NATIONAL

**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives KNU/KNLA Peace Council Chair**

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**Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects regional development works in Mindat, Matupi**

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**Vice President and party inspect the construction project of Mindat college classroom building which is a 208ft length-38ft width two-storey concrete reinforced building and is under construction with a budget allocation of Ks62.32 million in the 2019-2020 financial year.**

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**82 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 September, total figure rises to 1,253**

MYANMAR’S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 1,253 after 82 new cases were reported on 5 September according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Out of the 82 new cases, 65 are from Yangon Region, 11 from Rakhine State, 1 from Bago Region, and 1 from Shan State (South), 1 from Shan State (North), 1 from Mandalay Region and 1 from Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. Among these 1,253 confirmed cases, 7 died, 371 have recovered, 366 have been discharged from hospitals and 119 were held under investigation.—MNA
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives KNU/KNLA Peace Council Chair

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received KNU/KNLA Peace Council Chair Saw Htot Lay at Bayintnaung Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 September.

Lt-Gen Aung Soe and Tatmadaw officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and KNU/KNLA Peace Council Vice Chair Saw Yin Nu and members were also present at the meeting.

During the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discussed matters relating to strictly adhering to Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) which is the framework for peace processes to end conflicts and to build eternal peace.

Tatmadaw will firmly stand on NCA, and the view on peace processes was their count, members said that standing on peace processes was their council's resolution, and they join in hands with Tatmadaw till they reached Union peace goal via NCA.

They also reported matters relating to regional development, education, health, road communication and fundamental requirements.

Upon the reports, the Senior General said there are over 130 ethnic groups in Myanmar, and no one is left behind concerning with ethnic affairs.

He also affirmed considering the conditions that can include all ethnic groups and well-beings for all, stressing the importance of encouraging education for producing scholars and experts who will bring benefits to the region.

Health sector must be promoted to encourage education as education can be obtained if healthy, he added.

He added that Tatmadaw will implement the works that they alone can, and will cooperate with relevant departments to fulfill remaining development requirements, according to the news released by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Office.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Public Support for COVID-19 prevention

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Billion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Ministry of Health and Sports</td>
<td>Purchasing the necessary medicines, medical equipment and related items for hospital upgrade and spending on building and renovation works</td>
<td>267.903 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Teashop (Loan)</td>
<td>Providing loan for teashops and street-side shops</td>
<td>100 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>MFI (Loan)</td>
<td>Micro Credit Loan to Microfinance businesses</td>
<td>100 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>MSME Fund (Loan)</td>
<td>Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee providing loans to SMEs</td>
<td>200 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>MADB (Loan)</td>
<td>Cash assistance to farmers by 50,000 kyats for one acre</td>
<td>600 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Exemption of Electricity Charges</td>
<td>April, May, June</td>
<td>107.379 billion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Electricity Charges in Taninthayi Region</td>
<td>1.518 billion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>1908.085 billion</td>
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As of 4-9-2020

82 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 5 September, total figure rises to 1,253

Updated at 8 pm, 5 September 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>New Cases</th>
<th>Total Recovered</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1,253</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>366</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recovery Update on 5 September 2020 after two consecutive tests

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Recovery</th>
<th>New Recovery</th>
<th>Unharnessed Until Hospital</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>371</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>366</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects regional development…

FROM PAGE-1
They later visited the construction site of Le L Myo bridge, which is 240ft long and 30.6 ft concrete reinforced bridge, on Mindat-Matupi road.

At the 66/11 kV, 5 MVA sub-power station in Matupi Township, the Vice President heard reports on the installation of power lines, electricity distribution and other projects before they viewed the station which started power distribution from the National Grid on 21 June 2020.

During the meeting with Matupi town elders at the Bont La town hall, the Vice President informed the town elders that this was his fourth visit to Matupi Township during the term of this administration.

He spoke about development projects and needs of the local people, improved transportation of Matupi, 75 per cent completion of Lai-lepi airfield, the supply of electric power to Matupi from the National Grid, and the need to work on supplying electric power to the remaining villages in the township.

The Vice President also advised the locals to abide by orders and rules for COVID-19 pandemic without having great worries and rules for COVID-19 pandemic which is more than the local requirement and has a possibility for export.

The Vice President also talked about agricultural loans, and development works in Matupi, and cooperation of local people for the development of the country together with the government. He added that from looking at the progress and development of Matupi township, it was possible to understand the goodwill and Metta of the government.

Town elders reported on the requirements for the establishment of technical training institute, upgrade of Matupi people’s hospital into 100-bedded hospital, and accommodation for people displaced from armed conflicts.

Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Tin Myint and Major General Soe Tin Naing, state government’s ministers U Soe Htet, U She Htee Yo, U Paung Lang Min Htan and Director-General Dr Soe Oo responded to the discussions.

Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi presented cash awards to the volunteers who participated in the fight against COVID-19 in Matupi, and Deputy Minister U Tin Myint gave cash assistance to the staff members of the General Administration Department.

The Vice President also inspected the construction work of the Matupi district General Administration Department office which was 120ft in length, 136ft in width and 40ft in height and it is a three-storey reinforced concrete building.

In the evening, the Vice President held a meeting with the local officials at the guest-house of Mindat Township’s Road Management Department.—MNA
(Translated by Aung Khin)
Union Minister U Min Thu visits GAD offices for general elections

UNION Minister for the Office of the Union Government U Min Thu inspected administrative procedures for 2020 General Election in eight townships of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 3 and 4 September.

The Union Minister, together with General Administration Department Director-General and officials, visited Pobbathiri, Dekkhinathiri, Ottarathiri, Zabuthiri, Zeyathiri, Pyinmana, Tatkon and Lewe townships.

During the meetings with relevant officials, the Union Minister said he had visited there to fulfill administrative requirements for compilation of accurate voter lists for the second time.

He expressed thanks to GAD staff for working with priority on election processes and COVID-19 prevention, control and response procedures despite their many primary duties.

The government has arranged the appointment of two desktop publishers each for one month at the election sub-commissions of 330 townships to compile voter lists in time accurately, he added.

He said that it is necessary to closely supervise the works of providing CERP cash assistance for ordinary households to avoid misuse of the offering at lower levels.

The Union Election Commission (UEC) requested the staff of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Sports, and General Administration Department to volunteer at polling stations for COVID-19 preventive works.

It is necessary to in advance manage the formation of a health aid group with other relevant departments and volunteers as GAD doesn’t have enough staff capacity, he added.

He continued that GAD staff are civil services personnel and “Civil Services personnel shall be free from party politics”, according to Section 26 (a) of the 2008 Constitution, Section 10 (g) of Civil Services Personnel Law, and Paragraph 1 (g) of Chapter 1 of Civil Service Code (2010).

Therefore, he instructed GAD staff to not participate in the activities of political parties and organizations and to strictly adhere to the existing laws, by-laws, rules and regulations, and directives.

He also coordinated current conditions and difficulties on the compilation of accurate voter list for the second time.

SWRR Union Minister discusses National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement discusses priority sectors of National Strategic Plan (2020-2024) for Youth Policy via videoconferencing on 4 September.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Chairperson of Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee, Deputy Minister, Social Affairs Ministers, in their abilities as the chairpersons of regions and states Youth Affairs Committees including Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General for the Department of Social Welfare, heads of regions and states Social Welfare and members of regions and states Youth Affairs Committees including Nay Pyi Taw Council joined the meeting.

