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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Myanmar, Cambodian Leaders exchange congratulatory messages on 65th Anniversary of diplomatic relations

U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged messages of congratulations with His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Kingdom of Cambodia which falls on 12 July 2020.

On the same occasion, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar also exchanged messages of congratulations with Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.—MNA

Myanmar, Lao Leaders exchange congratulatory messages on 65th Anniversary of diplomatic relations

U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged messages of congratulations with Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Lao People's Democratic Republic which falls on 12 July 2020.

On the same occasion, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar also exchanged messages of congratulations with Dr Thongloun Sisoulith, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic.—MNA

245 Myanmar citizens fly back home from Malaysia, Singapore on 11 July

A TOTAL of 245 Myanmar nationals — 170 from Malaysia and 75 from Singapore — returned home by Myanmar Airways International (MAI)'s two relief flights both landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday.

On arrival at the Yangon International Airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided them with proper medical checks and arranged 21-day quarantine for them.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries and local ministries concerned to bring back citizens stranded abroad due to the suspension of international commercial flights, in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

A total of 7,545 Myanmar citizens have been brought back home to date. —MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar nationals returned from Singapore queue for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 11 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

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Myanmar, Lao Vice-Presidents exchange congratulatory messages on 65th Anniversary of diplomatic relations

U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Vice Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, exchanged messages of congratulations with Mr Phankham Viphavanh, Vice President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Lao People’s Democratic Republic which falls on 12 July 2020.—MNA

Tatmadaw MPs, admin staff test negative for COVID-19

TATMADAW True News Information Team has announced that Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and their administration staff, who will attend the Second Hluttaws’ 17th regular sessions, tested negative for COVID-19.

A total of 242 MPs and admin staff – 166 Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives, and their

5 office staff, 28 dinning staff, 10 drivers for Hluttaw, 16 drivers for guests, 3 persons for disinfection, and 14 janitors– were tested with COBAS 6800 diagnostic machine at the Defence Services General Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Health Minister inspects testing of MPs for COVID-19

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe, accompanied by Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, inspected the testing of Hluttaw representatives for COVID-19 at the Municipal Guest House (2) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A total of 450 Hluttaw representatives were tested for COVID-19 at the eight rooms of the Municipal Guest House (2), and the MPs’ specimen were transported to the National Health Laboratory (Yangon).

The results of the laboratory testing will be released today (12 July).

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Public Health and Medical Services Department led the medical testing and collecting specimen of MPs.

Doctors and nurses from Nay Pyi Taw 300-bed General Hospital and staff from Nay Pyi Taw Public Health and Medical Services Department participated in the medical testing process.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

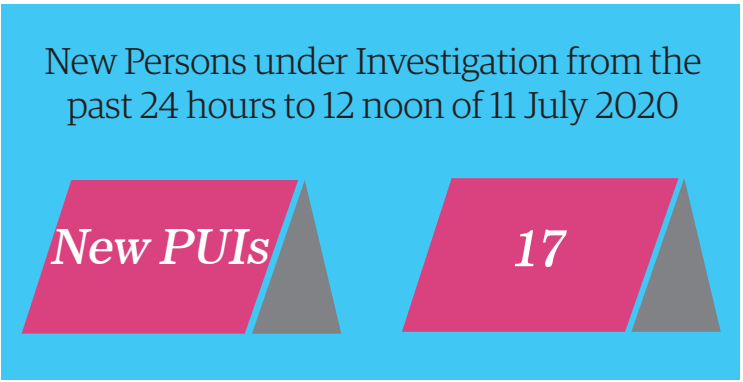


Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe inspects testing of Hluttaw representatives for COVID-19 at the Municipal Guest House (2) in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July 2020. PHOTO:MNA

COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 330 after four new cases reported on 11 July

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reached 330 after four new imported cases, who returned from England and India, were reported on 11 July, according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the 330 confirmed cases, six died, 260 have recovered, 247 have been discharged from hospitals and 17 have been under investigation.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 11 July 2020



Four new cases of COVID-19 on 11 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Oversea travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
327	35	Male	Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, England	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hlegu Township)
328	23	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)
329	23	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital	Positive	
330	22	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital	Positive	

“...We want real freedom and not tinsel and sham of it. When we say real freedom, we mean the freedom not only to plan our political destiny but also the economy and defence of our country by ourselves ...”

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at the 2nd session of the Supreme Council of AFPFL, 16 May 1946)



Union Minister, officials seek means for film industry development



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint speaks at the meeting with officials from Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO) at MRTV office in Yangon on 11 July 2020. **PHOTO:MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint met officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization (MMPO) at MRTV office in Yangon yesterday morning, and sought means for development of Myanmar films.

In his keynote address, the Union Minister said the motion picture academy award presentation ceremony was postponed because of COVID-19. As the film production, distribution and screening have also come to tem-

porary halt, there appear worries about a long-term closure of the whole industry. Hence, proper suggestions based on the film/TV production and screening in foreign countries alongside the measures for COVID-19 prevention were presented. A demonstration of the production of a film in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) was presented to the officials, and the arrangements are underway

for another demonstration of the safety plans at cinemas. In this regard, preparations for holding the academy award presentation ceremony and the centenary of the Myanmar motion picture must be conducted in accordance with the health guidelines.

Then Chairman of MMPO U Nyi Nyi Tun Lwin and executive committee members presented reports on the proposals for production of new films in coordination with officials, keep-

ing of travells records of all the performers of a film, COVID-19 prevention measures taken at the film studios and outdoor sites, the designation of 13 October this year as the date for the centenary and the making of an approval for the grand centenary with the participation of the public in December this year at the meeting in coming August and the safety measures at the academy award presenting ceremony. The Union Minister looked into the require-

ments.

Director-General of Myanmar Radio and TV U Ye Naing and acting heads of Information and Public Relations Department and Printing and Publishing Department also took part in the discussions.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint discussed the holding of the task-force meeting of the centenary in the third week of coming August and preparations for ensuring safety at the film shooting sites and cinemas.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister took part in the meeting on the progress of the MRTV work at the same venue. Director-General of MRTV U Ye Naing presented a report on the continuous airing of the Arzani Day commemorative programmes and the live broadcasting of the 73rd Anniversary Arzani Day, and the production and broadcasting of awareness programmes for coming General Election 2020.

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint then inspected the preparations for live broadcasting of the Arzani Day, the General Election and the motion picture centenary.—MNA

(Translated by TMT)

611 Myanmar nationals from Thailand return through Myawady border

A total of 611 Myanmar migrant workers returned from Thailand through Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) yesterday.

Kayin State Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin Aung, District Administrator U Tayzar Aung, Township Administrator U Phyo Zaw Ko Ko, Myawady District Immigration and Population Department Head U Aung Khine Swe and officials provided

the returnees with health examinations and other needs.

Until now a total of 45,703 Myanmar citizens came back through this border crossing since 1 May.

Yesterday's batch of returnees included 339 males and 272 females.—Htain Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Myanmar migrant workers returned from Thailand are seen at the Myawady border on 11 July 2020. **PHOTO: HTAIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Only 200 allowed to visit Bagan pagodas, U Bein Bridge daily

ONLY 200 people are allowed to visit pagodas in Bagan region and U Bein Bridge daily, said Union Minister U Ohn Maung of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism at a video-conference regarding the impact on the hotels and tourism industry held on 10 July.
Regarding the restriction of the number of visitors, we

are complying with the social distancing rule which is issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, he added.
“The pagodas in Bagan region and U Bein bridge are visited mostly by groups of family members. So, we will let each family move around with six feet away from each other. There will be further rules and

regulations,” he stressed.
The travelling in compliance with the restricted number of people is being practised in Angkor Wat pagoda in Cambodia. To stimulate the activities of the tourism sector in Myanmar under the social distancing rule, we need to set up more tourism areas in Myanmar, according to the

Myanmar Tourism Federation.
Although the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is not encouraging travelling yet, around 400-500 local travellers are visiting the pagodas in Bagan region daily, according to locals from Bagan region.
—Zin Yaw Aye ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Manageable-scale eugenia growers earn regular income in Kawlin Tsp

MANAGEABLE-scale eugenia growers are earning regular income in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region. The eugenia (locally known as Thabyay) are colourful, sustainable, cost-saving and marketable. So, some of the villages in Kawlin Township are growing the eugenia flowers on their farms or beside their houses on a manageable scale.
There are varieties of eugenia flowers such as Padam-yar eugenia, Aung eugenia, Shwe eugenia and Asian eugenia. After growing over six months of Padamyar eugenia, Aung eugenia and Shwe eugenia, the local farmers can cut the branches and sell them at the market. As for the Asian eugenia, the growers can cut the branches after one year



A woman plucks eugenia leaves at a garden estate in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region. PHOTO: MYAT TUN MIN (KAWLIN)

and six months. The eugenia trees have to be treated with the use of fertilizers and pesticides half monthly. If the eugenia trees are grown five feet

in between, the branches of the trees are spreading and growing beautifully.
“We have been growing eugenia for more than 10 years

and have 800 trees currently. Every day, we pick up the eugenia and get over 100-170 bans. A handful of eugenia is sold for K500. We are earning over K10,000 per day,” said Daw Swe Swe Oo, a eugenia tree grower from Kyaw Zayar Ward-1.
With the saving of costs for planting, the local growers can make more profits. By growing more than 1,200 eugenia, they can earn around K15,000-K20,000 daily. The eugenia is highly demanded by the market. So, the local people who have extra space of land should grow the eugenia trees on a manageable scale, which can earn the growers the regular income. —Myat Tun Min (Kawlin) ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Glory Farmer Development Bank to open new branches

THE new branches of Glory Farmer Development Bank-G Bank will be opened in Yangon, Myawady, Muse, Tachilek and Taunggyi townships, according to the bank’s press statement.
The head office of the G Bank is located in Yuzana Street in Bayint Naung Market, Yangon, and its branches were providing the banking services including saving, loans, and lo-

cal remittances during banking hours.
The first branch of G-Bank was opened in Monywa Town, Sagaing Region in September 2018. The bank’s vision is to assist the development of Myanmar’s agricultural sector, which is regarded as the country’s lifeblood.—GNLM ■
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



A branch of G-Bank in Mandalay is seen. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Over 90 traffic-related deaths reported in Ygn in six months

THERE were a total of 339 traffic accidents in Yangon Region in the first six months of 2020, resulting in over 90 deaths, according to the No 2 Traffic Police.
A total of 97 persons were killed while 445 others injured between January and June in 2020.
In the country, a total of 62 persons were killed in 203 road

accidents in January, 73 deaths in 204 accidents in February, 52 deaths in 108 accidents in March, 37 deaths in 119 accidents in April, 50 deaths in 153 accidents in May and 47 deaths in 186 accidents in June.
In 2019, Yangon Region saw 2,324 accidents in which 671 people died with 2,667 others injured.

2019 saw the largest numbers of accidents and deaths in three years, according to the official statistics of traffic accidents.
Reckless driving, over-speeding, defective vehicles, and inclement weather were identified as the main causes of accidents on the country’s roads and expressways.

“To reduce the traffic accidents, we are providing awareness talks continuously,” said an official from the Traffic Police Force. In Myanmar, there is an average of 48 traffic accidents every day, killing 14 people and injuring 73 others.
—Aye Cho ■
(Translated by Hay Mar)

It is very important to live with vigilance

It has been said that the way COVID-19 disease spread was different from country to country. It changed from one place to the other. In Myanmar, it has been said that most of the infection cases did not show any symptoms. It was very dangerous. If the symptoms were visible the disease could be avoided. If the COVID-19 disease did not show visible symptoms, it could not be avoided. That was why it was very important to live with vigilance.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions with senior health officials on 30 June 2020)



Commemorative ceremony held for 2020 World Population Day

A ceremony was held to mark the commemoration of 2020 World Population Day at 9:30 am yesterday at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by Union Minister U Thein Swe, Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaing, the permanent secretaries, the director-generals and officials from relevant ministries, UNFPA Deputy Regional Representative Ms Nelida Rodrigues and invited officials.

