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484 govt employees quarantined in
Nay Pyi Taw Guest House

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total number of cases remains 144

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 10, 5th Waxing of Kasone 1382 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Sunday, 26 April 2020



Programmes and people in place
to implement what is needed;
that's why we can renew our
strength: State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote this on her Facebook page yesterday: It is possible for us to renew our strength because we have programmes and people in place to implement what is needed step by step.

The news that an employee of a factory in the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone has tested positive with the COVID-19 disease has caused anxieties. At a time like this I would like to explain a little what has to be done by the public service personnel from the health and administrative sectors and volunteers participating in our battle against COVID-19.

Firstly, they have to give treatment to the patient. Then the patient has to be rushed to the nearest suitable hospital as quickly as possible.

Secondly, the authorities have to identify and contact all those who have had close with the patient. The patient himself

has to give a list of people who had been in contact with him during the period of possible infection to the best of his memory. For this list to be more complete, online measures have to be taken to encourage those who have had close contacts with the patient to contact the authorities on their own.

Thirdly, we have to track down all those who have had close contact with the patient, and quarantine them. Then we have to monitor and test them.

Because we have programmes to implement step by step, and people to implement these programmes leaving aside anxieties and exhaustive work pressures, we can renew our strength.

"Samsara is a rough and rugged road. Let's continue this journey, each one of us shouldering duties."

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

Aung San Suu Kyi

State Counsellor

Message



Stay-At-Home order imposed in Yangon Region's three townships

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Health and Sports
Order 43/2020
3rd Waxing of Kasone, 1382 ME
(24 April 2020)

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

Communicable Diseases Law:

1. As the Ministry of Health and Sports is carrying out preventive measures against (Coronavirus Disease 2019 – COVID-19) in real-time, people residing in some townships are required to "Stay at Home" in order to effectively control the spread of the disease.
2. It is hereby announced that people residing in the following townships in Yangon Region are included in the Stay-at-Home programme:

- a. Mingaladon Township
 - b. Tamway Township
 - c. Botahtaung Township
3. People from the said three townships who are included in the Stay at Home programme shall follow the following rules:
- a. To stay only at their homes (Those who need to perform their duties at government departments, organizations, companies, factories and workshops not included)

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Dial 2019 for comprehensive information about COVID-19

PEOPLE can dial 2019 at the National COVID-19 Call Centre to ask information about COVID-19 daily between 8 am and 8 pm, according to Medical Research Department (MRD).

“We have opened the Call Centre as we are desirous of disseminating knowledge about COVID-19 among the public in the quickest way. The Call Centre is answering the questions raised by the people in real time,” said Director General of MRD Dr Zaw Than Tun.

Divided into eight groups, 45 doctors of the MRD and 19 volunteer doctors of the Myanmar Medical Association are working from 8 am to 8 pm daily in two work shifts. Eight doctors including the supervisor of each group are answering the questions.

“If a person dials 2019, he can ask questions as he likes without any phone charges. Doctors of MRD and volunteers of MMA are jointly answering the questions in connection with COVID-19. The establishment of the Call Centre is an effective answer to the COVID-19 problem, as people from both the rural and urban now have access to information. As the doctors are answering their questions, information seekers



Director General of MRD Dr Zaw Than Tun. PHOTO: NAY LIN

are satisfied, and the centre is winning the public trust. So, I believe that the Call Centre is beneficial for the public,” added the MRD director general.

The National COVID-19 Call Centre was opened at the Medical Research Department in Dagon Township on 9 April, and has been answering the questions raised by the public since then, according to MRD.

The Call Centre is disseminating information about the monitoring of COVID-19 pandem-

ic, COVID-19 prevention and containment, dissemination of COVID-19 knowledge, contact tracing and treating patients and other activities. The centre is serving as the main information bank for the people who can ask information at any time.

“Individually, people can directly contact doctors for exclusive discussions about the virus for six minutes, and the centre also has automatic answering machines.

People from Yangon as well as other regions and states are contacting the centre daily for asking questions about the virus. The centre serves as the information bank for people seeking a reliable information source and the people who were tired of false news. As it is difficult for the people to go to a clinic now, it is also serving as a counselling centre from which they can get medical advice directly from doctors. Most of the questions are about the prevention and containment of the virus and the ways it spreads. Many want to know the latest developments. “What are we going to do, if we have fever?” is one of the most frequently asked questions,” said Dr Myo Myo Mon of MRD.

The automatic answering machines at the centre are distributing knowledge about the symptoms of the infection, means of infection, prevention methods, travel restrictions, latest developments about the COVID-19 infection.

“We have some difficulties. Most of the people are sincere information seekers. But there are some disturbing phone calls. Some say words that amount to sexual harassment. Some make song request, and make fun of us. In many cases, we pick up the phone and find that the caller is just a toddler. Some use abusive words. So we are annoyed as such

phones calls are frequent. Please, do not disturb us,” said Dr Myo Myo Mon.

Doctors who will be assigned at the centre have to undergo trainings in connections with public relations, techniques and salient points of the Call Centre, and public health.

Techniques of the Call Centre were provided by Blue Ocean Investment Limited, free phone calls for the public by MPT, Telenor, Ooredoo, Mytel, and computers and related equipment and cost of food for the assigned doctors by UNICEF. —Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by TMT)



Dr Myo Myo Mon of MRD. PHOTO: NAY LIN

Korean-based Shinhan Financial Group donates 100 test kits, 300 PPEs



Direcotor-General Dr Zaw Than Tun presents a certificate of honour to an official from the Shinhan Financial Group at the Medical Research Department yesterday. PHOTO: NAY LIN

THE South Korean-based Shinhan Financial Group donated (COVID-19) test kits and personal protective equipment (PPE) to the Ministry of Health and Sports at Medical Research Department (HQ) in Dagon Township, Yangon yesterday morning.

Ambassador of South Korea to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-hwa and Director General of the

department Dr Zaw Than Tun delivered addresses at the donation ceremony. CEO Mr Kang Hyung Hun, Myanmar country head of Shinhan Financial Group, explained the purpose of the donation. Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa and officials of the Shinhan Financial Group handed over the donations to DG Dr Zaw Than Tun, who presented certificates of

honour to the donors. They then looked around the Molecular Laboratory. Shinhan Bank (Yangon branch), Shinhan micro financing and Shinhan card of the Shinhan Financial Group donated 100 test kits that can examine 10,000 persons and 300 sets of PPEs at the ceremony.—Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by TMT)

Announcement for 21 days facility quarantine and 7 days home quarantine

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports had earlier announced the 14-day facility quarantine, followed by another 14-day home quarantine, for prevention of COVID-19 infection from the foreign visitors and the positive patients.
2. However, the World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that the transmission of disease is possible before two days and until 28 days of symptoms, and that the infection of disease is possible during these periods. A research conducted in China has shown that strict and systematic quarantine for 21 days could contain the outbreak of disease up to 98.7%. Moreover, some regional countries are practicing a total of 28 days for both hospital/facility quarantine and home quarantine. Especially, the 28-day quarantine period is found in the countries with only limited laboratory tests.
3. Out of 28 positive cases for COVID-19 in Myanmar, some positive patients are the imported cases and the close persons with them. Moreover, the lab tests of National Health Laboratory and the contact tracings at Regions/States have showed that some confirmed patients and some quarantined persons for more than 14 days were still tested positive.
4. Therefore, the Ministry of Health and Sports has extended the 14-day facility quarantine to the 21-day community based facility quarantine/hotel quarantine and 7-day home quarantine, totalling 28-day quarantine.

The Ministry of Health and Sports
(Translated by Aung Khin)

“People are the key”

Stay-At-Home order imposed in Yangon Region’s three townships

FROM PAGE-1

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

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

d. To put on masks when going outside.

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

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

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

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

6. This order comes into effect from 10 pm on 25-4-2020.

Ministry of
Health and Sports
(Unofficial Translation)

No new COVID-19 cases on Saturday, total number of cases remains 144

Update of COVID-19 cases in Myanmar till 8:00 pm on 25 April

1. On 25 April 2020, a total of 132 specimens – 92 at the National Health Laboratory (Yangon), and 40 at the Department of Medical Research (Yangon) – were tested, and no positive cases of COVID-19 was found.
2. There have been a total of 144 confirmed cases of COVID-19 until 8 pm on 25 April 2020.
3. The patient (Case No.027) who is receiving treatment at the People’s Hospital, Mawlamyine, tested negative for COVID-19 two times, and he was added to the recovered patient list. There are a total of 10 recovered persons so far. Nine of them were discharged from the hospitals. There are five deaths.
4. The 130 positive patients are receiving medical treatments at respective hospitals. Out of them, two patients at Waibargi Specialist Hospital and one patient at South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital are under intensive care, while the remaining patients are in good health.
5. There are 110 new patients under investigation during 12 noon on 24 April 2020 to 12 noon on 25 April 2020.
- The following is the names of the hospitals, and the numbers of patients each hospital providing treatments;

No	Hospital	No. of positive patients
1	Specialist Hospital (Waibargi), Yangon	68
2	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital, Yangon	39
3	People’s Hospital, Kalay	6
4	People’s Hospital, Tiddim	5
5	People’s Hospital, Kengtung	3
6	Kandawnadi Hospital, Mandalay	2
7	Sao San Tun Hospital, Taunggyi	2
8	People’s Hospital, Lashio	1
9	People’s Hospital, Mawlamyine	1
10	People’s Hospital, Magway	1
11	People’s Hospital, Muse	1
12	People’s Hospital, Myitkyina	1
	Total	130

First batch of lab specimens tested for COVID-19 at 8pm on 25 April 2020

First batch of total specimens tested in laboratory on 25 April 2020	132
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) positive cases	0
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) negative cases	132

MoHS (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Announcement on
Extension of the
Precautionary Restriction
Measures Related to Control
of COVID-19 Pandemic until
15 May 2020

1. With a view to strengthening measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has issued the following announcements regarding the temporary entry restrictions for visitors from all countries which are in force till 30 April 2020:–
- (a) Announcement dated 15 March 2020 regarding precautionary measures for all travellers visiting Myanmar;
- (b) Announcement dated 20 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary measures for travellers visiting Myanmar and temporary suspension of issuance of visa on Arrival and e-visa;
- (c) Announcement dated 24 March 2020 regarding additional precautionary for travellers from all countries visiting Myanmar;
- (d) Announcement dated 28 March 2020 regarding temporary suspension of all types of visas (including social visit visas) and visa exemption services.
2. In order to continue its effective measures to protect the populations in the country from the risks of importation and spread of COVID-19, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has extended the afore-mentioned entry restriction measures until 15 May 2020.
3. In accordance with the directive of the Ministry of Health and Sports dated 11 April 2020, all incoming travellers including Myanmar nationals will be subject to 21-day facility quarantine and 7-day home quarantine on their arrival in Myanmar.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 25 April 2020

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484 govt employees quarantined in Nay Pyi Taw Guest House

THE NAY PYI TAW City Development Committee Guest House is now keeping a total of 484 civil service employees in quarantine after they returned to the capital from other areas of the country.

Some buildings of municipal guest house were turned to quarantine facilities on 27 March, and the returnees from foreign countries were accommodated there.

Dr Win Mar Lar Kyin, the Assistant Director of Medical Service Department in Nay Pyi Taw said, “Some 620 overseas returnees were kept in the Nay Pyi Taw Guest House. Over 600



Assistant Director of Medical Service Department Dr Win Mar Lar Kyin. PHOTO: KYAW ZIN HTIKE

persons have returned home after spending 21 days here.”

“At present, there are 484 government employees at the City Development Committee Guest House. They began quarantine on 17 April. They have no symptoms of fever. It is expected to receive more persons in coming days,” she added.

Each room of the guest house is filled with two persons.

The staff of guest house is providing the round-the-clock services, with taking records on contacted persons with these quarantined employees, the vis-

ited places, period of stay and the cars they took on their return to Nay Pyi Taw.

Medical checkups are carried out to for the quarantined employees twice a day in the morning and afternoon, and they are monitored by the officials.

“The quarantined persons worry that they would be discriminated by their colleagues at their offices after they completed this period. They should not be treated like this. Instead, it is proper to follow the guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports, such as social distancing, wear-

ing masks and washing hands frequently,” said Dr Win Mar Lar Kyin.

After the 21-days quarantine period, they will have to continue 7-days home stay, without too close contact with the family members in wearing face masks and hand washing.

Health workers also disinfected the cars carried the persons for quarantine, while foods and meals were brought to the respective rooms.—Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Health workers registering the people who will receive quarantine at the Nay Pyi Taw Guest House-1. PHOTO: KYAW ZIN HTIKE



Health workers registering the people who will receive quarantine at the Nay Pyi Taw Guest House-3. PHOTO: KYAW ZIN HTIKE

Visitors carefully scrutinized before entering Nay Pyi Taw

COMBINED teams are checking the visitors at the checkpoints before coming into eight townships in Nay Pyi Taw.

The administrative body of the capital issued an order on 19 April to contain and prevent the outbreak of COVID-19 in Union Territory Nay Pyi Taw.