During the meeting, the Union Minister said that the path for the rights, existence and development of youths is paved and the youths need to understand the history of the past and to manage the time effectively for the future development. Although today’s youths have freedom of speech, they can do just in the scope of existing law.

These laws will safely create a condition to enhance youth participation and equality. To achieve such a situation, the officials are striving to implement a real democratic government that can ensure the rights of individuals.

Only then, a Constitution which is suitable to build a genuine Federal Democratic Union will be in place for the country.

The ministry also makes concerted efforts for the emergence of policy, law, strategic plan and procedures which can guarantee the rights of individuals.

The current youth policy can entirely create the rights of youths, and there is a duty to implement strategic plans based on that policy. The governmental departments, social organizations and the people need to cooperate in carrying out this duty.

He also urged the youths to choose the programmes to be prioritized among the 16 sectors of the Youth Policy.

Then, the Social Affairs Ministers, in their capacities as the chairpersons of regions and states Youth Affairs Committees, including Nay Pyi Taw Council briefed their respective cooperation works with the youths.

The young members of Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee also presented the selected sectors according to the strategic plan, Costed Action Plan and challenges in their respective regions and the Director General of Social Welfare and other officials joined the discussions.

The Union Minister said the cooperation between the Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states governments and the youths become stronger during COVID-19 pandemic and the detailed facts for Costed Action Plan will be discussed again, and the ministry informs to the relevant regions and states governments to organize districts and townships level committees.

The appropriate chances are in place during COVID-19 outbreak, and there is also a close relationship between the government and the youths, said the Union Minister, adding the allocation of budgets to implement the facts in the strategic plan by negotiating with the relevant ministries, Nay Pyi Taw Council, regions and states governments. —MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)
The government is striving for lesser impacts of COVID-19 on Rakhine people; this situation is an opportunity for making ‘unity’, we all could breathe a sigh of relief when the pandemic becomes under control in next 3 or 4 weeks; it is required to strictly follow the rules during this period, and it is expected for public cooperation; this success would be a good step for all in the long term as empathy, loving-kindness and trust could be built from cooperation; in this situation, it will become a potential strength to overcome common challenges and difficulties of the Union.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s discussions with stakeholders for prevention, control and treatment of COVID-19 in Rakhine State on 28 August 2020)

**Union Construction Minister attends CHID Bank meetings via videoconference**

Union Minister U Han Zaw participates in CHID Bank meetings via videoconference on 5 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

THE Construction, Housing and Infrastructure Development Bank (CHID Bank) held its special general meeting and its 7th annual meeting yesterday morning in Yangon.

Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Permanent Secretary U Shwe Lay, Chairman of CHID Bank U Min Hein, the Directors-General and the Deputy Directors-General attended the meeting from Nay Pyi Taw and the Vice-Chair of the Bank, the audit team, board of directors, shareholders and officials participated in the meeting via Zoom Application.

Union Minister for Construction, in his capacity as the president of the bank, said that the CHID Bank was established in 2013 as the cooperative bank of the government and public with the supervision of the Ministry of Construction to take responsibility for a housing finance system necessary for the development of the housing sector to provide affordable and low-cost housings to the public.

The bank has now 17 branches in states and regions providing financial services to the people so that every citizen can have safe and secure housing, and also to the private construction entrepreneurs to build private housings. The bank has been providing long-term loans to the people with low income to buy a home since 2016 and there are 5,941 people including 1,888 people in July provided the home loans with the help of JICA’s long-term interest rate “ODA Two Step Loan”, the long-term loan to Myanmar’s Housing Sector Development from Japan.

The Union Minister said that the bank aimed to make money accessible in the construction of infrastructure for orderly urban development and to strengthen the housing finance system that included in the Economic policy of the government during the COVID-19 crisis, as per the instruction of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the CHID Bank reduced the interest rate from 13% to 10% to the bank capital borrowers and from 8% to 5.3% to the JICA Two Step loan takers.

The CHID Bank has delayed loan repayment for April, May, June, July, August and September in 2020 and the loan takers needs to pay only the interest in those months. The bank accepted the postponement of the last payment date of the monthly payment from 5 to 15 days without charge.

The bank increased the loan amount of Commercial Loan and Construction Loan to support the construction entrepreneurs and business people and approved the new loan.

The Union Minister urged to try to stand as a leading bank which fulfills the needs of the public and to develop innovative financial services in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standard (IFRS).

The chairman and the deputy chairman of the CHID Bank explained the vision and the development of the bank and the development plans for the future housing sector and the future plans of the bank.

Chief Policy Officer U Win Zaw presented and took approval of the constitution of the bank.

The 7th meeting discussed the board of directors’ 2018-2019 financial year report, annual statements and profit sharing, audit report, selling and buying of the shareholders’ shares, resignation of one third of the board of directors, selecting directors for the vacant positions for 2019-2020 financial year, recruiting external auditors and setting the fee and the Chief Policy Officers answered the shareholders’ questions sent in advance.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

**Six passenger coaches from Japan arrive in Thilawa Port**

MYANMA Railways of Ministry of Transport and Communications brought Diesel Electric Multiple Unit (DEMU) passenger wagons from Niigata Port, Japan on 21 August 2020 and the ship carrying the wagons arrived at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa Port on 4 September, according to the Ministry.

The new arrivals are air-conditioners equipped 86 passengers seated two upper class wagons, and 69 passengers seated four ordinary class wagons, said authorities.

“The passenger wagons are the very first of its kind to be used in Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project. The arrival of these passenger coaches could change new and upgraded railway systems and better social-economic development,” said General Manager U Aung Thu Latt of Myanmar Railways (Upper Myanmar).

After completion of the Yangon-Mandalay Railway Improvement Project, the new trains with Diesel Electric Multiple Unit passenger wagons could run for 100 km per hour, which is double of current speed and it would last only eight hours of running time from Yangon to Mandalay and vice versa.

The new DEMU train will support passengers to reach their destination on time, to give passengers more comfortable and to transport goods and personal products in time.—GNLM

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar Railways authorities checking the Diesel Electric Multiple Unit passenger wagons in Thilawa Port on 4 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA
Onion export volume records highest in ten years

MYANMAR exported the highest volume of onion in 2019-2020 financial year over the past ten years, according to a news release by the Ministry of Commerce.


Myanmar exports onion to China via Muse border annually. Starting from September 2019, the country has also exported onion to Bangladesh. Myanmar’s onions are primarily shipped to markets in China and Bangladesh. With a high volume of onion export, the summer onion price increased to K5,000 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg) in the first week of December 2019 from K600 per viss in April 2019. With the rising prices of onion, the local growers are growing more winter onion. Although the winter onion yields highly, the demand for onion from Bangladesh has dropped. So, there is a surplus of onion in the local market. Therefore, the price of onion on 1 September 2020 was only about half price compared to that of 4 September 2019, said Ko Tun, a Yangon onion purchaser. On 4 September, the Screwpine onion price ranged between K400-450 per viss while the Yangon onion between K340-380 per viss depending upon the size of the onion in Yangon market, according to Bayintnaung Onion Depot. —Maung Sae Aung (Translated by Hay Mar)

Passenger volume drops by 80pc on Myeik-Yangon route

The number of passengers on board the Myeik-Yangon Express buses dropped over 80 per cent starting from the first week of September, according to Myeik Private Transport Supervision Committee.

