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Sunday, 10 May 2020

Tatmadaw releases statement on ceasefire and eternal peace

**Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the Commander-in-Chief of
Defence Services
Statement on Ceasefire and Eternal Peace
(3rd Waning of Kasone, 1382 ME)
(9 May 2020)**

1. As global countries are encountering world pandemic COVID-19, General Secretary Antonio Guterres of the United Nations on 23 March 2020 urged all to stop armed conflicts happening throughout the world.
2. In Myanmar, the government established the National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Prevention, Containment and Treatment and committees at different levels in order to contain, prevent and treat the world pandemic COVID-19, and the Tatmadaw is participating in it with might and main.
3. The Tatmadaw issued a statement meeting the international standards to enforce a ceasefire in the areas from 10 May to 31 August 2020 except the areas where terrorist groups declared by the government take positions, with the aim of effectively and rapidly carrying out containment, prevention and treatment of COVID-19 in Myanmar and restoring eternal peace.
4. During the ceasefire period, all ethnic armed organizations need to deeply observe the following four principles of the six peace principles of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.
 - (a) Commitment to peace agreements
 - (b) Abstaining from taking unfair advantages from the peace agreement
 - (c) Not to put burdens on local people
 - (d) Strict adherence to existing laws.
5. Moreover, ethnic armed organizations need to control themselves and take responsibilities for

avoiding attacks to each other with powerful strengths and bullying local ethnic people.

6. Similarly, they all must take responsibilities for avoiding the acts harmful to different levels of administrative machinery of the State, secure and smooth transportation and lives, property and interest of the people.
7. If the events related to aforesaid paragraphs (4), (5) and (6) happen, the Tatmadaw will take necessary action against them.
8. The Tatmadaw will continuously strive for realizing its pledge to entrust eternal peace that the ethnic people long for into the hand of the people and will effectively participate in the world pandemic COVID-19 containment, prevention and treatment processes in the country as State cause and national cause.

*Office of the Commander-in-Chief of
Defence Services*

Second group of Myanmar citizens arrives back home from Singapore

A total of 144 Myanmar citizens were brought back from Singapore by the Myanmar National Airlines-MNA yesterday afternoon.

When the second relief flight for returnees arrived at the Yangon International Airport, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Yangon Region government helped for their 21-day quarantine period at the designated places and the respective hotels in line with the guidelines of immigration and healthcare processes.

In coordination with the Myanmar embassy in the city-state and relevant ministries in Myanmar, the relief flights were arranged by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs under the directive of National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).

The first relief flight has already brought back the same number of returnees from Singapore on 7 May, and a total of 288 persons have arrived back home until now.

The third relief flight will be sent to Singapore on 13 May to carry 146 Myanmar citizens.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar citizens queuing up for immigration process as they arrive at Yangon International Airport.. **PHOTO: MNA**

Well-wishers donate cash, medical supplies to fight against COVID-19

DONORS presented cash funds, and medical equipment to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and the Ministry of Health and Sports at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

On behalf of the donors, an alumnus (12/2013) of University of Medicine 2, Yangon, explained the purpose of the donation.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said the donation will be greatly beneficial to the health-care workers who are fighting against the coronavirus in the frontline.

He also stressed the important role of cooperation from social organizations and the public in containing, preventing and treating the COVID-19.

The Union Minister, Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein, Permanent Secretary Prof. Dr Thet Khine Win, and Director-General of Public Health and Medical Services Dr Soe Oo, received the donations, and returned certificates of honour to the donors.

Well-wishers and their contributions at the ceremony were K555 million worth of 3M masks, hand sanitizers, gloves, PPEs, goggles, thermometers and disinfectant spray, K10 million from the 1963 intake doctors of the University of Medicine 1, Yangon, K6.5 million from alumni (12/2003) of University of Medicine 2, Yangon, 500 KN95 masks from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, and K76.975 million worth of PPEs, surgical gowns, gloves, masks and powered air purifying respirators (PAPR) from Sea Lion Co., Ltd. — MNA

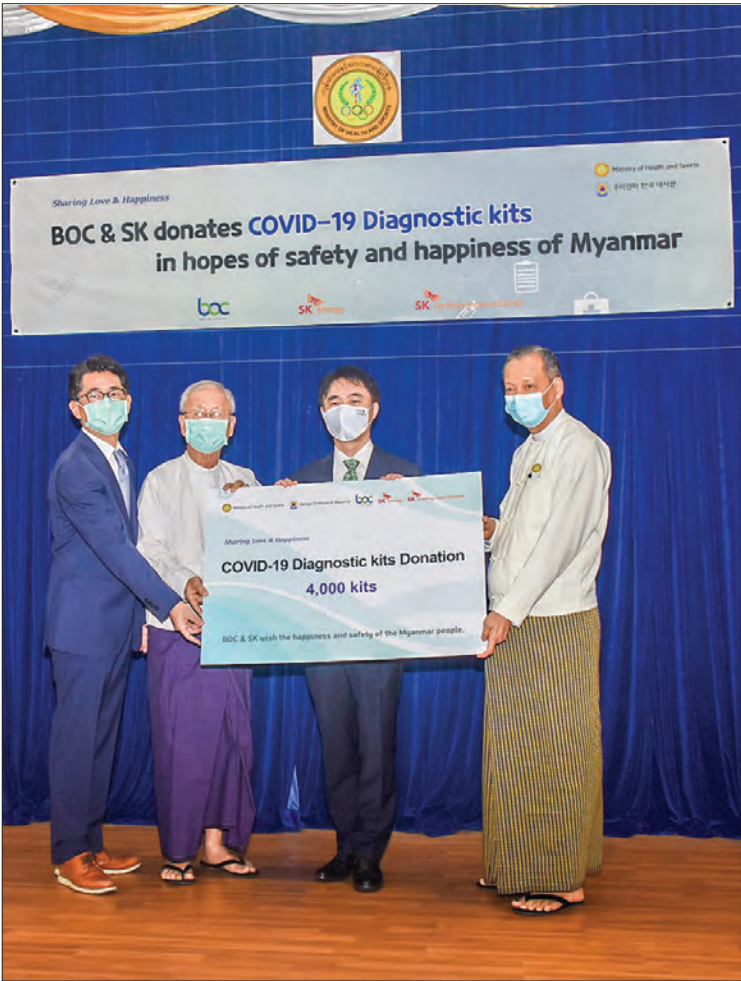
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe receives the donation from well-wishers for the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). **PHOTO: MNA**

Kookmin Bank, SK Energy donate test kits, VTMs to MoHS

KOREA-BASED Kookmin Bank and BOC's partner, SK Energy and Sk Traiding International donated COVID-19 test kits, and viral transport medium (VTM) to the Ministry of Health and Sports at the head office of the Department of Medical Research on Ziwaraka Road, Dagon Township in Yangon yesterday.



Director-General Dr Zaw Than Htun receives test kits and viral transport medium (VTM) yesterday from well-wishers. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

At the donation ceremony, Korean Ambassador Mr Lee Sang-hwa and Director-General of the Department of Medical Research Prof. Dr Zaw Than Htun made remarks.

Officials from Kookmin Bank and BOC's partner, and SK Energy and Sk Traiding International explained the purpose of the donation.

Director-General Dr Zaw Than Htun accepted the test kits and VTMs handed over by the officials from Kookmin Bank and BOC's partner, and SK Energy and Sk Traiding International. They then returned certificates of honour to the donors.

Kookmin Bank donated US\$ 100,000 worth of 3,000 test kits and 3,000 viral transport medium (VTM), and SK Energy and Sk Trading International contributed \$ 48,000 worth of 4,000 COVID-19 test kits to the ministry. —Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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)

Union Construction Minister discusses development projects in Kayin, Chin states

UNION MINISTER for Construction U Han Zaw made video conference meetings on construction of roads and bridges in Kayin and Chin states yesterday.

Engineers and senior officers of the ministry used power points and video clips in their reports on upgrade of Eindu-Kawkareik road, progress of road and bridge construction works, measures against COVID-19 and update of Gyaing (Kawkareik) Bridge construction project in Kayin State.

Construction officials

from Chin State presented online about upgrades and constructions of Haka-Hatha-Hmantaw road section, Matupi-Paletwa road section, Manipur River crossing bridge on Kalay-Falam-Haka road, bridges on Tiddim-Reedhorda road and Haka-Hatha-Hmantaw road and other rural road construction projects.

The Union Minister and his Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Linn coordinated the discussions, and instructed to ensure quality of these projects.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Union Minister U Han Zaw discusses construction of roads and bridges in Kayin and Chin states via video conferencing. **PHOTO: MNA**

One more coronavirus case on Saturday, total tally reaches 178

THE MINISTRY of Health and Sports reported one more confirmed case of COVID-19 on Saturday, bringing the total number of people diagnosed to 178.

The 49-year-old woman who was newly infected with COVID-19 was from Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.

Out of the 178 confirmed cases, six patients

have died, 68 have recovered, and 46 were allowed to be discharged from the hospitals. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Update on COVID-19 at 8 pm, 9 May 2020

1. The National Health Laboratory (Yangon) tested 188 samples, and the Department of Medical Research tested 85 samples, totalling 273, on 9 May 2020. The results showed that one lab specimen tested positive for COVID-19.
2. There have been a total of 178 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 9 May.
3. Out of the old confirmed cases, one new case (Case-143) was tested negative for two times, bringing the total number of recovered persons to 68 on 9 May.
4. Six positive patients have died.
5. There are a total of 56 new persons under investigation in the past 24 hours from 12 noon of 9 May.

New confirmed case of COVID-19 issued at 8 pm, 9 May

Case no.	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with COVID-19 positive patients	History of travel abroad	Name of hospital transferred	COVID-19 lab test result	Remark
178	49	Female	Mayangon Township, Yangon Region.	Yes (Case-98)	No	Waibargi Specialist Hospital	Positive	Person who is quarantined in designated location.

COVID-19 Laboratory results at 8 pm, 9 May 2020

Samples tested at the National Health Laboratory on 9 May	188
Samples tested at the Department of Medical Research on 9 May	85
COVID-19 (SARS-CoV-2) (new confirmed case) (positive)	1

Latest confirmed cases, recovered cases, and deaths at 8 pm, 9 May

	New cases	Total cases
Confirmed cases of COVID-19	1	178
Recovered patients	1	68
Deaths	0	6

Ministry of Health and Sports
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of

the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 8 am to 8 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

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

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MoSWRR distributes hand sanitizers, soaps, hand washing basins at IDP camps

THE MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing healthcare items to the camps of internally displaced persons in Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states.

The six camps in Myitkyina and Mohnyin townships of Kachin State received 166 bottles of hand sanitizers.

In Rakhine State, the 12 IDP camps in Sittway Township and the 14 temporary IDP camps at the monasteries got 170 and 14 sets of hand washing basins respectively.

In Shan State, a total of 4,382 soaps, one thermometer and 50 bags of lime powders were presented to the five IDP camps.

The ministry is providing both material and immaterial supports in Nay Pyi Taw Council, Regions and States to prevent and control of COVID-19 diseases.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Staff of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement distribute wash basin to the displaced people in a camp. PHOTO: MNA

Security troops recapture AA terrorist group foothold in Rakhine State

SECURITY troops discharging security duties in Rakhine State occupied point 114, a dominant hill, near An-Sittway Union Highway and Ramong Bridge in Minbya Township transport at about 5 pm on 8May.

The point was a foothold of AA terrorists who were threatening the safety of public.

Beginning March this year, AA terrorists cut off Kyauktaw-Paletwa route and Matupi-Hsamee-Paletwa route as a means to isolate and block Paletwa before security troops took necessary measures to reopen the routes.

On 23 and 28 March 2020, a large number of AA terrorists launched a surprise attack on a local Tatmadaw training depot at Kanni of Minbya. However, they had to flee with many casualties as security troops were ready to ward off the attack.

Having been defeated in all fronts, AA terrorists, with the aim of creating crises for the government and the Tatmadaw, committed terrorist acts of disrupting transportation along Yangon-Sittway Union Highway by taking positions on point 144

hill near Ramong Bridge in Minbya and repeatedly threatening, disrupting and launching attacks without sound reasons on passenger buses, cargo trucks and private cars including a vehicle with the WHO logo transporting swab samples of quarantined people to Yangon on 20 April evening and a vehicle carrying pesticides of the CPS company on 21 April afternoon.

As AA terrorists are disrupting the transportation route used by the public, security forces took measures to control the area as of 20 April. The security forces managed to capture five stronghold positions of the terrorists near point 144 hill step by step and occupy the entire point 144 hill at about 5 pm on 8 May due to the relentless efforts made by the security forces by risking lives.

In the incidents, members of the security forces, after sacrificing lives and sustaining injuries, seized bodies and weapons and some accessories of AA terrorists.

Continued measures are being taken for local security, transportation safety and controlling the area.—MNA



Map of AA foothold at Point-114 near Ramong Bridge, where safety of public is being threatened. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES



Route of security troops in recapturing AA foothold at Point-114 near Ramong Bridge, where safety of public is being threatened. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Working Committee to address the Impact of Coronavirus
Disease 2019 (COVID-19) News on the Country’s Economy

News Release 3/2020

7 May 2020

1. The Working Committee to address the impact of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)on the Country’s Economy has allowed to give out the third loan scheme amounted to K3.5466 billion from its COVID-19 funds to 111 businesses in the following table in accordance with its 4th edition meeting.
2. Those eligible for loan will receive funds in line with the banking procedures of Myanmar Economic Bank, and the remaining applications will be scrutinized accordingly.