First, Union Minister U Thein Swe said that the World Population Day events were held annually and they aimed to raise awareness on various population issues and to focus on implementation; in so doing with a theme for each year, the theme for 2020 World Population Day was to safeguard the health and rights of women and girls in the Covid-19 period; the pandemic affected every nation's health, economy and social conditions extensively; it had stopped the travelling from one nation to another and the mutual relationships were also cut; reproductive health and family planning had taken a backseat as all countries were focusing on responding directly to COVID-19.

He continued to say that according to the research from United Nations, about 7 million women will likely get unintended pregnancy as they are unable to have access to contraception



A ceremony to commemorate World Population Day is in progress at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw on 11 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

during the pandemic; because of the restrictions, about 31 million people would experience gender-based violence; 60 per cent of the women across the world working in informal sectors are experiencing poverty; it can be seen that old people, children, pregnant women and people with chronic diseases are at a high risk of death if they are exposed to the virus; according to the result of the 2019 population by-census, mortality rate and birth rate of the child have been decreasing and it can be seen that the demographic trend has been changing; in Myanmar, the percentage of the above 60-year-old people has increased from 8.9% in 2014 to 10.1% in 2019 as well as the women population is more than

men because of the high death rate of men and moving abroad. Because of the high birth rate in Myanmar in the last decades, we are now in the era of the abundant human resources called “demographic bonus”; if we can create opportunities for education and skills training now to the young people who are going to come to the manpower, it will provide the high social standard of all people; if not, those productive young people will have to face the job scarcities and the challenges of social security; in Myanmar, only 50 out of 100 productive women are working and it can be seen that they can't apply fully yet their work power to develop the country's economy. Besides, it can be seen that

most of the people working in family businesses and uncatagorized businesses are also women; according to the assessment of the World Health Organization (WHO), COVID-19 period will be with us for the long term and we need to predict the impact on the situations of the country's population and socio-economy; we need to prepare not to get affected to the old people and people with chronic diseases; we need to plan for the women to get access to the contraception as well as for the awareness of the reproductive health and women rights; to create job opportunities to the young people in this time and we need to prepare to make rehabilitation programmes for the people who lost their jobs.

Moreover, since the people are repatriated to Myanmar, there will be more job scarcities; people can be stressed out due to being jobless, and it may lead to domestic violence; thus, the plan to give service for mental health is also important.

The Ministry has been doing all the processes such as accepting the repatriated people through international borders, supervising the construction sites and industries to make them follow the guidelines and procedures of the Ministry of Health and Sports, and conducting to give social security benefits to the employees from the industries and workplaces which apply to social security law; the ministry is trying to release the result of the 2019 population by-census as fast as possible to review and analyze the current population and socio-economic facts correctly; as they were collected just right before the pandemic, it would assist to analyze the impacts of the COVID-19 and to prepare systemically the remedy.

Afterwards, Ms Nelida Rodrigues explained the performance of the UNFPA.

The ceremony was concluded following the minister and the attendees had watched the video animation clip, which describes the theme of 2020 World Population Day. — MNA ■

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

3 Tatmadaw personnel returned from India test positive for COVID-19

THREE Defence Services personnel, who recently returned from India, tested positive for COVID-19, according to Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

The team released statements on 27 and 28 June and 3 and 4 July that 48 Tatmadaw personnel who returned from India on 26 June were quarantined at Yangon Command, and

eight of them tested positive for COVID-19. Forty military personnel, who had contacts with them, were put under quarantine. Three of them tested positive

for COVID-19 after testing with Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) at the 1,000-bed Defence Services Hospital in Mingaladon. They are in stable condition receiving medical treatments

at the Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital in Mingaladon. — MNA ■ *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

National Steering Committee honours volunteers, CSOs in Mon State

THE National-Level Volunteer Steering Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment on COVID-19 presented certificates of honour, badges, face-masks and hand sanitizers to the volunteers and civil society organizations (CSOs) that are fighting against COVID-19 pandemic in Mon State yesterday.

A ceremony to present the certificates of honour was held at the Mawlamyine University's 10-township Hall, which is open as quarantine centre.

Secretary of the Volunteer Steering Committee and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye was accompanied by Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan, the Social Affairs Minister, Social Welfare Department's Deputy Director-General, and officials from Public Health and Medical Services Department and General Administration Department at the ceremony.

The Union Minister and party presented the certificates of honour for 1,102 volunteers



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye provides cash assistance to a pregnant woman in Mon State on 11 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

and 70 civil society organizations in Mon State to the State Chief Minister, and badges, facemasks and hand sanitizers to the volunteers and CSOs rep-

resentatives.

The ministry also provided a total of K15.96 million, K30,000 per one, from its fund for the quarantine centre's 300 preg-

nant women, 204 children under 5, 20 elderly persons and one disabled person to an in-charge of the quarantine centre.

The Chief Minister provid-

ed cash assistance for the quarantine centre's volunteers who prepare foods.

The Social Affairs Minister gave children's books on COVID-19 awareness to an official of the quarantine centre.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party inspected the newly-opened Chaungzon Preschool in Chaungzon Township and discussed with the school's officials to abide by COVID-19 health guidelines when preschools are reopening.

The Union Minister gave K30,000 each to the pregnant women, children under 5, the elderly persons and the disabled, who returned from foreign countries and completed their quarantine periods in Chaungzon Town.

They also visited Chaungzon Town's Kyaik Mu Nine Pagoda and donated cash to the pagoda through the pagoda's Board of Trustees. —MNA ■

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

US provides \$16.5 mln in assistance to Myanmar to respond to COVID-19

THE United States Government is providing an additional \$3 million to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Myanmar, bringing the total U.S. support for COVID-19 response in Myanmar to \$16.5 million since February. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is providing these additional funds for humanitarian assistance to address the spread of COVID-19 among vulnerable and conflict-affected populations.

"The United States is providing life-saving support to people in Myanmar through these contributions. The U.S. government contribution to Myanmar's COVID-19 response is now nearly \$16.5 million, and builds on our longstanding cooperation to improve health across the country. This assistance reaches millions of people in Myanmar, including communities affected by conflict."

said the U.S. Charge d'Afaires George Sibley. "U.S. assistance to address the COVID-19 pandemic comes on top of long-term investments in Myanmar that total more than \$1.3 billion over the last twenty years, including more than \$176 million in health," he added.

The new \$3 million of humanitarian assistance funding for COVID-19 response in Myanmar will help save lives through:

- * Additional provision of water and sanitation supplies, including soap and handwashing stations to address water shortages and support hygiene for vulnerable populations, including those people living in IDP camps;

- * Provision of critical cleaning supplies in areas with high risk of COVID-19 spread;

- * Child protection and psychosocial services, including support to children affected by quarantine; and

- * Prevention of and response to gender-based violence exacerbated by the stresses caused by COVID-19 on families and the economy.

The U.S. State Department and USAID are working with our partners, to adapt and contextualize existing humanitarian programs to fit local needs and improve COVID-19 readiness efforts around the world.

In addition, with \$8.3 million of the total COVID-19 response for health assistance, the people of the United States are helping save lives by supporting Myanmar's public health response in the following areas:

- * Helping to screen and detect more cases, including through case investigations and contact-tracing;

- * Supporting health care providers to respond safely and combat the spread of infection, including in conflict-affected

areas and through ethnic health organizations;

- * Providing expertise, training, and equipment to strengthen laboratories to scale-up testing; and

- * Improving families' knowledge of how to prevent and respond to the transmission of COVID-19, by producing and disseminating information in multiple languages and through various channels such as print and social media.

The United States is also continuing to provide technical assistance to the Ministry of Health and Sports in partnership with other global technical and donor partners, through the engagement of senior U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) epidemiologists and laboratory scientists, in response to the pandemic. CDC will provide ongoing technical support for active surveillance to enhance early case detection and to train the health

workforce of Myanmar. CDC is providing laboratory technical assistance so that Myanmar public health professionals can best utilize test kits and supplies. The United States has also provided test kits and supplies to Myanmar through USAID, the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Sciences (AFRIMS), a joint U.S.-Thai collaboration, and other donors to Myanmar's National Health Laboratory.

For decades, the United States has been the world's largest provider of bilateral assistance in health. Since 2009, American taxpayers have generously funded more than \$100 billion in health assistance and nearly \$70 billion in humanitarian assistance.

(For more information about USAID's response to COVID-19, please visit: <https://www.usaid.gov/coronavirus-covid-19>)—US Embassy, Yangon

MRTV producing electoral campaign programmes in Yangon

The Myanmar Radio and Television is producing campaign songs and demonstration of vote casting at the polling stations for 2020 General Election.

The programmes are being produced at the studio 1 and 2 of MRTV office on Pyay Road, Yangon, yesterday.

The Ministry of Information, the MRTV, the Film Development Centre, the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization and the Myanmar Music Association have been working together with famous singers in shooting of songs on 6, 16, 26, 27 and 29 June.

Short films and public service announcement for voter education will also be produced in coordination with famous film directors. —Yi Yi Sandi *(Translated by Aung Khin)*

Coronavirus can still be brought under control: WHO chief

CITING the examples of Dhara-vi, Italy, Spain and South Korea, he said that however bad an outbreak was, the virus could still be reined in through aggressive action.

The World Health Organization said on Friday that it is still possible to bring coronavirus outbreaks under control, even though case numbers have more than doubled in the past six weeks.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the examples of Italy, Spain, South Korea and India's biggest slum showed that however bad a outbreak was, the virus could still be reined in through aggressive action.

"In the last six weeks cases have more than doubled. However there are many examples

from around the world that have shown that even if the outbreak is very intense, it can still be brought back under control," Tedros told a virtual press conference in Geneva.

"And some of these examples are Italy, Spain and South Korea, and even in Dharavi -- a densely packed area in the megacity of Mumbai -- a strong focus on community engagement and the basics of testing, tracing, isolating and treating all those that are sick is key to breaking the chains of transmission and suppressing the virus," he added.

The novel coronavirus has killed at least 555,000 people worldwide since the outbreak emerged in China last December, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP



WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus. (FILE PHOTO|AFP)

on Friday. Nearly 12.3 million cases have been registered in 196 countries and territories.

"Across all walks of life, we are all being tested to the limit. from countries where there is exponential growth, to places that are loosening restrictions and now starting to see cases rise. Only aggressive action combined with national unity and global solidarity can turn this pandemic around," Tedros said.

SOURCE: AFP

App developed to help nurses reduce contact with COVID-19 patients



A nurse uses the OPERe app at Nissan Tamagawa Hospital in Tokyo's Setagaya Ward in June 2020. PHOTO: (KYODO)

A start-up company is offering a smartphone application to hospitals that allows coronavirus patients to communicate their needs to nurses without physical interaction, potentially helping ward off cluster outbreaks.

Hospital patients usually use the nurse call button when they need something, but those admitted with COVID-19 are placed in isolation wards and physical contact with nurses, who must wear protective gear, is kept to a minimum to prevent the spread of the virus among staff. With the app, developed by OPERe, a company established by former nurse Yuka Sawada, patients can ask nurses to buy things from shops on their behalf, request changes to meal quantities and record their body temperatures. Whatever is inputted appears immediately on

screens at nurse stations.

Apart from endangering staff and other patients, clusters of coronavirus infections occurring on wards force hospitals to turn away outpatients and emergency patients.

Sawada, 32, said the idea for the app arose from her own experience at a hospital when she gave birth. She found it inconvenient that the call button was the only way to get in touch with nurses.