“Our bus lines are operating depending upon the number of passengers to be in line with the instructions of the regional government and the Ministry of Health and Sports. Now we haven’t got any instruction yet to suspend the bus lines. The number of passengers has declined this month compared to last month. Now, we got the information that some COVID-19 positive patients were found in Rakhine and Yangon, and this is the reason why there are some restrictions which caused the number of passengers to drop. There are a few passengers on board the buses, said a person in charge of Myeik bus line.

“Previously, about 400-500 passengers reached the highway terminal for travel. Now, people are staying at home to be safe against the pandemic. There were only 15 or 20 passengers on board Myeik-Yangon Express in July and August 2020. In September, there were only ten passengers on the buses,” said an official from Myeik Private Transport Supervision Committee.

Those who will come from the stay-at-home townships from Rakhine and Yangon need to bring the ward administrator’s recommendation and the health department’s recommendation. They also need to be quarantined for 14 days and also to undergo a medical checkup in Myeik at their own expense of K3,400 per day. Then, they have to be one week quarantined at home. After that, they are free to go. Our Express lines haven’t stopped the operation yet,” he added. —Myint Oo (Myeik) (Translated by Hay Mar)
Government providing assistance for grassroots as stay home programme may cause hardships for them: DG U Zaw Htay

DIRECTOR-GENERAL U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of Office of State Counsellor met local and foreign media persons at the Press Room of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw at 4:30 pm on 4 September in accord with the social distancing arrangement, and explained the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) prevention, control and treatment activities and the current situation.

At the press meet, Director-General U Zaw Htay first presented the provisions made by the Union Government for the people during the COVID-19 containment period. During the long Thingyan holidays, the government provided five kinds of food provisions for 5.3 million households, worth K267.903 billion. Instead of distributing five kinds of food items, it later provided K20,000 each for grassroots households with no regular income for two times. During the two times, K211.12 billion in presenting K20,000 per household for a total of 5.4 million households. It will spend K113.535 billion from its coffers for presenting K20,000 each to 5.6 million households, he added.

The government has set up a paddy seed production business, implemented a village trust fund project, distributed fingerlings, set up agro-services, and built production roads and rural infrastructures during the COVID-19 containment period with the involvement of locals under the Cash-for-Work system as a means for generating income for farmers. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has spent K92.612 billion for all irrigation activities, the DG said.

Moreover, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is providing cash assistance for senior citizens between 80 and 84 years, expectant mothers, welfare centres, homes for the aged and volunteers. Five kinds of basic food items have been presented household wise at the IDP camps in the whole country, including those in Rakhine State. The ministry has provided school uniforms for primary students of the families of IDP camps. It has also assisted the people with disabilities, leprosy patients and victims of internal and external human trafficking. A total of K15.923 billion was spent for the purpose, he explained.

The Ministry of Health and Sports spent K279.923 billion in upgrading hospitals and related materials including medical equipment, protective gear and PPEs. A total of K100 billion was disbursed as soft loans for the roadside vendors, and another K100 billion was spent in distributing loans through microfinance businesses. The microfinance task force disbursed a loan of K20 billion for SMES. Recently, a total of K600 billion was distributed to farmers at a rate of K10,000 per acre, the DG explained before the cost K107.379 billion in exempting the public from paying for the first 150 units of electricity consumed for the months, April, May and June, the DG explained.

In Taninthayi Region, tenders were invited to the private sector under the programme of the local government for running the businesses such as the production of power through generators and operating the turbines with the gas bought from the government. As certain areas in the region are not inclusive in the power project, the government has provided assistance worth K1,518 billion for the businesses at the request of the region government. It has provided assistance worth K1,908.085 billion for issues that are directly related to the economy including those in Rakhine State. U Zaw Htay said.

As regards the COVID-19 prevention, containment and treatment, three types of legal actions are being taken against the offenders. The first is the Communicable Diseases Control Law, and the absconders from quarantine, failure to report their arrival from abroad, visiting other places without permission, gathering crowds against the local orders and directives, absconding from medical checkup after denying it, going outdoors without wearing mask, and absconding from quarantine will meet with legal action under Communicable Diseases Control Law. There are 9,148 such cases during the period from 26 March to 3 September 2020, and action has been taken against 11,271 males and 2,637 females, totalling 13,908, the DG elaborated.

The acts of consuming alcohol while running away from hospital while against the rules, holding crowded weddings, running away from home while staying there as a suspected case, breaking the rules at the quarantine center by entering and causing disturbance at quarantine centres, spreading false news on COVID-19, disturbing the COVID-19 awareness campaigns, staging strikes or holding religious ceremony are being dealt withNatural Disaster Management Law. In the whole country there are 118 cases under the law, and action has been taken against 219 males and 63 females, totalling 282. A total of 5,579 persons – 5,279 males and 291 females – have been taken action in 2,117 cases under the article 188 of the criminal law for violating the night-time curfew, he said.

Action has been taken against 42 males and 50 females, totalling 92 in 14 cases under Communicable Diseases Control Law for opening KTVs, clubs and bars during the COVID-19 prevention, containment and treatment period in regions and states during the period from 20 April to 31 August this year. Action has been taken against 25 males and 20 females, totalling 45 in eight cases under the Natural Disaster Management Law during the period from 1 to 4 September 2020. Legal actions were taken against the opening of KTVs, clubs and bars in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Sagaing Region, Bago Region, Magway Region, Mandalay Region, Yangon Region, Shan State and Ayeyawady Region, the DG clarified.

Afterwards, local and foreign media asked questions about the impeachment of the Chief Minister of Kayah State, the Home Affairs Ministry’s technical monitoring process on the social media, actions of the recently formed social media watchdog, the Union’s assistance for the people during the COVID-19 period and further programmes, COVID-19 checks conducted at the arrival and departure gates of Nay Pyi Taw, the possible relaxation, the coming provisions will be made based on the degree of infection. Stay home programme causes hardships for the grassroots who prioritize basic needs over rules. So they leave their homes for work as they cannot keep the virus in mind always. So, we are providing assistance to reduce such activities.

So, more aids will come depending on the requirement. The third programme to provide K20,000 each is underway. The government leaders will make decisions based on the coming third provision. A total of 5.6 million households will get K20,000 each. Based on the previous dona- tions, the coming provisions will be made through the coordination with General Ad- ministration Department, he explained.

As regards the Tatmadaw’s advice on the cancel of elections in Wa special re- gion and Rakhine State, he said Rakhine State has 17 townships, and the elections could be held fully in only five townships. In some the elections could be held in the town, but not in the villages. The advice is for security purpose. Regular suggestion was been given in holding the election in Panghsan area. According to the procedures of the Union Election Commission, first the holding of the elec- tion must be announced nation-wide, and afterwards, an opinion for the elections is sought. In 2015, an announcement was made in October that election could not be held in Wa special region 2. Election could not be held in five townships – Panghsan, Mannaw, Mongmaw, Narparhn and Mongla.

Suggestion for northern Rakhine State and special region 2 has been sought, and there may be some other places.

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Limit household expenses to prepare for post-COVID-19 living

By FAO

The Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fish- ers is participating in the 33rd Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. Like most of the region’s countries, Myanmar is experiencing disruptions to its food systems and agriculture sector.

