

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw donates medical equipment to Rakhine State

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

MoHS strives to curb spread of COVID-19 in Rakhine State

PAGE-3

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Sunday, 23 August 2020

UEC holds coordination meeting for 2020 General Election



Union Election Commission Chair U Hla Thein speaks at the coordination meeting for the successful holding of 2020 General Election in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 August 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Union Election Commission held a coordination meeting for the successful holding of 2020 General Election at the UEC meeting hall yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw, focussing on the matters pertaining to the Hluttaw candidates, the voters' lists, and the allocation of polling stations.

UEC Chair U Hla Thein met members of the commission, officials with the commission office, chairpersons and secretaries of election sub-commissions with States and Regions as well as Union Territory election sub-commission at the event.

UEC Chair said: "The countdown to 2020 General

Election is 78 days. The first measure we have done is voters' lists and its initial announcement on 14 August. We are now working on the voters' proposals of correction, addition, and deletion of the list. We need to ensure the comprehensive list of eligible voters in the second announcement systematically through

Form 3 applications, Form 4, and Form 4 (c). We need to implement the correction, addition, and deletion process in collaboration with the General Administration Departments and Township Immigration Departments.

With more systematic, successive scrutinization and supervision at different levels,

we need to prepare for the second announcement of voters' lists without errors."

The second measure we will do is to announce the name lists of Hluttaw candidates after the name lists are submitted and scrutinized by relevant district election sub-commissions, he added.

SEE PAGE-4

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“People are the key”

Tatmadaw donates medical equipment to Rakhine State

THE Tatmadaw donated medical equipment for COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment activities in Rakhine State where more new cases were reported, according to the statement of Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

According to the statement, the numbers of COVID-19 cases become high in Rakhine State and there is a total of new 22 cases on the morning of 20 August and the Ministry of Health and Sports released an announcement for the people residing in Sittway Township in Rakhine State to follow Stay-at-Home order in the evening of 20 August.

The Ministry of Health and Sports reported a total of 13 cases-12 from Sittway and 1 from MraukU in the evening of 20 August and on the morning of 21 August.

The donated medical supplies for the prevention and control of COIVD-19 were transported to Sittway with Tatmadaw’s aircraft via Nay Pyi Taw Airport on 21 August.

The donated materials are 600,000 surgical masks, 2,500 PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment), 2,500 N95 masks, 2,500 goggles, 4,000 examination gloves, 3,000 surgical gloves, 200 face shields, 700 bottles of hand gel, 200 bottles of hand sanitizer, 40 non-contact infrared thermometers, 10 boxes of bleaching powder, 10 boxes of sodium hypochloride (15L), 5 spray bottles, 2,000 OT gowns, 2,000 OT caps, 1 biosafety cabinet unit and 200 test kits.

Colonel Thet Naing Oo and other officials received the medical equipment at Sittway Airport. Then, they presented 500,000 surgical masks, 1,000 PPEs (Personal Protective Equipment), 1,000 N95 masks, 1,000 goggles, 1,000 examination gloves, 100 face shields, 200 bottles of hand gel and 20 non-contact infrared thermometers to U Aung Myint Oo, Administrator of Sittway District.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Public notification on COVID-19

1. The Ministry of Health and Sports is emphasizing on protection and containment. As there were 45 people found inflicted with the Corona-virus (COVID-19) from 16.8.2020 to 22.8.2020 in Rakhine State, Sittway Township, Rakhine State has been announced as ‘Stay-at-Home’ township on 20.8.2020.
 2. The spread of the disease can be controlled in a short period of time only if the people living in the Stay-at-Home township follow the guidelines.
 3. The people should encourage more with each other to follow the guidelines of the disease preventive measures of the Ministry of Health and Sports.
 4. To control the disease effectively, the people living in the Stay-at-Home township and those who need go to this township must follow the guidelines and if not, they will be taken action according to the existing law.
- Ministry of Health and Sports
(22 August 2020)
(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Curfew order imposed in Sittway

AS the number of COVID-19 positive cases has increased in Rakhine State, the General Administration Department of Sittway Township has imposed the curfew order on 21 August by notification number (1/2020).

The order mentioned not to go out from 9 pm to 4 am except the emergency case that also needs the official permission from the relevant departments.

Township Administrator U Aung Zaw Oo signed that the curfew order will be 2 months from 21 August.

Similarly, the Ministry of Health and Sports issued an order on 20 August said all people living in Sittway Township, Rakhine State will be included in Stay-at-Home programme to be able to control effectively the spread of the disease.

There are a total of 61 COVID-19 positive cases until 22 August in Rakhine State.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

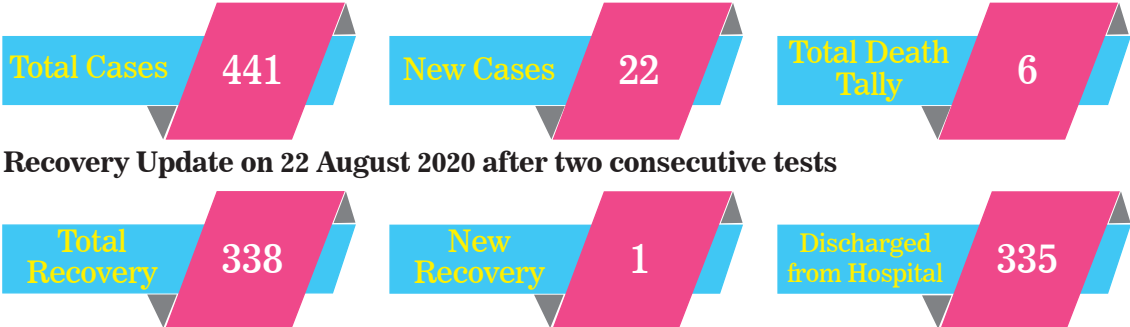
In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

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

22 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 22 August, total figure reaches 441

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases reached 441 after 22 new cases were reported on 22 August according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the 441 confirmed cases, six died, 338 have recovered, 335 have been discharged from hospitals and 40 were held under investigation.—MNA ■

Updated at 8 pm, 22 August 2020



22 more COVID-19 cases on 22 August 2020: updated at 8 pm

No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
420	40	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-395)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under quarantine (Sittway Township)
421	27	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-395)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
422	32	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-396)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	

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

DAYS
77

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet 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.

MoHS strives to curb spread of COVID-19 in Rakhine State

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe held a videoconference with the relevant officials in curbing the spread of COVID-19 in Sittway township of Rakhine State yesterday morning.

The COVID-19 is spreading too fast in Rakhine State and 45 new cases were reported during five days from August 16 to 21 while 44 ceases were from Sittway, confirmed the Union Minister.

The Medical Research Department will examine the gene of virus as it mutates and the ministry also cooperate with the Rakhine State government, Social Affairs Minister, Head of Public Health and Medical Service of Rakhine State to control the disease in the state and to prevent the spread of disease to other regions, highlighted the Union Minister, adding 56 nurses who finished training from Sittway Nursing and Midwifery Training School were added assignment in Rakhine State on 21 August.

Moreover, one deputy head of state public health department, three assistant doctors (anesthesiologists), one assistant doctor (medicine specialist) and another 13 assistant doctors who volunteer to go to Rakhine State will be sent by special flight together with medicines and medical equipment today.

Currently, COVID-19 testing is being conducted at Sittway General Hospital by the use of



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends the videoconference with the relevant officials in minimizing the spread of COVID-19 in Sittway. PHOTO: MNA

two GeneXpert machines, one pathologist and two microbiologists being temporarily assigned there.

The Sittway hospital ward will be expanded to accommodate the patients and the temporary hospitals will be also constructed only if needed, said the Union Minister.

The virus is hardly controlled in the US, Brazil, India and Bangladesh and it needs to worry for the country and so the ministry tries to carry out control measures, he said.

The ministry also instructed heads of state Public Health and Medical Service Department to conduct COVID-19 response measures systematically if oth-

er regions and states face such situation like Sittway.

The “Table-Top Exercise in preparation for effective response to possible second wave of COVID-19” was held on 13 August. Although table-top exercises are conducted for the emergency period of each hospital, the systematic responses of hospitals should be discussed for all types of natural disasters including the epidemic during the meeting.

The Union Minister focused to set methods and procedure that suit actually with our human resources, finance, medical supply and time scale; to discuss how to manage not to spread the infection to the medical staff and

other patients in the hospital if a COVID-19 patient arrived to the hospital or if the infected patients arrived in groups to the hospital, and to discuss the table-top exercise with the possible scenario to meet the unexpected situations.

The Ministry will hold table-top exercises in every state and region and find out weakness and requirements in accordance with the information; as various kinds of epidemic and disaster can occur in the future and the responsible persons and experts need to do preparations that suit the actual ground condition and to update the procedures and methods of the Ministry with the suggestions from the table-top exercises that appropriates the

actual ground conditions.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein explained the cooperation with the State Government and the Public Health Department of Rakhine State continuously for transferring medical aids.

Permanent Secretary Dr Thet Khine Win explained the expansion of treatment facilities for COVID-19 patients in Sittway General Hospital, cooperation with the State government, and related departments for public announcement.

Director-General of Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Soe Oo explained the management of finance and human resources for health.

The rectors, head officers of the Public Health and Medical Services Departments, superintendents and professors gave suggestions in the discussion.

During the second part of the table-top exercise session, Rector of the University of Medicine (1) Professor Dr Zaw Wai Soe explained the table-top exercise and the professors from Health Departments discussed the Emergency Medicines and preparation of the hospitals during the emergency period.

The Union Minister concluded the discussion after the attendees presented the requirements and the facts found from the table-top exercise and mutual discussion on each factor.—MNA

(Translated by Khine Thaz-in Han and Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi inspects construction site of Korea-Myanmar TVET Teacher Training Institute



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi addresses the pre-coordination meeting to open Korea-Myanmar TVET Teacher Training Institute in Yangon on 22 August 2020. **PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA**

A pre-coordination meeting to open Korea-Myanmar TVET Teacher Training Institute (KMTTTI) was held in Yangon yesterday morning.

Firstly, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi

delivered an opening speech at the meeting.

The construction works of KMTTTI completed with the aids of Korean government and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Minis-

try also makes concerted efforts for the development of education sector, said the Union Minister.

According to the former meeting records, KMTTTI will promote the qualifications of TVET teachers and such move

can also improve the quality of technical and vocational education which is mainly carried out by the ministry, he added.

The trainee teachers of KMTTTI can grab a chance to learn international technology, said the Union Minister, adding three programmes for Korea-Myanmar TVET Teacher Training Institute (KMTTTI)-TVET Teacher Training Centre, Model GTI and Research and Development Centre.

The Ministry will timely provide the required things for all processes while KOICA provides building, cash assistance for adequate teaching aid materials, trainings and curriculums.

He also made a request to the relevant construction company to construct quality buildings within the set duration.

It is slated to hold the Korea-Myanmar TVET Teacher Training Institute (KMTTTI) Soft Opening Ceremony in Octo-

ber 2020 and it needs cooperation works to implement the KMTTTI successfully which will stand as historic milestone for bilateral relations, he said.

The Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Sang-Hwa said remarks and KMTTTI Headmaster Dr Myo Thura and Project Manager U Aung Khaing Hein briefed the school construction works. The Union Minister and Korean Ambassador inspected the compound of KMTTTI. Afterwards, the Union Minister and party also inspected SITE and met with the Principals and officials.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met with officials and Rectors of National Education Policy Commission, National Curriculum Committee, National Education Standards and Quality Assurance Evaluation Committee, Rectors' Committee.—Kyaw Zeya (Translated by Khine Thazin Han) ■

UEC holds coordination meeting for 2020 General Election

FROM PAGE-1

Campaigns must be permitted following the announcement of Hluttaw candidates, and election sub-commissions must abide by election laws, by-laws, orders, and directives, he stated.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent Form 15 applications for Myanmar citizens in foreign countries to cast advance votes, and the UEC already scrutinized and sent them to the townships concerned, he confirmed.

He urged the townships concerned to examine if they are included in the voters' lists or not. They are eligible or not to vote, and to systematically record the reasons that are ineligible to vote, he further said and adding advance voting ballots must be sent to relevant Myanmar embassies, permanent mission offices, and consulates within the designated period.

As the General Election is approaching, there are continuous electoral tasks — printing of polling ballot papers, setting up of polling stations, procuring of sufficient polling materials

for polling stations and timely transport of the documents to the polling stations, appointment of heads, deputy heads and members of polling stations, pieces of training for the heads, deputy heads and members, and completion of local and foreign advance voting processes in time.

The UEC, in cooperation with the Ministry of Health and Sports, has erected model polling stations in line with COVID-19 guidelines in its preparatory work for 2020 General Election. The commission will issue instructions for relevant sub-commissions, and the sub-commissions need to make plans to implement the tasks in line with the guidelines, he highlighted.

He further remarked that plans to distribute masks and hand gel are underway; polling stations need to be wide enough to manage the voters to queue per social or physical distancing.

If the number of the voters at a polling station exceeds 1,000, the station must manage the voters to vote in separate batches depending on the

amount, two shifts for 1,000 and three for 2,000, he said.

International and local organizations and individuals to observe the elections were permitted, and the UEC will also issue electoral observer cards, said the UEC Chair confirming that the commission will announce the permission and application of media for the General Election in September, he added.

The UEC Chair urged the sub-commissions to well manage on successfully holding of 2020 General Election following five electoral norms and report on the requirements in the real-time basis.

Officials of election sub-commissions from regions, states and Union Territory reported on the works for submitting and scrutinizing Hluttaw candidates, making voters' lists and designating polling stations.

UEC Chair, members and the commission office's officials gave necessary advice on a round of discussions.

The meeting was concluded following the UEC Chair's remarks. —MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

ACC charges Sagaing mining officials with corruption

THE Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) opened graft cases against five mining officials in Sagaing Region on 20 August.

Upon investigation, the ACC has discovered that Director of Department of Mines from Sagaing Region Branch Office U Aung Naing solicited K4 million from a company that applied for gold mining permits.

The commission also found that No.2 Mining Enterprise's Deputy General Manager from Monywa U Lin Htin illegally accepted K20.3 million from a gold mining company, and Police Inspector from Mongkai Police Station Myo Min Nyunt (resigned) illegally received a total of K10 million -- K5 million from three mining workers and another K5 million from the death case of a mining worker.

Upon the commission's

investigation, upper clerk of Homalin General Administration Department Daw Shu Shu Yin received the bribe of K350,000 for a gold mining permit from Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics (DALMS)'s Surveyor Grade IV U Soe Moe Aung.

The commission has charged U Aung Naing, U Lin Htin, and Inspector Myo Min Nyunt (resigned) with Section 56 of the Anti-Corruption Law, Daw Shu Shu Yin with Section 57 and U Soe Moe Aung with Section 57/63.

The ACC has filed corruption cases against them at Homalin and Mongkai police stations on 20 August and is continuing legal actions.—MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

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State Counsellor holds videoconference about repatriation of Myanmar nationals stranded abroad



People's cooperation and participation is the key. That is the reason why we have been saying all the time "People are the key". If the people did not follow the rules and regulations, everything would come to nought, even if we had issued the best of rules or regulations. She said she wanted everyone to follow the rules and regulations issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports as a way of showing gratitude to this ministry. The COVID matter is not yet over; it was difficult to say when it would be over; it is learnt that tests were being made to develop curative vaccines; it was not possible to know how fast they would be able to develop the vaccines; normally you need two years to test a vaccine; because COVID is an emergency, they are testing within a short time-frame; conducting tests within a short time-frame has its own dangers; they might not have sufficient time to ensure that it was free from dangers; if there was not enough time there could be bad effects.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's discussions on videoconference about repatriation of Myanmar nationals stranded abroad (14-7-2020))

Two cutter suction dredgers-CSD 500 handed over to Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems

TWO high Cutter Suction Dredgers- CSD 500 namely as Ayeyar Maung and Thalar Maung, bought from the Netherlands based shipping company, Damen Shipyards Gorinchem were handed over to the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems yesterday morning in Yangon.

At the handover ceremony, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung said that the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems bought the two cutter suction dredgers as per Component-3 of Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Management (AIR-BM Project) with World Bank loan to be able to carry out waterway development works in Ayeyawady River. As per Component-3 of the project, waterway development works from Mandalay to NyaungU in Ayeyawady River, upgrading waterway measurement systems, installation of 24 hours waterway signs and develop-



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung inspects the high Cutter Suction Dredgers- CSD 500 namely as Ayeyar Maung and Thalar Maung in Yangon River on 22 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA



ing affordable and safe shipping were being implemented.

Moreover, Yangon-Mandalay ships will be able to travel 24 hours a day in any season and it will support the flow of goods in the country at low cost, said the Union Minister.

Jurgens said that the Netherlands would be always ready to cooperate with Myanmar for the water resources management works and water related natural disasters management works.

The Union Minister and the Ambassador exchanged gifts and the representative of

Among the dredgers carried out the waterway development works in the whole country, the most highest-capacity dredger can only dig 400 cubic metres per hour and the CSD-500 dredgers will be able to dig 1000 cubic metres per hour.

DAMEN company handed over the documents relating with the dredgers to U Win Hlaing, the acting Director-General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

175 Myanmar nationals fly back home from Malaysia

A relief flight of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) brought back 175 Myanmar migrant workers who work at 10 companies including Agensi Perkerjaan Smlh Sdn Bhd 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 from Malaysia making their immigration processes at Yangon International Airport on 22 August 2020. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun speaks during the meeting with private printers on textbook printing tender rules at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 August. **PHOTO: MNA**

MoI meets private printers for textbook printing tender rules

THE Ministry of Information’s School Textbook Printing Sub-committee organized a meeting with private printers on tender rules and contract guidelines for printing school textbooks for 2021-2022 academic year at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Chairmen of the School Textbook Printing Sub-committee -- Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun and Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun -- explained the purpose of meeting with private printers for 2021-2022 academic

year school textbook publishing rules, calling for cooperation in printing quality school textbooks in time.

The sub-committee detailed the matters related to tender rules and contract guidelines for printing, binding, packaging and transporting school textbooks, and cooperation in inspecting the textbook printing works.

Officials from the sub-committee answered the private printers’ queries, followed by the sub-committee chairmen’s remarks.

The meeting was concluded after the sub-committee’s

chairman Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun’s remarks.

Also present at the event were departmental officials including the sub-committee’s deputy chairman and Ministry of Information’s Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, the sub-committee’s secretaries Director-General of Basic Education Department U Ko Lay Win and Acting Director-General of Printing and Publishing Department U Ko Ko Naing, private printers, and those who are interested in the event.— MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons



Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September

COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE

Working on the frontlines to End Human Trafficking

2020 Anti-Trafficking Persons in Days' Objectives

- ❖ To mobilize the participation of all citizens in combating human trafficking as a national duty;
- ❖ To have the public instilled with awareness about and knowledge of trafficking in persons;
- ❖ To protect and care trafficked victims with empathy; and
- ❖ To strengthen cooperation and coordination among all counter trafficking stakeholders government agencies, civil society organizations, UN agencies, international organizations and general public.

Sun Outage might interrupt TV, Radio transmission from 25 Sep to 5 Oct

A sun outage occurs when the apparent path of the Sun across the sky it directly behind the line of sight between an earth station and a satellite.

All satellites can be affected by sun outages. A sun outage is a natural phenomenon and occurs every year. Sun outages usually occur one time in March, one time each in late September and early October.

The time for sun outage

and signal interruption can vary depending on a satellite, size of TVRO receiver and location.

TV Channel and Radio programs of the MRTV which uses Thaicom-6 can be affected by the sun outages from 25 September to 5 October for three minutes to 18 minutes, according to the Myanma Radio and Television.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

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

22 new cases of COVID-19 in Myanmar reported on 22 August, total figure reaches 441

FROM PAGE-2

423	46	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-396)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under quarantine (Sittway Township)
424	44	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-396)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
425	29	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-396)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
426	31	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-396)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
427	28	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-396)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
428	33	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-377)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
429	33	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-377)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
430	30	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-378)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
431	56	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-395)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
432	51	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-379)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
433	34	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-379)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
434	39	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-379)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
435	38	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-379)	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
436	25	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	Held under Investigation
437	73	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
438	43	Male	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
439	15	Female	Sittway Township, Rakhine State	No	No	People’s Hospital, Sittway	Positive	
440	26	Male	MraukU Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-408)	No	People’s Hospital, MraukU	Positive	Held under quarantine (MraukU Township)
441	27	Male	MraukU Township, Rakhine State	Yes (Case-408)	No	People’s Hospital, MraukU	Positive	

Implementation of three action programmes underway for peace process

UPDJC meets the press

THE third day of the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II, and the Part III of the Union Accord was reached.

After the conference, members of the Secretary of UPDJC U Zaw Htay of the Government group, U Myit Soe of the political parties group and Nai Aung Ma Ngay of the ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) group met the press.

As regards the conference, member of the secretary Nai Aung Ma Ngay said the Part III of the Union Accord was successfully signed on the third day of the conference. The Part I includes the 15 points of the framework agreement for the implementation of the National Ceasefire Agreement-NCA; the Part II approves the table (1) of the post-2020 stage-by-stage work programmes and step-by-step implementations, and the Part III adopts the five guiding basic principles for the establishment of a Union based on democratic federal system.

At the press meet, member of the secretary U Zaw Htay said regarding the ongoing peace process, the Government, on its part, will implement three action programmes of the peace process. In her address at the opening of the conference, the State Counselor dealt with these action programmes. The first point is to reach ceasefire agreement with the NCA non-signatories. The second is the further strengthening of the ceasefire agreement with the NCA signatories and the ceasefire monitoring process, and they all must be carried bilaterally. We will have to cement the chapters 3 and 4 of the NCA. The third is the harmonious implemen-



UPDJC Secretary U Zaw Htay speaking at the press conference. PHOTO: MNA

tation of the functions of the law-making body and the government's actions for national equality and ethnic rights. All those are included in the first action program.