No	Loan Registration Number	C o m p a n y Name	Address
1	A-00023	M y a n m a r Skyrun International Co., Ltd	No 64, U Shwe Oh Road, Shwepyitha Industrial Zone (3), Yangon.
2	F-00116	Dagon Paper Production	No (851-853), (868-870), Chaung Thar No1 Street, 63 ward, Industrial Zone (2), Dagon Myothit Township, Yangon.
3	F-00115	Pann Thazin Tissue Production	No 1/88, Kanaung Minthar Gyi Road
4	F-00080	Shwe Whar Bamboo Stick Production	Min Lann Village, Ngaphe Inn Village Tract, Kay Thumadi Township. Toungoo.
5	H-00044	M y a n m a r Combiz Trading Co.,Ltd	No.5, Kanbawza Road, Shwe Taung Kyarr (1) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon.
6	H-00042	Kyun Shwe Wha Company Limited	No 47/48, Baho Si Housing, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon.
7	A-00018	S a n n M y a Thawdar Machinery Production Company Limited	No.112, Myanada and Myamarlar Junction, Thaketa Industrial Zone, Yangon.
8	C-00032	Diamond Ngapali Hotel	No (9/1+9/2+Kha/9+Kha/9/1+Gha/9+1/8+Kha/7), Compound No (208), Gyaikta Ward, Ngapali.
9	C-00040	Royal Palace Hotel Co.,Ltd	No. 35/37/39, Rm 104, 1st Floor, Twin Centre Condo, Baho Road, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon.
10	C-00052	Pann Lay Pyae Hotel (Chin State) , Mani Awga Company Limited	Myoma (2) Ward, Kanpatlat Township, Chin State.
11	C-00085	Moon House Inn	No. (R-5C) Pann Khayay Road, Khayay Pin Yeikmon Housing, Chitee Gone, Minagaldon.
12	C-00095	The Villager Lodge	No-12, Danu Myaing Road, Zee Phyu Ghone Ward, Ngapali.
13	D-00072	Zabu Shwe Sin (M y a n m a r) Company Limited	No (496), First Floor, Strand Road, Kyeemyindine Township, Yangon.
14	D-00081	MyanmarLoveLy Travels and Tours Co.,Ltd	No (12), 6 th Floor, Mingalar Road, San/North Ward, San Chaung Township, Yangon.
15	D-00084	Bamboo Travels and Tours Co.,Ltd	No 52/A, Lay Seik Yeik Tar Juntion (3), Saw Bwar Gyi Gone Ward, Insein Township.
16	D-00089	Asian Window Travels and Tours Co.,Ltd	No.187, 7th Floor (B), Baho Street, Lin Lun (South) Ward, Sanchaung Township, Yangon.
17	D-00093	Thuwunna Theingi Travels and Tours Co.,Ltd	303, Yuzana Business Tower, Dhamma Zaydi Road, Sanchaung Township, Yangon.
18	D-00097	Amazing Time Travels and Tours	No (101), R(12), (10) Ward, Hline Township, Yangon.
19	D-00102	Shwe Mandal Express Co.,Ltd	No(D-1), Myingyan Road, Aung Mingalar Bus Station, Yangon.
20	D-00117	Serendipity Leisure and Services Agent Co.,Ltd	No.15, 7th Floor, Aung Tha Pyay Street, Sanchaung Township, Yangon.
21	D-00119	Radiant Tours and Travels Co.,Ltd	No.132, Ground Floor, 39 Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
22	D-00133	Pleasant Times Travels and Tours Co.,Ltd	No (73) Upper Kyeemyidine Street, first floor, Zaygyi East Ward, Kyeemyidine Township, Yangon.
23	D-00136	Nanda Win Co.,Ltd	No (54), Myawadi Mingyi Road, Sawbwar-gyi Ward, Insein Township, Yangon.
24	D-00137	Peacock Travels and Tours Co., Ltd	No. 167, Zabu Myittar Streest, Thinahang-yun Township, Yangon.

25	D-00138	Go Myanmar Travels and Tours	No (261), ZA (South), Compound No (72), Lay Daunt Kan Road, Tingankyun Township, Yangon.
26	E-00008	Chan Myae Restaurant	No.59, Western Race Course, Bo Sein Mhan Quarter, Bahan Township.
27	F-00072	Linn Kyat shoes and slippery production	No (83), Sein Yadanar Road, (18) Quarter, Southern Dagon Myothit, Yangon.
28	F-00084	Win Bag production	No (458), Room (G), Bogyoke Road, (1/13) Ward, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon.
29	F-00083	Thinn Pyant Eain Textile production	No (904), Bo Saw Oo (1) Road, 46 Ward, North Dagon Township.
30	F-00085	AMK Hand-made Production	2/A (741), Mudhita Housing (2) of Glass Factory, Pauktaw Wa, Insein Township, Yangon.
31	G-00007	U Win Myint Power Regulator Enterprise	No. (681), Yoema Yeiktar Street, (144) Ward, South Dagon Township, Yangon.
32	G-00008	Golden Harp	No (324), Ayeyarwun (1) Street, 60 Ward, Dagon Seikan Township, Yangon.
33	H-00016	P a d a m y a r Bean Enterprise	No (72), U Ba Han Road, Laydaungkan Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon.
34	H-00030	Sinyaw Phyu Purified Drinking Water	No (58), Ywat Hla Street, 15 Ward, Shwe Paung Kan, North Okkala Township, Yangon.
35	H-00033	Thein Than Aung Enterprise	No.210, Yangon-Insein Road, 13 Ward, Hline Township.
36	H-00034	Duwun Tamarind Candy Production	No .1173, Yatha Wadi 17 Road, 13 Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.
37	O-00174	Great Guest House	No. 262, Myaynigone Southern Ward, Bargayar Street, Sanchaung Township.
38	O-00182	PC (Personal Computer Group)	No (34), Bogyoke Aung San Street, (4) Ward, Pyapone Township No (9), near Kin Pun Chan Bridge, Chauk. Western Ward, Football Ground Apartment, Seikphyu. 2/144/513, Industrial (YA) Street, South Dagon Industrial Zone.
39	O-00196	U Min Lwin (Goldsmith)	No (82), Kha/4 Streest, (KA+KHA) Ward, Insein Township, Yangon.
40	O-00198	Your Garden (Fresh Food production)	No (18), Yun Tan War, Nyaung U.
41	O-00203	Sein Kaung Kyaw Tea Shop	No (9), Hline River Road, Insein Township, Yangon.
42	O-00204	Shwe Nayt Thit Tea Shop	No (296), Kaymarthi Road, D Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.
43	O-00221	Green Loom Co.,Ltd	No.2 Aung Chan Thar Street, 13 Quarter, Yankin Township, Yangon.
44	O-00224	JPZ Co.,Ltd	No.68 (A), Yarkyaw Street, Myothit (8) Ward, Insein Township.
45	O-00238	Danu Phyu DawSaw Yi Myanmar Restaurant (Tamway Branch)	S1, U Chit Maung Road, U Chit Maung Housing, Tamway Township.
46	O-00253	Kaung Myat Hein Mart	No. 158/A) Insein Road, Ward 9, Hlaing Township, Yangon.
47	C-00152	Lin Thar OO Guest House (Ngapali)	Hlone Thar-Thandwe Road, Lin Thar Village, Ngapali.
48	C-00142	Hotel Moe (Moe Hotel and Restaurant)	No (4/9) ©, Pinlone Ward, Bogyoke Road, Kalay.
49	C-00117	Gyeik Taw Resort	No (o-5), Shwe Sabei Yeik Mon, Shwe Zalatt Street, Ward 4, Kamaryut Township.
50	C-00188	Htaik Myat San Guest House	No (8), Maha Bandoola Street, Pathein.
51	C-00187	Nay Kyi Lin Hotel	No (6), Maha Bandoola Street, Ward 5, Pathein.
52	C-00186	Sweet Inn (Nyaung Shwe)	No (172/175), Field No (20), Win Ward, Nyaung Shwe, Southern Shan State.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Working Committee to address the Impact of Coronavirus
Disease 2019 (COVID-19) on the Country’s Economy

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53	C-00115	Great Glory Hotel	No.25, Ngar Mhan Aung Pagoda Road, 33 Ward, South Dagon Township.
54	C-00155	Hotel Taung-goke	Pyay-Taungup Road, Gutar Ward, Taungup Townshipo, Thandwe District, Rakhine State.
55	C-00169	Nagapali Hill View Resort	No (399, Yarbar Taung, Zeephyu Gone Ward, Ngapali, Thandwe Township.
56	C-00167	Point Guest House	No (174), Pinlone Road, 32 Ward, Southern Dagon Myothit Township, Yangon.
57	C-00130	Lucky Asia Hotel	No.48, 10th Street, Part-3, Pyay Tharyar Quarter, Pyay.
58	C-00151	Hotel Ay-eyawady	Chaungthar Beach, Pathein, Ayeyawady Region.
59	C-00176	Blue Ocean Lodge (Hotel)	Hlone Thar-Thandwe Road, Lin Thar Village, Ngapali.
60	C-00173	D- New Light Hotel	No (29, Ar Zar Ni Street, Shone Malae Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region.
61	C-00137	Saffron Lodge	Nandawun Ward, Nadawun Road, Nyaung Shwe, Shan State.
62	C-00102	Nawng Kham the little inn	Phaung Taw Pyan Road, Mingalar Ward, Nyaung Shwe.
63	C-00105	Reno Hotel	No. 123, Kabar Aye Road, Shwe Taung Kyar (1) Ward, Bahan Township.
64	C-00141	Haymar Win Hotel Enterprise Co.,Ltd	39-A, ½ mile, Pyay Rad, Mayangone Township, Hotel, H-32/33, Hotel Zone, Datkhina Thiri.
65	C-00110	Royal Crown Hotel	No (3R,1/5A) Sayar San Road, Bahan Township, Yangon.
66	C-00146	Kumudra Enterprise Co.,Ltd	No.49, Yegyaw Street, Pazundaung Township, Yangon.
67	C-00049	Myanmar Excapade Travel and Tours Co.,Ltd	No 26, Thamadhi Road, 8 Ward, Mayangone Township, Yangon.
68	D-00206	Royal Saytanar Shin	No (206), 1st Floor, 10 Ward, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
69	D-00143	Power Palace Travels and Tour	No (16) Pyitharyar Road, Ward 16, Yankin Township.
70	D-00153	Gracious Vacation Co.,Ltd	No 15, Thazin Myaing Road, Kyankhin Su Ward, Mingalardon Township.
71	D-00149	Yadanar Thiha Co.,Ltd	No 002, B, Shwe Gabar Housing, Street (3), Mindhamma Road, Mayangon Township.
72	D-00168	Sri Asia Tourism Service Co.,Ltd	No 44, Lanthit Street, Ward 4, Lanmadaw Township.
73	D-00170	Forever Apex Co.,Ltd Forever Apex Travel and Tours	Building-B, Room No (702), Aung Zeyya Housing, Thitaw Ward, Ahlone Township, Yangon.
74	D-00175	Honest Success Trading and Services Company Limited	No 181, 1st Floor, 38 Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
75	D-00164	Piti Thukha San Company	No (746), Shwe Nhin Si (5) Ward, Ward (49), Dagon Myothit (South).
76	D-00163	Precious Holiday Company Limited	No (540) First Floor, Garden Road, Pauk Taw Wa, Insein Township.
77	D-00205	Golden Bliss Travels and Tours Co., Ltd	No (196/C), Panpadauk Street, Kayepin Yeik Mon Housing, Mingalardon Township, Yangon.
78	D-00193	Amazing Holidays Travels and Tours Co., Ltd	, No (04,05,06), 6th Floor, Bo Myat Tun Tower, Corner of Bo Myat Tun Road and Maha Bandoola Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon.
79	D-00192	Lucky Treasure Travels and Tours Co.,Ltd	No.231, Ground Floor, Maha Bandoola Park Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.
80	D-00179	May Thu Aung International Travel and Tours Company	No (8/H), Sin Malite Condominium, Kamaryut Township, Yangon.
81	D-00178	Lin Yaung Chi Tours	No.22,U Phoe Shwe Road, Sayar San (South), Western Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon.
82	D-00177	Good News Travels and Tours Co., Ltd	No 22, Yanshin Road, Unite 44, 5 th Floor, Yankin Township, Yangon.

83	D-00147	Ayeyarwaddy Legend Travel and Tours Company Limited	No 104, 37th Street , lower Block, Kyauktada Township.
84	F-00101	Myat Akari Textile Enterprise	No. 62, Ye Yan Aung 3 Road, Ward 3, Mayangon Township.
85	F-00082	Htet Nann Tawun Textile Enterprise	No (14/Ka, Kantharyar Road, Mya Yamone Thar Yar Housing, Kyee Pwar Yay Ward, Thangangyun Township.
86	F-00086	Kanthar Traditional Medicine	31/ Tadhi Pahtan Street, Kyauk Myaung, Tamway Township, Yangon.
87	F-00087	U Sein Shwe Tin Plastic Cover Enterprise	No. 1459 (KA), Bhone Mar (19) Street, (Nya) Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.
88	F-00096	Smart Garment	No (6), Sai Din Si Mhan Kein Yone Wun, Sat Yoe Kya Satnhue Ward, Sittway.
89	F-00099	Pyae Phyoe Kyaw Traditional Medicine Production	No (562/Kha), Magway (3) Street, 45/20 Ward (Thandin), Shwepyitha Township, Yangon.
90	F-00077	Mya Phue Wai Textile Enterprise	No (736), Shwe Popa Road, Ward 55, North Dagon Township, Yangon.
91	F-00111	KMK Garment	E-11, Cherry Street, (110) Ward, East Dagon Township, Yangon.
92	F-00110	PTT Plastic Enterprise	No (1184,1185,1186), U Hein Soon Street, Ward 5, East Dagon Myothit Township, Yangon.
93	F-00102	WEC Slippery and Shoes Enterprise	No. 367, Thakhin Ohn Pe Gyi Road, 48 Ward, North Dagon.
94	F-00151	KM Bag Enterprise	No 4/3 (A), West Mhan Pyay (10) Road, Ward 3, Thaketa Township, Yangon.
95	F-00144	Ohnmar Swe Plastic Enterprise	1385, Hlaing River Road, Industrial Zone (2), South Dagon Township, Yangon.
96	F-00142	Thadar Htun Fasion and Garment	No.308, Farmer 3 Street, Ward 20, South Dagon Township, Yangon.
97	F-00124	Zaytawun Robes and Garment	No (44/45), 14 Street, Mingaladon Market, Mingalardon Township, Yangon.
98	F-00123	Bravo Plastic production	No (44), Banmaw Athwin Wun Road, Hlinethaya Industrial Zone (3) Yangon.
99	F-00134	Lin Paing Shoes and Slippery Enterprise	No 252/10, Shwe Pyi Soe Street, (14/2) Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.
100	F-00122	HMA Bag Enterprise	No (54), Karya (10) Street, Karya Ward, Tingangyun Gyi, Mingaladon Township, Yangon.
101	F-00113	Ei Ma Textile Enterprise	No (4), Myitza Road, (110) Ward, East Dagon Township, Yangon.
102	F-00112	La Minn Textile Enterprise	No (11), Tawun Street, (1100 Ward, East Dagon Township, Yangon.
103	F-00091	NICE Garment Factory	No.112, Shwe Nhinsi Kan Street, Ward 5, Mayangone Township, Yangon.
104	F-00154	Kay Thi Aung Garment	No (312/Kha) Padauk 5 Street, 11 Ward, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon.
105	H-00048	Tun Yadanar Rice Plant	Azarwa Village, Thone Kwa Township.
106	H-00040	Myitar Sann Purified Drinking Water	No.319, Shwe Bhone Thar Street, Shwe Lin Pan, Hlinethaya Township.
107	H-00037	Hine Minn Tofu Production	No (558/559), U Phoe Hlaing Road, 8 Ward, Hlaing Tharyar Township.
108	H-00046	Aqua Planet Purified Drinking Water	No (1141), Ward 31, Ngwe Pyithar (4) Street, North Dagon Township, Yangon.
109	H-00043	Sunn Nyi Naung Sunn Minn Production Company	No (68/69) Kanaung Minthar Gyi Road, Shwepyitha Zone (4), Yangon.
110	O-00336	Ngwe Sel Taw (999) Co., Ltd	No (140), Padae Wun U Shwe Bin Street, 113 Ward, East Dagon Industrial Town, Yangon.
111	O-00602	Shwe Myotaw Guest House, Lamin Eain Guest House	No 48/48, Mahar Swe 1, North Dagon 81/82/83/48, Swe Taw Phue Street, North Dagon Township.