“We actively engaged with partners in Myanmar as well as with stakeholders to find solutions to mitigate the economic and social impacts of COVID-19,” said U Kyaw Swe Lin, Director-General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

More than 400 delegates participated in the virtual meeting of the 33rd Session of the FAO Asia and Pacific Regional Conference, hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan. Their discussions include Government, FAO, Ministers, private sector, civil society, academia and technical experts to discuss food and agriculture sectors.

Impacts of the COVID-19

As the virus continues to linger in communities, a comprehensive approach is required to address the multifaceted and wide-ranging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Myanmar’s food security and nutrition.

The government has set up the 35th Session of the FAO’s Comprehensive and Holistic COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme for COVID-19 free of charge and are provided with required tests from the doctors at station hospitals are allowed to enter Nay Pyi Taw with two to three patient companions, the patients, who come to the hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw for COVID-19 at its laboratories in Nay Pyi Taw.

COVID-19 Test Fees at MoHS Laboratories in Nay Pyi Taw

The Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) has been testing people who come to Nay Pyi Taw for COVID-19. It has been collecting test fee of K38,000 per person, but as aline to Myanmar citizens, the employers who are still abroad with relief flights and foreigners come to Myanmar who will undergo home quarantine, and K10,000, for the season who will go abroad (vouchers for them were purchased by ship companies).

The laboratory is collecting testing fees of K20,000 per person, and as an attempt to test to Myanmar citizens, the employers who are still abroad with relief flights and foreigners come to Myanmar who will undergo home quarantine, and K10,000, for the season who will go abroad (vouchers for them were purchased by ship companies).

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Government providing assistance for grassroots as stay home programme may cause hardships for them: DG U Zaw Htay

FROM PAGE-7

We are seeking the Tatmadaw’s view of the issue. Moreover, the view of the Ministry of Home Affairs and the General Administration Department, and commissions at the lower levels was also sought. The response of the MoHS is also required, and the MoHS’s attitude will be announced in the coming October. Some misunderstood the situation and thought that there was the act of negligence. In fact, they have no knowledge of the procedures. Work is proceeding in accord with the procedures of the commission. If any, places where election cannot be held will be announced in the coming October. The elections in 2010 and 2015 also underwent according to the procedure, he clarified. The policy of the President is clear: the election must be free and fair. A free and fair election cannot be held in a place under the rule of the armed organizations and where armed clashes continue. So, the view is the same as that of the Tatmadaw. The situation of the General Administration Department is also a factor to be considered. The commission has to make a decision after pondering the matter from various angles. The government will not make the decision, as only the commission has the power to do so, he said. As regards the issue of the conflict included in the Myanmar-China bilateral accords reached during the visit of the President of China, he said Chinese President Xi Jinping visited Myanmar on 17 and 18 January this year. During the visit, six agreements, three accords, 14 MoUs, and 10 exchange letters were signed. The agreements included Kyaikpyu deep-sea port special economic zone, stock and shares, inspection of rice exported from Myanmar and pest-free agreement, export of processed food from Myanmar; care and health requirements for Myanmar cow and buffalo exports, cooperation between Chinese National TV and Radio Administration of China and Ministry of Information of Myanmar, mutual provision of embassy lands and buildings, and all the six agreements are now under implementation. But the cooperation with MOI has been temporarily postponed because of COVID-19, and the implementation is in progress for other projects.—Myo Kyaw Naing

(Translated by TMT)
**WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION**

**Pandemic could be ‘kiss of death’ for managed trade: WTO candidate**

The coronavirus pandemic has heaped pressure on the troubled World Trade Organization, a WTO leadership candidate said, warning that the crisis could spell the end of rules-based international trade altogether. Liam Fox, Britain’s first post-Brexit international trade secretary and one of eight candidates vying to become the WTO’s next director-general, voiced concern that countries might turn their backs on its multilateral trading model.

“The reaction of some countries to the Covid emergency will be to seek solace in protectionism and to believe that they will get more resilience by … closing themselves off, if you like, from the global economy,” he told AFP Thursday in an interview.

“Exactly the opposite I believe is true,” he said during a conversation using the video link Zoom, insisting that countries will find more security by opening up and ensuring diversity of supply.

“For the rules-based trading system, Covid could be the kiss of life if we embrace the right policies — or the kiss of death if we don’t.”

SOURCE: AFP

**TOKYO 2020**

**Pandemic Olympics: Japan starts virus countermeasure talks**

Japanese officials and Tokyo 2020 organizers began talks Friday on the mammoth task of how to hold the postponed Olympics safely while the coronavirus pandemic continues to rage.

The Games were postponed earlier this year in a historic decision as the scale of the coronavirus crisis became clear. But with less than a year until the new opening date on July 23, 2021, many questions remain — from how border controls will affect the movement of athletes and officials, to whether audiences will be able to pack into venues to watch events.

Tokyo 2020 CEO Toshiro Muto said the committee “hopes to show results this year… and we will make efforts so that athletes in Japan and overseas will feel that next year’s Olympics is safe and secure because of our coronavirus measures.”

Muto said Friday’s discussions focused on “what kind of measures will be needed when athletes enter Japan from overseas,” but gave no further detail and declined to confirm reports the government may waive quarantine requirements for athletes if they agree to limit their movements inside Japan.

From October, virus measures at venues and the athletes’ village will be discussed, he said, with virus measures for stakeholders and spectators on the agenda from late October and into November.

SOURCE: AFP

**VACCINE RACE**

**Pharma chiefs vow no ‘cut corners’ in vaccine race**

Pharmaceutical company executives have insisted they will not try to bring Covid-19 vaccines or treatments to market that did not meet rigorous safety and efficiency standards.

Across the world, governments are hoping to announce a vaccine as soon as possible and roll out treatments for the novel coronavirus, which has killed more than 860,000 people and infected over 26 million.

But the sense of urgency has raised fears that companies and regulators might rush though testing meant to ensure that vaccines or treatments can be used safely and will actually be effective against the disease.

“We will not cut corners,” Pfizer chief Albert Bourla told reporters in a virtual briefing.

Pfizer and its partner BioNTech hope to wrap up final-stage Phase III trials of their Covid-19 vaccine candidate as early as next month.

SOURCE: AFP
US vote-by-mail begins as White House campaign gets ugly

WASHINGTON — The US election is officially open: North Carolina on September 4, 2020 launched vote-by-mail operations for the November 3 contest between President Donald Trump and Joe Biden. The election is officially open: North Carolina on September 4, 2020 launched vote-by-mail operations for the November 3 contest between President Donald Trump and Joe Biden.

Climate activists disrupt UK newspaper deliveries

LONDON — Climate change protesters in Britain blocked two printing presses Saturday, disrupting the distribution of numerous national newspapers as they step up 10 days of protests demanding action on climate change and other environmental issues. Activist group Extinction Rebellion XR targeted both the plants, just north of London and near Liverpool in northwest England, causing delays to deliveries of papers including The Times, The Daily Telegraph and The Sun. Dozens of activists blocked roads outside the sites using vehicles and by attaching themselves to other obstacles, “to expose the failure of these corporations to accurately report on the climate and ecological emergency”. XR said it was aiming to disrupt newspapers that are part of News Corp., controlled by Rupert Murdoch’s family, as well as right-wing titles The Daily Mail and The London Evening Standard. “The groups are using disruption and their consistent manipulation of the truth to suit their own personal and political agendas,” it added in a statement. Police said they had so far made 63 arrests at the two locations.