The second action programme is in connection with the remaining portions of the discussions on the Union Accord Part-3. There will be ongoing discussions for the work of formulating the structure of a state included in the guiding basic principles. Another topic of the ongoing discussions is the role and power of the parliament. The second point is the preparation of the framework of the political dialogue in accordance with the Part III of the Union Accord. And the third point of the second action programme is the harmonization of the mechanism to realize the Union Accord and the mechanism to realize the security reconciliation.

The third action programme is the process of formulating a link between the functions of the first and the second action programmes and

the constitutional amendment. If we realize the table 2 during the ongoing discussions, we will be able to carry out the constitutional amendment of the Union and the drafting of their own constitutions of the states. In so doing, the relations between political accomplishment and the reaction of the security reconciliations must be designated as stated in today's address.

The government and the NCA-S EAO representatives will hold JMC-U and JMC-S meetings in the coming September and October where the remaining parts of the bilateral meeting will be discussed, according to the press meet.

The government and the NCA-S EAO have the agreements for the future actions. For example, JMC-U meetings will be called in the second week of the coming September; and the JMC-S meetings, in the last week of the month and in early October 2020. The task forces of both sides will discuss the outstanding issues at the meetings. Another part is

the bilateral review of the dialogue structure adopted under the framework. And there is the political parties group. As the general election is drawing nearer, a venue may take place after the November election. At that time, the government and EAOs may have reach a certain point, U Zaw Htay said.

Starting from 16 this month, number of Covid-19 positive cases in Sittway, Rakhine State, reached high.

In connection with the matter, U Zaw Htay said a positive case was found in Sittway on 16 August. Three more cases were found on 19 August; two more in the morning and three in the evening on 20 August; and ten new cases this morning. So the total is 19. What I want to warn the stakeholders including AA is that the epidemic may be coming to the Rakhine State, so we are terribly worried. The Government is paying special attention to the new infection, weighing and identifying the possible connections. A tsunami in Indonesia killed a large number of people at a certain

place, and because of the terrible human sufferings and loss of life reconciliation could be restored for peace, and what followed was the full integration. If the previous positive cases found in Maungdaw area are added, the total number of positive cases in Rakhine State will reach 35. So, the continuation of terrorist attacks, ambushes and abductions in this situation will amount to inhuman acts. I would seriously urge the group to stop those heartless activities.

Regarding the Covid-19 response in Rakhine State, he said we are tracing the links of the first infested patient, a woman, in Sittway. Many people of Sittway go out to the sea daily by motorized boats for fishing. Some people are helping the INGOs. We quarantine all the persons we can trace. We are preventing the occurrence of a possible outbreak in the state and enforcing the rules and guidelines.

As regards the peace process with AA, U Zaw Htay said there were overtures even before the announcement of AA as a terrorist group. We sent invitations for an informal meeting if an official meeting was not the choice. But there was no response. The problem was that the group was just the coach following a locomotive. As it is like three or four coaches in a row following the head engine, no chance came out for any talks. There were a number of informal meetings with us before the time it was declared a terrorist group. But its members had less desire for talks. Now, it is a terrorist group and has the locomotive. So, the stance and aspiration of the group concerned is important in holding the exclusive talks. —Ye Gaung Nyunt ■

(Translated by TMT)

53 Myanmar migrant workers come back home via Lashio

A total of 53 Myanmar nationals: 27 males and 26 females, who returned from China were transported back to their native places via Lashio in northern Shan State by train yesterday.

Yesterday's returnees include 19 from Sagaing Region, four from Bago Region, 16 from Magway Region, five from Mandalay Region, eight from Ra-

khine Region, and one from Yangon Region respectively.

A total of 15,247 Myanmar citizens: 9,360 males and 5,887 females have returned to Myanmar from China through border crossings from 6 May to date.—Nan Thanda Oo (IPRD)

(Translated by Kyaw Zin lin)



Officials arranging transportation for the 53 Myanmar returnees from China on 22 August 2020. PHOTO: NAN THANDA OO (IPRD)

Be disciplined to avoid pouring water on the sand

MYANMAR imposed new Coronavirus restrictions in Sittway, the capital city of Rakhine, as some new cases were confirmed in recent days.

It has caused much pain and anguish for the locals resulting from contravening the rules and orders of the Ministry of Health and Sports to contain COVID-19 disease.

Both the government and private sectors would have to pay a certain cost in both financial and human resources. For defeating the pandemic, it is required for everyone to remain disciplined.

Myanmar is not a rich country, even in comparing with most of the neighbouring countries. Still, it has shown its better ability to control and prevent this disease with the broader participation of people.

Keep on using a face mask and observing social distancing as a rule. These practices have been well recognized to prevent the spread of infection.

The government not only saved the country from the significant outbreak of this disease but also salvaged the national economy to a certain degree. In this circumstance, people should not pour water on the sand.

Myanmar people need to adhere to the existing healthcare measures against the Coronavirus to prevent a stringent nationwide restriction. The battle could not be won just by restrictions but through awareness.

In order to succeed in limiting losses to life and the economy, don't raise your oars before crossing the finish line.

People need to follow the 'new normal' which has transformed their ordinary human behaviours in daily life. As we are living among the challenges of the pandemic, we should adapt ourselves to the "new normal" by letting go of our old ways of living.

Not to encounter the second wave of this disease, Myanmar people, both in rural and city areas, must adhere to the health regulations. Countries the world over have suffered the enormous cost of the Coronavirus disease. Myanmar needs to take lessons from other countries which are facing a resurgence of this pandemic.

Myanmar is not a rich country, even in comparing with most of the neighbouring countries. Still, it has shown its better ability to control and prevent this disease with the broader participation of people. The government has firmly believed 'People are the key'.

The biggest TVET Institute to be opened in Yangon

BY KOICA Myanmar

SINCE 2012, when MOE has undertaken nationwide Comprehensive Education Sector Review (CESR), TVET has been one of the six focal points. Additionally, inside National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) 2016-2021, under TVET sector, it was stated that high quality technical and vocational education and training (TVET) that equips Myanmar's economy with a skilled and competitive workforce is vital for sustainable socio-economic development. The bilateral collaboration between the Republic of Korea and Government of the Union of Myanmar in TVET sector was further enhanced during State Counsellor visit to Korea for 30th Anniversary ASEAN-ROK where the State Counsellor and the President Moon Jae-In witnessed the signing of an MOU focusing on cooperation in TVET Sector.

Korea-Myanmar TVET Teacher Training Institute, KMTTTI, an ODA project output between the Korean and Myanmar Governments, plans to fulfill the Myanmar's economy with its demanding needs by de-

veloping workforce in alignment with NESP Strategy (2) and (3) which focus on strengthening the quality and relevance of TTTI and the Management of TVET. With the desire to become the model and multiplication center of the demand-oriented TVET in 5 years after its opening, KMTTTI has set up two objectives to achieve. The first objective is to upgrade the teaching competencies of technical teachers in TVET sector. The second object is to improve the existing technicians' capacities so that they become proficient in meeting the labor market-needs by training through operation of the subsidiary GTI under KMTTTI.

In order to achieve its objectives and deliver the effective results, systematic composition of KMTTTI has been laid out precisely with four main centers: Teachers Training Centre, Research and Development Centre, Industrial Cooperation Centre and the Model GTI.

The groundbreaking ceremony of KMTTI was held in 2018 May with the attendance of Union Minister for Education, the Am-



The groundbreaking ceremony of KMTTI for building the main building, workshop building, dormitory and auditorium was held in 2018 May. KMTTTI will come into alive with its soft opening expected to be held in October 2020 before its Model GTI commences its function in early 2021. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA (GNLM)

bassador of the Republic of Korea, Chief Representative of KOICA Myanmar Office, and other highly distinguished guests. After half a decade cooperation between the Government of Myanmar and Ko-

rea, KMTTTI will come into alive with its soft opening expected to be held in October 2020 before its Model GTI commences its function in early 2021.

As State Counsellor urges the

promotion of technical vocational education in Myanmar as she mentioned "Vocational education is a first-class education and only when vocational education is developed in the country will there

be better livelihoods for citizens", KMTTTI will strive to become one of the state-of-the-art institute in TVET education sector by nurturing well-trained and highly-skilled technicians that will contribute to the sustainable economic growth.

In addition to KMTTTI (Formal TVET Education), the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) has made previous collaborations with Ministry of Industry in supporting two of Industrial Training Centres (Non-Formal TVET Education), which are Magway and Thargaya Industrial Training Centers. In Basic Education sector, KOICA has also provided a total of 100 school buses with the purpose of enabling easy access to Schools in Nay Pyi Taw area.

Last but not the least, as education is one of KOICA's top priorities in development cooperation with the Myanmar Government, KOICA will continue to enhance its collaboration ties with the Ministry of Education and also to expand the range of supports from the TVET into the Higher Education sector.

THE KEY TO STOPPING THE VIRUS IS FOR COUNTRIES TO "POOL OUR EFFORTS."

WHO hopes end to pandemic in 'less than two years'

Unlike 1918, world today at disadvantage due to 'globalization, closeness, connectedness'.

THE World Health Organisation said Friday it hopes the planet will be rid of the coronavirus pandemic in less than two years - faster than it took for the Spanish flu.

"We hope to finish this pandemic before less than two years," Tedros Adhanom Ghe-

breyesus told reporters from the WHO's headquarters in Geneva, insisting that it should be possible to tame the novel coronavirus faster than the deadly 1918 pandemic.

Compared to back then, the world today is at a disadvantage due to its "globalization, close-

ness, connectedness", which has allowed the novel coronavirus to spread around the world at lightning speed, Tedros acknowledged.

But the world also now has the advantage of far better technology, he said.

By "utilising the available tools to the maximum and hoping that we can have additional tools like vaccines, I think we can finish it in a shorter time than the 1918 flu."

The COVID-19 pandemic has to date killed nearly 800,000 people and infected close to 23 million worldwide, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

But the deadliest pandemic in modern history, Spanish flu, killed as many as 50 million victims and infected around 500 million around the world between February 1918 and April 2020.

Five times more people died of it than did in World War I. The first victims were recorded in the United States, before it spread to Europe and then around the world.

That pandemic came in three waves, with the deadliest second wave beginning in the latter half of 1918.

"It took three waves for the disease to infect most of the susceptible individuals," WHO emergencies chief Michael Ryan told journalists.

After that, the flu virus behind the pandemic evolved into a far less deadly seasonal bug, which returned for decades.

"Very often, a pandemic virus settles into a seasonal pattern over time," Ryan said.

He warned though that so far, "this virus is not displaying a similar wave-like pattern. Clearly, when the disease is not under control, it jumps straight

back up."

New recommendation for children

On Friday, WHO also released new recommendations among them one for children aged twelve and above. According to WHO, they should wear protective face masks under the same conditions as adults to fight the pandemic.

This should especially the case "when they cannot guarantee a distance of at least one meter from others and whether the transmission is generalized in the area concerned".