MFPTMA requests tax reduction for export of lumbers, finished products

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR Forest Products and Timber Merchants Association (MFPTMA) requested a reduction of tax for export of lumbers and finished timber products.

MFPTMA is paying 10 per cent for special goods tax and 2 per cent for the commercial tax to the government for export of lumbers and finished timber products, said MFPTMA Secretary and Managing Director U Aye Min Kyaw of Royal River Trading Company.

“The tax is a bit high and the timber is contained in special goods tax. So, we have to pay 10 per cent for special goods tax. The remaining is fine. We also have to pay 2 per cent for commercial tax. The government suspended collecting of commercial tax because of coronavirus pandemic. So, we don’t need to pay 2 per cent recently. We wish to reduce a bit concerning 10 per cent for special goods tax,” he added.

At present, the lumber and the finished timber products are purchased mainly by Europe, USA and Asia. Although it was a bit difficult to issue the documents for buying the lumber and finished products, it is easier now to receive the documents because Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) issues these documents as the third party, according to MFPTMA.

“The foreign countries are interested in Myanmar’s teak. Europe said that Myanmar’s teak can be handled in saltwater. So, they are interested to purchase Myanmar’s teak. This is the reason why we are exporting Myanmar teak. However, they ask for the documents and certificates. Previously, we had difficulties providing documents and certificates. Later on, the MTE is issuing the documents that we need. We also have a third party. Third-party is also issuing the certificates,” he added.

In April 2014, Myanmar banned the export of raw timber logs. The government sold the timber logs only to the country that bids tender. The tender winning companies saw the timber in their countries and export the sawn timber to importer countries. So, the sawmills are operating, thereby creating job opportunities for the local people, he stressed.

On 7 May, Royal River Trading company exported 17 tonnes of teak lumbers in one container to Canada, according to Royal River Trading company.

Myanmar has exported mainly teak and hardwood (Pyin Ga Toe). Currently, lumbers and



An official from Forestry Department (right) checks spraying the lumbers with disinfectants amid COVID-19 outbreak. **FILE PHOTO**

finished timber products are highly demanded from foreign counties. There are also demand in the local market, according to MFPTMA.

According to 2017-2018 annual progress report of Myanmar Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (MEITI), Myanmar has earned US\$ 223 million from the production of 340,428 tonnes of teak in 2017-2018FY. Among them, teak worth \$137.69 million was sold in export tender while the remaining \$85.31 million were earned from the local tender.

Moreover, Myanmar has earned US\$ 88 million from exporting of timber lumbers. India is one of the biggest exporter countries with 37 per cent.

At present, MFPTMA has more than 3,000 members. Among them, over 300 members are active. Now, the election commission members are organizing to be able to celebrate reestablishing of the association. And the commission is coordinating for every member to be able to participate.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myawady highway bus terminal expected to open in October



The construction of Myawady highway bus terminal is underway. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

Construction of Myawady highway bus terminal is in progress, and it is scheduled to open in October this year.

The K7 billion worth project is named as Sein Let Myaing which is three kilometres away from Myawady town and near Aye Thuka village. The project was started in November 2018.

The rooms from the bus terminal are sold for between K80 million and K100 million. The rooms can be bought through the instalment system.

“Sein Let Myaing bus terminal is being constructed by the stepping stone company. Our MIEG company is cooperating with them in the form of partnership. We have submitted a proposal to Kayin State government to build the highway bus terminal. After we were granted permission from Kayin State government, we started our project. Entering the terminal gate, the highway buses stop to load the goods. So, we face traffic congestion nearly every

day. We got an idea to build the highway bus terminal, spending K7 billion, said Managing Director U Kyaw Naing of MIEG.

The highway bus terminal is under construction on an 8.1-acre plot of land. Each bus gate is 15 feet wide and 35 feet long. There will be 110 rooms in the two-storeyed building. The terminal is expected to open in this October. —Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Bamboo basket weavers face lower sale

BAMBOO basket weavers in Myin Pauk village in Ye-U Township, Sagaing region have faced with difficulties caused by lower family income because of the sale of the bamboo basket on the decline amidst the coronavirus outbreak and spread in Myanmar.

“Around 60 people from Myin Pauk village are reliant upon weaving of bamboo baskets. Then, they distribute the baskets to Daze, Dabayin, Khin-U and Shwebo townships. We have difficulties because we are restricted from going

to other villages in the coronavirus pandemic period. So, we could not sell our products to other villages. Every year, the bamboo baskets sell well like this time and earn around K20,000 per day. Our main family income comes from basket weaving. The regular customers do not reach our village as usual. So, we are short of money,” said Daw Shwe War, a local bamboo basket weaver from Myin Pauk village. —Than Htaik (Ye-U)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



A woman weaving bamboo crafts in Myin Pauk Village in Ye-U Township, Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: THAN HTAIK (YE-U)**

Sharing public health burden reflects noble mission of caregivers

WITH the COVID-19 outbreak infecting nearly 200 people, our country is facing an unprecedented public health emergency.

The Union Government together with regional/state governments, have made strenuous efforts to tackle the crisis, along with the involvement of the country's people.

In these days of our battle with coronavirus disease, people who caught fever and illness have nowhere to receive medical checks because private clinics have been closed and their family doctors stay away from patients in this time of the COVID-19 crisis.

To solve this, small-scale fever clinics have been mushrooming nationwide this month to help detect suspected COVID-19 cases at earlier stages and improve local monitoring of the infectious disease.

The role of the community fever clinics has become an important factor in providing health care services to the people, and in diagnosing possible COVID-19 patients. The clinics are open to anyone who exhibits a broad range of upper respiratory illnesses, including influenza, sore throat, strep throat, fevers or potential exposure to COVID-19.

Early detection is essential to prevent the spread of the virus and deliver successful treatment, according to experts.

There is an immediate need for volunteers, especially local doctors who closed their private clinics, along with retired government servants, military medical service personnel and private doctors, to help community-based clinics, in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We appeal to such doctors to come forward at this hour of need. In this time of crisis in our community, having doctors and volunteers at our fever clinics is like a breath of fresh air for the communities.

Volunteering to provide medical care to the needy can be considered donating medical services, which is different than other ways of helping out, both physically and mentally. Donating food, volunteering or donating money also provides help to our community.

Now is the right time for volunteer doctors to contribute their professional expertise to the country, and to be a part of this noble mission to serve the country.

But, for the safety of doctors who are willing to volunteer at the clinics, they need to receive training offered by the Myanmar Medical Association.

We are looking forward to you, the volunteer doctors, to share the burden before it overwhelms the available doctors in the public health system.



Fourth-Year Performances of Ayeyawady Region Government

By Thi Thi Min

Photo: Hla Myo Aung (IPRD)

Endeavouring on multifaceted approaches for the socio-economic development of the people: Ayeyawady Region Government

FOCUSED with the tasks for the people, the Ayeyawady Region Government is shouldering the jobs such as that of the development in socio-economic life of the people; that of the development in agricultural methodology; that of the emergence of the economic zones; that of the adequate electric supply; that of the development of the tourism industry; that of the uplifting in individual income; that of the creation of job opportunities; and that of inviting investment.

An interview was called on Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, and the performances and the futures works are submitted to the esteemed readers and the people.



Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung

Q: Kindly share us on the administrative reform.

A: In the Ayeyawady Region, there are (26) townships, (19) towns, (11,860) wards / village tracts / villages, hosting (6 point 3) million population.

In nurturing better staff members in the administrative system, various training course have been provided to the wards / village tracts administrators; village in charges; and to those persons in charge of hundred households in the whole of the Ayeyawady Region.

Grassroots field trips are being made at least twice a month in holding public meetings, as much as possible. Necessary services are being provided after hearing the requisites from the people, and moreover, "Mobile Service

Deliver" is carried out. So far over one million National Scrutiny Cards have been issued. Stability and rule of law is given priority, and that actions have been taken to (196) persons who sneaked into the region illegally.

Q: Kindly share on the projects carried out for the socio-economic development of the people.

A: The GDP (per capita) was set at MMK (2 point 1) millions, and that (3) percent increased is recorded at the end of February 2020.

Investments are invited, and that the Patheingyi Industrial Township is on the agenda in Kan Gyi Daunk Township. Discussions are underway for the establishment of Maubin Industrial Park in Maubin Township for the garment factory and the shoe factory.

Q: Please explain us on the agriculture development tasks.

A: In carrying out the land management, the soil fertility plants namely the hemp plants termed as "Green Fertilizers" are being grown in (6) districts covering (993) acres. The project made the increase of crops up to (3) baskets to (8) baskets on each acre.

In 2019, more plants of "Green Fertilizers" were expanded which raised the crops outturn. Therefore, (16,000) acres of lands would be grown with soil fertility plants in 2020.

In 2019, about (1,53,000) acres of corn and maize crops were infected with "faw" (Spodoptera frugiperda) insect. The Ayeyawady Region Government and the private companies teamed up and applied insecticide through the aerial spray and backpack spray. The task has salvaged (45,967) acres.

In each township, (260) backpack insecticide spray units have been kept ready with agriculture insecticide for (5,200) acres.

For agricultural water supply, (79) units of (3) inch driven wells / drilled wells were being dug to cover (1,185) acres.

Committee for Re-scrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands has received the



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung and officials cut ribbon to open the Children Literary Festival in Kyonpyaw, Ayeyawady Region on 10 January, 2020.

direct complaint letters on land cases numbering (1,634). It has resolved (921) land cases, and that the remaining (713) cases would be resolved soon. Total (56 point 4) percent of land cases have been redressed.

On 2 March 2020, the Peasants' Day, also known as Farmers' Day, was held at Wah Doo Village Tract in Kan Gyi Daunk Township of Patheingyi District, with (36) exhibition halls. On the anniversary, total of confiscated lands covering (2,965 point 23) acres have been handed over to (639) original owners, and that the land access permits to work on the plot have been issued.

Q: Please share us on the irrigation matters.

A: Total of (54) dams and reservoirs have been repaired to prevent flooding, and that (176) water drainage canals have been constructed for (840,000) acres of monsoon paddy lands.

An area of (230,000) acres have been prevented from heavy flooding. Total of (30) water sluice gates have been repaired which benefited (100,000) acres for summer paddy cultivation.

Agriculture mechanization

tasks have been expanded in Ayeyawaddy Region covering (166,000) acres. Land reclamation in modern methods have been realized in Pattun Village of Zalun Township with (150) acres; in Myo Kwin Village of Henthada Township with (100) acres; in Htan Tone Pin Village of Myanaung Township with (100) acres; total (350) acres.

Q: Kindly tell us on the forestry sector.

A: Ayeyawady Region has forest areas covering (1,541,265) acres, and that (6,450) acres have been planted with trees as reforestation program. Total of trees numbering (7,847,040) have been reserved for (5,885) acres of reforestation in 2020 monsoon tree planting season.

Q: Please explain on the animal breeding sector.

A: Ayeyawady Region has succeeded in breeding (21 point 8) millions juvenile fish, and that (5) stations of fresh water breeding ponds have produce (120) millions of fingerlings.

Fish and shrimp farming in the Ayeyawady Region bring local consumption as well as foreign

exports. In Labutta Township there are soft shell crabs breeding farms covering (276 point 97) acres.

Total of (1,777) work permit grants for the aquaculture / fishery segment and authorization for catching in fishing nets for (2,066) cases have been issued to various fisheries groups.

Fresh Water Fishery by-laws (1 / 2019) of Ayeyawady Region have been prescribed on 10 April 2019. Total of (7) "Animal Safe Land & Shelter" have been established in (7) townships. Two more shelters are on the agenda to be completed by June 2020.

Q: Kindly explain the road communication and its development.

A: Upgrading of roads have been completed for (85 point 7) miles including bridges crossing. More bridges are on the agenda including two large bridges to be completed in November 2020.

Stretch of (3) miles and (7) furlongs road leading to "Gaw Yan Gyi Island" is under construction, including "Chaung Wa Bridge". Upon completion, it could be reached in (3) hours from Patheingyi round the year.

Yangon - Patheingyi Road is (23) miles and (5) furlongs long and that it is underway to be upgraded with (30) feet wide concrete, and that (63) percent is now completed. In rural areas, (150) miles road; (35) bridges; and (45) pipe-culvert bridge have been constructed.

With the aid and assistance of the World Bank, many road constructions are in progress in Patheingyi District and Hintada District. With the people's centered concept, (1,086) projects costing MMK (10,450) millions have been accomplished.

Q: Kindly tell us on electricity supply and communication sectors.

A: Under the National Electrification Programme NEP Phase (1), out of (653) villages total of (236) villages have been distributed with electricity. With NEP Phase (2), total of (892) villages would be supplied with electricity.

Through the budget of Ayeyawady Region, (171) unit of transformers; 400 Volt power supply line for (29) miles; 11 KV power supply line for (106) miles have been constructed.

SEE PAGE-10

Global response to COVID-19 must address rights and needs of women and girls

By Dr Natalia Kanem, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) & Mark Lowcock, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator, UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

IN a week in which people in some parts of the world have been given cause for optimism that they have passed the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen how the extraordinary actions of individuals can change the trajectory for a whole nation.