Mali junta opens talks on civilian transition

BAMAKO — Mali’s military junta began talks with opposition groups Saturday on its promised transition to civilian rule after mounting pressure from neighbours to yield power in the weeks since it overthrew the nation’s leader. The West African country has long been plagued by chronic instability, a simmering jihadist revolt, ethnic violence and endemic corruption, prompting a clique of rebel colonels to detain president Ibrahim Boubacar Keita last month. They pledged to step down after an undefined transition period, but the putch had prompted Mali’s neighbours and former colonial ruler France to demand a swift transfer of power to civilian rule, with fears the crisis could impact neighbouring states.

The talks in Bamako are being held under junta chief Assimi Goita but he was not present Saturday, a military source said. “Since August 18, we are chasing a new history for our country,” junta number two Malick Diaw told the opening session.

The 15-nation Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional bloc has imposed sanctions and closed borders to Mali as part of efforts to press the junta into handing over power quickly. Saturday’s summit was originally planned for last weekend but was called off at the last minute after a quarrel between the military and the June 5 Movement, which spearheaded the protests that led to the toppling of president Keita.

The opposition coalition of civil and religious leaders has demanded that the military rulers give it a role in the transition to civilian rule, but was not invited for the transition talks last Saturday. —AFP

Convicted Mexican drug lord ‘El Chapo’ Guzman appeals life sentence

NEW YORK — Convicted Mexican drug lord Joaquin “Chapo” Guzman has appealed against his life sentence handed down a year ago by a US court for trafficking hundreds of tonnes of narcotics into the country. “El Chapo,” as he is commonly known, is kept in isolation, incarcerated one of the United States’ highest security prisons, located in Colorado’s mountainous desert.

“Chapo Guzman’s prosecution was marred by rampant excess and overreach, both governmental and judicial,” his lawyer Marc Fernich wrote in the appeal, presented late Friday to the Second Circuit Court of Appeals in New York.

The 62-year-old former leader of Mexico’s powerful Sinaloa drug cartel, was convicted last year of crimes spanning a quarter of a century, including trafficking hundreds of tonnes of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana.

A lawyer for Guzman, Manuel Colon Miron, told AFP the initial ruling should be annulled because one of the jurors told Vice News he and others found information about the case via the media and social networks during the trial, which is prohibited. —AFP

The US election is officially open: North Carolina on September 4, 2020 launched vote-by-mail operations for the November 3 contest between President Donald Trump and Joe Biden. PHOTO: LOGAN CYRUS / AFP

PHOTO:  TOM OLDHAM EXTINCTION REBELLION / AFP

PHOTO:  TOM OLDHAM EXTINCTION REBELLION / AFP
US military sticks with Microsoft for $10 bn cloud contract

WASHINGTON — The US Department of Defence said Friday it is sticking with its decision to award a $10 billion cloud computing contract to Microsoft, despite Amazon’s claims that President Donald Trump improperly influenced the process.

After a second look at proposals for the “JEDI” cloud computing contract, the Pentagon concluded anew that Microsoft is the preferred choice.

“Microsoft’s proposal continues to represent the best value to the Government,” the department said in a statement, adding it is “eager to begin delivering this capability to our men and women in uniform.”

However, the contract can’t move forward yet due to a federal court’s order putting it on hold while Amazon pursues a lawsuit over how the bidding was handled, the Pentagon noted.

“We appreciate that after careful review, the DoD confirmed that we offered the right technology and the best value,” Microsoft said.

“We’re ready to get to work and make sure that those who serve our country have access to this much needed technology.”

The 10-year Joint Enterprise Defence Infrastructure (JEDI) programme will ultimately see all military branches sharing information in a cloud-based system boosted by artificial intelligence.

Amazon has alleged it was shut out of the deal because of Trump’s vendetta against the company and its chief executive Jeff Bezos.

The entrepreneur, who also owns The Washington Post, is a frequent target of the US president, who claims the newspaper is biased against him.

—AFP

US says US$1.8 bln needed to replace Huawei, ZTE parts

WASHINGTON — US regulators estimated Friday that it could cost small telecoms firms more than US$1 billion to remove Huawei and ZTE gear flagged over national security concerns.

The Federal Communications Commission has classified the Chinese tech giants as national security threats and carriers are barred from using the Universal Service Fund to buy their equipment.

An FCC assessment of how much networks supported by the federal fund rely on hardware and services from Huawei and ZTE estimated that a purge could cost $1.84 billion in total. “I once again strongly urge Congress to appropriate funding to reimburse carriers for replacing any equipment or services determined to be a national security threat so that we can protect our networks and the myriad parts of our economy and society that rely upon them,” FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said in a statement. —AFP

Vehicle production in Brazil performs best in August since pandemic

SAO PAULO — Vehicle production in Brazil grew 23.6 per cent in August compared to July, but plummeted by 21.8 per cent year-on-year, the National Association of Vehicle Manufacturers (Anfavea) reported on Friday.

Anfavea President Luiz Carlos Moraes said at a video conference that 210,860 cars, light commercial vehicles, trucks, and buses were produced in August, which marks the highest volume since the start of the pandemic.

“We began to resume production in August with all health precautions for staff working in factories and in the production chain,” Moraes said. In the first eight months of the year, automakers manufactured 1,110,777 units compared to 2,011,055 units in the same period of 2019, decreasing by 44.8 per cent, according to local authorities. “The global vehicle market will be reduced from 91 million units produced in 2019 to 52 million in 2020, generating unprecedented idleness in the industry worldwide,” Moraes added. —Xinhua

Obituary

Nanda Phyo Win @ Lawrence Phyo Win
April 21, 2001 — September 1, 2020

Nanda Phyo Win @ Lawrence Phyo Win passed away peacefully on September 1, 2020 at the age of 19 at his home in Waizantar Garden, Thingangyun Township after a courageous battle with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and its complications.

He is the dearest son of Dr Wai Phyo Win (Director, Nouveau Lifestyle Co. Ltd., Senior Administrative Executive, Samitivej International Co. Ltd., Director, Balance Co. Ltd.) – Dr Mya Thuzar (Senior Consultant, Samitivej International Clinic). Grandson of Professor Dr Mya Oo (Retired Deputy Minister, Ministry of Health) – Daw Tin Tin Mya and only grandson of (U Kyi Win) – Daw Khin Thu Thu Win. Dearest grandson of Daw Mya Thidar and grandson of U Phone Maw – Daw Aye Myint. He is also a loving nephew of Professor Tun Tun Oo – Professor Khin Lay Su, Dr Myo Myint Oo – Dr Mya Thidar, Dr Kyaw Myint Lay – Daw Mya Nandar, Nay Myo Say – Dr Thandar Khan. He is also the beloved nephew of Daw Kay Thi, Ma Lin Lin Win and Ma Zin Wai Mar.

We are saddened to inform you that Funeral service was held at Yay Way Crematorium on September 2, 2020, (Tuesday).

With the deepest grief
Upgrade to Yangon circular stations nearing completion

By Swe Oo Wai

The neat and tidy circular railway station can be spotted when turning to the railway station crossing the motor road. Newly-upgraded circular railway station seems to attract the attention of Ko Lu Maung. He has taken neither YBS buses nor trains lately because of the outbreak of COVID-19 and the office car has picked him up when going to office. He failed to notice some upgrades to the circular railway station where he frequently arrived. He has already known that upgrades to Yangon circular railway stations will be completed during upcoming December of this year.