The app, which has now been installed in several hospitals, offers different categories, reflecting data on patients' needs gathered from interviews with hospitals. Nissan Tamagawa Hospital in Tokyo's Setagaya Ward, which installed the app in May, has received positive feedback from patients.

SOURCE: KYODO

UK theatre industry faces bleak future despite government support

NUFFIELD Southampton Theatres (NST), an institution that comprises two venues in Southampton, is set to permanently close. The theatre, which has run for over 50 years, announced that it went into administration in May after it suffered a severe drop in ticket sales amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Even though the British government announced an emergency support package to help protect the future of theatres, a number of venues like NST have still had to close.

Philippa Childs, head of Bectu, the union for creative ambition representing over 40,000 staff in the media and entertainment industries, said the horizon is not looking good. Due to social distancing measures and uncertainty, many theatre companies say they cannot see themselves reopen before 2021.

LACK OF ROADMAP

"The theatre industry is in a pretty parlous state, theatres were told to close down back in March. Since that time, they've been dark pretty much," Childs told Xinhua in an exclusive interview.

"Some theatres have already started to cancel pantomimes, which is a money spinner for theatres -- they rely on the money from pantomimes in order to survive throughout the year," said Childs.

"Generally, theatres don't

have huge reserves, so this period of having absolutely no income has been quite devastating for them. We've seen some go into liquidation and we've seen a lot in the last couple of weeks starting to talk about redundancies," she said.

Part of the industry's frustration is that the government has not issued a roadmap out of the crisis with clear dates for theatres to work towards.

The concern is not just on the finances of the industry, but also on how it can continue in a post-lockdown world with social distancing measures.

"If you know lots of British theatres, the buildings are old, the entrances are very narrow, the toilets are very small, the

seats very squashed together. So the idea of even one-metre-plus, and people being able to go back to the theatre at one-meter-plus is not financially viable and actually, I wonder, how enthusiastic people would be under those circumstances anyway. It's a pretty bleak picture for UK theatre at the moment," said Childs.

REOPEN DILEMMA

On July 4, the government announced that theatres could reopen, but could not stage live performances. As the key selling point of any theatre is that of its live performances, many within the industry were left scratching their heads on how to continue to operate under the guidance.

SOURCE: XINHUA



Even though the British government announced an emergency support package to help protect the future of theatres, a number of venues like NST have still had to close. PHOTO: NUFFIELD SOUTHAMPTON THEATRES (NST)

Let's do what benefits all while staying healthy amid coronavirus pandemic

THE coronavirus pandemic is becoming a threatening factor not only for the people in a specific region but for the global public generally as well. People all over the world are facing an unprecedented situation like staying at home, distancing physically or socially, frequently washing hands, measuring body temperature etc. Governments are imposing and enforcing more or less stringent restrictions or limitations while

The lifestyle of the people needs to change in the face of the new coronavirus 2019. Its impacts on the health, social and economic life of the people are also huge enough to the extent of no return. All of us need to live in a new mode of lifestyle.

COVID, we will need to change some aspects of our lifestyle even if we cannot change society as a whole per the requirements." The lifestyle of the people needs to change in the face of the new coronavirus 2019. Its impacts on the health, social and economic life of the people are also huge enough to the extent of no return. All of us need to live in a new mode of lifestyle. We also need to behave ourselves strictly in line with the health protocols directed by the health authorities.

We would like to give just a friendly reminder once again to all -- staying at home as much as you can, physically or socially distancing, putting on a facemask in public, frequent hand washing, and so on. That's the most appropriate way of living with the deadly viral infection. Living this way also benefits you as well as all of us together.

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“Cambodia-Myanmar Diplomatic Relations turn 65: Celebrating traditional ties, cherishing similarities”

By Cambodian Ambassador Mr Chhouk Bunna

- 12 July 2020 marks the 65th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. On this day, we celebrate both the traditional friendship and similarities shared among our two nations.
- 65 years is a short time for interstate relations. However, for Cambodia and Myanmar, our connection could be traced back centuries ago when we were close neighbouring kingdoms. Having survived the test of time and pillage by nature and man for centuries, the two ancient capitals of the Khmer and Bagan Empires, famously known as Angkor and Bagan, stand as a testimony to our past interaction.
- Nowadays, the governments of Cambodia and Myanmar are exploring ways and means to reinvigorate this historical link. The concept of “Angkor - Bagan, Two Ancient Capitals - One Destination” tour in the Joint Action Plan on Tourism Cooperation 2017-2020 between Cambodia and Myanmar has been formulated to support this effort. The authorities concerned are also exploring the possibility to have direct flights between Siem Reap and Bagan. Once realized, this new route will add fresh impetus to economic activities and tourism industry for both countries.
- The second key aspect embedded in our traditional friendship is religion. Despite being multi-religious and multi-ethnic societies, 90% of the population of both countries follow the same faith — Theravada Buddhism. In recent years, many Cambodian Buddhist pilgrims have made their trips to the famous sacred sites of Shwedagon Pagoda and the Kyauktido Pagoda. More than 200 Cambodian monks have received scholarships to study at the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University since 1999. Most recently, the first-ever Cambodian pagoda, Kampu-Rangsei, was built in Yangon.
- It is encouraging to see that people-to-people relations continue on a positive trajectory, while Cambodian Community in Myanmar keeps growing in size. The data from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population of Myanmar shows that there are 1,796 Cambodian nationals staying



U Win Myint, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar accepts Letter of Credence of Ambassador of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Mr Chhouk Bunna, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw, 13 November 2019.

- in Myanmar for various business purposes as of January 2020. Cambodian people enjoy living, working and traveling in Myanmar. Many have also settled down with their families while few others are married to Myanmar nationals.
- Our bilateral relationship has enjoyed new momentum as evidenced in the frequent high-level mutual exchange visits. The State Visit of U Htin Kyaw, the then President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, in February 2017 and the visits of Myanmar's vice presidents to Cambodia in the past few years serve as testimony to this fact. During her official visit to Cambodia in April 2019, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi agreed with Samdech Techo Prime Minister of Cambodia to further deepen and enhance bilateral relations in all areas of cooperation.
- As for Cambodia, Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of Cambodia, made three visits to Myanmar – two for the ASEAN Summits in 2014 and one for the CLMV and ACMECS Summits in 2015. In his most recent visit to Myanmar,

H.E. PRAK Sokhonn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Cambodia co-chaired with H.E. U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation the 2nd Meeting of the Cambodia-Myanmar Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) on 01 February 2019. During the meeting, they agreed to deepen cooperation in trade and investment, tourism, civil aviation, culture and religion, education, agriculture, forestry, environment and natural resources, finance and banking, and establishment of sister cities.

- In January 2020, General Vong Pisen, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces (RCAF), paid a goodwill visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. He met his counterpart, H.E. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services of Myanmar, to discuss ways and means to deepen and enhance military-to-military cooperation between the two countries. In 2017, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing made a similar visit to Cambodia.



His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, grants a royal audience to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, 30 April 2019.

- Efforts are also being made in economic cooperation to increase two-way trade from the present modest volume of around USD10 million per annum. Both sides are now in the process of negotiating the Agreement on Reciprocal Promotion and Protection of Investment and Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation. Once realized, these agreements will encourage more investment flows and unlock economic potential of both countries for greater mutual benefits.
- The two governments have also been supportive in enhancing cooperation between the private sectors and small and medium enterprises (SMEs). Over 30 Cambodian businesses are operating in Myanmar, namely in banking, retail, tourism, restaurants and ICT, among others. These businesses help create job opportunities for the local population. The newly established Cambodian Business Association in Myanmar (CBAM) serves as an important business platform to promote and expand Cambodia's economic activities and investment in Myanmar.
- Increased coordination and cooperation between Cambodia and Myanmar can also be seen at both regional and international platforms such as ASEAN, CLMV, Mekong sub-regional mechanisms and the UN. These mechanisms provide opportunities for Cambodia and Myanmar to strengthen their ties by working more closely together on issues of common interest. Cambodia appreciates the support of Myanmar for its ECOSOC membership in 2019. The 13th ASEM Summit, which will be hosted by Cambodia, will offer another good opportunity for our two countries to work together and in collaboration with other partners from Asia and Europe, to strengthen the “multilateralism for shared growth” which is the theme for the 13th ASEM Summit.

- I must also say that Cambodia-Myanmar relationship is characterized by true friendship both in good and bad times. In 2015, Cambodia contributed a modest amount of USD100,000 for the relief of the victims of widespread flooding and landslides in Myanmar. In 2019, Cambodia made a small contribution of USD90,000 for humanitarian assistance to the Rakhine State. The donation is certainly not large but it reflects our deep sentiment of solidarity.
- As a member of the same ASEAN family, Cambodia recognizes the complex and long-term challenges that Myanmar has to overcome in order to build a harmonious nation. Cambodia has consistently voiced support and stands ready to offer further

In Commemoration of 73rd Martyrs' Day

19th July, 1947-19th July, 2020

Deedok U Ba Cho
(24 April 1893 – 19 July 1947)

HE WAS born on Monday, 24 Apr 1893 in Myaungmya and his parents were Sayar U Boe Sar and Daw Myit.

While he studied at Myaungmya Primary School, he was awarded a scholarship. He also matriculated in A Grade and earned an honourable scholarship again. He quit the university because of the problem of his poor eyesight. Then he became a teacher in Paungde and Hinthada.

In 1920, he was married Daw Hla May. They had four daughters but two died in Japanese Occupation. He was a parliamentary councillor of the Government of Burma in Japan-era and supported the writing Burmese National Constitution.

He was assassinated on 19 July 1947 at 10:37 am but he died at 01:45 pm.

He was survived by his wife and two daughters (Ma Khin Pu and Ma Khin Khin Oo).

COVID-19 ကူးစက်ခြင်းမှကာကွယ်ဖို့ နှစ်နိုင်ငံစည်းမျဉ်းကို မပြုစီမံနေတယ်လို့ တယ်၊ ဒါပေမယ့်နှစ်နိုင်ငံစည်းတွေ ဝယ်တပ်ဖို့ အသားတား အစားအစာကိုရဖို့ အတွက်ရန်တန်ခိုးရတယ်။

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Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, inspect the Royal Cambodian Guards of Honour, at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, 30 April 2019.

Thai ministry urges gov't to reopen checkpoints as border trade falls amid COVID-19

THAILAND'S Ministry of Commerce said on Friday that it is urging government leaders to allow nine border checkpoints to reopen, as border trade has fallen nearly 10 per cent amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the Thai government had instructed that Thailand's borders be shut to prevent influx of illegal migrants, of which some may be carrying the virus.

Border trade from January to May has been recorded at 524.35 billion baht (16.75 billion U.S. dollars), falling 9.71 per cent from the same period of last year, said the Ministry's

Department of Foreign Trade.

Exports totaled 305.72 billion baht (9.76 billion U.S. dollars) while imports were at 218.632 billion baht (6.985 billion U.S. dollars), a drop of 9.03 per cent and 10.65 per cent respectively.

The resulting trade surplus was at 87.093 billion baht (2.78 billion U.S. dollars), said the department's director-general Keerati Rushchano.

The department head said that Malaysia was Thailand's top partner in border trade from January to May, followed by Laos, Myanmar and Cambodia.

However on the global



A lone tuk-tuk driver waits for customers at Khao San Road, empty of tourists due to the restrictions on entry by foreigners into Thailand due to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, in Bangkok on June 16, 2020. (AFP/LILLIAN SUWANRUMPHA)

scale, China remains Thailand's top partner with trade rising 15.74 per cent to 90.740 billion baht (2.9 billion U.S. dollars), followed by Singapore. Thailand has a total of 97 checkpoints, but only 28 remain open during the pandemic. SOURCE: XINHUA

Skin trouble on rise as face masks become essential

AS face masks become an indispensable part of life during the coronavirus pandemic, many people are confronting an uncomfortable fact: prolonged use can give rise to skin trouble. And as summer comes, the problem may get worse.