Retired doctors putting themselves back on the front line, nurses making their own face masks so they can treat the sick, parents separated from their children so they can care for people suffering from the virus.

More often than not, these are women. Globally, women make up 70 per cent of the health workforce. They also have the majority of caregiving roles in homes and in communities. Women do this essential work in spite of obstacles and inequalities.

That's why our updated Global Humanitarian Response Plan to fight coronavirus, published on 7 May, has women at its heart. We know from experience that investing in women and girls produces dividends for all. We see that again with COVID-19.

In hospitals and in homes, women are on the frontline in this fight against COVID-19. We know local actions translate into global gains. If there is one thing we have learned about this pandemic, it's that the world is in this together and we can only defeat it if we act as one.

According to the International Labour Organization, women perform 76 per cent of the total hours of unpaid care work globally. They will carry more of the weight of caring for the sick and helping to stem the spread of the virus.

We must equip women with what they need. Let's enable them to stay safe and supported. It's the right thing to do but also the smart thing to do so they can continue to save and improve lives.

As health systems become stretched, many people with COVID-19 will need to be cared for at home. This will add to women's workload, and put them at greater risk of becoming infected.

And as the world fights the COVID-19 pandemic, we know we have another epidemic to overcome - the violence perpetrated against women, and the inequalities that leave them more likely to be living in poverty and without access to essential services.

We know lockdowns and quarantines are essential to suppressing COVID-19. Yet they can trap women with abusive partners. Over the last few weeks, there has been a dramatic jump in reported incidences of domestic violence in many countries. In some countries, the number of women calling support services has doubled.

Humanitarian settings already stressed by years of war and poverty will not be any different, except that often there are few places to report the abuse or to seek shelter so that women and their children can stay safe.

If we are serious about defeating this virus, we must promote and protect the health and rights of women, for their own well-being and so that they can continue to promote and protect the health of others.

That is why the UN's global humanitarian response plan to fight COVID-19 sets out specific actions to achieve this in the most vulnerable settings.

SEE PAGE-10

Fourth-Year Performances of Ayeyawady Region Government

FROM PAGE-9

More power lines are on the agenda for Chaung Thar Town with (12) miles connection, and that Chaung Thar and Shwe Thaung Yan Town would have electricity.

Total of (367) mobile telecommunication stations have been constructed in (6) districts. With regard to auto telephone system, upgrading tasks are being carried out in (10) townships, and that (12) auto exchange stations have been elevated with “multi-service access node” (MSAN) system. For high speed Internet connection, “Fiber to the Home (FTTH)” system is to be installed.

Q: Kindly tell us on city development implementation.

A: With JICA ODA loan of MMK (17 point 142) billions, the Patheingyi water supply system is underway; and that the remaining townships would be enjoying water supply system through the loans, the donations, and the grants from international organizations.

With the budget allocation of Ayeyawady Region Government amounting MMK (3,930) millions, a total of (144) machinery, instruments and vehicles have been distributed to (33) city development bodies.

In large towns and some townships, e- Municipal Applications under the e – Government System have been applied through online setup in the collection of commercial tax and work licence fees.

Q: Please tell us on rural areas water supply development.

A: With regard to rural water supply system namely drilled wells, water ponds, and other water supply units numbering (770) have been realized with MMK (6,048) millions. In Kaung Kyee Village of Kyaung Kone Township, the river water pumping station with electricity has been installed, and that water is being



Fruits and vegetables growers participate in the expo held in Kangyidaunt, Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region.

supplied to summer crops. One more river water pumping station is on the agenda for Tar Myar Village of Danu Phyu Township.

Q: Kindly tell us on the Information and Public Relations Department sector.

A: In (26) townships of Ayeyawady Region, the Children’s Literature Festivals have been realized. It covered (191) exhibition halls; (471) book stalls; where (304, 500) students participated.

A “Community Centre” was built for Nga Taing Chaung Town with MMK (51 point 4) millions.

Q: Kindly explain on tourism industry.

A: Number of visitors to Ayeyawaddy Region is on the rise year by year. Tourism industry edges over (30) percent compared to last year. Regional Travel Management Committee is exploring ways and means to develop tourism industry in showcasing attractive venues such as that of Shwe Thaung Yan Beach; that of Gaw Yan Gyi Island; that of historical site in Eimmai Township where King Bayint Naung

destroyed the rafts before going into fierce battles; that of “Crocodile farms” in Main Ma Hla Kyun in Bogalay Township.

Q: Please tell us on the prevention of natural disasters.

A: Rice, foodstuffs, construction materials, and relief aids amounting MMK (604) millions have been distributed to the people. Total of (16) relief items covering (7,900) households have been placed in the inventory lists. Moreover, (21,000) rice bags have been reserved to face natural disasters.

Social volunteer groups with motor vehicles and the water vessels have been put on records for emergency relief campaign.

In 2019 – 2020, the funds from the Natural Disaster Management Department amounting MMK (65) millions have been spent in the repair works of (2,500) fragile and weak houses in (224) wards / villages of (25) townships. The task was done by the Ayeyawady Region Government with (50) relevant organizations. The tasks completed in April 2020.

With regard to fire prevention programme, the e – watching

has been installed at Swan Hotel in Patheingyi, and that the fire fighting stations in all districts and townships have been provided with (40) sets of IP Camera GPS Tracking Device System. Total of (18) shelters for natural disasters with (500) capacity each have been constructed. In addition (39) more shelters are in the future project.

Q: Please tell us on the education sector.

A: In education sector various projects have been implemented such as that of upgrading (529) basic education schools; that of new construction on (382) educational structures; and that of expanding (9) Matriculation Examination centers.

In connection with Non Formal Primary Education (NFPE) system, (76) base units in (14) townships have been established, and that (133) teachers have been appointed in teaching (1,082) students. Hinthada Township hosted the Non Formal Middle Education (NFME) system for (40) students with (5) teachers with the sponsorship of Ayeyawady

Regional Government.

Q: Please tell us on healthcare sector.

A: Development in healthcare sector has been witnessed such as that of two sub-township hospital / station hospital; that of (21) housing units for staff members; (18) rural healthcare centres; and (11) sub-rural healthcare centres.

With the intent to help assist the poor, vulnerable and marginalized population, the Healthcare Assistance Committees have been formed in (26) townships. Each township is assigned with one Principal Officer with the honorarium of MMK (200,000), and that (26) officers have been assigned.

Two workshops on health-care related topics have been realized, and that well wishers have donated funds amounting MMK (186) millions. MMK (76) millions have been handed to (2,707) patients.

Moreover, the new storage for vaccines has been successfully constructed, and that (100,000) shots of vaccines for one year children have been stored. In the eradication of TB, the mobile X-Rays vehicle is rolling ahead in the campaign for that disease.

Q: Kindly share us the message to the people as the Prime Minister of Ayeyawady Region Government.

A: In conclusion, the Ayeyawady Region Government is doing its best in the awareness raising campaign to the public in connection with the COVID – 19 world pandemic. Meetings have been convened and that advanced preparation have been organized in the COVID-19 Prevention, Containment and Treatment, including the purchase of necessary items. All in all, a healthcare emergency relief fund is to be raised in keeping the people in Ayeyawady Region away from the virus and the harm’s way.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)

Global response to COVID-19 must address rights and needs of women and girls

FROM PAGE-9

This global plan is already helping install hand-washing facilities that are safe for women and girls to access; deliver vital medical equipment and supplies, including to address women’s health; and getting aid workers and supplies to where they are needed most.

The plan recognizes the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on women and girls. It also recognizes their power to defeat the virus. UNFPA will use resources from the appeal to prioritize the needs of women and girls –

including working with women’s groups on the ground to create safe spaces. All this is possible because of the generosity of donors. Much more is needed. We count on donors to continue funding the COVID-19 humanitarian response plan while sustaining support for existing humanitarian and refugee response plans. And we urge all governments to make the prevention and redress of violence against women a key part of their national response plans for COVID-19.

Every day, women are overcoming obstacles and

inequalities to treat and care for those infected with the virus, working hard to contain the virus, and helping their families and communities protect themselves.

We owe it to these women to give them the tools and services they need, and the justice and equality that is their right – in hospitals, in homes, and in their communities.

We are determined to do everything we can to fight this deadly virus, and that means addressing the inequalities that will otherwise hold all of us back.

Brazil auto production crumbles in April, down 99%

BRASILIA — Auto production in Brazil crumbled in April under the weight of the coronavirus crisis, falling a catastrophic 99 per cent, the carmakers' association said Friday.

Only 1,847 vehicles were produced in the country's 65 auto factories, as compared with 189,958 made in March, the association said in a statement.

In April a year ago, automakers in Brazil produced 267,562 vehicles. Last month's paltry total was the smallest for a full month since 1957, the group said.

April was the first full month that Brazil was under anti-virus lockdown measures designed to

curb the spread of the contagion.

Brazil is the epicentre of the outbreak in Latin America, with more than 145,000 cases and nearly 10,000 deaths.

But auto production in Brazil had already suffered in previous months, as the global pandemic paralyzed the world economy and the country started taking precautions. From January through April, a total of 587,739 vehicles left the factories of the 26 automakers operating in Brazil, against 965,408 in the same period last year — a 39 per cent drop.

"The major drop in production came along with an equally dramatic fall in sales in both the



Nissan is one of the many automakers producing in Brazil, at its Resende complex outside Rio de Janeiro — auto production in Brazil took a major hit in April 2020 due to the coronavirus crisis. **PHOTO: AFP**

domestic market and exports," the association said.

Exports dropped 79.3 per

cent year-on-year in April, with only 7,212 vehicles leaving the country.—AFP ■



A staff member introduces intelligent robot to a visitor at the Hanover Fair 2018 in Germany on 23 April. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

China promotes local AI pilot zones

BEIJING — China has been promoting artificial intelligence (AI) innovative development pilot zones at local levels, a Chinese official said on Saturday.

Last year, China started to build a new generation of national AI innovative development pilot zones, relying on local governments to carry out technology demonstration, policy pilot and social experiments, said Vice Minister of Science and Technology Li Meng at a press conference.

Li said along with the pilot zones in cities like Beijing and Shanghai, China has launched the country's first county-level AI pilot zone in Deqing County,

Zhejiang Province last year.

According to a document last November, Deqing County is expected to rely its advantages on automatic driving, smart farming and smart governance, improve its AI infrastructure and promote the establishment of AI ethical norms, providing a county-level example for AI governance.

He added that leading universities, research institutions and enterprises in Beijing have started to jointly sponsor a new type of R&D research institutions, aiming at drawing together high-end talents around the world and boost original AI innovation.—Xinhua ■

Drive-through Mother's Day flower service proves hit

TOKYO — Cars lined up Saturday at a wholesale market in Kawasaki near Tokyo as customers were set to receive carnation or gerbera flowers for Mother's Day in a drive-through service to minimize people-to-people contact amid the coronavirus outbreak.

The service, which is also aimed at supporting the flower industry hit hard by a plunge in demand due to event cancellations, has proved popular among people seeking comfort from flowers as they are compelled to stay at home due to the pandemic.

Customers can order Mother's Day flowers on the website of 2020 Smile Flower Project, run by a retail chain operator with the help of markets and wholesalers, and make payments online. At markets, staff load them into car trunks.

Options are also available

for customers to have the flowers delivered.

"I heard about the plight of the flower industry, so I chose this service to buy a gift for my mom," said Tomoya Hatori, a 22-year-old from Yokohama who bought 30 carnations. "(The flower gift) would relieve the stress of staying at home," his 52-year-old mother Yuko said.

In another drive-through service offered by a fruit and vegetable wholesaler, some 2,000 carnations were offered for free to customers at sites to receive such items as rice and various vegetable sets in Tokyo's Ota Ward and other areas. The vegetables were originally intended for sale to restaurants but are being sold to individual customers due to closures of eateries amid the state of emergency over the virus epidemic.—Kyodo News



An employee of a flower shop prepares flowers for customers waiting in the drive-thru lane in Kawasaki, near Tokyo, on 9 May, 2020, a day before Mother's Day amid the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

NEWS In BRIEF

US firm to invest 150 mln USD in biotech project in east China

NANJING — US biotech company Herbalmax Inc will invest 150 million US dollars in a project in the eastern Chinese city of Wuxi, according to the management committee of the city's high-tech zone.

On Friday, Herbalmax signed an agreement with the committee on the investment via a video conference.

The project, which includes a trade company, a research and development centre and a production base, is expected to reach an annual output of 3 billion yuan (422 million US dollars) three years after its completion. The project will help boost the innovative capabilities of the high-tech zone in the healthcare sector, said Feng Xiaochun, the director of the management committee.

It is the rapid development and huge potential of China's healthcare market as well as the high-quality service of the high-tech zone that attracted Herbalmax to invest, said Grant Marshall, co-founder and CEO of Herbalmax, at the online signing ceremony.—Xinhua

Panasonic ready to deploy sterilization robot in coronavirus battle

OSAKA — Panasonic Corp. has developed a robot equipped with nozzles to autonomously spray disinfectant in hospitals in the fight against the coronavirus outbreak.

The Hospi-mist was remodeled from the Hospi, which has been deployed in medical institutions to transport drugs and specimens to compensate for staff shortages during holidays and at night, according to the company.

By utilizing map data stored in advance, the robot can choose its route to a destination within a hospital, using sensors to detect and avoid obstacles so it can move around safely.

Panasonic is considering deploying Hospi-mist in hospitals and at public facilities as a labour-saving measure, aiming to eventually commercialize it.—Kyodo News ■

Putin calls for 'invincible' unity as Russians mark Victory Day on lockdown

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin told Russians they are “invincible” when they stand together as the country on Saturday marked the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II in lockdown from the coronavirus.

With cases surging and authorities urging Russians to stay in their homes, celebrations of this year's Victory Day were muted after the Kremlin grudgingly postponed plans for a grand parade with world leaders.

Instead of columns of military hardware and thousands of troops marching through Red Square as planned, Putin walked alone to lay flowers at the Eter-

nal Flame outside the red brick walls of the Kremlin.

In a solemn televised speech, he made no mention of the virus, despite Russia having the fifth-highest number of confirmed infections in the world.

Putin instead highlighted the sacrifices made by the Soviet Union in what Russians call the Great Patriotic War and hinted at the threat now facing the country.

“Our veterans fought for life, against death. And we will always be equal to their unity and endurance,” Putin said.