The teams are performing their 24-hours duties at the

checkpoints of Intersection (c) close to expressway, Tharwithti gate in Lewe Township near Yangon-Mandalay motorway, Taungnyo gate and Tatkon gate.

“We explained the visitors from the areas with positive case to stay spend 21-days quarantine in Nay Pyi Taw. However, those from other areas with no infection were recorded with the



Visitors receive COVID-19 screening from a health worker in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: KYAW ZIN HTIKE



A health worker screening a driver while police provides security to them near Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: KYAW ZIN HTIKE

address of destination and phone numbers. Crossing the checkpoints is allowed from 4 am to 10 pm, except health and death issues,” said a police officer at the Intersection (c).

“Civil service staff requires to spend 21-days quarantine at the City Development Com-

mittee Guest House when they returned from the respective areas.

Police have also set up checkpoints other small route into Nay Pyi Taw.

Basic foodstuff are unloaded at the Intersection C checkpoints before the goods are conveyed

into Nay Pyi Taw, for ensuring easy commodity flows.

People from rural areas of Nay Pyi Taw are also allowed to enter the capital through the four checkpoints after being scrutinized by the officials. — Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Central Sanpya market accepts fish through sea routes



A worker prepares for shipping fish from a farm in Twantay to Sanpya Market in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

TO prevent people from being crowded so that coronavirus spreading can be prevented and controlled, those fish entering via sea routes are only allowed to sell in Central Sanpya fish market.

Previously, the Central Sanpya fish market was allowed to sell all the fish regardless of whether they enter the market via sea route or land route.

To reduce the crowding of people in the market, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) restricted the selling of fish entering via land route and this was decided at a com-

mittee meeting held on 20 April in YCDC hall.

“YCDC doesn’t allow any cargo truck to enter the central Sanpya fish market beginning from 24 April. The market committee has also announced that the market will accept the cargos entering via sea route only. The volume of trade of the market is around 400,000 to 500,000 visses of freshwater fish. Around 150,000 to 200,000 visses of fish are also being sent to other regions. After the announcement, only 40,000 visses of fish are entering the market with five fishing vessels, each

containing 8,000 visses. The trade volume is 10 times less now. We are selling only the fish entering via sea route. So, the market is stopped,” said U Kyaw Thu, the associate treasurer of the Central Sanpya fish market committee.

During the coronavirus disease prevention and control period, the purchasing vehicles and the container vehicles are restricted before 5 am on 24 April to reduce the crowding and to control shortage of the cargos.—Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Rice depots to reopen on 27 April

By Nyein Nyein

RICE depots are going to reopen on 27 April, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Rice is one of the staple food in Myanmar. Additionally, rice is mostly harvested at the end of April and May. Therefore, MRF will reopen the rice depots to prevent insufficiency of rice in the domestic market in this period and avoid negative impact upon the local farmers because of the declining price of summer paddy.

To be able to reopen the rice depots, we have already arranged to spray the disin-

fectants and to keep social distancing between the traders and the buyers to prevent the spreading of coronavirus disease under the guidance of the Health Department, according to MRF.

Moreover, the rice depots have already been inspected by the officials of the Township Health Department, Township Municipal Committee and the Hluttaw Representative. When the rice depots are reopened, the committee of rice depots will monitor whether they abide by the rules in the sale of rice. The depots must be opened only from 7 to 9:30 am. Those coming to the depots must put

on masks, gloves and keep three feet away from one another in the depots.

The depots announced that the dealers must follow the rules and regulations prescribed by the Ministry of Health and Sports. People who come to the depots by car must park their cars in the designated parking areas and the sellers must bring the sample rice sacks.

The rice depots were closed from 9 to 20 April during Thingyan holiday. Also, the closing date has been extended because of the increasing outbreak of coronavirus disease.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Yangon International Airport gets fewer tourists in 2020 Q1

THE number of tourist arrivals via Yangon International Airport (YIA) dropped by 26.2 per cent in the first three months of 2020 compared to the same period of last year, YIA said in its announcement.

Yangon International Airport, which is the main entry and exit gate for airway travellers, has provided services to 1.46 million tourists in the first three months of 2020. With the restrictions imposed upon the travelling around the world because of coronavirus disease, the civil aviation sector worldwide is encountering challenges.

The number of tourists declined to 883,194 from 1,196,042 in the first three months of 2020, a decrease of 26.2 per cent compared to the same period of 2019. However, the number of local travellers has risen to 572,656 from 560,978 this year, an increase of 2.1 per cent, according to the figure released by YIA.

In 2020 Q1, the flights provide service for 18,949 routes, an increase of 3.96 per cent in the same period of 2019.

With the spreading of the coronavirus infection, the Department of Civil Avi-

ation (DCA) has suspended all passenger airlines operations at Yangon International Airport from 30 March to 30 April. However, some cargo and rescue flights are still under operation.

According to the DCA notification, the suspension upon all airlines operation at Yangon International Airport has been further extended up to 15 May 2020.

In order to continue effectively containing the spread of coronavirus disease in Myanmar, the National Central Committee for Prevention, Control, and Treatment of Covid-19 have decided to further extend the effective period of the Temporary Measures up to 15 May 2020 by its notification issued on 24 April 2020.

Preventative measures are also being taken to prevent coronavirus infection at Yangon International Airport. The sky link connecting the airport buildings, airport parking, and gates between Terminal 1 and Terminal 3 are temporarily closed while disinfecting measures are being carried out.—Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Rakhine govt holds 4th coord meeting on measures against Covid-19

THE Covid-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee of Rakhine State Government organized the 4th edition of its coordination meeting yesterday.
U Nyi Pu, Chief Minister of Rakhine State Government, presided over the meeting in which the heads of working committee discussed their works on tackling the pandemic.
The Chief Minister called for collaborative efforts of committees for effective actions in respective sectors.
Colonel Min Than, Security and Border Affairs Minister of the local government and the secretary of committee, explained the ongoing and future work plans.



Chief Minister U Nyi Pu addresses at the meeting of Covid-19 Control and Emergency Response Committee of Rakhine State government yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Followed by the discussions of relevant work committees, the Chief Minister advised wider awareness campaigns, medical supplies and better collaboration between his committee and civil organizations.—Tin Tun (IPRD)
(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Competition Commission issues restrictions on increasing sales

MYANMAR Competition Commission issued Order (2/2020) on 25 March, exercising its power conferred under Article 56-(b) of the Competition Law.
The order is directed at businesses (excluding the service industry) and aims to foster free and fair competition, develop fair competition in the market unilaterally, receive equitable benefits and protect the public interest by issuing the following compulsory restrictions on increasing sales.

- (a) Advertising or the use of other methods to increase sales need are required to use language, symbols, images and data that assures correct responsibility or certain guarantee.
- (b) The use of language, symbols, images and data that may mislead, misinform, coerce, deceive or confuse the public is prohibited.
- (c) The use of language, symbols, images and data that may either damage the reputation of another business, negatively affect their benefit or hinder their work processes is prohibited.
- (d) The use of language, symbols, images and data that imitates or can be confused with other businesses is prohibited.
- (e) Businesses that wish to advertise the support or accreditation of a certain organization need to possess genuine data of support or be able to submit upon request.

All businesses are required to adhere to the compulsory rules mentioned above. Failure to comply will result in either managerial action or penalization from the Myanmar Competition Commission.—MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Narcotic drugs confiscated in Mohnyin, Lashio, Mongyawng

AUTHORITIES seized illegal drugs in Mohnyin, Lashio and Mongyawng townships on 24 April, according to Myanmar Police Force.
A combined team including anti-narcotic drug force inspected a motorcycle driven by Aung Min Oo, accompanied with Ma Than Htwe, near cemetery of Nantmeelaung Village, Mohnyin Township on 24 April and seized 0.03 kilo of heroin and 286 stimulant tablets from them. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Ma Than Nyunt who lives in Nantpate Village of the same township and arrested her together with 0.07 kilo of heroin

and 4,600 stimulant tablets.
Similarly, a combined team including anti-narcotic drug force from Lashio Township searched the house of Ma Yan Shann Hlan who lives in Nantkyankyut Village, Lashio Township and arrested her together with 1,000 stimulant tablets, 0.007 kilo of heroin and K100,000 on 24 April. On that day evening, a combined team including anti-narcotic drug force from Mongyawng Township checked a motorcycle driven by Sai Aun at the top of Monlite creek bridge in Mongyawng Township and arrested him together with 1,270 stimulant



Suspects Ma Than Htwe, Aung Min Oo and Ma Than Nyunt seen together with confiscated narcotic drug. PHOTO: MPF

tablets. Acting on a tip-off, police searched the house of Aik Yee Kyauk from Minekhun Village in the same township and arrested him together with K50,000.
Police have opened lawsuit against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Law. – GNLM
(Translated by TTN)

Ayeyawady Foundation donates protective chambers for COVID-19 to MoHS

TO help healthcare workers across the country collecting COVID-19 specimens throughout the country, U Zaw Zaw and family, and Executive of Ayeyawady Foundation Prof. Dr Zaw Wai Soe donated 50 protective chambers worth K30 million to the Ministry of Health and Sports on Friday.

Pro-rector of the University of Medicine 1 Professor

Dr Myint Myint Nyein, and Deputy Director-General of Yangon Region Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Tun Myint accepted the donation.

Myanmar Glass & Aluminium Association (MGAA) constructed the protective chambers free of charge for the donors. — Phoe Thaw Zin ■



U Zaw Zaw (right) trialling a protective chamber after he donated 50 protective chambers to the Ministry of Health and Sports on Friday. **PHOTO: AYEYAWADY FOUNDATION**

Brazil's justice minister resigns over 'political interference'

BRASÍLIA (Brazil) — Sergio Moro, Brazil's justice and security minister, resigned on Friday after clashing with President Jair Bolsonaro over the sacking of the federal police chief.

Moro, a former anti-corruption judge, hit out at "political interference" with the federal police, saying he could not do his job without "autonomy" for the force.

The news sparked jitters in the markets with Sao Paulo's stock exchange, the largest in Latin America, closing down nearly 5.5 per cent and the real dropping to a record low of 5.7 against the US dollar.

"I'm going to start packing up my things and send my resignation letter," said Moro, 47, during a long speech in the capital Brasilia in which he accused the far-right Bolsonaro of "breaking the promise of a carte blanche."

Bolsonaro hit back at Moro, accusing him of being motivated by "ego" and making "unfounded accusations."

The president claimed he had told several lawmakers before Moro announced his resignation: "Today you will see a person who is committed to himself, to his ego, but not to Brazil."

'Personal contact'

Moro's resignation came after Bolsonaro sacked federal police chief Mauricio Valeixo, a close Moro ally. The president replaced him with Alexandre



Sergio Moro says President Jair Bolsonaro forced his hand over the sacking of the federal police chief. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ramagem, chief of the Brazilian Intelligence Agency.

"The change at the head of the federal police without a genuine reason is political interference that harms my credibility and that of the government," said Moro.

Moro said Bolsonaro had told him he was replacing Valeixo for someone with whom he had "personal contact, whom he could call, ask for information, intelligence reports."

"Providing this type of information is not the job of the federal police," he added, insisting on independence for investigations.

Moro alleged Bolsonaro had said one of the reasons he wanted to replace Valeixo was that he was "worried" about some ongoing investigations.

Bolsonaro's decision to sack Valeixo against Moro's advice was "a signal that the president wanted me out," said Moro.

The president claimed Moro had agreed to Valeixo's replacement in exchange for a place on the Supreme Court.

But Moro hit back, saying his ally's position "was never used as currency in exchange for me being named to" the top court.

Sylvio Costa, founder of political website CongressoemFoco, said the president's move was about self-preservation.

"Bolsonaro wants to protect himself. It's the federal police that's investigating various suspected crimes haunting the president, his family and allies," said Costa. — AFP ■

Australia, New Zealand mark Anzac Day with driveway vigils

SYDNEY (Australia) — Australians and New Zealanders held dawn Anzac Day vigils from the isolation of their own driveways on Saturday to honour their armed forces, as parades were cancelled and ceremonies closed to the public due to the coronavirus.

As the sun rose, New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern was among those observing vigils at the end of their driveways, while Australia's leader Scott Morrison attended an official Canberra ceremony forced behind closed doors.

"This year, a new threat faces all nations as the impact of the coronavirus deepens worldwide," Ardern said from her driveway.

While at the small Canberra service before dawn — which was broadcast live — Australia's prime minister Morrison compared the disruption to the

Spanish Flu pandemic in 1919.

"Our Anzac Day traditions have been interrupted but not for the first time," Morrison said during the ceremony at the Australian War Memorial.

"There were no city marches or parades for the returning veterans because Australians were battling the Spanish flu pandemic," he added.

"Though our streets were empty the returning veterans were not forgotten."

As morning light reached Australia, neighbours held candles outside their homes in Sydney's southwest, where Vietnam veteran Peter McFarlane led a small suburban service, one of the many taking place around the country.

"I can't remember the last time I missed a dawn service, so I had to have one here," the 78-year-old told AFP outside his Ingleburn home. — AFP ■



Veteran Peter McFarlane holds a candle during an Anzac Day dawn vigil outside his house in suburbs of Sydney. **PHOTO: AFP**

Public needs to respect COVID-19 stay-at-home rules

THREE more townships in Yangon Region have been imposed under the Stay-At-Home Order starting yesterday, bringing the total number of townships under the order to 10.

