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Sunday, 6 September 2020

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



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspecting the 66 kV sub-power station in Matupi, Chin State on 4 September, 2020. PHOTO: MNA

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio arrived in Mindat and Matupi townships on 4 September during his inspection tour in southern Chin State.

His entourage included Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, the deputy ministers and officials.

They first inspected the

construction sites of Union-level guesthouse in Mindat, Mindat college, Lel Myo bridge, a three-storey building of General Administration Department and 66 kV sub-power station before meeting with the local people in Matupi.

The Union-level guesthouse is a 120ft length and 50ft width

concrete reinforced building.

At the Mindat college complex briefing room, the Vice President heard reports on construction projects in Matupi and Mindat townships, constructions of Mindat Arts and Sciences College, education college and the government technical and vocational training institute, the con-

struction works in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 financial years, the allocation of budgets, more construction projects in upcoming 2020-2021 financial year, water supply project for Mindat college complex and the proposed budget of 2020-2021 financial year.

After giving necessary instructions on the reports, the

Vice President and party inspected 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 K632.32 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 accord-

ing 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, 1 from Ayeyawady Region.

Among these 1,253 confirmed

cases, 7 died, 371 have recovered, 366 have been discharged from hospitals and 119 were held under investigation.—MNA



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

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met a delegation led by 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 process will not be changed, the Senior General said. He also said



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets the delegation led by KNU/KNLA Peace Council Chair Saw Htot Lay in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 September. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES

KNU/KNLA (PC) to work as a model of building eternal peace. KNU/KNLA (PC) Chair and 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 fulfil 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

No:	Title	Subject	Billion
1	Household support	1 st time (5 Rations) 5.3 million 2 nd time (20,000-2 times) 5.4 million	71.103 billion 218.112 billion
2	Household (3 rd time)	(Issuance of 20,000 kyats rate) 5.6 million	113.535 billion
3	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation	Paddy Seed Production, Village Fund Project, Distribution of Fish Species and Fingerlings, Cash to Support Input, Construction of Production Route and Village Infrastructures, Educating Programmes for Animal Breeding, Training to Seafarers for Safety and Security at Sea, Agricultural Services, Cash for Job Training.	92.612 billion
4	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement	Cash assistance to senior citizens of ages between 80 and 84 and pregnant women, provision for 30 days of charity homes and homes for elderly, household support in IDP camps to buy 5 food stuffs, school uniform support for students from IDP camps, assistance to people with disabilities, leprosy patients and victims of human trafficking from abroad and victims of domestic trafficking.	35.923 billion

5	Ministry of Health and Sports	Purchasing the necessary medicines, medical equipment and related items for hospital upgrade and spending on building and renovation works	267.903 billion
6	Teashop (Loan)	Providing loan for teashops and street-side shops	100 billion
7	MFI (Loan)	Micro Credit Loan to Microfinance businesses	100 billion
8	MSME Fund (Loan)	Microfinance Business Supervisory Committee providing loans to SMEs	200 billion
9	MADB (Loan)	Cash assistance to farmers by 50,000 kyats for one acre	600 billion
10	Exemption of Electricity Charges	April, May, June	107.379 billion
11	Electricity Charges in Taninthayi Region		1.518 billion
Total			1908.085 billion

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



Recovery Update on 5 September 2020 after two consecutive tests



New PUIs

119

New Cases in State/Region

5 September 2020

Yangon	65	Shan (South)	1
Rakhine	11	Mandalay	1
Bago	1	Nay Pyi Taw	1
Shan (North)	1	Ayeyawady	1

Ministry of Health and Sports

Ministry of Health and Sports

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

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Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects regional development...

FROM PAGE-1

They later visited the construction site of Lel 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 Bon Ta Lar 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 Lailenpi 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



Vice President U Henry Van Thio meeting with local authorities in Matupi, Chin State on 4 September, 2020. PHOTO: MNA

as it is believed that cooperation between the government and the public could overcome this disease.

He also urged the locals to vote in the upcoming general elections, and commercial cultivation of elephant foot yam, coffee and avocado.