Children aged five and younger should not be required to wear a mask. "This recommendation is based on the safety and overall interest of the child, and on his ability to use a mask correctly with minimal assistance," said WHO.

As for six to eleven-year-

olds, WHO recommends that the decision to use a mask be based on a series of factors, including the level of transmission of the virus in the area where the child lives and their ability to use a mask correctly and safely.

Corruption related to PPE

Ghebreyesus also made a statement with regards to possible corruption cases in the areas of personal protective equipment (PPE), necessary for the fight against the pandemic.

"Corruption related to PPE is, for me, actually murder," he said when asked about a case in South Africa. "If healthcare workers work without PPE their lives are in danger. And that also endangers the lives of the people they care for. So it's criminal, and it's murder."

SOURCE: AFP

Flood Bulletin (Issued at: 13:00 hrs MST on 22-8-2020)

Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Homalin has exceeded by about (2½) feet above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days.

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaungpyin has exceeded by about (4½) feet above its danger level. It may fall from the present water level about (1) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mawlaik has exceeded by about (3½) feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (1½) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Kalewa has exceeded by about (2) feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (2½) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Mingin has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (2½) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (12:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Monywa has reached its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (2½) feet during the next (2) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory
It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Phaungpyin, Mawlaik, Kalewa, Mingin and Monywa townships to take precaution measure.

Flood Warning (Issued at 10:00 hrs MST on 22-8-2020)

According to the (09:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Thanlwin River at Pasawng is observed as about (2½) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (1) day.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at Pasawng Township to take precaution measure.

(Issued at 12:00 hrs MST on 22-8-2020)

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at NyaungU is observed as about (2) feet below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas at NyaungU Township to take precaution measure.

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COVID local transmission changes Magway flight route



The operation of Sittway-Ann route has changed to Yangon-Nyaung-U-Magway-Yangon route. PHOTO:ZAYYATU (MAGWAY)

WITH the local transmission of coronavirus arising in Sittway township in Rakhine State, Magway flight route has been changed to Yangon-Nyaung U-Magway routes instead of Sittway-Ann-Magway route, ac-

cording to Magway Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) branch office.
The operation of old flight route is suspended starting from 21 August for two months.
“The MNA head office has

instructed on Friday evening to Magway office branch that Sittway-Ann-Magway route needs to suspend for two weeks starting from this Friday. The operation of Yangon-Magway routes will not be suspended,

though. The flight route will be changed to Yangon-Nyaung-U-Magway-Yangon route from Nyaung-U starting today,” said U San Htway from Magway MNA branch office.
The flight routes from Magway region suspended with the outbreak of COVID-19 have been resumed for only one and a half months. During the one and a half months, Magway-Ann-Sittway route has been carrying an estimate of about 20 passengers aboard while Magway-Yangon route has about 15 passengers on board.
The operation of express passenger buses has also been suspended in both Rakhine State and Magway Region starting from 21 August because of their land border being shared, said U San Htay, the Minbu district administrator.—Zayyatu (Magway)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Mandalay rental housing project to implement in six months

THE rental housing project containing 3,000 units for the public will be implemented starting from August till 28 February 2021 in six months, according to the regional Urban and Housing Development Department.
The rental housing project is located in Shin Taw Gone village near Yakin Maung in Patheingyi Township in Mandalay region. This housing project will be implemented with the spending of the Union Government and regional government

budget for the retired civil service staff, those who are near retirement and those who have difficulty buying a flat.
The 188 five-storey apartment buildings have been planned to construct in six months and each room measures 650 square feet, said an official from Mandalay Region Urban and Housing Development Department (MRUHDD).
“Our department constructs the employees’ housing in Mandalay region every year. Mya Yee Nandar housing

project containing 1,232 apartments and the flats are constructed and sold with the bank loan system. We have found that some people could not afford to buy the apartments even with the bank loan system. That is the reason why we are implementing this rental housing project. This housing project has been planned to implement in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw. Our rental housing project in Mandalay will start to be implemented this month. The house rents will

be cheaper than those of the privately-owned apartments,” he added.
The Urban and Housing Development Department will build a total of 10,000 apartments covered by this housing project including 6,300 in Yangon region, 700 in Nay Pyi Taw and 3,000 in Mandalay. This housing project is set to implement in Mandalay region starting from this month. —Min Htet Aung (Man Sub-Printing House) (Translated by Hay Mar)

2 motorbike riders killed in collision with six-wheel vehicle in Bago

TWO people were killed in a head-on collision between a six-wheel vehicle and a motorbike in Kyauktaga Township in Bago Region on 21 August.
According to the investigation, the accident took place between Mileposts 111/0 and 111/1 on Yangon-Mandalay old road, Kanbawza ward, Taw Kywe Inn town in Kyauktaga Township in Bago Region. The six-wheel vehicle was en route to Mandalay from Yangon, driven by

Phyo Thura Hein, 19, together with Yan Naing Aung, 25, and Akar Kyaw, 27, Thant Zin, 20 and Kyaw Myo Tun, 22, onboard when it crashed into a motorbike heading to Mandalay from Yangon, driven by Zwe Ko Ko aka Ko Zuu, 33, together with an unknown person. The collision took place when the six-wheel vehicle attempted to move to a different direction.
Two people from motorcycle were pronounced dead on



The six-wheel vehicle which involved in head-on collision with motorbike in Bago. PHOTO: KHIN KO (KYAUKTADA)

the spot while no one from the six-wheel vehicle was injured.
The police from Taw Kywe Inn town filed charges against the driver identified as Phyo

Thura Hein, 19, under section 304 A of the Penal Code. —Khin Ko (Kyauktada)
(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar Investment Commission’s work in June and July of 2020

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) is permitting local and foreign investments, according to Myanmar Investment Law.

MIC had permitted in June this year total foreign investment, including increased investment, valued at US\$233.731 million, and in July this year total foreign investment, including increased investment, valued at \$641.802 million.

Foreign investments permitted during June and July of 2020 are as follows:

Sr	Sector	June		July	
		No. of investment	Capital US\$ (million)	No. of investment	Capital US\$ (million)
1.	Transport and communications sector	-	26.000*	-	20.000*
2.	Industrial sector	15	188.339	16	79.718
3.	Electricity sector	-	-	1	0.450
4.	Hotels and tourism sector	-	5.881*	2	3.683
5.	Animal husbandry and fishery sector	-	-	1	116.121
6.	Other service sector	3	13.511*	1	183.300*
7.	Mining sector	-	-	-	3.800*
8.	Agriculture sector	-	-	1	4.130
9.	Industrial zone construction sector	-	-	1	230.600
Total		18	233.731	23	641.802

* Increased investment was included in the investment amount.

MIC had permitted in June this year total Myanmar national investment valued at K97,339.730 million and in July this year total Myanmar national investment valued at K148,727.310 million.

Myanmar national investments permitted during June and July this year are as follows:

Sr	Sector	June		July	
		No. of investment	Capital Kyat (million)	No. of investment	Capital Kyat (million)
1.	Housing and building construction sector	-	-	1	34,118.634*
2.	Industrial sector	9	41,616.187*	6	29,063.218*
3.	Hotels and tourism sector	1	2,499.272	5	64,338.655
4.	Construction sector	-	-	-	2,352.000*

5.	Electricity sector	2	11,956.960	-	-
6.	Agriculture sector	1	965.090	-	-
7.	Other service sector	4	40,302.221	4	9,770.978
8.	Oil and natural gas sector	-	-	1	9,083.825
Total		17	97,339.730	17	148,727.310

* Increased investment was included in the investment amount.

Increased number of jobs for locals created sector-wise by foreign investments during June and July this year are as follows:

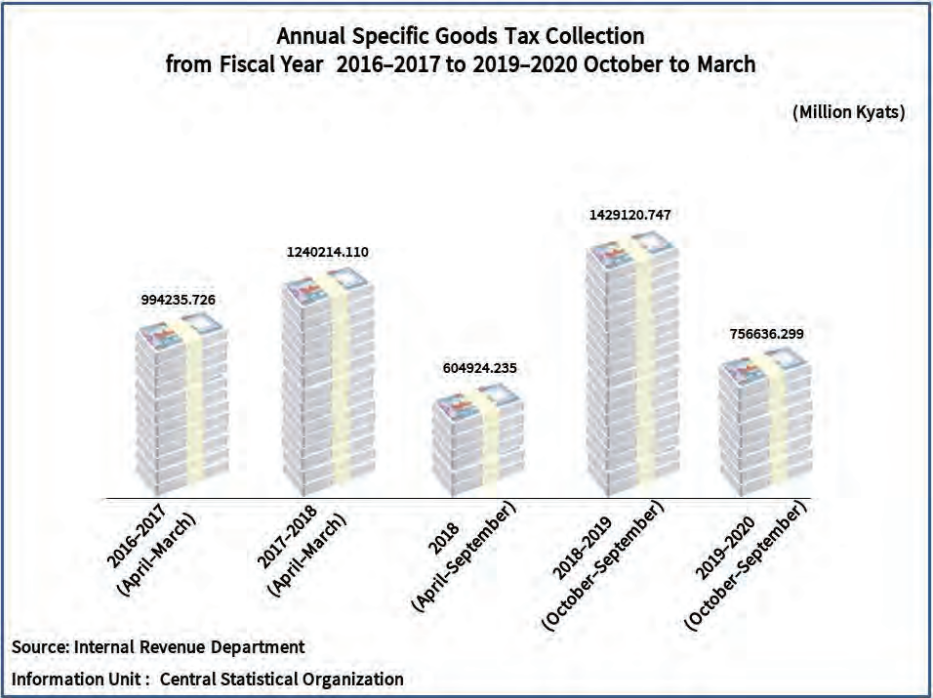
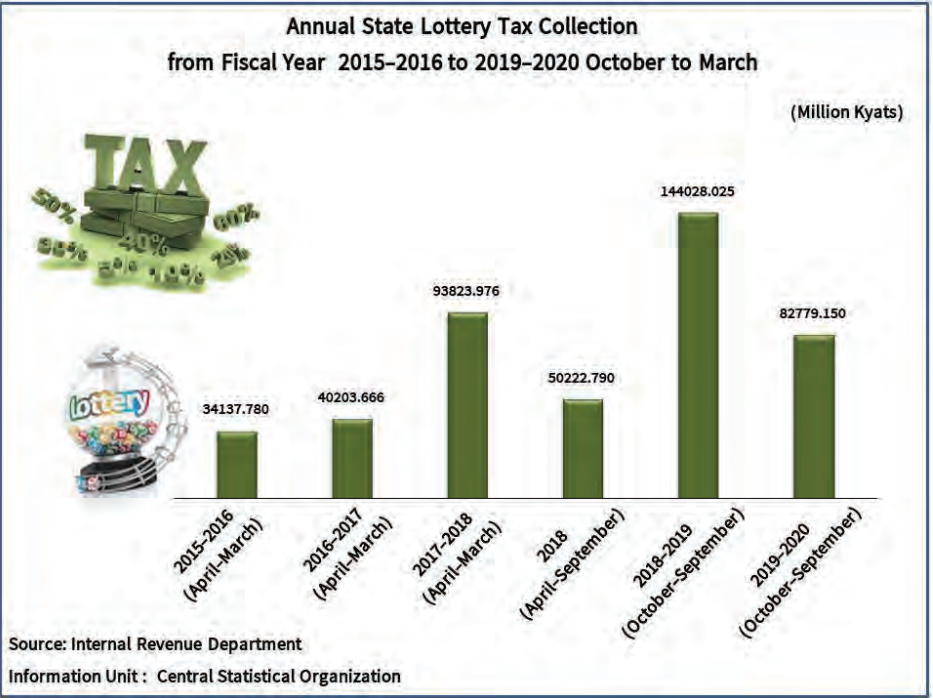
Sr	Sector	Number of jobs created for local workers	
		In June	In July
1.	Transport and communications sector	110	-
2.	Industrial sector	8,965*	10,340
3.	Electricity sector	-	16
4.	Hotels and tourism sector	-	37
5.	Animal husbandry and fisheries sector	-	1,062*
6.	Other service sector	291	1,730
7.	Agricultural sector	-	18
8.	Industrial construction sector	-	159
Total		9,366	13,362

* Increased employee was included in the employee amount.

