REMAIN VIGILANT AGAINST COVID-19 IMPORTED AT ALL TIMES PAGE-8 (OPINION)

NATIONAL
Union Construction Minister inspects roads, bridges in Bago, Magway
PAGE-4

NATIONAL
Union Commerce Minister inspects development works in Shwebo
PAGE-5

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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President connects Shan State (East) to National Grid

President U Win Myint, Union Minister U Win Khaing and Shan State Chief Minister Dr Lin Htut launch the transmission of electricity from the National Grid to the Shan State (East) on 8 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

PRESIDENT U Win Myint attended the ceremony to commission into service the 151.8-mile-long 230-kV Namhsan-Mongpyin-Kengtung national grid, the 230/66/11 kV 100 Mva Kengtung main electrical substation, the 230/66/11 kV 60 MVA Mongpyin main electrical substation and the transmission of electricity from the National Grid to the Shan State (East), and delivered the keynote address yesterday morning.

Also present were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Ohn Win and U Win Khaing, Chief Minister of Shan State Dr Lin Htut, Speaker of Shan State Hluttaw U Sai Lone Hsai, Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Hlaing, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Win, members of Shan State cabinet, members of the parliament, the chief of Myanmar Police Force, departmental personnel, town elders and local people. President U Win Myint delivered the address.

(The President U Win Myint's speech is covered separately on Page-3).

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing presented a report on the power cables and electrical substation projects.

SEE PAGE-2

> No one in the administrative level should regard himself as a person with special privilege. He should work with the concept of serving the interest of the people. Regardless of their ranks, all the civil servants should work with cooperation and coordination and through the family spirit and mutual understanding.

President connects Shan State (East) to National Grid

President U Win Myint inspects the Switchyard from the observation platform on the upper floor of Kengtung electrical substation on 8 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

U Sai Aung Hkam, on behalf of the town eleders, expressed words of thanks.

The President viewed the Switchyard from the observation platform on the upper floor of Kengtung electrical substation.

The President, the Union Minister for Electricity and Energy and the Chief Minister proceeded to the Control Room and launched the transmission of electricity from the National Grid to the Shan State (East).

The speaker of Shan State Hluttaw, the deputy minister for Electricity and Energy and the minister for Electricity and Energy of Shan State formally opened the ceremony to commission into service the 151.8-mile-long 230-kV Namhsan-Mongpyin-Kengtung National Grid, 230/66/11 kV 100 Mva Kengtung main electrical substation, 230/66/11 kV 60 MVA Mongpyin main electrical substation and the transmission of electricity from the National Grid to the Shan State (East).

> Regardless of their race, religion, locality and territory, all should work with the Union spirit in building a Democratic Federal Union where peace, prosperity and equality prevail, he stressed.

Then, the President, the Union Minister for Electricity and Energy and the Chief Minister unveiled the stone plaque of the 230/66/11 kV 100 Mva Kengtung main electrical substation and sprinkled scented water on it.

After the ceremony, the President cordially conversed with the local people. Later, the President met MPs, chairmen of district and township management committees, and heads of Shan State (East) level government offices.

At the meeting, the President said all the persons of the civil service are enjoying the monthly salaries and facilities of the government. So they must observe the existing laws and rules and orders and directories for the civil servants and must be loyal to the State. A resolution has already been made to establish a Democratic Federal Union. The practice of democracy further solidifies the Union, and the democracy foundation will be further cemented through the establishment of the Union system. Although the Union Government and the region and state governments play the leading role, the civil servants are the main driving force to reach this end. The facilitation and acceleration of democracy depends on the power of the driving force.

President U Win Myint sprinkles the scented water onto the plaque of the Kengtung main electrical substation. **PHOTO: MNA**

As all the citizens have the right to justice, civil servants should provide fair and quality public services. No one in the administrative level should regard himself as a person with special privilege. He should work with the concept of serving the interest of the people. Regardless of their ranks, all the civil servants should work with cooperation and coordination and through the family spirit and mutual understanding. In conducting multi-sector transforms they should follow the prevailing trends. All should work in harmony and unison as the transition is a rare opportunity, the President noted. Regardless of their race, religion, locality and territory, all should work with the Union spirit in building a democratic Federal Union where peace, prosperity and equality prevail, he stressed.

Afterwards, the President and entourage left Kengtung by special Tatmadaw flight, and arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw in the afternoon. —MNA

(Translated by TMT)

President U Win Myint meets MPs, chairmen of district and township management committees, and heads of Shan State (East) level government offices on 8 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint speaks at ceremony to commission Main National Grid in Shan State (East), main electrical substations

I wish to extend good wishes and metta for the good health and happiness of the Union Ministers, Chief Minister of the Shan State government, Speaker of the Shan State Hluttaw, ministers of the Shan State government, members of the Shan State Hluttaw, departmental officials, ethnic nationals, and senior executives from the company who have come to attend today's ceremony to commission the Namhsan-Mongpyin-Kengtung electric power grid, the Kengtung main electrical substation, the Mongpyin main electrical substation, and the transmission of electricity from the National Grid into Shan State (East).

Before, electricity was distributed in Shan State (East) using diesel generators, and mini-hydropower generators on a part-time basis. Now we can distribute electricity on a 24-hour basis from the national electric power grid. For us to be able to supply electric power on a 24-hour basis to Shan State (East), the Ministry of Electricity and Energy built the Namhsan-Mongpyin-Kengtung 230 kV electric power grid, and two new main electrical substations in Kengtung and Mongpyin. Work was also done to increase the electric power supply of the Namhsan electrical substation from 132 kV to 230 kV.

Our Union Government has been working strenuously for the all-round development of the whole country; we have given special priority to build transportation networks, provide electric power and provide drinking water. This is to elevate the socio-economic status of the people. In doing this, just as we are building transportation networks all over the country, we are also drawing up plans and implementing them to provide electricity. We have been implementing electric power generation projects, the building of main electric power grids, and main electrical substation projects every year using large quantities of money.

For the all-round development of the country and the socio-economic development of the people, the availability of electric power is a basic necessity; this is why our Union Government has been giving special priority to provide adequate electric power to the whole country. Beginning from the time our Union Government took over responsibility, we have given priority to electric power generation in the allocation of our budget and worked hard to generate more electricity. During the period April 2016 to June 2020, within the four-year period, a total of 2005 Megawatts have been produced and supplied.

Our Union Government has been working for the equal and harmonious development of all regions and states in all sectors for all ethnic national races. We have increased the building of electric power generation plants; to provide electricity to the consumers, beginning from 2016 during the four-year period, we have set up a total of 33949 miles of electric power lines ranging from 230 kV, 132 kV, 66 kV, 33 kV, 11 kV and 400 volts. In addition we also built 21,390 Mva electric substations.

Thus, because our Union Government has worked to distribute more electricity for the whole country, in March 2016, a maximum of 2,800 Megawatts was used but in 2020, a maximum of 3,828 Megawatts were being used. When our Union Government took over responsibility, only 34 per cent of our people could use electricity; now we have been able to supply electricity to 54 per cent of the population. We are now working on a strategy to supply electricity to the whole country by the year 2030. Since we have been able to successfully carry out our goal of supplying adequate electricity to our people and supplying more electricity, this has given a positive impact on the social, education, health, creation of job opportunities and increasing investments for the people.

If we look at Shan State, we can see that in 2016, only 165 Megawatts was available for use. Now in 2020, electricity use has increased to 256 Megawatts. Within the Shan State, in 2016 March, it was possible to supply only 25.4 percent from the national electric power grid; now in 2020, we can supply up to 45.6 per cent. Furthermore, in 2020-2021, we are working to be able to supply electricity up to 50 per cent.

> I wish to urge all of you solemnly, to march hand in hand with union spirit all over our Union, towards a peaceful and prosperous Democratic Federal Union.

President U Win Myint delivers speech at the ceremony to commission Main National Grid in Shan State (East) on 8 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

> Our Union Government has been working for the equal and harmonious development of all regions and states in all sectors for all ethnic national races.

Since our country has been formed with different ethnic national races, it is very important that each of us have union spirit. Our Union Government has been working strenuously to guarantee the fundamental rights and equality for ethnic nationals, which has been their aspiration for so many years. In the same way our ethnic brothers and sisters need to participate and cooperate in unity. Only then will we reach the goal of our Democratic Federal Union.

If all the ethnic nationals within our Union work in unity for the same results with the same aims, all the regions and states which are within the Union will develop harmoniously and all of us will be able to enjoy the fruits in equal measure.

The ceremony today to inaugurate the Namhsan-Mongpyin-Kengtung electric power grid and main electrical substations represent a historic milestone for Shan State (East) for the supply of 24 hours electricity for the first time since independence. All ethnic national brothers and sisters in the Shan State now have the opportunity to uplift their socio-economic status; they are now on the path of opportunity. By using the 230 kV electrical substation of Shan State (East) which we have opened today as centre, we will work to build more electric power supply lines to the Tachileik-Maingkhoke-Maingsat-Maingwa regions in order to connect the whole of Shan State to the electric power grid.

In conclusion, I wish to urge all of you solemnly, to march hand in hand with union spirit all over our Union, towards a peaceful and prosperous Democratic Federal Union.

Thank you all.

■ ■ ■

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe meets officials of Radiology Department and Emergency Department

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe discusses strategic plans on betterment of medicine and medical subjects on 8 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe discussed with Professors-Heads, Professors, Associate Professors and Specialists for all-round development of Radiology Department and Emergency Department at University of Medicine (1), Yangon yesterday morning.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said the strategic plans are being provided to develop the medicine and medicine related subjects and the ministry will keep providing for the radiologists, specialists in emergency treatments and for post graduate courses.

The Ministry makes arrangements to produce more human resources including specialists and experts of radiology and emergency treatments for the development of public healthcare coverage and quality this 2020-21 academic year and will also provide the needed modern technology and equipment to achieve proper teaching environment, he added.

Moreover, he continued that it needs to conduct regular trainings for the teachers of University of Medicine and if the professors and teachers post educational videos of medical subjects for the doctors of station and township hospitals and assistant doctors on internet page of their respective university, the doctors across the nation can access the latest medical information easily.

The Ministry will provide assistance for conducting researches and it needs to cooperate closely with the international universities and organizations for the development of relevant medical subjects, he stated.

Afterwards, the attendees to the meeting briefed the currently conducting operations for health care services, co-operation with- international institutions, applied software for teaching and treatment and medical equipment. —MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Union Construction Minister inspects roads, bridges in Bago, Magway

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw inspected Yangon-Pyay road section yesterday morning.

Firstly, the Union Minister and party inspected repairs and expansions of Yangon-Pyay road section which is being carried out by Max Highway Company under B.O.T system.

Then, the Union Minister and party inspected Pyay-Magway road section and Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) which is constructed by Bridge Construction Group-3 of the Department of Bridge.

Deputy Director-General U Khin Maung Swe and Director (Civil) U Htay Aung explained the completion of bridge, budget status, ongoing operations in the relevant financial year, conditions of Ayeyawady riverway, operations in the middle of river and quality testing via PowerPoint presentations.

Afterwards, they also inspected the operation sites of Aunglan side and Girder molding and gave instructions and suggestions as necessary.

Union Minister U Han Zaw and party inspect the Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) in Magway Region on 8 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ayeyawady Bridge (Thayet-Aunglan) locates in Thayet District, Magway Region and connects Aunglan Town on the east bank of the river with Thayet Town on the west bank.

The bridge has a total length of 2,272.5 metre with 8.5 metre wide road and one metre wide pedestrian path on both side of the bridge. Waterway clearance beneath the bridge was 130 metre wide and 16 metre high. The bridge was a steel frame arch type with AASHTO HS 25 Loading.

It is an important bridge that lies on the economic corridor that connects Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone with Shweli passing through Thayet, Aunglan and Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 8 August, total figure remains at 359

Updated at 8 pm, 8 August 2020

Total Cases	New Case	Total Death Tally
359	0	6

Recovery Update on 8 August 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recovery	New Recovery	Discharged from Hospital
311	2	302

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 8 August 2020

New PUIs
16

Ministry of Health and Sports

The relationship between the State and the people is very important

The relationship between the State and the people is very important. When I say State, I mean the whole machinery, both animate and inanimate, which keeps the country running, led by the Union Government. To become a State which is dependable, we need people who are dependable.

At this time when the COVID disease is spreading all over the world, all countries are dealing with this problem in various ways. "People are the key"; we have placed our belief firmly on this. We place value on the people and derive our strength from the people. We are striving to overcome the dangers of this disease by building up the spirit of "all for one and one for all".