The total number of COVID-19 cases reached 144 on Saturday and most of these cases are in Yangon.

Had the Stay-At-Home order and social distancing measures not been already put in place in other parts of Yangon, the number of cases could reach higher than the today's number.

The authorities announced yesterday that the people residing in Mingaladon, Tamwe and Botahtaung townships must follow the Stay-At-Home rules.

Now, people from 10 townships in Yangon Region are under orders to stay home. The authorities have also limited gatherings to five people.

We acknowledge that the Stay-At-Home order is painful but it is necessary to save lives. It is not the life we are used to living, but it is necessary for all. People are urged to pay attention and comply with orders, directives and health guidelines meant to keep all of us safe and healthy.

The Stay-At-Home situation is not easy for anyone. No one enjoys these restrictions. But, the rules are something we all have to comply with.

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

The order is designed to effectively control the spread of the disease in Yangon Region which is facing a spirally upwards of infections.

The Stay-At-Home situation is not easy for anyone. No one enjoys these restrictions. But, the rules are something we all have to comply with. People are advised to pay attention to and respect the COVID-19 Stay-At-Home rules.

■ ■ ■

Fourth-Year Performances of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

By Khin Yadanar and Zin Oo, Photo by Thaw Ta Win (Labor)

IN line with the aim, objective and goal, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is dashing ahead in smart manner under the direction of the government in the implementation of the task.

Labour affairs have been given special attention, while the immigration and the population matters have been streamlined into reform perspective.

More jobs on the agenda

Linking with relevant departments, the MOLIP has succeeded in finding jobs for (1,178,306) persons in the fourth year; (65,000) more than the previous year.

Opening windows to the outside world, (291,274) workers have been secured with jobs in (9) foreign countries in 2019, surpassing the previous year number of (63,000).

Accomplished tasks were seen as that of the formation of (177) associations of employers and employees; that of the establishment of "One Stop Service"; and that of showcasing many "Job Fairs" for job opportunities. Job opportunity road shows have been organized in (8) towns across the country, resulting with the appointments of (2,259) employees, and that more road shows of jobs are on the agenda, according to Union Minister U Thein Swe.

On migrant workers

Signing of Memorandum of Cooperation between Japan and Myanmar on a Basic Framework for Information Partnership for Proper Operation of the System pertaining to Foreign Human



Union Minister U Thein Swe delivers the address at the launching of the Population Estimates: 1983 to 2014. PHOTO: MNA

Resources with the Status of Residence of "Specified Skilled Worker" has been done on 28 March 2019.

"Myanmar healthcare workers were sent to Japan beginning 1 January 2019 to take care of elderly and poor health people. So far (962) workers were sent till January 2020. Moreover, MOU is to be signed with Singapore for sending Myanmar domestic assistants," the Union Minister explained.

Safe migrant workers

Interestingly, the ILO and the IOM have coordinated jointly in opening Migrant Resources Centres (MRC) in Tachilek, Hinthada, Myawaddy, Myitkyina, and Myeik. More offices are on the agenda to be opened in Loikaw, Aungmyan and Moehnyin.



A volunteer taking the interim Census -2019 in Pyinmana. PHOTO: MNA

Nurturing of skill workers

Taking the centre point, the MOLIP acted as the focal ministry with regard to Myanmar workers migration, job opportunities, lifelong learning, and upgrading of skills of workers.

National Skills Standard Authority (NSSA) of Ministry for Labour, Immigration and Population presented national level skill certificates to workers in Myanmar.

Minimum Wage

"Minimum wage is to be fixed every two years according to the law, and that the relevant committees including states / regions and the employers are keeping in touch for fixing wages. Cases would be submitted to the national committee for fixing minimum wages, and that the process would be continued," Union Minister U Thein Swe explained.

Survey on workforce

Strength of the workforce was being compiled as the rough estimate in the past, and nowadays, the data is being collected and compiles from the yearly workforce survey. Beginning 2017, the survey on workforce has been collected and compiled with the government budget, once every two years.

Interestingly, in 2019, the yearly survey on workforce was being collected with the use of tablet. A tablet computer, commonly shortened to tablet, is a mobile device, typically with a mobile operating system and touch screen display processing circuitry, and a rechargeable battery in a single, thin and flat package. The CAPI system is used. Computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) is an interviewing technique in which the respondent or interviewer uses an electronic device to answer the questions.

Close cooperation with ILO

"The MOLIP is closely working with ILO, and that the Myanmar delegation, representing the government, the employer and the employee, regularly attended the meetings in Geneva, Switzerland," Union Minister U Thein Swe explained.

Forced labor

With the calls of the situation, the Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) (2018 – 2021) has been approved for implementation on 21 September 2018 as agreed by the government, the

employer, and the worker's representative in the presence of ILO.

The MOU was signed with three prioritized work programmes. Moreover, the action plan is being spread out, and that the forced labor issue management and implementation national committee has been formed with the participation of (16) ministries.

Prior to 2019, a High Level Working Group (HLWG), formed as a transitional body before the National Complaints Mechanism (NCM) came into existence, had dealt with complaints related to forced labor.

Now, the National Complaints Mechanism has become operational, and anyone can lodge a complaint with the NCM via the Hluttaw, the Office of the President, regional and state governments, the Myanmar Human Rights Commission, ILO office (Yangon), Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, in person or by mail.

In April 2019, the ASEAN Labor ministers' special session was held in Singapore, and that the "ASEAN Labour Ministers' Statement on the Future of Work: Embracing Technology For Inclusive And Sustainable Growth" was signed. Moreover, the "ASEAN Labour Minister's Joint Statement on Green Initiative" have been approved for the submission to (108) ILO meeting.

New Laws drafted

The Department of Labor is managing the labour matters with the use of seven labor related laws, and that the outdated and obsolete laws were being nullified and the new laws are being enacted.

"The necessary amendments in connection with the labour laws of 2011 have been taken up for coordination and cooperation with the demands of the workers and the desire of the employers based on the existing conditions of the country. At this juncture, the Technical Working Group (TWG) and the Law for Labour Relations (LLR) have been formed and the negotiations were being discussed on the labour issues," explained Union Minister U Thein Swe.

SSB workers

There are (34,574) Social



Union Minister U Thein Swe

Security Board (SSB) establishments and worksites covering (1,467,824) insured SSB workers as of January 2020. For the benefits and advantages of the insured workers, there are three workers hospitals, (96) SSB clinics, (60) Departmental clinics, (5) SSB Care Well Clinics, one traditional clinic, (2) mobile clinics, and (7) medical treatment facilities namely "Provider Purchaser Split" categorized as the health service provider and the health care seeker. These facilities are established in (116) townships across the country for the SSB insured workers.

In the reimbursement and refund of medical benefits, unnecessary calls of non essential paperwork and documents have been cancelled for the comfort of the workers. With the assistance of the ILO, modern system has been applied in the reimbursement claims that resulted with the shorter and lesser time of refund payments to the satisfaction of the workers in four types of compensation cases.

Interestingly, the compensation and refund of cash and similar matters are realized through "Online Payment" system, and that other official paper works are carried out through "e-Service".

Reforms

IT reform is ongoing and that the ILO Korea Project is rolling ahead. At the moment, the SSB Information System is on the agenda to be implemented in three years.

The administrative reform is moving ahead with the assistance of the "Vision Zero Fund Project" of the ILO.

The Measure of a Nation: Myanmar's "Whole-of-Nation Approach" to Combatting COVID-19

By U Thaung Tun

HUMANKIND today is faced with a tragedy of epic proportions. The current COVID-19 pandemic has triggered the biggest downturn within the global economy since the Great Depression of the 1930s. In a matter of months, we have seen this pandemic evolve from a health crisis to a full-blown social and economic crisis. As global markets teeter on the brink of collapse, and as flows of trade, investment, and people are disrupted, the lives and livelihoods of millions around the globe have been affected. Significant economic pain appears unavoidable.

This pandemic also presents itself as the truest test of political leadership. Different countries have adopted diverse approaches. Some have opted for broad-based measures aimed at combatting COVID-19's spread, while others have sought to implement more targeted measures.

Regardless of the approach taken, evidence shows that large-scale testing, allowing health officials to identify and quickly quarantine those potentially infected presents the most effective method for limiting COVID-19's spread. For example, the South Korean "4T" approach of "testing, tracing, tracking and treating" has shown tremendous success in rapidly bring-

Through Myanmar's whole-of-nation approach, our people have and will continue to rise to this new challenge.

ing the disease under control. We have also witnessed the use of technology – with free smartphone apps helping to make populations aware of spikes in infections within their homes and places of work and communicating the vital importance of social-distancing measures via push notifications and public health messaging. Evidence also shows that successful response must involve government communicating quickly and truthfully, educating their people in real-time, and informing them as to how many have been infected and where, while minimizing the potential for stigma and discrimination.

Myanmar has likewise tailored our response to the challenge posed by COVID-19 in keeping with our unique country context. In doing so, we have taken what we call a "whole of nation" approach. From the very beginning, with the formation of the Central Committee for the Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19, chaired by the State Counsellor, the entire nation has rallied against COVID-19.

Together we strive unrelentingly to ensure that none is left behind. We have strengthened our nation's healthcare system while increasing household resilience. We are also ensuring that our businesses, particularly our micro, small and medium-sized enterprises can weather this current storm and plan for the future.

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Fourth-Year Performances of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

FROM PAGE-9 SSB benefits

“Exchanges of knowledge and sharing of experiences among the developing countries under the South-South and Triangular Co-operation (SSTC) initiatives have been in progress under the arrangement of the ILO. At the moment, there are (12) categories of worker’s benefits for which (1 point 4) million workers have enjoyed cash benefits amounting MMK (16) billion,” said Union Minister U Thein Swe.

Prioritized works

In right direction, the Department of Factory & Labour Law Inspection has been collaborating with the ILO in the tasks such as that of safety atmospheres at worksite; that of elevating the health care of the workers; that of awareness sharing and capacity building of the workers through training courses and workshops.

“Eradication of child labour campaign in Myanmar is taking momentum through a committee headed by Vice President that started to roll ahead in January 2019 with five-year plan. The Myanmar government will release a list of jobs which are warned as unsuitable for children to do in the country in order to prevent them from working in hazardous condition,” explained the Union Minister.

Labour Disputes

A dispute between an employer and workers can be handled by the labour department or the court. In the dispute settlement mechanism, a “township conciliation body” acted as the mediator. There are (325) township conciliation bodies that had settled (810) cases out of (943) disputes during April 2019 to January 2020.



Union Minister U Thein Swe witnesses the project for issuing the national citizenship scrutinizing cards to people. **PHOTO: MNA**

Putting smiles on faces of the workers, a total of (2,581) Workplace Coordinating Committee (WCC) have been formed at factories, workshops and establishments, adding (1,290) WCC then the previous status.

“On the negative impact of COVID-19, possible scenarios in the upcoming years have been taken up for consideration, with focus on the positions of the employers as well as the ground reality of the workers,” the Union Minister explained.

Expansion of visas

At the focal point, the Immigration Department is shouldering the issuance of e-visas to foreigners who entered Myanmar and that the Visa On Arrivals are also facilitated.

Foreigners are allowed to enter Myanmar at international airports namely Yangon, Mandalay, and Nay Pyi Taw, and the international gateways such as Yangon International Port, Tachilek, Myawaddy, Kawthaung, Htee Khee, Tamu, and

Rikhawdar. There are (14) categories of entry visas to enter Myanmar; and that (8) types of visas are being accorded with Multiple Journey Entry Visa (MJEV) with 3-months / 6-months / one-year stay permits for the visitors.

Visa On Arrival are accorded to national of (55) countries for entry into Myanmar through (3) international airports, and that during this year nationals from (8) countries namely China, India, Australia Germany, Italy, Spain, Switzerland and Russia. In addition, (5) countries namely Austria, Czech, , Hungary, Luxemburg and New Zealand have been added in the list.

Over (500,000) passengers permitted

Interestingly, over (529,000) e-visas have been issued to visitors, and that Myanmar have signed agreements with (24) countries, including ASEAN nations, on reciprocal visa exemptions.

“Using Machine Readable Travel Documents (MRTD) system at the international airports and at border entry / exit points, the ‘Border Control System’ (BCS) has been expanded in the collection of data and information of the passengers. The first step is to establish the network, and then the second step is to collect individual information through biometric system; and at the third stage e-passports are to be entertained at the auto gate,” Union Minister explained.

Allowing as previous citizenship

With miscellaneous assort-

ment of reasons, some people have been swept under the rug in the “Black List”, barring them to enter back Myanmar. As time has changed, with the positive criteria of “Thitsar Project”, (335) Myanmar citizens and (469) foreigners have been salvaged from that “Black List”.

Garlanding hope and happiness to (306) persons among (401) former Myanmar citizens, they are honored back with previous citizenship.

In collaboration with the UNDP and UNHCR, two repatriation camps namely Taung Pyo Letwe and Nga Khu Ya have been opened to take back those people who crossed over to Bangladesh during the conflict in Rakhine State.