Increased number of jobs for locals created sector-wise by Myanmar national investments during June and July this year are as follows:

Sr	Sector	Number of jobs created for local workers	
		In June	In July
1.	Housing and building construction sector	-	111
2.	Industrial sector	4,091	666*
3.	Hotels and tourism sector	87	421
4.	Electricity sector	730	-
5.	Agriculture sector	117	-
6.	Other service sector	817	326
7.	Oil and natural gas sector	-	62
Total		5,842	1,586

* Increased employee was included in the employee amount. — MNA



Elections are the foundation of democracy.

Trump's convention to ignite base with fireworks and culture war

WASHINGTON — Launching political grenades -- and real fireworks -- President Donald Trump's Republican party will use next week's convention to ignite its base ahead of the most divisive US election in decades.

As the Democrats demonstrated in their on-screen-only convention to nominate Joe Biden this week, the 2020 presidential election is already deep in untested territory.

The Republican version, which starts Monday and climaxes Thursday with Trump accepting his nomination for a second term, will turn things further on their head.

Rather than go online or seek an alternate venue, Trump will give his speech from the White House itself -- an act of bravado that stretches ethics rules and, while legal, tramples over presidential etiquette.

He has justified his choice as the most practical, cost effective measure after COVID-19 forced cancelation of Republican plans for a traditional convention with big crowds in North Carolina.



US President Donald Trump, with First Lady Melania Trump, will be the first to hold his own nomination convention on the White House grounds. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

As Trump says, he already lives in the White House.

But by making the presidential residence his political stage and applying to turn the adjacent National Mall into a fireworks

launchpad, Trump is also deliberately showing off his power, in contrast to Biden's low-key, online approach.

"He's going to be speaking on a world stage," as advisor

Kellyanne Conway told reporters.

Guns and God

The formal nominating part of the convention will take place

Monday in Charlotte, North Carolina, with a small group of Republican delegates -- and possibly Trump -- attending in person.

First Lady Melania Trump, who came to the United States as an immigrant from Slovenia and rarely opens up about her personal life, is expected to make remarks from the White House's iconic Rose Garden on Tuesday.

Vice President Mike Pence, who is important to bringing right-wing Christian voters to Trump's banner, will give his speech in Baltimore on Wednesday. The rest of the time before Trump's finale on Thursday is expected to feature family members, who are an integral part of his campaign, congressional allies and special guests highlighting the president's potent blend of patriotism and anti-socialist rhetoric.

At the Democrats' convention, arguably the most effective invitee was the daughter of a coronavirus victim, who blamed Trump for leading her father into thinking the pandemic wasn't serious -- a key line of attack in the election. —AFP ■

Kremlin critic Navalny 'stable' in Berlin hospital

LEADING Kremlin critic Alexei Navalny, who has suffered a suspected poisoning, was in a stable condition in hospital on

Saturday after being flown to Berlin following a standoff over his medical evacuation from Russia.

A convoy including two yellow ambulances brought Navalny from Berlin's Tegel airport to the renowned Charite hospital just after 10:20 am local time (0820 GMT).

"Navalny's condition is stable," Jaka Bizilj, the head of the Cinema for Peace foundation that brought Navalny to Germany in a chartered medical plane, told AFP.

Berlin's Charite hospital confirmed in a statement that it had admitted Navalny and was carrying out an "extensive medical diagnosis".

The 44-year-old lawyer and anti-corruption campaigner, one of President Vladimir Putin's

fiercest critics, went into a coma after falling suddenly ill Thursday on a plane to Moscow that had to make an emergency landing in Omsk.

Aides say they believe Navalny was poisoned, apparently via a cup of tea at the airport, and blamed Putin, though Russian doctors said tests showed no trace of any poison.

Doctors treating him in Omsk had refused to let Navalny leave but reversed course after his family and staff demanded he be allowed to travel to Germany.

As the plane left Omsk, Navalny's wife Yulia thanked supporters via Instagram for their "persistence". —AFP ■



A convoy of vehicles brought Alexei Navalny to Berlin's Charite hospital, where he will be treated after his medical evacuation to Germany. **PHOTO: AFP**

Iran says ready to pay compensations in crashed Ukrainian plane case

TEHRAN — Iran is ready to pay compensations pertaining to the case in the Ukrainian passenger plane that crashed in Iran's airspace in January, head of Iran's Civil Aviation Organization told official IRNA news agency on Saturday.

Touraj Dehqani Zangeneh made the remarks ahead of a new round of talks between the two countries' aviation officials to be held in October in the capital city of Tehran.

"What is evident is that Iran has accepted the responsibility for its mistake and therefore the country is ready for negotiations on paying full compensation for what has been done," Zangeneh was quoted as saying.

"Compensations will be paid within international laws and without discrimination," he said, adding that "it will include any group that has been affected in the incident." —Xinhua ■

Turkey announces historic gas discovery in Black Sea

ISTANBUL — President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday said Turkey had made a historic discovery of gas in the Black Sea, but would still speed up contentious exploration in the Mediterranean that has pitted it against Greece and the EU.

Turkey hopes the discovery can help wean it off imported energy, including from Russia,

which comes at a high cost at a time when the local currency is weakening and the economy is more fragile because of the coronavirus.

Erdogan said the 320-billion-cubic-metre deep sea find was made at a site Turkish vessel Fatih began exploring last month.

He added that he hoped to

see the first gas reach Turkish consumers in 2023, the 100th anniversary of the birth of the modern republic.

"Turkey made the biggest discovery of natural gas in its history in the Black Sea," a delighted Erdogan said during a speech in Istanbul's Dolmabahce Palace.

"My Lord has opened the

door to unprecedented wealth for us," he enthused.

'Reasons to be cautious'

The Turkish lira gained value against the dollar on Erdogan's promise on Wednesday to report "good news" on Friday, but fell after the size of the find was less than half of that suggested in initial reports. —AFP ■

EU warns Brexit deal unlikely as talks deliver no progress

BRUSSELS — The EU and Britain on Friday traded blame for the lack of progress after the latest round of post-Brexit trade talks, with Brussels warning that a deal looked unlikely.

The EU’s chief negotiator Michel Barnier lodged his warning at the close of the seventh round of trade talks, which again got stuck on key issues, mainly fishing rights and competition rules.

Hundreds of negotia-

tors met over several days in the Belgian capital with both sides acknowledging a sliver of progress on technical issues – but not on the main obstacles.

“Those who were hoping for negotiations to move swiftly forward this week will have been disappointed,” Barnier told reporters after the talks ended.

“And, unfortunately, I too am frankly disappointed and concerned and sur-

prised as well,” he added.

His UK counterpart David Frost countered that Brussels’ insistence that London meet EU demands on state aid and fisheries policy before work on other areas made it “unnecessarily difficult to make progress”.

Frost reiterated that he thought a deal remained possible and was Britain’s aim but he warned: “It is clear that it will not be easy to achieve.”—AFP ■



Britain left the EU in January, nearly four years after a landmark referendum to end almost 50 years of European integration. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

US media take on Apple over App Store commission



Apple CEO Tim Cook. **PHOTO: MANDEL NGAN/AFP**

NEW YORK — Major American media organizations have written to Apple pushing for the iPhone maker to charge less to feature on its App Store, a week after the company behind hit video game Fortnite sued the tech giant over the same issue.

Trade body Digital Content Next (DCN) -- which represents top titles including The New York

Times, The Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal -- wrote to Apple boss Tim Cook asking why they are not given more favorable terms like some other companies.

They argue that instead of paying 30 percent of transactions in the App Store, they should be cut the same deal as Amazon Prime Video, which pays Apple just 15 per cent in

commission.

“We would like to know what conditions our members -- high quality digital content companies -- would need to meet in order to qualify for the arrangement Amazon is receiving,” DCN’s letter dated Thursday said.

The letter refers to a heated House of Representatives antitrust hearing at the end of July in

which Cook said the cut-price deal was available to companies that met certain conditions.

“I ask that you clearly define the conditions that Amazon satisfied for its arrangement so that DCN’s member companies meeting those conditions can be offered the same agreement,” DCN boss Jason Kint wrote.

—AFP ■

Apparel maker Renown to sell its brands, go into liquidation

TOKYO — Failed Japanese apparel maker Renown Inc. said Friday it will sell some of its main brands, including D’urban suit brand, to an apparel group in Osaka for an undisclosed amount.

Renown is likely to go into liquidation after the

planned sale of its brands to Koizumi Co.’s group companies on Sept. 30, sources close to the matter said.

Tokyo-based Renown also said it plans to sell its Aquascutum and Simple Life brands to the apparel group based in the western Japan city.—Kyodo ■

Notice for Change of Pesticides Trade Name

The foreign manufacture AgriGate CropSciences Pte., Ltd will import and distribute the following insecticides registered in Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board Changing trading name.

No.	Old Trade Name	New Trade Name	A.I	Reg: Type	Reg: No.
1	Thunder Super 5EC	Xyclone X 5EC	Lambda Cyhalothrin 5% EC	Full	F2014-914

It is therefore announced to come and reject within 14 days to joint Secretary, Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board, Plant Protection Division, West Gyogone, Insein in wishing to make any objection in respect of the said changing trading name of insecticide.

Address- Myanma Awba Group Co., Ltd
No.(95-A), Kyaik Wine Pagoda Road, 8th mile, Mayangone Township, Yangon Region, The Republic of Union of Myanmar.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1125S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO WISDOM VOY. NO. (1125S/N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-8-2020** 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (076N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (076N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-8-2020** 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 INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2015E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2015E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **23-8-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AIPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Painting museum to appear in Yangon in near future

By Swe Oo Wai

MYANMAR has not only a great deal of artwork capable of giving different aesthetics to the viewers but also gifted artists who can create classical images together excellent brushwork. The painting museum, a bank of outstanding artwork is going to appear in Yangon soon.