According to several clinics and a hospital in Tokyo, an increasing number of patients have been complaining of inflamed skin and other issues of sensitivity to masks, such as cuts behind the ears from the masks' elastic bands.

"As the humidity and temperature rise, the skin's condition inside the mask worsens. It gets damaged because of the

friction between the mask and the skin," said Kotaro Yoshitake, the head of a dermatology and plastic surgery clinic in Tokyo.

In June, Kotaro Clinic recorded its highest-ever number of patients, boosted by sufferers from mask-related skin problems, with such complaints tripling compared to the same month the previous year.

Yoshitake, 35, puts the patients' skin trouble into two categories – skin inflammation and acne.

"One of the worst cases was when the back of one of my patient's ears was cut on the top and bottom because of the friction of elastic bands on the

mask," he said.

Unlike a number of countries and regions, Japan has not mandated by law the use of masks in public, but there is strong social pressure to do so, with some who fail to don them complaining of harassment under the Twitter hashtag #maskpolice.

And that means wearing a mask has become a part of daily life for most people as social interactions increase again following the government's lifting in late May of its state of emergency and scaling back of stay-at-home and business suspension requests over the pandemic.

SOURCE: KYODO



Kotaro Yoshitake, head of Kotaro Clinic, speaks during an interview in Tokyo on July 1, 2020. PHOTO: (KYODO)

Without IMF bailout, is Lebanon heading for 'hell'?

TALKS between crisis-hit Lebanon and the International Monetary Fund are deadlocked, and leaders reluctant to enact reforms. Without a vital multi-billion-dollar bailout, is Lebanon headed for "hell"?

For months, the Mediterranean country has grappled with its worst economic crisis since the 1975-1990 civil war.

Tens of thousands have lost their jobs or part of their salaries, while a crippling dollar shortage has sparked rapid inflation.

After the country for the first time defaulted on its sovereign debt in March, the government pledged reforms and in May started talks with the IMF towards unlocking billions of dollars in aid.

But 16 meetings later, the negotiations are stalling.

"The IMF has left the negotiating table and talks have stopped," said a member of the Lebanese negotiating team speaking on condition of anonymity.

Another Lebanese source familiar with the negotiations said IMF representatives have "not sensed serious commitment from the Lebanese delegation" towards reform.

"Every faction is vy-

ing for its own personal interests while the country burns," they said.

Deadlock is common in multi-confessional Lebanon, where politicians have for decades been accused of cronyism, conflict of interest and corruption.

As Lebanon seeks help from the IMF, arguments are mounting over the scale of total financial losses for the state, central bank and commercial banks.

The government estimated losses at around 241 trillion Lebanese pounds, which amounts to around \$69 billion at an exchange rate of 3,500 pounds to the greenback. But a parliamentary committee quoted much lower figures using the old currency peg of

1,507 pounds to the dollar.

The IMF considers the government's figures to be more likely.

The discrepancy in the figures shows the great power and influence of a "lobby ready to see Lebanon burn rather than expose what they did to it", the Lebanese negotiator said.

'Help us help you'

Since October, the deepening turmoil has sparked mass protests demanding the wholesale removal of a political class seen as incompetent and corrupt.

The crisis has shot poverty up to almost 50 percent, and unemployment to 35 per cent.

— AFP ■



A crippling dollar shortage has sparked rapid inflation while the value of the Lebanese pound has plunged. PHOTO: AFP

Scotland leader sees surge in support for virus response

EDINBURGH — Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wore a tartan face mask on a recent visit to shops in Edinburgh, as they prepared to reopen after the long coronavirus lockdown.

The local kilt manufacturer that makes the masks subsequently saw a huge increase in demand.

At the same time, Sturgeon is enjoying a surge in popularity as a result of her handling of the Scottish government's response to the global pandemic.

Opinion polls show not only high approval ratings for the Scottish National Party leader herself, but also an increase in support for the SNP's central policy — independence.

After a strong showing at last year's general election, analysts say the SNP is in an even stronger position ahead of Scottish par-

liamentary elections next year.

"In a time of great uncertainty, people look for a leader who can reassure them," said Iain Black, from the pro-nationalist Scottish Independence Convention.

"Nicola Sturgeon has done exceptionally well at communicating her compassion during her daily public briefings.

"She has helped to alleviate people's anxiety by providing a sense of certainty throughout the pandemic. This is not something that will be easily forgotten," he told AFP.

Different approach

Some 2,500 people have died in the coronavirus outbreak in Scotland, where Sturgeon's response — and the easing of lockdown measures in particular — has contrasted sharply with

that of British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

Johnson, 56, has come under fire for his handling of the pandemic and Britain now has the highest death toll in Europe — around 45,000, with broader statistics suggesting it could be even more.

Even with lingering questions about testing and contact-tracing, Johnson began lifting the lockdown earlier in England.

But Sturgeon, 49, has refused to follow suit, estimating that infection rates in Scotland were still too high.

Her refusal to slavishly follow UK government guidance from London has won her support from leaders in Wales and Northern Ireland, which also have devolved administrations. —AFP ■



Scotland's First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has seen her popularity surge as a result of her handling of the response to the coronavirus pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Serbia arrests 71 over virus protest violence, including Briton

BELGRADE — Serbian police said Saturday they have arrested 71 people, including a Briton and a Tunisian, after violence broke out during a protest in Belgrade against the government's management of the coronavirus pandemic.

Thousands of people demonstrated in several Serbian cities on Friday for a fourth day in row, with protesters hurling stones at police in front of parliament in the capital.

Some protesters also threw firecrackers and chanted nationalist slogans in Belgrade, according to AFP journalists.

"Among those arrested are

many foreign nationals from Bosnia, Montenegro but also from Great Britain and Tunisia," police chief Vladimir Rebic said at a press conference.

Photographs of the British and Tunisian passports of two men were shown on a screen.

According to local media, mostly tabloids close to power, the Briton is 24 years old, while the Tunisian is 54.

"These are the documents with which they entered Serbia," said Rebic, who added that he intends to examine the influence of "these foreign factors on the violence of the demonstrations".

"Serbia welcomed them

hoping that they would come to have a good time with us, but they came to destroy and attack the police."

Fourteen police officers were injured in Friday's clashes, and 130 since the protests began on Tuesday, the police chief said. No figures have been given for the number of injured protesters.

The protesters have vented their frustration with President Aleksandar Vucic, who is seen by many as having facilitated a second wave of the virus by lifting an initial lockdown so that elections could be held on June 21 which his Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) largely won. —AFP ■



Police fire tear gas in Belgrade on Friday night during the protest against the government's handling of the pandemic. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iran warns Europe not to give in to U.S. pressures for extending UN arms embargo

TEHRAN — Iran on Saturday vowed retaliatory measures if Europe gives in to the U.S. pressures for extending a UN arms embargo on Iran, Tasnim news agency reported.

"We have warned the European countries that if they give in to the political and diplomatic pressures from the United States, Iran has effective measures in response," Abbas Mousavi, spokesman of the for-

eign ministry, told Tasnim.

Washington wants to portray Tehran as a threat to security in the region when the U.S. forces are the real threat to regional peace, stability and security, Mousavi said.

The United States has recently pressed the UN Security Council for the extension of the UN arms embargo on Iran that will expire in October. —Xinhua ■

At least five dead, dozens arrested after church hostage drama in Johannesburg

JOHANNESBURG — At least five people were left dead and more than 40 arrested after a church hostage drama unfolded in early Saturday morning at the International Pentecostal Holiness Church in Zuurbeekom, West of Johannesburg, said South Africa Police Service (SAPS).

"A group of armed people came to the Modise church and allegedly attacked people who were inside, indicating that they were coming to take over the premises," said National Police Spokesperson Vishnu Naidoo in a statement.

Four people were found

shot and burnt to death in a car, while a fifth victim, a security guard, was also fatally shot in his car while he was apparently attending to the complaint.

Police arrested over 40 suspects and seized 34 firearms, including rifles, shotguns and pistols.

"These units have also rescued men, women and children who are said to be living in the compound and were being held hostage," Naidoo added.

It is believed that the attack may have been motivated by a feud between conflicted parties in the church. —Xinhua ■

Chinese workforce solutions provider Quhuo makes Nasdaq debut

NEW YORK -- Quhuo, a leading tech-enabled workforce operational solution platform in China, started trading on Nasdaq Friday.

The company, trading under the ticker symbol of "QH," announced the pricing of its initial public offering of 3.3 million American depositary shares (ADSs) at 10 U.S. dollars apiece for a total offering size of approximately 33 million dollars.

Each ADS represents one Class A ordinary share of the company.

Founded in 2012, the Beijing-based company provides tech-enabled, end-to-end operational solutions to blue-chip on-demand consumer service businesses in industries with significant e-commerce exposure, including food delivery, ride-hailing, housekeeping and bike-sharing.

It was the largest workforce operational

solutions platform in China as measured by the number of average monthly active workers in 2019, the company said in its prospectus, citing data from research firm Frost & Sullivan.

Leslie Yu, chairman and CEO of the company, told Xinhua that he hopes the listing would help Quhuo achieve its goal to integrate and optimize the consumer service businesses.—Xinhua ■



People walk past the Nasdaq MarketSite in New York's Times Square in New York City on June 16, 2015. PHOTO: AFP

Bread subscription service excites foodies across Japan

MAEBASHI — A subscription service allowing consumers to enjoy tasty breads from bakeries across the country has been drawing the attention of foodies and bread enthusiasts in Japan.

Yuabread Inc. based in Kiryu, north of Tokyo, has developed a food-freezing technique to preserve the taste and flavour of freshly baked breads and deliver them regularly to both corporate and individual clients.

The service by the Gunma Prefecture com-



Yuabread Inc. has developed a food-freezing technique to preserve the taste and flavour of freshly baked breads and deliver them regularly to both corporate and individual clients. (PHOTO COURTESY OF YUABREAD/KYODO)

pany established in 2017 is intended to connect nationwide bread lovers and small bakeries in the countryside that often face difficulties in attracting customers.

The number of companies subscribing to the programme, through which workers can receive breads from artisan bakeries at their offices, has reached 160, and the number of individual subscribers has surpassed 2,000, the service operator said.

Subscribers to the service receive six to 10 types of frozen breads in a box every month.

As of early July, the number of member bakeries stood at 15, stretching across Japan. Featured bakeries in the service rotate monthly, according to the company.—Kyodo ■

Number of active U.S. drilling rigs decreases this week

HOUSTON — The number of active drilling rigs in the United States decreased by 5 to 258 this week, down by 700 year on year, according to the weekly data released Friday by Houston-based oilfield services company Baker Hughes.

These active drilling rigs included 181 oil rigs operating in the U.S. oil fields, down by four from the previous week; 75 gas drilling rigs, down by one from the previous week, and two miscellaneous rigs, unchanged from last week.

The 258 rigs included 246 land drilling rigs, down by five from the previous week, and 12 offshore drilling rigs, unchanged from the previous week. There was no inland waters drilling rig this week, same as last week.

Of them, 19 were directional drilling rigs, 220 were horizontal drilling rigs and 19 were vertical drilling rigs.

During the week, the number of drilling rigs decreased the most by five in the state of Texas to 107 rigs.—Xinhua ■

Amazon mistakenly tells workers to take TikTok app off phones

SAN FRANCISCO — Amazon on Friday said it mistakenly sent workers an email telling them to dump the TikTok mobile application from their cell phones because of security concerns.

The internal message told workers they could still access the popular video-snippet sharing platform using laptop web browsers, but would lose access to company email on smartphones that have TikTok.