“We know and firmly believe that we are invincible when we

stand together.”

An honour guard marched past Putin after his speech, as Russian television showed images of Red Square empty under cloudy skies.

Military helicopters, bombers and fighter jets flew over the city, releasing smoke in the red, white and blue of the Russian flag.

Surge in virus cases

Putin then oversaw a modest procession of soldiers in dress uniform inside the Kremlin walls, promising them in a brief speech that “all plans for development of the army and



A man wearing a face mask against the spread of the coronavirus walks past a banner for the now much reduced 75th anniversary celebrations in Moscow marking the victory over Nazi Germany in World War II. **PHOTO: AFP**

navy will be realized”.

The pandemic hit Russia later than western Europe but the country has seen a major

increase in cases in recent days, with more than 10,000 new infections registered every day this week.— AFP ■



People arriving in Britain by air, sea and rail will be required to self-isolate for two weeks, The Times reported. **PHOTO: AFP**

Britain to introduce two-week quarantine for arrivals: reports

LONDON — Britain plans to introduce a 14-day mandatory quarantine for most international arrivals, reports said Saturday, despite growing pressure on the government to relax virus lockdown measures.

It comes as the UK, which has the world's second highest coronavirus death toll after the US, cautiously charts a way forward after imposing strict stay-at-home orders in late March.

Apart from those entering the country from neighbouring Ireland, all people coming into Britain by air, sea and rail will be required to self-isolate for a fortnight, The Times reported.

The newspaper said the new rule would be enforced by spot-checks on the address given by travellers, with possible

penalties including fines of up to £1,000 (\$1,200, 1,100 euros) or deportation.

It said Prime Minister Boris Johnson would announce the measures on Sunday.

The BBC reported that the two-week quarantine restriction was set to be brought in at the end of May, citing government sources and aviation industry body Airlines UK.

Ahead of Johnson's televised address later this weekend, the government has warned not to expect any major changes to the nationwide coronavirus lockdown.

The devolved government in Wales has unveiled plans to reopen garden centres and libraries, but said the wider lockdown would remain for another three weeks.— AFP ■

Greece remembers anti-austerity riot victims

ATHENS — Greece on Saturday marked the tenth anniversary of a deadly firebomb attack on a bank during anti-austerity riots, as a coronavirus lockdown raised fears of another recession.

On 5 May, 2010 a protest against debt-laden Greece's first loan agreement with international creditors saw a firebomb lobbed at the Marfin bank in central Athens, leading to the death of three bank workers, including a pregnant woman.

Three bank officials received manslaughter sentences but the

culprits were never caught.

The attack came just three days after the socialist government of George Papandreou signed the first of three eventual bailouts with the European Commission, the European Central Bank and the IMF that would total 350 billion euros. In the years that followed, a quarter of Greek national output would be wiped out in wage and pension cuts and tax hikes demanded by the creditors. “Tragic incidents like that are not compatible with our democratic tradition nor with the so-

ciety we are dreaming of,” President Katerina Sakellariopoulou said during a ceremony outside the building that housed the bank. “I hope we won't experience such manifestations of violence in our country ever again,” she said.

Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis laid a wreath outside the former Marfin bank building.

Earlier this week he had urged the leaders of all parliamentary parties to be present in order to “leave behind the era of division and violence”.

The austerity policies were widely associated with the now ruling New Democracy party but also with the socialist party that was then in government.

The main opposition leftist Syriza party, which had been accused of fuelling the violent 2010 riots, on Saturday called for the perpetrators to be identified and punished. Ten years on, Greece is facing recession once again because of the global coronavirus crisis. A lockdown was imposed on 23 March and is gradually being eased from the start of this week.—AFP ■



Three people died in the attack on Marfin bank. **PHOTO: AFP**

US Vice President Pence's spokesperson contracts coronavirus

WASHINGTON — US Vice President Mike Pence's spokesperson, Katie Miller, tested positive for the coronavirus, President Donald Trump confirmed Friday.

Calling the person in question a “press person,” Trump said during a meeting with congressional Republicans that “Katie, she tested very good for

a long period of time and then all of a sudden today she tested positive.”

“She hasn't come into contact with me,” Trump said, referring to Miller, wife of his senior adviser and speechwriter, Stephen Miller. “She's spent some time with the vice president.”

The president said Pence

knew about Miller's infection and “has done what he has to do.”

White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said during Friday's briefing that a member of Pence's staff had been infected with the virus, without identifying who exactly the person was.— Xinhua ■

IMF calls for coordinated action for post-pandemic global recovery

WASHINGTON — The head of the International Monetary Fund on Friday called for “coordinated” action to rebuild the world economy as it reels from the coronavirus pandemic, warning of the high level of uncertainty surrounding global economic prospects.

The outbreak of the novel coronavirus is “a more complex crisis than what we are used to, with interlinked shocks to our health and our economies that have brought our economic life to an almost complete stop,” IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said in a written interview with Kyodo News.

The IMF said in its April projection that the global economy is expected to contract by 3.0 per cent in 2020 — the worst



IMF chief Kristalina Georgieva attends a meeting in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on 21 March, 2020. PHOTO:: KYODO NEWS

downturn since the Great Depression in the 1930s — before returning to growth of 5.8 per cent next year.

But Georgieva said that the forecast is “extremely uncertain,” given that the world is still learning how the novel coronavirus behaves and how to make containment effective.

Scientists around the

world are also working on potential treatments and vaccines for the disease known as COVID-19, which has already killed hundreds of thousands of people globally despite lockdown and quarantine efforts to slow the spread of the virus.

Also emerging as a risk to the global economy is the possibility of a rekindled trade war between the

United States and China as the two countries dispute the origins of the outbreak.

Georgieva said issues of concerns include the pandemic’s impact on trade flows and global supply chains and urged countries and policymakers to avoid trade restrictions especially for medical equipment.

“Coordinated global action is required to fight the pandemic and to rebuild the global economy,” she said. While welcoming the fact that countries, including Japan, have provided fiscal support amounting to a total of about \$8 trillion to cushion the economic fall-out from the pandemic, the IMF chief advised governments to “spend as much as you can” as “exceptional times require exceptional actions.”— Kyodo News ■

Australian central bank releases dire economic update

SYDNEY — Many Australians could still be jobless by next Christmas, the country’s central bank warned in a dire economic outlook on Friday, as the impact of COVID-19 continued to be felt around the world.

In a Quarterly Statement on Monetary Policy, the Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) predicted that unemployment would remain as high as 9 per cent by the end of this year, and that the economy would contract by 6 per cent.

According to the report, the RBA expects Australia’s economy to contract by 10 per cent over the first half of 2020, marking the country’s first recession in nearly three decades, before beginning to recover in the second

half of this year.

“In many other economies, the most intense phase of the contraction is likely to occur in the June quarter,” the report said.

“Gradual recoveries should follow in the second half of the year, supported by the easing of restrictions and the significant expansion in both fiscal and monetary policies.”

Like many countries, Australia initiated strict lockdown and social distancing measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19. However, with the number of confirmed cases relatively stable at over 6,800, the Australian government on Friday released a three-step plan to ease the restrictions in coming months.— Xinhua

**HAPPY 44th BIRTHDAY TO
SAYARMA MAYFLORA
(10th May 2020)**

U.S.A (Ko Ko)

ALLIANCE FOR MICROFINANCE IN MYANMAR LIMITED hereby notifies all concerned that the founding shareholders of the Company have signed a share sale and purchase agreement with an existing shareholder, Asia Impact Investment Fund I (Singapore) Pte. Ltd (“AIIF”) on 21 February 2020, and that the board approved said share transfer. After discussions with then existing shareholders of Company, it was agreed that Swiss Microfinancing Holding S.A (“SMH”) and Bankruptcy Estate of Financial Systems Development Services S.A en liquidation, represented by the Bankruptcy Office of the Canton of Fribourg (“FIDES”) will no longer be shareholders of the Company and the shares of SMH (484 ordinary shares) and FIDES (5,021 ordinary shares) will be allocated to AIIF.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (066N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (066N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-5-2020 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 INTER ASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY. NO. (018S/019N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TRIESTE TRADER VOY. NO. (018S/019N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/TMT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V TAI HANG SHAN

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TAI HANG SHAN VOY. NO. (EM 2003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of TMIT-1 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 A.N.T IMPEX PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V FRIEDA

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V FRIEDA VOY. NO. (2005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-5/AIPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Yangon regional government to set up low-cost houses for squatters in Hlinethaya

By Zin Lin Myint

YANGON has become a large existing centre of increasing number of people on account of a flood of migrant workers from all parts of the country. A growing number of people lead to a high demand for apartments. Those in need of shelter in Yangon have squatted down on vacant space of lands and accordingly the number of the squatters has risen to hundreds of thousands in Yangon. With the intention of addressing such situation, Yangon regional government is building low-cost houses in partnership with the ministry concerned and social

organizations. For the time being Yangon regional government is planning to set up low-cost houses for the squatters in Hlinethaya.

Plans are underway to build low-cost houses

It is estimated that squatter population in Yangon stands at about 440,000 with 116,375 households.

Those who are in need of shelter intentionally squat down, but some people do for commercial reasons. For that reason Yangon regional government is planning to provide low-cost houses for the real squatter

households.

Under the guidance of Yangon regional government, the project of building low-cost houses is under implementation by Pyomayear Social Development Association. The project implementation committee is comprised of the General Administration Department, the Department of Urban and Housing Development, the Yangon City Development Committee and Pyomayear Social Development Association.

The project implementation committee managed to set up more than 260 low-cost houses in No. 19 Ward in Shwepyitha

Township, Yangon Region. The squatters have been provided for the first batch of 264 low-cost houses in Shwepyitha Township. **Key to project is cooperative measures**

The low-cost houses are made with galvanized iron sheet on the roof, timber on the flooring and marble slabs on the wall.

The low-cost houses are of two types. One type is 25 feet in length and 12 feet in width and another is 25 feet in length and 14 feet in width. Land, water and power supplies and transport links facilitated by Yangon regional government. Pyomayear Social Development Association

attended to the needs required for the project.

Monthly installment plan to settle the debt

Those people are the squatters from Shwepyitha Township and the data was collected by the officials. A low-cost house is worth about K3 million and the squatters are now staying at those houses. They are to pay off the value of the houses according to the monthly installment plan. The low-cost houses are like the housing owned by everyone, but not a single person.

Yangon regional govern-



The photo shows newly-built low-cost houses in Yangon. **PHOTO:**

ment has already had the plans to set up the low-cost houses in Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Seikkan and Hlinethaya. In some townships the people are staying at the already-built houses. The households are staying at about 150 low-cost houses already built on the area of 11 acres in No 130 Ward in Dagon Myothit (East).

The continued implementation of low-cost houses

Moreover, the construction of a total of 147 low-cost houses was completed on Hlawga Street in No 146 Ward in Dagon Myothit (South) where the households were already allowed staying by the authorities. The Yangon regional government will go on to carry out these low-cost housing projects during 2020, hoping that about 10,000 low-cost houses will emerge in each township.

The Yangon regional government and the households met to discuss the area of the house, formation of the room, construction cost and monthly installment plan. The low-cost house projects designed for the squatters are being carried out in the designated townships.

The site for the construction of the low-cost houses for the squatters in Hlinethaya Township is being reclaimed from University of Technology and Yoeyoelay. Hlinethaya is the township with the existence of most squatters in Yangon.

Low-cost houses are under construction in Hlinethaya, but the squatters do not require large houses because they are the ones who can't afford and have a few family members. The kitchen, the bed room and the toilet are essential.

The construction of the low-cost houses is according to the desire of the households. The Yangon regional government is also planning to build the houses worth of K1 million, K1.5 million and K2 million.

Hlinethaya has a population of about one million and so the east and the west parts have been divided there.

It is comprised of 20 wards, 9 village tracts and industrial zones. It is said that most of the working class people live in Hlinethaya. The implementation of the low-cost houses in Hlinethaya is aimed at raising a standard of living for the squatters.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay) ■ ■ ■

KBZPay inspires nationwide crowdfunding with donation function to support the work of philanthropic organizations

YANGON, Myanmar, 4 May 2020 — The COVID-19 pandemic has fundamentally changed the daily life of people throughout the world, but it has not swayed the generosity of people in Myanmar. From 1 January 2020 to 30 April 2020, KBZPay customers across Myanmar used the in-app 'Donation' function to contribute donations totalling MMK 67.8 million to seven philanthropic organizations.

KBZPay customers have the option of contributing donations to a curated list of seven philanthropic organizations: Shan State Buddhist University, Mary Chapman School for the Deaf, Muslim Free Hospital & Medical Relief Society, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) Childcare Centre, Kemar Rama Nunnery and Nunnery School Education (Thanlyin), Save The Aged and We Love Yangon.

The donations by KBZPay customers go a long way towards supporting the work of these philanthropic organizations especially during this COVID-19 period. In addition to providing services to communities in self-isolation and helping those in need of food and support, these organizations provide free medical services, look after vulnerable groups such as children



PHOTO : KBZPAY

and senior citizens and support the frontline heroes involved in healthcare and essential services.

One of the seven beneficiaries is We Love Yangon, a Yangon-based philanthropic organization which provides relief support to communities in Yangon affected by the impact of COVID-19. Just seven days after the launch of the 'We Love Yangon COVID-19 Fund' by KBZPay in early-April, KBZPay customers donated a total of MMK 5 million. To date, more than 5,731 donations valued at MMK 42.6 million have been contributed to the fund.

We Love Yangon, a volunteer-led organization chaired by Daw Than Myint Aung, was established in March 2020 with the support of the Chief Minister of Yangon Regional Government

and the Mayor of Yangon. In recent weeks, We Love Yangon has positively impacted the lives of many in Myanmar's most populated city through activities such as installing wash basins at public places; providing sanitizer, masks and thermometers; donating Personal Protective Equipment (PPE); distributing pamphlets; fumigating market places, schools and bus stops; buying medical equipment; launching public education campaigns; and selling basic items such as food and provisions at original prices to residents of Yangon.

To provide additional support to We Love Yangon, KBZ Bank set up a special merchant account and assigned a dedicated team to assist the organization with withdrawal of funds raised through KBZPay at any time. This has allowed the organ-

ization to provide relief services and procure items efficiently.