One of the measures taken by the Union Government is to make it possible for those citizens living in foreign countries to be able to return; because the infection rate of the disease is high in some foreign countries, we have to make special preparations to make sure that the infection does not spread from the returnees.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's Facebook post on 13 June 2020)

Union Commerce Minister inspects development works in Shwebo

Union Minister Dr Than Myint meets the local paddy growers in Shwebo on 8 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, in his capacity as Vice-Chairman of the Private Sector Development Committee, visited the Chiba Farm in Chiba Village, Shwebo Township in Sagaing Region on Friday.

Consumer Affairs Department Director-General U Myint Lwin accompanied the Union Minister during the tour.

At the Farm meeting hall, they met local paddy growers; the Farm deputy in-charge Daw Tin Moe Nwe reported the area, office buildings, and constructing Seed Centre aided by JICA.

They arrived at the Two Elephants Power Loom Factory, a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME), in Seik Khun Village; the factory's owner U Thet Naing explained its operation with over 400 power looms.

He also reported the difficulties of raw materials shortage and purchase of textile dyes from China during COVID-19 including the expansion of the businesses that is facing difficulties because of limited amounts of loans received for SMEs.

The Union Minister said that he would coordinate over the reported matters in cooperation with relevant ministries, and then inspected the factory's weaving works.

The Union Minister and party also inspected the operations of manual looms at Bo Tae Gone Village in Seik Khun Village-tract.

They arrived at Chiba Village in the evening, and met local businesspersons at the village's Mya Thein Tan (West) Monastery.

At the meeting, the Union Minister urged local businesspersons to increase manufacturing of cottons and fabrics saying that the ministry is easing restrictions to speed up trading businesses.

He also urged the businesspersons to try hard for exporting value-added products.

He added that if the costs of entire supply chain are reduced the products can compete in the market.

They then met the local farmers of Nyaungbintha Village at the Village Administrator Office.

Local people reported the matters related to installation of more transformers, irrigation works, transportations, and getting more agricultural loans.

The Union Minister said he would coordinate the reported matters in cooperation with relevant ministries.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Bagan Plastic Campaign leads garbage collection in ancient cultural zone

BAGAN Plastic Campaign with the participation of NyaungU-based organizations conducted plastic waste collection yesterday morning in Bagan-NyaungU ancient cultural zone in NyaungU Township, Mandalay.

The garbage collection was conducted from Old Bagan Sakura traffic light to New Bagan traffic light.

The people from NyaungU Township Administration Department, Bagan-NyaungU Tour Guide Association, Thande hotel, Khit Thit Mg Mae members, Balloons Over Bagan and Tun Foundation Bank collaborated with Bagan Plastic Campaign, according to U Tint Swe, chairperson of the Bagan Plastic Campaign.

Royal-D Co.,Ltd and Plastic Campaign donated electrolyte beverages and sticky rice to those who participated in the activity which is conducted every Saturday.—Ko Htein(KPD)

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

People participating in the Bagan Plastic Campaign in NyaungU on 8 August. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN (KPD)**

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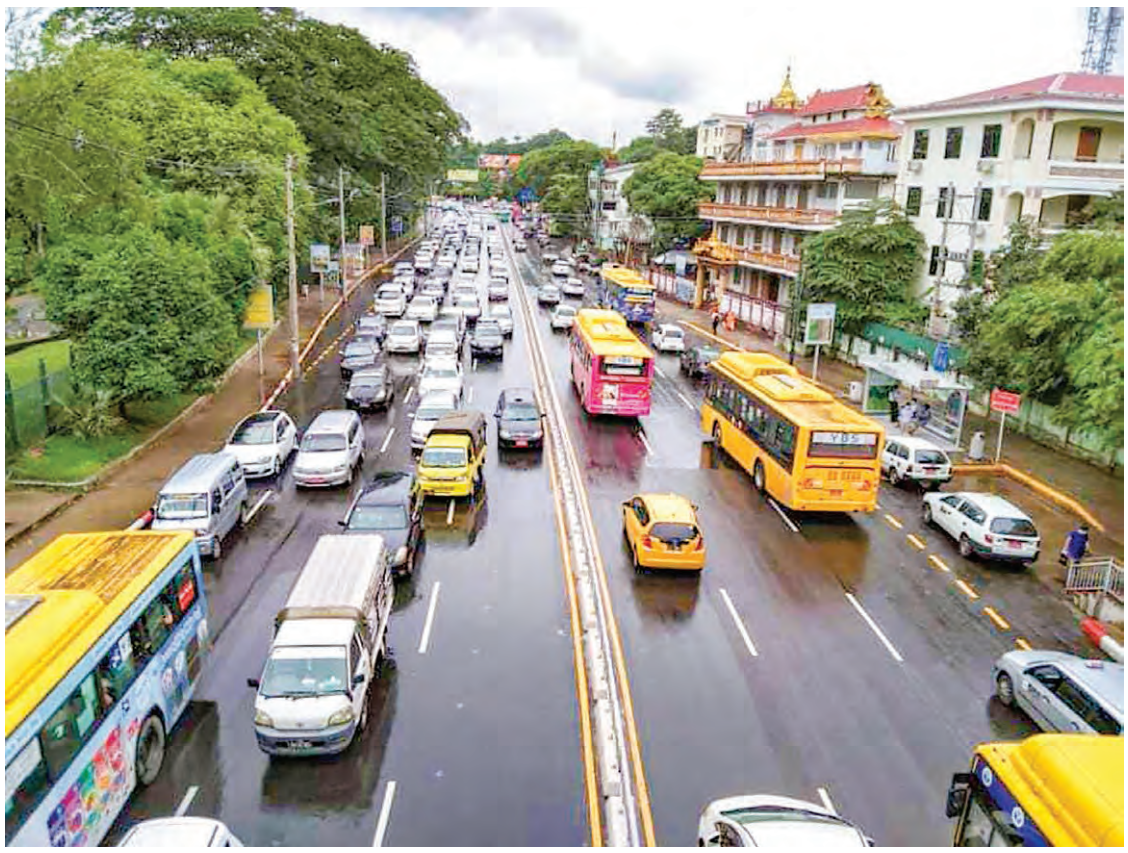
We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email **aungthuya@gnlm.com.mm** with your name and title.

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.

YRTA resumes over 3,800 YBS buses



Eighty eight per cent of the YBS buses are resuming their operation in Yangon. **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG**

DURING the coronavirus prevention and control period, about 3,886 Yangon Bus Service (YBS) buses are being operated in Yangon region recently, according to a media conference held at Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

"The number of passengers has significantly increased to 0.1 million in late July," said YRTA Joint Secretary U Hla Aung.

The number of YBS passengers declined to start in March 2020. April has a lower number of YBS passengers.

Two months after the outbreak of the global viral disease, the restriction has been lifted and the number of passengers has increased again in May and June.

Although the operation of YBS buses was reduced in the pandemic period, 88 per cent of YBS buses are resuming their operation currently.

At present, the universities and Yangon airport are still closed and the YBS buses operating those routes are still suspended. About 56 per cent of people are using the YBS buses, as usual.—Myint Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Magway sesame growers face hardship due to drought, low price

WITH the sesame damaged by lack of rain, the local sesame growers are less interested in growing of sesame as they know they cannot expect the good price, according to the sesame growers in Magway region.

"We are not interested in the sesame market price. And we don't have sesame to supply as well. The plants could not be grown again because time is over. We could not supply the sesame this year from our plantations," said U Kyi Lin, a sesame grower from Hlepwegyi village.

"The sesame price dropped in March. After that, the price of sesame is rising again after the water festival in April. Some growers destroyed their sesame plantations and came to buy the bean seeds to grow. They don't even ask the market price of sesame," said Ko Yarzar Lin, an owner of the Nyein Man commodity in Magway town.

"The sesame cultivation is not successful because of drought. So, we come and buy the bean seeds to grow in Magway. We are hopeless with our sesame plantations. So, it doesn't matter whether the price of sesame is up or down. We have no sesame at all to sell," said U Thar Oo, a sesame farmer.

"Magway traders estimated that about 600,000 baskets of sesame can be produced annually. Among the varieties of sesame, the local farmers mostly grow black sesame because it can fetch them a good price. This year, Mandalay market demanded the sesame which was of the same volume demanded by Magway commodity depots. They offered to buy the sesame from the local growers. The sesame plantations were damaged for lack of rain. Therefore, the sesame purchase depots may be faced with challenges," U Kyaw Tun, the chairman of Magway Commodity.

"More than a hundred thousand of the sesame plantations can be adversely affected by erratic weather. Now, the Agricultural Land Management and Statistics is collecting the data of damaged sesame plantations," said U Lin Myat, the regional head of Agriculture Department. —Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

A worker carrying the sack of sesame in a warehouse in Magway. **PHOTO: ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)**

Total border trade value up by nearly $240 mln this year

THE total border trade value exceeded US$8.99 billion, an increase of over $239 million this year compared with that of the same period last year, according to the Ministry of commerce.

From 1 October to 31 July, the total border value includes $6.05 billion in export and $2.95 billion in import. Compared with that of last FY, the export earnings dropped by $123 million while the import value increased by $362 million. This time last year, the border trade was valued at $8.76 billion.

Myanmar has opened 18 border trade camps and is conducting trading with four neighbouring countries– China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh.

Among all the border points, Muse border sees the largest volume and value of the border trade with an estimated value of $34.01 billion this FY, followed by Hteekhee with $ 1.65 billion and Myawady with $ 1.03 billion.

The total trade value is expected to hit $34 billion in 2019-20FY. And the export sector is expected to earn around $18 billion, according to the Union Minister for Commerce.

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

(Translated by Hay Mar)

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

UNION ELECTION COMMISSION MYANMAR

Who is eligible to vote?

- irrespective of sex or religion
- those who are 18 years of age on the date of the election
- citizens, associate citizens, and those who have permission to become naturalized citizens, who do not contravene the provisions of the Hluttaw Election Law
- a person whose name has been included in the voting list of the respective constituency

Who is ineligible to vote?

- a member of a religious order
- person serving a prison sentence
- person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- person prohibited by the Election Law
- foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020
DAYS
91

32nd Anniversary of 8888 Uprising commemorated in Yangon

PEOPLE commemorated 32nd Anniversary of 8888 Uprising laying roses and paying respects with silence to the late monks, students and people who died during the uprising in Yangon yesterday.

Commemorations were held in front of Yangon City Hall and Maha Bandoola Park, and Kan Thar Yar Park in North Okkalapa.

A ceremony to offer 'soon' (day meal) to Members of Sangha was held at the Maggin Monastery in South Okkalapa Township and attended by some leaders of 88 Generation Students and political groups' representatives.

"No event was organized this year because of COVID-19 restrictions. No crowding is allowed. However, the commemoration was organized as an activity participated by individuals," said Ko Jimmy of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society.

"Commemorations were held not only in front of the City Hall but also in Kan Thar Yar Park, North Okkalapa. People also individually paid respects laying flowers at Tadalay Lanwa. No crowd was made. People wore masks. Meals were offered. No organization led this year's commemorations. People commemorated at their will in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines," he added.

Ko Min Ko Naing and Ko Jimmy of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society commemorated at Kan Thar Yar Park.—Min Thit (MNA)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

People paying respects with silence to the late monks, students and people who died during the 8888 Uprising in Yangon on 8 August 2020. **PHOTO: MIN THIT (MNA)**

The signboard showing 32nd Anniversary of 8888 Uprising.
PHOTO: TIN SOE

Preparations for the 32nd Anniversary of 8888 Uprising seen in Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon.
PHOTO: SAN KYAW OO (IPRD)

556 Myanmar migrant workers return home via Myawady border

A total of 556 Myanmar migrant workers – 331 males and 225 females – came back home from Thailand through the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) yesterday.

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

A total of 61,387 returnees including 11,680 in May, 25,338 in June and 18,597 in July so far have come back home through the border since 1 May.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Elections are the main pillar for supporting democracy.

9 AUGUST 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Remain vigilant against COVID-19 imported at all times

THE Ministry of Health and Sports has reported a total of 359 coronavirus positive cases up to 8 August 2020 in Myanmar. The recovery cases also reached 311 with a death toll of six.

The national figures showed that most of the positive cases were imported ones and that the country needs to stay vigilant against the spread of this virus from an epidemic source country or region.

Infected persons with no symptoms of this disease can travel to another region, causing the spread of the virus. As a result, COVID-19 is still a severe threat to other regions through transportation services.

Myanmar saw many cases of coronavirus infection associated with travel history from an epidemic source country or region, and some positive cases had contact history to people from the region, while some cases were the secondary ones transmitted from the imported cases respectively.

> With realizing the danger of this chain of infection, the government is still taking strict preventive measures against this pandemic. The imported cases could only be isolated or quarantined by imposing the strict control policy against this disease.

The chain of imported cases has people come from a city or a country with an outbreak arrived in other areas; the infection began to those who had very close contacts with them, resulting in secondary cases. Then, local transmission occurred among the people without contact history with the imported cases or travel history to the outbreak source.