The Yangonites rely mainly on YBS buses and circular trains when they travel every day for the purpose of employment or business. The government is striving for better public transport by providing better YBS and circular train service despite having bottlenecks in its transport sector.

Now the MR in cooperation with the JICA is upgrading Yangon circular railway stations, hoping that it will be completed during coming December. Until June in 2020, a total of 25 circular railway stations have been upgraded. There is a plan to upgrade 37 stations in Yangon except Yangon Railway Station. A total of 25 circular railway stations have been upgraded so far. If Yangon Railway Station is included in the list of circular railway station, it will be 38.

“Now 12 circular railway stations have been still left for upgrading in Yangon. The upgrade to the circular railway stations is hoped to be completed in December,” said Kyaw Myo Lwin, assistant manager of Traffic of No 7 Division.

Not only the circular railway stations but also the station platforms and pavements should be upgraded so that the passengers will safely get on the circular trains. Ko Lu Maung has seen the upgraded platforms when he arrives at the circular railway stations. The platforms look neat and tidy and they are also raised higher than the previous level.

A total of 37 circular railway stations

Stations, platforms, circular railway lines, over-bridge, level crossing, and signals are all being upgraded at the same time. Only if success efforts are made, will work procedures be successful. 17 out of the 37 circular railway stations are located in the outskirts. It is important that get-on and get-off from the trains at the stations should be safe enough for the passengers.

Yangon circular railway trip is 29.5 miles long, but the railroad is 59 miles in length. There are 38 circular railway stations including Yangon Railway Station along Yangon circular railway journey. Before COVID-19 outbreak, there were 15 coaches and 10 RBE ones totaling 25 ones and 221 runs. The circular runs started from 5 am to 11 pm. During COVID-19 crisis, there were only 12 schedules in April and 52 in June. There are about 73,000 circular train passengers but now the number is in decline. The number of passengers is gradually increasing day by day.

The government employees like Ko Lu Maung and the grassroots have to rely mainly on YBS buses and Yangon circular trains in Yangon. It is happy to see the upgrade to the circular railway stations.

Automatic signal system

Apart from the upgrade to the circular railway stations, 25 level crossings are under renovation and now only five have been left for repair till June in 2020. At the level crossing places, there are changes in booms and automatic signals.
Moreover, there is also a plan to build 35 over-bridges along Yangon circular railway line in Yangon, 10 of which have been finished. The remaining over-bridges are under construction. In doing so, the people crossing the railway lines will be in safety.

In addition to new over-bridges, there is also a plan to build barriers on both sides of the 59-mile-long Yangon circular railway line. Once circular railway facility has been already upgraded, the speed of the circular train will on the increase. Barriers should be built to prevent the people from crossing the railway lines from different places and from running across the untoward incidents.

While Ko Lu Maung was thinking about the idea mentioned above, he was seeing the railway passengers getting on and off the trains safely when a circular train arrived at the station. Once all circular railway stations have been upgraded, the railway passengers are going to enjoy a better circular service.

(Translated by Htut Htut (Tweantay))
David Htan wins best player award for March & August

SHAN United defender David Htan won the best Myanmar National League player award for March and August, according to the statement with the MNL.

David Htan received a trophy for the best player award plus K200,000 as the prize on 4 September at Yangon United Sports Complex before Shan United vs Rakhine United match.

The 30-year-old defender also played as the team captain and assisted in defence and centre field best from Week-9 to Week-12 matches and has scored one goal for his team, said the MNL source.

"Firstly, I would like to thank God for bringing this award to me. This prize represents to my team. I could not do all alone. It was because of my teammates’ support," said right defender David Htan.

Currently, Hantharwady United is running for the championship position as they are getting the highest score of the standing table. But our Shan United is approaching our best to fight against the teams which are standing above of us," the defender added. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Recovery with resentful Messi brings new complications for Barca

MADRID — Lionel Messi is staying at Barcelona but for how long? Messi can negotiate with other teams from Jan 1 and leave next summer, when his contract expires and this time he really will be able to go for free.

Until then, Barca have to find a way to re-integrate the club’s greatest ever player, who no longer wants to play for them.

His announcement laced with bitterness on Friday (Sep 4) was not greeted with celebration, even among his fans, many of whom had supported his decision to go, finding some relief in the idea of him rediscovering success elsewhere.

There was silence too from the players, none of whom gave the kind of public show of support that Luis Suarez and Carlos Pay-ol offered when Messi told Barca he was leaving.

Even the club seemed unsure how to react. It took almost three hours before a picture of Messi dropped on their social media accounts, featuring the only positive words he had spoken during his earlier interview, not through the club’s official channels, but with Goal.

“I’m going to give my best. My love for Barca will never change”, it read.

But even if Messi’s intentions are honest, how can he not be changed by this? His bitterness was obvious and his feelings clear.

If Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu had not stood in his way, Messi would be gone, perhaps now holding up a Manchester City shirt and doing kick-ups on the Etihad turf.—AFP

Lethwei Showcase scheduled for 25 September: WLC

World Lethwei Championship (WLC), has recently announced one of its main spectacle-free event named “Lethwei Show- case” which is scheduled to hold on 25 September, according to the Myanmar Lethwei organizers.

The event will be broadcast live on 25 September at 6:30 pm Myanmar Standard Time (5 am Pacific Time, 8 am Eastern Time, 1 pm London Time) and is available on UFC Fight Pass, Canal+ and other broadcast partners across 100 countries.

In the main event of “Lethwei Showcase”, Portuguese kickboxing fighter has well experience in 60 official fights across all disciplines and now aiming to become a new champion in Lethwei world.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Havertz leaves Germany camp to finalize Chelsea deal

BERLIN — Kai Havertz left the Germany camp on Friday to travel to London to finalize his transfer from Bayer Leverkusen to Premier League side Chelsea, reportedly costing around 100 million euros ($120 million).

Ahead of Sunday’s away Nations League match with Switzerland, Germany head coach Joachim Loew allowed the attacking midfielder. Leverkusen sports director Rudi Voeller said they are “grateful” to Loew that “Kai can now clarify things, with our support, on site in London”.

After scoring 46 goals in 150 competitive games for Leverkusen, Havertz is set to join his Germany team-mate Timo Werner, who signed for Chelsea in June from Bundesliga side RB Leipzig for 53 million euros.—AFP

Kai Havertz is on the cusp of sealing a move to Chelsea. PHOTO: HASAN BRATIC/AFP

Shan United’s defender David Htan receiving his best player award at Yangon United Sports Complex on 4 September, 2020. PHOTO:WLC

PHOTO:WLC

PHOTO:WLC

PHOTO:WLC
Have you ever wished to discover new talents and passions?
Have you ever thought of reaching your next level of growth?
Have you ever dreamt of becoming a better version of yourself?
If your answer is "YES" to all the questions above, what you need to do, first and foremost, is just to push yourself out of your comfort zone. As said by Maya Angelou, an acclaimed American author and a poet - "If you are always trying to be normal, you will never know how amazing you can be" - you can hardly ever realize our hidden talents and capabilities until you step out of your comfort zones, and try new things. However, it is, of course, easier said than done, to leave your comfort zone: it can be more or less challenging, intimidating, stressful, and uncomfortable when you attempt to take up new things for the first time. You should, nevertheless, try to get comfortable with being uncomfortable if you aspire to thrive and level up to your premium versions - since new challenges, along with new learning points and opportunities, can shape you into a stronger person in such ways as follows.

