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Sunday, 16 August 2020

Chance to vote in the election every 5 years is an invaluable right of citizens: VP



Vice President U Henry Van Thio and entourage inspect the landslide on the ring road of Thantlang Town in Chin State on 15 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar's export of rice and rice-related goods in 2018 has reached the highest level in a period of 73 years after 1934, and it is the first point. The second point is that the development pace of the country's tourism industry in 2019 has been acknowledged by UNWTO ...

VICE President U Henry Van Thio met local elders in Thantlang and Haka and inspected the development undertakings. At 8 am yesterday, he met local elders at the Diamond Jubilee Memorial Hall of the Baptist Church in Thantlang.

At the meeting Vice President U Henry Van Thio explained his mission to see with his own eyes the development undertakings jointly conducted by the government and the people within a period of four years and the transport difficulties the locals are facing especially in the rainy season, and to look into their requirements, saying that local people are really enjoying the fruits of national development.

In his brief account of the

developments, the Vice President said Myanmar's export of rice and rice-related goods in 2018 has reached the highest level in a period of 73 years after 1934, and it is the first point. The second point is that the development pace of the country's tourism industry in 2019 has been acknowledged by UNWTO as the fastest of the year, as the industry gained 40.2 per cent increase during the period. In fact, those developments are the results of the concerted efforts of the Union Government, departments and the relevant organizations, with the involvement of the people. Hence, inclusive undertakings in the interest of the country and the people are a must, he said.

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“People are the key”

Chance to vote in the election every 5 years is an invaluable right ...

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The good results of public-government cooperation can be witnessed in the COVID-19 prevention, containment and treatment undertakings, and the world has acknowledged them as exemplary, he noted.

The chance for every citizen who has reached the age of 18 to vote in the election only once in every five years is an invaluable right for him or her, and this rare opportunity is not to be lost. The accuracy of the voter list is important, and the erroneous lists in some places should be corrected through the coordinated involvement of the responsible personnel and local people. The responsible personnel should strictly observe the directives and the election laws, bylaws and rules, the vice president suggested.

The success in elephant foot yam cultivation is a must in abandoning the shifting cultivation, as soil and weather of Chin State are suitable for the crop, he said.

Later, two local elders presented a report on the construction of a retaining wall at the northern sector of a football ground and the repair of the eroded road in Thantlang, the establishment of an elephant foot yam factory, the erection of a cable tower for 12 villages where communication is poor, the grouping of 18 villages into a new village-tract, the linking of the electrified villages, with high school and rural healthcare centre, with the national grid, the construction of Bwaynu river bridge, the construction of a new town hall in Thantlang and town water supply.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, deputy ministers U Tin Myint and U Khin Maung Win, Chin State ministers U Soe Htet and U Shwe Hti Yo and Permanent Secretary U Shwe Lay looked into the requirements.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio provided financial assistance to COVID-19 volunteer teams. Chief Minister of Chin State Salai Lian Luai, Speaker of Chin State Hluttaw U Zo Bawi and Chin State Minister U Phway Ah presented national registration cards to the local people.

The NRCs were issued



Vice President U Henry Van Thio speaks during the meeting with officials in Haka Town, Chin State on 15 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA

under the Thitsa project of the Department of Immigration and Population for 302 residents of four villages in Thantlang Township.

In his concluding address, the vice president expressed pleasure in announcing the transformation plan of the government technical high school in Thantlang into the government technical and vocational education institute. He thanked all the volunteers and called for inclusive public participation accelerating the national development task.

He then inspected the collapse of the retaining wall in the northern part of Ward 3 and the eroded detour, and heard a report on points of the Thantlang circular road, the landslide caused by a natural disaster, and the renovation plan of the eroded road by officials.

In Haka, the vice president and party inspected the archway of Haka University construction project and heard a report on the work progress. At the temporary briefing hall of the university, officials presented a report on the Convocation Hall construction project, progress of work, other development activities, a housing project, and the extension of land for the university.

In response, the vice president insisted on causing the least

harm to the natural environment in carrying out the construction undertakings. Then he visited the Convocation Hall construction project and the site of the housing project. Seventy-five per cent of the reinforced concrete Convocation Hall has been completed, and the total cost for the project is set at K 9331.194 million.

During the inspection of a Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter project, he heard a report on the progress of work and related works and facts. He then looked around the Multipurpose Cyclone Shelter. He then observed the new three-storey building project

of Haka No 1 Basic Education High School. The budget allotment of the 140-foot by 30-foot reinforced concrete building is K 576.652 million.

At his meeting with local elders at Bo Taik Chun Hall, the vice president said his visit was to witness the regional development undertakings and the poor transport facilities of the area, and to hear the concerns of the local people. It is an undeniable fact that the area enjoys development to a certain degree.

The Multiparty General Election is a once in a five-year opportunity for every citizen who has reached the age of 18, and no one should lose this opportunity. As a cent per cent voter turnout is crucial, instructions have already been sent to the relevant departments. All should cooperate in accordance with the rules and regulations and directives issued by the Union Election Commission, he said.

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has reached the age of 18, and no one should lose this opportunity. As a cent per cent voter turnout is crucial, instructions have already been sent to the relevant departments. All should cooperate in accordance with the rules and regulations and directives issued by the Union Election Commission, he said.

Under the specific action programme of the COVID-19 economic remedial plan, 200,000 persons with disabilities in the whole country will be provided with K30,000 each. In Chin State 2,691 persons with disabilities have been initially provided with the cash aid. K183.9 million will be provided for the remaining 6,130 at a rate of K30,000 per head. Every expectant mother in the whole country will be provided with K30,000 once during the COVID-19 containment period. Every expectant mother or every under-2 infant in Chin State, Naga region and Rakhine State has been receiving K 15,000 per month since 2017; every expectant mother or every under-2 infant in Kayin and Kayah states, since 2019; every expectant mother or every under-2 infant in Ayeyawady Region and Shan State, since 2020. In 2017-2018, every senior citizen of age 90 and above was provided with a monthly social pension of K 10,000 and in 2018-2019, the eligibility age was lowered to 85. The government is striving for the socio-economic development of every citizen. So the involvement of citizens is required in the programmes in their interest, he said.

Then, the Union minister, the chief minister and officials looked into the requirements presented by the leader of the local elders. The vice president provided cash assistance for the remaining persons with disabilities through the chief minister, and volunteers and government staff for their involvement in the anti-COVID-19 activities. Then the NRCs were presented to 346 local people.

The vice president inspected an unsafe school building hit by the earthquake jolted on 16 April. He then met cabinet members and heads of departmental branches of Chin State at the Pyidaungsu Villa. —MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

Advance voting process for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

- Heads of trainings, schools, hospitals and jails are to contact the sub-election commissions to get documents of Form 15
- They must return these documents to sub-commission of respective townships by 26 August 2020 after the documents are filled by the voters.
- Sub-election commission of respective townships must send ballot papers and envelopes for advance voting to the trainings, schools, hospitals and jails by 7 October 2020.
- Advance voting must be organized at trainings, schools, hospitals and jails on their appropriate day from 8 October 2020 to 21 October 2020.
- The envelopes containing ballot papers must be sent back to sub-election commission of respective townships by 4 pm on 8 November 2020.

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.

Film industry’s centenary steering committee discusses detailed planning

THE steering committee for successful holding of centenary for Myanmar’s motion picture industry organized a coordination meeting at the Mingalar Hall of Yangon Region Government in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended by the steering committee’s chairman and Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and members, sub-committees chairpersons and members, officials from broadcasting media and movie theatres, and guests.

Speaking at the event, the Union Minister said since May last year arrangements for Myanmar film industry’s centenary celebration had been made.

The centenary celebration is scheduled to be organized on 13 October following the guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports despite COVID-19 restrictions at present, he said.

He asked the Myanmar Motion Picture Organization



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint speaks at the meeting with Myanmar film industry’s centenary steering committee at the Mingalar Hall of Yangon Region Government in Yangon on 15 August. PHOTO: MNA

(MMPO) patrons and officials to give suggestions on arrangements and courses of actions for organizing the centenary event.

Relevant sub-committees have been formed for the centenary celebration, and it is crucial to work on sector-wise procedures, he added.

He also discussed the formation of a working group so that sub-committees, working committee and steering committee can effectively cooperate.

The steering committee secretary and Information and Public Relations Department Acting Director-General U Aye Kywe

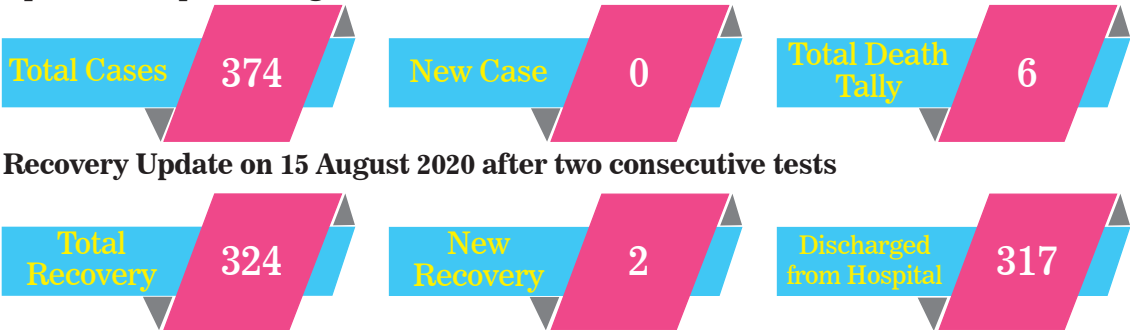
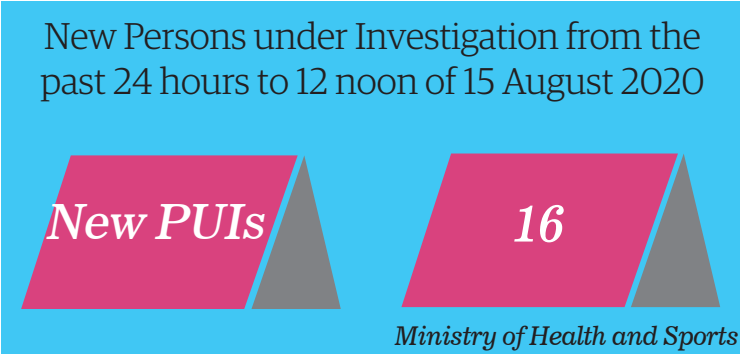
reported the steering committee works and arrangements for the centenary celebration.

The steering committee member Yangon Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Win Tint and Development Affairs Minister U Maung Maung Soe, MMPO’s patrons U Kyi Soe Tun, U Aung Lwin, U Hnin Moe, U Aung Myint Myat and U Soe Moe, Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) Director-General U Ye Naing, sub-committees chairpersons and secretaries, and broadcasting department officials discussed the matters related to the centenary celebrations, showing classic movies, organizing paper-reading sessions, the publication of the centenary magazine, displays of booths, and conducting public awareness activities. The meeting was concluded following the Union Minister’s remarks. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 15 August, total figure remains at 374

Updated at 8 pm, 15 August 2020



Well-wishers donate cash to Eternal Peace Pagoda



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko receives K20 million cash donation from a well-wisher at the State Pariyatti Sasana University in Mandalay on 15 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

A ceremony to present cash donations for Eternal Peace Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw was held at the State Pariyatti Sasana University, Mandalay yesterday.

The event was attended by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and wife, Mandalay Region Shan Ethnic Affairs Minister U Sai Pan Saing, Religious Affairs Department's Director-General U Myint Oo and wife, State

Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay)'s Director U Aung Thein Oo, officials, and donors.

U Maung Ko and wife Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Shwe U (Eternal Group of Companies, Shwe Oakaw Gold Shop) donated K20 million, and U Myint Naing and wife Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Khin Shwe (Asia Naing Enterprise Ltd.) K15 million.

Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Htay Htay Thein (Mya Thitsar

Fruit Mart) and family, Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Khin Ohn Myint (Thamardi Gold Shop, Aung Soe Moe Electronics and Aung Soe Moe Store) and family, Dr Win Hlaing and wife Sudhamma Singi Daw Mya Sanda Win (Royal Diamond & Jewellery House) and family, U Win Pe Myint (Mya Tagon & Aung Than Su Lottery Ticket Sales Agent) and family, Sudhamma Mani Jotadhara Dr Kyaw Thet Naing

(Aung Theikdhi Condensed Milk and Shwe Myanmar Butter) and family, U Tin Ko Ko and Daw Aye Thida (Shining Star Gem & Jewellery) and family, U Ba Yan Maing (Shan Restaurant) and family, Daw Khin Hnin Oo (a) Ma Su Yin (Myanmar Nan Htike Gems & Jewellery) and family, Sudhamma Singi Daw Aye Aye Myint and family, Sudhamma Mani Jotadhara U Maung Soe (Sein Sun Nyo Wrought Iron Business) and family, U Nyi Maw Kun and wife Daw Yupa Aye Than Win (Thitsar Gems & Jewellery and Khit Yazar Gems Company) family, Daw Win Win Khaing (a) Daw A Lin (Champion Bakery) and family, Sudhamma Singi Daw Khin Moe Moe Win (Immortal Moe Co., Ltd.) and family donated K10 million each.