"This morning's email to some of our employees was sent in error," an Amazon spokesperson said in reply to an AFP inquiry without going into detail. "There is no change to our policies right now with regard to TikTok."—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V OLIVIA VOY. NO. (027S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V OLIVIA VOY. NO. (027S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT/TMIT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S SEALAND MAERSK ASIA PTE LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (072N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (072N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1123S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1123S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **12-7-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Massive fiscal response to COVID-19 pandemic pushes global public debt to record high level: IMF

WASHINGTON — The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has already prompted an “unprecedented” fiscal policy response of close to 11 trillion U.S. dollars worldwide, pushing global public debt to reach record high level, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) said Friday.

“In the face of a sharp decline in global output, a massive fiscal response has been necessary to increase health capacity, replace lost household income and prevent large-scale bankruptcies,” Vitor Gaspar, director of the IMF’s Fiscal Affairs Department, and Gita Gopinath, IMF chief economist, wrote in a blog.

“But the policy response has also contributed to global public debt reaching its highest lev-

el in recorded history, at over 100 percent of global GDP (Gross domestic product), in excess of post-World War II peaks,” they noted.

Gaspar and Gopinath said the need for continued fiscal support is “clear” as countries gradually reopen from the lockdown, “but this begs the question of how countries can finance it without debt becoming unsustainable.”

In 2020, relative to the IMF’s January World Economic Outlook, fiscal deficits are expected to be more than five times higher in advanced economies and to more than double in emerging market economies, leading to an unprecedented jump in public debt of respectively 26 and 7 percentage points of GDP.—Xinhua ■

US unveils tariffs on France over tech tax but delays collection

WASHINGTON — The United States on Friday unveiled heavy import duties on France in retaliation for the country’s tax on American tech giants, but will hold off on collecting the fees to allow time for the dispute to be resolved.

The office of US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer found France’s digital services tax was discriminatory and “unfairly targets US digital technology companies,” and will impose 25 per cent punitive duties on \$1.3 billion in French products.

However, it will suspend the tariffs until January 6, 2021 while discussions continue over the disagreement.

France approved the tax last summer on tech firms like Facebook, Amazon, Apple and Google, which were accused of moving their profits off-



US Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer said Washington ‘won’t tolerate’ taxes in France or elsewhere that target US firms. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

shore to evade taxes.

But in January, Paris suspended collection of the tax through the end of the year.

French cosmetics and handbags will be subject to the US tariffs, but champagne, camembert and Roquefort were spared, according to the final product

list after USTR collected thousands of public comments on the retaliation plans. The sides have been trying to negotiate a deal through the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development that would address the policy dilemma of taxing profits earned in one country by a

company based in another with a more favourable tax policy.

But the talks have not made much headway and were suspended due to the coronavirus pandemic. Meanwhile, more countries are considering following France’s example.—AFP ■

EU chief proposes five billion euro Brexit emergency fund



European Council President Charles Michel proposed a five billion euro Brexit reserve fund when he unveiled his latest proposal for a long-term EU budget that will be debated by bloc leaders next week. (AFP PHOTO/KENZO TRIBOUILLARD)

BRUSSELS — EU Council president Charles Michel on Friday proposed setting up a five billion euro reserve fund for any unforeseen consequences of Brexit on bloc member states.

“Brexit is challenging for all of us and that is why we propose a Brexit reserve of five billion euros (\$5.7 billion),” said Michel as he unveiled his latest proposal for a long-term EU budget that will be

debated by bloc leaders next week.

Brexit with or without an agreement on future ties “will have consequences in Europe for the member states and that’s why I think it’s... necessary to ask the commission to prepare for a needs assessment by November 2021,” he said.

The EU and Britain are currently in negotiations to agree on a basis of trade relations after

a post-Brexit transition phase ends on December 31.

“We all know that the ongoing negotiations are not easy,” said Michel, who chairs EU leaders summit meetings.

“And we know that probably by the end of the summer or in September, October, we will have a clearer vision about where we are in these negotiations process.”

Ireland is expected to be the most affected by the end of Britain’s membership of the EU, with Belgium and northern France also seen as vulnerable to potential economic shocks.

The EU said on Thursday said it is planning emergency measures across dozens of sectors after the Brexit transition period and warned of “inevitable disruptions” even if a deal is agreed with London.—AFP ■

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No 3 Thanlyin bridge to design Yangon with new forms of development

By Swe Oo Wai

WHENEVER I crossed No 1 Thanlyin bridge by car, I remembered I paid a visit to Thanlyin during childhood from Yangon by water since then known as Thida ferry. While I was taking Thida ferry, I still remembered I was feeding seagulls and reading cartoons with San Shwe Myint character. Something appeared in my memory that at that time Thanlyin did not improve at all yet and Thilawa Special Economic Zone was not even in the dream as well. But now the situations look very different. Yangon and Thanlyin remain together and

nothing separates them as No 1 and No 2 Thanlyin bridges have already been instructed. Moreover, with the enormous development of Thilawa SEZ, Thanlyin has developed much more times greater than it was used to be previously. Currently No 3 Thanlyin bridge is under construction and upon completion it will play one of the important parts to develop Yangon and State's economy.

No 3 Thanlyin bridge project

No 3 Thanlyin bridge is currently being built crossing Bago river linking Thakayta with Thanlyin in Yangon. The con-

struction of No 3 Thanlyin bridge is located at a distance of 125 km from No 1 Thanlyin bridge. The stake driving ceremony of the No 3 Thanlyin bridge was held on 13 February with the expectation of completing the bridge in 2020. Yangon river, Hlaing river, Bago river, Pazuntaung creek, Nga Moe Yeik creek are located in Yangon and its environs. Taking better transport links for economic development into consideration, a bridge was intended to be built crossing Thanlyin.

The tender invitation for the bridge construction project was very transparent, dividing into two sectors—the approach



No 1 and No 3 Thanlyin bridges are seen in scale model.



No 3 Thanlyin bridge is seen in scale model.



bridge and the main bridge. The tender winners are Japanese companies. Sumitomo Mitsui Construction and Yokogawa Bridge Corporation won the tenders for the approach bridge and the main bridge on Thanlyin side.

Tokyo Construction Co., Ltd won the tender for Thakayta approach bridge. “Bago river crossing bridge (No 3 Thanlyin bridge) is a landmark linking Thanlyin with Thakayta and so The matters relating to the beautiful designs of the bridge and both approach roads were already discussed,” said Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin of the Ministry of Construction.

The length of No 3 Thanlyin bridge is 3,500 metres whose body is Steel Box Grider and its foundation is Steel Pipe Sheet Pile. Each vehicle can withstand 75 tonnes. The length of the main bridge is 1,224 meters. The length of the approach bridge on Thakayta side is 300 metres and that on Thanlyin side 404 metres. The length of the approach of Fly Over Bridge on Thakayta side is 547 metres and that on Thanlyin side 188 metres. The bridge will have a

four-lane road with 24 metres in width. Fly Over Bridge will have a two-lane road with 12.5 metres in width (on land). The approach road is 5.57 metres long. One Ramp Bridge with one-lane road will be also built.

Measures to be taken after closing temporary roads

The approach road on Thakayta side will meet near Thakayta roundabout after crossing Shukhintha and Yadana roads. The road from Thanlyin to Thakayta and the road from Shekhintha junction and Thakayta roadabout have been closed from 24 May to the end of August from 9 pm to 5 am according to the Ministry of Construction.

The reason why the roads are temporarily stopped is to install concrete reinforced type steel beams.

“The approach road on Yangon side will meet near the roundabout of Thakayta crossing a lot of roads,” said Yangon Chief Minister U Phyto Min Thein during the stake driving ceremony of the bridge. No 3 Thanlyin bridge is under construction and the total cost

of the construction of the bridge will be more than USD300 million.

Convenience in travel

Upon completion of No 3 Thanlyin bridge, the transportation of the goods from Thilawa SEZ will be faster and more secure, and the travel of the local people will be smoother and more convenient. It will serve an enormous driving force for enabling Yangon to become a distinct commercial city, contributing to increased job opportunities and regional development. The implementation of a four-lane tarred road from Thanlyin bridge to Thilawa SEZ has already been completed. Once No 3 Thanlyin bridge is finished, it is certain that it will help promote economy, social affairs and investments.

Once we had to take time to cross Yangon river to get to Thanlyin by Thida ferry. However, the images of lack of development in south district of Yangon have been left far behind, and now it's developing a lot.

Translated by
Htut Htut (Twantay)

Three in four Myanmar consumers are interested in making payments with contactless cards—VISA Study

VISA, the world's leader in digital payments, on 9 July, revealed that nearly three in four (72 per cent) of Myanmar consumers have expressed clear interest in adopting contactless card payments. The findings are based on the Visa Consumer Payment Attitudes Study (the “Study”)¹, which tracks payment habits and attitudes as well as explores emerging topics related to payments.

The Study also uncovered that, over half (52 per cent) are now aware of using contactless card for payments, compared to only 10 per cent just a year ago.

Lillian Wang, Country Manager for Visa Myanmar, said: “Digital payments have never been more central to economic growth and societal progress. Advances in the movement of money are catalysts for innovation and are vital to open, inclusive and connected communities. As a leader in digital payments, we are committed helping consumers and businesses in Myanmar to realize the benefits of digital payments, while finding ways to expand access to digital payments that are fast, convenient and secure.”

Top places where respondents use their contactless cards to make payments are during overseas travel, followed by at supermarkets and dining.

The Study also delved into usage between age demographics. It shows that the younger Gen-Y (25-39 years old) are four times more likely than Gen-X (40-54 years old) to forgo carrying around cash (4 per cent vs 1 per cent). While Gen-Y are more aware of contactless cards (52 per cent) and mobile contactless payments (39 per cent), members of Gen-X also show significant awareness of both forms of contactless technology (40 per cent and 26 per cent respectively).

State of the Nation:
Cashless Society

Of those who use cashless payment methods, more than

three in five (62 per cent) expect to increase their usage in the next year. The biggest factors motivating this are convenience (36 per cent), wider acceptance of cashless options (28 per cent) and the desire to keep less cash on hand (20 per cent).

According to the Study, nearly one in four respondents (23 per cent) have moved away from cash and tried living daily life relying on cashless methods. Among them, eight in ten (80 per cent) managed to live cashless for up to a few days while twelve per cent managed to live for a week or more but less than a full month on cashless modes of payment. Meanwhile, another eight per cent said they were able to live without cash for one month or more.

One of the most interesting questions in the Study is how long Myanmar respondents believe it will take for the country to become completely cashless. In this edition of the Study, 42 per cent of the people surveyed believed it would take between 6 to 10 years, 21 per cent thought it would take between 2 to 5 years, and two per cent believed Myanmar could become a cashless nation within one year.

“While advances in payment technology can accelerate Myanmar's integration with the global digital economy, it is equally important for us to understand consumer attitudes and preferences to payments. We are privileged to be able to share findings from this Study and we hope it will continue to spark ideas and insights which will lead to societal progress in Myanmar,” Lillian Wang concluded.—GNLM

¹The Visa Consumer Payment Attitudes Study was conducted by ENGINE insights on behalf of Visa in August 2019 across Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines and Myanmar. Total sample size is 5,102 including 515 working adults in Myanmar aged 18-65, with a minimum monthly income cut-off of MMK 150,000.



AFC assists online youth programme amid pandemic

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) is currently assisting an online course programme of Virtual Social Responsibility Summer School, which is being launched through Middle East countries, according to the statement with the AFC.

The programme is running in thirteen countries: Bahrain, Iraq, Iran, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, UAE, and Yemen, said officials from the AFC. The virtual course was attended by youths during the

crisis of COVID-19. The purpose of the course is to select youth ambassadors to release people feeling stress, worries and pressures concerned with the pandemic.