With realizing the danger of this chain of infection, the government is still taking strict preventive measures against this pandemic. The imported cases could only be isolated or quarantined by imposing the strict control policy against this disease.

More, contact tracing and isolation of cases are very difficult to be carried out on secondary cases than imported. Early prediction of the infection chain by the imported case is very critical to prevent local transmission.

The Ministry of Health and Sports is putting in place a range of public health and social measures, like other countries, in different combinations and at varying times in the local evolution of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, public cooperation is needed to have constant vigilance against local transmission through imported cases of the coronavirus pandemic.

That is why do remain vigilant against COVID-19 imported at all times.

■ ■ ■

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The Levy System of Establishing Skills Development Fund

By Lokethar

GENERALLY speaking, employers would like to hire workers who already possess the competencies required for the job. However if the job market is "tight" for such workers then the employer would end up hiring workers who , more or less could be trained and would not "job hop" at the slightest opportunity that comes up. Job hopping is the dilemma facing "employers" everywhere regarding training of skilled workers needed by them and their industry. Employers will try to cut down their expense as much as they can. So when it comes to "subsidizing" training of workers for "competitors" they would rather not be "magnanimous".

HR policies

Of course there are big enterprises with good HR policies which include developing skills of workers in their employment. It's mostly the small and medium enterprises that fit into the scenario described above. And in Myanmar the small and medium enterprises make up more than 90% of all economic enterprises. Hence the scenario is likely to be representative of the SMEs in Myanmar.

Well, the Employer Initiated Training system seems to have come up with a solution whereby employers collectively contribute to finance skill training of workers. The system involves each employer contributing a small percentage (usually 0.5% to around 1.5% or so) of the monthly payroll of the enterprise's "skilled workers", which in financial terms is a "levy", as contribution to a "skills development fund" set up under a law allowing for setting up of such funds.

> If on the other hand an employer or a group of employer set up a Worker Skills Training Centre and conducts training according to prescribed or accepted standards, they can ask for being exempted from payment of levy to the SDF.

The employers who are interested in training or having their workers trained by an outside training provider, can "get back" a large portion of their training cost from the SDF. The SDF usually can only reimburse worker training expenses to the employer and not directly to the training provider. This is because the training has to be at the initiative of the employer/s.

Worker Skills Training Centre

If on the other hand an employer or a group of employer set up a Worker Skills Training Centre and conducts training according to prescribed or accepted standards, they can ask for being exempted from payment of levy to the SDF.

In Myanmar, the employment and skills development law of 2013, promotes occupational competency standards based training of skilled workers. In fact it also embodies setting up a skills development fund for financing workers' skills development based on the "Levy" system mentioned above.

With charity to all and malice to none.

■ ■ ■

BEIRUT BLAST: THE LATEST INFORMATION

80,000 children displaced due to Beirut explosions – UNICEF

UNICEF scales up response and assistance to children and families

SOME 80,000 children have been displaced by the Beirut explosions, according to UNICEF estimates, with families affected in desperate need of support.

The explosions on Tuesday evening left 140 people dead, 5,000 injured and hundreds missing. UNICEF is concerned that many children have suffered trauma and remain in shock.

"Over the past 48 hours, UNICEF continued to coordinate closely with authorities and partners on the ground to respond to the urgent needs of families affected, focusing on health, water and the wellbeing of children," said Violet Speek-Warnery, UNICEF Deputy Representative in Lebanon.

The port of Beirut – where the explosion took place – is the main lifeline of the country. It is now totally destroyed.

According to the latest information:

- There are numerous reports of children who have been separated from family members, some of whom are still missing;
- At least 12 primary healthcare facilities, maternal, immunization and newborn centres in Beirut have been damaged, impacting services for nearly 120,000 people;
- A children's hospital in the Karantina area, which had a specialized unit treating critical newborns, was destroyed.;

A helicopter puts out a fire at the scene of an explosion at the port of Lebanon's capital Beirut on August 4, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

- The remaining operational hospitals are overstretched and have been depleted of critical medical supplies;
- 10 containers stocked by the Ministry of Public Health with personal protective equipment were destroyed;
- Five out of seven UNICEF-supported vaccine cold rooms were destroyed in the blast, affecting critical vaccination programmes;
- Many schools have reported damage in Beirut and the surrounding area, with assessments ongoing into the level of damage;
- In the past 48 hours, 464 new cases of COVID-19 were registered.

"UNICEF is supporting the local authorities and partners. Our teams have been working around the clock to provide people affected with much needed assistance," said Speek-Warnery.

UNICEF in Lebanon is working with counterparts and partners to scale up support to affected children and their families in order to respond to the immediate needs, including:

- Drinking water was distributed to frontline responders and those living in the directly affected location around the Beirut port;
- Conducting preliminary assessments on warehouses, schools, cold rooms, water infrastructure and health facilities including hospitals and specialize intensive care unit for newborns;
- An estimated 90 per cent of stored vaccines supplies were rescued from the damaged warehouse in the port;
- Supporting the reunification of children who have been separated from their family and the setting up of a hotline;
- Providing psychosocial support to help children cope with bereavement and trauma.
- Working with youth volunteers helping with the clean-up in different areas;
- Establishing a cash transfer programme for temporary housing assistance for families displaced by the loss of their houses.

To be able to respond to these huge immediate needs, UNICEF urgently requires nearly US$4.4 million.

Meanwhile, the World Food Programme (WFP) is undertaking an assessment of food needs. An assessment of shelter needs is also underway.

WFP said the explosion and the damage to the port will worsen "the grim economic and food security situation in Lebanon", which was already facing its worst ever economic crisis, compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"A recent WFP survey on the impact of the economic crisis and COVID-19 outbreak and subsequent lockdown measures on livelihoods and food security, revealed that food has become a major source of concern with 50 percent of Lebanese saying over the past month they felt worried they would not have enough food to eat", the agency said on Wednesday.

The UN is looking at all options to find ways to provide financial assistance for the ongoing response efforts.

The Organization has been heartened to see that governments across the world have declared their support for Lebanon, said Mr. Haq, who recalled that the country has been a haven for people fleeing war and persecution.

A home for refugees

Lebanon, which has a population of around six million, has taken in nearly 900,000 Syrians and more than 200,000 Palestinian refugees, as well as more than 18,000 other displaced people from nations such as Iraq and Sudan.

The UN refugee agency, UNHCR, expressed solidarity with the Lebanese people in the aftermath of the massive explosion.

'A state of shock'

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) revealed the impact on its team in Lebanon.

"One of our colleagues lost his spouse, seven of our staff were mildly injured and dozens of colleagues' homes were damaged", said Yukie Mokuo, UNICEF Representative for Lebanon, in a statement on Wednesday.

"Most of our staff – as are most people in Lebanon – are in a state of shock."

UNICEF is coordinating with the Lebanese authorities and partners to respond to needs.

The agency has provided drinking water to staff at the Beirut port while assisting health officials in rescuing medicines and vaccines that remained in a warehouse there. Its partners on the ground are providing psychosocial support to children across the city.

"Yesterday's catastrophe in Beirut adds to what has already been a terrible crisis for the people of Lebanon compounded by an economic collapse and a surge in COVID-19 cases. The pandemic already meant that hospitals are overwhelmed, and front-line workers are exhausted", said Ms. Mokuo.

She added that UNICEF will be stepping up efforts to reach families in need over the coming days.

SOURCE: UNICEF, NEWS. UN.ORG

■ ■ ■

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 8 August 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 9 August 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Lower Sagaing Region, scattered in Mandalay and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing Region, Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Kachin State and isolated heavyfalls in Upper Sagaing Region. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Squalls with moderate to rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (30-35)mph. Wave height will be about (6 – 9) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of increase of rain in Bago and Taninthayi regions, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 August 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 August 2020: One or two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 9 August 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 11:00 hrs MST on 8-8-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (1) day.

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (1) day.

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (1) day.

Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathaingchaung has exceeded by about (1) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (10:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ngawun River at Thabaung has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (2) days.

Advisory

It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Ngathaingchaung and Thabaung Twonship to take precaution measure.

DEVASTATING CRASH

Investigators find black boxes from Indian plane crash

The Air India Express Boeing 737 overshot the runway at Kozhikode, plunged down an embankment and broke up. **PHOTO: AFP**

INVESTIGATORS have recovered the "black box" flight recorders from an Air India Express plane that crashed in southern India killing at least 18 people, the aviation minister said Saturday.

The plane carrying 190 people crash-landed during bad weather Friday night and tore in two, injuring scores of passengers.

The Boeing 737, on a special flight from Dubai to bring back Indians stranded by the coronavirus pandemic, overshot the runway at Kozhikode in Kerala state, plunged down an embankment and broke up.

"Fuel had leaked out so it was a miracle that the plane did not catch fire, the toll could have been much higher," one senior emergency official at the scene said.

Aviation minister Hardeep Singh Puri visited the site Saturday and announced that the flight data and cockpit voice recorders had been found, which will help the investigation into the cause of the crash.

The Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau was conducting the probe, he said.

Kozhikode is considered a tricky airport as it has a table-top runway with a steep drop at one end.

Kerala has been hit by severe floods in recent days and heavy rains had been falling for several hours at Kozhikode as the jet landed.

Puri put the latest death toll at 18, while authorities said 22 people were in critical condition in hospital.

The fatalities included the two pilots as well as four children.

Passenger Renjith Panangad, 34, recalled the plane touching the ground and then everything went "blank".

"After the crash, the emergency door opened and I dragged myself out somehow," he told AFP from a hospital bed in Kozhikode.

SOURCE: AFP

MONEY-SPINNER

Sydney makes pitch to host Boxing Day Test

SYDNEY made a pitch Saturday to host the money-spinning Boxing Day Test against India as its traditional home Melbourne battles a surge in coronavirus cases.

The fate of the marquee fixture is uncertain with no live sport currently in Melbourne as it struggles with hundreds of new daily infections, in contrast to Sydney which continues to see only a handful of cases.

Reports have suggested Adelaide is the frontrunner to host the December 26-30 clash if Melbourne is not able to, but Sydney Cricket Ground Trust chairman Tony Shepherd said they too were keen.

"We'd be very happy to host it because it's a major event and it's good for Sydney, and people like coming to Sydney, and we have the capacity to host it if that's what Cricket Australia want to do," he told the Sydney Morning Herald.

The lucrative India series is seen as critical for the financial health of Cricket Australia, which has been hit hard by the pandemic with its hosting of the Twenty20 World Cup this year postponed until 2022.

SOURCE: AFP

The Boxing Day Test is traditionally held in Melbourne. **PHOTO © AFP**

AID FOR COVID-19 HIT

Trump says readying executive orders on virus relief package

President Donald Trump said Friday he was poised to sign executive orders to extend aid to Americans facing hardship due to the coronavirus pandemic, though negotiations continued between his administration and Democratic leaders in Congress on a new emergency spending bill. "End of the week," Trump said on the timing of when he might sign the orders. "They're being drawn (up) by the lawyers right now."

A man wears a mask as he walks through Grand Central station in Manhattan, New York City, on March 5. **PHOTO: AFP**

But he also said his economic team "continues to work in good faith to reach an agreement with Democrats in Congress" on a relief package including unemployment benefits and protections against evictions.

The stalemate on the relief negotiations came as official figures showed the US economy regained 1.8 million jobs in July, a solid but unremarkable result that comes as economists warn challenges to the pandemic recovery are growing.

As COVID-19 cases spiked in several states in recent weeks and forced some businesses to shut their doors again, economists warned of rising concerns that the labor market could take a turn for the worse, especially without federal backing.

SOURCE: AFP

WORLD'S LARGEST VACCINE MANUFACTURER

Indian serum institute to make 100 million virus vaccine doses

Up to 100 million COVID-19 vaccine doses could be made available for poorer countries by 2021 under a deal struck Friday for production at the Serum Institute of India.

The deal was announced by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance, for production of two different potential vaccines at SII, the world's largest vaccine manufacturer by volume.

The vaccines will be priced at a maximum $3 per dose and made available to up to 92 countries as part of Gavi's coronavirus vaccine advance market commitment programme.

The deal provides money up front to SII to help them expand capacity.

Once the vaccines gain regulatory approval, the doses could be produced as early as the first half of 2021 for distribution to low- and middle-income countries.—AFP

COOPERATIVE RESPONSES

COVID-19 crisis poses "a host of new challenges" to national authorities: UN

THE United Nations said on Thursday that the COVID-19 crisis poses "a host of new challenges" to national authorities and collective response efforts are needed.

The nexus between terrorism and organized crime took centre stage in the Security Council on Thursday, with UN officials raising fresh concerns over opportunistic alliances emerging among belligerents who share a hostility towards national authorities, and seek to exploit vulnerabilities created by the COVID-19 crisis.