U Aung and wife Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Aye Maw Si (Aung Thamardi Gold and Jewellery), Sudhamma Singi Daw Than Than (Myanma Thura Gems Co., Ltd.) and family, Sudhamma Singi Daw Mya Mya Than (Merchant) and family, U Than Htay Aung (U Ba Yin Iron Wares) and family, U Myo Chit (Aung Than Wai Machinery, Electronics, Shwe Wah Win Wedding Hall and Bakery) and

family, Daw Ohma Saw Win (Myanma Ala Silk and Fabrics, Hello Energy) and family, U Kyaw Than Zaw and family, Daw Nyunt Nyunt Aung (Mya Gone Yaung Shwe Khit Store) and family, U Aung Aung and wife Agga Maha Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Hla Hla Wai, U Myint Aung and wife Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Myint Myint Yi (Aung Myint Moe Hotel and Thar Si Trading), and Dr Hla Kywe and Siri Sudhamma Singi Daw Aye Aye Aung (Aung Wint Htae Business Group Co., Ltd.) donated K5 million each.

Daw Htwe Htwe (a) Daw Hla Htwe (San Win Myint Industrial) and family donated K3 million, and Daw Nyunt Yin Win (Rich Life Co., Ltd) and family K2 million.

The Union Minister, the Mandalay Region Shan Ethnic Affairs Minister and the Director-General accepted the donations and presented back certificates of honour to the donors. The Union Minister also expressed words of thanks.

Twenty-eight well-wishers from different regions and states donated a total of K225 million to the Eternal Peace Pagoda at the ceremony.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Government of Japan provides medical supplies to MoHS

THE Japanese government and its people donated 9.3 million Yen worth of medicines and medical supplies to help Myanmar in the fight against COVID-19, and the plane carrying medical supplies landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Maruyama Ichiro handed over the medical equipment to Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun, Director-General of Department of Medical Research and Dr Kyaw Khaing, Deputy Director-General and Head of International Relations Division under the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Japanese Ambassador said: "The COVID-19 pandemic has been occurring all over the world. We can see Myanmar can control the outbreak well. The Japanese government appreciates the moves of Myanmar. But, there are some confirmed cases in Myanmar, and so we provide

the medical supplies. The medicines that we donated today are produced in Japan, and we will keep providing such medical supplies."

This donation is the first batch out of the 2 billion Yen assistance for medical equipment and facilities to help Myanmar's response to the pandemic as part of the economic and social development programme of Japan in Myanmar.

"They donate medical equipment, including quality beds and suction machines which are used at ICU (Intensive Care Unit). Although our country controls the disease to a certain extent, we need to have such medical supplies to prevent the second wave of COVID-19 by looking at our neighbouring countries. So, we thank the Japanese government and its people for their donations," said Director-General Professor Dr Zaw Than Tun.

The Japanese government



Japanese Ambassador Mr Maruyama Ichiro (centre) and Myanmar officials pose for a group photo as medical supplies donated by the Government of Japan arrive at the Yangon International Airport on 15 August 2020. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

cooperated with the Ministry of Health and Sports for malaria research and anti-malaria programmes before the outbreak of COVID-19 and also provided in upgrading testing laboratories during COVID-19 pandemic.

Moreover, JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) keeps providing the medicines and medical supplies in response to COVID-19, according to Deputy Director-General Dr Kyaw Khaing.—Zaw Gyi (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

To shape the future with your vote, let's check the voters' list.

Fisheries sector

There were many fish varieties in Myanmar; foreigners know only a few varieties of Myanmar fish; she wanted efforts to be made so that foreigners would come to know the remaining fish varieties and also look for markets. She thought that it would be very beneficial for the fishery and prawn breeding sector if value-added products could be made from fishery products which cannot last long.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions at videoconference regarding impact of COVID-19 on livestock and fisheries sector with stakeholders (7-7-2020))



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye provides CERP benefits to internally displaced persons in Kayin State



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye provides cash assistance from CERP for IDPs in Kayin State on 15 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye along with Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htwe Myint, Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Kayin

State cabinet ministers, the director-general of Department of Disaster Management, the deputy director-general of Department of Social Welfare and officials comforted the internally displaced persons at Myaing

Gyi Ngu region and provide the benefits of COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan.

The Union Minister and party paid homage to Bhandanda Ashin Nyanissa at Nan-Oo Taw-Ya Monastery and donated

Waso robe and offertories.

The Union Minister and party met the IDPs in IDP camps. The Union Minister said the government had been fulfilling the needs of the civilians apart from the current support for short-term benefits; plans are being made for long-term benefits; the government was focusing on internal peace and National Level Strategy was being implemented to resettle the internally displaced persons and to shut down the IDP camps so that the people could live again independently with safety and dignity; the two IDP camps in Kayin State has been implemented as per the Strategy and Kayin State is also included in the government-led Maternal & Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) Programme.

The Union Minister also said that the government was providing social pensions to the elderly aged 85 and over and implementing the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP)

to give people with disability and senior citizens between the ages of 80 and 85, and to support the IDPs to buy food.

The Union Minister said that the cash assistance should be effectively used as those are public funds and the people will benefit the long-term plans on education, healthcare, social and economic sectors.

The Kayin State Chief Minister said the government was not only giving relief assistance but also carrying out the plans for professional works and discussed with the war victims on receiving aid.

The Union Minister and party donated K208.14 million for 6,938 disabled people, K28.96 million for 724 households to buy foods and the Department of Social Welfare donated K7.38million for 246 senior citizens in 2 IDP camps, soap bars and lime powder bags to ethnic IDPs.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

170 Myanmar nationals fly back home from Malaysia

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) brought back 170 Myanmar migrant workers who work at garment factories in Penang of Malaysia, and it landed at Yangon International Airport yesterday evening.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and local officials helped the returnees for health inspections and arranged for a 21-day quarantine. To bring back the Myanmar citizens who are stranded in foreign countries by relief flights and chartered flights following

the instructions of National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs cooperated with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries.

The Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur cooperates with the relevant organizations of Malaysia per the instructions of Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send back the undocumented Myanmar nationals and those detained at cells, by relief flights. —MNA ■ *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*



Myanmar citizens returned from Malaysia queue for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 15 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

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69,000 fingerlings released into paddy fields in Kyonpyaw



Officials release fingerlings into the paddy fields to reduce the scarcity of the fish resources Kyonpyaw township in Pathein District on 14 August. PHOTO: NAY WIN MYINT (KYONPYAW)

ABOUT 69,000 fingerlings were reportedly released into the paddy fields to reduce the scarcity of the fish resources and ensure sufficiency of the local consump-

tion.
The fingerling releasing ceremony was held in Kyonpyaw township in Pathein District on 14 August. The service was at-

tended by U Aung Soe Moe, the township administrator, the officials and staff from the relevant departments and the officials from social organizations.

At the ceremony, a total of 69,000 fingerlings were released including 19,000 Thai Barbus fingerlings and 50,000 golden fingerlings.
"By releasing the fingerlings, we can produce both paddy and fish at the same time. We are releasing about 69,000 fingerlings into 138 acres of paddy fields. Each acre of paddy field will get 500 fingerlings. It is aimed at ensuring the self-sufficiency of the local people. For sufficiency of fisheries resources, the Fisheries Department is releasing the fingerlings into the ponds (inns) and creeks annually. The department is also taking legal action against illegal fishing to reduce the scarcity of the fish resources," said Daw Khin Myo Naing, Head of Township Fisheries Department.
There are about 30 granted inns in Kyonpyaw township, which earned the country K249 million in this financial year. — Nay Win Myint (Kyonpyaw)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MR to reopen Yangon-Mawlamyine express train service on 22 August

YANGON-Mawlamyine express train will start to run on 22 August, according to Mawlamyine Railway Station under Myanma Railway (MR).
The express train will stop at three stations including Paung, Thahton and Kyaikto stations. The CCTVs will also be installed onboard the train for the safety of passengers, and the train will be clean and tidy because it is an express one.
Yangon-Mawlamyine express train run by Korea two new express coaches will take

only nine hours. Fare for Yangon-Mawlamyine trip will be priced at K8,000 for the upper class and K4,000 for the ordinary class. The tickets will be sold one day ahead.
The train will include four upper coaches which can accommodate 33 passengers, five ordinary coaches, which can accommodate 44 passengers and one average coach which (manual brake coach), can accommodate 44 passengers.
No 83 up express train leaves Yangon Railway Station



A locomotive run on the Yangon-Mawlamyine railway lines seen at the Central Railway Station in Yangon. PHOTO: SOE MYINT AUNG

at 8 pm on 22 August and arrives at Mawlamyine railway station at 5:15 am the next day. On the same day of 23 August, No 84 down express train departs from

Mawlamyine Railway Station at 9 pm and arrives at Yangon Railway Station at 6:00 am the next day. —Pwint Thit Sar

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Total border trade using ITCs exceeds K37 bln in 10 months

TOTAL border trade conducted by Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) exceeded K37.84 billion in ten months of the current financial year (FY) of 2019-2020 which started in October, according to the data released by the Ministry of Commerce.
From 1 October to 31 July this FY, the Ministry issued 61 ITCs and export using those cards through border gates

earned the exporters over K2.6 billion while its imports exceeded K35.24 billion.
The Myawady border recorded the highest trade at a value of K24.78 billion in the current FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.
Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, marine products, minerals, forest products, manufacturing goods and others to

foreign trade partner countries. In contrast, capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods are imported.
The Ministry has issued a total of 1,748 ITCs, registering its trade value of over K192 billion since 2012-2013FY. The Ministry issued 292 ITCs in 2012-2013, 261 in 2013-2014, 315 in 2014-2015, 146 in 2015-2016, 248 in 2016-2017, 168 in 2017-2018, 92 in the mini-budget

period of 2018 (April-September, 2018), and 163 in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Ministry's figures.
The Ministry began issuing of ITCs in 2012. Traders can sell up to K15 million per week using ITCs, which must be extended every year. The Trade Department issues ITCs to boost border trade.—Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

UPDJC Secretariat holds 27th meeting

THE 27th meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre I (MICC-I) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting were Government officials, Peace Commission Secretary Retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo and Brig-Gen Ye Yint Win, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, Peace Commission advisory board member U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo, Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor, and Pado Saw Tar Do Moo (KNU), U Myo Win (ABSDF), Saw Mra Yazar Lin (ALP), Khun Myint Tun

(PNLO) and Nai Aung Ma Ngay (NMSP) from the ethnic armed groups, and U Naing Ngan Lin (NLD), U Myint Soe (USDP), Sai Kyaw Nyunt (SNLD), Tar Hla Pe (Ta'ang – Palaung), and U Thein Tun (NUP) from the political parties.

During the meeting, they discussed the Part III in the Union Accord to be signed in the fourth session of Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, implementation framework for the NCA, step-by-step procedures in Table-1 of implementation plans for post-2020, guiding principles for establishing the Democratic Federal Union, the submission of UPDJC and JMC reports at the conference, programmes and



The 27th meeting of the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) Secretariat is in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 15 August. **PHOTO: KO HTAIN**

system on each day of the conference, plans for the first day of the conference, patrons for the conference, distribution of work for UPDJC secretariat, substitute of UPDJC members and plans for 19th UPDJC meeting. —Myo Naing Han ■ (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

311 Myanmar migrant workers return home via Myawady border



Myanmar citizens queuing for immigration process in Myawady on 15 August. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

A total of 311 Myanmar migrant workers – 198 males and 113 females – came back home from Thailand through the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) yesterday.

Myawady District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung and local authorities helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

A total of 64,683 returnees including 11,680 in May, 25,338

in June and 18,597 in July and 9,068 returnees from 1 to 15 August so far have come back home through this border crossing.

Yesterday's returnees were successfully kept in the respective quarantined centres in line with COVID-19 prevention measures, according to the local officials. —Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

FIVE MONTH HIGH South Korea tightens curbs in capital to control virus surge

SOUTH Korea tightened coronavirus measures on Saturday in Seoul and its surrounding areas as the country reported the highest number of new daily infections in more than five months.

The stricter social distancing guidelines include restrictions on gatherings and activities including professional sports, which will be played behind closed doors in the capital area again.

The move came as South Korea reported 166 new cases on Saturday, the highest daily figure since early March, bringing the country's total infections to 15,039 with 305 deaths.