He also discussed that according to surveys, Chin State has the potential to generate 4,000 Megawatts of hydroelectric power 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 capacity, the appointment of more civil service personnel, upgrade of Rezwa station hospital into a 25-bedded hospital, electricity supply for Rezwa Town from National Grid, the establishment of Myanma Economic Bank branch, the appointment of doctor and staff at the Lon Ngao station hospital, to double the salary for the civil service personnel in Paletwa Township, construction

of 2-storey multi-purpose shelter, upgrade of Paletwa hospital into a 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 Tint Naing, state government's ministers U Soe Htet, U She Htee Yo, U Paung Lung 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)

Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons



Myanmar Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day

13th September



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.

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“People are the key”

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 fulfil 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-com-

missions 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



Union Minister U Min Thu coordinates administrative procedures for 2020 General Election in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area. PHOTO: MNA

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

adhering 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. —MNA
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

SWRR Union Minister discusses National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement discussed 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)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye discusses National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy via videoconference on 4 September 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Required to strictly follow the rules

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 Htein, 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 5,041 people including 1,868 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 and 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 5.5% 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 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 stakeholders' shares, resignation of one third of the board of directors, selecting directors for the vacant positions for 2019-2020 financial year, recruiting external audit 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 36 passengers-seated two upper class wagons, and 60 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 wagons could change new and upgraded railway system plus 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**

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Myanmar aquatic export up by over \$114 mln in 11 months

THE export value of marine products from 1 October to 21 August in the current financial year(FY) hit about US\$780 million, an increase of over \$114 million compared to that of last FY, according to the statistics released by the Commerce Ministry. During the past 11 months of this FY, the aquatic exports fetched \$778.3 million whereas the export value of fisheries last year was \$663.94 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exports aquatic products such as fish, prawn and crab to over 40 countries including China, Saudi Arabia, Japan and Thailand.

At present, the authorities are exerting efforts with respect to aquatic resource conservation as well as effectuation of sustainable development in the country's marine sector. Also, the Fisheries Department is



Workers processing fishery products in a factory in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

making efforts to earn \$1 billion in conjunction with respective organizations and entrepreneurs in the current financial year.

Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF) is trying to increase aquatic export earnings by developing fish farming lakes which meet international standard and adopt the advanced fishing techniques. —Zwe
(Translated by Hay Mar)

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 released by the Ministry of Commerce.

In 2019-2020FY, Myanmar exported 105,751 tonnes of onion as of 7 August 2020.

The country granted export of the onion to foreign markets freely in 2010. Since then, Myanmar exported 56,512 tonnes in 2012-2014FY, 66,713 tonnes in 2016-2017FY and 87,832.16 tonnes in 2018-2019FY. The country exported the highest volume of onion in 2019-2020FY.

Myanmar exports onion to China via Muse border annually. Starting from September 2019,



A man carrying onion sacks on a trishaw in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

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 K3,000 per viss (one viss equals 1.6 kg) in the first week of December 2019 from K500 per viss in April 2019.

"With the rising prices of on-

ion, 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 Seikphyu onion price ranged between K400-450 per viss while the Yenangyaung 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 traveling. 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 at a cost of K71.103 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, the government spent K218.112 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 those 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 K35.923 billion was spent for the purpose, he explained.

The Ministry of Health and Sports spent K267.903 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 K200 billion for SMEs. Recently, a total of K600 billion was distributed to farmers at a rate of K50,000 per acre. The government bore the cost K107.379 billion in exempting the public from paying for the first 150 units



Director-General U Zaw Htay speaking at the Press Room of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 September, 2020. **PHOTO: KO HTAIN**

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 charge exemption programme for the whole country, the Union Government provided K1.518 billion for the businesses at the request of the region government. It has provided assistance worth K1908.085 billion for issues that are directly related with the public. The Union government will soon provide K20,000 each for 5.6 million households, 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 undergoing quarantine, entertaining a number of consumers at restaurants against the rules, holding crowded weddings, running away from hospital while staying there as a suspected case, breaking the rules at the quarantine centres, 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 with Natural 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 5,570 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 46-million-dollar US assistance for political parties, the degree of the possibility in holding the elections amidst the rising infection rate, the Union Government's view on the Tatmadaw's advice to cancel the elections in Wa special region and

northern Rakhine State, any changes in the night curfew hours, whether the issue of confluence was raised or not during the trip of the Chinese Excellency's visit, ICJ issue, the government response towards AA propaganda at the time when infection rate is rising in Rakhine State, the government's view and attitude towards accusations against its slow response against high infection rate of COVID-19 in Sittway, Rakhine State, any plans for more restrictions in Sittway, and whether the rising infection rate will be designated as the second wave, the progress in controlling the virus, the reopening of schools, the government's regulatory measures against the gambling at Myanmar-China border, plans to take actions against persons arrested in the gambling cases, the blowing up of a tower in Myawady, the closure of peace technology supportive association in Myitkyina, Chinese aids for anti-COVID-19, and the improvement of internet links in Rakhine State. U Zaw Htay gave answers.