The painting museum will be present in Chin Chaung Palace on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Bahan Township, Yangon Region. Now Chin Chaung Palace is under renovation to open a world-class painting museum. The world-class painting museum is expected to be open to the public at the end of 2020. The renovation tasks are aimed at not harming the original styles of this palace structure.

The highest number of foreign visitors

Yangon is a major city in the areas of Myanmar's economy, international relations and domestic and international trade. It is also a city where ancient urban heritages are concentrated and it is also a venue where foreign visitors mainly go in and go out. With such good circumstances, Yangon is badly in need of a world-class splendid painting museum for ensuring that not only Myanmar people but also local and foreign visitors will be able to view classical artwork only at the same place.

Chin Chaung Palace changed into Painting Museum

The Painting Museum necessary for Myanmar painting arena is under implementa-

tion to proudly show excellent artwork of Myanmar's great artists. At the request of great artist U Lun Kywe, Panchi Hla Tin Tun and Panchi Soe Moe, during the meeting with Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, permission was granted to transform Chin Chaung Palace into the painting museum.

For the time being, renovation work is being carried out in Chin Chaung Palace. The places to display and hang paintings are being also designated. It has been long that the painting museum similar to the international ones should be in Myanmar. The plan to display classical artwork of Myanmar great artists in Chin Chaung Palace to be transformed into the painting museum deserves

a welcome.

Lim Chin Tsong, a Burmese Chinese tycoon and merchant started building Chin Chaung Palace in 1915 and the construction ended in 1919. The early-20-century mansion was built with the use of western and Chinese architectural designs. The construction materials were imported from Italy and China.

Chin Chaung Palace was built to resemble the Fu Xing Pavilion in the Summer Palace, in Beijing and it has also a tower capable of overlooking the different views of Yangon since then. But now the tall buildings are growing in number in Yangon whose some scenes can't be seen from the tower of Chin Chaung Palace nowadays because of the high-rise buildings.

There are wall paintings

in the upper structure of Chin Chaung Palace which were drawn by two notable British painters Ernest and Doc Proctor. It was learnt that these persons of those days were not famous painters. However, Lim Chin Tsong, a Burmese Chinese tycoon and merchant, was a person who took interest in painting and so the construction included artistic work.

Lim Chin Tsong, a Burmese Chinese tycoon and merchant, passed away in 1923, four years after the construction of Chin Chaung Palace. When he was dead, the British occupied Chin Chaung Palace where they received guests occasionally. Later, in the Japanese area, it was used as the broadcasting station. But in 1950, it was transformed into



Painting museum interior. PHOTO YANGON TOURS



Painting museum. PHOTO YANGON HERITAGE TRUST

Kanbawza Yeiktha where the guests from Shan State put up. Later it was changed into the female's hostel of the Institute of Economics, and then into the Office of Myanma Socialist Programme Party. State High School of Arts was opened in the compound of Chin Chaung Palace. In 1993, the first-ever University of Culture (Yangon) was opened in Chin Chaung Palace. Now it is owned by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. It has not been used for any purpose yet and so it has been under implementation.

If the Chin Chaung Palace has finished renovation, the paintings created by veteran artist U Ba Nyan 90 years ago, contemporary ones, and traditional ones will be systematically displayed at the painting museum. Moreover, plans are underway to put together and display the paintings from National Libraries in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw and a collection of

paintings from Archaeological Museum representing different eras in their original respective places.

With these measures being implemented in the century-old Chin Chaung Palace, the painting museum is going to appear

in Yangon in the near future. The prestige of Yangon will be greater due to the presence of the painting museum where

historic and contemporary artistic works will be displayed.
(Translated by Htut Htut (Twantay))



Fine art school. PHOTO YANGON TOURS

FIFA, AFC send birthday wishes to MFF president



File photo shows MFF president U Zaw Zaw attending the FIFA online meeting on 29 July, 2020. **PHOTO: MFF**

FIFA president Gianni Infantino and Asian Football Confederation president Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa respectively

sent their birthday wishes to Myanmar Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw on his 53rd birthday, which was fallen on 22 August 2020 (yesterday), according to the statement with the MFF.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino sent his wishes that “May this special day be filled with happiness and may we continue to work together for the future of this beautiful game that unites us all.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your efforts and your contribution to the development of our sport

and the promotion of its value in Myanmar.

I wish good health to you, your family, friends and loved ones, and I look forward to seeing you again very soon.”

AFC president Salman Bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa stated that “I am delighted to convey to you my heartfelt greetings and best wishes for a happy birthday.

On behalf of the AFC and the entire Asian football family, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your commitments towards the development of football in your country and this great continent.

I hope that the coming year brings you good health, happiness and success – both personally and in your work to build a stronger and brighter future for Asian football through unity and stability, along with us.

On this particular day, I wish you many happy returns, good fortune and great success.”

On his birthday, U Zaw Zaw made special merit by changing himself as a Buddhist monk in PyinOoLwin, according to a statement with the U Zaw Zaw’s social media page. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Mickelson to make senior circuit debut as US Open prep

NEW YORK (United States) — Five-time major winner Phil Mickelson said Friday he will make his PGA Tour Champions debut on Monday after missing the cut at the Northern Trust.

Mickelson turned 50 in June, but has not yet played on the Champions Tour, formerly known as the Senior Tour.

But he said Friday on Twitter that failing to advance to the weekend -- and next week’s second event in the FedEx Cup playoffs -- gave him a perfect opportunity.

“I’ve been playing well and I want to play,” Mickelson wrote after completing a second-round 68 at the Northern Trust at TPC Boston.

“I wish I was playing in

Chicago next week but excited to play my first Champions event.”

Mickelson’s three-under effort on Friday followed a first-round 74 and left him well outside the projected outline. It’s the first time in his career that he has failed to reach the second round of the US tour’s playoffs. Mickelson will tee it up on Monday at the Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National in Ridgedale, Missouri, which runs through Wednesday. The tournament will give him some competitive rounds before next month’s pandemic-delayed US Open, which will be held at Winged Foot, where he endured a bitter Open defeat in 2006.

Earlier this year, Mickelson said he wasn’t sure he would begin playing on the Champions tour this year, since he felt he could still be competitive on the PGA Tour. “I feel like to be successful on a tour, you have to commit entirely to that one tour,” he said. “So if it’s either going to be the PGA Tour or the Champions Tour, I don’t see me oscillating back and forth.”

Mickelson has had mixed results on the PGA Tour this season. He finished third at the Pebble Beach Pro-Am in February, but missed the cut in back-to-back events before play was halted for three months because of the coronavirus pandemic. — AFP ■



US golfer Phil Mickelson tees off from the first hole during the first round of the British Open golf Championships at Royal Portrush golf club in Northern Ireland on 18 July 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

ManUtd’s Maguire in court over police ‘assault’



In this file photo taken on 26 July 2020 Manchester United’s English defender Harry Maguire reacts during the English Premier League football match between Leicester City and Manchester United at King Power Stadium in Leicester, central England. **PHOTO: AFP**

ATHENS (Greece) — Manchester United captain Harry Maguire will appear before a Greek prosecutor Saturday to face charges of allegedly assaulting police on the island of Mykonos, with his lawyer promising a swift resolution.

“Everything is going well. Maguire denies the charges. If all goes well, we’ll be done (today),” Constantinos Darivas told Greek sports website gazzetta.gr.

Darivas added that the England centre-back was in “fine condition” despite spending two nights in detention since his Thursday night arrest.

Maguire will be taken before a prosecutor before midday.

The case is being heard on the island of Syros, the administrative hub of the Cycladic island group that includes Mykonos.

The £80-million (88-million-euro) defender was arrested

early Friday after what Greek police described as an “altercation” between two groups of British tourists on Mykonos.

A Greek police statement on Friday said that three men aged 27, 28 and 29 had been arrested in Mykonos.

Greek state agency ANA identified the suspects as Maguire, his brother and a friend.

The police said an officer was punched on the scene, and that a second fight had broken out at the local police station where the three men “strenuously resisted (arrest), pushing and striking three officers.”

One of the suspects then tried to bribe the officers to hush up the incident, the police said.

The suspects are accused of assault, resisting arrest, verbally insulting and threatening the arresting officers, and attempted bribery, the police said. — AFP ■

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

23 AUGUST 2020

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Learning language is for communication, not education!



By: Yan Naing
(Master of Divinity major in Leadership Studies, International Graduate School of Leadership)

TODAY, for sure, there are more English learning centres in Myanmar than ten years ago. I have noticed that some people got misunderstanding about learning English. If someone is good at English, they assume that he is well- educated and intelligent. Perhaps, he is smart indeed or he may not. But that's the way some people judge a person and give praise to him or her. Learning English means more than a language. It seems they define learning English as education. But I would say that people have got the wrong definition of learning language and education.

To my understanding, learning language is for communication purpose. It is not education! Why? Because I have met people who have this opinion that speaking good English is a sign of intelligence and being well-educated. I think having that kind of perspective could make them feel small and unqualified if they don't speak good English. Thus, I want to give a simple definition

that learning language is to help you communicate properly with people and express your ideas and thoughts in a clearer and better way. Education is to help you learn what is right and wrong, and help you how to think and work rightly, and of course it helps you to absorb new skills and store knowledge.

I still remember the remark of my English tutor while taking a tutorial English class with other international students at a Graduate School in the Philippines: he said, "English language should not be a measure of one's ability." I absolutely agree with him because English is "a language, not a measure of intelligence". People may be smart and have other skills though they may not speak good English. I had met skillful, talented people but they don't speak English at all. Therefore, it is not fair to treat someone well or poorly, based on his or her English proficiency.

During my intensive TESOL course in 2015, one of the teachers also said that since she is a native English speaker, she had a tendency to treat students who speak good English as smarter than those who speak poor English. Also, she admitted that she has ever looked down on people who speak poor English until she found out they speak another language very well. On the other hand, it occurred to me that when I was a graduate student, I highly admired teachers who speak fluent English while I looked down on professors who do not speak English very well. In fact, either way is not appropriate! After I learnt that English is just a language for communication, it changed the way I see my professors and the way I treat them.

Just like me, there may be

people who think of themselves higher than others because of their English fluency. Having that kind of opinion may cause them to treat people unfairly and create unnecessary discrimination on others. Of course, needless to say that English is an international language which can bridge you over the gap for entering a broader learning environment.

However, understanding that learning language is for communication, not education, will help us view people equally and treat anyone with respect on the basis of character, not on the

language skills. I hope now you too have a wider perspective and insight of learning language and education.

■

Things to note online learning



comments from different individuals about this determination, which is a very natural phenomenon we encounter when an unfamiliar system is being introduced.

Currently, surveys on which online platform is the most suitable for each university are being endorsed by related administrations, which is generally a decent idea as universities are of different backgrounds, different needs and wants, and of different nature. This is the time in which the government gets to hear the total voice of the students, and if used correctly, will become a moment of bonding between the Ministry of Education and the student body. Just one friendly reminder: the clock is ticking and the preparation progress needs to go as fast as it can. As I have already mentioned, students will become more or less distant from learning if this formal education is not restored any time soon. This is a time of repugnant circumstances, but we have to do what we have always done since the stone age; survive.

