives is the literature. Writing these above words, I happen to be ashamed that I am one of the members of the library foundation of my township.



**Invitation to young
writers for Sunday
Special**

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



Thoughts on Union Day

O my brother, my dear,
It's all you know, I do so.
Since the days of earlier,
In our land of “ Myanmar ”
Unions sailing down the river
Until they reach Aya's mouth
In the part of the nation's south,
Brings unity to our nation.

O my brother, my dear,
It's all you know, I do so.
Since the days of earlier,
In our land of “ Myanmar ”
Unions living together
From Snowy mountain in the east

To Southern Islands in the sea,
Which are gifts to our nation.

O my brother, my dear,
It's all you know, I do so.
Since the days of earlier,
In our land of “ Myanmar ”
Hands in Hands her children are
Pure in mind and thoughts for each
Non-predatory and smiles in sweet,
Which will make our great nation.

Sayar Zawgyi
Translated by
Nwe Phyو (Cherry Land)

FROM PAGE- S-5

During the morning walks to Kandawgyi, the Professor and I used to discuss various topics. One day after my article - The Salons: Sea Gypsies of Myanmar - appeared in *the Global New Light of Myanmar*, I raised those two questions to him. He promptly answered that the advancement of the weaponry used by the Europeans and the Persian sea-farers who the Salons used to prey upon, must have caught them by surprise. The number of casualties they suffered at the hands of the strangers must have frightened them to the point that the psychological effect was so great. From those times onwards, they dare not face strangers and started to isolate themselves and tried to hide from them. That could have made them what they are today. That was the most logical and plausible answer to both the questions.

Quietness, timidity, meekness and shyness were the characteristics of their behaviours in the old days when I first met them, however, now that they are relocated to a permanent village on an island they usually frequented in the past, they may have changed. Before concluding, I would like to put it on record that I couldn't agree with the suggestion mentioned in my previous article: the Salons may have migrated from China by land and spread to the maritime Southeast Asia, because it doesn't have any logical sense. I may discuss that in my next article.