South Korea stands at a "critical juncture" in the battle to control the coronavirus surge,

Prime Minister Chung Sye-kyun said at a government response meeting.

"Our top priority is to contain the spread of the virus in the greater Seoul area."

A majority of the new cases came from the greater Seoul region -- home to half of the country's 51 million people -- raising fears about a major spike with a three-day weekend starting in South Korea from Saturday.

Despite the outbreak and calls to avoid large gatherings, thousands of right-wing protestors rallied against President Moon Jae-in's centre-left government in the heart of Seoul on Saturday. Around 20,000 participated, according to the Yonhap

news agency.

South Korea endured one of the worst early outbreaks outside mainland China but brought it broadly under control with extensive tracing and testing while never imposing the kind of lockdowns ordered in much of Europe and other parts of the world.

The country has been seen as a model on how to combat the pandemic with the public largely following safety health measures such as face masks.

It even started allowing limited numbers of spectators at sports games in July -- which was reversed for the greater Seoul region on Saturday.

SOURCE: AFP



South Korea endured one of the worst early outbreaks of the coronavirus but largely brought it under control with extensive testing and the public following measures like face masks. **PHOTO : AFP/FILE**

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Myanmar needs to sustain extraordinary efforts in COVID-19 containment

ONLY 374 positive cases of COVID-19 were reported in Myanmar up to 15 August. The number is very lower in comparing with its neighbouring countries. It is an undeniable truth that the government could lead and persuade its people in preventive and control measures against the pandemic.

Although Myanmar people were unfamiliar with strict control measures in preventing crowds and gatherings, hygiene practices and homestay practices, people could adhere to orders, guidelines and directives of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the Ministry of Health and Sports.

This united efforts and high standards of discipline of our people could prevent a higher number of positive cases in the country. A majority of the new cases came from the returnees from abroad.

The government has firm determination to welcome back its nationals stranded in foreign countries. The repatriation programmes are being carried out in line with the country's quarantine capacity.

Myanmar needs to sustain this incredible response to the pandemic while lifting strict social distancing systematically.

The number of limited persons for gatherings and activities has been set less than 30, from the previous number of 15. The government is taking steps to resume some events and activities, including football games.

In relaxing strict measures, people need to be cautious about preventive measures against this to avoid another wave of this disease

which is extremely expensive for the country and people.

Some countries have announced they could produce COVID-19 vaccines in the near future. However, WHO takes reasonable steps to verify the accuracy of the information, and the vaccine needs to be affordable and accessible to all in addressing systemic health inequalities.

Myanmar's peak season for travellers is from October to February. If people keep on adhering to the directives and guidelines for containment of this disease, the country could enjoy the upcoming tour season without fear and worry about the pandemic.

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THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Solutions, solidarity needed to defeat COVID-19 pandemic

“Our best way forward is to stick with science, solutions and solidarity and together we can overcome this pandemic,” World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged earlier this month.

AS THE COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage across the world, Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of leading medical journal The Lancet, asked a provocative question with his newly-published book titled “The COVID-19 Catastrophe: What’s Gone Wrong and How to Stop It Happening Again.”

Such a question reverberates around the globe as worldwide COVID-19 infections have crossed the 20-million mark and coronavirus deaths surpassed 750,000.

Amid the catastrophe of the century, the future and destiny of mankind, analysts say, depend on current choices and actions.

COMMON SECURITY

From traditional security threats such as wars and conflicts to non-traditional security threats such as climate change and cyber attacks, humankind’s understanding of security has been continuously expanded.

Among them, in the past over 100 years, various infectious diseases, ranging from the Spanish Flu to AIDS, Ebola, SARS and Zika, have repeatedly reminded humans against biosecurity risks.

Nobel laureate and biologist Joshua Lederberg once warned, “the single biggest threat to man’s continued dominance on this planet is the virus.”

The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which has been severely hitting the world’s economic production, social life, international relations and global landscape,



Nurses react while two patients are under investigation for the COVID-19 coronavirus at Yala Hospital in Thailand’s southern province of Yala on 17 March, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

sounded the alarm bell again.

The coronavirus, which knows no borders, races or religions, can serve as a sober reminder that security has become more interconnected and transnational. Considering that facing the pandemic, no one is safe until everyone is safe, China’s vision of common security could help provide an answer to defeating the virus.

Countries, as China proposed, should pursue common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, reject a Cold War mentality and confrontation between blocs, and oppose the practices of seeking absolute security of oneself at the expense of others, so as to achieve the security of all.

Yet, Washington, in the absence of scientific evidence, has

LIFE FIRST

The public health crisis is also a test of countries’ value orientation.

Countries have different histories, cultures and levels of economic and social development. Thus, in the fight against the pandemic, with such different factors, they may adopt different crisis response approaches.

Despite that, as the rights to life and health are fundamental parts of human rights, they should become the primary consideration for countries when facing the challenges posed by the pandemic, and guarding life should be the common value pursued by countries.

When the novel coronavirus struck, China made every effort to protect the lives and health of

its people even at the cost of a short-term economic downturn and even a temporary shutdown.

Mehmood-ul-Hassan Khan, a Pakistani geopolitical analyst, said that China’s response to COVID-19 has been timely, effective, transparent and responsible.

Noting that the Chinese government has always given top priority to the life and health of its people, he added that the international community can learn a lot from China’s experience.

SOLIDARITY NEEDED

“Our best way forward is to stick with science, solutions and solidarity and together we can overcome this pandemic,” World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus urged earlier this month.

Looking back over the past century, from World War II to the 9/11 terrorist attacks and then to the global financial crisis of 2008, mankind has relied on cooperation to tide over these crises. However, since the onset of the pandemic, this cooperation has been lacking and such international organizations as the WHO have repeatedly called for solidarity.

One of the biggest stumbling blocks to international cooperation is Washington’s intentional disruption. Though the United States boasts rich scientific and technological resources and advanced medical equipment, the country intercepted shipments

of medical equipment bound for other countries and recklessly stigmatized others to shift the blame.

“The threat of coronavirus should kindle global cooperation, not a new cold war,” Horton warned in a Guardian opinion piece this month.

Also, the pandemic has exposed weaknesses in the global systems of detection, monitoring, control and treatment of such infectious diseases.

Thus, as the international community has urged, countries need to defend the global governance system with the United Nations at its core, give full support to the WHO, share experiences in fighting the pandemic, ensure the smooth supply of medical supplies and accelerate the research and development of drugs and vaccines.

The virus’s attack on human beings is far from over, and the prospects for pandemic control remain grim. In these drastic times, as UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has said last month, only through international cooperation “will we ease the economic and social consequences of the crisis.”

“It is only by strengthening bonds across society that we will recover better and build a healthier, more inclusive, sustainable, resilient and equitable world,” he added.

SOURCE: Xinhua

■ ■ ■

CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS

New York museums, galleries to reopen from August 24

NEW York’s museums, art galleries and other cultural institutions will be allowed to reopen starting August 24, state governor Andrew Cuomo said Friday after a five-month shutdown due to the coronavirus.

However, there will be mandatory face masks, timed ticketing with staggered entry and just 25 per cent occupancy, he tweeted.

The reopening does not include performing arts venues,

which will remain shut until the end of the year.

New York’s famed Metropolitan Museum of Art, which normally welcomes seven million visitors a year, said it would reopen on August 29.

“After nearly six months, The Met’s reopening will be a historic moment for the Museum and the City,” Met president Daniel Weiss said in a statement.

“Throughout the recent months of uncertainty, isolation

and grief, we have longed for the day when we can safely welcome everyone back to The Met, where all can find comfort, inspiration, and a sense of community.”

The Whitney Museum of American Art will reopen on September 3 but the Museum of Modern Art has yet to announce its reopening date.

The Metropolitan Opera is scheduled to resume on December 31, while Broadway theatres will remain closed until at least

January.

New York state was initially hard hit by the coronavirus and has recorded 25,232 deaths and 424,167 infections so far, Cuomo said in an update Friday.

He highlighted the state’s progress against the pandemic with under one percent of coronavirus tests proving positive over the past seven days.

SOURCE: AFP

■ ■ ■



The Met is set to reopen on August 29 after a five-month shutdown due to the coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO © AFP/FILE

Myanmar Daily Weather Report
(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 15 August 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30) hrs MST today, yesterday’s low pressure area has crossed North Coastal Odisha and West Bengal (India). Monsoon is moderate over the Andaman Sea and strong to vigorous over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 16 August 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing Region, fairly widespread in Mandalay and Magway regions, Kayah State and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions, Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar Waters. Wave height will be about (9 – 13) feet Deltaic, off and along Rakhine Coasts and about (5-8) feet Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts.

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

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 August 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 August 2020: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 16 August 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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"INTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS" WITH MANUFACTURERS

EU reserves 400 mln doses of potential J&J virus vaccine

A sign is posted at the Johnson & Johnson campus on 26 August 2019 in Irvine, California. **PICTURE: AFP**

THE European Union said Thursday it had reserved up to 400 million doses of a potential new coronavirus vaccine being developed by US giant Johnson & Johnson.

Preliminary talks concluded Friday for a first purchase of 200 million doses followed by an equal number later, a statement said.

"The envisaged contract with Johnson & Johnson would provide for the possibility for all EU Member States to purchase the vaccine, as well as to donate to lower and middle income countries," it said.

The bloc said it was in "intensive discussions" with other manufacturers for potential vaccines.

According to the World Health Organization, nearly 3.7 million cases of Covid-19 have

been recorded in Europe since the start of the pandemic, and 218,383 deaths.

On July 31, the European Commission said it had reserved 300 million doses of another potential vaccine being developed by French firm Sanofi.

"Our citizens' lives and our economy need a safe and effective vaccine against the coronavirus. Today's talks bring us closer to achieving this," European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said.

The EU is using about 2 billion euros (\$2.4 billion) from an emergency fund to strike advance purchase deals with several vaccine makers in a bid to secure enough shots for its population of 450 million.

SOURCE: AFP

VACCINE PROJECTS

COVID-19 vaccine will be free for Americans, say officials

THE US government announced that if proven effective, the US will ensure that it is distributed free to all Americans.

"We are not at all reducing the regulatory rigour with which we will evaluate and hopefully approve vaccines," Paul Mango, a senior health department official, was quoted in an AFP reported as saying.

The US has invested more than \$10 billion in six vaccine projects and signed contracts guaranteeing the delivery of hundreds of millions of doses after they clear clinical trials.

The vaccine doses themselves will be paid for by the government.

Payments for the doctors and clinics that administer these doses will be covered by private and public insurers, officials have said.

"We are on track to deliver hundreds of millions of doses by January 2021," he added.

Critics of President Donald Trump have expressed worries that in order to announce the availability of vaccine before elections on November 3, the administration may bypass safety precautions—Mango

has denied the charge.

This week, Russia approved a vaccine even before it started the last phase of clinical trials. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), compared Russia's vaccine, dubbed as "Sputnik V" to a game of "Russian roulette."

"I hope that the Russians have actually definitively proven that the vaccine is safe and effective, but I seriously doubt that they've done that," top US infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci said.

SOURCE: AFP

Dr Rhonda Flores looks at protein samples at Novavax labs in Rockville, Maryland on March 20, 2020. **PHOTO: AFP**

NEW MEASURES

Australian government to cut university fee support for failing students

THE Australian government has announced that it will stop subsidizing university fees for first-year students who fail half their subjects.

Minister for Education Dan Tehan announced the changes on Thursday, saying that they would prevent students from taking on study loads they can't handle.

Under the new measures, students who fail at least half of their first eight subjects in

a degree will lose access to the Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP), through which Australian citizens and other eligible students receive zero-interest loans from the government to pay for their tertiary education.

However, universities will be able to maintain a students' access to the scheme if their performance was affected by exceptional circumstances.

"These measures will en-

sure students not to take on a study load they won't complete," Tehan said.

The government held 66.6 billion Australian dollars (about 47.7 billion U.S. dollars) worth of HELP debt in financial year 2018-19.

According to the Department of Education, one student accrued 663,000 AUD (about 475,961 U.S. dollars) in HELP debt after enrolling in 44 courses at 26 institutions and attain-

ing no qualifications.

"The lack of transparency of a student's enrolment has allowed some non-genuine students to enrol and re-enrol at multiple providers at the same time," Tehan said.

Andrew Norton, a higher education expert from Australian National University (ANU), said that approximately six percent of students fail every subject in their first year at university.

"Many fails are avoidable if disengaged students leave before the HELP census date or the usually later date to withdraw without academic penalty. The government's legislation would put more pressure on universities to check that students are engaged, especially as they move from first to second semester," he told Nine Entertainment newspapers.