Now, let's get to the point. It is a universal truth that everything has its own pros and cons, and so does online learning. To stand from its good side, it is the best option available right now if the schools are not to be open in the near future. The ultimate advantage of this learning style is that most of the university

students are already familiar with essential digital skills, such as basic computing skills and exposure to smartphone technology. This can unexpectedly become the greatest advantage of the youths, as the teaching, research and homework will become seamless on a single platform. On the other hand, the underlying problem is with the internet. Most of the places in our country do not have access to high-speed Wi-fi, and some do not even possess decent mobile internet connection in some areas, not to mention that internet is totally banned in some regions for political reasons. Since most of the online learning tools demand a stable network connection, this can become a gigantic barrier for a number of students. Some applications can create a pretty realistic virtual classroom atmosphere, for instance, Microsoft Teams and Google Classroom. However, as it is already stated, they cannot be used without a robust connection, which will be the most discussed topic: Should we make a leap forward?

The second most-discussed case will be the required equipment. Most of the students are the owners of smartphones, but not every student possesses a laptop or a desktop computer. It seems that in order to make the most out of online learning, computers are still irreplaceable. The PC version of the applications usually offers more complete functions, which belittles the mobile applications. I have read a perspective on Facebook which says that the Ministry should organize a hire-purchase system in collaboration with the private sector so that every student will find a tablet or a laptop in his or her hand. The good news is that it will



By Sun Htut Aung
English Specialisation
University of Yangon

take very little time for the students from our generation to be able to use the freshly acquired equipment well, so the government does not need to worry about further education on the use of gadgets.

One of the biggest challenges is, of course, the mental preparation. Most of us have been living in ease since March, and the inertia effect will refuse to leave us anytime soon. Much effort needs to be asserted during a transition, and if we are not ready to accept this as the only way to continue our formal education, we will end up in a situation none of us wants to be in. It goes without saying that we are at the earliest stage of the draft, and we will need to work together to modify this whole learning system until it constantly becomes the right one for the Myanmar students. Needless to say, the Ministry cannot be the only acting body in this game, as the purpose of this program is for the students to keep in touch with their lessons as realistically as possible while physical classes are not available, thereby compensating the stay-at-home period. If there is no choice, then we will have to grab whatever there is in our way and make it shine.

As the Covid-19 crisis remains intact worldwide, people have been looking for alternatives to carry out their routines as normally as possible. The businessmen are having a headache finding ways to transform their businesses to survive the pandemic, and on the other hand, students, who comprise a fair percentage of the world's population, are in deep consternation of this so-called monstrosity striking without the least brief of notice. The majority of this category understands that without constant learning taking place, the momentum will be largely affected, and thus will result in the loss of time and knowledge which should be devoted to the study. Since Phase 1 of the planet earth, human beings have been well known mostly for their survival skills, as they somehow found ways to keep themselves from extinction. We are now facing a widespread threat, but as the history repeats itself, soon we find ourselves seeking the emergency exit, from which we make an escape and push ourselves to reach the "new

normal", in other words resetting the lifestyle we are greatly accustomed to and moving on to a "whole new world".

In our country where education is considered an important factor for life development, since the earliest reported cases of Covid-19, government authorities, scholars, teachers and students are working on the concept to continue learning by other means since the schools are closed and face-to-face learning is forbidden. That is when the internet reclaims its worthy place as the main actor; the internet that has been revolving around all of us like the moon going around the earth. The very first thing people remembered was the online-based learning, as most of us in this field have access to the internet one way or another. You might have probably seen the news that after nearly four months of the discovery of the very first Coronavirus case, the government has made a decision to implement online learning for the higher education, although the students who belong to the basic education level are still required to go back to school. There have been a lot of mixed

Infectious smile



By Htar Sandi Naing
English Specialization,
University of Yangon

“Hey! Say cheese!”
As soon as the cameraman reminded us to smile, we never ignored his words. We always try our best to share our beautiful smile. We listen to him no matter what. Though the flashlight of the camera might blur our sight, we never fail to smile. We never want to regret it later as our smile will be kept in the photo forever.

Smiling is truly infectious. It is like a disease which can be easily infected. Once someone starts to yawn, the others who are looking at him or her might yawn as well. In that way, we can figure out who is looking at us. Similarly, instead of yawning, why don't we start smiling? With our smile, we can let our mother earth smile as well.

Smiling is definitely the best medicine. In order to cure pain, just smile once. Let the pain go away with the wind. One might ask “What can make us smile?” Basically, we surely need happiness in our lives to make us smile. Happiness couldn't be brought by any other things except ourselves. Power couldn't be used to force a smile on someone's face. If that person is irritated, he surely will not smile at all. Someone might say “Why bother making him or her smile? It's better to leave that person alone!” No. We shouldn't do that. As we are all human beings, we are responsible for each human's welfare or happiness. Why don't you touch someone's heart with your smile?

It's definitely our responsibility to lighten someone's day. Is it even a difficult task? Not at all. Just do what we can to help others. Simply asking questions or talking about certain topics will definitely do the trick. Though it is not a burden for someone, it is certainly a huge impact in someone's life. Someone may be having a bad day but it can be changed into a delightful day. You hold the magic wand to put a smile on someone's face. Infect that person with your beautiful smile.

Moreover, there are times when we forget to smile at all. We tend to spend our precious time without smiling once. However, this is because we tend to forget the value behind a single smile. Similar to

happiness, a smile cannot be bought. No matter how wealthy you can be, you cannot buy it at all. However, we always need to find a reason to smile. Just smile. Instead of talking, smiling is the best way to show yourself. It will definitely stand out among others. You don't need cosmetics to beautify yourself. Just wear your prettiest smile which is the unique feature of yours.

Face everything with your smile. Never fail to put a smile on your face regardless of any situation. Always think about the time when we never fail to show our

biggest smile in a camera flashlight. If you want to overcome all the obstacles, just relax your mind and start smiling. Have courage to face it with a smile. Nothing is worth more than your smile. There is surely nothing which can drag you down if you keep your head up and keep smiling with confidence. Attack it back with your beautiful smile. Lighten up the world with your smile. SMILE! Don't forget to infect someone with your smile as well! Hope you have a reason to smile today!



Around 80 per cent of people in Myanmar's Sakyin village, north of Mandalay, work in the marble business. **PHOTO: AFP**

The hills in north Mandalay are the country's prime source of white marble -- cherished as far back as the reign of King Mindon Min in the 19th century. **PHOTO: AFP**

Workers putting finishing touches on a Buddha statue.

Myanmar's traditional stone sculpture (Pantamaw)

STONE carving (ပန်တမော့ pantamaw) is one of the ten traditional fine arts of Myanmar, and has to this day been the pride and honour of Myanmar people.

For generations, artisans have carved out a living from the marble to Buddha statues.

Majority of the country's over 54 million population are devoted to Buddhism, and that creates a healthy demand for statues of the Buddha, whether it's for public temples or shrines in private homes as Buddhist.

Madaya, a small town located about 30 miles from Mandalay, has got the lion share of the country's demand as it possess a Sakyin or marble mountain.

The town has supplied marble stones and unfinished statues of various sizes to workshops in Mandalay where customers can choose or order one customized to their preferences, specifying important symbolic elements like the facial expression or hand gestures.

Local people in Manday earn a modest living from the marble mines, hauling the slabs down

the hill, carving them into statues, or exporting them overseas.

In old days, artisans created all of the statues by hand. Now, much of the work is done with machines.

Another area for stone carving in central Myanmar is Monywa. The stones used in stone sculpturing are extracted from the Phoekhaung mountain ranges in the Bawditthaung Thar precinct.

Stone sculpture is the pride of artisans and they are maintaining the traditional crafts of sculpting. The traditional sculpture techniques are passed down from generation to generation.

Nowadays, with the shortage of raw materials and labourers, the traditional business has become difficult to meet the demand.

There are sculpture studios or workshops in Yangon, Mandalay and other towns in the country, but the majority of studios are concentrated in Mandalay. —GNLM

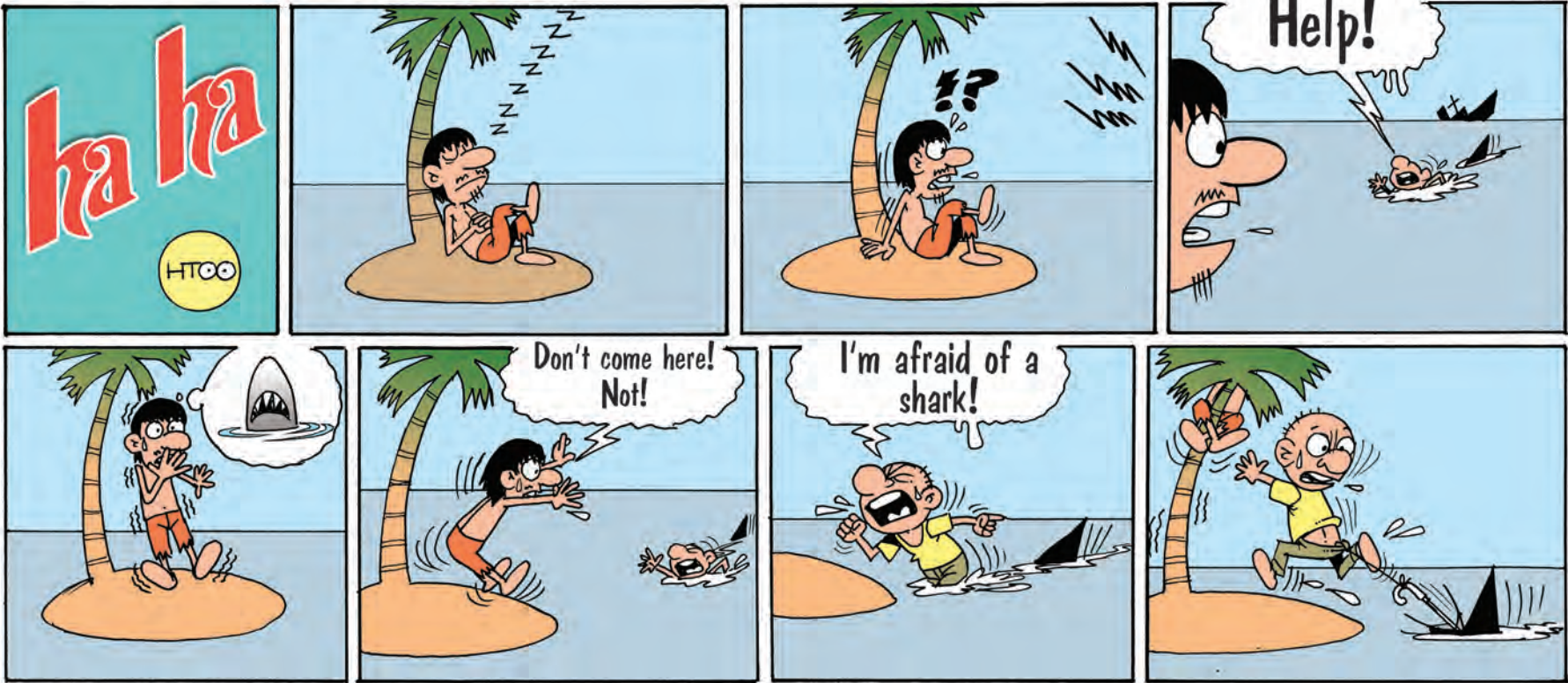
Marble sculptors in Myanmar say the hills that have given them a livelihood for generations are disappearing, as large companies reap the rewards of the prized white rock. **PHOTO: AFP**

Marble stones at the Sakyin Village in Madaya.