The director-general said as regards the COVID-19 assistance for the people, the first point is the degree of the infection rate; the second is the issuance of rules 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 donations, the coming provisions will be made through the coordination with General Administration Department, he explained.

As regards the Tatmadaw's advice on the cancel of elections in Wa special region and Rakhine State, he said Rakhine State has 17 townships, and the elections could be held fully in only five townships. In some cases the election 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 election 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, Manwai, Mongmaw, Narphan and Mongla.

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

SEE PAGE-10

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

COVID-19 has disrupted the global economy, and people have also suffered incredible impacts on the social and economic sectors. At present, significant economic effects have been experienced in the short run.

Even policymakers across the world have confessed that the economic impact from this disease is highly uncertain and that they are in a difficult situation to formulate an appropriate macroeconomic policy response.

A severe blow of the impacts has hit the majority of ordinary people in Myanmar, too. From roadside vendors to company staff, their income has dropped significantly due to the decline in sale and reduction of salaries.

In some communities, their daily income is below half of their family expense of current situations, and very lower than that of ordinary situations in the past.

The impacts could become a big hit to the people with regular income and middle-class people if the transmission of the pandemic did not stop in some months.

In these situations, people should be steadily facing the disease without having too much fear by adhering to the guidelines, directives and policies of the government.

The present administration has to adopt an appropriate policy that meets the changing situations of the pandemic. It has to consider all strata of society from grassroots people to business firms.

The government has set up the COVID-19 fund and the Economic Relief Plan (CERP) that includes measures, with offering relief assistance for tax relief, loans for businesses, necessary food supplies and cash to households, as well as policies to provide assistance in trade and investment sectors.

Local markets are now slowing down with very low demand for luxury items, showing the decrease in expenditures of consumers.

In this situation, people need to restrict other household expenses, except for the primary and necessary items in preparing for uncertain economic hardships in the post-COVID-19 pandemic.

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Myanmar participates in regional conference to plan responses and recovery work on twin pandemics of COVID-19 and hunger

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.

By FAO

THE Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Fisheries is participating in the 35th 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 to 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 35th Session of the FAO Asia and Pacific Regional Conference, hosted by the Royal Government of Bhutan. Their numbers include Government Ministers, private sector, civil society, academia and technical experts in the food and agriculture sectors.

Impacts of the COVID-19

As the virus continues to linger in communities, a com-

prehensive approach is required to address the multifaceted and wide-ranging impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Myanmar's food security and nutrition. From Afghanistan and Iran in the west, across populous South and East Asia, and far out into the Pacific Islands, new ways and approaches will be needed to battle back from these twin pandemics. Climate change is another aggravating factor menacing efforts to increase resilience across our food systems.

"We must come to terms with what is before us and recognize that the world and our region has changed. We must find new ways to move forward and ensure sustainable food security in the face of these twin pandemics, as well as prepare for threats that can and will evolve in the future," said Jong-Jin Kim, Assistant Director-General and FAO Regional Representative for Asia and the Pacific. "This virtual conference brings together the people and ideas to chart a true course of action for the benefit of all."

"We are cognizant of the challenges ahead of us. We will continue to pay close attention to food security and nutrition, sus-



U Kyaw Swe Lin, Director-General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. Head of the Myanmar Delegation participating in the 35th Session of the FAO Regional Conference for Asia and the Pacific. PHOTO: FAO

tainable agricultural and rural development, building resilience of food and agriculture systems in the face of crisis," said U Kyaw Swe Lin, Director-General, Department of Planning, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

"The priorities of the Ministry reflect our commitment to support, stabilize and strengthen development to support a good quality of life for the people of

Myanmar."

In attendance are Government representatives from 46 FAO Member Nations in Asia and the Pacific a four-day virtual conference to closely examine the present situation of the region's food security, with a particular emphasis on implications linked to the spread of the coronavirus and its impact on food systems region-wide.