SOURCE: AFP

Putin calls for emergency Iran summit to decrease tensions



Russia's President Vladimir Putin with President of Iran Hassan Rouhani. PHOTO CREDIT: KREMLIN.RU/FILE

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin on Friday called on the permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany to convene an emergency Iran summit to avoid an escalation of tensions in the Gulf.

China, France, Russia, Britain, the United States, Germany and Iran should take part in the video summit, the Kremlin chief said. "It's an urgent issue," Putin said in a statement released by the Kremlin.

"Discussions at the UN Security Council over the Iranian issue are becoming increasingly tense," Putin said, adding that Moscow's ally Iran was a target of "groundless accusations".

"The goal is to put together a blueprint that would allow to avoid confrontation, an escalation in tensions at the UN Security Council." He added that the leaders should also agree on ways to ensure security and trust in the Gulf region.

Tensions over Iran have escalated since 2018 when President Donald Trump withdrew the United States from a multinational accord that froze Iran's nuclear programme and reimposed crippling sanctions on its economy.

Last week US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said Washington would submit a UN Security Council resolution to extend an arms embargo on Iran despite opposition from Russia and China.—AFP ■

Belarus leader reaches out to Russia as pressure grows

MINSK — The opposition in Belarus kept up the pressure on President Alexander Lukashenko with a fresh demonstration in Minsk on Saturday, as the strongman reached out to Russia in an apparent plea for help.

Some 5,000 opposition supporters gathered near a metro station in the capital where a demonstrator died during this week's police crackdown on protests against Lukashenko's claim to have won re-election last Sunday.

With the opposition gain-

ing momentum after days of demonstrations, Lukashenko's main election challenger Svetlana Tikhonovskaya had called on supporters to rally again over the weekend.

Demonstrators laid flowers at the site where Alexander Taraikovsky, 34, died on Monday, with many chanting "Leave!" and some holding up pictures of protesters with severe bruises, after accounts emerged of detained demonstrators being beaten and tortured.—AFP ■

UN to ramp up food aid in DR Congo to reach 9 million people

UNITED NATIONS — The World Food Programme said Friday it was rapidly scaling up operations in DR Congo with millions facing "the world's second biggest hunger emergency." The United Nations agency said it needed \$172 million (145 million euros) to prevent millions from plunging deeper into hunger over the next six months.

"WFP is ramping up operations in the Democratic Republic of Congo to meet increasing

needs — a consequence of escalating conflict and displacement, disease, extreme poverty, poor harvests and COVID-19," spokeswoman Elisabeth Byrs told reporters. "DRC is the world's second biggest hunger emergency after Yemen." The WFP said that 15.6 million people in DRC were considered acutely food insecure, with a further 27.4 million deemed at high risk of facing a rapid deterioration in food security.—AFP ■

Israel-UAE deal a Trump coup, but his sights are set on Iran

WASHINGTON — The Israel-UAE agreement gives the United States a rare diplomatic success in the Middle East -- but it is Iran which President Donald Trump has in his sights, with a strategy that has already hit roadblocks at the United Nations.

The White House has lavished praise on a foreign policy coup which was sorely needed by a president seeking re-election in November who has little to show on the diplomatic front.

"This is a dramatic breakthrough that will make the Middle East safer," chief US negotiator Jared Kushner told CBS. "It means less American troops will have to be over there."

Under the US-brokered agreement, the United Arab Emirates and Israel agreed on Thursday to establish full diplomatic ties, making the monarchy just the third Arab country to recognize the Jewish state, following Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994.

"Assuming the deal works, it's the first time Israel has established normalized relations with

any Gulf nation and for that reason it's significant," said Aaron David Miller, a former diplomat who served as Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiator in Democratic and Republican administrations.

But, Miller cautioned, "don't blow this out of proportion."

"I don't buy that it's on the same level of magnitude or accomplishment as Egypt or Jordan," said Miller, now a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"This is the UAE we're talking about. This is not the Arab world's most powerful nation like Egypt. This isn't even a country that has a contiguous border with Israel."

Barbara Slavin of the Atlantic Council, another Washington think-tank, described the agreement as a "good move" but "not earthshaking in view of the covert ties the two countries have had for a very long time."

'Vision for Peace'

Since taking office, Trump has pledged to apply his self-pro-



A man reads a copy of the United Arab Emirates-based The National newspaper near the Burj Khalifa, the tallest structure and building in the world since 2009, in the Gulf emirate of Dubai on Aug. 14, 2020, as the publication's headline reflects the previous day's news that Israel and the UAE had agreed to normalize relations in a landmark US-brokered deal. PHOTO BY GIUSEPPE CACACE/AFP

claimed deal-making skills to resolving the intractable Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

He charged Kushner, his son-in-law, with the daunting task of hammering out Middle East peace.

But the Palestinians have refused to play along with an administration seen as staunchly pro-Israel, and rejected the US president's "Vision for Peace" unveiled in January.

Miller said the Israel-UAE

normalization agreement does little to advance Trump's "vision" of overall Middle East peace.

What's more, he added, "the administration's motivation has nothing to do with Israeli-Palestinian peace."—AFP ■

Indonesia to close doors to foreign tourists until vaccine found



An Indonesian tourist walks in the complex of Buddhist temple Borobudur, one of the country's popular tourist destinations, in Magelang Regency in Central Java Province on Aug. 6, 2020. **PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CREATIVE ECONOMY) KYODO**

JAKARTA — Indonesia will continue not to open its doors to foreign tourists until a new coronavirus vaccine is found and immunity can be provided, a gov-

ernment official said Saturday, as the hard-hit country is conducting clinical testing for a vaccine.

"The reopening of tourist destinations to foreign tourists

is something positive, but we need to do it at the right time," Erick Thohir, chief of Indonesia's national economic and COVID-19 recovery team, told a virtual pub-

lic discussion. Since Tuesday, Indonesia has been conducting the final, phase 3 clinical testing for a COVID-19 vaccine candidate in the West Java provincial capital of Bandung.

The clinical trial is taking place with the cooperation of Chinese-based drug maker Sinovac Biotech Ltd. and a team of Indonesian scientists and researchers, as well as Indonesian state-owned drug maker PT Bio Farma which have developed the vaccine candidate. Once clinical testing for about six and a half months is completed, vaccine production will immediately start and pave the way to offering immunity to the general public.

According to Thohir, who is also state-owned enterprises minister, the government did not want its efforts to mitigate the novel coronavirus pandemic undermined by the reopening of its borders to tourists to avoid creating new clusters.

Acknowledging that immunity may only start next year,

Thohir said reopening the country's borders to foreign travelers must go hand in hand with producing immunity so as not to start again from scratch.

"Therefore, for the time being, we are still reviewing the plan to reopen (Indonesia) for foreign tourists," he said.

As of Friday noon, Indonesia reported 2,307 new confirmed cases of the coronavirus, bringing the total number of cases to 135,123 with 6,021 fatalities.

The government has slowly reopened some tourist destinations for domestic tourists despite the continued high risk of the new coronavirus spreading.

Recovery of domestic tourism has been the first target before the country reopens to tourists from abroad.

Indonesia is also in negotiations with some countries to set up travel corridors for business travelers. Indonesia has reached agreements with South Korea and the United Arab Emirates for such travel bubbles.—Kyodo ■

Vietnam's southern bourse up slightly amid hopes on COVID-19 vaccines

HO CHI MINH CITY — VN-Index, the benchmark index of the Ho Chi Minh City Stock Exchange, inched up from last week's closure of 841.46 points to close at 850.74 points on Friday.

The index posted three ups and two downs this week. It started Monday on a positive note, cutting early gains of gaining 1.74 points, or 0.21 per cent, as profit taking pressure increased strongly when VN-Index was approaching 850 points.

Shares failed to maintain their rally on Tuesday with the market experiencing strong volatility with big variation in large-caps' prices.

Vietnamese shares advanced on Wednesday as increasing oil prices helped boost petroleum stocks, and extended gains on Thursday on upbeat global market sentiment amid hopes of a potential coronavirus vaccine supply deal.

An average of over 278.3 million shares were traded per day on the southern bourse, down 0.5 per cent against last week. Trading value totaled 23.2

trillion Vietnamese dong (over 1 billion U.S. dollars), up 22.6 per cent.

Foreign investors remained net sellers of 743 billion Vietnamese dong (32.3 million U.S. dollars), compared to a net selling of 152 billion Vietnamese dong (6.6 million U.S. dollars) last week.

The market is forecast to extend the current uptrend and head toward resistance 876-883 points in the short term with wide divergence among stocks, according to local securities experts.

Besides, information related to the production of vaccines against the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to support the market in the short term.

Stock exposure should be maintained at 50-65 per cent of the portfolio, said the experts, noting that investors may consider selling part of the short-term positions at the aforementioned resistances and consider opening short buying positions and covering previously sold positions at market corrections in several sessions. —Xinhua ■

Central Japan residents to seek injunction to stop maglev train work

SHIZUOKA, Japan — A group of residents in the central Japan prefecture of Shizuoka are preparing to seek a court injunction to stop the construction of a high-speed maglev train line, officials of a local civic group said Saturday.

Central Japan Railway Co. is already facing opposition from the local government over the construction work and gave up on its original plan to open the new line between Tokyo and Nagoya in 2027.

The residents are concerned that tunnel work by the operator in a mountainous area could cut off groundwater flow and lower the water level of the Oi River, which passes through the central part of the prefecture known for



A prototype of a Central Japan Railway Co. maglev train is unveiled to the media at the railway operator's experimental laboratory in Tsuru, Yamanashi Prefecture, eastern Japan, on Oct. 3, 2019. **PHOTO: (KYODO)**

its tea and oranges, the officials said.

Shizuoka Gov. Heita Kawakatsu has refused to give approval for the maglev train work in the prefecture, citing potential environmental damage.

The maglev trains, with a top speed of 500 kilometres per hour, would connect the two major cities located 286 kilometres apart in 40 minutes, less than half the travel time for existing shinkansen train services.—Kyodo ■

Netherlands economy sees unprecedented drop due to coronavirus

AMSTERDAM — The Dutch economy took its biggest-ever hit from the global coronavirus pandemic as lockdowns brought activity in the country to a standstill, data showed on Friday.

The EU's fifth-biggest econ-

omy shrank by 8.5 per cent in the period from April to June compared with the preceding three months, the central statistics office CBS said. "Never before has such a shrinkage been measured," CBS said in a statement.

More than half of the contraction was due to a sharp fall in household consumption, the statisticians explained. But falling investment and a sharp decline in the trade balance also played a role.—AFP ■

Frankfurt mayor invites TikTok to set up headquarters: German media

FRANKFURT — The mayor of Frankfurt Peter Feldmann has recently invited popular Chinese video-sharing app TikTok to set up its new global headquarters in the German metropolis, several German media outlets reported.

Feldmann's letter of invitation to ByteDance, a Chinese tech firm and owner of TikTok, was first reported by Journal Frankfurt on Wednesday, and later also by Frankfurt Allgemeine Zeitung and Der Spiegel.

Frankfurt boasts one of the world's busiest internet hubs and a large number of data centres, as well as many well-trained professionals in the region, Feldmann was quoted as saying in the letter, who also noted



People take part in a TikTok filming session in Vilnius, Lithuania, Aug. 10, 2020. (PHOTO BY ALFREDAS PLIADIS/XINHUA)

the city's central location in Europe and excellent connections with China through partner city

Guangzhou.

Frankfurt is an ideal location for IT companies and especially for

TikTok's international headquarters, Feldmann was quoted as saying. —Xinhua ■

Venice anti-cruise activists cheer as port workers protest

VENICE -- A Venice citizen's group is cheering a temporary victory as cruise lines pull out of the lagoon city this year due to coronavirus logistical challenges, even as pressure rises from furloughed port workers.

MSC Cruises and Costa Cruises announced this week that their first Mediterranean cruises after a months-long hiatus due

to the pandemic would depart from Genoa and Trieste, larger ports that make new coronavirus-related regulations, such as social distancing, easier to ensure.

On Friday, the group No Grandi Navi (No Big Ships) plans an evening gathering to celebrate what organizers called a small step forward in an eight-year battle to ban the

massive ships from Venice's environmentally fragile waters. No departures from the UNESCO-listed city are planned for the rest of the year, as the two companies trim back their schedules and itineraries. Many big cruise ships will also be skipping Venice as a port of call.

"This isn't the final victory. But it's an important step and we believe

it opens a new phase of negotiations in which the game has changed," No Grandi Navi committee member Marta Sottoriva told AFP.

The port of Venice is a major economic driver for the city, bringing in hordes of day-trippers who swell the number of annual visits to the city to over 30 million, according to some estimates. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Trump orders Chinese firm to divest from TikTok's U.S. operations

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday ordered Chinese company ByteDance Ltd. to divest its interest in the U.S. operations of its popular video-sharing app TikTok within 90 days.