"Comprehensive and cooperative responses are needed more than ever," said Ghada Waly, executive director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

"The COVID-19 crisis is raising a new set of challenges for national authorities, as criminals seek to exploit vulnerabilities created by lockdowns and shifting travel patterns. Building the capacities to deal with these threats is now a key part of UNODC's focus," she noted.

Both speakers highlighted the support of the United Nations to assist member states in implementing measures such as anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism, strengthening border security and more. Hungarian police officers check cars at the Nickelsdorf-Hegyeshalom border crossing at the Austro-Hungarian border on 18 March 2020. **PHOTO: ALEX HALADA/AFP**

Vladimir Voronkov, head of the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism, told the virtual meeting that terrorists are exploiting the significant disruption and economic hardships caused by COVID-19 to spread fear, hate and division and radicalize and recruit new followers. The increase in internet usage and cybercrime during the pandemic further compounds the problem.

Both speakers highlighted the support of the United Nations to assist member states in implementing measures such as anti-money laundering and counter-financing of terrorism, strengthening border security and more.

Voronkov concluded with a call to "continue our fight against terrorist groups and criminal networks to deny them the opportunity to exploit the COVID-19 crisis."

SOURCE: Xinhua

AWARENESS ABOUT ISSUES RELATED TO VERMIN

'Carcass feeding' a game changer for zoos and crop protection

AT a zoo northeast of Tokyo, two female Hokkaido brown bears were in an unusually lively mood earlier this year thanks to a change in diet -- they were being fed the carcass of a wild boar.

In their natural environment, Ai and Eriko would have spent most of their time hunting for food, walking many hours for prey, according to keeper Yuya Yamashita, 29, at the Kamine Zoo in Hitachi, Ibaraki Prefecture. Feeding them a carcass, fur still attached, was meant to stimulate those hunting instincts.

The initiative is part of a "carcass feeding" movement underway across Japan, inspired partly by the pile-up of the corpses of the huge numbers of wild animals hunted to prevent crop destruction. Support groups and wild game businesses are jumping on the bandwagon.

"When one of them stood up and bit into the wild boar corpse, the other one extended its paw and unleashed a growl as if not to be outdone," Yamashita said on a day in February, explaining that the liveliness on show was not typical of bears in captivity.

According to Yamashita, wild brown bears strip the animals they kill of their fur before biting off chunks of meat. In spending time doing this to the wild boar carcass, they got closer to their behavior in the wild. In contrast, the typical pattern in captivity is being fed fixed amounts of food at fixed times -- which can lead to stress because of long hours of boredom.

The zoo prepares materials explaining to visitors that the project is not meant to show "cruel conduct but is an effort to think about how to benefit animals." Observers on the day watched intently as the two bears ate.

In a survey done after the demonstration, there were comments such as "I realized that this was a precious opportunity for the animals" and "The explanation was done in a polite manner, so even children weren't afraid and could understand it."

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, agricultural damage caused by wild boar and deer in fiscal 2018 totalled 10.1 billion yen ($95.70 million) nationwide. A total of 1.16 million boar and deer were culled across Japan in the same period.

According to "Wild meat Zoo," an organization established in 2017 that advocates for the improvement of animal welfare and is promoting understanding of carcass feeding in Fukuoka, southwestern Japan, the practice of using culled wild animals as food at zoos is not unusual in Europe and the United States.

And in recent years, a range of zoos across Japan, also including the Morioka Zoological Park in Iwate Prefecture, Kyoto City Zoo, and the Kumamoto City Zoological and Botanical Gardens have started carcass feeding.

Masato Obuchi, 38, the organization's representative, said that while the food normally given to carnivorous zoo animals is nutritious, the way they are fed is simply not challenging enough for animals with inborn hunting instincts.

"The meat bait normally provided for them is a block that is easy to eat and contains vitamin supplements and other ingredients. Although it is very nutritious, the animals are not content because of the lack of exercise and stimulation," said Obuchi. He said deer have also been a major cause of crop damage in recent years and their carcasses are also being fed to zoo animals in front of visitors to raise awareness about issues related to vermin.

The Itoshima Gibier Lab in Itoshima, Fukuoka Prefecture, began providing culled wild boars and deer to zoos for a fee in 2018. To prevent infectious diseases, the internal organs and heads are removed, pasteurized and frozen before transportation.

SOURCE: Kyodo

Supplied photo shows a puma eating a dead boar in Morioka Zoological Park in Iwate Prefecture in June 2020. **(PHOTO COURTESY OF MORIOKA ZOOLOGICAL PARK) /KYODO**

Guangzhou Baiyun Airport launches facial recognition for domestic flights

GUANGZHOU — Guangzhou Baiyun International Airport in south China's Guangdong Province has launched a new facial recognition service for passengers taking domestic flights.

One ID, launched Wednesday at the airport, enables passengers to use facial recognition for self-service check-in, luggage check-in, as well as security check and boarding identification.

The service creates a database for each passenger, enabling them to use just their faces for identification throughout the boarding process, said Yang Hongyu, who heads the airport's IT department.

The system extracts the passengers' facial information and matches it against their itinerary for identification. It maintains safety and increases efficiency by reducing manual ID checks, Yang said.

With the COVID-19 epidemic under control, the growth of China's air passenger traffic has picked up. The civil aviation sector reported an average of 10,820 daily flights in June, up 14.1 per cent from May.— Xinhua ■

Japan's household spending data signal recovery from virus slump

TOKYO — Japan's household spending fell 1.2 per cent in June from a year earlier, down for the ninth straight month, but showed signs of recovery from record falls logged due to the coronavirus pandemic, government data showed Friday.

The decline was significantly reduced compared to a 16.2 per cent plunge in May, the steepest decrease since comparable data became available in January 2001, and an 11.1 per cent fall in April which was also a record at the time, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Spending in real terms by households of two or more people in the reporting month was 273,699 yen ($2,600), the ministry said. The year-on-year slide began in October last year, when the consumption tax rate was raised from 8 per cent to 10 per cent.

A ministry official told reporters consumption was apparently boosted by the lifting of the state of emergency over the virus on May 25, as well as the government's 100,000 yen per person cash handouts starting the same month.

A ministry official told reporters consumption was apparently boosted by the lifting of the state of emergency over the virus on May 25, as well as the government's 100,000 yen per person cash handouts starting the same month. **PHOTO: KYODO**

The seasonally adjusted figure for June spending jumped 13.0 per cent from the previous month, the sharpest rise since comparable data became available in February 2000 and the first increase in four months, according to the ministry.

Under the virus emergency, which was declared over the whole nation for about a month from mid-April, the government requested people to refrain from going out and asked some businesses to suspend operations, dampening private consumption.

The official explained that a little more than half of Japanese people received the cash benefit in June, compared to about 20 per cent who received it in May.

But the official also said that the virus spread is still weighing on household spending, and called for close monitoring of any further pressure from the recent resurgence of the virus across the country.

By category, outlays for furniture and household utensils rose a record 27.4 per cent. Those for tables and couches more than doubled and spending on air conditioners increased 29.6 per cent. —Kyodo ■

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

HOUSTON — The number of active drilling rigs in the United States decreased by four to 247 this week, down by 687 year on year, according to the weekly data released Friday by Houston-based oilfield services company Baker Hughes.

These active drilling rigs included 176 oil rigs operating in the U.S. oil fields, down by four from the previous week; 69 gas drilling rigs and two miscellaneous rigs, both unchanged from last week.

The 247 rigs included 235 land drilling rigs, down by four from the previous week, and 12 offshore drilling rigs, unchanged from last week.

The number of active drilling rigs in the United States decreased by four to 247 this week, down by 687 year on year. **PHOTO: AFP**

Of them, 24 are directional drilling rigs, 211 are horizontal drilling rigs and 12 are vertical drilling rigs.

During the week, the number of drilling rigs decreased the most by three in the state of New Mexico to 46 rigs.

By far, the Permian Basin in western Texas and eastern New Mexico has been the largest source of shale oil production growth in the United States, having become an engine of supply growth outside the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries in the past years.

The United States has become a major oil producer in the past years with the help of its shale oil production growth. Meanwhile, China continues to be one of the world's biggest oil consumers.— Xinhua ■

More major films unveil China release dates amid gradual recovery

BEIJING — In what critics are hailing as a further sign of the gradual recovery of the world's second-biggest box office market, following the downturn caused by the COVID-19 epidemic, an increasing number of major film productions are unveiling their theatrical release dates for China.

RELEASE DATES

Christopher Nolan's latest sci-fi action feature film "Tenet," with a reported budget of more than 200 million U.S. dollars, is set to land in Chinese mainland theatres on Sept. 4, according to a Weibo post of Warner Bros.

"Inception," a 2010 film by the British director, is slated for an Aug. 28 re-release.

"Little Women," a Sony film whose Chinese mainland release was postponed due to COVID-19, has secured a new release date, Aug. 25. It is a new feature film adaptation of Louisa May Alcott's classic novel of the same name and is directed by Greta Gerwig, an American actress, screenwriter and film director.

"The Eight Hundred," a Chinese war epic film, is set to hit the big screen on Aug. 21. It will be the first major Chinese production to hit movie theatres since the COVID-19 outbreak.

"The development that major films, domestic or foreign, are landing in theatres, will give a boost to the restarting of the Chinese film industry and become a highlight of the global film market," Yin Hong, vice-chairman of the China Film Association and a professor at Tsinghua University, told Xinhua.— Xinhua ■

Huawei to stop smartphone chip production due to US sanctions

BEIJING — Chinese telecom giant Huawei said production of its most advanced smartphone chips would stop in September due to US sanctions, causing a "huge loss".

Huawei -- the world's biggest producer of telecoms networking equipment -- has become a pivotal issue in the geopolitical standoff between Beijing and Washington, which claims the firm poses a significant cybersecurity threat.

Huawei CEO Yu Chengdong told a tech industry forum on Friday that production of the company's high-end Kirin 9000 chipset would stop from September 15, due to US sanctions.

Washington cut off Huawei's access to US components and technology including Google's music and other smartphone services last year.

Those restrictions were tightened in May when the White House barred vendors worldwide from using US technology to produce components for Huawei.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (TSMC) which has been making Kirin 9000 chips using US equipment has stopped taking orders from Huawei since May, fearing possible repercussions.

Huawei does not have the capacity to manufacture the chips, which were used in its high-end smartphones.

"Huawei's mobile phones have no chip supply, which makes our shipment volume this year a little less than 240 million units (shipped last year)," Yu said. "This is a huge loss for us."

Washington has also waged a diplomatic campaign to isolate the Chinese company, which has emerged as a front-runner in the global race to roll out 5G telecom infrastructure.— AFP ■

Huawei does not have the capacity to manufacture the chipsets used in its high-end smartphones. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Canada to slap Can$3.6 bln counter-tariffs on US aluminium

OTTAWA — Ottawa will hit American aluminium products with Can$3.6 billion (US$2.7 billion) in counter-tariffs, Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland said Friday, in response to "absurd" US levies announced on Canadian goods.

US President Donald Trump said Thursday he was reimposing a 10 per cent tariff on Canadian aluminum, accusing Canada of flooding the US market with the metal.

"In imposing these tariffs, the United States has taken the absurd decision to harm its own people," Freeland told a news conference.

The deputy prime minister said Ottawa would hold 30 days of consultations with Canadian industry -- which employs 10,000 workers -- on which US items to target with tariffs.

A preliminary list published by the Canadian government includes soda and beer cans, bicycles, golf clubs and washing machines.

"We will not escalate and we will not back down," Freeland said.

"And we do hope that when Americans look at this list, they will understand why having a tariff dispute is a really bad idea."

The deputy prime minister also commented that a trade war in the midst of the pandemic would be devastating to both countries, and urged the Trump administration to reconsider.

"A trade dispute is the last thing anyone needs," she said. "It will only hurt the economic recovery on both sides of the border."

The US tariffs, which take effect August 16, are in response to what Washington called a 27 per cent "surge" in aluminum imports from Canada over the past year which "threatens to harm domestic aluminium production."— AFP ■

US President Donald Trump has said he was reimposing a 10 per cent tariff on Canadian aluminium; In this file photo stacks of empty aluminium cans sit on a pallet before being filled with beer at Devil's Canyon Brewery in San Carlos, California. **PHOTO: AFP**

Japanese company planning space debris removal by laser on satellite

TOKYO — A Japanese company said recently it will develop a satellite to clean up floating space debris by using laser beams, with the aim of starting the service in 2026.

Satellite communications company Sky Perfect JSAT Corp. said the project will be the first to use laser beams to remove space debris such as defunct satellites and rocket sections.

The envisioned satellite will irradiate a piece of debris with a laser beam from a long distance to alter its orbit so that it descends into the Earth's atmosphere and burns up, the company said.