Coordinated global response

The conference highlighted FAO's recently launched comprehensive COVID-19 Response and Recovery Programme designed to provide a flexible and coordinated global response that aims to ensure access to nutritious food for everyone. The programme includes the mobilization of all forms of resources and partnerships at country, regional and global level. The main

aim is to mitigate the immediate impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic while strengthening the longer-term resilience of food systems and livelihoods.

The conference will also consider new marketing channels (such as e-commerce) and new technologies (including better storage facilities) that will help reduce food losses, as these are critical to ensure the flow of nutritious foods and to generate improved incomes for those who work across the entire food and agriculture sectors.

Equally critical is enabling smallholder and family farmers – those who produce most of the food we consume – to become more dynamic, entrepreneurial and competitive through continual innovation. Smallholders will need much greater access to financial resources, technology and innovation.

Bringing all players together will be crucial to realizing these gains and FAO is in the process of implementing the Hand-in-Hand Initiative to enable that. The conference will have a special session to examine the progress made in the region through this initiative

■ ■ ■

QUICK VACCINE HOPES SLIM

Widespread coronavirus vaccination unlikely before mid-2021: WHO

THE World Health Organization (WHO) said on Friday (Sept 4) it did not expect widespread immunisation against the novel coronavirus until mid-2021, despite growing expectations in the US and beyond that a vaccine could be released within weeks.

Across the world, governments are hoping to announce a vaccine as soon as possible and roll out treatments for Covid-19, which has killed nearly 870,000 people and infected well over 26 million.

The UN health agency welcomed the fact that a "considerable number" of vaccine candidates had entered final stage Phase III trials, which typically involve tens of thousands of people.

"We know of at least six to

nine that have got quite a long way with the research already," WHO spokesman Margaret Harris told reporters in Geneva.

However, she stressed, "in terms of realistic timelines, we are really not expecting to see widespread vaccination until the middle of next year".

Under normal procedures, test administrators must wait for months or years to verify that vaccine candidates are safe and efficacious.

But as the pandemic continues to take a devastating toll, there has been massive pressure to roll out a vaccine quickly.

It was revealed this week that Washington has urged US states to get ready for a potential coro-

navirus vaccine roll-out by Nov 1, sparking concerns President Donald Trump's administration is rushing to begin distributing a vaccine before the Nov 3 elections.

The US Food and Drug Administration has also raised the possibility that a vaccine might be given emergency authorization before the end of trials.

The FDA has faced allegations from the medical community, which it has denied, that it is bowing to political pressure from Trump, who is trailing Democratic challenger Joe Biden in the polls.

NO CUTTING CORNERS

The worry is that, for emergency-use approval, the bar for ruling a vaccine safe and effective

is lower than that for normal full approvals.

Several pharmaceutical company executives stressed on Thursday the importance of sticking to high testing norms, vowing not to cut corners on safety and efficacy standards, even as they race to bring coronavirus vaccines and treatments to market.

"The good news is the manufacturers are already putting bets on which one is likely to be the vaccine," Dr Harris said.

Many were "already working out how they can scale up production of vaccines once we know which one are the ones we will roll out", she said. According to the WHO, 34 vaccine candidates worldwide are currently in the



Women in yukata, or casual summer kimonos, wearing protective face masks, walk along Nakamise Street in Asakusa district, a popular sightseeing spot in Tokyo, Japan on July 22, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

various phases of being tested on humans, while a further 142 are in pre-clinical evaluation.

Dr Soumya Swaminathan, the WHO's chief scientist, told reporters earlier this week that the UN

agency was working with experts around the world, including at the FDA, to clarify the criteria for declaring a vaccine candidates safe and efficacious.

SOURCE: AFP

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 at its laboratories in the capital.

The laboratories are collecting testing fee of K200,000 per one at a time to Myanmar citizens and foreigners who will go abroad with relief flights and foreigners come to Myanmar who will undergo home quarantine, and K100,00 for the seamen who will go abroad (reagents for them were purchased by ship companies).

COVID-19 testing charges per one at a time at MoHS laboratories for those who come to Nay Pyi Taw from other regions and states are:

- Free of charge for government members, public service personnel and civil service personnel.
- K30,000 for Nay Pyi Taw residents.
- K50,000 for the residents of other regions and states in the country.
- K200,000 for UN staff and foreigners of INGOs.
- Free of charge for anyone who was invited by Union-level ministries.

Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bedded General Hospital and specialist hospitals are providing medical treatments as referral centres for the public residing near the place.

According to medical ethics and humanitarian perspective, the patients, who come to the hospitals in Nay Pyi Taw with the referral letters from the doctors at station hospitals are allowed to enter Nay Pyi Taw with two to three patient companions, and they are put in isolation wards of the hospitals, are tested for COVID-19 free of charge and are provided with required medical treatments.

Ministry of Health and Sports



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 5th August, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 6th September, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin and Rakhine States and fairly widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Magway Regions and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-6) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Weak to moderate monsoon over the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay of Bengal

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 6th September, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

President pardons 25 Insein Prison inmates passing matric exams

A total of 55 inmates who passed the matriculation examinations in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years were granted presidential pardon yesterday.

Among them, 25 prisoners – 11 who passed in 2018-2019 academic year and 14 who passed in 2019-2020 – are from Insein Central Prison.

Director of Correction Department U Zaw Zaw said, “President granted pardons to the inmates who passed the matriculation examinations. 25 prisoners from Insein Central Prison were released. The presidential pardon was granted for the inmates who

outstandingly passed the matriculation examinations to continue their education as ordinary persons with understanding of the government’s good intention.”

Maung Sit Paing Htoo who passed the matric exam with four distinctions in 2019-2020 academic year said, “I was given 13-year prison sentence for drug charge. I spent over four years in the prison. I’m grateful to the President for granting pardon to us. I’m extremely happy. I will continue my education at relevant university depending on the marks I get.”

Nine of them from Yangon Region will be sent to quaran-

tine centre in Hline Township for COVID-19 test, and remaining released persons will be transported to relevant bus stations. They will also be quarantined for COVID-19 in their natives, said in-charge of the Insein Central Prison Deputy Director U Myo Htay. Officials concerned delivered speeches to the released inmates at Arts and Sports Hall of the Insein Central Prison. They were also provided with prison-release documents, travel fees and K100,000 per inmate.

— Zaw Gyi
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Maung Sit Paing Htoo (R) who passed the matric exam with four distinctions in 2019-2020 academic year receiving the prize.
PHOTO: PE ZAW

President pardons awarded to 29 student inmates from Mandalay Central Prison passising matriculation examinations



President pardons awarding ceremony being held in Mandalay Central Prison on 5 September, 2020. PHOTO: MNA

A ceremony to grant a pardon to 29 student inmates who passed the matriculation examination in the 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years by aiming at praising their success in the exams, was held at religious hall of Mandalay Central Prison yesterday morning.

During the ceremony, Director of region Correction Department U Kyaw Soe gave greeting speech while Dr San Pa Pa Kyaw, education officer of Aungmyethazan township and Dr Thein Zaw, secretary of school’s caretaker

group delivered words of advice.

Then, Deputy Director U Chan Aye Kyaw, in charge of prison granted release certificates, meal and transport charges to these 29 inmates.

Among these 29, it included 23 males and 6 females. Among 8 inmates who passed the exam in 2018-2019 academic year, it included 1 male who passed the exam with 2 distinctions while 2 females with 1 distinction and 5 males without distinction.

Among other 21 inmates who passed the exam in 2019-2020 academic year, it included 5 males who passed the exam with 3 distinctions while 11 males with 2 distinctions, 1 male and 1 female with 1 distinction.

Then, Deputy Director U Chan Aye Kyaw, in charge of prison said, “We, officials and the teachers support those young

inmates who faced imprisonment for some petty crime in their struggle of lives with partial education and they also made great efforts. So, they could enjoy such great success. We are proud of their success. Then, I also want to urge the officials to support and take care the youths who are trying hard for their lives to protect them from getting wrong way.”

Ma Khine May Oo who passed the matriculation exam in 2019-2020 academic year with two distinctions (Geography and History) and was released said, “This is all because of the warden and the teachers. As I came from a family of employees, I will also be an employee. Although I was sentenced to 12 years in prison, I am very happy to be released after 3 years. I thank all the heads of the country and teachers. I will

spend my life well.”