The programme is being assisted by U Zaw Zaw, president

of the Myanmar Football Federation and vice president of the Asian Football Confederation. He helped launch an Online CSR Ambassador Course last week, according to the statement with the Myanmar Football Federation.

Schools in Asian countries are currently closed and sports events are being postponed due to the outbreak of COVID-19 and AFC officials are currently helping to promote interesting programmes for youths in Asian countries.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Arsenal threaten to turn tide on Mourinho's struggling Spurs

LONDON — The clash between Tottenham and Arsenal on Sunday may lack the usual furore of a derby, with no fans present and both sides seemingly out of the race for a place in next season's Champions League.

However, Jose Mourinho's Spurs have a point to prove, with a rejuvenated Arsenal under Mikel Arteta threatening to tip the balance of power in north London back in their favour.

For 22 years between 1995 and 2017, Spurs failed to finish above their fiercest rivals in the Premier League. Arsenal fans even came to christen the day each year they could no longer be caught by

Spurs as "St Totteringham's Day".

Yet, as the Gunners' glory years under Arsene Wenger faded away, Spurs became the dominant force.

When goals from Dele Alli and Harry Kane won the final north London derby at White Hart Lane to ensure Tottenham would finish above Arsenal in the league three years ago, there were hopes Mauricio Pochettino could follow Wenger's example to build a title-winning team to play in the club's new state-of-the-art stadium.

Instead of an inspiration, the rising cost of the £1 billion (\$1.3 billion) Tottenham Hotspur stadium weighed

heavily.

The Argentine boss worked wonders to keep Tottenham in the top four at Arsenal's expense over the past two seasons despite precious little investment in the transfer market and a longer-than-expected spell at their temporary home of Wembley.

Despite reaching the Champions League final last season, Pochettino was sacked in November, with Spurs on the slide due to a squad that had gone stale.

Arsenal changed managers too just a month later, with Unai Emery unable to turn around the flagging fortunes of the club in Wenger's final years.—AFP ■



Not much to smile about: Tottenham appear to be going backwards under Jose Mourinho. (AFP PHOTO/MATT DUNHAM)

Empty Wembley waits for Euro 2020 party postponed by coronavirus

LONDON — Wembley should have hosted the Euro 2020 final on Sunday, but instead the home of English football is preparing for a League One playoff final

on Monday in front of 90,000 empty seats.

Coronavirus has wreaked havoc on the sporting calendar with the Euros one of the first

casualties as UEFA postponed the tournament for 12 months on March 17.

European football's governing body is pressing ahead with its plan for a tournament across 12 cities in 12 different countries, with two of the venues, Bilbao and Baku, 5,000 kilometres (3,100 miles) apart.

Amsterdam, Budapest, Bucharest, Copenhagen, Dublin, Glasgow, London, Munich, Rome, Saint Petersburg will also host matches.

It remains to be seen how feasible that geographical spread will be for fans even in 11 months time due to travel and quarantine restrictions.

But the smooth return of European leagues at club level behind closed doors will give UEFA hope that the show will

go on in some form. Domestic leagues in the four countries worst hit by the pandemic that are due to host matches next summer -- England, Italy, Spain and Russia -- have all resumed, with only the latter disrupted by COVID-19 outbreaks that have affected the competition on the field.

Last month Sochi thrashed a Rostov team of teenagers 10-1 after Rostov's first team had to quarantine following six positive cases of the virus.

UEFA's first big test will come when attempting to finish the Champions League and Europa League at neutral sites in Portugal and Germany respectively in August.

However, the after-effects of football's shutdown due to coronavirus are still being felt financially.—AFP ■

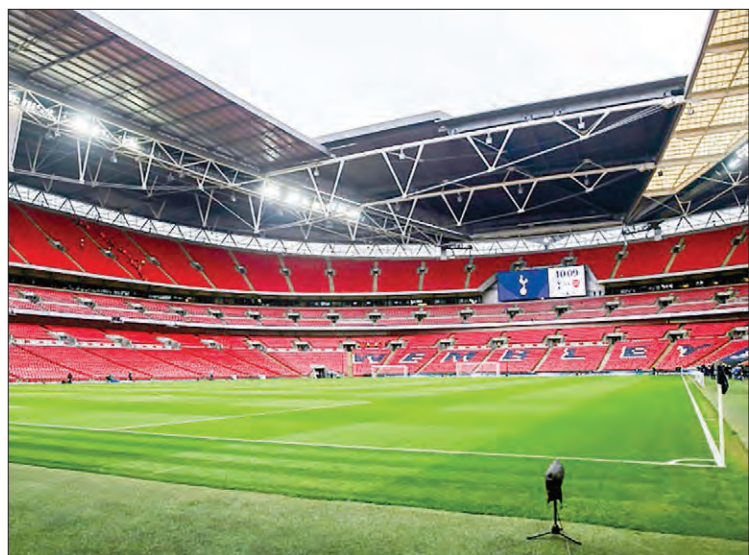
Famed India cricket stadium to be used for coronavirus quarantine

KOLKATA — Kolkata's legendary Eden Gardens cricket stadium is to be used as a quarantine centre for Indian police who have the coronavirus, officials said Saturday (Jul 11).

With the city's hospitals under growing pressure, hundreds of beds are to be set up in the 80,000 capacity stadium that was used for the 1987 World Cup final.

Nearly 550 Kolkata police have tested positive for the coronavirus and two have died.

"It is our duty to help and support the administration in this hour of crisis. The quarantine facility will be used for police personnel who are COVID-19 warriors," said Cricket Association of Bengal president Avishek Dalmiya.—AFP ■



An empty Wembley will host the League One playoff final on Monday rather than the Euro 2020 final on Sunday due to the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

12 JULY 2020

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



By Rainbow
Second year honours Chemistry
Specialization, Meiktila University



SEVERAL people say that "Life is too short". I always think that "Is it really too short?" The essence of life doesn't depend on "Short or Long". Some people can still be living and kicking in the world but some can't. Some people can still be alive and kicking without helping other people. But, there were so many people who met their untimely death while they were working for the sake of the world and people. Mainly, struggling for life is the essence of life while we are still alive.

Actually, fulfilling our potential and personal benefit isn't egocentric or selfish. Every youth must shape their future to the perfection, and must have hunger for wisdom. Every youth must try so as to be splendid. No try means feeling so bored with our whole life. How lazy we are! We would not mind being lazy to get lazy. An elder friend of mine has ever asked me. "What would you do if you were in perfect condition like a billionaire? Suppose that in the meanwhile, whatever you want, you can get it. "What would you do?" he might say to you. I would give him a logical answer like this. "There is no person who doesn't want to be perfect in his or her life. There is no perfect person in the world as well. Even if some people would be perfect in their life, they would still be greedy."

But then, his thought and idea is very simple and clear. He said that life would be inconsequential when we had enough money in perfect condition. Because, life struggle aims at freeing oneself from emotional, mental and social entanglement. If we think it deeply, it's absolutely right. We feel lazy if we have no work to do. We feel lazy while we are using Facebook, watching television and relaxed. We feel lazy and dampen our spirits and enthusiasm when we are already used to what we have done. That's human nature. We would be happy when we struggled free from difficulty and overcame it. Life isn't both short and long. It's all up to individualistic views.

The people who try all the time don't know that time is going on. The people who don't do anything and misuse their time think that life is too long. The essence of life is struggling. The word "Struggling" is so sweet as we speak. But, it is bitterly bad in reality. Only when we dare to face crude Life can we get success and the essence of life.

A saying goes: "No person is there in perfect condition and nobody should think to himself, "I am in perfect condition". Let's analyze the word "PERFECT", shall we? The first one deal with "Wisdom". We must not be shy to learn it, and be as humble as a beggar. We must have a hunger to learn in order to succeed. We fail if we think we are perfect persons in Education. Education and wisdom never end. There is no limit to be a professional or specialist one. We should learn with Life Long Learning process. Once we think of ourselves that we are in perfect condition, we would do nothing and would stop learning. If you stop in learning, you get nothing and you won't be a professional. Only when your learning keeps going will you be a specialist one.

SEE PAGE-S-8

DESIGN: BT

Turning Struggles into Stepping Stones



By Htar Sandi Naing

*Third Year (Honours),
English Specialization,
University of Yangon*

HAVE you ever imagined having a perfect life without struggles? As for me, I would say 'Definitely.' However, we should bear in our minds that nothing in life is perfect. If everything is perfect, the word 'STRUGGLE' wouldn't have existed. Every human being has been through 'struggle' at least once in their lifetime. There is no way we can point out what struggle is as it comes in different forms in various ways. It is hard to identify but it can impact you in a variety of ways. I am certain that the person who has faced a lot of struggles in life can indeed stand on their own without anyone's help as they do know how to handle them. They definitely know the way of controlling the struggles. Let's turn the struggles into stepping stones.

First of all, let's think about the ways of turning the struggles into something useful. When we hear the word 'struggle,' negative things pop up in our minds. However, we haven't realized that we can indeed turn them into something useful. There is no such thing mark as 'useless.' Every single thing has its own value. Something that seems to be useless to someone is the thing that is useful for somebody. In this case, struggle is not useless. We must take something out of it as we have to go through so much because of it.

Struggles can become stepping stones. Step on them to move forward. Think of it this way. As it may be a heavy stone, you wouldn't be able to put them above your head as it will definitely push you down. You wouldn't be able to bear the weight of it. There is no way you can walk around with it. It wouldn't matter if you hold onto it for a few minutes but it will become a big deal after a few hours. Instead, you can lay them on the ground and step on them. Transform them into something useful for you. In that way, it will help you move forward. Similarly, we shouldn't waste our precious time thinking about the struggles we have to face in our daily lives. Struggles will burn you alive if you keep thinking about them. Don't let them grow inside your body. Therefore, we shouldn't hold onto our struggles and make a big fuss about them as they are not worth it. Instead, turn them into stepping stones.

Overall, we need the courage to face the struggles. We shouldn't be a coward and walk away from them. We have to overcome the fear of facing the obstacles. We have to fight them. Struggles you have to face can become your strength. It is like the power you get from fighting the enemies. We do have to attack back to raise the bar of our strength. There is no time for you to cry out loud. We have to try harder to increase our power. Show the world what you can do. Have faith in yourself. Take out all the negativity from your mind. Though it can drag you down, get back up and attack them again until you succeed. Once you succeed, you are going to level up. Choose whether you want to get defeated by them or conquer them with your strength. Let's turn all our struggles into stepping stones.

**Invitation
to young
writers for
Sunday Special**

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

The Pandemic and the *Burmese Python*

By Johnathan Tun

IT was around 1pm on 3 July 2020 when I was sitting with my senior co-workers for lunch at a Rakhine restaurant near Kyaukmyaung Street in Tamway, Yangon. We enjoyed lunch talking despite the din from other tables and the television news coming from a corner of the restaurant.

No one paid attention to the television when, to the chock of everyone, the news channel's presenter announced that Burmese Python Aung La Nsang tested positive for COVID-19. All their eyes now focused their attention to the television. They were now absorbed in

to recover because he has been our hero.

The Coronavirus pandemic has affected the entire world in different ways, I thought.

The invisible virus even invaded into the body of our healthy hero. My hate for the pandemic increased at the moment. "How dare the virus?" I thought.

On my way home, the stream of my thoughts was fully occupied by the virus.

Aung La was not the first Myanmar's celebrity who was infected by the virus. Famous rock star Myo Gyi also tested positive for COVID-19 in April and then recovered.

I hate the virus. At the same time, I was aware that "hate" is a negative thought.

the discovery of the vaccine is made, how we should deal with its threat?

How can we protect our lives and the most important things in our lives from the infectious perils of the pandemic?