Laser beams provide a safe option as they do not require direct contact with objects and the method will also be highly economical as the satellite mounted with a laser will not require fuel to move debris, it added.

With more than 100 million pieces of space debris estimated to be floating around the Earth, and the amount increasing year by year, there will be a need to eliminate such waste in the near future.

"The problem of space debris is an environmental problem similar to CO2 (carbon dioxide) and marine plastics. Therefore, JSAT will continue to contribute to the maintenance of a sustainable space environment, aiming to solve the problem of space debris through this project," the company said in a press release.

The company will jointly develop the satellite with the government-sponsored Riken research institute, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Nagoya University and Kyushu University.

Tadanori Fukushima, project leader at Sky Perfect JSAT, said there will be demand for the service as businesses launching satellites often face the challenge of removing debris in the same orbit.

"We would like nations to use (the laser-mounted satellite) when they work together to remove the debris," he said.— Kyodo ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (195 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (195 W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **9-8-2020** 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 SHIPPING

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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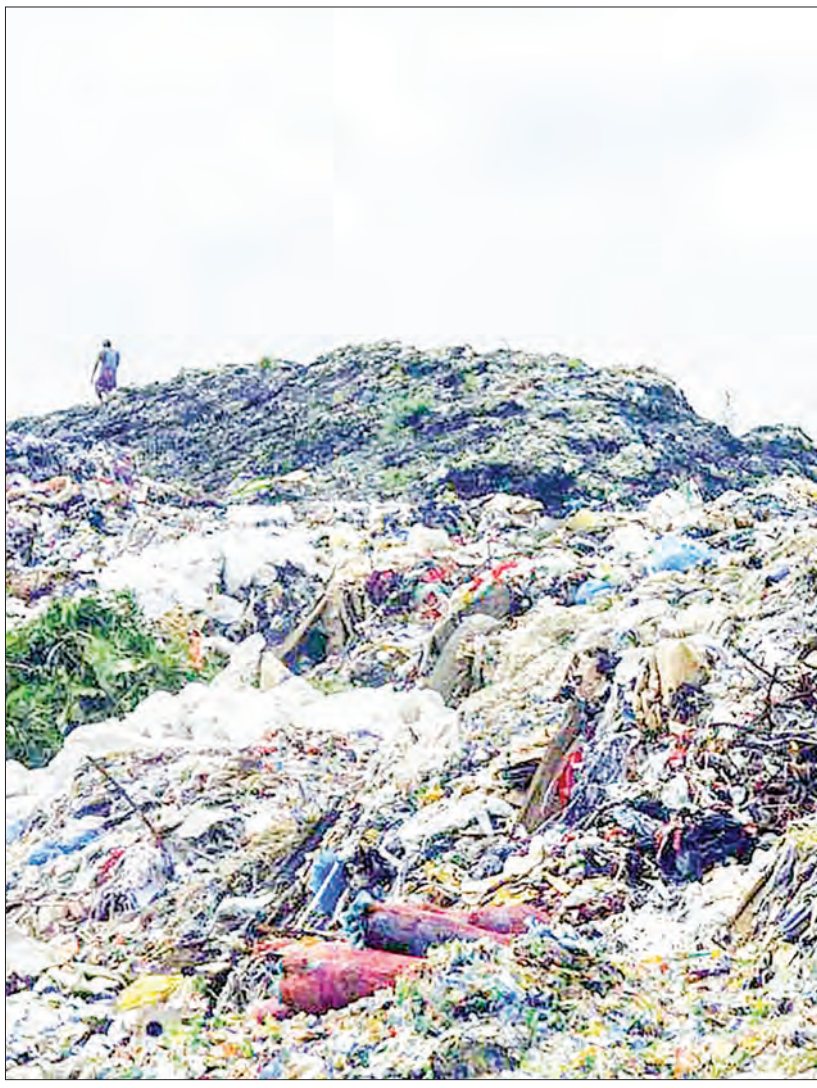
Hteinbin landfill to turn garbage into natural gas



By Zin Lin Myint

I load the plastic-packed rubbish generated from the kitchen onto the garbage trolley arriving in front of my house, gazing at the municipal worker slowly pushing the garbage trolley loaded with a variety of plastic bags of rubbish. I further speculate that the rubbish coming from even a street of the ward was so huge, and for the whole Yangon, it would be stacked with heaps like a mountain.

Plans are underway to set off

Hteinbin, Daweichaung, Dala and Seikkyi Kanaungto landfills are located in Yangon. The garbage volume generated from Yangon a day is about 2,500 tonnes. Plans are underway to turn 1,000 tonnes out of the total waste volume coming from the whole Yangon to generate into compressed natural gas (CNG), according to Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

Hteinbin landfill, the largest one in Yangon, has an area of 242 acres of land. Starting from 2000, the environmental conservation and sanitation department of the YCDC has assumed responsibility for the transportation of the rubbish discarded from the whole Yangon to designated landfills in Yangon.

The accumulation of garbage in Hteinbin landfill has become larger day by day, resulting in a scarcity of land to discard the further waste in Yangon, and causing environmental contamination such as atmosphere, water and earth pollution where there will be habitats the insects such as flies and mosquitoes are active. So as to deal with the situation that can affect the environment, plans are underway to build an energy plant.

The use of Poland technology

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the proposal to take ODA loans to build the waste-to-energy plant with the use of the waste from Hteinbin landfill on 31 January in 2020. It must be built using Poland technology as quickly as possible. In order to build the waste-to-energy plant, ODA loans of Euro 50 million will have to be released by Poland government.

The construction of the waste-to-energy plant will be implemented during 2020. Plans are underway to generate renewable energy and fertilizer as well as natural gas. Thanks to the project that can generate natural gas from the waste disposal with the use of technology, it is certain that the garbage fires similar to the previous ones and environmental impacts will be reduced.

Hteinbin landfill gradually becoming larger

The garbage volume generated from Hteinbin a day is about 1,350 tonnes, Daweichaung about 1,100 tonnes, Dala about 25 tonnes and Seikkyi Kanaungto 8 tonnes. With the passage of time, the accumulation of the garbage at the landfills has become larger, thereby resulting in a scarcity of land to dispose of further garbage.

Yangon waste to energy plant is located in Shwepyitha, Yangon.

The photo shows Hteinbin landfill to generate natural gas soon.

Direct sales of natural gas under negotiation

Due to the circumstances capable of making effective use of international technology and experience, plans are underway to generate the waste-to-energy. Once the waste-to-energy plant is completed, it is going to directly sell 30 tonnes of natural gas to CNG-run vehicles in Yangon Region. Moreover, negotiation was conducted with the Ministry of Electricity and Energy to sell natural gas to some factories and workplaces.

Auto users of today are turning their attention to the use of natural gas because it is cheap. It is hoped that the plant will earn more than Euro 900,000 from the sales of natural gas and other gas-related products every year.

Such a plan of generating natural gas from the garbage ground will be an advantageous business.

Dealing with waste disposal effectively

The problem of the accumulation of the garbage in Yangon where is home to more than 7 million people is being solved.

The waste-to-energy plant built with the cooperation of Japanese government during October in 2015 was located beside the road to Hlawga Wildlife Park in Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region. The plant was built at a cost of USD 16 million including USD 8 million of financial assistance provided by Japanese government.

The waste-to-energy plant will burn 60 tonnes of waste discarded from Yangon every day with manufacturing output of 700 kilowatt and 300 kW of the generation will be used for the plant and the remaining 400 kW will be sold out.

Waste-to-energy project to begin soon

The natural gas will be generated from the use of 1,000 tonnes of waste of Hteinbin landfill. In doing so, the problem of the scarcity of the land to discard further waste would have been solved while generating the natural gas the vehicles can consume. This energy project will begin as quickly as possible. For these reasons, the Yangonites should dispose of the garbage coming from the houses at the designated places by segregating the solid waste into the dry and the wet in a systematic manner.

Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay)

Yangon American International School partners with B.E.P.S 19 – Hlaing township - to support safe school reopening

YANGON American International School, one of the newest international schools in Myanmar, entered a strategic partnership with the Basic Education Primary School 19 – (B.E.P.S. 19) in Hlaing township on 27 July. Under the partnership, Yangon American will provide financial and logistical support to B.E.P.S. 19 in protecting the health and safety of the students and teachers for its school reopening, as well as other knowledge sharing activities. This partnership started with the donation of safety equipment that will support B.E.P.S. 19 in its efforts to prioritize the safety of students during the COVID-19 pandemic. The partnership celebration ceremony, organized at B.E.P.S. 19 on the same day, saw the attendance of U Nay Oke, Chair of the Myanmar Private School Federations and advisor to Yangon American, Daw Khin Thant Sin, Headmistress of B.E.P.S. 19, Daw San San Aye, Hlaing Township education administrator, as well as students and parents.

"I'm so proud of Yangon American for helping students and teachers of a neighbor school, B.E.P.S. 19, by donating Covid-19 protective equipment.", said U Nay Oke. As a prominent figure that has shaped the reform of education in Myanmar, U Nay Oke stated that it is risky to start all grades at the same time, and that is also why the State Counsellor recommended to open older grades first. "The good news is that primary and middle schools could be opened in August. However, a lot of preparation is needed before opening schools and many schools are in need of financial and logistical support.", he added.

Commenting on the partnership, Daw Khin Thant Sin, Headmistress of B.E.P.S. 19 said "for the safety of our students, Yangon American International School donated protective equipment to our school. I'm so glad that our students can now continue their learning in a very safe environment, all because of Yangon American. I feel very thankful to Yangon American for providing necessary support as well as welcoming us to make further requests whenever we need."

The safety equipment donated by Yangon American include four sinks with foot press mechanism, trash bins, plastic partitions for each classroom, floor marks and vinyl signs for social distancing, hand sanitizer and dispensers, infrared forehead thermometers and Personal Protective Equipment such as face-shields, gloves and aprons for each classroom-teacher.

According to Daw San San Aye, Hlaing Township education administrator "schools were supposed to re-open back in June. However, the Covid-19 pandemic led us to delay it. It's quite challenging for public schools to have all the necessary safety equipment without support from the private sector. There are many schools within the Hlaing township that are in need of supports. I would like to thank Yangon American International School for this donation and wish they can continue to contribute to the larger community in the future."

Developed by Myanmar Strategic Holdings (MSH), Yangon American International School is strongly committed to being a responsible educator in Myanmar by always looking for ways to make a positive impact on the communities. Previously, MSH has provided English language courses to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The aim is to support the development and growth of business in Myanmar through MSH's Wall Street English franchise for 10 of DICA's senior civil servants. MSH is also currently offering free online English courses to 30 Government teachers to help them further develop their English proficiency.

Yangon American is scheduled to reopen on 11 August after being approved by the Myanmar Government health inspection. The school has comprehensive plans in place to meet the "new normal" in the areas of health, safety, and cleanliness so that it can safely reopen. With an impressive 80% of the school's teachers in the country, the school is expected to reopen smoothly. —GNLM

Headmistress of B.E.P.S.19, Daw San San Aye, Hlaing Township education administrator, as well as students and parents and Yangon American staff pose for documentary photo. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

WLC: 'Hideout Battle' event to launch on 28 August

PHOTO : WLC

THE World Lethwei Championship fighting event, a very first-time audience free Lethwei fights in the WLC history will be launched on 28 August, according to the statement with the WLC.

The main event will showcase a name of "Women's Bantamweight World Lethwei Championship" and Souris Manfredi will fight against Maisha Katz for the inaugural female fight, according to the WLC.

In other co-main event, fans' favourite fighter Somiong War will meet former Kickboxing Champion Artur Te, said the source with the Lethwei page.

The fantastic fighting events will be shown live on Canal+ Channel and UFC Fight Pass.

The broadcasting time for Myanmar is 6:30 pm of Myanmar Standard Time on 28 August and international broadcasting will begin 8 am (ET), 5 am (PT) on the same day, the WLC stated. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Ronaldinho set for release after plea deal

ASUNCION — Ronaldinho and his brother Roberto Assis could be released from custody within days after striking a plea deal with Paraguayan investigators on Friday.

Paraguay's public prosecutor's office asked for proceedings against the men to be suspended pending a final court hearing, according to their lawyer Sergio Queiroz. Ronaldinho and Assis have been detained since early March for allegedly entering the South American country with fake passports.

In April, the pair were relocated to the four-star Palmaroga Hotel in the capital Asuncion after agreeing to pay 1.6 million U.S. dollars in bail.

"It was recognized by the public prosecutor's office that there is no crime of a financial or related nature in relation to Ronaldo and Roberto," Queiroz said. "After five long months, they have demonstrated exactly what we defended since the beginning: the use of altered public documents without the knowledge of the defendants."

Under terms of the plea bargain, Ronaldinho agreed to a 90,000 US dollar fine and must report to a federal judge in Brazil every three months for two years. Assis was ordered to pay 110,000 dollars and will not be allowed to leave Brazil over a two-year period.