Said Ko Ah Yay Kyo, Vice Chairperson of We Love Yangon, "KBZPay has accelerated the donation process and made it possible for people to contribute towards various causes while staying safe at home. On behalf of We Love Yangon, I would like to extend our appreciation to KBZPay customers for their donations to our organization and to the KBZPay team for their uplifting support. We will continue our activities with vigour to support the communities of Yangon. Let's work together and emerge from this situation stronger."

"In times like this, we need to collectively support communities that are most in need. During this pandemic, philanthropic organizations play an important role in providing relief and recovery assistance to vulnerable communities. With 5 million users across the country, KBZPay strives to continue supporting charities across the country by crowdfunding more donations," said Daw Nang Lang Kham, Deputy CEO of KBZ Bank.

Members of the public can make a donation to support the activities of philanthropic organizations using their KBZPay mobile wallet, by tapping on the 'Donation' tab, selecting the beneficiary, tapping on 'Donate Now' and selecting the item to donate or the donation amount.—GNLM

Viber adds a privacy boost - bringing disappearing messages to regular chats

RAKUTEN Viber, one of the world's leading apps for free and easy communication, announces the upcoming launch of the "disappearing messages" feature to all chats on 4 May.

Previously a feature only available in secret chats, soon, any user will be able to set a timer for sending text, photo, video or other types of files for a few seconds, minutes, hours or even days. An automatic countdown to the deletion of the content will be started immediately after the recipient sees the sent message. The impact of disappearing messages in any 1x1 chats strengthens Viber's position as the world's most secure messaging app.

To create a disappearing message, a user needs to:

- Tap the clock icon at the bottom of the chat and select

the disappearance period for the message.

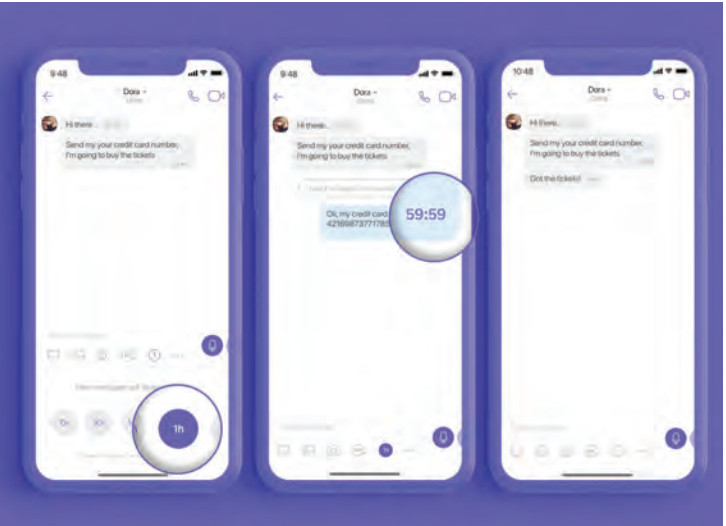
- Type and send a message to the recipient.

Viber has proven its commitment to privacy over the years. In Myanmar, Viber has been widely used for personal and professional communica-

tion as it offers safety, confidentiality and security. In a series of firsts in the messaging app space, Viber released a "delete message" feature for all chats in 2015, default end-to-end encryption in 2016, and hidden & secret chats in 2017. As part of its ongoing commitment to

privacy, Viber is announcing the launch of disappearing messages in regular chats. For Viber users in Myanmar, this innovative feature is a value-addition to keep the growing competition at the edge.

"We are proud to announce the disappearing messages feature launching in all 1-on-1 chats. Introduced by Viber in 2017 as part of the "secret" chats experience, over time we became convinced that a similar measure of ensuring confidentiality, including sending a notification when the recipient takes a screenshot of the disappearing message, should be added to regular chats. This marks another step in our journey towards being the safest messaging platform in the world," said Ofir Eyal, COO of Viber.—GNLM



Phone Myint Kyaw allowed wearing jersey with Myanmar flag in Chinese 8 Ball Game

THE Organizing Committee of Chinese 8 Ball Game allowed Myanmar pool player Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Ar Ti wearing jersey with Myanmar flag in the matches on 15 and 16 May.

Phone Myint Kyaw won good results in the competitions, and many fans from Myanmar supported him.

Therefore, the organizing committee allowed him wearing the jersey with Myanmar flag to honour him.

Though the committee only allows the players wearing jerseys with sponsors' names and logos, they allowed Phone Myint Kyaw wearing the jersey with Myanmar flag as he has many fans from Myanmar.

"I am glad as the committee allowed me wearing jersey



Phone Myint Kyaw (a) Ko Ar Ti. **PHOTO: KO AR TI'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

with Myanmar flag. The committee is preparing the jersey to be ready for 15 May game. I will try my best to get good results in coming matches," said Ko Ar Ti.

In the Chinese 8 Ball Game begun on 18 April, Phone Myint-

Kyaw garnered a total of 24,500 points from four games that all he won. The next matches for Phone Myint Kyaw are scheduled to take place on 15, 16 and 31 May. — Shine Htet Zaw

(Translated by Kyaw Zin-Tun)

Maradona autographs shirt to help Buenos Aires poor affected by COVID-19 quarantine

BUENOS AIRES — Diego Maradona has lent a hand in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic in his hometown by autographing an Argentina national team jersey for a raffle.

The sale raised money for

an underprivileged area on the outskirts of Buenos Aires affected by quarantine rules.

"We're going to get through it," Maradona wrote on the jersey, a replica of the one he wore when he led his country to victory

in the 1986 World Cup. The jersey was first offered at auction, but is being raffled to those who have given donations in an initiative that has collected hygiene products, masks and around 100kg of food for charity.—AFP ■

AC Milan president says some players recovering from coronavirus

ROME — AC Milan president Paolo Scaroni revealed on Friday that some of his squad members were still recovering from coronavirus.

Serie A has been on hold since mid-March but Italian Sports Minister Vincenzo Spadafora said on Thursday he was hopeful group training could resume on 18 May.

"We have some infected players in the process of recovery," Scaroni told local media.

Scaroni believes Italian football must live with COVID-19 and take an example from the Bundesliga which will restart on 16 May.

"We have to get used to living with the virus and this also applies to football," he said.

"It is not possible to stand still until there is zero infection. Basically we can adopt the German formula that provides that those who are sick go into quarantine while their teammates continue."

Milan technical director Paolo Maldini, together with his 18-year-old son Daniel, a youth team player, have both recovered from the virus.

"Maldini father and son are doing well. There are players who are improving, but we want



AC Milan forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic has been training with Swedish side Hammarby IF. **PHOTO: AFP**

to start playing again," said Scaroni.

The Lombardy club have returned to individual training this week and are expecting Swedish star Zlatan Ibrahimovic to return in the coming days.

On Thursday, Fiorentina and Sampdoria, confirmed ten positive tests — seven players and three staff members — a day after Torino confirmed a player had been infected.—AFP ■

Watford slam Premier League's 'distorted' neutral venue plan

LONDON — Watford have become the latest English top-flight club to hit out at proposals by the Premier League to end the season at neutral venues, with chairman Scott Duxbury worried about the impact of a "distorted nine-game mini-league".

Clubs are due to meet on Monday to consider the Premier League's controversial 'Project Restart' plan, which seeks to play the season to a finish following its suspension because of the coronavirus pandemic, with Watford joining fellow relegation candidates Brighton and Aston Villa in voicing their opposition.

Duxbury, while accepting fans cannot attend because of COVID-19, is unhappy with a proposal that would see 17th-place Watford denied the "familiarity and advantage" of playing at Vicarage Road.

"There is no altruism in the Premier League," Duxbury wrote in Saturday's edition of The

Times. "There are 20 different vested interests, which sometimes align but more often than not work purely to protect each individual club.

"That is why some clubs are happy to sign up to 'Project Restart' because arguably there is

only an upside in participating in this compromised format; it means (leaders) Liverpool can win the title, other clubs can book their place in Europe next season."

"But when at least six clubs -- and I suspect more -- are con-

cerned about the clear downside and the devastating effects of playing in this kind of distorted nine-game mini-league, then I believe the Premier League has a duty of care to address those concerns."

Duxbury said it was wrong

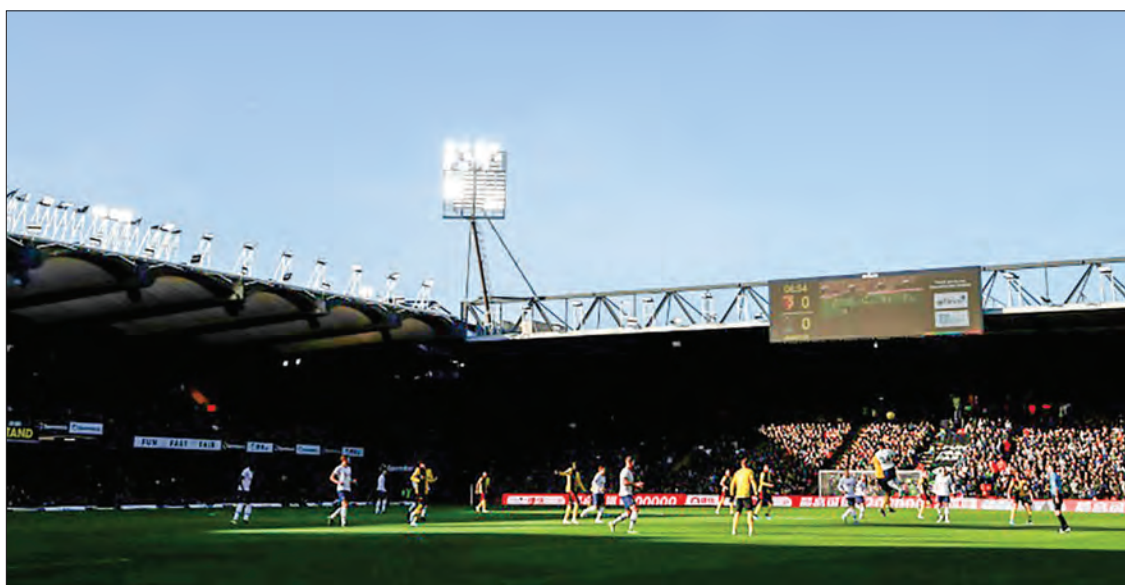
to switch to neutral venues three-quarters of the way through a season. "How can the long-term future of clubs be determined under these fundamentally changed conditions? How is there any semblance of fairness? To wave aside all the fears and concerns is too simplistic.

"Surely all 20 clubs must agree the fairest way forward to complete the season?" A 14-6 majority of would, however be enough for Project Restart to be put into action.

'Is this fair?'

Duxbury also insisted it was wrong to play matches when society was "probably still facing the kind of restrictions unenforceable on a football pitch".

"And with all these compromises and health risks we are asked to finish a competition that bears no resemblance to the one we started, which could end a small club like Watford's time in the Premier League.—AFP ■



Watford want to be able to finish their fight against relegation playing with the 'familiarity and advantage' of Vicarage Road. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

10 MAY 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



TOMORROW'S SKY



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

THE sky today looks darker than ever, mingled with the rain-laden, massive, dark clouds.

The girl has got down to the wide fields under the heavy drops of rain. She has left school due to her unpleasant situations in life. She feels very sorry, and so do her teachers and her friends. Her mother is heart-broken for her daughter. However, she can no longer resist the tortures of time and circumstances of the mundane world. By the time her father passed away, the situations of her life have gone upside down. However, this girl finds herself in such a really tight situation as would keep the family stable and meet the whole expenses of food, clothing, and shelter. She must wear a smile amid the paddy plants. She would be happy picking out the land crabs from the holes. There will be an increasing amount of the number of female farmers, who are the real benefactors.

Oh! My dear readers...

I would like to ask you a question. Are you learning in Grade X? Are you in one of the classrooms in a university? Is it enjoyable to attend classes? Are you going well with your teachers and classmates? Is there any subject which makes you confused? Don't you like the major you have taken? Do your parents encourage you to study hard? Are you in the situation in which you have to attend the class as a part-time student as you are working for a company? Of course, there are guys who have all the luck. On the other hand, things are not going well with some. Nevertheless, it will be really enjoyable and heartily satisfactory if you have a chance to be in a classroom and go on with your studies. Then, you have an opportunity to hoist a flag of success in your new sky of tomorrow. Moreover, you are able to afford to construct everything, especially your dream.

There, in the paddy field under the sky laden with rain clouds, the girl now becomes skilful in pulling out the rice seedlings and transplanting paddy. She is happy she now can keep her mother's kitchen going. She is, indeed, a clever and valuable daughter. But, in her leisure, she no more pulls out the old Grade IV textbooks. There, in the paddy field, she often attentively listens to the faint sound of the school bell, drifted far away from the village school. She still visualizes her school life, not vividly seen, which now belongs to the past. Whenever it rains heavily, her bosom yearns for something somewhere.

Guess what the sky tomorrow will be for this young woman's life.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR
DESIGN: BT



Photo: wikipedia

Mature yourself by learning Buddha's Teaching

By Johnthan Tun

THE BUDDHA is not just a name, but also scared thought, a thought that beats in every human heart, guides humanity, said Prime Minister Modi in his address on the occasion of Vesak Day on 6 May 2020.

Like the prime minister has said, Lord Buddha really touched the human's hearts with His unique characteristics. People freed from sufferings and gained happiness due to the unique human.

Can we become unique like Him, the Buddha? There is a Myanmar saying, "ကြိုးစားက ဘုရားဖြစ်နိုင်သည်". It means "If we try hard enough we too can become Buddhas."

Buddha is synonymous with service and dedication. Buddha, with a strong will power, is the climax of social change. Buddha is the one who is devoted to perseverance, self-sacrificing, and spreading joy all over the world, the prime minister said in his address.

It is clear that the appearance of the Buddha is very beneficial for the human beings. What are the qualities to be a Buddha? And what does a bodhisattva (a being-to-be-Buddha) perform?

Every Buddha has to fulfill Ten Perfections to attain Buddhahood. What are the Ten Perfections?

Before I answer the question, let me tell you a story about a very rich and learned man who fulfilled these perfections four Asankheyyas (countless world circles) and one hundred thousand aeons ago.

The very rich and learned man named Sumedha lived in the city of Amaravati.

After the death of his parent, his treasurer

showed him the colossal wealth he had inherited; also the names of his parents and forefathers who were the former owners whose names were written in the record books.

The treasurer replied that all were dead. He then asked why they did not take away their wealth with them.

The treasurer told him that the world was such that after death no one could take anything away with them, but must leave all their wealth behind.