Though we are extraordinary creatures living on the earth, I feel that our weakness lies in unity. We need a greater unity and stronger cooperation to beat the pandemic.

We had previously been obsessed with the thought that fame, money, and power are the most important things in our lives.

Now, we came to know that our fame, money, and power can't help us escape from the pandemic.

Prince Charles, Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic, American singer-songwriter Madonna, American business tycoon and New York Knicks owner James Dolan, and Game of Thrones and The Fate of the Furious actor Kristofer Hivju are the proofs that our fame, money and powers can't protect us from the virus infection.

"Before the vaccine is successfully discovered, what is the most important thing for us to save our world?" I questioned myself.

I got many answers like our united efforts and our united wisdom. I know that we all have different answers.

I said to my friends, "What is the most important thing in our life to beat the pandemic before a COVID vaccine is introduced?" They gave different answers.

The answer I like best was our Burmese Python Aung La Nsang's answer to BBC Burmese.

Aung La said, "It is important not to infect others because of me."

I totally agreed with him that it is important to stop further infections before an effective vaccine is invented to save the world.

this interesting news.

After listening to the news story, I observed other tables at the restaurant that the people's subject of conversation was about Aung La Nsang.

One of my senior co-workers commented that Aung La Nsang would recover soon as he is a sportsman and very strong.

I nodded as a sign of agreement as I wish our Burmese Python

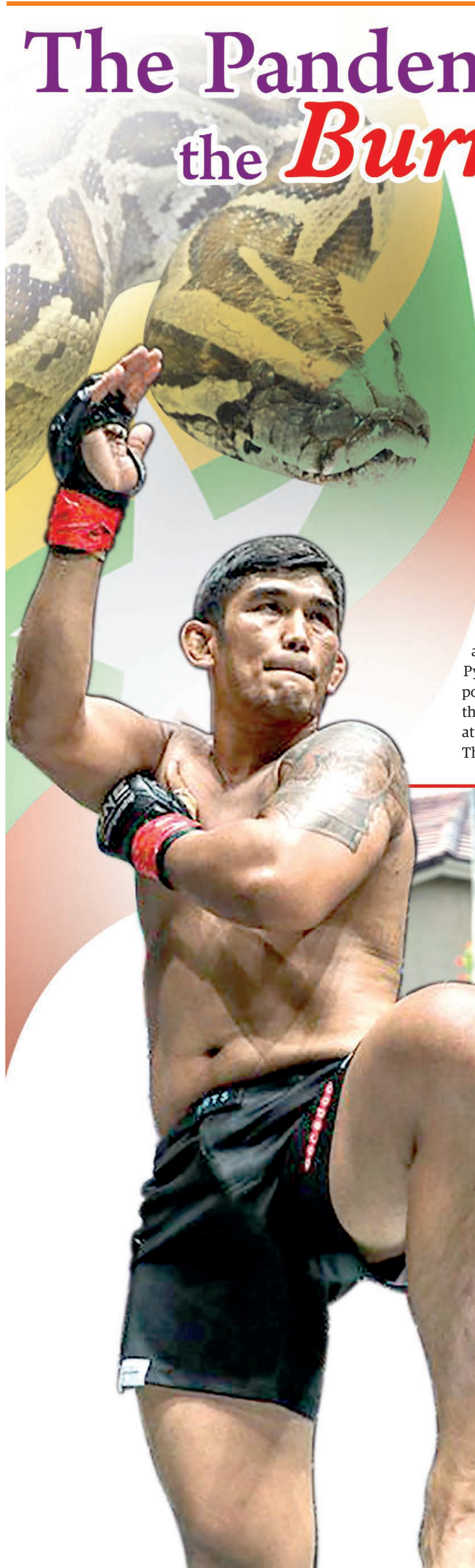
If I continue holding the hate thought, my life will be useless, and people around me will be annoyed.

I tried to replace my negative thoughts with positive ones. I invited my sense of responsibility to defeat my hate for the coronavirus.

I perceived that we all are responsible for the virus because we human beings conquer this planet. The Homo sapiens are extraordinary creatures.

Therefore, we are responsible for the good and the bad consequences on the earth.

How can we overcome the pandemic? I know that our scientists are racing to create a COVID-19 vaccine. Before



Safeguarding **Nan Thar Island** for **Myanmar's** Endangered Shorebirds



Spoon-billed Sandpiper with flag CU



PHOTO: MR. REN NAUNG SOE (21-01-2019)

The mudflats that form Nan Thar provide globally important habitats for wintering migratory shorebirds.

■ By Rainforest Trust

NAN Thar Island lies just off the north-west coast of Myanmar in the Mayyu River estuary. The mudflats that form Nan Thar provide globally important habitats for wintering migratory shorebirds. The most significant of these is the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper. About 5% of the global population of this unique species winter annually at Nan Thar before migrating to Russia to breed. Nan Thar Island also provides a winter refuge for other globally threatened migratory shorebird species. Since 2008, annual monitoring has consistently demonstrated the value of this site for threatened shorebirds. In addition, the sandy beaches of Nan Thar serve as nesting sites for three species of sea turtles.

Communities living around Nan Thar are impoverished. Some hunt shorebirds and sea turtles to collect turtle eggs to supplement their incomes. Shorebird hunting has marginal livelihood value, but with such important wintering populations of Spoon-billed Sandpipers and other species, it can have a substantial impact on small populations.

Rainforest Trust and local partner Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA) seek \$274,217 to assist in designating the new 8,916-acre Nan Thar Island Wildlife Sanctuary. BANCA, with local partners, has already helped reduce hunting through engagement with local communities. Nevertheless, hunting activities continue, alongside sand extraction and climate

change. BANCA confirmed a strong local interest in protecting the site during a recent stakeholder workshop for local communities and government. Establishing a protected area will not only secure the land for biodiversity, but benefit the local communities by establishing regulations for the management of the area and its declining fisheries.

BIODIVERSITY

Nan Thar Island and its surrounding inshore waters are an ecologically important coastal landscape in western Myanmar, harboring a mosaic of wetland types including intertidal mudflats and mangroves.

Nan Thar Island is recognized internationally as a key wintering location for migratory shorebirds, some of which are globally threatened. It meets the criteria of a Ramsar Site and has recently been declared an East Asian-Australasian Flyway Network Site. Most notably, about 5% of the known global population of the Critically Endangered Spoon-billed Sandpiper winters on the island. Other globally threatened birds that regularly visit include the Endangered Great Knot and Spotted Greenshank. Although it is only a small area, about 5,000 shorebirds winter on Nan Thar Island; to date, 67 shorebird species have been recorded. The island and surroundings are known nesting sights for three threatened species

of sea turtles - the Endangered Green Turtle, the Vulnerable Loggerhead Turtle and the Vulnerable Olive Ridley. These have not yet been extensively studied locally.

CHALLENGES

Nan Thar Island and its surrounding inshore waters do not currently receive legal protection. This has led to the unsustainable exploitation of marine and coastal resources.

Declining fish harvesting has resulted in some local community members hunting shorebirds, which is the main threat to these species. While the impact of local hunting has yet to be assessed, a mere 63 hunters in the Gulf of Mottama in Myanmar have reportedly contributed to the global decline of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. Sea turtles are also regularly hunted and their eggs collected. In recent years, BANCA has worked with local communities to raise awareness and hold community patrols, which has resulted in a decline in shorebird hunting. Communities around Nan Thar are impoverished and dependent upon natural resources for their livelihoods, so BANCA's conservation interventions have been focused on alternative livelihoods and resource use. Climate change has caused sea levels to rise and extreme weather to erase important habitat.

COMMUNITIES

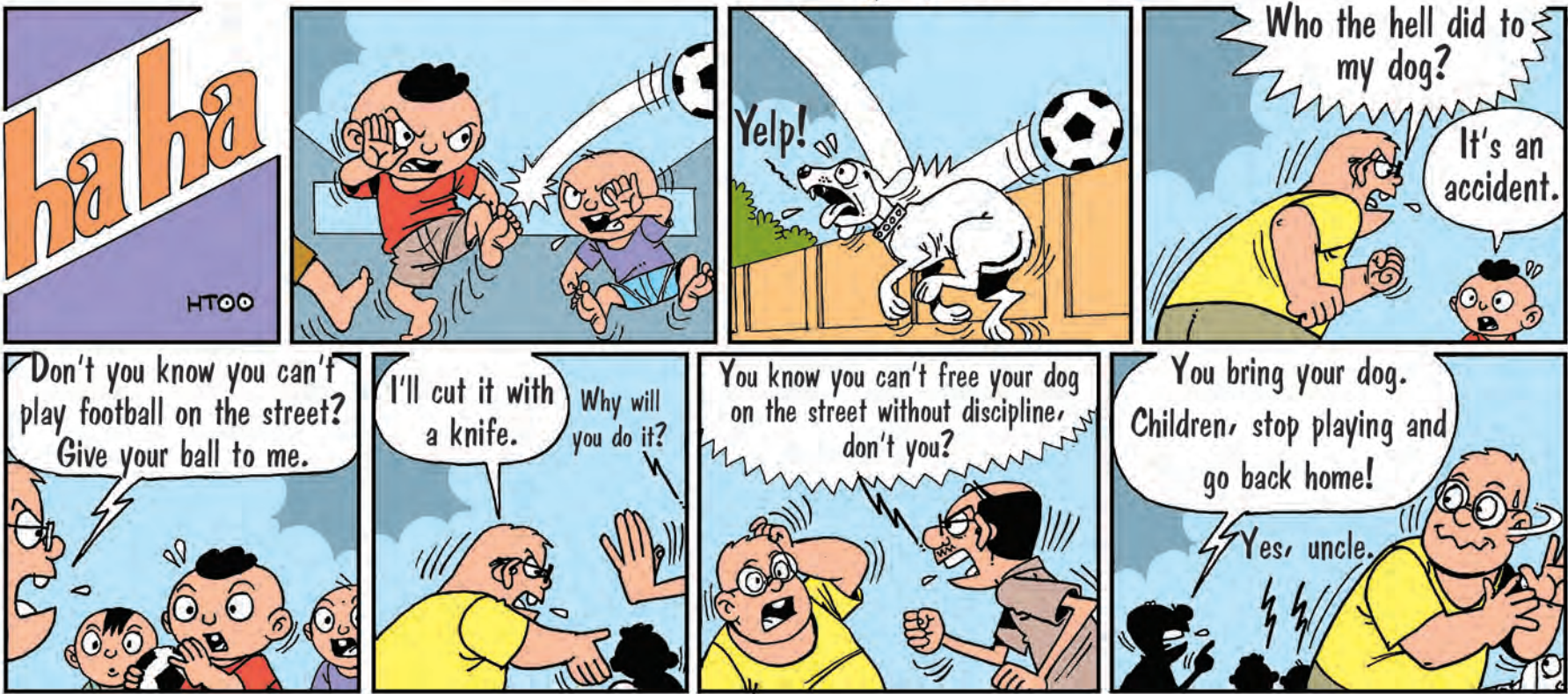
There are five villages near Nan Thar Island with a total population of about 5,300 people. However, none of the villages lie within the proposed protected area.

These local communities highly depend on fisheries and aquaculture. Agriculture is practiced during the rainy season, mainly for rice, watermelons and chili peppers. There is a lack of education and health services in the villages. Water and sanitation are generally poor in these communities, and some villages even experience water scarcity during the dry season. BANCA and R-BANCA have established strong relationships with the local communities. They have been raising awareness through several campaigns discouraging shorebird hunting and instilling local pride in the presence of the Spoon-billed Sandpiper. The partners have also conducted socio-economic surveys and supported local communities by providing hand pumps for water. During a conservation workshop in September 2018, leaders from each local village agreed on the establishment of a protected area. BANCA will ensure gender equity and social inclusion of marginalized community members at consultations, which are set to take place at each stage of the designation process.