Ronaldinho and Assis traveled to Paraguay on March 4 to participate in a children's charity event and promote a new book. They were arrested later that day on accusations of using fake passports. The pair have denied any wrongdoing and said they were presented with the documents as a "gift" upon arriving in Asuncion.

Ronaldinho retired from football in 2018 after a career that included spells at Gremio, Paris Saint-Germain, Barcelona, Milan and Atletico Mineiro, among other clubs. He was a part of the Brazil team that won the 2002 World Cup and was twice voted the FIFA world player of the year. —AFP

Ronaldinho and his brother Roberto Assis could be released from custody within days after having striking a plea deal with Paraguayan investigators. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

Ronaldo not enough for 'cursed' Juventus

TURIN — Juventus coach Maurizio Sarri said he was "bitter" as the Italian giants crashed out of the Champions League on Friday to Lyon despite a Cristiano Ronaldo double giving the hosts a 2-1 win over the French club on the night.

Captain Memphis Depay's 12th-minute penalty however, sealed Lyon's berth in the quarter-finals with a 2-2 aggregate score to go through on away goals.

A goal up after winning February's first leg, Lyon will face Manchester City at the final tournament in Lisbon.

"I am very bitter, I understand how much this competition is cursed for Juve," said Sarri, who took over as coach last summer. The Turin side have won the tournament twice, but not since 1996. They have been runners-up seven times, including twice in the last five years.

Sarri's side were coming off a tough battle to win a ninth consecutive league title in Italy, against an opponent who were fresh after Ligue 1 was cancelled five months ago because of coronavirus.

"The regret is to have missed the first half in Lyon. At this level it costs," continued Sarri of the first leg played back in February.

"They had a much more logical preparation than ours.

"I'm going home sad because we are beaten, but tonight we had a good game.—AFP

Cristiano Ronaldo in action for Juventus. **PHOTO: AFP**

Former champion Wawrinka confirms he's skipping US Open

GENEVA — Former champion Stan Wawrinka confirmed Friday that he will not play the US Open citing "the health situation in New York" as the Grand Slam event took another hit.

Wawrinka, the US Open winner in 2016, was already missing from the entry list along with four-time champion Rafael Nadal. Now, the 35-year-old will instead focus on Roland Garros where he won his second career major in 2015.

"There is the health situation which is particular in New York. I did not want to go the US under these conditions," the world number 17, also the 2014 Australian Open champion, told RTS in Switzerland.

Players at the US Open, which starts on August 31, will be subject to tight health controls to avoid the spread of the coronavirus.

It will also be played behind closed doors. "And the sequence of tournaments which follows after the US Open will be tough," he added, referring to the Italian Open which starts a week after the conclusion of the New York event. Roland Garros, delayed from May-June, will then start in Paris on September 27.

"Finally, there are all the uncertainties related to the quarantine issue. There are still many questions and doubts about the holding of the US Open."

Earlier Friday, top 10 women's players Elina Svitolina and Kiki Bertens said they were skipping the US Open.

World number one Ashleigh Barty has also opted not to play.—AFP

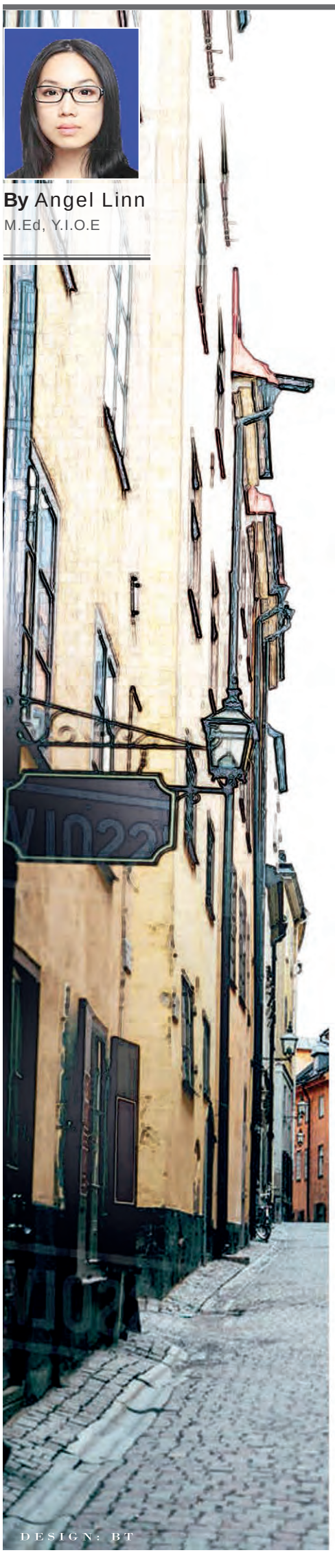
SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

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

A Place to Lay down Your Back



I have been jobless since late March. I am a study guide in a private school. The nature of my duty is always at night. I have to teach as a guide to 10 students who are living in a boarding school that is under the management of the private school. The principal of the private school is also the founder of the boarding school. There are eight guides like me. We start our duties from 6:30 pm to 10:30 pm daily except Sunday. Due to COVID 19, the private schools and boarding schools attached to them have stopped functioning since last week of March and my salary also stopped since then.

On the 21st of July 2020, Basic Education High Schools had an opportunity to reopen. However, the private schools and subject teaching tuition classes attached to the boarders are not allowed to reopen as they do not come up to the rules of social distancing laid by the COVID 19 Central Committee of State Level, I think. Then, the boarders which have been in existence for about two decades suddenly disappear one after another. The well-known private schools with boarding schools, at once, pretend that they have got no boarding school and try to perform in reopening their private schools. No matter what instructions are mentioned, the responsible authorities of township-level say nothing and let them reopen their private school. In the crisis, we, the study guides, still continue in the life of being unemployed.

I would not like to present the feeling that the whole world is suffering as if my own feelings. However, I have to do something so as to fill the stomachs of the members of my family. When the earning gets lower, the conversations among the family members become dry and aggressive. I feel small staying at home. Therefore, I do not want to go on staying at home, where making both ends meet gets tougher and tougher. At last, I decided to leave the family which lacks pleasure and I have to find a job in Yangon.

Hostel! What suddenly comes into my mind is the hostel. The place to stay in Yangon is particularly important. I have got no experience of staying at a hostel. However, I have learned the experiences of some of my friends who have been staying in hostels for years. I made a call to my intimate friend to make enquiries about the hostels that would cost a fairer fee since in my present condition I earn no income. With her advice, I got to a hostel in Hledan.

"Come on daughter. This is the room," said a middle-aged woman, the owner of the hostel. It is a small room. It is about 7' x 5'. I miss my bedroom at home, which is 10 feet by square. When I look round, I see that each room is separated only by the plywood partitions. You could hear the sounds of movements made by the people staying in the next rooms. The owner of the hostel told me about the hostel rules: I may listen to the songs not using the speaker of the phone; when I use my phone, I must not talk loudly etc. Finally, she asked me whether I have decided to stay or not. I also asked her if there are any rooms with the windows. She answered 'Yes, but higher rental charges."

SEE PAGE-S-3

DESIGN: BT

On the footwears

By Yar Zar Myint Zan
B.Sc, Pathein University

A saying goes: "One will realize the value of a bottle of water and footwears only in summer if one has none of these". You may know this saying while some of you may have experienced having problems with their footwears like your footwear's strap broke while taking a walk or you found your footwear nowhere after attending an Ahlu ceremony at a monastery. Many of you could have had such stories of fun, embarrassment, or laugh. I have also read a story associated with footwear. The main character of the story was Cinderella. One of the glass slippers left accidentally turned out to save Cinderella from her life of miserable servitude under her stepmother and the two "vain and selfish" daughters.

Another story comes from Mahatma Gandhi. While he got onto the train, one of his shoes dropped and got caught in the railway track. Since he could not pull it out, he took out the other shoe and threw it there so that someone would find the shoes for his use.

In Myanmar's history, there was an interesting story associated with footwear. On hearing the story of a high-ranking British official who stepped on the pagoda platform wearing his boots, many patriotic Myanmar people raised objections, which caused the huge political pressure to the British colonists in Myanmar.

Footwear protects a person from hurting the feet while taking a walk while the clothes protect him or her from the heat or the cold. The soles of the foot of man are important parts of the body. They balance the body while standing and help keep the body in walking, running, and other movements. Therefore, the soles of the foot are necessary to be protected with suitable footwear.

As footwears are placed at the lowest part of the body, some look down upon them. However, in my opinion, they support and convey a person to their goal of success. So they are useful outer coverings of the feet for a person, aren't they?

There has been another interesting story associated with footwear. In the colonial period, there was a headman election in a village to replace the former headman who had passed away. The district commissioner was to get to the village soon. There were two men who were supposed to be elected as the headman of the village. On the day, when the district commissioner got to the village, one of the expected men saw him at the boat-jetty and welcomed him into the village. He wiped the muddy boots of the commissioner clean with his shawl. Then, he treated the commissioner with a feast at his house. The other expected man could not see the commissioner at the jetty because, together with the other villagers, he had to go and repair the bridge damaged by the heavy rain and flood the previous night.

After two weeks, the appointment order for the position of headman came. The new headman appointed by the district commissioner was the man who was engaged in repairing the bridge with the villagers, and not the man who cleaned the shoes of the commissioner. Frustrated, that unlucky man, immediately, went to the commissioner's office in town and saw the commissioner asking why he did not deserve the position. The commissioner replied him that the man the village needed was just a leader but not a shoe polisher.

There are more shoe polishers than good leaders everywhere on this earth. And there are endless stories about footwear. I would like to finish my essay with a poem composed by a well-known poet:

Oh, my Lord,
Not to meet the harm
on road-surface
Enjoying at the bottom place
Piercing the sand,
rubbing the ground
Until my strings worn out
somewhere
I'd like to serve you forever.

■

Ummattakka

By Maung Nyein Lu

A dark-skinned, scrawny figure stood before us. His blue, torn and tattered Paso looked like a car workshop man's nether garment, heavily smeared with dregs of engine oil. His half naked body also looked dark and dirty as if applied with soot floss so much so that he appeared like an Aghori of India.

My wife and I were then having our breakfast, sitting at a table outside the tea shop underneath the green, shady neem tree. This shop's Htat-ta-ya (Indian pancake), served with some boiled green peas, with a sprinkling of fried onion slices and peanut oil, is our favourite. That is why we often come a long way to this tea shop to have our breakfast.

His lifeless eyes below his bushy eyebrows looked almost popping out of his head. His messy, matted hair was his only crown.

I was later informed of his name by the shopkeeper of the tea shop. Hla Toe was his name. He usually begged only for a cup of tea for his "daily bread". No more, no less. For this I give him credit. From that day onwards, I always give him a treat of a cup of tea every time we visit the tea shop. Lunatics have their own virtues. Mind that.

While we were having tea, our conversation was switched to the subject of lunatics, referred to as Ummattakka in Pali.

The Myanmar-English Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Buddhist Terms (2015) defines eight kinds of insanity as follows: insanity due to five senses, anger/ hatred, view, ignorance, spirits/ghosts, the bile, the drugs/alcoholic drinks, and misfortune/ ruin. But should we add some more types of insanity, e.g., insanity due to cravings of power or position?

I still remember the play "The Hawker of Coloured Glass Balls", performed by Shweman Tin Maung: Two hawkers visited villages and sold coloured glass balls and ladies' accessories. There lived a poor girl and an old grandmother in a village. The girl requested the first hawker to barter some ladies' accessories with a bronze bowl of hers. But the hawker found it was a gold bowl! However, he threw it on the ground, saying it was just a trash.

Then came the second hawker. The girl timidly handed him the bowl. The honest hawker said it was too precious for him. Impressed with his honesty, the girl gladly bartered the gold bowl with some accessories.

A few moments later, there came into sight the first hawker once again. But he was too late. He was swept off by a deep remorse.

"My gold bowl!" he cried, hysterically, rolling on the ground. "Give it back to me! It's mine! It's mine!" And, finally, he went out of his mind.

Believe it or not, such a bad lunatic still exists on this earth!

On the other hand, there also live good lunatics. My wife, a Myanmar Professor, told me about an article entitled, "Our Duty", written in 1950 by Min Swe. It was about a lunatic named Poe Din. The story took place at a small village by the Yangon-Mawlamyine railway line. Though a lunatic, he filled the water pots by the roadside for wayfarers, rich or poor, every day. He cleaned the main road so that it looked as clean as a new pin. It happened that Poe Din died on the same day the village headman died. The whole village grieved over Poe Din's death. There, the procession attending his funeral was so long. People often say that this lunatic's funeral was more crowded than that of the village headman.