■ ■ ■

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULE

YANGON TO BANGKOK					BANGKOK TO YANGON					YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR					KUALA LUMPUR TO YANGON					YANGON TO KUNMING					KUNMING TO YANGON														
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE											
PG706	5:50	8:10	Daily		TG2303	7:50	8:45	Daily		AK505	8:25	12:40	Daily		AK504	6:45	7:55	Daily		MU2580	10:55	14:35	2,4,6		MU2011	8:20	12:40	3											
8M335	7:30	9:15	Daily		PG701	8:45	9:40	1,2,3,4,6,7		MH741	11:15	15:45	Daily		MH740	9:10	10:25	Daily		MU2012	13:40	20:50	3		MU2579	9:10	9:55	2,4,6											
UB019	7:25	9:20	Daily		TG2301	9:35	10:30	Daily		OD551	12:25	16:45	1,4,7		OD550	10:15	11:30	1,4,7		MU9750	15:55	19:35	2,4,6		MU9749	13:45	14:45	2,4,6											
TG2304	9:35	11:30	Daily		8M336	10:40	11:25	Daily		MH743	16:10	20:30	1,4,6,7		MH742	13:55	15:05	1,4,6,7		MU9758	15:55	19:35	1,3,5,7																
PG702	10:30	12:30	1,2,3,4,6,7		UB020	10:20	11:15	Daily		AK503	19:10	23:30	Daily		AK502	17:20	18:30	Daily																					
TG2302	11:20	13:15	Daily		PG707	13:45	14:40	Daily		OD553	23:55	4:20+1	2,3,5,6		OD552	21:45	22:55	2,3,5,6		MANDALAY TO BANGKOK					BANGKOK TO MANDALAY														
PG708	15:35	17:35	Daily		PG703	16:50	17:45	Daily		YANGON TO HONG KONG					HONG KONG TO YANGON					FLIGHT					DEP					ARV					DATE				
8M331	16:30	18:15	Daily		TG305	18:05	18:50	Daily		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		PG710	14:30	16:55	Daily		PG709	12:15	13:40	Daily											
UB017	17:35	19:30	Daily		8M332	19:15	20:00	Daily		KA251	1:25	6:00	1,2,3,4,6,7		UB8028	12:45	14:30	3,5,7		PG714	19:15	21:40	Daily		PG713	17:00	18:25	Daily											
PG704	18:35	20:35	Daily		PG705	20:30	21:55	Daily		UB8027	7:05	11:45	3,5,7		KA250	21:50	23:35	1,2,3,5,6,7		MANDALAY TO DON MUEONG					DON MUEONG TO MANDALAY														
TG306	19:50	21:45	Daily		UB018	20:30	21:25	Daily		KA275	17:05	21:50	1,3,5,7		KA254	14:20	16:10	1,3,5,7		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE											
YANGON TO DON MUEANG					DON MUEANG TO YANGON					YANGON TO DHAKA					DHAKA TO YANGON					MANDALAY TO KUNMING					KUNMING TO MANDALAY														
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE											
DD4231	8:05	9:50	Daily		DD4230	6:20	7:05	Daily		BG061	14:15	16:00	1,3,6		BG060	10:45	13:30	1,3,6		FD245	12:55	15:20	Daily		FD244	11:10	12:25	Daily											
FD252	8:45	10:30	Daily		FD251	7:30	8:15	Daily		YANGON TO DUBAI					DUBAI TO YANGON					MANDALAY TO DON MUEONG					DON MUEONG TO MANDALAY														
SL201	8:30	10:20	1,3,4,5,7		SL200	6:45	7:35	1,3,4,5,7		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		MU2568	9:25	12:25	Daily		MU2567	8:05	8:25	Daily											
FD254	17:40	19:25	Daily		FD253	16:25	17:05	Daily		FZ1586	1:50	5:45	Daily		FZ1585	10:30	16:15	Daily		MU2040	15:20	18:25	1,3,7		MU2029	13:50	14:20	1,3,7											
FD258	21:40	23:30	Daily		FD257	20:30	21:10	Daily		YANGON TO BEIJING					BEIJING TO YANGON					MANDALAY TO KUNMING					KUNMING TO MANDALAY														
SL207	19:35	21:25	1,2,4,6,7		SL206	18:55	19:45	1,2,4,6,7		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		MU9742	15:20	18:25	2,4,6		MU9741	13:50	14:20	2,4,6											
DD4239	21:00	22:45	Daily		DD4238	19:30	20:15	Daily		CA906	23:50	5:50+1	1,3,4,5,7		CA905	19:00	22:55	1,3,4,5,7		MU9748	21:20	00:25	2,4		MU9747	20:05	20:20	2,4											
YANGON TO GUANGZHOU					GUANGZHOU TO YANGON					YANGON TO HANOI					HANOI TO YANGON					NAY PYI TAW TO BANGKOK					BANGKOK TO NAY PYI TAW														
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE											
8M711	8:40	13:15	2,4,5,7		CZ3055	8:30	10:20	3,6		VN956	19:00	21:30	Daily		VN957	16:40	18:05	Daily		PG722	20:00	22:50	1,2,3,4,5,7		PG721	17:25	19:20	1,2,3,4,5,7											
CZ3056	11:25	15:55	3,6		8M712	14:15	15:50	2,4,5,7		VJ918	18:55	21:20	Daily		VJ917	16:30	17:55	Daily		AIR LINES CODES																			
CZ3056	17:30	22:00	1,5		CZ3055	14:40	16:30	1,5		YANGON TO HO CHI MINH					HO CHI MINH TO YANGON																								
YANGON TO SINGAPORE					SINGAPORE TO YANGON					YANGON TO TOKYO					TOKYO TO YANGON																								
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																					
UB001	7:15	11:45	Daily		SQ998	7:55	09:20	Daily		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																					
8M231	8:20	12:40	Daily		3K581	9:10	10:35	1,2,3,5,6,7		VN942	12:10	15:05	1,3,4,6,7		VN943	9:30	11:05	1,3,4,6,7																					
SQ997	10:25	15:10	Daily		UB002	13:00	14:30	Daily		YANGON TO DOHA					DOHA TO YANGON																								
3K582	11:30	16:05	1,4,5,7		8M232	13:45	15:15	Daily		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																					
UB003	16:00	20:30	Daily		MI518	15:15	16:40	1,2,4,6,7		NH814	22:10	6:45+1	Daily		QR918	8:25	17:50	2,3,5,6,7																					
MI519	17:35	22:10	1,2,4,6,7		MI520	14:10	17:35	3,4,5,6		YANGON TO CHIANG MAI					CHIANG MAI TO YANGON																								
MI521	18:30	22:55	3,4,5,6		3K583	17:30	18:45	1,4,5,7		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		PG723	12:05	12:55	1,3,5,7																					
3K584	19:40	00:10	1,2,3,5,6,7		UB004	21:15	22:45	Daily		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		PG723	12:05	12:55	1,3,5,7																					
YANGON TO SEOUL INCHEON					SEOUL INCHEON TO YANGON					YANGON TO TAIPEI					TAIPEI TO YANGON																								
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																					
KE472	23:30	7:25	Daily		KE471	18:15	22:10	Daily		C17916	10:45	16:20	Daily		C17915	7:00	9:50	Daily																					
YANGON TO TAIPEI					TAIPEI TO YANGON																																		
FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE		FLIGHT	DEP	ARV	DATE																															
C17916	10:45	16:20	Daily		C17915	7:00	9:50	Daily																															