Over (2,600,000) Citizenship Scrutiny Cards issued

With the “Thitsar Project”, over (2,680,000) persons have been swiftly handed over with Citizenship Scrutiny Cards, and that the collection of data and information and the distribution of cards at the villages by mobile teams, which have been carried out in 2019 amid unprecedented were indeed blissful events.

Necessary household registration lists, the citizenship scrutiny cards, and other relevant documents have been issued to migrated family members, domestic migrant workers working elsewhere in the country.

Verification Cards

“In accordance with the existing laws, ‘National Verification Cards’ have been issued to those necessary persons in the country. The NV Cards are being

issued with the clear and good purpose to identify the persons residing within the jurisdiction of the country while they are supposed to undergo scrutiny process or waiting for such verification procedure under the 1982 Myanmar Citizenship Law. Citizens staying at various IDP camps are also accorded with necessary cards,” explained the Union Minister.

Myanmar is working with Austria in establishing e-ID system which is the basic arrangement of e-Government, and that necessary agreement is to be signed with Österreichische Staatsdruckerei (Austrian State Printing House - OeSD).

Interim Census

“In support of the Myanmar Sustainable Development Plan (MSDP), necessary indicators are required in the application, and therefore, the 2019 Interim Census is conducted in the country. The interim task is being done before the final countdown to be realized in 2024,” the Union Minister explained.

“Most successful achievement could be referred at the ‘On Arrival Visa’ being accorded to globetrotters. In support of the nation’s development, the tourist visas are issued in swift speed in e-Tourist Visa. The re-acceptance of the expatriates as previous citizenship is among the achievements,” the Union Minister expressed his view.

Endeavours for the success

“In the years ahead, the tasks to be prioritized such as that of the issuance of National Verification cards; that of the approval for Permanent Residence to former Myanmar citizens; that of making relaxation and flexibility over the visa rules ; and that of the implementation of e-ID system,” the Union Minister said.

In conclusion, Union Minister U Thein Swe expressed, “The implementation of the original policies and objectives are ongoing and that the necessary tasks would be implement as and when required. All in all, the crucial duty as laid down by the State would be shouldered in priority and go hand in hand with other ministries to the best of our abilities.”

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)



Immigratin officers working on accepting returnees from Bangladesh. **PHOTO: MNA**

The Measure of a Nation: Myanmar’s “Whole-of-Nation Approach” to Combatting COVID-19

FROM PAGE-9

As COVID-19 is now well and truly present in Myanmar, our nation’s healthcare system provides us with our first line of defence. Accordingly, the government’s foremost priority continues to be supporting and protecting our nations’ frontline healthcare workers – our new national heroes – ensuring they have access to the resources and capacities required to slow contagion and care for those affected.

We have signed agreements with local suppliers permitting the purchase of personal protective equipment (PPE) and masks while sourcing key medical products in international markets and called for investments in the manufacture of COVID-19 related technologies using currently vacant state-owned factories. We are likewise scaling up the provision of testing kits, ventilators and other technologies to better support epidemiological tracking and contact tracing. With this week’s delivery of the Cobas 6800 analyser, our National Health Laboratory in Yangon is now capable of conducting over 1,000 tests for the COVID-19 coronavirus each day. Additional testing facilities are also planned for Mandalay Region, Mon and Shan States.

The pandemic has brought about widespread disruptions in economic activity, with notable declines in garment manufacturing and tourism. Accordingly, the government has taken rapid measures to protect our nation’s families and firms including establishing an initial MMK100 billion COVID-19 Recovery Fund, with which to finance low-interest loans to small firms suffering financial losses due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our fight against COVID-19 will continue to be successful thanks to the strength, resilience, good-will and cooperation of our people. That is why we have launched a series of measures intended to limit the pandemic’s impact on households and individuals, including the provision of food items together with both unconditional and in-kind cash transfers to those most vulnerable. To alleviate hardships borne by our people, the government launched an electricity tariff exemption for 150 units for all households last month. Yet staying true to our national character of caring and sharing, many of our people instead opted to forgo the privilege, with households diverting savings to community-led anti-COVID-19 efforts.

Through Myanmar’s

whole-of-nation approach, our people have and will continue to rise to this new challenge. We have seen social distancing practices being applied in both the hill-top markets of Kalaw and in lowland areas. Technology’s promise has also been harnessed by our nation’s youthful entrepreneurs, with contact tracing apps and creative and

innovative public health messages disseminated online and through social media. We have also seen new public-private partnerships emerge from within our health sector, allowing for the construction of new life-saving hospitals and clinics.

Despite the many varied

challenges our nation faces, Myanmar is fully committed to taking every possible action to mitigate the social and economic impacts of COVID-19 on families and firms. To guide this effort, we shall soon be launching the Myanmar COVID-19 Comprehensive Response Plan (CCRP), which introduces a broad range of actions and

policy reforms focused on facilitating a rapid, wide-ranging, and inclusive recovery. And yet, while this Plan represents a roadmap to recovery, a map by definition, is a simplification of the territory it represents. We must be ready to improvise, adapt and overcome. Import-

tantly, policies enacted shall not come at the expense of hard-fought-for fundamental social and economic freedoms now enjoyed in Myanmar. Nor shall our nation’s economic response involve cuts to social services or raising taxes on labour and investment

What we lack by way of resources, we make up for in national spirit!

While the world must come together in the fight against COVID-19, the past offers us no blueprint for the future. If the challenge of COVID-19 is not met in developing countries such as ours, the risk to the rest of the world remains. Bold actions at the country-level must, therefore, be complemented by closer regional and multilateral collaboration, to address both the immediate challenges, and to strengthen health systems and economic recovery in the longer term.

Let this present crisis draw us closer together; let us measure ourselves by our expression of compassion and empathy in the face of hardship, for this crisis too shall surely pass.

(U Thaung Tun is Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations.)

Notification on COVID-19 prevention in IDP camps

1. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is implementing action plans to prevent, contain and treat COVID-19 in IDP camps across the nation.
2. Management committees and temporary residents of the IDP camps are notified to proceed with the following action points:
 - Regularly and systematically wash hands with the hand basins and soaps provided in the camps.
 - Be wary of personal hygiene and minimizing contact with other persons when using public toilets and showers.
 - Be extra vigilant for the elderly and persons with chronic illnesses living in the camps.
 - To regulate camp residents from going outside and to maintain records of persons going outside for compulsory reasons. Every time they leave or enter the camp, their body temperatures should be checked, surgical or cloth-sewn masks should be worn and hands should be washed systematically.
 - Always wear fabric-woven face mask. Mark two colours for interior and exterior of face mask. Completely cover nose and mouth. Never touch mask with hand when worn

- on face. Remove from face using the strings attached to the mask. Clean the fabric-woven face mask thoroughly every day.
- Prevent external persons from entering the camp.
 - Report immediately to authorities for unusual activities or requirements concerning COVID-19.
 - Carefully read SMS messages from Ministry of Health and Sports on updates and information related to COVID-19.
 - Follow patient referral procedures in case of COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Connect with local general administration department, health department and philanthropic organizations to swiftly transport patients under surveillance and suspected persons to their designated locations.
 - Adhere to notifications issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports and local governments concerning COVID-19
- Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
- (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

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Coronavirus: latest global developments

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

The World Health Organization warns there is no evidence currently that people who have had the new coronavirus are immunized and protected against reinfection, raising doubts over the use of “immune passports” to allow some people at least to return to normal life.

Global vaccine effort

The United Nations launches an international push for a vaccine, with the UN chief saying the effort will require cooperation on a global scale and calling on international organizations, world leaders and the private sector to join the effort.

More than 197,000 dead

More than 197,000 people have died worldwide since the epidemic surfaced in China in December, according to an AFP tally at 1100 GMT Saturday based on official sources.

More than 2,821,000 cases have now been reported in 193

countries or territories.

The United States has the most deaths of any country with 51,549. Italy is the second hardest-hit country, with 25,969 dead. Spain follows with 22,902 then France on 22,245 and Britain 19,506.

Economic pain

The US economy is expected to contract by around 12 per cent in the second quarter of the year and the jobless rate reach nearly 14 per cent as a result of the coronavirus lockdowns, the independent Congressional Budget Office says.

The Italian government estimates the public deficit will rise to 10.4 per cent of GDP and debt to 155.7 per cent in 2020.

In Russia, the central bank says the economy will shrink by up to six per cent this year.

Aid to KLM, Air France, Renault

The Dutch government promises to prop up national carrier KLM with an aid package worth between two to four billion euros, shortly after Paris



Yannick Silva, an entrepreneur who invented the “Yanook” key or “personal hygienic hook” intended to minimize the risk of catching the new coronavirus (COVID-19), shows his invention in use on a keyboard, at Morlaas near Pau, south-western France on 25 April, 2020. Door handles, doorbells or lift buttons have become dreaded obstacles to prevent the transmission of the new coronavirus (COVID-19): a small company in the south-western French city of Pau has just put on the market. **PHOTO: AFP**

pledges help for partner airline Air France.

France says it is readying a “historic” package of help which will offer Air France seven billion euros (\$7.5 billion) plus five billion euros for automaker Renault.

Easing restrictions

Sri Lanka will lift its curfew on Monday. The Czech Republic will reopen the country’s borders to EU business travellers from Monday.

Israel approves new steps to ease its lockdown measures

for retail and service businesses.

Belgium will gradually reopen businesses and schools from mid-May. Paraguay meanwhile is extending its lockdown to 3 May.

Polish election controversy

Poland’s governing Law and Justice (PiS) party refuses to postpone its presidential election scheduled for 10 May, despite widespread opposition including from its own health minister. Minister Lukasz Szumowski, who is also a cardiologist, says delaying next month’s presidential election until 2022 is “the only safe option”. Opposition candidate Malgorzata Kidawa-Blonska says to hold it on May 10 would amount to a “coup d’etat” by the ruling party.

Data control in tracing tool

Apple and Google, engaged in an unprecedented collaboration, say their “contact tracing” technology would enable smartphone users to control their own data, and that the system would likely be shut down after the pandemic ends. — AFP ■

Does sunlight rapidly destroy the coronavirus?

PARIS (France) — Does sunlight rapidly destroy the coronavirus? A White House presentation on a mysterious government study says so — but some scientists have called for caution as we await more evidence.

An official from the Department of Homeland Security made the eye-catching announcement during President Donald Trump’s daily pandemic briefing Thursday, showing a dramatic reduction in the virus’ viability under the sun’s rays.

But the fact there are no further details about how the study was conducted has left some

experts scratching their heads.

“It looks like someone did a test somewhere,” Benjamin Neuman, chair of biological sciences at Texas A&M University-Texarkana, told AFP. “It would be good to know how the test was done.”

William Bryan, the official who summarized the findings, told reporters that an experiment was carried out at the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center in Maryland.

On a stainless steel surface in sunlight, the virus shrinks to half its amount in a matter of just two minutes in 70 to 75 degrees

Fahrenheit (21 to 24 degrees Celsius) heat and 80 per cent humidity, compared to six hours in the dark. When the virus was suspended in the air, its half-life in sunlight was just a minute and a half when the temperature was 70 to 75 degrees with 20 per cent humidity, as opposed to one hour in the dark.

Beyond the headline results, there are so far few details, making it impossible for experts to independently validate the findings. “As a scientist, I’d of course like to see an actual study and the actual numbers,” viral epidemiologist Chris von Csefalvay told AFP.

The ABCs of sunshine

We do know that the solar radiation contained in ultraviolet light — an invisible, energetic part of the electromagnetic spectrum — can be very effective at dealing with certain pathogens.

That is why, for example, the World Health Organization recommends that people in developing countries can place tap water in plastic bottles and leave them under the sun for five hours in order to make it drinkable. — AFP ■



Scientists have taken issue with a mysterious US government study on how sunlight might reduce the viability of coronavirus. **PHOTO: AFP**

Virus toll nears 200,000 as UN pushes for global vaccine effort

WASHINGTON (United States) — The global coronavirus death toll approached 200,000 on Saturday as the United Nations launched an international push for a vaccine to defeat the pandemic.

Governments around the world are struggling to limit the economic devastation unleashed by the virus, which has infected nearly 2.8 million people and left half of humanity under some form of lockdown.

The scale of the coronavirus pandemic has forced medical research on the virus to move at unprecedented speed, but effective treatments are still far off and the United Nations chief said the effort will require cooperation on a global scale.

“We face a global public enemy like no other,” UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told a virtual briefing on Friday, asking for international organizations, world leaders and the private sector to join the effort. “A world free of COVID-19 re-

quires the most massive public health effort in history.”

Any vaccine should be safe, affordable and available to all, Guterres said at the meeting, which was also attended by the leaders of Germany and France.

But notably absent were the leaders of China, where the virus first emerged late last year, and the United States, which has accused the UN’s World Health Organization of not warning quickly enough about the original outbreak.

The spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by coronavirus, is increasing other medical risks as well with the WHO warning nearly 400,000 more people could die from malaria because of disruption to the supply of mosquito nets and medicines. Saturday marked World Malaria Day, a disease which the WHO said could kill around 770,000 this year, or “twice as much as in 2018”. — AFP ■

DR Congo police arrest sect leader after deadly raid

MATADI (DR Congo) — The self-styled prophet of a separatist sect blamed for deadly attacks in the Democratic Republic of Congo has been arrested in a raid on his home in Kinshasa involving hundreds of security forces.

“Mission accomplished,” a police tweet said, after troops stormed the home of former MP Ne Muanda Nsemi, who heads the Bundu Dia Kongo (BDK) sect, following an hours-long siege on Friday.

A police source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said several BDK members were found in the house and added that an undisclosed number of people had died in the raid.

An interior ministry statement said at least eight people were killed and another 35 injured, without giving details. A total of 168 were arrested, according to the statement.

Police said that eight officers were seriously injured in the raid, suggesting that the fatalities were all sect members.

An eyewitness told AFP he had seen 15 bodies after the po-



Paintings of Ne Muanda Nsemi put on display at police headquarters in Kinshasa in 2017. PHOTO:AFP

lice action, and many more injured. Nsemi, who is aged around 70, was taken to hospital with a head injury before being handed over to prosecutors.

Police condemned some members of the security forces for looting belongings from the

property after the raid, saying in a statement that the perpetrators would be punished.

The BDK aims to revive the pre-colonial Kongo kingdom that included what are today parts of neighbouring Angola, the Republic of Congo and Gabon, and has

repeatedly fought with security forces.

Since 13 April, about 20 sect members and police have been killed in three separate clashes on a key highway in the Kongo Central province that neighbours Kinshasa.

The route is vital as it links Kinshasa, home to some 10 million people, to the ports of Matadi and Moanda.

At the end of March, police dispersed several BDK members in Kinshasa for defying a ban on gatherings of more than 20 people imposed to halt the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Nsemi, a former chemistry teacher, was detained in 2017 for inciting tribal hatred but later escaped from prison during a brazen pre-dawn raid.

He spent two years on the run before being re-arrested days after making a public appearance this week on television.

He re-entered political life in 2019 following the election of president Felix Tshisekedi, and in January proclaimed himself president of the DR Congo in a “divine coup”.

Dozens of armed groups and militias operate in the DR Congo, many in the east of the country, a legacy of the two Congo wars in the 1990s that dragged in the country’s neighbours Uganda and Rwanda.—AFP ■

Johnson under pressure to explain UK virus plan on return to work

LONDON (United Kingdom) — Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to return to work soon after his recovery from COVID-19, as pressure mounts on his government to explain how to get Britain out of lockdown.

Johnson, 55, has been recuperating at the British prime ministerial retreat, Chequers, outside London since his release from hospital on 12 April.

He spent three days in inten-

sive care and later admitted that “things could have gone either way”, forcing him to take it easy before returning to the political fray. But there have been increasing signs his return to Downing Street could be imminent, after officials said he had spoken to Queen Elizabeth II and also US President Donald Trump.

Trump on Thursday said Johnson was full of “tremendous energy” and sounded “in-

credible” when they talked on the phone. “I was actually surprised... he was ready to go,” he told reporters.

The Daily Telegraph, Johnson’s former employer, suggested he could be back at his desk on Monday, and hold briefing meetings with individual cabinet ministers. But Health Secretary Matt Hancock was more cautious, despite the prime minister’s progress.—AFP ■

Signs of imminent N Korea mobile missile launch: S Korea daily

SEOUL — A South Korean newspaper reported Saturday that the United States has detected signs of North Korea making preparations for a missile launch.

According to the electronic version of the Dong-A Ilbo newspaper, a mobile launch vehicle was on Friday deployed in an airfield in Sondok of South Hamgyong Province, and US officials believe a launch could

occur within 48 hours.

The possibility of North Korea testing a missile with a longer range than a short-range missile has been raised, it said.

North Korea on April 14 fired several projectiles, believed to be short-range cruise missiles, into the Sea of Japan.

In March, the country test-fired short-range missiles on four occasions. — Kyodo News ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (258W)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MATHU BHUM VOY. NO. (258W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (156N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (156N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1118 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GSS YANGON VOY. NO. (1118 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26-4-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

THE downtown Yangon has five main roads connecting the east with the west built under the British rule. If I start to say from the south, they are Strand Road, Merchant Road, Maha Bandoola Road, Anawrahta Road and Bogyoke Aung San Road.

Since the roads were built, they had got English names. The English names of the roads were later displaced with the names of renowned Myanmar heroes. It can be said the roads were up-to-date of their age. These days the roads can be said narrow ones.

The cars of different kinds are running on these main roads round the clock. Buses are providing transport service for the travelling people all day. The increasing number of commuters is going from one place to another from dawn till dusk. The downtown Yangon is the busiest community crammed full of people.

Over-bridges were built by spending a large sum of money in the times of successive governments for the safety of the commuters and the vehicles. As far as I can remember, a host of over-bridges were built after 1988 when Tatmadaw came into power. Despite the construction of the new over-bridges, they haven't got escalators and roofs. In the time of U Thein Sein's administration, some over-bridges had got escalators

and roofs.

Let's count a number of the over-bridges in the downtown. There is an over-bridge at the top of Lanthit Road (near Institute of Nursing) on Bogyoke Aung San Road. I hardly see those who step on and cross the over-bridge once in a month. In the night time, pairs of lovers and those who are drinking alcohol can be seen on the over-bridge. Last year the over-bridge was abolished.

A modern over-bridge

With new constructions of Bogyoke Aung San Market and Junction City Yangon, a modern over-bridge has appeared in front of two markets to connect the new one with the old.

The modern over-bridge has an escalator and a roof thanks to the company constructing the market. It has cement stairs, an escalator and a lift.

There is also an over-bridge in the shape of a rectangle in the center of town at the junction of Anawrahta and Sule Pagoda Roads. The over-bridge was originally built crossing

Sule Pagoda Road. It was later changed into the rectangular shape. It hasn't got escalators and roofs yet.

Commuters still crossing the road

It is not easy for elders and those who are sick to step on the stairs of the bridge. The commuters still go and cross the roads before the traffic police under the bridge without stepping on the stairs of the bridge. Sometimes, cars and commuters mix. They may be named as the travellers in the face of danger.

In connection with those crossing the road before the traffic police, U Than Naing Oo, regional Hluttaw representative representing Pabedan Township, said "The responsibility of the traffic police who are on duty at Sule traffic light are to inspect whether the drivers drive their cars in conformity with traffic rules and tackle the traffic. If they arrest those crossing the road recklessly, they can't do their main duties. We still need to install escalators at the over-bridges for the convenience of the commut-



A pedestrian overpass in Yangon. **PHOTO: TIN WIN LAY**

Formerly-built over-bridges to be installed with escalators and roofs in Yangon

By Tin Win Lay



Dawbon pedestrian overpass. **PHOTO: AUNG YE THU (DAWBON)**

ers. Actually the traffic rules and road rules were enforced already but some commuters failed to observe them."

Sometimes at the Sule traffic light many traffic police are deployed to guide those crossing the road recklessly to cross the road via the over-bridge. Despite the arrest, some commuters cross the road under the over-bridge and such kind of people are provided with traffic rules education even under the over-bridge, but in vain. The commuters cross the road under the bridge in the absence of the traffic police.

If we walk to Theingyi Market along Anawrahta Road, a rectangular shape over-bridge can be seen at the junction of Shwedagon Pagoda Road. It was built when Tatmadaw government started coming to power, but escalator and roof were not included.



Over-bridge update

With regard to the over-bridge, regional Hluttaw representative U Than Naing Oo said, “Shwetaung company that built new Bogyoke Market will donate the escalator and the roof to be set up at the over-bridge. The company will build the upper structure of the over-bridge together with the roof and the partitions and the plants will be grown to ensure that the commuters have pleasant sight. The main business is to upgrade the over-bridge, thereby reducing traffic congestion. Construction will begin at each side of the over-bridge to avoid traffic congestion.

Shwetaung company will take responsibility for upgrading costs of the over-bridge and it will be regarded as a donation.

The company informed the authorities on 22 February of upgrading the over-bridge and the construction has already begun. Vinyl together with the logo of YCDC is struck on security barriers.

The vinyl wrote “The- ingyi Market rectangular over-bridge is being upgraded under the guidance of Yan- gon regional government and the close supervision by the Yangon City Development Committee at the junction of Shwedagon Pagoda Road and Anawrahta Road”.

When we go straight to Latha Road along Anawrahta

Road, the rectangular shape over-bridge can be seen at the junction of Lanmadaw and it is also exclusive of the escalator and the roof as well as parti- tions. Moreover we can see an over-bridge in the form of rec- tangular shape at the junction of Maha Bandoola Road and Shwedagon Pagoda Road near Theingyi Market. It was an old over-bridge built in the time of

Tatmadaw government after 1988 and it is also exclusive of the escalator, the roof and the partition.

There is also Mawtin over- bridge built crossing the Stand Road in Lanmadaw township that was built in the time of U Thein Sein’s administration. It includes the escalator and the roof.

When we keep on going

along the Strand Road, an over- bridge can be seen near the conjunction of Pansodan and it has the escalator and the roof. Moreover, another over- bridge with the escalator and the roof can be spotted at the traffic light of Botahtaung Pa- goda Road and the Strand Road and it is built in the time of the current NLD dominant govern- ment, said regional Hluttaw representative U Than Naing Oo.

Priority given to over-bridg- es without escalator and the roof

The regional Hluttaw chairman, the joint-secretary of the YCDC and the officials of the Roads and Bridges De- partment held a meeting in March last year and then they went on an inspection tour to the over-bridges existing in the downtown Yangon.

The escalators and the roofs were not installed at the over-bridge during their in- spection. Then they made deci- sion to upgrade the over-bridge phase by phase along with the installation of the escalators, the roofs and the partitions.

The YCDC has the pri- oritized proposal to upgrade the over-bridge at the junc- tion of Anawrahta Road and Sule Pagoda Road and the pro- posal will have to be handled in accord with budget proce- dures.

One-year project

The over-bridge at the junction of Anawrahta Road and Sule Pagoda Road near Theingyi Market has already begun upgrading measures. It is using the budget not from the government, but from Shaw- taung company.

The company will have to resume the work for the phase 2 of the project and it is the one-year project.

Upgrading project includes escalator, roof and partitions

During his explanation, re- gional Hluttaw representative U Than Naing Oo said “All the over-bridges approved by the Hluttaw include the escalator, the roof and the partition in the time of the current civilian government.

The over-bridges built by the current government are sit- uated in Mahamyaing, Hsinma- leik, Botahtaung, and Dawbon.

These over-bridges had to be implemented by submitting the proposal urging the Hlut- taw. According to our plans, new over-bridges to be built in the future will have the escalator, the roof and the partition.”

The author left a message, saying he would like the travel- ling people to follow the traffic rules by crossing the road step- ping on the over-bridge so that they would be certainly secure.

Translated by Htut Htut
(Twantay)



Sule pedestrain overpass. PHOTO: AUNG YE THU (DAWBON)

MNL, MPT discuss future processes via video conference

OFFICIALS from Myanmar National League (MNL) and MPT convened a video conference on Friday, according to the league's social media.

During the video conference, they discussed matters related to future processes of Myanmar football commu-

nity, and Myanmar National League after the coronavirus ends.

Present at the video meeting were MNL Chief Operation Officer U Sue Aung, Sponsorship Project Director U Theik San Tun, media department in-charge U Ye

Min Win, and MPT's Deputy Director of Marketing Department Mr Takehiko Kotani, DGM of Branding and Advertising, Deputy DGM U Kyaw Thet, Team Manager Daw Khin Thuzar Kyaw, and Assistant Manager U Ye Yint Aung. — Kyaw Khin ■

Norwich defend furloughing of staff due to virus



Norwich City have defended their controversial decision to furlough 200 non-playing staff due to the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Premier League strugglers Norwich City have defended their decision to use the British government's furlough scheme for 200 non-playing staff after the season was suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic.

With vast swathes of British industry shut down because of the coronavirus, the UK government launched a scheme that sees 80 per cent of wages up to a maximum of £2,500 (\$3,000) a month guaranteed during the economic crisis caused by the pandemic.

Norwich, who were bottom when the campaign was suspended, and Newcastle are the only Premier League clubs currently using the job retention scheme.

Bournemouth, Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur performed U-turns due to a vocal backlash

after initially announcing they too would take advantage of the scheme. Norwich say the suspension of football will cost them between £18 million and £35 million.

"The decision we made was in the best interests of the club and its staff," chief operating officer Ben Kensell told BBC Radio Norfolk.

"We've been very transparent that we're run in a self-financed manner.

"We generate a turnover of £123m - £93m of that is broadcast, and we've spent £125m this year - and that's how we run the club.

"Ultimately, if we had the available cashflow to not have to take up schemes then, like other football clubs have, we would."

The Canaries hope to make £2.5 million of savings and have agreed with British tax authorities to delay £18 million of repay-

ments.

Norwich players have not followed the lead of fellow professionals at Watford, Sheffield United, Southampton or West Ham in agreeing to wage deferrals or taking a pay cut as most of the Arsenal squad have agreed to.