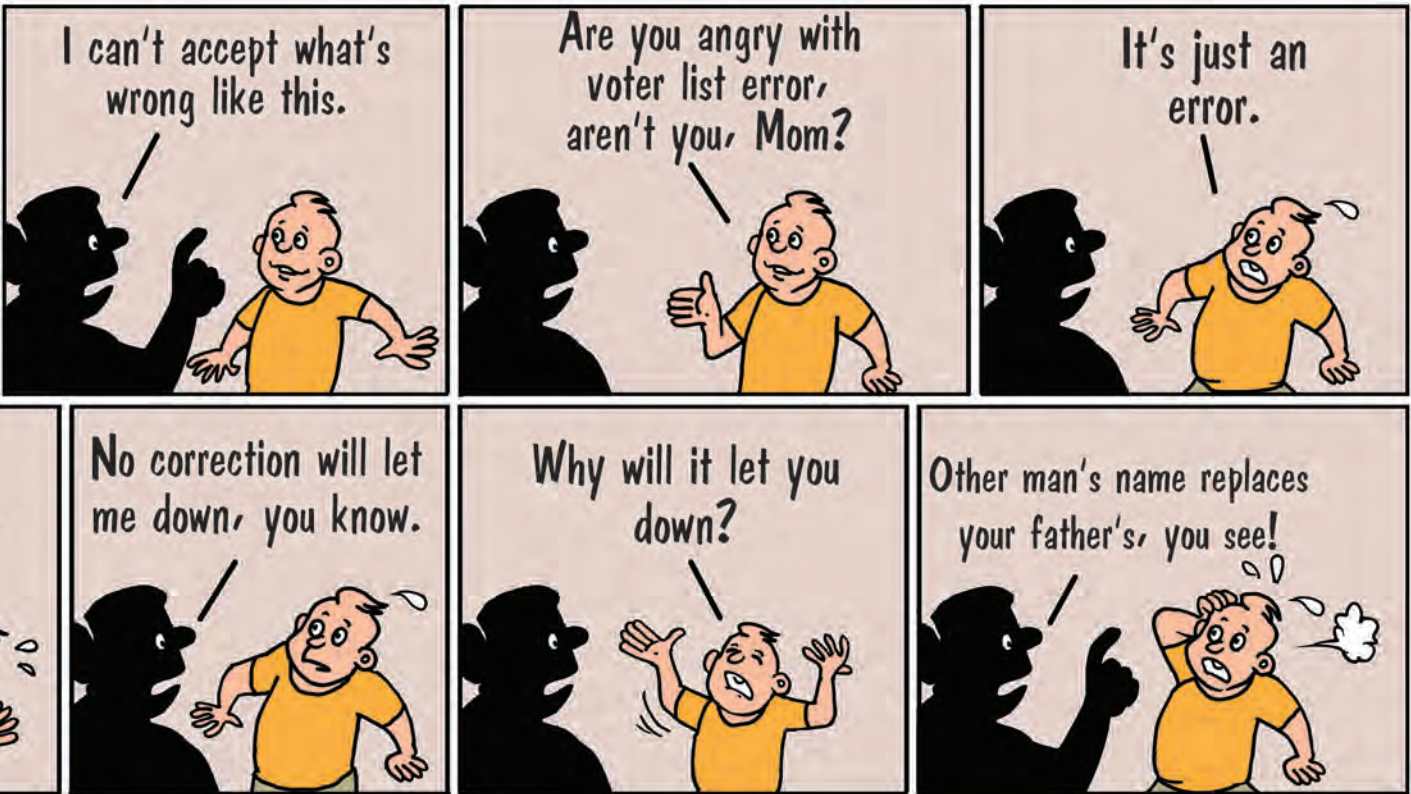
Villagers in Myanmar's Sakyin have always regarded the marble-rich slopes as their own and accuse the outsiders of plundering their resources with explosives and excavating machinery. **PHOTO: AFP**

SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020





On a long flight to a Summer Resort

By Maung Nyein Lu

THE words "A summer resort" might free your rein of imagination over whatsoever famous resorts all over the world, but what I mean by "summer resort" is not any sort of those luxury eco resorts on your mind, which are nothing to do with us. Our favourite haunts are the dense pine forests in Central Mexican Mountains the best summer resort for the Monarch Butterflies like me.

I belong to Monarch Generation 4. I am a female Monarch, with big heavy wings, displaying beautiful black and orange patches. The males, a bit smaller in size, have reddish orange-hued wings. We eat the nectar on purple coneflower and swamp milkweed. As caterpillars, we also eat poisonous milkweed plants and store poison in our bodies, so those bird predators have the death instinct that repels them to stay away from us. Thus, we have changed our metabolism as unpalatable to any kind of predators. That's how we survive.

Most of us live in Canada and the United States. But

when the cold breath of winter is in the air, here we go, filling the sky in swarms of millions. We leave Alabama. We leave Idaho, Illinois, Minnesota, Texas, and Vermont. We leave West Virginia. Some of us fly from Texas, too. This is Monarch Butterfly Generation 1.

Over a challenging distance of 2,000 km we fly, turning south! Yes, we launch such a long, long flight every year! Our long journey mostly starts in early October, and reaches our destination in mid and late November. So we fly and die. And we fly once again!

It's during this long flight of migration that we take a break. Some of us say goodbye. But before they leave the team forever, they have the duty of giving birth to Monarch Generation 2, a better, stronger generation.

On and on we flap and fly southward.

On the way we take a break. During the break, some of our female comrades, before their last breath, give birth to Monarch Generation 3, a much better generation with more resistance powers. Yes,

equipped with the iron spirit of a fighting peacock, on and on we go, flapping, flying southward! And on the last leg of our long mission, our female comrades in their last breath give birth to Monarch Generation 4, including myself, perhaps the best generation, armed to the teeth with the strongest resistance. We Monarch Generation 4 are often given credit as the Super Generation for we have a life span about 10 times longer than that of a normal Monarch! Yes, we fly and sing the Monarch Butterfly Song:

"So before it gets cold and it starts to snow,
Well, I'm gonna go
Yes, I'm gonna go down
to Mexico!"

There, on the high mountains, 300 meters high, of Mexico, we spend the whole winter together, in close clusters, transforming the whole forests of pine and oyamel fir trees into trees completely studded with butterflies, butterflies on the leaves, butterflies on the branches, boughs and stems, the Butterfly Trees everywhere!

When the rays of warm sunlight fall, we all are happy! The whole mountains are filled with a violin orchestra of unceasing hums and whirs of wings in the air! Down there also, in the downtown areas of little towns at the foot of the mountains, people enjoy the sprightly music and dance, eat delicious foods and enjoy viewing local arts and crafts on display. And the little kids also join this Monarch Butterfly Cultural Festival merrily!

I have learned that bloodsuckers like mosquitoes produce the species of the next generation with stronger resistance, in other words, better bloodsuckers. On the other hand, we Monarchs are engaged in producing better generation that would build a more and more beautiful world of ecological system. We do not merely struggle for survival, we must struggle for leaving to our posterity a better, stronger future generation. It's the inborn duty of our present generation, isn't it?

A Country with No Thieves

By Yar Zar Myint Zan
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ONCE, Guru Satya Narayan Goenka's father came to a town in Upper Myanmar for trading purposes. Before he entered the town, he took shelter at a rest-house which was situated on the outskirts of the town. He met a man who had the same destination, and they became friends. After staying for a night there, they headed to the town together. On the way, the father remembered that he had left one of his luggage on the rest-house. He told his friend he had to go back to the rest-house to bring his bag. His friend said, "Please don't worry, my dear Friend. If that bag is nothing to do in the town, just let it sleep there. Just go on your journey leisurely and get it back only when you get back here. You will surely see it intact as you've left it there."

His father went on his trip to the town, half-doubtful. The bag had not much money in it. Besides, he wanted to know whether what his new friend said was true or not. After dispatching his business, he got back to the rest-house, where he saw his bag undisturbed. Then, he arrived at his house in India and he told his family members about his wonderful experience in Myanmar.

When I came across the story above, I promptly remembered my experience which I met two years ago. It was on the way home from the Dagon-Ayeyar bus terminal to my hometown in Ayeyawady

Region. I did not have a lot of luggage but a handbag and a roll of vinyl, a 3' x 2' map of Yangon City. I have to go to Yangon very often on business and so I need a map. I saw maps and posters displayed on the pavement near the Sule Pagoda, and I bought a map. The owner of the shop rolled it and wrapped it with paper. I carried it up to the bus terminal and put the roll of vinyl on the luggage shelf above my head. When the bus got to my hometown, I slung my handbag over my shoulder, got down from the bus, and took a motorbike. After riding the bike for 15 minutes, I arrived at the gate of my compound.

Only at the moment when I was going to pay the fare to the motor-biker did I remember my roll of vinyl which I forgot on the bus. I, at once, told the motor-biker to head to the bus terminal, which was situated at the end of the route. In another 15 minutes, I again got to the bus stop. The bus was still busy unloading some luggage from Yangon. I told the driver of the bus and he let me search for my vinyl roll. However, I did not find mine where I had placed. Then I asked the driver's assistants of the bus about my vinyl but they gave me the answer 'No'. Someone must have taken it before I returned to the bus, I thought. I felt puzzled for a

while. It cost K. 4000 only. What could be the use of it for the one who has taken it away? It was not a portrait of a popular actor or actress, which might be hung on the wall of his house. Neither was it a picture of a landscape scenery. How frustrating! I could not get my thing back again even within half an hour.

In the former times, in this country, a bag left on a roadside rest-house one whole night remained untouched, but today, the roll of vinyl, which cost nothing much and was left on the bus, has gone nowhere within half an hour! Has the story of our country, a country with no theft, become a forgotten story? To which direction is our society going now? What about the good character or morality of our Myanmar people? These days we read the alarming news of a young

man who stabbed his girlfriend, domestic violence of a couple and cases of child abuse almost every day. If the people did not preserve morality and tradition but let their character degrade, the society would surely collapse soon.

Time is moving in high momentum. Materials and technologies are changing day after day. Even the pages of social media need to be updated very often. Otherwise, it will not be of no use to the users. Do we brush up our mentality new just like the updated

versions of materials? Are we aware of its importance? If we fail to change our mindset anew, those materials will be far beyond the reach of the mind. Then, the good traditions and morality will be replaced with bad ones in our society, which would then be a minus society. Therefore, it is time everyone should definitely consider which version we will have to update.



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