"I love lunatics more than normal guys." I said, with a grin smile. "And I got married to you, you know, because you are a Lin-tar-yu, a lunatic woman who is so crazy about her husband and always keeps an eye on him."

She frowned at me. In that instant, I thought I must take to my heels!

■

A Place to Lay down Your Back

FROM PAGE-S-1

As the population in Yangon increases year after year, most of the people of the ordinary class including the ones who are moving from the other places, who are finding jobs there and who have picked up random jobs have to depend upon the hostels to stay. However, the hostels cannot support them in sufficient spaces. They can afford you to provide space just to lay down your back. A room with a width of 6 and a half feet square or 7 feet square costs about MMK 55000/-. If the room has a window, it will cost about MMK 70000/-. Some hostels charge the fees for a person costing MMK 30000/- or 35000/- but they cannot provide individual rooms and their living style is Hall Type lacking privacy.

I have seen some advertisements announcing hostels with modern facilities. They provide air conditioners, WIFI, and internet access but they cost one and a half lakh per individual. The ordinary staff who work in the companies or private works cannot afford such expenses and it is no wonder they have to head towards the low-cost hostels.

"Hey, daughter, what are you listening to? Do you hear me? What is your decision? If you decide 'yes', I have to give you the key to the room now. You must give me K. 1,0000 as a deposit. If you do not want to continue to stay here, you have to inform me one month in advance and I will refund your deposit. Is it clear?" The owner of the hostel asks me many questions continuously. In such a moment, I was so confused that I could not make a decision on whether I should stay there or not. How do I go back home to my town I have turned my back to? How could I live in such a dim-lit, small room? What would my dear readers decide if you were in my place?

■

9 AUGUST 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

PHOTO COURTESY: WIKIPEDIA

PHOTO COURTESY: ASIAN FESTIVAL OF CHILDREN'S CONTEST 2019

Thanaka:

Myanmar's ancient beauty secret

PHOTO: BT

PHOTO COURTESY: WIKIPEDIA

What is Thanaka?

In Myanmar, girls and women have been using the finely paste of the Thanaka tree for many centuries to make a beautifying and skin-protecting cream simply called Thanaka.

Wearing Thanaka is the tradition of Myanmar and it makes Myanmar women feel confident. They use the root and trunk of the Thanaka tree. Every morning the first thing we do, after washing our face, is to put on Thanaka on their face. They grind the log on a stone plate with water until it forms a paste and put the paste on their face.

For thousands of years, people in Myanmar have been using Thanaka to protect and care for their skin.

Thanaka, the Botanical Plant

Limonia Acidissima L and Hesperethusa crenulata Roem. (Sapindales: Rutaceae), syn. Naringi crenulata, commonly called Thanaka, is a tropical plant species which is cultivated in the central part of Myanmar. Since more than 1,000 years Thanaka served as a traditional skin care product to the people of Myanmar.

Cultivation

Thanaka is cultivated mostly in Yinmabin, Kani, Hsalingyi, Ayadaw, Monywa, Budalin, Chaung-U townships. Thanaka is sent to Monywa, Mandalay, Yangon and Pakokku townships. Local growers mainly sell Thanaka at pagodas and markets.

The number of Thanaka cultivators has increased in Sagaing Region as domestic and international demand has increased.

Thanaka trees are mature after seven years and can be used to make a variety of cosmetic and medicinal products. Local growers often grow other, short-term crops among Thanaka trees.

Today, local people are producing the value-added Thanaka products and exporting them abroad. Thanaka also sells well domestically.

Thanaka submitted to UNESCO for intangible cultural heritage

Myanmar Thanaka, which is one of the favourite products of the local people to apply on their face, has been submitted in April, 2020 to the UNESCO for world's intangible cultural heritage.

Myanmar will add the traditional Thanaka, which has been in use for more than 1,000 years and which remains up to these modern years. Myanmar Thanaka is found to meet the five norms. So, we have been attempting to nominate our Thanaka starting from January 2020 for being put on the UNESCO's World Heritage List.

The survey over the use of Thanaka was conducted across the country. The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has also surveyed on the social website (Facebook). Moreover, Myanmar submitted a form at the end of March after completing all the necessary information.

The UNESCO holds its meeting every three months and chooses the items for putting them on the list of tangible and intangible cultural heritages. Myanmar will know the result in next December 2021 as to whether Thanaka will be listed in UNSECO or not.

Fullmoon of Tabodwe is designated as Myanmar Thanaka Day

Myanmar Thanaka Planters, Producers and Exporters Association designated the Fullmoon of Tabodwe of Myanmar calendar as the Myanmar Thanaka Day and will promote the traditional cosmetic paste made from Thanaka trees.

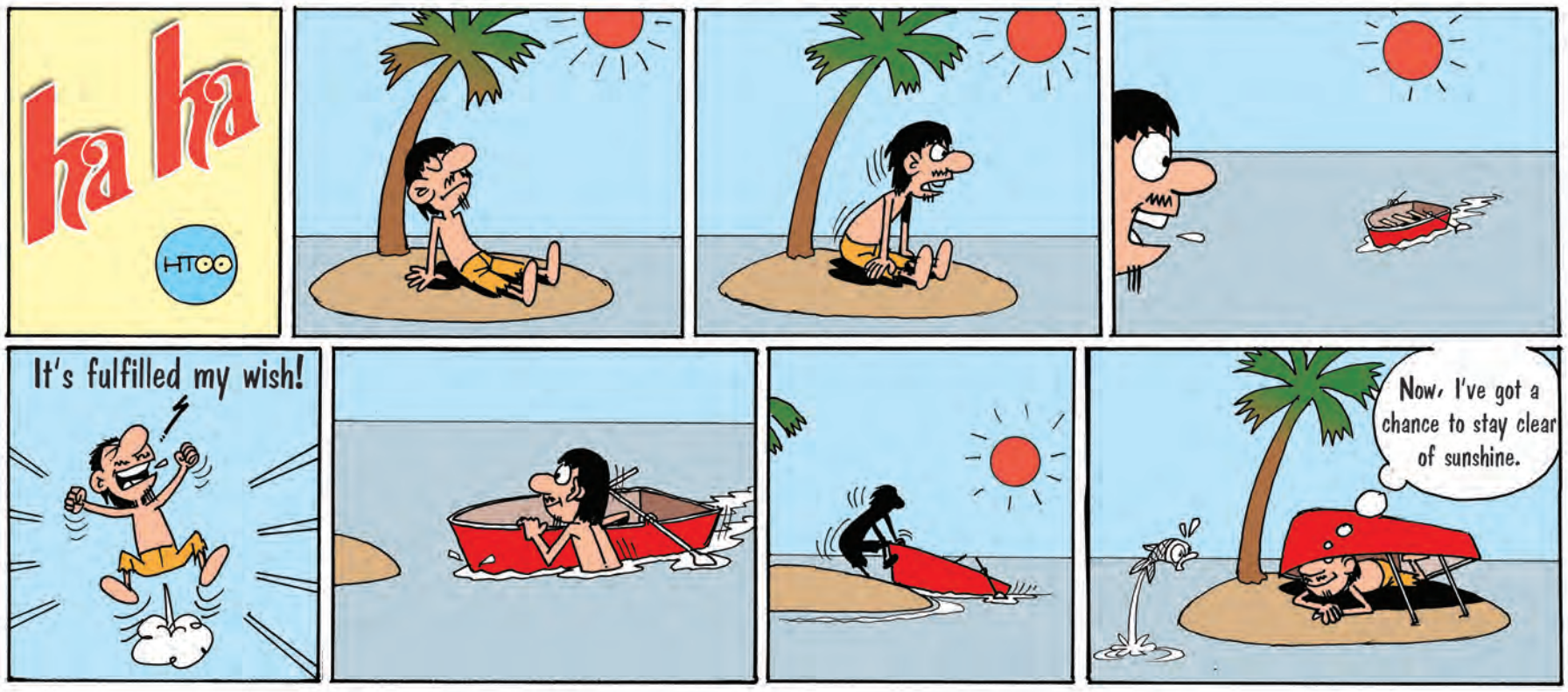
The reason why the Fullmoon of Tabodwe is designated as the Myanmar Thanaka Day is the sales of Thanaka is high in this month as there are many traditional festivals in this month.

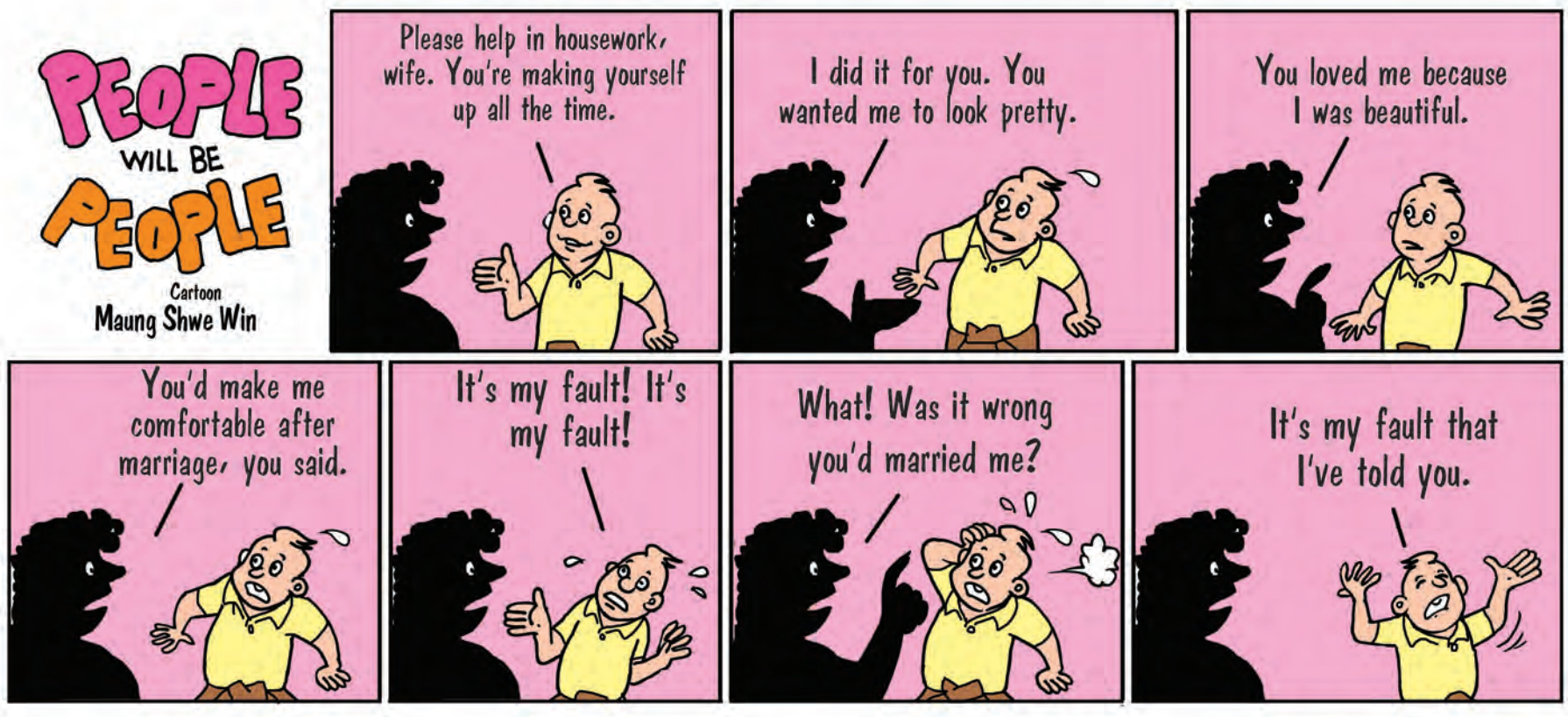
The association was formed on 11 November in 2017 with over 150 members.