However, the players, head coach Daniel Farke, the executive committee and directors have donated more than £200,000 towards local initiatives.

Kensell said furloughing staff now could hopefully prevent the much more traumatic step of making people redundant once some form of normality returns.

"The difference is we're running it as a business and we're running it the best way we believe will help it for the future," said Kensell. "It's also about our staff. What we don't want is a raft of redundancies.—AFP ■

Charity's Paralympic dream under threat from virus impact



Lucy Shuker (L) says she is worried where funding will come from so she can bid for a third successive Paralympic doubles tennis medal in 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

LONDON (United Kingdom)—The dream of a dozen female athletes to represent Team GB at the Paralympics is hanging by a thread as the charity scrambles to find the money to sustain them for another year after the Games were postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Indian philanthropist Anita Choudhrie's struggle to fund her Path to Success charity illustrates the wider problems faced by charities and Paralympic sport as a result of the chaos wrought by COVID-19.

Choudhrie launched the Path to Tokyo programme on International Women's Day two years ago to inspire a new generation of British female parathletes. 2020 should have been a significant year for them as they chased medals and glory in Japan.

However, the postponement to 2021 due to the global pandemic has placed enormous strains on a charity with an annual budget of £200,000 (\$245,000).

"To see all the athletes having to return home (from training camps and qualification events), not knowing when they are next going to be able to compete, was extremely hard," said Choudhrie, who lives in London.

"In spite of not having the funds to carry on we have fulfilled our commitment to our athletes," she said, referring to the training expenses required for 2020.

"With the added publicity around the Paralympics we were

hoping to be able to extend our programme. However, now we are having to concentrate on keeping the charity running in the short term."

'Especially devastating'

Choudhrie, who was inspired by her Delhi-based doctor grandfather to embrace charitable projects, explained that funding relies heavily on two annual showpiece events — an indoor wheelchair basketball tournament, which has been indefinitely postponed, and a fundraising gala, which is on hold.

"In the absence of both these events, we are now depending largely on the generosity of individuals to help meet our £200,000 annual budget," said Choudhrie.

"However, understandably so are a lot of other charities.

"We have already lost around £50,000 and we estimate that we have around four months until the charity runs out of money, so it's an extremely worrying time for us."

Choudhrie, who is also trying to raise funds through social media, said British finance minister Rishi Sunak's announcement of a £750 million package of support for charities was welcome.

"Whilst this package is a step in the right direction, we are very concerned that it will not be enough to stretch to all and prevent small, hardworking charities like Path to Success from closing their doors," she said.—AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

26 APRIL 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

A MUST FOR DEMOCRACY : GOOD CITIZENSHIP



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

In life, everyone is tied to rules, duties, responsibilities and norms as a member of a particular community or institution. This is an inevitable task for the people in life.

To halt the spread of COVID-19, the government urgently laid out the rules as precautionary actions nationwide and in regions where and when necessary. The government has also urged the public to practice social distancing and to wear masks when go out since the WHO's announcement in which it is stated that the virus is obviously airborne and that the practice of social distancing is of great help to minimize the transmission of the disease.

We, with regard to ethics, basically keep working alongside the rules in different settings. We, however, deliberately or recklessly forget about good citizenship vital to democracy.

In and outskirts of Mandalay, one can still see people without wearing masks, but gathering over drinks, even though the regional government asked the public not to do so. I asked some people, without any mask, why they were not wearing a mask. To my surprise, most people aggressively replied that 'with mask or without mask' was their own right to decide, as in democracy.

Our people are often imposed misleading concepts of democracy and this bars them from being a good citizen. Democracy is not a political system in which the people have the right to do whatever they want. In democracy, rights and responsibilities are two sides of the same coin. A good citizen has, and even can ask for, the rights that they should enjoy, but, in return, there are duties and responsibilities they shall perform with enthusiasm and a strong commitment to do for the good of people, following the rules and regulations. In addition, a good citizen shall have a strong desire to collectively work in all aspects if necessary.

As we all know, the civilian government has put a great effort to achieve the rule of law and then to reap the stability in all aspects. Now, as far as what is seen, the rules have been broken by the people who are literally one of the four main characteristics of a nation:

sovereignty, government, territory and the people of it.

The government has been steadfastly doing its best with fewer resources and reduced capacities to meet all the needs of the people. As a developing nation, there, understandably, are many things left to have done, but everything cannot be achieved by the government on its own. The development and stability of the nation hugely depend on the people and the support. That is why most politicians and activists urge the people to get involved in many sectors, especially in building peace and raising the standard of socio-economic life.

The rules and advices brought by the government are not for its benefit, but for the sake of the people. Not wearing a mask amid this pandemic, which is against the rules, is an unacceptable behaviour as it concerns the public health and the stability of nation. This completely contrasts with one of the characteristics of a good citizen: the citizens shall obey and respect state and local laws.

To avoid the undesirable consequences of this pandemic, the only thing we can do is to work together in one and to follow the rules and advices given. The government of the people, by the people and for the people should be supported with the collective strength of people in doing the things that the nation is trying to achieve. Only if the people develop fine healthy attitudes and support the government can the nation overcome this pandemic sooner than expected and the nation achieve the rule of law and internal peace that it is striving for.



Thanakha and summer



PHOTO: BT



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

Hey! It is scorching hot outside, apply the thanakha thick chi zoun gaung zoun (from head to toe)" is a usual lovely-order from our Burmese granny and mom. Whenever summer comes, that punctual warning can be heard among them. "Protecting the skin from arid weather and to make your skin whiten back from black is only the thanakha," added them. How much we play tiringly under the sweltering sun after painting thanakha, we feel fresh and pleasant again. How much we get the sunburn skin, sooner days, the skin recover by heal of thanakha. Fragrant Myanmar Thanakha and sweaty Myanmar summer is the best match since thanakha conducts a super-food for the skin. Thanakha trees grow more common in the Burmese dry-zone, particularly Yesagyo, Myaing and Shinmataung townships in Magway Division, Mandalay, Sagaing and areas of Shwebo division where the soil is dry and rocky without plentiful water. From there, thanakha trading is spreading

all over Myanmar with numerous names. The two most popular thanakha are Shwebo thanakha from Sagaing Region and Shinmadaung thanakha from Magway Region. Thanakha trees are perennials, and a tree must be at least 35 years old before it is considered mature enough to yield good-quality cuttings. Thanakha in its natural state is sold as small logs individually or in bundles, but nowadays also available as a paste or in powder form in many brands. To apply thanakha, we need kyauk-pyin (a stone slab) and water. Mostly thanakha bark is used to apply because it gives smooth paste and look much more beautiful in appearance. The core part gives white paste and is said to be more medicinal.

Thanakha is natural alternative sunblock which is rich in vitamin E. Vitamin E is comprised of antioxidant, antibacterial and anti-inflammatory properties, and all things the skin loves. It is nature's best solution for sunscreen. As it is an effective moistur-

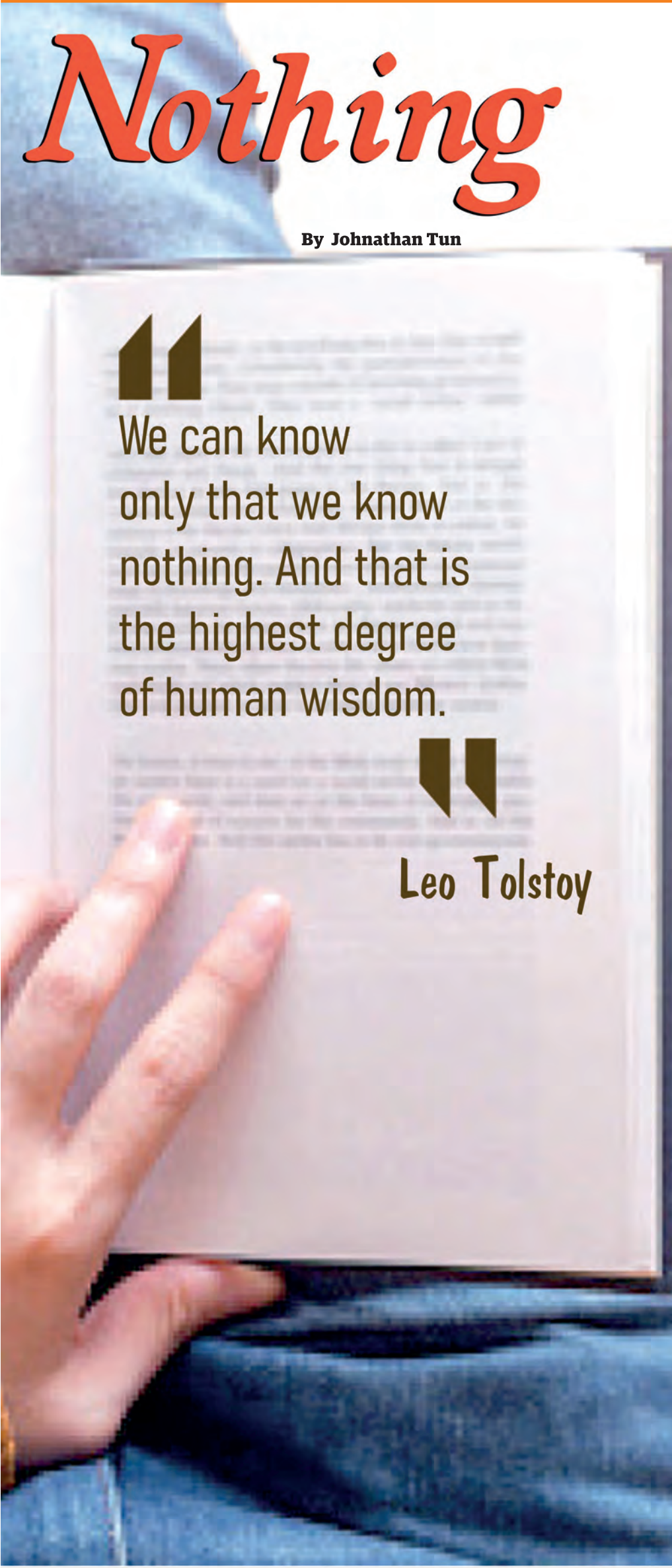
izer, if we apply a few drop of thanakha on the pimple for two or three continuous days, the acne gets faded and removed. It is believed to help tighten the pores and control oiliness and promote smooth skin. The regular use of thanaka can brighten and improve the skin's complexion. Myanmar Thanakha is used by every ethnic people from birth to grave. They have used thanakha to protect and beautify the skin. Thanakha bark is pulverized on a stone slab by mixing with water to form a paste. The milky yellow paste forming a powdery protective covering when dried is applied on the face. When we were the children, we made in attractive designs to show off our friends such as a circular patch on each cheek, on the bridge of the nose, sometimes made just-thinly-paste on face

known as thanaka bè gya, or patterned in the shape of a leaf, rabbit and from head to toe (thanakha chi zoun gaung zoun) and so forth. When we got bigger, we apply thin-paste of thanakha on a certain make-up foundation. So whenever we beautify ourselves, thanakha plays a pivotal role and it is the thanakha, a distinctive feature of Myanmar culture. Fragrant thanakha is truly a Burmese household tradition. Every day, after taking a bath, women, children and even some men paint thanakha on their faces. Wearing thanakha is also a

centuries-old method of female Burmese beautification. Although user-friendly cosmetic products from all over the world are more convenient, many Burmese women mostly older people, children and ladies who consider thanaka essential parts of their beauty routine remain loyal to the traditional organic thanakha.

This traditional skin conditioner has been used in Burmese society for centuries and is a cherished part of the national identity. It is delighted to hear that such historical-value Thanakha, a distinctive feature of Myanmar culture, is put on the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage list to be able to conserve the traditional practice for the first time at the end of March. Ministry of Religious Affairs and

SEE PAGE-3



Nothing

By Johnathan Tun

“

We can know only that we know nothing. And that is the highest degree of human wisdom.

”

Leo Tolstoy

It was a day during home-stay amid COVID-19. With the aim of spending my time wisely, I sat on a chair in the living room to read.

I turn the pages of a story book, licking my fingers. Then, I remembered WHO's warning to avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth. I already touched my tongue. I ran to the basin, and gargled with hot water as I am afraid of corona-virus.

I sat and read the book, but I didn't get interested in the book. Instead of looking at the book's pages, my eyes were going around the living room. My little sister was interestingly reading a book. I wanted to know what she was reading about.

I asked “Nyimalay, what are you reading about?”

She replied, “Nothing.”

“I see you reading, and you tell me nothing. Are you telling me a lie?” I said.

She smiled and said, “Hah, Hah, I am not telling a lie. I am reading the quotes about nothing.” Therefore, I told you, “nothing.”

I got interested in the books. When she went to play, I took her book, and read it. This is a little hardback book, and its color is yellow. The book begins with the quote of Leo Tolstoy, the writer of War and Peace, “**We can know only that we know nothing. And that is the highest degree of human wisdom.**”

As this is one of my favorite quotes that I learnt by heart, my interests in the book has grown.

The quote made me remember the story about an old man with white beard and a young boy.

The story came out vividly in my mind. The old man and the boy were sitting on the bank of a river.