In the executive order issued the same day, Trump said there is "credible evidence" that leads him to believe that ByteDance "might take action that threatens to impair the national security of the United States."

Amid a widening U.S.-China rivalry, the Trump administration has stepped up pressure on TikTok and Chinese messaging app WeChat due to concern the platforms are both a privacy risk and susceptible to Beijing's censorship activities. —Kyodo ■

China's ride-hailing giant pledges 200 mln yuan in creating jobs

BEIJING — Chinese ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing (DiDi) has announced that it will invest 200 million yuan (about 28.8 million U.S. dollars) to promote employment for those affected by the COVID-19 epidemic, unemployed and poor family members based on its platform.

The company plans to give subsidies of car rentals, income and insurance purchases for beginners who join DiDi's ride-hailing fleets. Drivers in poor areas can enjoy special poverty-relief funds, and freelancers can participate in skill training courses for free.

DiDi has also been creating jobs for poverty-stricken counties and donated shared bikes to poor areas, with the operation revenue used to set up public welfare posts for locals. —Xinhua ■

Japan braces for further damage by crop-hungry fall armyworm

TOKYO — Japan is sounding the alarm against the inexorable march of the fall armyworm, as reports of damage by the pest in Asia following its spread in Africa are increasing, threatening Japan with infestation.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has warned of significant damage to farm products unless authorities and farmers take appropriate measures to remove the insect in a timely fashion. First detected in Kagoshima Prefecture, southwestern Japan, in July last year, the fall armyworm has caused damage in about 30 of the nation's 47 prefectures. —Kyodo ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0213-010N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0213-010N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2020** 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 EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (098N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (098N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** 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 LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1124S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1124S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **16-8-2020** 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 LINES

Yangon govt set to protect nearly 40,000 acres of mangroves

By Thant Zin Win

A coordination meeting at the Yangon Region Chief Minister's office on 5 August agreed to convert 39,977.52 acres in Thongwa, Kyauktan and Kungyangon townships into protected mangroves.

Director U Thein Toe of the Yangon Region Forest Department said their department would need to work

together with the farmland management department, statistical department, fisheries department, general administration department and affiliated organizations to implement the mangrove process.

U Thein Toe said some of the area is already converted into mangroves while the rest are either untouched or illegally exploited. He said they

will have to apply to reclaim some of the land from the Central Committee for Vacant, Fallow, and Virgin Land Management. He said some of the land had been issued for other uses but he fears this may destroy the land. He said mangroves will benefit the people and can protect the area from natural disasters.

The director of Forest Department also said since

the region is close to the sea, there are many areas that the central committee has granted that have remain untouched. He said they will reclaim those areas and return lands that have regrown forests to a collective ownership. He said the local residents are hoping for this as well. He said they will discuss with all relevant villages to divide the forests and are aiming to complete this within



A bridge destroyed by erosion being seen.



Inadequate mangrove conservation has caused the tide to erode the interior compound of the Mee Pya Pagoda, once located in the middle of the namesake village, forcing them to relocate further inland. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN



the current government administration. He said local residents are pleased with this news.

While destruction to mangroves are minimal in Yangon Region the forest department said most land is destroyed due to misuse for other purposes.

“About four to five thousand local residents have signed for the mangrove project,” said Ko Zaw Min Thu, head of the southern Yangon District branch of US-based Landesa Rural Development Institute. He said local residents have been waiting for an answer for 3 years as there are prawn breeding farms in the mangrove area. He said the Union Government will issue the area as a collective mangrove forest ownership once demarcation is complete and will divide rights to work in the area like the mangroves in Let Khome Kone, Mandalay.

Ko Zaw Min Thu said the locals will conserve the mangroves as it helps multiply fish and prawns and boosts ecotourism. He said they have given awareness training to all concerned villages and have formed supervising groups as well. He said all the local residents have signed and petitioned for this project and only hope it will take action before the changeover to the next government administration.

The forest department said they will keep the existing and petitioned prawn breeding farms untouched but take legal action towards trespassers.

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

“ConceptX Application: a portal for every Grade 10 subject from both the old and new curriculum in one place”

CONCEPTX has looked into opportunities to support Myanmar’s education sector and research has shown that the price of attaining a well-rounded education for children of working-class parents was exceptionally high. We realized from this that technology and education had to be combined to achieve our intended goal.

Our motto, “May all Myanmar citizens have access to education”, aligns with our aim to provide comprehensive education at an affordable price to all students across the nation with the minimum requirement of owning a smartphone or a tablet.

The nation can only develop when the number of educated citizens increase and in that regard U Soe Htet, an experienced mathematician, developed the ConceptX application to take advantage of the abundance of mobile devices in present times. The application has Grade 10 lessons from the curriculum in addition to old math questions all categorized neatly into chapters and years for the student’s convenience.

After being active for 2 years, the ConceptX application has been upgraded once again. Version 2.0 now contains all lessons for mathematics, chemistry, physics and biology from both the old and new Grade 10 curriculum. All this content is readily available in one place with a payment of MMK 19,900.

The instructors have specialized degrees from international universities and teaching experience of over 40 years.



20 years of teaching experience, will be in charge of biology while U Ba Thein will be employing his 40 years of experience solely teaching chemistry to the subject on ConceptX.

There are arrangements for lectures on English by U Nay Oke (St. Paul) to be available for free on the application.

There are also preparations to distribute ConceptX tablets for students in regions without efficient internet connectivity. The tablets will have the lessons from the old and new curriculum in video format preinstalled. Their 10-inch size screen will also reduce straining effects on the eyes.

The ConceptX tablets will be available at the price of MMK 139,900 with free delivery for students in any of Yangon’s townships. Purchases from out of town will only have to pay an additional delivery charge for their region as ConceptX will take responsibility for delivering it to the bus terminal.

The lessons are designed according to the marking rules and the video files will explain each step of the lessons in detail so that students can easily understand the concepts.

The ConceptX application also has a new ‘sharing’ programme. Anyone can join in the programme by simply opening an account first and clicking on the ‘share’ button under the ‘sharing’ title. They can then copy the code number and share it through Facebook, Viber or SMS.

For each person using the code number to purchase the ConceptX application, both the buyer and code owner will receive MMK 5,000 and can earn a maximum of MMK 250,000 from sharing the code. This can be withdrawn using the ‘cash withdrawal’ button and will be available within two days after verification by the ConceptX Team.

ConceptX is an organization working together with the government to make good education accessible at an affordable price for everyone. The ConceptX application and its services are available at a minimal price and the application is introduced and donated at monastic education schools and public high schools to ensure widespread usage.



ConceptX leader U Soe Htet will be heading mathematics. He received his Bachelor’s Degree from the University of Minnesota, USA, and his Master’s from the Southeast Missouri State University with both specializing in mathematics.

U Soe Htet was a graduate assistant during his time studying for his degrees and spent about 2 years helping university professors teach first year students. He has also given training courses in mathematics to a hundred teachers from international schools and private high schools in Myanmar and to about 50 public school teachers in Mon State.

In addition, lessons for mathematics will be supported by those who won an Honourable Mention award representing Myanmar in the 2017 International Mathematical Olympiad, those majoring in math at Yangon University, and those pursuing Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at UC Berkeley, one of the global top 10 institutes.

ConceptX will have U Aung Myint teaching physics and he brings with him more than 47 years of teaching experience that include teaching from basic to advanced classes and even Ph.D courses.

Dr. Thiha, a medical university graduate with



MFF president inspects team camps, stadium for restarting MNL



Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and football authorities inspect the condition of Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 15 August 2020. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw inspected team camps of Myanmar National League football clubs and Thuwunna Stadium yesterday morning in Yangon, according to an

official statement with the MFF.

Myanmar National League Committee Vice-Chairman Dr Sai Sam Htun, Myanmar Football Federation working committee member and Chairman of Shan United U Khun Naung Myint Wai also participated in the tour of inspection.

During the inspection tour, MFF President U Zaw Zaw urged officials from MFF and MNL to obey health guidelines to prevent COVID-19, to have clean and tidy team camp quarantines, to have systematic support of clean water plus purified drinking water for footballers and coaches during their camping, and football teams to obey strict standard operating procedures set up by the Ministry of Health and Sports, stated the source with the MFF.

Later, MFF president and officials went to the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon and inspected conditions of training grounds and maintenance of the stadium. The MFF president also urged football authorities to handle particular matters for restarting the MNL tourney, according to the MFF. Currently, MFF authorities are strictly following the COVID-19 rules and regulations set up by the Ministry of Health and Sports for restarting the MNL matches on 22 August. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Bayern thrashing end of an era for Barca, no easy cure at Camp Nou

MADRID—Very rarely does one single result bring the curtain down on an era, but that is what FC Barcelona's 8-2 thrashing in the quarter-final of the Champions League did on Friday night.

Barca's worst ever European defeat was a "historically ridiculous" according to the pro-Barca 'El Mundo Deportivo' newspaper and had veteran defender Gerard Pique tell TV cameras directly after the final whistle that it was "embarrass-

ing."

"We have touched bottom and it's unacceptable," added Pique after Barca had been outplayed, outrun and outfought in every area of the park by a Bayern side that looked, fitter, faster and hungrier than the Catalans.

The immediate consequence of the defeat will be to bring the curtain down on the brief spell at the Camp Nou of coach Quique Setien, who was

brought in to replace Ernesto Valverde with Barca top of the league in January, only to see his side finish five points behind Real Madrid and now to crash disastrously out of Europe.

"We are going to take decisions," said Barca president, Josep Maria Bartomeu shortly after the final whistle, probably aware that his own future is now up in the air as well with elections for the presidency on the horizon. —Xinhua ■



Bayern Munich's Polish forward Robert Lewandowski (R) celebrates after scoring his team's sixth goal during the UEFA Champions League quarter-final football match between Barcelona and Bayern Munich at the Luz stadium in Lisbon on August 14, 2020. **MANU FERNANDEZ / POOL / AFP**



Liverpool great Fowler hits out at 'gangster' Brisbane Roar

LONDON—Former England and Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler claimed Saturday he was wrongfully dismissed by Brisbane Roar, saying the Australian club "turned gangster" on him and assistant Tony Grant.

Fowler was appointed coach last year and overhauled the squad, lifting them to fourth in the A-League before the season was suspended in March due to the coronavirus pandemic.

He and ex-Everton midfielder Grant returned to England and the club announced in late June they had parted ways, citing "the current and ongoing coronavirus situation", while noting that "family comes first".

It led to Irish striker Roy O'Donovan, who played under Fowler at Brisbane, branding him "selfish".

But the Liverpool legend told the Sydney Morning Herald his contract was abruptly terminated over comments made in a television interview, where he said he felt his return was "not a priority" for the club. The 45-year-old insisted he wanted to see out his two-year contract and did not walk away. "They just suddenly turned gangster on us," he told the newspaper. "Lots of people have opinions about me but one thing I'm not is selfish. I had a job to do and I wanted to finish that job.—AFP ■

Horschel, Kim among leaders at log-jammed Wyndham Championship

GREENSBORO—Billy Horschel fired a six-under par 64 on Friday to join a four-way tie atop a jammed leaderboard at the US PGA Tour's Wyndham Championship. Horschel, chasing a sixth tour title and his first since the 2018 Zurich Classic of New Orleans, hit 13 of 14 fairways and 16 of 18 greens in regulation to finish 36 holes on 10-under par 130 -- tied with former Wyndham champion Kim Si-woo of South Korea and Americans Tom Hoge and Talor Gooch. Kim, who notched the first of his two tour titles at the 2016 Wyndham,

had six birdies in his five-under 65. Gooch also posted a 65 while Hoge followed up a first-round 62 with a 68. Harold Varner, who shared the overnight lead with Hoge and Canadian Roger Sloan, carded a 69 to join a group on 131 that also included Ireland's Shane Lowry (63), Harris English (67), Andrew Landry (65) and Doc Redman (64). Sloan was among another seven players a further stroke back on 132 -- with a total of 25 players within three strokes of the lead at Sedgefield Country Club in Greensboro, North Carolina.—AFP ■



Friends and Role Models



By Thu Naung Kyaw
(Hledan)
Dip. in English (YUFL)

DESPITE being very selective in choosing friends, I have got a social circle of moderate size. Some friends are of the same mind, whilst others are of different mindsets. Whatever, I tend to cherish everyone and keep up the chemistry between us. In a way, they also have certain effects on me; some give me pleasure; some give me something to learn; and some even inspire me to do something great. Of course, there are a few friends that I usually meet with to kill the boredom or to do random stuff together as an outlet. And, I must confess that each and every one of them has, at least, a talent which is different from mine, and from one another. Not long before I was determined to write this essay, I just found three of my friends endowed with the talents, so wonderful that I have always admired them.