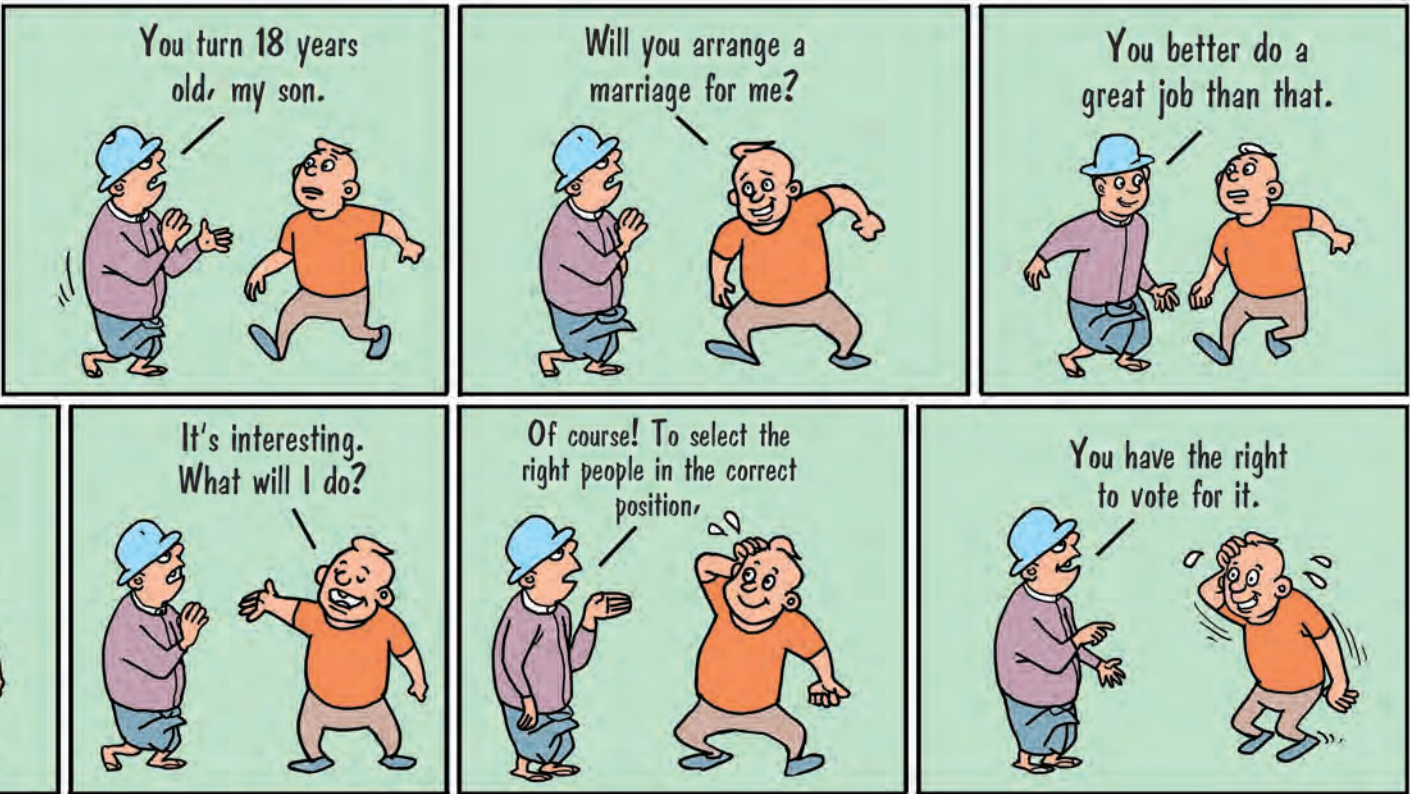
Birds found in Nan Thar Island

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020





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

HONEY! The words you said yesterday made me sad until now. On the phone you said, 'It'd be better if I were not born here'; 'It'd be better if I met earlier with this and that kind of person'; 'It'd be better if I were born in a very rich family or in a rich country'; 'What must I do for a living here?' and all your groanings. As soon as I heard your 'It'd be better' complaints, I felt like being thrown into a hole because your words always make me feel miserable. Really, I don't want you to discard your real identity and feel ashamed of your existence of being born a country bumpkin. I don't think you envy those who make friends with foreigners and live in tycoon compounds and drive the latest model car. I don't want to misjudge you that you overestimate and congratulate those who hold the Foreign Degree and those whose modernized gadgets like iPhone and Mac-book Air Pro. I'm afraid you don't forget your native Pa-Oh dialect and turn yourself an anglophile. Don't you remember how we enjoyed congratulating each other over the degrees we were awarded by completing the assignments by the roadside

computer shop, how we joyfully communicated with each other through the pavement PCO (public call office), and how we jostled in crowded buses for years. Hopefully, you, too, are very happy for your return to the bosom of your native. Thinking we can live together again, I even thank the COVID-19 pandemic for bringing people, who had been staying far away from home, back to their motherland.

I remember the day my heart was torn apart since you slipped away from me and from the village. Saying goodbye to your old home and starting a new life could be sweet and exciting for you. Although we could not manage to bring you better opportunities, it was bittersweet to let you go. Saying goodbye to a place full of so many memories would remain only things in your memory but those who were left behind were in great sorrow. Yes, things do not easily get settled to those who have moved to other countries while the ones at home have to take the responsibilities of the family. Luckily we live in a much more connected world with video chat, smart phone or computer, social networking and messaging

services. This defines that you can still stay in good contact with us. But it is not the same as you are being here, by my side.

Honey! I understand your moving abroad can boost the family economy. Frankly speaking, it was in search of job opportunity and more income and relieving your family of poverty that you left us. Yes, migration can have a positive impact on young people by opening up new opportunities, a path to participate in higher education, a better and decent job, a chance to gain professional experience or to pursue personal development, by building self-confidence, and allowing them to acquire skills and competencies beneficial to themselves. However, among the local country people like us, the ethnic minority group remains with a shortage of labor because of cases of migration; you know this leads to a "brain drain" and shortage of young human resource. There may also be drops in productivity when high-skilled youth and energetic young people leave the countryside. Now villages have been left decrepit.

Honey! Just come back and think what we can gain from

experiences of living in another country and meeting new people? I believe you might come back with different conditions and different interests and experience. Taking advantage of it, shall we start a new world together? Nowadays people of our village use little oxen for ploughing in the fields but the innovative technology for improving soil fertility management and increasing the crop yields. As you know, a piece of arable land is a uniquely valuable commodity in our village. Thaton township in the Mon State, whatever crops are richly productive especially rambutan, mangosteen, durian, marian and soon. So I have an idea and plan for can-fruit processing which can recycle waste of soft products. How? It is part of micro- and small-scale business operations. It may not require the sophisticated business management techniques that are used by large-scale manufacturers. We can work from home and sell the products to neighbors and friends via a roadside stall or in a local marketplace. As small-scale production is labor-intensive, we need you. From small enterprises

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Welcome back, honey!

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we can boost our product countrywide. Moreover, as you know, our village produces homemade glutinous rice liquor and ordinary rice liquor, and since it gives sweet taste, low alcoholic, and rich nutrients, it has been popular among all ages in our village and neighboring villages since time immemorial. Besides, it is widely used in Pa-Oh dishes and essential in any occasion. I am thin king if we canproduceit with highquality packing and better-marketing,itis undeniable that our traditional glutinous rice liquor can be competitive beyond Soju (Korean alcoholic beverage) and Sake (Japanese alcoholic beverage). I really have many ideas of how to implement our village products and be made known to the whole country. It would be better if you were together again with us.

Honey! I am pretty sure that there is something nice a boutbe-ingback-thingslikewarmsmiles of the family and village welcoming you back. To go back to normali-seasy. Don't be a fraid that people



Myanmar nationals returning from foreign countries queue for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 10 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

might ask, "How was it in other countries?" They understand and sympathize with your feelings and your coming home.Noonere-alizesthatyourstayingabroadwa-sareally big dealto me and you... maybe even life-changing... it's only our concern. Don't bother and worry. Just come back with mountaintop experience from a foreign country. Get united with family and old friends and do

the same things you have done before. It's time to review what has already happened, what has worked well andwhatisstill neede dforimprovement.Coming home allows you to appreciate all that you have done and help you pre-pare for the future. It is important to remember the comfort of home that is always waiting for you.

Honey! Think where are you from? Who are you? Where

do you belong? It is enough you met some people who were very different from me; you gave your services for those who were not in your relatives. You left your sched-ule, your community and your comfort zone to try something new and to give service. I under-stand in this fast pacing world, every personis struggling to get rich, believing it holds the key to their happiness. Yet when they

attain success, some still remain greedy. I do not want you to be one of those because life is quite enjoyable if we are together with those welove. In this COVID-19 period, although we cannot do and workany thing but stay home, we must think ahead of the time after COVID-19. Ok? Just come back, this is your native !

The essence of life

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The second point to deal with is wealth. According to my experience, I have ever seen so many youths who came from rich families and some who don't. Some youths never have a try at anything, for their parents are rich and in perfect condition. They have no tough time. So, they have never ever faced and solved the difficulty, plus, they spend their time by living an easy-going life and they will get nothing later. Do nothing, get nothing. That's the course of nature. Some youths try out for their life though their parents are rich. Then, they are getting successful. They were lucky since they were born. For some youths, their parents aren't rich and can't support, but they try so as to be self-reliant. Meanwhile, they would face more difficul-ties. The more they face it, the more they get a terrible tough time. But they can over-come everything because of their struggles. Some youths do not dare to face difficulty and don't want to try to have a better life

because their parents can't support to them in imperfect conditions. They tend to put blame on their parents and then, life itself. Life and parents can't be chosen. Although no choice is there to choose, we are able to change that circumstance. It's up to ourselves.

So, we must try to get to the top through the difficulties no matter how we are facing tough time and whoever we are. We need to be a sharp person and have a sharp intelligence to get to the top. And, we always have to try to be a sharp person as well. Youths have to think of their dreams suitably. As I mentioned above, fulfilling our potential and personal benefits should not be egocentric or selfish. Nowadays, most youths want to be successful and popular but they do not dare to face the ups and downs of life. Once we were born, we would face it. That's nature. If we avoided that nature, we would certainly get more difficulties. The more we avoid it, the harder we face. But the more we face the

hardest things, the happier we feel when we've overcome it. The happier we feel, the more we get such as the way of thought and problem solving. Nor should we avoid the ups and downs of life. So, the poet, Sayar Hla Than, had ever written in his poem bearing the title "Narcissism Copied":

"For being afraid of death before,
There were many avoidances.
Now,
For being gruelling to avoid,
Death haven't been frightened
by thinking."

(Trs.)

So, if we avoid it, we face it. If we face it, we escape from it, then, face the difficulty and everything _whichever situation you have.

Only when we face it do we get the essence of life. It's very nice and satisfying. There is another thing more satisfying than it. This is guiding and being a pioneer for the promising new generation after

success. New generation have been guided and led, and should have been given the chance to lead by themselves. If so, the new generation will improve. If not, we have not performed our duties as the older genera-tion. So, we must struggle for our own sake and for the sake of our new generation. If so, other people's lives can be improved. Our community, our country, our nation can be achieved. It is a must-do. The important thing is that once we become successful, our people, environment and Mother land will automatically be improved. That is why, we need to be the first to take action.

In a nut shell, life is full of complicated entanglement, difficulty and touch time. We have to face the ups and downs of life. We must struggle toget ourselves free. Of course. The essence of life is to struggle. The greater essence is to help and improve for the lives of others. Plus, the greatest essence is "Trying to attain enlightenment of life".

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