First of all, you can discover new talents and passions that you have not noticed you had. When you venture outside familiarity and try something new, you are normally required to utilize your untapped knowledge and skill-set in order to address challenges and obstacles encountered along the way. Thus, you can find out a new area of work that you are passionate about, and have a knack for.

Secondly, once you are familiar with being unfamiliar, you can become adaptable to change, and would be willing to learn new skills and acquire new knowledge. Having a drive to learn and improve could help you develop fresh perspectives, and discover new ways of doing things - which are pivotal to optimize efficiency and productivity. Furthermore, being able to conquer your fears and overcome challenges, you are more likely to see new challenges as new opportunities to demonstrate your capabilities.

Thirdly, you can expand your social and professional network through creating meaningful and long-lasting relationships outside your sphere of comfort. Once you start doing something unfamiliar or different, you are more likely to meet and communicate with new people with diverse backgrounds and personality traits. Since new connections can open new doors, those different individuals you are connected with could possibly bring new opportunities - that you might otherwise not have access to - for your personal development and career growth.

Fourth, pushing your boundaries can boost your self-confidence and self-esteem as you become more assertive, knowledgeable, and skilled - after you have accomplished things you didn’t assume you were capable of until you leave your comfort zone. As it is said "Success breeds more success", each milestone you have achieved could instill confidence in you to make another breakthrough happen. At the end of the day, you would possibly be cognizant of the fact that there is more in you than you think.

All in all, it is true that it may seem overwhelming to step into the unknown. It is, nonetheless, worthwhile to embark on a journey of change and growth since you can gain a rewarding experience, which can, in turn, mold you into a better and stronger version of yourself.
I am one of the net-users. I sometimes surf the internet with my smartphone but most of my net-using time, I do it with my computer. I have got many problems with surfing the internet as well as in using a computer. It is not a strange thing for those who are associated with ICT. Formerly, whenever I was faced with a problem before, I went to the computer servicing shops and made a call to the ones who were more familiar with ICT than I did. However, I gradually understand later how to solve the problems I have to encounter. In other words, I have found the teachers who are going to aid in solving my problems. You will not know my teachers’ names. Whether you want to know their names or not, I will have to tell you their names and about them in order to support those who are associated with ICT like me.

The names of my teachers are Google and YouTube.

One day, I downloaded a presentation file of my student prepared with PowerPoint software in my desktop. I found a problem because I could not read the fonts in his presentation. He used various fonts in his slides. The fonts in slides 3, 6, 7, and 12 did not match with my computer. Although it would be convenient to mend those slides one after another, I had not enough time. Therefore, I consulted my first teacher whose name is www.google.com asking for his advice. As I wanted to replace the fonts in a short while, I typed out a question, “How to replace fonts in PowerPoint?” in the search box. There were many solutions dropped down from the web page. I chose the most appropriate one and learned how to replace the fonts in his presentation. The fonts in his presentation.

Another problem was the dictionary installation. In my computer, I have used OALD (Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary) of 8th edition for long. I knew later that the 9th edition of it has been issued. I wanted to use the latest edition but I could not. It was a difficult problem for me because I did not have an installation disc which can be obtained only when the new dictionary is bought. Therefore, I searched again on the YouTube page. I typed, “How to install OALD 9th edition” in the search box. I chose the one among many video files that dropped on the screen. I watched it thoroughly. It indicated to me how to download the zip file of OALD 9th edition and unzip it. It told me how to remove the set password. Therefore, I consulted my second teacher whose name is YouTube. I typed out a question, “How to remove protected password in Excel” in the search box. There were many video files dropped down from the web page. I chose the most appropriate one and learned until I got what I wanted. Finally, I could solve my current problem.

In the end, I succeeded in the installation of the OALD 9th edition. I was happy as I could use the updated dictionary. The OALD 9th edition has got more features than the other earlier editions. The most significant feature is “iSpeaker” in which the phonetic symbols and their pronunciation are definitely explained audio-visually. The steps of the installation were numerous but the YouTube video made me easy and convenient.

In addition to the three examples mentioned above, there can be other errors and difficulties such as disappearing of windows, a blue screen on desktop screen, in using the internet with computers; desktop or laptop. Nevertheless, the most difficulties can be solved by our teachers of seeing and teachers of hearing who can teach, guide and serve us almost like a living teacher.
Life is filled with simple things yet too complex to face them. Day by day, my questions concerning life keep popping up like bubbles in my head. What am I actually doing on this planet? Am I on a mission or what? Still figuring out the answers.

Some people I know have completed their missions and went on to accept another mission. Some completed their missions quite early. They have succeeded in a short amount of time. However, as for some, they are still struggling to get to the finish point. It may seem like an impossible mission but it can be switched to a possible mission. Putting in a lot of effort is a key to achieving success.

As for me, I am still in the process of finishing this impossible mission. Still on the way to the finish point while trying to change it from being impossible to possible. It can be quite a simple mission to succeed but challenges can be seen on the way. When we dig into it, we can clearly see its complex features. Hours pass by. Everyday all we have to do is wake up, sleep, eat, work, walk, etc. The things we do are so simple yet complex. If we live a day like our last day on this planet, what would we be doing? Think about what we have contributed to our mother earth. In what ways have we helped? Start thinking about a way to make a contribution.

These days, we keep on hearing about this horrifying pandemic. Though no one wishes to face this kind of frightening pandemic, we still have to face it with bravery. Fear is not our friend. We all need to have courage to face it intrepidly. Now, it is our chance to help our mother earth. Didn’t we care about our beloved one when he or she is sick? If we think it that way, our mother earth is suffering from this terrifying pandemic. We have to find ways to make her feel better.

Some people have already moved on while some are still fighting in this battle.

This is not the time to spend a simple life. Losing all kinds of precious lives during this period is part of the impossible mission. What a great loss on this earth! Many sacrifices have been made to attack back the pandemic. They did a great job in protecting the mother earth. They didn’t fail in this mission. They just leveled up.

We all have to stand united as one while fighting in this battle. Wearing a mask is not a complex task. Similarly, washing our hands to avoid the virus is also not a difficult job. Everyone is suffering in various ways during this period. Struggles can be seen everywhere. Some still have to work hard to keep on extending its life on this planet. It is like buying the card of extension with its sweat and sacrifice. Instead of living life full of worries, they get out to fight with it. It’s true that the virus is scary but having nothing on the dinner table is much scarier. Not being able to put anything on the table by the end of the day is much scarier than the virus.

Therefore, instead of being scared of this pandemic, we should follow the ways to reduce the risk of suffering from this virus. Instead of panicking, why not start contributing to be part of the team? We now have to stand up and do what we can to help others. Protecting yourself from this virus can be a huge deal for the sake of others as well. It won’t be able to destroy us if we shield ourselves up. Instead of being fearful about this virus, why not start protecting yourself from getting it? Though no one might know how painful it is unless it hurts you, think about the sacrifices that have been made. Your loved ones might suffer from it if you are not careful enough.