Firstly, I have a friend whose name is Min Htike. He is from the Ayeyarwaddy region. I have known him for half a decade. He has been a volunteer teacher at a monastic school in Dala. I first met him when I got there to volunteer teaching English. Since then, it has been evident that he is a resourceful, energetic, dynamic and productive person. Additionally, he is super good at cooking, but I could never try the meal he cooked until after the first two years of our friendship. One day, the opportunity came in such a way that he helped a team

of ladies in charge of the kitchen cook Monhingha to offer the residing monks for their morning alms. Later, I was also served with a dish of Monhingha. It tasted so nice that I could not even believe that a gentleman like him was capable of cooking that perfect. Truly saying, I have a pretty good appetite so I hardly find foods not to my liking. Honestly speaking, when the food he makes is in sight, I cannot help pleasing my tongue with it! It never fails to make my mouth water, too! One bite of it just to check the taste always triggers many more bites until there is none. I actually envy the men who are able to cook a decent meal. Although there is a common stereotypical cliché: "Mare not to do the cooking, but it is only women who are responsible for it". However, without doubt, the greatest problem confronting those who cannot cook is that of food. The difficulty is particularly striking during their stay away from their families. Nowadays, having the ability to cook, hence, matters a lot to women and men alike. Honestly, I ever had a shot at cooking but ended up throwing it in the dustbin. Later, I came to realize that I was not born to cook but to eat what is cooked by others. What a discovery! It may sound funny, but I am just telling the truth. How cool it is to know him! To put it simply, I like to eat and he likes to cook; it is a win-win situation, isn't it? Although I do not have a clue

about cooking, the sense of mine to feel the quality of the taste is great and appreciated by every friend of mine. He can not only make a delicious meal himself but also make others' work taste better. I ever heard him saying he tends to hone the talent in order that something like magical feats will come to exist particularly in his hands, which will help him cook excellent meals. He has surely excelled himself to the wonderful cooking. Always, his cooking has great appeal for every one of us. Any other friend is in no position to be compared with Min Htike when it comes to cooking. That way, he has become a friend that I am very much envious of as a good cook.

Another friend is Zeya from Mawlamyine. He is not my childhood friend, but of my friend Aung Lay. I first met Zeya during a short visit to Mawlamyine, where I was introduced to him by Aung Lay. Eventually, we became more and more friendly with each other. He became more frank to me than he was to Aung Lay. Our friendship grew with time; there was nothing like grudge or jealousy between us; when I felt displeased with something about him, I would not take long to get it off my chest. I am thick enough with him to do that! It never sparked off any hostility from his side. We have also been of the same minds; we always share our sentimental values. He is so broad-minded that he is

rarely found to cross with another. In addition, he is such a staunch friend that it is out of the question for anyone to create bad blood between us; never is he convinced with anyone's cunning made-up story that would ridicule my dignity. Also, he is very much interested in commerce and works so hard. He once told me that he had opened a clothes shop and could buy a car in two years' time. Let me say that he is the most successful businessman among us. You would never see him complaining about the heavy load of running the business. It ever occurred to me that he'd just as soon choose his work rather than his friends. What a workaholic! He is good at financial management, too; the moment his business began to gain momentum, he made a point of investing his money in extending its size by opening more local branches. I knew all along that he had it in him. I idolize him when it comes to making money. The significant thing that I learned from him is to spend my young days meaningfully, make good use of time and effort, work as hard as I can, save as much money as can be, and award myself after every success as he always does. He, too, inspires me a lot to make myself grow financially. Every time we talk on the phone, he shares me how to earn a tidy sum of money. Every time I feel belittled, depressed or hopeless, he

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Homeschooling and its effects



By Yoon Lay,
Assistant Lecturer
(Department of English),
Taungoo Education

HOMESCHOOLING is when children's education is based at home with their parents' guidance rather than through enrollment in a public school or private school. The term has caught the attention of parents and educators, especially during Covid-19 crisis. It is an alternative way of educating children by the parents or other households with the responsibilities as teachers and administrators, having complete control over the direction of what their children learn, how they learn it and when. It carries its own pros and cons just as public and private schools do.

One major advantage of homeschooling is flexibility. In homeschooling, there are no fixed curriculum and learning materials assigned for each grade like in public schools. Parents can manage the teaching and learning materials according to their children's interests and needs. Moreover, children obtain chances of learning at their own pace. This means that unlike public

schools, where in a room of 20 or 30 students, the fast learners, who are eager to take more challenging tasks, however, have to wait for the slower ones and on the other hand, the slower ones have to keep up with the faster ones, leading to stressful learning situation. Homeschooling solves this problem by giving children individual attention. Furthermore, homeschooling avoids the potential risk of peer pressure and bullying. This does not mean that homeschoolers do not have access to their peers. In fact, homeschooled children

often have more lessons outside of the home and participate more in their community. In addition, homeschooling creates strong bonds between parents and their children. Parents, performing both roles as teachers and administrators, devote more time to their children, resulting in stronger relationships than as usual.

On the other hand, homeschooling possesses some drawbacks. One defect is that financial costs may arise as a problem as parents and the households have to take care of everything for their children's

learning such as textbooks, books, papers, computers, smartphones and many other teaching and learning aids. This does not seem quite apparent in the short term but in the long term, the issue can put a threat on the family's income. Additionally, homeschooling causes parents under pressure and stress by having to find out the suitable teaching methods and materials and spend time reviewing numerous curriculum programs up to their standards and best suiting their children's learning needs. What is more, homeschoolers can

become restless and tiresome unless appropriate management plan of parents is implemented. This means that some parents expect too much of their children and motivate too often than required, leading children to become bored and frustrated.

To conclude, homeschooling is of assistance to parents and educators and some forms of homeschooling are done with a blend of parents and tutors. For children to obtain successful outcomes, parents' management skills, their intelligence, patience and careful budgeting become vital. Therefore, being aware of the positive and negative attributes of homeschooling, it should be carried out in a sensible way so that effective learning of children will take place.

Friends and role models

FROM PAGE-S-1

knows how to help me survive the adversities, revive the motivations and resume moving forwards. With these points in mind, I am greatly indebted to him for his inspiration and my aspiration!

Thirdly, another typical friend of mine in Mawlamyine is Ko Ko. He is a fun seeker; he does not look serious about anything. He ever admitted that he prefers to live a free and easy life. His action is in keeping with the admission in that he is always hunting for freedom. As an only son born into a rich family, he is living in a care-free way. His father is always there for him in case his son faces with hardship at times in a way that he ensures all the

delicacies and luxuries available for Ko Ko, who but takes everything for granted. Travelling is his cup of tea; he is into touring around that I often ask him if he quarreled with the guardian spirit of his home! Then, he usually replies to it with an immediate sarcasm, full of witty repartee and humorous skits. I did not like him at first, but he grew on me when I came to realize that one thing about him, which is by all means worth a lot of admiration. Little does he speak ill of others! Even when he is told about a person's downside, he just listens and ends up, at most, nodding his head to it, which always disappoints those gossiping machines. He has such kind of wonderful personality that only a few possess. 90 out of

100 people delight in spending their time gossiping about another person's unpleasant failures. Ko Ko is not at all among them! As his motto goes: "A heart dipped in negativities is that of a loser". Also, he does not reply to any rude comments or insulting remarks. When I asked him if he was afraid, he said and quoted Marilyn vos Savant's saying, "I've never found an interesting person with a foul mouth." I learned to keep the quotes in mind ever since; and thanks to him, I am getting more resistant to most of the insults than before.

We have many quotes and sayings as well as certain doctrine about friends. The Lord Buddha preached: "An individual's friends have a tre-

mendous effect on him" and "The genuine friends can help him achieve his dreams". Furthermore, we have another saying: "A person is judged by the company he keeps". As luck would have it, I could have the ideal opportunity to meet such wonderful friends. They are supportive, encouraging, generous, men of heart-winning personality, constructive suggestions and positive attitudes towards the things around them. And, my intuition constantly tells me that they are the best obtainable friends and role models to me, and will in no way give me any trouble - but food, fun and fortune, indeed.



By Myat Lay Ayeyar
BA (English)
East Yangon University

Teaching is not Selling Something

HERE, I would like to express my feelings and experiences concerned with teaching, which I am choosing as my career. After I had passed the matriculation exam, I started teaching Grade-10 students. Thus, I am now a 5-year experienced teacher and teach all subjects but Biology in one-to-one tuitions, which mean home schooling. During these 5 years, I met many kinds of students and their parents. In accordance with my bitter-sweet experiences, I want to share some thoughts with you.

As I teach for one-to-one tuition, I always first discuss the situations of the students with their parents before accepting their request for teaching. Although they are different in background situation, that is, some are rich and some are not, they have the same mind to support the needs of their children in education. Sometimes their supporting wrongly turns out to be a kind of insult to the teacher. The thing that always annoys me is that some rich parents do not understand about the nature of

one-to-one teaching. I would like to mention some of its natures. It is a part-time job. Based on the subjects they offered, I usually request honorarium from them. The job of teaching in one-to-one tuitions is not like other jobs such as private company, civil servants, selling something and so on. The money earned from these jobs is normally called 'fee', 'salary' or something like that. But, it is called 'honorarium' in teaching society because people consider that it is the job of wisdom and they value it.

Last week, I had a little bit confusing case. The student who I taught English was sent to the boarding school by his parents. His father came to tell me about that case while I was teaching him. No sooner did his father explain why he sent his son to the boarding school than I understood that he had no time to study with me and I was sure to stop teaching his son. What he wanted to tell me was: "You do not need to come

any more", but he did not say like that and he used the indirect ways of speaking. I frankly replied to his father like that "I have no problem even though if you move your son to other places. You can think nothing of my schedule for your son and do as you are okay." Two days later, his father phoned me, "Hello, sorry Saya, my son starts attending the boarding school today. I just inform you to know it." And then, I replied, "It is okay and it is my pleasure." On the following day, while I was teaching other students in the evening, he made a call me again. When I saw his phone call, I was a little bit angry because it seemed like annoying me. "Saya, frankly speaking, can you give me money back?" My temper rose after hearing his words. I have now the reason why I was angry with him. In my article, what I do want to emphasize is the ethical standards of one-to-one teaching. The date that he phoned was July 13. It was nearly the middle of the month. We, private teachers, have a rule. For instance, the students must pay hono-

raryum to us in the beginning of the month when they invite to start teaching at their home. Some parents think that paying money in the beginning of the month is just pre-giving. Actually, it was wrong. If we miss our responsibility from our side due to some cases, we have to pay back the money to them even though they do not request for it. We must not pay it back if the students stop learning in the middle of the month. Finally, he apologized to me for his wrong words.

Based on that event, I want you all to think about teaching. Some business-minded people think that teaching is like selling something. They only look at their side, thinking: The less they pay, the better. Frankly speaking, as far I have observed, it is only some rich people who usually adopt such a mean, money-minded attitude. We are not sellers and teaching is not selling something as they might suppose. I wish they had a good attitude and view towards our noble profession.



THE Republic of the Union of Myanmar, formerly known as the Union of Myanmar, is composed with seven states and seven regions (divisions). Kayah State (formerly known as Karenni) is one of the States of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The British government recognized its independence in a treaty with Myanmar King Mindon Min on 21st of June, 1875.

The Kayah ethnic people living in this state was called Karenni (ကရင်နီ). It was renamed Kayah State in 1951 after the whole of Myanmar regaining the independence from the British in 1948. There are 135 (one hundred and thirty five) national races in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. They have been living together since the time immemorial.

In connection with the myths of the dancing couple and the seven "Dway-Meh-Naw" in the Seven Steps Lake (ကန်ခွန်ဆင့်), Kayah state is metaphorically called Ka-Nyar-Maw-Kay (ကညာမော်ကျဲ) in Kayah term and Dway-Meh-Naw (ငွေမယ်နေပြည်) or Ngwe-Taung-Pyi (ငွေတောင်ပြည်) in Myanmar terms. Kayah state is known as Kandar-yawaddy (ကန္တာရဝတီ) as well.

Kayah state is rich in natural resources and mineral resources particularly marble (N.B. its quality is as fine as the famous Italian marble), water resources, teak, flora and fauna. Significantly, the Law-Pe-Ta-hydro-power station (လောပီတ) produces electricity and supplies to the other states and regions in Myanmar.

Kayah people have their own indigenous dialect, language, traditions, customs, costumes and culture. They depend on agro-based farming livelihood. Animal husbandry is their customary livelihood. Their way of life and livelihood are so simple and conservative.

They are traditional believers in animism, but most of them are Christians. Nevertheless, they preserve their cultural values and traditions so their festivals are associated with culture, traditions and their beliefs as well. The identity of kayah is cherished by all national brethren indeed.