On hearing this, Sumedha realized the wantonness of Samsara (the cycle of birth and death).

He then went to the king's palace and asked for permission to distribute his wealth.

When he could not finish one warehouse full of gold and precious stones in seven days, he become impatient and thought that he might die at any moment, and he had not yet finished distributing his twelve thousand five hundred warehouses full of treasures.

He immediately took the keys of the warehouses to the middle of the city and gave away all his wealth.

He freed his slaves, gave them immense wealth, and advised the people to renounce the world. He himself then entered the jungle and become a hermit.

Sakka, the King of the Devas, ordered Visakamma to build a temple for Sumedha and also to provide for the requirement of a hermit.

That Deity built the temple and provided Sumedha with the necessary things.

After seven days of deep meditation, he attained "Jhana" or divine ecstasy, i.e. supernatural powers, etc.

At that time Dipankara Buddha was staying at Sudasana Monastery in Amaravati together with four hundred thousand Arahats.

People of the neighboring city invited the Lord Buddha and his disciples to their city, where they prepared and built large halls to accommodate Lord Buddha and His disciples.

The people built and leveled the road with flags and flowers. They also strewed white sand on the ground. All the workers were eager and happy.

Sumedha the hermit, because he was always in the state of "Jhana", i.e. ecstasy, did not know that Dipankara Buddha was staying in the city.

One day as he was coming out of the jungle in search of food, he was surprised to see so many people working happily, leveling the roads.

He flew down and enquired of the reason. They told him that they were preparing the roads for Lord Buddha and his disciples to enter the city, to receive their offering of food, etc.

Sumedha thought to himself, "This word "Buddha" is very rare and we seldom hear it".

So he asked them to allow him to help. The people knowing that he had supernatural powers gave him a deep muddy valley to fill up.

He could use his supernatural powers, but he knew that he would get no merit for it. So instead of that, he worked very hard carrying basket of sand and trying to fill up the valley.

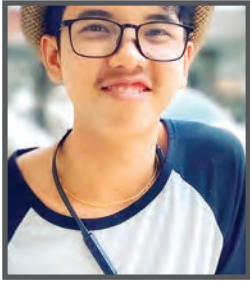
Before that part of the road was complete, Dipankara Buddha and his disciples together with a great procession of followers arrived.

Sumedha at once threw himself flat on the

SEE PAGE-S-3



FOCUS



By OS
2nd MBBS student
University of Medicine (2)

Focus,Focus,Focus
Like a mantra you only have to bear
in reality
It'll define your destiny...

Focus,Focus,Focus
Thing that'll give you power
You'll get things done spending less
hours...

Focus,Focus,Focus
The ability you've to master
You'll realize life's like a camera...

Focus,Focus,Focus
The muscle inside your mind
You've gotta find taking time...

FROM PAGE-S-2

ground and asked the Buddha to step on his body in order to cross the muddy valley.
By doing this meritorious deed, he knew that he could become an Arahata, but he gave up the idea and aspired to become a Buddha in the presence of the Supreme Buddha.
The deities of the ten thousand worlds and other beings knowing that on that day Sumedha would be registered as a Bodhisatta, came down and mingled with human beings.
At that time the people could see the Deities and heavenly music rank

in harmony with earthly music.
Dipankara Buddha announces to all the assembly of Deities and men that this Sumedha in the future would become a Buddha like himself.
The Buddha then offered eight handfuls of jasmine flowers given by a Novice and the Arahats and Deities did likewise.
Sumedha sat on the heap of flowers and meditated on what could be the Pre-requisites of Buddhahood.
He then found out that they were : Dana (Charity), Sila (Observance of precepts), Nekkhamma (Renunciation), Panna (Wisdom), Viriya (Ener-

gy), Khanti (Patience), Sacca (Truthfulness), Adhitthana (Determination), Metta (Loving Kindness), and Upekkha (Equanimity).
When he realized this, the earth shook and everyone present shouted "Sadhu", "Sadhu" and "Sadhu."
I believed that the answer to this question was one of the most important and profound disclosures ever made to humanity.
It takes very long times for the appearance of a Buddha in the world. However, it is not difficult to appear the Buddha in our own minds by recollecting the perfections of Bud-

dhas, and fulfilling some or all of the perfections as possible as we can.
"The best way to mature yourself" is to fulfill the perfections of a Buddha - Charity, Observance of precepts, Renunciation, Wisdom, Energy, Patience, Truthfulness, Determination, Loving Kindness, and Equanimity- in order to create a better world.
May all beings be free from sufferings and create the cause of happiness including fulfilling the ten perfections.
(Ref: arahana.tripod.com)

Only a handful of the new generations may have heard of the notorious "Death Railway". However, most of my generation and a few later generations would be quite familiar with that railway line though they may not have seen it with their own eyes, apart from those depicted in the Hollywood movies. Right after the Second World War (WW2) in 1945, many stories about that railway line emerged. Most of the stories were related to the hardships or the hellish conditions the people who were forced to construct that rail line were subjected to. There were also adventure-like stories of how some civilian forced laborers escaped. There were also lighter sides of the stories, where some fortunate escapees stumbled onto troves of treasures hidden in the jungles along their escape routes.

Later during my teen age years a very interesting movie was released by Hollywood. The name of the movie was "The

India, where they retreated without putting up much resistance. However, that was just a feint to trick the Japanese to think the British were no match to them. By then the Allied Armies had taken up strong defensive positions along the Burma-India border, especially at Imphal in Assam. For that final push the Japanese needed more arms and equipments and other commodities for their war efforts to be shipped to Burma. As the over 2000 nautical miles sea route was dangerously vulnerable to attacks, they chose to transport them overland across Indochina, then through Siam to Burma.

To make that possible they had to build a rail line to link Bangkok and Rangoon where the Burma Railways had established an efficient rail system. It spanned from right up north in Myitkyina to the south down to Than Byu Zayat, not very far from the Siam-Burma border, with many junctions. Before the war, the British had already surveyed

a route to construct a rail line linking Rangoon and Bangkok. The Japanese took advantage of that and constructed a rail line along that surveyed alignment across the Tennesarim Range (Tanintharyi Yoma).

The constructions started in June 1942 with two teams - one started from Bang Pong railhead a few miles west of Bangkok and another team from Than Byu Zayat railway station and completed in October 1943. The total

length was 258 miles, of which 69 miles was inside Burma and 169 miles in Siam. There were around 600 bridges along the route. That rail line provided a train link between Bangkok and Rangoon. The Japanese called it the "Siam - Burma Railway". It was built by forced labor - over 60,000 allied POWs were thought to be brought in from Singapore, where they became POWs when they fell and the rest were approximately 200,000 Asian conscripts, including

Burmese, recruited with false promises of good salary. They were forced to work under very harsh conditions and the foods were scarce and thus many risked their lives to escape. The Burmese laborers called themselves Chway Tat meaning "Sweat Army", a term that became well known in our younger days.

Actually, the original bridge depicted in the movie was a wood and bamboo structure covered with concrete for extra

strength. The bridge seen today is the second one built later with steel structures dismantled from a bridge in Indonesia. Most of the rail tracks were also from the rail network in Malaya. From my visits to the Museum at Kanchanaburi, I learnt that the first bridge was bombed by the US military planes in early 1945 just before the end of the war. Now the second steel bridge has become a popular tourist destination. There are throngs of

local and foreign tourists almost every day, especially in the open seasons during the winters and early summers. Nearly the whole town of Kanchanaburi is involved in the tourism business, thus it is known as the home of "The Bridge on the River Kwai".

Getting there

It is reachable by train or bus or car. Some foreign tourists travel by train, that runs twice daily to a place called Nam Tok station

in Saiyok Noi, some 81 miles from Bangkok, along a section of the old "Death Railway". Most tourists went by buses and cars and stayed at hotels, motels and inns in Kanchanaburi to spend their nights there and to go to places of attractions related to the "Death Railway" in and around the town before traveling by train from there to a place, where there was a large lime stone cave along the route and a beautiful waterfall close to its final station - Nam

Tok. The tourist attractions in Kanchanaburi are the The Bridge, War Cemetery, a theme park where the replica of a POW camp a displayed and numerous private museums. The most interesting is the museum run by the Australian veterans organization. It is situated just across a narrow road from the War Cemetery.

According to the records there are three such war cemeteries for soldiers who perished while constructing the "Death

rail line would pass.

The other place of interest is the "Three Pagodas Pass" located at the border with Myanmar in the town of Songhlaburi through which the rail line crossed the border. The road trip from Kanchanaburi to that place is very scenic as the road passes through dense teak forests over the Tennesarim Range. There is a large reservoir along which the road winds and zig-zagged as we drove through the dense forests. The many windings and zig-zagging made the climbs and descends seem less steeper than they are as the gradients are reduced. .

One interesting thing about the "Three Pagodas Pass" is, most of us in Myanmar thought that the three pagodas are inside our country. That was totally not so. Of course there is a town called Payar Thon Zu (Three Pagodas) inside our country immediately next to the border post, but the three small pagodas from which the Pass got its name are inside the Thai territory.

Conclusion

I had been to all those places during my four visits. The first time was in 1997 and in 2014, 2016 and 2019. As tourist destinations, those places are worth visiting, but for me the visits

The Death Railway revisited

By Khin Maung Myint

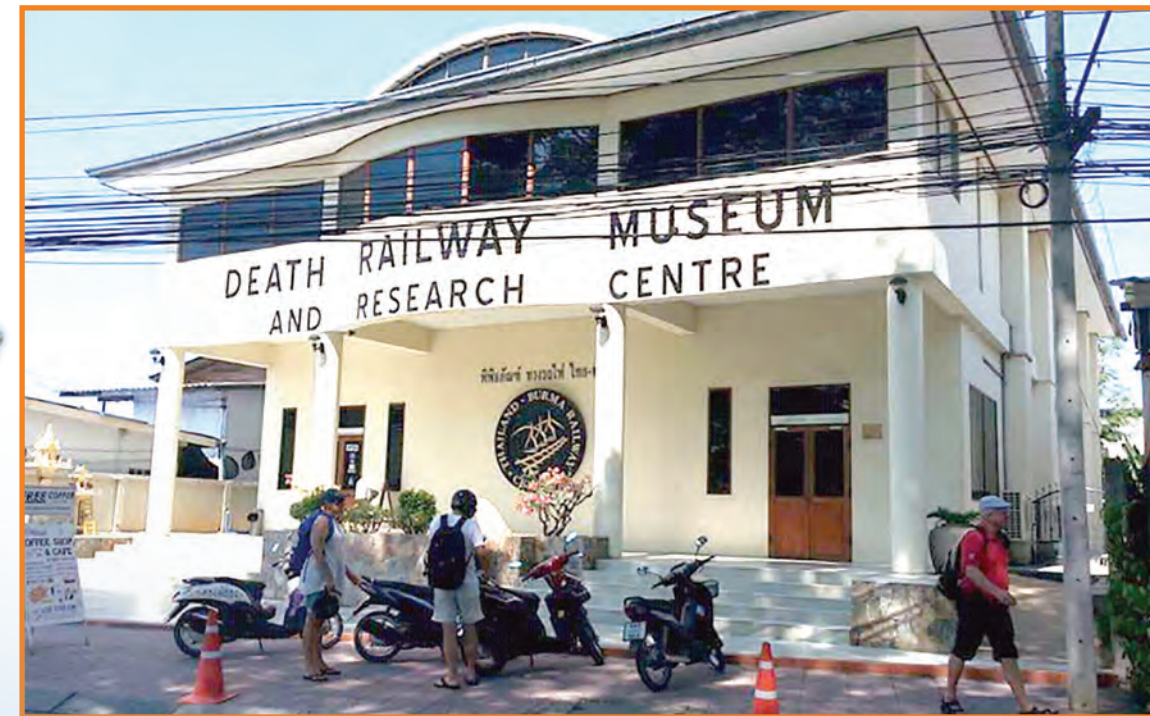


Death Railway Museum in Thanbyuzayat. PHOTO: GNLM

Bridge on the River Kwai", based on a factual fiction by that name. It was about the plights of the allied prisoners of wars (POWs) who were forced to construct that rail line linking Bang Pong, in Siam (Thailand) and Than Byu Zayat, in Burma. The highlight of the story was how the hero in the movie, a US Naval personnel, who escaped successfully from a labor camp inside Siam and later came along with a small group of British Special Force men as a guide to destroy one of the bridges built along that line.

Background history

In 1942, at the height of Japanese offensive during the WW2 to advance further into the British and its allies held territories in



Death Railway Museum and Research Centre in Kanchanaburi in Thailand.