The boy said, “Great Teacher, you know a lot, and you are also wise.”

“How did you gain these wisdoms? Can you teach me?” the boy asked the old man.

The old man said “You see the flowing river.”

“Yes, I see.” the young boy replied.

“Do you see changing in the river?” the old man asked.

“No!” the boy replied.

“It is changing. The river changes in every moment.” said the old man.

The boy scrubbing his head said, “I can't understand.”

“Yes! You are right. If you get understanding that the river is changing every moments, you are entering the gate of wisdom.” the

old man said.

The old man took a piece of paper from his pocket, and handed it over to the boy, saying that it is about the river's wisdom.

“Read it when you are alone.” the old man said.

They came back. It was a dark and silent night. The boy took the piece of paper given by his great teacher, and read interestingly in quest for wisdom.

A river's wisdom

Once there was a flowing river. People think that the river is always the same. No, the river is changing in every blink. When you blink your eyes, the river is no longer the same river. It has moved. Knowledge is like the river. Once you learnt already changed. Every moment, it is different and new. Nothing is solid.

So we truly know nothing because everything is new and different once you blink. Everything is flowing and changing. This is the wisdom from a flowing river.

After reading it, the boy told himself silently “I know nothing yet.”

I turned the second page of my little sister's book without licking my finger anymore. Every quote in each pages brought me to a deeper level of my thinking. It consists of about hundred quotes. Every quote includes the word “nothing”.

The following are five of my favorite quotes about “nothing” excerpted from the book;

“I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing.”

Plato

“I love to talk about nothing. It's the only thing I know anything about.”

Oscar Wilde

To do nothing is the way to be nothing.”

Nathaniel Hawthorne

“Always ask yourself: “What will happen if I say nothing?”

Kamand Kojouri

“Having nothing to lose is the new wealth.”

Chuck Palahniuk

When my sister came back after playing with her friends, she saw me reading her book, and asked “what are you doing?”

I smiled and replied, “Nothing.”

■

FROM PAGE-2

Culture is conducting a survey for the nomination of Myanmar Thanakha on the list of UNESCO's world culture heritage. According to the ministry's statement (the country's

intangible culture heritages are in need of international-standard conservation in order that others cannot imitate the culture heritages meeting the standards. The ministry starts working to nominate Myanmar

Thanakha culture and tradition to the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity of the UNESCO) in 27 January, the people can give comments via <http://suvery.app.do/2764148> de-

scribed on the ministry's Facebook page titled “MORAC-Culture News”. The result will be out in December 2021 and we are waiting enthusiastically for it whether Myanmar Thanakha is regarded as Intangible Cul-

tural Heritage of UNESCO. May all the plans for the figure of thanakha work out! May Myanmar Thanakha be regarded as an Intangible Cultural Heritage and bring Country's Pride!

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The Old Hermit

(A COVID-19 story for children)

By Zaw Tun (Monywa)

Far from the world, deep in the jungles at the foot of the Himalayas, there lived an old hermit. His skinny body was covered in a yellow robe. He had a grey moustache and a grey, long beard, falling like a cataract. He was seated, cross legged, underneath a huge tree with roots hanging from the boughs down to the ground. He had been seated there years after years, his eyes closed.

It was a quiet morning. Dark clouds flew in the eastern sky. No birds sang. Flowers dropped their heads in sorrow.

The old Hermit woke up from his dream. In his dream he saw large swarms of invisible,

bright and dark particles gathering in the air. The invincible bright particles were deadly. Freely, hungrily, they were flying in the streets of towns and cities. They rested on the heads, hands

and parts of the human bodies of the people in the streets, in the marketplaces, in crowds, everywhere. Then they somehow got into the bodies, and choked and ate up the lungs of the people.

And so many people died. So many others were dying, dying, dying!

The old Hermit sighed. He stood up, with an earthen urn in his left hand. He took one or two steps forward. Then he soared into the wide, wide sky.

He flew over the deep forests, the winding rivers, and then over the high buildings of towns and cities.

There he saw large swarms of invisible, deadly bright particles entering the bodies of the people. He stopped in the air, holding his urn open, and waved his hand. Surprisingly, the huge swarms of invisible, deadly bright particles all flew into the urn. Then the old



Hermit closed the lid.

"Stay at home for a while," his voice roared. "Clean your hands. Clean your body. Eat good food. Sleep well. Take care of yourself. And the world will take care of itself. Now!"

Amazed, the people, young and old, looked up, clapping their hands in respect. Gladly they went inside their houses.

On and on the old Hermit flew over the deep forests, the winding rivers, and then over the high buildings of towns and cities.

He saw a marketplace crowded with ugly-looking, smoked bats, and bats, and bats! Smoked scorpions and snakes, eels wriggling in plastic bowls. Little rats, dogs, and cats in cages. And some wild animals, too. Little rabbits and looked very timid in cages. Little ducks in the cages looked so sad.

The old Hermit stood in the air. Once again, he waved his hand. All the invisible, deadly

bright particles flew into his open urn. Then he closed the lid.

"Be kind to animals," his voice roared. He closed his eyes, muttered a prayer to himself, and waved his hand.

Surprisingly, smoked bats, then, came back to life, and flew away to the deep forests. Now all the cages broke open, and scorpions, snakes, eels, little rats, dogs and cats, little rabbits and ducks, and wild animals, too, they all were free and happy!

On and on the old Hermit flew over the deep forests, the winding rivers, and then over the high buildings of towns and cities.

On and on he flew over the countries under heavy threat: China, Spain, Italy, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands, Iran, the United States of America, and many others. There he stood in the air over the skyscrapers soaring into the sky. He waved his hand, and huge swarms of invisible, deadly,



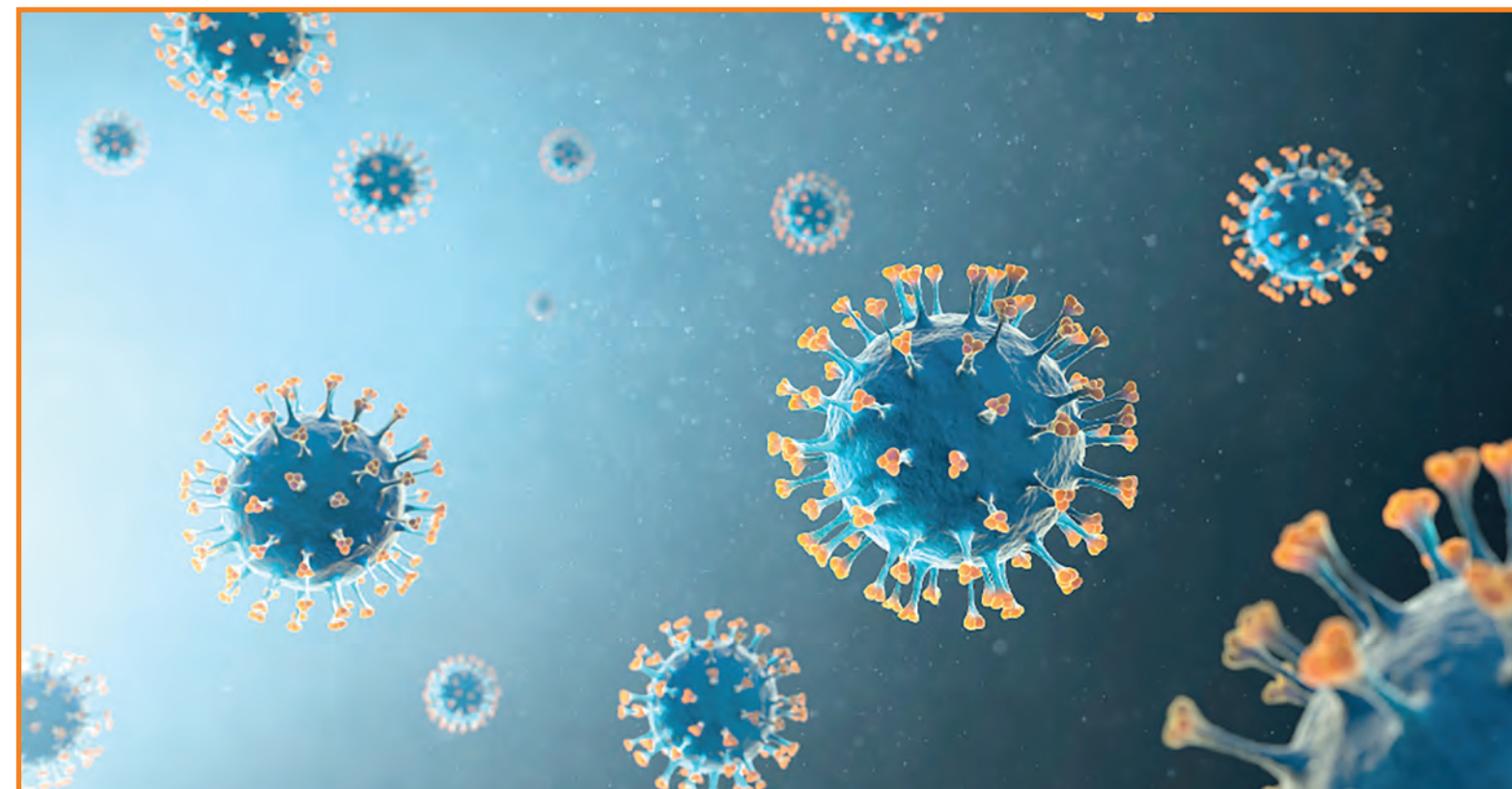
bright particles all flew into his open urn. He closed the lid.

"Stay at home," his voice roared. "Clean your hands. Eat good food. Have a good rest. Take care of yourself. Then the world will take care of yourself."

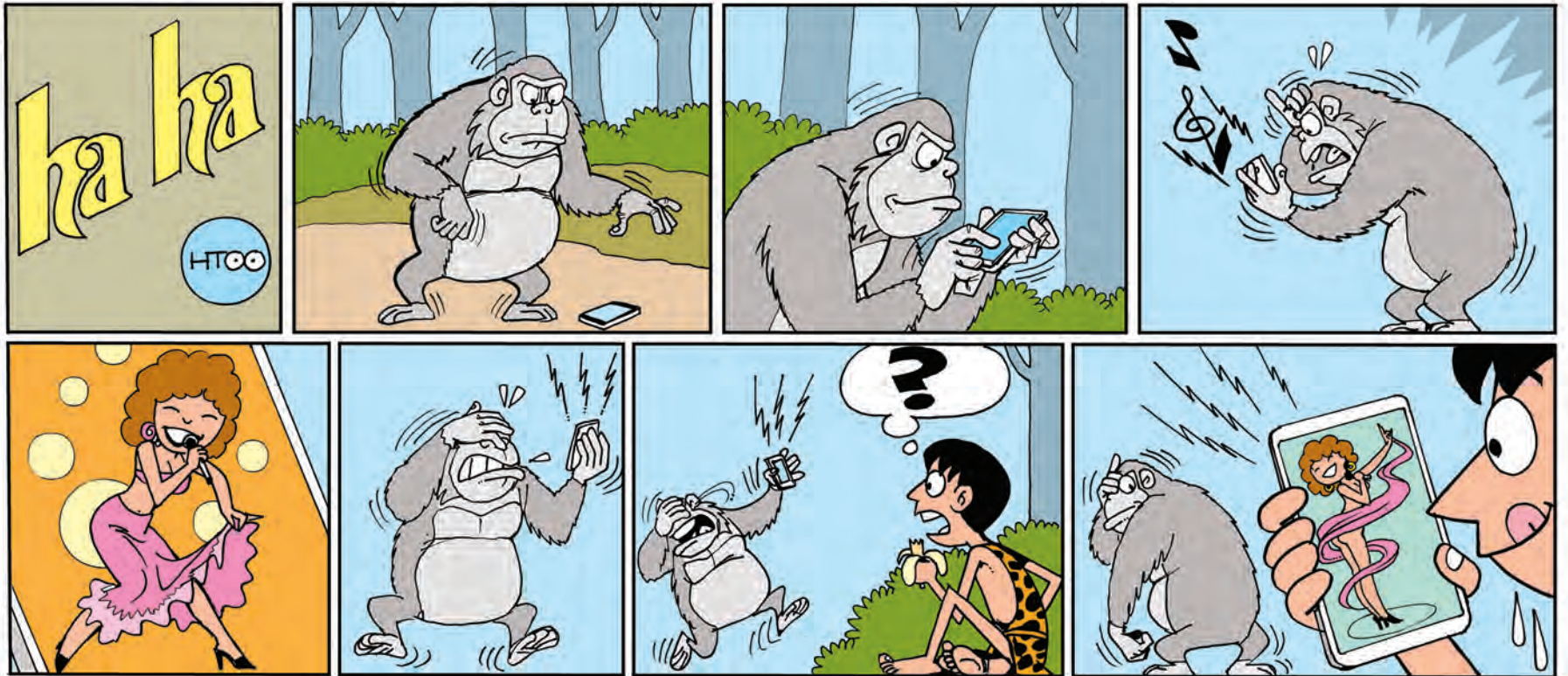
Then the old Hermit came to a wide, rippling river named the Ganges. He stood at the edge of the Great River. He closed his eyes, and said a prayer.