The native ethnic groups living in Kayah state (Formerly known as Kayenni) ကယား (ယခင်ကရင်နီ) are Kayah ကယား, Kayaw (ကယော), Gaebar (ဂေဘာ), YinTele (ယင်းတလဲ), Kaw-yaw (ကော်ရော) known as (Manu-ma-naw) (မနုမနော) and Kayan (Padaung) ကယန်း (ပဒေါင်း). Actually, the term Kayan (Padaung) ကယန်း (ပဒေါင်း) tribe is collectively called for the inclusiveness of the small tribes: Lah-thar (လတ်ထာ), Kare-doth (ကရဲသို),

Kagaung (ကခေါင်း), and Ka-ngan (Yinbaw) ကခန့် (ယင်းဘော်).

Other ethnic groups residing in Kayah State are Bamar (ဗမာ), Intha (အင်းသား), Pa-oh (ပခွိုင်း) and Shan (ရှမ်း). The tribal people of Kayah State wear distinct and beautiful traditional dresses.

The estimated population in Kayah state is more than two hundred fifty thousand (250000). Kayah state is a combination of three "Sawphyi" (Chieftain) districts namely Kye-Phoe-Gyi district (ကြယ်ဖိုးကြီးနယ်), Kandarawaddy district (ကန္တာရဝတီနယ်) and Bawlake district (ဘောလခဲနယ်).

When you travel in Kayah state, you will see the scenes of the traditional totem poles which are in close proximity to the Kayah villages. These poles are depicting vividly as the major feature of the Kayah state. Kay-Htoe-Boe festival (ကယားတံခွန်တိုင်ပွဲတော်) is among the most distinctive festivals in Kayah state. The Kae-Htoe-Boe (ကေထိုးဘိုးတိုင်ပွဲတော်) festival or Kayah-takhundine-Pwe-daw (ကယားတံခွန်တိုင်ပွဲတော်) in Myanmar term, is held in April every year. Kae-Htoe-Boe festival (ကယားတံခွန်တိုင်ပွဲတော်) is also called Trar-Ei-Loo (ဘွားတီလူး). Yin Baw (ယင်းဘော်) calls the festival Gan-Khumt (ဂန်ခွမ်). Though the terms are different, all the Kayah people celebrate the Kae-Htoe-Boe festival in the same way together.

How Kae-Htoe-Boe festival is celebrated (တံခွန်တိုင်ပွဲတော်ကျင်းပပုံ)

The kayah living in the villages have to find the tall and straight tree (traditionally teak or eugenia or Dipterocarpus tuberculatus) in the forest. Before choosing the tree, villagers have to examine or check the tree whether it is straight and free from

By: Tommy Pauk

Kayah (Karenni)

Kay-Htoe-Boe Traditional Festival (Or) Sacred Totem Pole Festival



any flaws. Besides, it cannot be infested by birds or bugs. The tree must not have vines or nests of birds such as vultures or eagles at the top either.

They believe that the tree is un-clean if the birds' nests are found in it as they are the carnivorous. Since the tree to be used for sacred totem pole, it must be totally clean and free from dirty things. On the very day they fell the tree, they abstain from eating fermented soya beans, snakehead fish and forest animals like sambar deer meat. However, they can eat the chicken or pork or fish that is in their neighborhood.

When they find the suitable tree, they fell it and bring it to the designated grounds for transforming into the Kay Htoe Boe or totem pole. Then they offer lighted candles, lighted incense sticks,

a bunch of bananas and a bunch of sugarcane to the spirits in line with their traditional belief in animism.

Next, they prepare and decorate the log. Finally, they erect it on the designated ground at the venue. The fields or grounds

for erecting totem pole must be chosen in the eastern part of the certain village. As the Sun rises in the east and they regard the rising Sun as the good sign so they usually chose the site in the east in order to erect the traditional totem

pole. In fact, they consider the eastern part of the certain village an auspicious site for celebrating Kay Htoe Boe festival or sacred totem pole festival.

Kay Htoe Boe (ကေထိုးဘိုး) is a Kayah term. The word 'kay' means a state, 'htoe' means flourishing and accomplished, and 'boe' means sacred pole. The festival is celebrated with ethnic dance competition, a costume contest, and other entertainment programs. When the Kay Htoe Boe pole is erected, participants dance around the pole. This festival is celebrated by all Kayah people of Christianity, Buddhism and Animism.

The festival is held by all tribes in Kayah state together showing that they all maintain and preserve the traditional festival and solidarity of the entire Kayah ethnic tribes. In other words, Kay Htoe Boe (ကေထိုးဘိုး) festival portrays the traditional beliefs, unity, culture, identity and ethnicity. The essence or purpose of celebrating or holding this festival is to obtain blessings from the spirits that they traditionally believe.

They ask blessings for their well-being, wealth, peace and prosperity in life. Kay-Htoe-Boe, the sacred pole indicates the five precepts: (1) To be born innocent (2) To behave righteously (3) To work honestly (4) To eat justly (5) To live peacefully in harmony with all living beings.

This festival is held to venerate the eternal god and creator messengers, to give thanks for blessings during the year, to appeal for forgiveness, and pray for good harvest, good rain, plentiful crops, health of mind and body, prosperity and protection of natural disasters and pandemic or epidemic.

In addition, Kay Htoe Boe festival commemorates the belief that the creator god gave form and life to the world by planting a small post in the ground.

Kayah ethnic people read the chicken thigh bones for prediction before holding any traditional ceremonies or festivals

Kae-Htoe-Boe (ကေထိုးဘိုး) festival is also accompanied by a reading of the chicken bones to predict the year ahead. This fowl bone reading is done before holding any traditional ceremony or festivals in Kayah community.

The Kayah people use to predict their life, augury, weather condition, all the needs and wants by reading at the holes of the chicken thigh bones. They use male chicken for this reading. They take out the thigh bones of the male chicken and look at the holes in the thigh bones. The male chicken has two or three holes. Every chicken has holes in thigh bones.

According to their traditional belief, if the holes in the right thigh bone are found to be higher than the ones on the left, it is considered good for the coming year of the village and villagers' health, harvest, weather conditions. In other words, it is a good omen.

If the holes in the right thigh bone are found to be lower than the ones on the left, it is considered bad for the coming year of the village and villagers' health, harvest, weather conditions. In other words, it is a bad omen. It is learnt that this reading at the holes of the chicken thigh bones is done just before holding the any occasions in Kayah community.

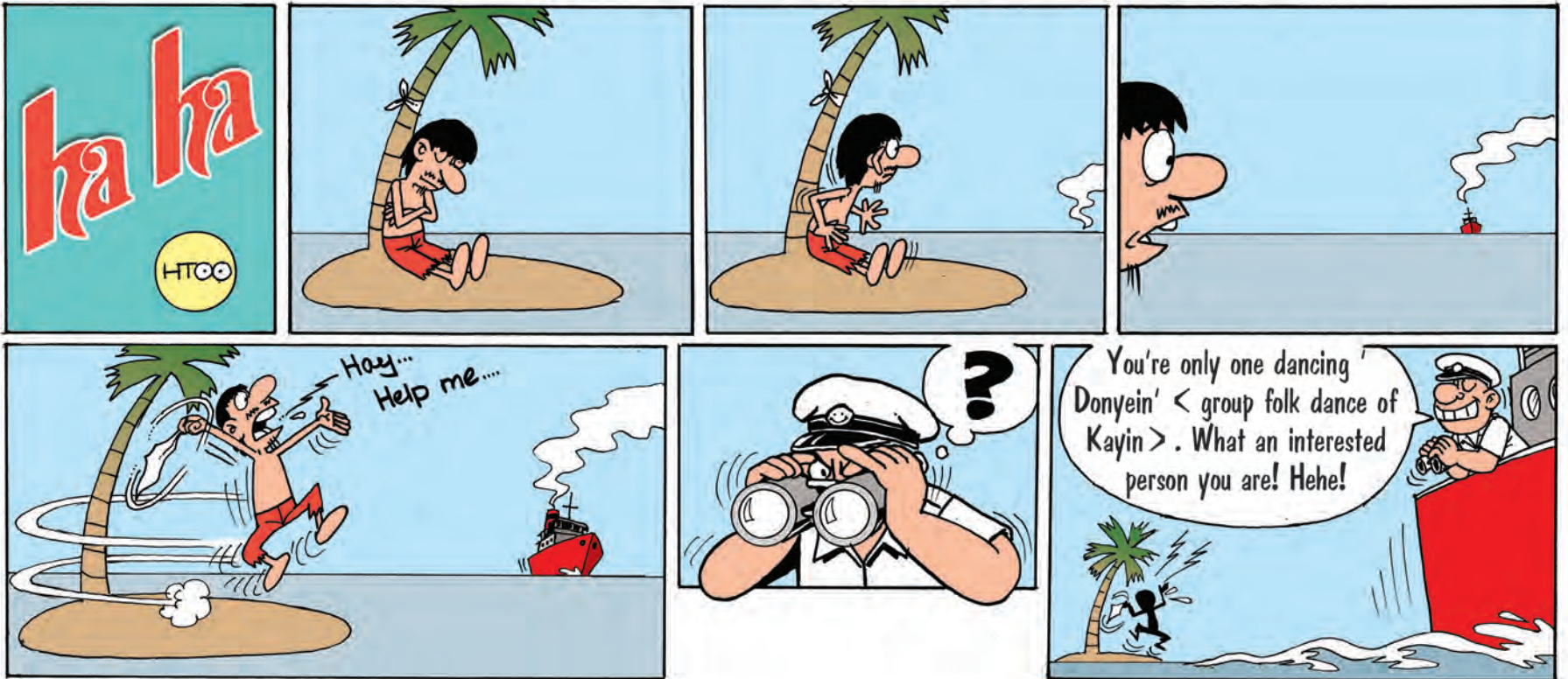
Now, the readers have learnt that whenever they hold their traditional ceremonies or festivals, the kayah people make use of prediction for the good or bad results with the reference of reading chicken thigh bones. The description of the Kae-Htoe-Boe (ကေထိုးဘိုး) festival or sacred totem pole festival accompanied by reading of the chicken thigh bones for prediction makes the readers interested.

Credit; Khu Hla Chay (Kye-Phoe-Gyi) (ကြယ်ဖိုးကြီးနယ်)
Reference; Wikipedia



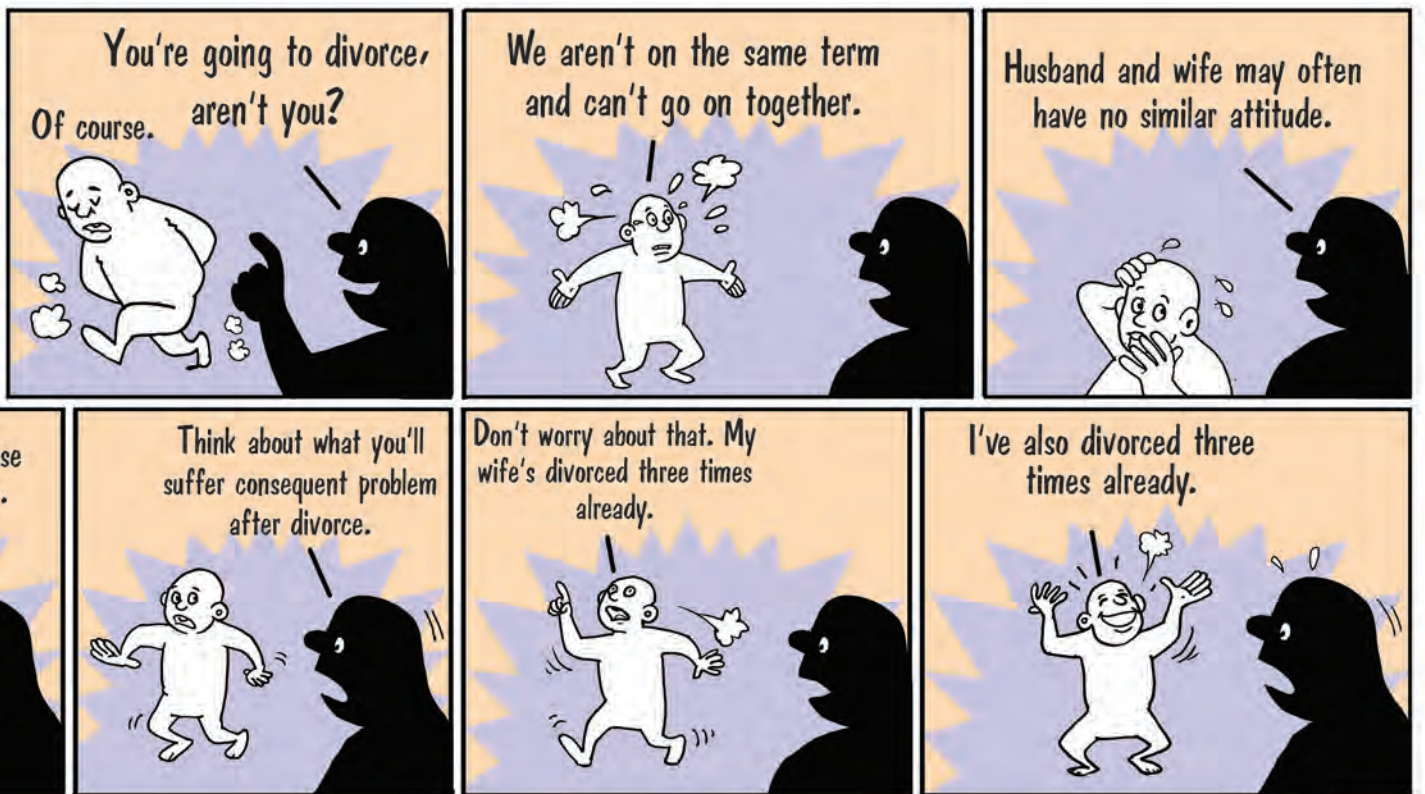
PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT

SUNDAY COMICS



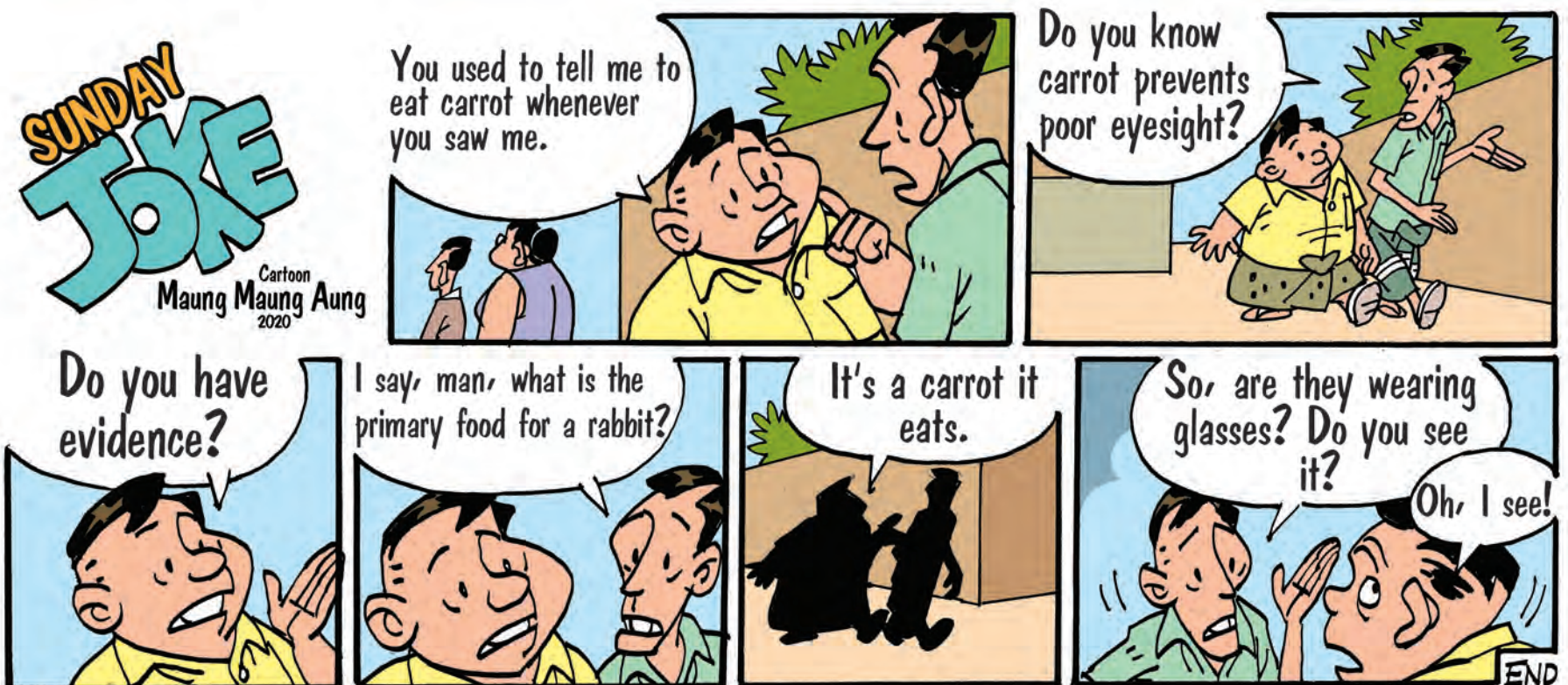
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020



The Universities' Dhammayon

By Dr. Saw Mra Aung

THE Universities' Dhammayon (တက္ကသိုလ် များဓမ္မာရုံ) stands majestically in a wide compound sheltered by big, shady perennial trees at the corner of Pyi Road and University Avenue. It is adjoined by the Diamond Jubilee Hall on the south and the Yangon University Post-office on the east. The word 'Dhammayon' is the corruption of the Pali word 'Dhammaramana' meaning 'The support of the Dhamma'. But, in the context of the universities' Dhammayon, it is a spacious hall surmounted by a multi-tiered roof where religious affairs of the universities within the limits of Yangon city are undertaken. This year, the universities' Dhammayon has entered its 83rd anniversary. So it should be hailed as an important land-mark in the campus of the Yangon University on the occasion of its centenary.

The Universities'Dhammayon was the outcome of the endeavours made by the Rangoon University Buddhist Association (RUBA) founded in 1929. It is said that it sprouted up from the Rangoon College Buddhist Association (RCBA) established in 1906. In the 1918-19 academic year, Chairman of the RCBA was Minister of

Home Affairs U May Aung. He was succeeded by a line of prominent personalities such as Municipal Commissioner U Set, Excise Commissioner U Shwe Zan Aung, Barrister U Thein Maung, Judicial Minister Sir U Mya Bu, Chief of Justice U Chan Tun, etc in the subsequent years. In the 1931-32 academic year, Sayagyi U Ba, a lecture from the Chemistry Department and warden of the Bago Hostel, was elected Chairman of the RUBA. He suggested to his executive members to endeavor for the emergence of a university Dhammayon on the estate of Yangon University.

To realize the idea of Sayagyi U Ba, the members of the RUBA introduced a fund-rising programme that year. Accordingly, the students who returned home during Thadingyat holidays collected money from their parents and relatives. When the university was re-opened for the second semester, the money collected totaled about 5,000 kyats. Moreover, some students raised funds by staging theatrical shows at the Jubilee Hall on 19 and 20 December, 1931. They got more 3,000 kyats from these shows. The funds raised amounted to 40,000 kyats in total. But as the total construction cost for the Dham-

mayon would incur 57,250 kyats, the Wealthy Man U Nyo contributed to the RUBA 1,123 kyats left over after his donation to the construction of the Student's Union Building.

It is said that, among the theatrical shows staged at the Jubilee Hall, the one named "Kutha Jataka" performed by Maung Toe Aung drew the attention of a large number of spectators. So, after the show, he was branded as Kutha by the students. He, under the pen-name of Kutha, wrote many articles, short stories, poems, etc. both in Myanmar and in English. He was among the pionerring writers of Khit-san-sar-pay(Age-testing literature). (Later, he became a teacher at the

Myanmar-sar Department and retired as Principal of Mawlamyine College.)

The plan of construction of the Dhammayon took shape in the 1933-34 academic year. That year, Chairman of the RUBA was U Ba Sein, Vice-Chairmen Sayagyi U Pwar and Aggama-hapandita Sayagyi U Lin, executive members Maung Thant Tin and Maung Wun (Min Thuwun), treasurers U Bo Thone and Daw Mya Than and Patrons U Set, Sir U Thwin, U Maung Gyi, U Thein Maung and Sayagyi U Ba respectively. By the courtesy of U Set and U Thein Maung, permission to build the Dhammayon in the current site was granted by the government. Thus, the foun-

dation brick-laying ceremony for the Dhammayon was held on Sunday, 25 February, 1934. It was graced by the presence of a chapter of nine monks headed by Aletawya Sayadaw Aggamahapandita Kosalabhidhaja. At the ceremony, Sayagyi U Pwar first gave a welcoming speech to the audience present. Then, Aggamahapandita Sayagyi U Lin reported on the details of the construction programme of the Dhammayon. After that, Sayadaw Kosalabhidhaja preached the Dhamma on the elation over the donation and nine monks recited the Parittas Sutta to ward off the forth-coming dangers. The engineer who supervised the construction of the

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PHOTOS: PHOE KHWAR



By Phyu Min
BA (English); Dip in ELTM;
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A Precious Gift

A gift is a thing that we give to somebody, especially on a special occasion or to say thank you. We give one another gifts on our everyday life. It may be a birthday gift or a wedding gift. Parents also give us birthday gifts or wishes on our birthday to show their love on us. In fact, parents always try to provide us with everything we need. This is because they love us very much. I got many presents from my parents, grandparents, and uncles and aunts because I am the only son of my family. When I passed my eighth standard, my grandmother bought me a bicycle. When I passed the tenth standard with distinction, I was given a motorbike by my mother. But I like most the present given by my father.

As I am the only son, I love my friends as my own brothers and want to visit my friends' houses all the time. But my father does not want me to do so and he has trained me to have the habit of reading books during my free time instead of visiting my friends' houses. When I was young, he bought me journals like "Shwe Thwe", and "Pa Loak Toak" to get interested in reading. He provides me with the right kind of books. He guides me to acquire the habit of reading whenever I have free time. Now, I become interested in reading and I never feel bored when I read books. It gives me the highest kind of pleasure. When I am tired and fed up with my study, reading is a healthy recreation to lose myself in books. First of all, my father selects some good books for me to read. Now I can choose which book

gives me not only pleasure or which gives me not only pleasure but also knowledge.

Now whenever I am free and whenever I find a book, I look for a nook and read it. Most of the books I read are old classical novels, modern novels, magazines and educational books. All the books I read give me one kind of benefit or the other. Some give me knowledge and some give different kinds of feeling. They at least tell us about people and their various nature, the places, what people do and how they lead their lives. Some books make us think of things seriously and some lighten our heart when we are in sorrow. After reading a good book, I feel like enjoying delicious food. As the saying goes "Reading maketh a full man". I believe I will become more learned and get matured by reading all kinds of books. So, I am very happy and satisfied with my pastime. I thank my father for nurturing a love of reading in me from my early age.

Now I realize that books are faithful to friends. They are also storehouses of knowledge. If we make a practice of reading good books with care and attention, that is to say, really studying them, we shall lay up for ourselves a store and treasure of knowledge. This will be a source of pleasure and profit to us in every day of our lives, as long as we live. Therefore, I am very grateful to my father for training me to have the habit of reading. The present that my father gave me is very precious for me throughout my life.

The Universities' Dhammayon

FROM PAGE-S-7

Dhammayon was U Tin and the contractors U Ba Tin and U Thet Tin. Two months before the opening ceremony, the first Dhamma-preaching ceremony took place at the Dhammayon. At the ceremony, Aggamahapandita Sayagyi U Lin delivered the discourse on the Paticcasamuppada (The Law of Dependent Origination). The opening ceremony of the Dhammayon was celebrated with pomp and ceremony on 13 November 1937.

When it came to 1941, preparations were made again to stage theatrical shows at the Jubilee Hall to get money for the renovation of the Dhammayon. But, as Yangon University had to be closed down without limitation that year due to the Second World War, the fund-raising plan had to be abolished. Therefore, the treasurer of the RUBA U Toe Aung kept the funds of the association amounting to over 2,000 kyats at the Imperial Bank on Sule Pagoda Road in the 1941-42 academic year.

In the course of its existence right from its inception, the Universities' Dhammayon has been serving its duties to its fullest capacities. It hosted many religious and some other activities of the universities within the confines of Yangon city such as Dhamma-preaching ceremonies, basic Abhidhamma courses, ceremonies of paying respects to teachers, prize-giving ceremonies, reunions of old students, etc. One note-worthy point is that SayadawU Setthila, a world-famous missionary monk, was lodged at the universities' Dhammayon, while he was serving as a lecturer of the Department of Philosophy between 1952 and 1960.

In conclusion, this year, Yangon University has turned a hundred years. So, commemorative occasions and ceremonies are being celebrated tumultuously time and again on the sprawling premises of the university. The whole campus is being charged with festive mood all the year round. The author, therefore, suggest here that a commemorative ceremony should also be held in the precincts of the Universities'Dhammayon so that its importance to the universities will come to the notice of the new-generation students.

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