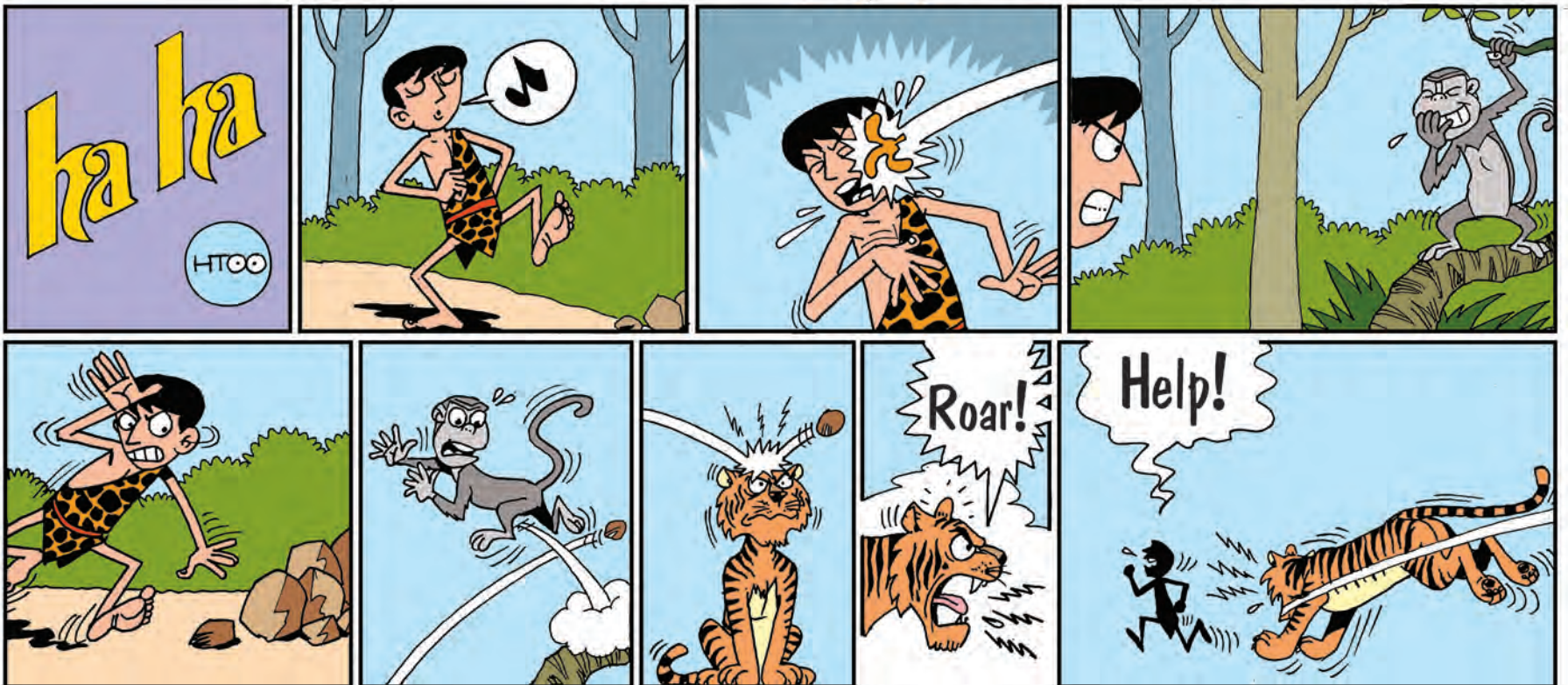
Tourists strolling along the bridge on the River Kwai in Kanchanaburi in Thailand. PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG MYINT

Railway". The other two are - one in Than Byu Zayat and the other, a much smaller one not far from the one in Kanchanaburi. Regrettably there was no such special burial place for the civilian laborers to be found.

Other places of interests are the "Hellfire Pass" and "The Three Pagoda Pass". At the "Hellfire Pass" the railroad had to pass through a large boulder. In normal circumstances, a tunnel would be dug through the rock, but without proper equipments, a chasm had to be cut from the top down to the level where the

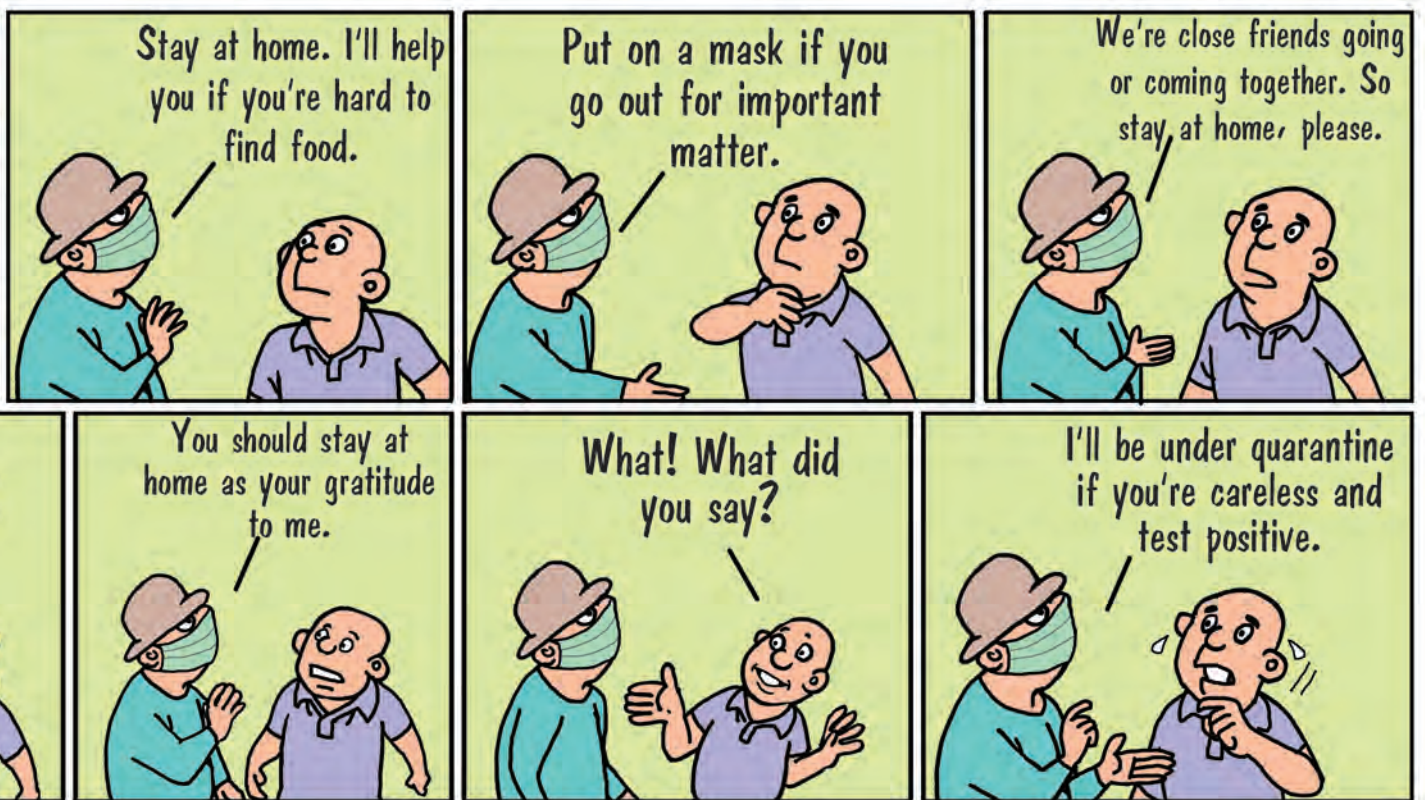
were to explore for knowledge sake and to have a glimpse of the place that fascinated me since my childhood. Whenever, I went to those places, I wished our authorities would develop the museum at Than Byu Zayat and reconstruct a certain length of the old rail line to promote tourism even if it's still not possible to reestablish the whole link up to Bangkok. If the whole section between Bangkok and Yangon could be reestablished it would benefit both the countries and the region greatly. ■

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020



Small stuff plays vital role as well



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

I have recently read a book named “Don’t Sweat the Small Stuff ... and it’s all small stuff” by Dr. Richard Carlson, a writer-cum-a psychotherapist. I was then in low spirits, and I was searching for motivational books when I came across that book, a USA bestseller of two consecutive years. Richard Carlson was born and raised in the Bay Area. He grew up in Piedmont and received his bachelor’s degree from Pepperdine University and his doctorate in psychology from Sierra University. During his life, he was considered one of the outstanding experts in stress reduction in the United States and around the world.

The book tells us not to worry about having bad feelings. It mentions some basic commonsense guidelines that we need to follow especially when we find it hard to cope with the stress. There are altogether 100 small sections in his book, each with different examples of his “rules.” For example, the book suggests appreciating others and appreciating yourself: Being kind to people; learning how to take positive criticism; Make someone else feel good; Don’t let your own thoughts stress you out; Stop procrastinating; Never ever backstab; stop scrambling; Recover quickly; Don’t keep people waiting; Take your breaks;

make a list of your personal priorities; use effective listening as a stress reducing tool; make the best of corporate travel; create a bridge between your spirituality and your work; confront gently; become aware of your wisdom.

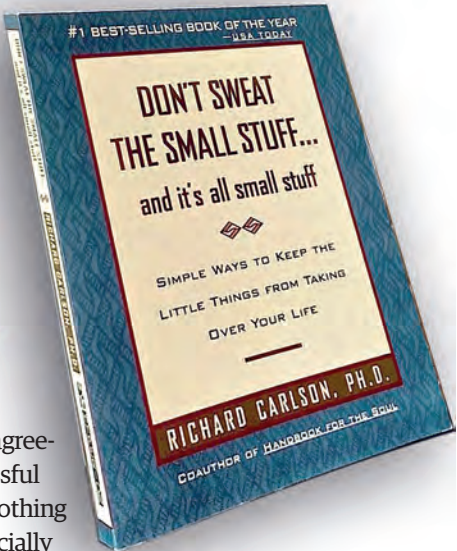
The main things I learned from Carlson’s book is to find own happiness everywhere else, and not focus on what others do or don’t do and overall, but put emphasis on positivity. It gave me some relevant advice on how I can avoid being hard on myself and become more productive. All in all, to some extent, it is a helpful book for people who live and work in the real world, as well as for those in the rat race or who are entering the rat race. Besides, the book has a positive message and usual life tips you hear from other people or with the exercise of your own common sense. Of the 100 extracts of advice offered in this book, about 75 of them says pretty much the same thing on staying positive.

Therefore, the book is not agreeable enough to lift the stressful mind up and I’ve learned nothing new or extraordinary. Especially the title makes me “hmn! Small stuffs depend on circumstances and acceptance of an individual”. In my opinion, good things are but always easier said than done. Each “small thing” he mentioned was so down-to-earth and easy to connect with. If you’re feeling you need to get control of your life or are struggling with a troublesome atmosphere, this is a good book to pick up. However, if you’re in control, this will bore you. And the suggestions confuse me over the fact that I must manage to be good to others starting from the day I have read. You are not you anymore.

Once I was said that I am definitely the one who stress out on all the small stuffs. Being one of the persons who focus on solutions and enjoyment instead of problems and concerns, I find small stuffs important. In the Collins Dictionary, small stuff

means minor issues or problems. As people look at the world or circumstances in a different way, the things they regard small stuff must be definitely different. For me, all small stuffs are also significant and nothing is small stuff in the world since they play their own important parts. Stress and pressure created from small stuffs actually depend on the one who accept it. We must realize we are our own worst enemy in regards to stress. Whenever we’re dealing with bad news, a difficult person, or a disappointment of some kind, most of us get into certain habits, that is, stress and disappointment. Definitely that traumatic experience comes to that person who witnessed them. Mostly we hold on to them too tightly, and focus on the negative aspects of life. When we are pressured and stressed, we waste our time minding the tinsy minsy stuff

SEE PAGE- S-8



MY WAY

I remember. It was the route that I used to go and come every day before. I left my village in the early morning. Then, I walked along the somewhat rough road up to the motorway for about half an hour. I took a random bus and got to the Dhala jetty. Then, I took a ferry from Dhala to Yangon. After that, I again took a line bus to get to my work. In the evening, I came back to downtown to attend the tuition classes as I had not passed the matriculation examination yet. By the time the tuition classes were over, it was already dark. I rushed to the Pansodan jetty to catch the last ferry. Sometimes, I missed it. At that moment, I had to take a small motorboat to cross the Yangon River. When I got onto the bank of the side of Dhala, there were few regular line buses or cars to be taken. In such a situation, I again hired a trishaw to continue about an hour ride. Then, I walked along the rough road to cross the field for about half an hour. I entered the sleeping village. My mom, who could not sleep yet, welcomed me at the entrance of the house with a lighted candle in her hand.

I remember. I was very exhausted as I followed my daily routine for almost the whole year. On the days when it rained heavily, I got soaked and chilled by the icy drops of rain. When I crossed the field outside the village, there was still the danger of the poisonous snakes. On moonless nights, I found many difficulties in walking along the road to the village. I often slipped and fell down there. I even craved for the frequent flashes of lightning so that they could show me some blurred views ahead. In winter, the wind surf-

ing through the field made me shiver in a penetrating chill. In summer, I could walk from the shortcut way to my house but I had to take care from stepping on the coppice shoots of the stubbles from the paddy fields in order not to get my feet pricked. Then, I entered the sleeping village. My mom, who could not sleep yet, welcomed me, as usual, at the entrance of the house with a lighted candle in her hand.

I remember. It was the last few days of the journey. On those days, I took a 10-day leave of absence from my work in order to sit for the matriculation examination. I had to sit for the exam in the Twante Exam center. Therefore, I did not need to go to Yangon. I left the village early and took a bus

to Twante. Then, I sat for the examination and went back to the village at noon. At the entrance of the house, my mom was waiting for my return, excited. Her daily questions were 'Are you Ok in the exam?' When I nodded my head smiling, she got really delighted a lot. She told me that her only expectation was my success in the examination. She did not want me to live a tough life. She said she wanted my life journey to go smooth without any difficulties. My mom's wish would be fulfilled as I did very well in every subject. On the night my exam was over, all of the family members went to bed late as we all were having a chat together. The candles were lit one after another.

I remember. It is the road I often come and go every day. When the work is over, I happen to come back home early. I do not need to walk in the dark. I no longer need to enter the sleeping village. I no longer see the candlelight of my mom. Whether I have to go in the late sunset once again I wonder. If I have to go through the same difficulties of walking in the dark again... If I have to go through the sleeping village again... If my mom, who would always be waiting for me with a lighted candle, is absent... Well, I will walk along the same road without fail. That is why I am not going to forget the road anymore that I used to go and come every day before.



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

FROM PAGE-S-7

in this world instead of fixing and turning our faces to what really pushes us into the edge.

Here, I'd like to share an event that gave me an important lesson. About a year ago I was a regular Facebook user. Although I was not addicted to it, I used Facebook to get the news and information, types of issues, other's life experience, and comments on the certain posts and so on. One day I was shocked by some comments on the particular posts and I

became depressed with the comments and the continuing posts. I could not help surfing Facebook of those persons and at the same times the posts and comments got me nightmare dreadfully. Several short and sweating sleeps passed many nights in air-conditioned bedroom. My mind felt so upset: whenever I used Facebook, my target was to go to that person's post tremblingly and examine what the post was for today and what comments made me sad again. Every day I lived with those comments from Facebook from

my wake up to the sleep. I was advised that I had just made the small stuff a big issue, and that Facebook is not life. I was advised not to use Facebook. However, without Facebook nowadays is really challenging. I was extremely troubled and worried about the complications as well as the possible consequences whenever I took a peek into the Facebook. Truly those small stuffs were about to ruin my life, which I realized ultimately. In the meantime, I decided not to use Facebook until I have accepted Facebook the small

stuff and I must exploit some advantages from Facebook-distancing. Paying attention on to the small stuff, I have to tap in a distinct advantage.

What I want to conclude is that small stuffs mean, for me personally, attention to detail and learning as much as you can about them as individuals, not just as prospects. They cover many areas, as well. There are small stuffs that remain in life for you to begin to create a more peaceful and loving you.