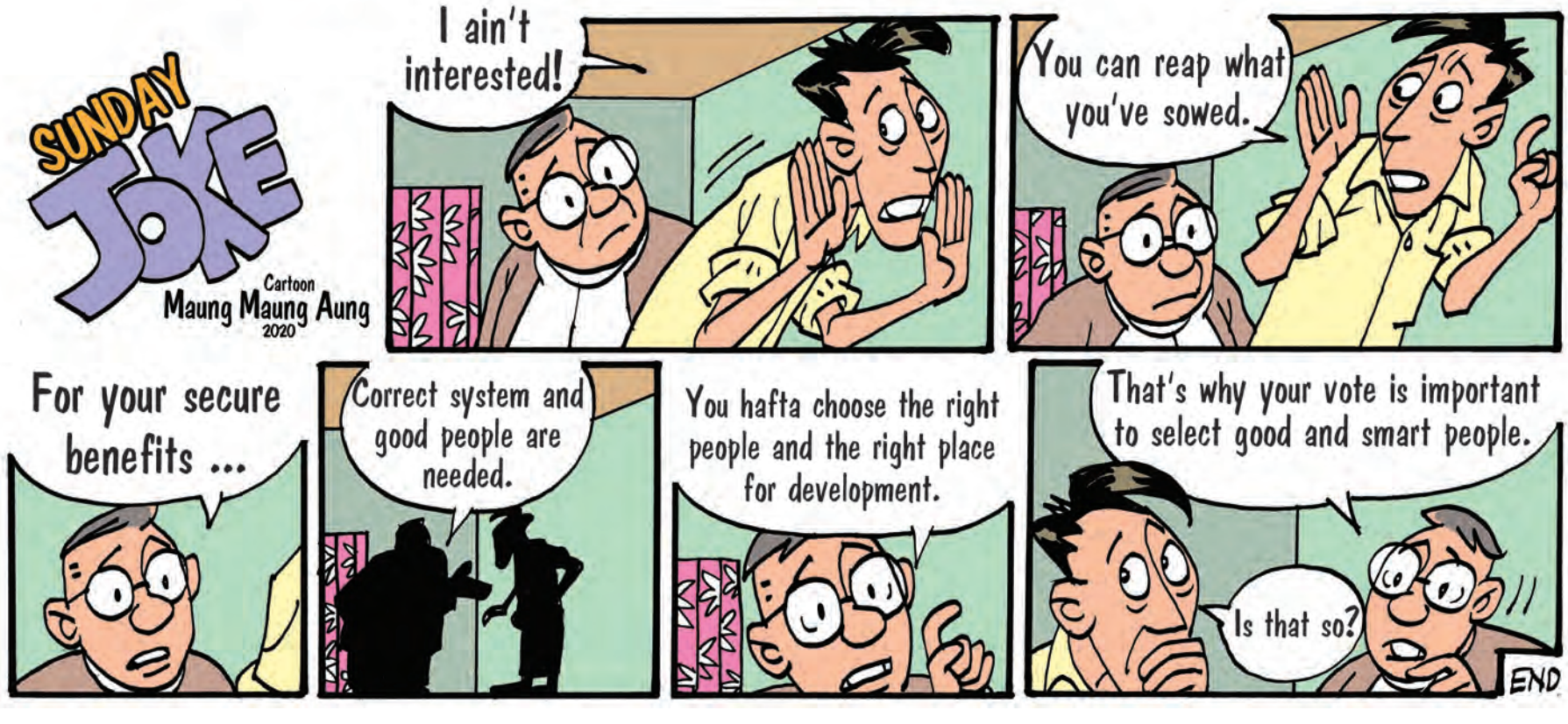
The association is producing Thanaka based value added products to find foreign market.

The traditional cosmetic trees are mainly grown in central Myanmar and there are over 300,000 acres of Thanaka trees in the whole country.—GNLM ■

SUNDAY COMICS







Understanding Earth:
The Journey of Dust

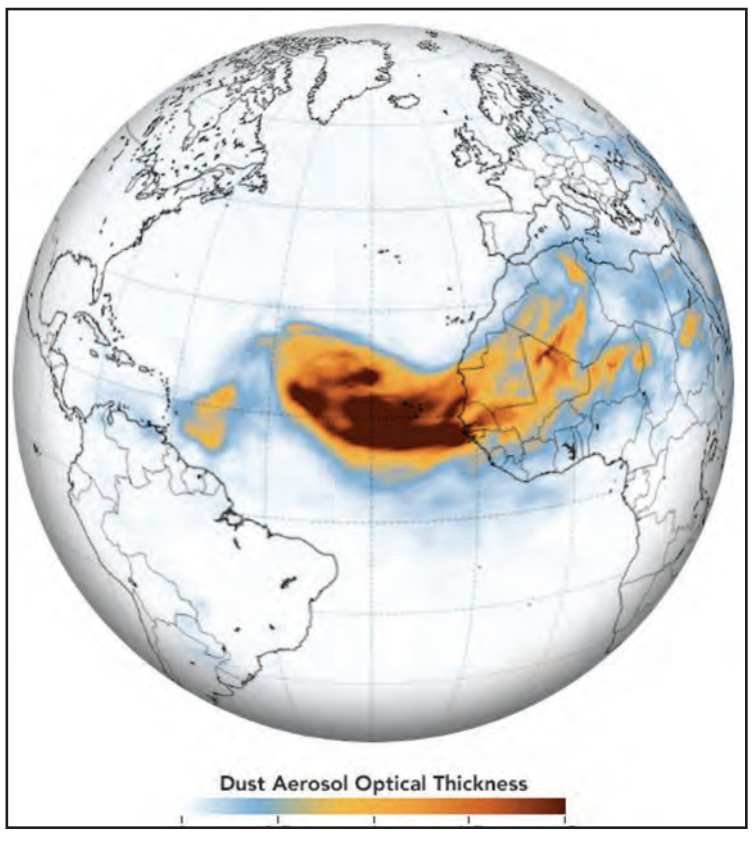
By Than Htun
(Myanmar Geosciences Society)

ON 18th June 2020, NASA Earth observatory mentioned based on the image of that day that a tremendous plume of dust from North Africa drifts toward the Caribbean and contiguous United States. Every year, winds loft about 800 million metric tons of dust from North Africa-by far the planet's largest source of airborne dust particles. The dust is often visible from space during the spring, summer, and early fall, when huge plumes of dry, dusty air from the Sahara Desert blow westward over the tropical Atlantic Ocean.

The maps above show the dust on June 18, 2020 as represented by the Goddard Earth Observing System Model, Version 5. GEOS-5 is a global atmospheric model that uses mathematical equations to represent physical processes. The map depicts aerosol optical thickness, a measure of the amount light that the aerosols scatter and absorb, and a proxy for the number of particles in the air. Orange and red colours indicate extremely hazy conditions.(NASA June 2020)

Air pollution experts are not the only specialists who are closely following this event. Meteorologists track dust storms because the dry, dusty air can inhibit the formation of clouds and prevent hurricanes. Infectious disease researchers watch them because dust plumes can be vectors for viral and bacterial diseases. And climate scientists study dust because big events can absorb enough light to affect Earth's radiation budget.

Others will be watching for impacts on the oceans. "In nutrient-limited waters, iron and other nutrients in dust can trigger phytoplankton blooms with wide-ranging effects," explained Hongbin Yu, a scientist at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. Phytoplankton are critical to marine food webs and play an important—though little understood—role in the carbon cycle.



Geology is everywhere in our daily lives. We are surrounded by materials and resources extracted from the Earth, our climate is changing at alarming rates, and hazards due to Earth's processes and man-made are leading to major catastrophes, such as Pha Kant jade mine disaster which took place on 2nd July 2020. We will be reliant upon a population of informed citizens to make and vote for policies that protect our Earth, and change that will keep our planet habitable. Therefore, understanding our Earth has never been more important.

What is the dust

On Earth, dust forms when rocks are broken down into sand and smaller particles. These particles, called mineral dust, can be blown by the wind and suspended in the atmosphere. The deserts on Earth are huge sources of dust, with the Sahara and Gobi Deserts as the main sources. Desert dust is one of many types of tiny particles found in the atmosphere called aerosols.

The "Perfect Dust Storm"

Every spring, dust from deserts in Mongolia and China invades heavily populated cities in Eastern Asia, such as Beijing. These wind-wipped dust storms darken the sky and blanket streets, homes, and cars.

In April 2001, the "Perfect Dust Storm" formed as winds from Siberia pushed millions of tons of dust from the Gobi and Takalimakan Deserts over China, Korea, and Japan. After the storm dumped dust on Eastern Asia, air currents carried it across the Pacific, and some dust from the cloud reached Northern America about a week later.

Tracking the storm

To see the whole outline of any large dust cloud, you need to look down from space. Scientists use NASA instruments on satellites flying above Earth to detect tiny dust particles in the air. Among other satellite sensors, the Total Ozone Mapping Spectrometer (TOMS) instrument on the Earth Probe satellite, the Sea-viewing Wide Field-of-view Sensor (SeaWiFS) on the Overview-2 satellite, and the Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) instrument on the Terra satellite , equipped with wide spatial coverage, all tracked the path of the "Perfect Dust Storm".

Satellite instruments tracked this dust cloud for more than two weeks, until it thinned to the point of disappearing from images on April 24. By then, it had traveled halfway across the Atlantic Ocean on its way to England!

Effects of the storm

The "Perfect Dust Strom" caused many problems in Eastern Asia. The dust reduced visibility, making travel difficult. People were advised to stay indoors. Hospitals filled with people suffering from asthma and other breathing problems. For people who are already sick, exposure to a dust storm can be deadly.

The sky was so dark from the dust that it looked like nighttime. Businesses, schools, and airports all closed. As the dust cloud passed through the cities, it mixed with pollutants in the air, such as carbon monoxides, soot, mercury, and sulfur dioxide given off by factories, power plants, and vehicles. The cloud also picked up bacteria, fungi, and pesticides as well. These pollutants were then slowly deposited as the dust cloud made its way eastward over cropland, other cities, and the ocean.

SEE PAGE-S-8

ASEAN, OUR GLORIOUS PROPERTY

It was on August 8, 1967,
That, with common aims and cooperation,
An "ASEAN Home" was laid foundation.

We respect different beautiful cultures,
We hold the same goals together,
And, with the bond of lifelong friendship forever,
We live on the North of Equator,

The rains fall in different seasons,
The snows come in different months,
The sun shine on different days,
But we love monsoon in the same ways.

To raise up children in creativity,
To produce educated and peace-loving future nationalities,
To keep economic development and stability,
We view the ASEAN as Oneness in sustainability;

To alleviate trafficking among ASEAN boundaries,
To keep the Earth in environmental greenies,
Surviving and thriving in the sense of valued totality,
We see the ASEAN as "the Single Property".

By Htoo Cin Aung
Final Year, English,
Yangon University of Education

FROM PAGE-S-7

By the time the "Perfect Dust Storm" reached North America, it only showed up in the sky as a white haze. A fine layer of dust fell on some cities but no major health or traffic problems were reported.

What caused the Storm?

While wind is the natural cause of the dust storms, human activities might make dust storms more frequent and severe in some places. Poor farming practices and over-grazing by livestock can reduce protective land cover and dry out the surface-a process called desertification. When grasses and other land cover are lost, it is easier for dust to be swept up by the wind. Over time, deserts such as the Gobi can slowly advance due to desertification. During droughts, the low rainfall can accelerate this process.

Changing Climate and Ecosystems

Desert dust, wildfire smoke, and sea salt particles are naturally produced, whereas human activity, such as manufacturing, farming, and transportation, also generate aerosols. Most of these airborne particles reflect enough sunlight back to space to have a net cooling effect on the planet, which is often referred to as a direct radiative effect on climate. In addition, aerosols play a role in cloud formation, acting as "seeds" around which water molecules accumulate into cloud droplets. As such, the amount and type of particles in the atmosphere can affect cloud properties, altering their brightness and possibly also their lifetime, lifetime, and producing a so-called indirect effect on climate as well.

Desert dust impacts living things in ecosystems in a variety of ways. If cloud cover changes as a result of dust, then the amount of rainfall over a region may change, and the ecosystem may change in response. A fungus contained in Africa dust transported over the ocean may be the cause of damage to Caribbean sea corals. Desert dust contains iron. Under some circumstances, when transported dust settles on remote, iron-poor ocean surface waters, it can release iron, fertilizing the population of tiny floating plants called phytoplankton. Phytoplankton are an important food source for fish and whales. Rainforests get vital nutrients from dust and the trees in them play a key role in regulating climate.

Taming the Storm

Asian dust storms have been occurring for centuries. However, their frequency has increased so much in the past 50 years that efforts are being made to prevent and control them.

One way to fight dust storms is with plants. Grasses and trees help keep the sand and soil in place. "The Green Wall of China" is a project to plant trees -2,800 miles of them -in Northwest China near the edge of the Gobi Desert. Inside the belt of trees, plants like wheat and rice are planted in a checkerboard pattern. The project, planned to be completed in 2074, has slowed due to high costs. Also, some of the trees planted have died.

Another dust-control practice is placing wire fencing in areas to keep livestock from overgrazing. Plastic mulch and chemicals, such as oil waste, can be effective at keeping sand in place, but damage the environment in other ways. Further ideas for reducing desertification include paying farmers to reduce livestock numbers and raising prices of water so the resource will be conserved.

The solution to managing dust storms isn't simple and won't happen quickly. Computer models are used in Eastern Asia today to predict when dust storms will occur and how strong they will be. NASA satellites continue to be ready to track the next "Perfect Dust Storm", giving us important information about how dust storms impact life on Earth. We express our sincere gratitude to NASA for their continuous striving for conserving the Planet Earth, our home.

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