Slowly he walked into the river, holding the urn in his hand. Slowly he disappeared into the river, so did the urn in his hand.

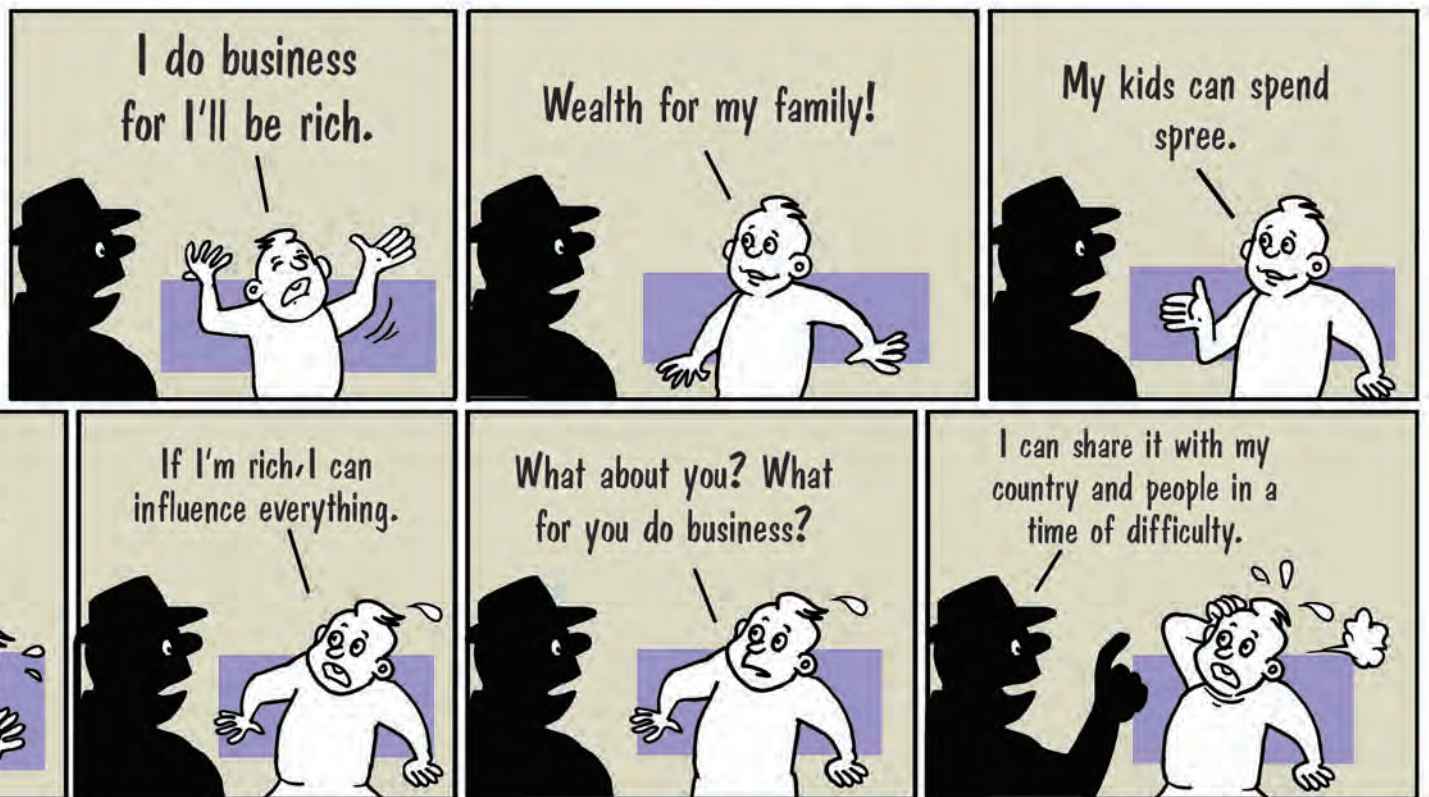
Once again, the world was filled with fresh, clean air. Flowers came into bloom. Birds sang and twittered everywhere. Once again, people were out in the open air. They sang songs and danced merrily.



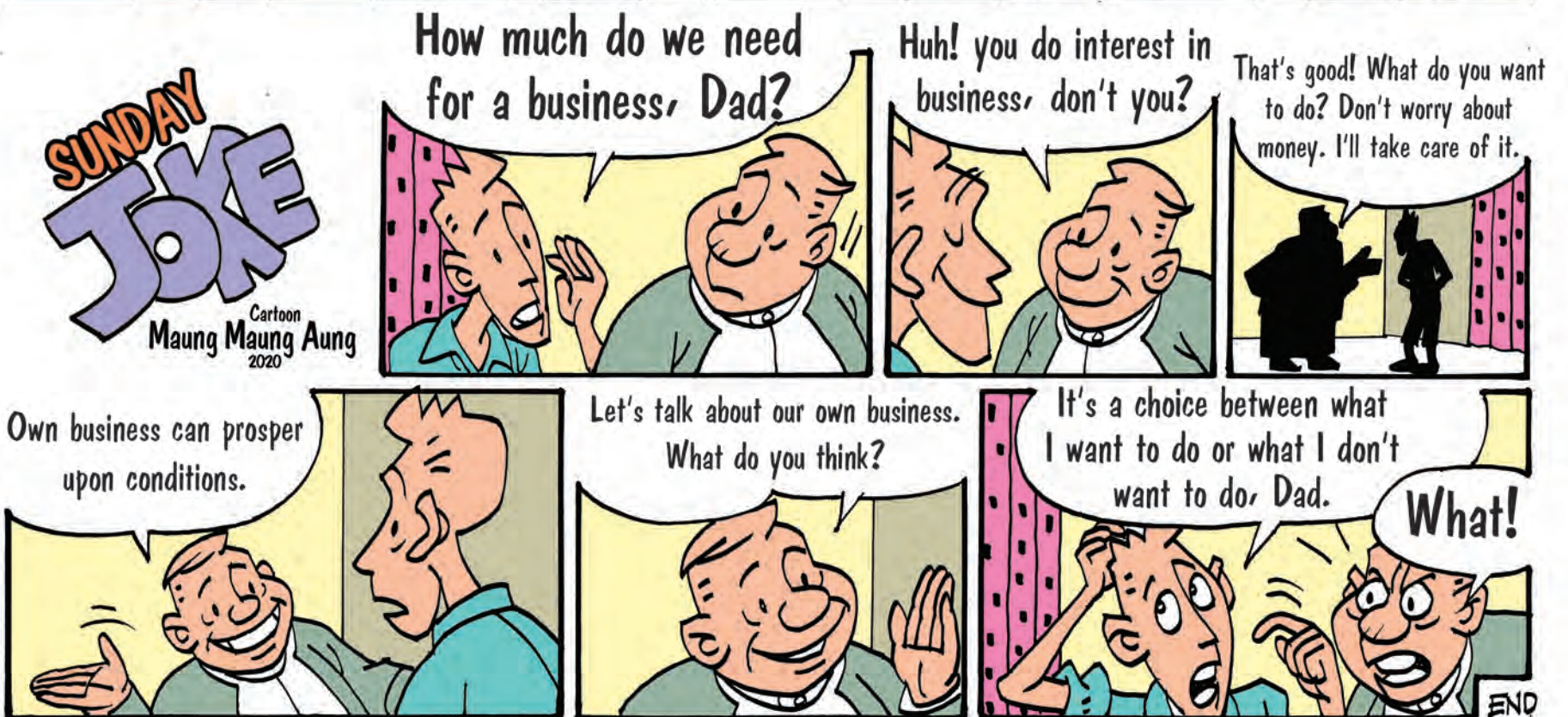
SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE
WILL BE
PEOPLE
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY
JOKE
Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020



Removing the darkness, Let us decorate the world with colorful lights



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

When I make phone contact with someone these days, the most common words we happen to say in return are 'How is your family?'; 'Are you all OK in everything?'; 'Take good care of your health'. Those tones of words are mingled with worries, loving-kindness, and anxieties most. During the Stay-Home period like this, all of our family members can meet one another at the table in the dining room. Before this period, we cannot meet one another as our respective scheduled time-table are different.

Now, our dining table is well-attended with all family members. Mom will be thankful to COVID 19 for she has never met her sons and daughters all at the dining table together for ages. My elder brother remembers to do the physical exercises in the morning. My younger brother starts doing the painting which he abandoned for a decade as his career was too busy to perform his hobby. As for me, I read books and write some essays and articles. I do not want you to think that our family makes a pleasant time in such a disaster period in the world. In spite of thinking about the worries and anxieties and being frightened, I will do the work that will not affect the others as well as myself and should be done for me. That can be said to be the creation of an escape of mind by oneself.

In fact, think again before the period of COVID, the behaviors of most of the people have been changed. They do not have the eagerness of chatting with each other face to face. Although their mouths are making a chat, their eyes are waiting for the chances of scrolling their phones. Smart-phones are destroying softly the warm relationship between people. However, human beings forget to resist the

influence of non-living things. Due to the knowledge COVID 19 gave, we happen to take notice of the value of the time we got. Due to the instruction to stay with anyone at least 3 feet away, we happen to remember the warmth of eating in a comradely association before.

It is like a warning to us, human beings, by COVID 19. There are many people who forget to die chasing money. They also forget to take good care of themselves. While they were still trying to obtain high impression from the others, only when they were silently asked by COVID 19 whether they were going to die tomorrow or the day after tomorrow what they would do, they got frightened suddenly. Can the money they earned save them? The answer is 'No'. Can the famous people get the chance more? Can the people with a power attack and fight back COVID with their power? The virus will burst into laughter for these questions. All those things are useful for alive people.

On the day when one

dies, the value of him or her will depend upon whether he or she made benefits for his or her family or atmosphere and whether his or her existence makes disturbance to the world. Such records will acknowledge the value of him or her. If the lord of death comes to me without giving any information, I will surely happen to tell him that I have not finished preparing to die; I want to give more time to my family; I want to stay with my colleagues with love and with helping hands; I want to inhale the fragrance of flowers watching their blooming; I want to stay calm gazing the surface of the water of the lake; I want to learn seriously my religion in order to face with the death stably.

If this disaster is over, we all get realized more that our lives are precious even for an hour; a day, etc. We all know more that we should not spend time. To obtain such good results, we must overcome the difficulty of the mountain. We must be tired, exhausted and down-hearted. We all will have to suffer from anxieties and sorrow. However, we must not retreat and face them steadfastly. After that, we are able to be happy with our

loved ones and stay in a peaceful world for a long time. At that moment, do not forget to decorate the world with our colorful lights.



Steeped in folklore and tradition

By Soe Min Paing
Dagon University (History)
Second Year

I definitely remember that a hand of banana and a single coconut were hang up at the corner of our house. My Mom told me (5 years old boy), "That's the trait of paying respect to spirits". Imagine the time of 2006 in rural - No Phone, Far away from electricity, Cycling on the gravelly route. Our family is not only household which believed in 'spirit worshipping' in our village. Every single household literally does like we do. Beyond any doubt so far. But there were the supernaturalists between my mom and her spirits. My mom who didn't even have a farm and good at anything special pays homage to every kind of spirits including (U Shin Gyee). This being the case, Benefits were seen by my sight. Can you believe that all our family expenses and my school fees were covered by that profits from spirit worshipping. And also (Two Number Lottery) small illegal lottery virtually affected the entire financial situation of our family at hard time. A phrase my mom was always saying, "Give me lottery number holy grandpas". I'm sure she doesn't mean her real grandpa. One day, My mom and I went to a gigantic tree to which she took me with her whenever later she went. Strange things mystically happened at those days. Having been that tree, we heard the voices. That voices are loud and have absolute tenderness. I can't recall detail. But we could hear clearly. Not only we but everyone can hear if they want to.

Sometimes, it's laughing.
As a matter of fact,
that voices were
not likely
coming

from a human. In the beginning, my mom was making cryptic rite from her mouth. Later, she was speaking heartily with that unidentified voice. I don't know should I laugh or cry about making a conversation between my dear mom and spirits under frightening colossal tree. But my mom was high-spirited. Really, a lot of money was in my mom's hand already in the next morning. That's the profits came from "spirit worshipping" which I can only mention but That's not all. There were many other spirit worshipping profits, example - a parcel with full of money brought by a unknown person but no name on it. I know you'll inevitably think that's a coincidence. But I don't think a coincidence have been happening every single month for about fifteen years (15yrs) to now. When I came of age, I figured out the truth about spirit worshipping that I want to know for my whole life. Unfortunately, it's apart from what I really thought. The person who my mom pay respect to is not a spirit. It's my father who I'd never seen before and have been working abroad. Now, my mom's heart-worming spirit worshipping have been upgraded technically. She doesn't need to go to telephone near the gigantic tree because she can make video call with her husband at home anytime since we have internet. As a consequence, I hate the feeling of doing a spirit worshipping instead of having a father. That's why, if you ask me, "What is your conception about spirit worshipping?" I have to say, "I hate it". I know I never hate the real spirit worshipping. But I don't know how many children will hate it in the future. ■■■

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