One small act can make a big difference. Stay at home and try to avoid the crowd. It won’t be forever if we fight it back together. Nothing impossible. Let’s make it possible to get control of this pandemic. Let’s be strong.

Salute to all the frontliners for their hard work and bravery. Thank you!

By Htar Sandi Naing
English Specialization,
University of Yangon
Mara’s Army in Bago

By Nat Ye Hla

P EGU, or Bago, was the capital of the Hanthawady Kingdom, located about 50 miles north-east of Yangon. Being an ancient city ruled by successive monarchs, it remains rich in traditional art and culture, including ancient pagodas.

Myanmar’s first replica of Bodhgaya, the site of the Buddha’s enlightenment, was built in the city during the reign of King Dhammacedi more than 530 years ago. The Mahagodhi Temple, or Shwegugyi Pagoda, is located near the entrance to the city on the Yangon-Mandalay old highway.

According to a stone inscription, King Dhammacedi sent Buddhist monks, artists and architects to the Buddgaya in Biha State, India in AD 1477 to study and measure the Buddgaya, where the Buddha attained the enlightenment, and built the pagoda when they arrived back in the city two years later.

The temple built by King Dhammacedi was reduced to ruins due to earthquakes and the lack of conservation measures in successive eras. Today, we can see brick foundations and two to three small pagodas, which circled the main pagoda.

Ceramics tiles of Mara’s Army

Researchers estimate that 200 to 300 glazed tiles were used to decorate the pagoda, which formed part of a famous series of tiles or plaques placed in niches around the enclosed wall of Shwegugyi Pagoda.

The ceramic tiles, formed part formed part of a larger series illustrating the Buddha’s triumph over evil and the rout of Mara’s army who attempted to disturb the Buddha from his meditation to achieve enlightenment, was placed around the base of the Shwegugyi pagoda.

The ceramic tiles depict the warriors from Mara’s army, including the daughters of Mara. Each tile is unique and distinguished from the others by the heads of animals surmounting the human bodies of the warriors, and by the weapons held in their hands.

But, ‘no more than 100 are traceable today’ of which around fifty are in public collections mostly in foreign museums. A few surviving examples are housed in the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw and one broken tile is in the museum of the Shwemawdaw Pagoda in Bago.
**People Will Be People**

Caroon Maung Shwe Win

- COVID-19's coming back as a second wave.
- Infection rate's faster ten times than before.
- It's a danger to life if it's transmitted.

- No cure, no vaccine at all!
- It makes trouble for us, right!
- People who haven't health awareness are real trouble-makers.
- It's more dangerous due to people who don't follow health instructions.

**Joke**

Caroon Maung Maung Aung 2020

- It's a problem if we can't control, Granny!
- What! It sounds the alarm.
- COVID second wave's coming, Granny!

- Huh! Is it coming to us?
- It's possible because transmission can go faster ten times than before.
- Don't fear but heighten our prevention measures ten times, too.
It is sure that most people are having a desire to skip the very bad chapters of the year, 2020. This is because Covid-19 outbreak has been destroying all of its good images since the last week of March. Specifically speaking, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced that Covid-19 can be regarded as the pandemic on 11th March, 2020. We, Myanmar people, have already been through the impact of this pandemic before the outbreak hit our own lands. And then, the very first positive patients of Covid-19 were found on 23rd March, 2020 in our country, Myanmar. As the virus is new, all anxieties and concerns of people have risen. To control and protect the outbreak of Covid-19, the government of our country has given the public the instructions and restrictions to follow. Because of these restrictions, the public stopped suddenly their usual routines in every sector of their life. And the government instructed us to stay at home only, wear masks, wash hands about twenty seconds and avoid going to the crowd and so on. By the great cooperation of the government and the public, we could protect and control successfully its first wave outbreak.

As the local transmission is not found in June and July, the government has reduced the rules and restrictions. The government sectors, the private sectors and the Basic Education High Schools all over the country have been opened. Thus, people do not have fear of it and they spent their days as usual and ignore it, that is, they do not wear masks when they go outside and wash hands. Now, we are facing the second wave of local infection. As you know, the infection of Covid-19 in many townships of Rakhine State has been very rapid. Because the number of the infected patients suddenly increases, people are fully aware of it again. The more the speed of the infection increase, the more the reduction in every sector of the country can be restricted again.

Last month, based on the question “Is 2020 a good or bad year?”, I asked people's opinions as a survey. Here, there was a strange thing that nearly 98 percent of the answer is the same. Few people like 2020. They believe that this year is a bad year because they have not gained any benefit in their own way of life and all of them are still restricted and the things happening in 2020 are not completely good not only for Myanmar but for the world. Till now, the primary schools and the universities have not been opened yet because it is not possible for us to meet each other face to face. As a replacement for the lost opportunities of the learning process, online Teaching and Learning are being introduced in the education sector, but it is not okay as much as we consider due to some difficulties. Therefore, the learning process has been affected in some way or other this year. Currently, the schools that opened in line with the Covid-19 principles have been closed again because of the increasing number of the news patients.

Everyone is now staying in anxieties and concerns these days. We must be aware that we ourselves can be a patient and a virus distributor. We stay under the fear of virus, and now 2020 is going to say goodbye, but the bad chapters of 2020 have not come to an end yet. We have passed with fear the whole year and we do want to have happiness and pass these bad chapters. By taking care of ourselves, we believe that we can fight it together. Only three or four months are left. During these months, what we should be aware of is that Covid-19 has not been over. In our lives, it is sure that Covid-19 can still remain as a bad memory. Even if you do not consider that 2020 is really a bad year, you should accept that the bad things have been happening. We wish the remaining chapters of 2020 had a happy ending.

By Myat Lay Ayeyar, BA (English)
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Almost every day, between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m., I began to take notice of an old couple.

The man was wearing sunglasses. The woman was carrying a canvas bag of medium size slung over her right shoulder. Their clothes were old and worn out. Where did they come from? Where are they going? Nobody knows. The unusual scene was that the man with sunglasses walked clumsily, his right hand grasping the woman by the shoulder. They used to enter the cafe named “Sein” almost every morning. She sent word to bring just a cup of tea prepared with local condensed milk, but not “Shal”, specially prepared from a tin of foreign condensed milk, which charges a higher price. The woman also sent words to bring deep-fried twisted dough sticks. Then she took one half of the snack and placed it into the man’s hand. She then, poured half of the tea into the saucer, and placed the tea cup before the man. Both enjoyed tea and snack, taking time, dipping the deep-fried twisted dough stick in the tea and taking a bite. They finished their breakfast by sipping plain-tea. I saw them whispering something to each other. What are they discussing? Nobody ever knew.

Then, the woman waved the young waiter of the cafe and settled the payment. Since their business was over, they left the cafe. I was lost in gazing at them disappearing from my sight. I saw that they were never in a hurry whenever it was raining or the sun was shining. I also saw that the man with the sun-glasses had to depend on that woman’s help and he slowly followed the route led by her. I did not know where they were going, or how they earned their living. The man may have poor eyesight. The woman could see and lead the way. But it was difficult to guess who was earning what living and supporting to whom.

Despite his blindness, he could be skilled in some kinds of professional art. Perhaps, they got married with a strong attachment, living an ordinary life, having faithfulness at heart and joining hands with each other firmly through thick and thin. To the kind, loving woman, her spouse’s blindness did not seem to be a defect. To the eye of Love, no defects are found.

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

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