There were 70 inmates who sat for the exam in 2018-2019 academic year in Mandalay Central Prison and 42 inmates passed, among the 69 inmates who sat for the exam in 2019-2020 academic year, 48 inmates passed. There are altogether 29 inmates who were released with amnesty from the Mandalay Central Prison; 8 inmates from 2018-2019 academic year and 21 inmates from 2019-2020 academic year.

55 inmates passed the matriculation exam successfully in 2018-2019 and 2019-2020 academic years were released with pardon from respective prisons across the country and additional 38 inmates could enjoy parole.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han and Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

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 confluence 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 Kyaukpau 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 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 protection-

ism 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



Liam Fox, candidate to head the WTO, describe its selection process as “somewhere between choosing a pope and the Eurovision Song Contest”. PHOTO: 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 corona-

virus 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.



The Tokyo 2020 Games were postponed earlier this year as the scale of the coronavirus pandemic became clear. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

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

EFFECTIVE AND SAFE?

A vaccine before the US election? Depends on science — or politics

A Covid-19 vaccine by election day in the US? Experts worry that, facing an uphill battle for reelection, President Donald Trump could press for one to be approved before the November 3 vote, but also before tests prove it is effective and safe for the public.

Where does vaccine testing stand?

Two producers, Pfizer and Moderna, began final phase-3 trials on July 27. Paul Mango, a senior official at the US Department of Health, said last week they so far have 15,000 volunteers out of 30,000 needed.

Pfizer’s vaccine requires two doses in 21 days, and Moderna’s two doses in 28 days. They use the same new technology, focusing on messenger RNA, which is promising but has never been proven in a vaccine.

In preliminary trials on dozens of test subjects, both vaccines provoked immune responses. But that alone does not prove they would protect against infection.

Another vaccine, under development by Oxford University and AstraZeneca, has already moved into Phase 3 testing in several countries, and just began trials in the United States.

What would lead to approval?

In trials, half of the participants receive the vaccine and the other half receive a placebo. If the vaccine works, over time more of those receiving the placebo will naturally become infected with and sickened by the coronavirus, but fewer cases will appear among those receiving the real vaccine.

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 Friday (Sep 4) launched vote-by-mail operations for the Nov 3 contest between President Donald Trump and Joe Biden, which is getting uglier by the day.

Worries about the unabated spread of the coronavirus are expected to prompt a major increase in the number of ballots cast by mail, as Americans avoid polling stations.

In a country on edge over the health crisis and a national reckoning about race, the next two months will test the ability of the world's largest economy to organize its election profoundly changed by the pandemic.

North Carolina was to begin mailing out more than 600,000 ballots, in response to a major

spike in demand.

Other key battleground states such as Wisconsin will follow in the coming weeks.

How Americans vote has become another flashpoint in an increasingly divisive political landscape.

A recent poll by USA Today and Suffolk University showed that 56 per cent of Republican voters surveyed said they would go in person to vote, while only 26 per cent of Democrats plan to do the same.

One out of every four Biden voters said that if the Democratic former vice president loses on Nov 3, they would not be ready to accept a Trump victory as "fairly won". About one in five Trump voters said a similar thing. —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

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 putsch has 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 charting 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 orig-

inally 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 druglord '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, methamphetamines and marijuana.

A lawyer for Guzman, Mariel Colon Miro, 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 ■

Climate activists disrupt UK newspaper deliveries

LONDON — Climate change protesters in Britain blockaded 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.

Newsprinters, which runs

the plants, said printing had been transferred to other sites and apologised to customers "due to late deliveries".

The Times also apologized to readers unable to buy the newspaper and said on Twitter it was "working to get newspapers delivered to retailers as soon as possible".

'Completely unacceptable'

The blockade prompted an immediate backlash from across the British political establishment.

"This morning people across the country will be prevented from reading their newspaper because of the actions of Extinction Rebellion," Interior Minister Priti Patel said on Twitter.

"This attack on our free press, society and democracy is completely unacceptable." —AFP ■



Extinction Rebellion activists disrupt newspaper distribution, claiming the big groups do not report fairly on climate changes the failure of these corporations to accurately report on climate change and what should be done to halt it. 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 ■



The 10-year, \$10 billion Joint Enterprise Defence Infrastructure (JEDI) programme will ultimately see all military branches sharing information in a cloud-based system boosted by artificial intelligence. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

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



Huawei Technologies, the world's largest telecommunications equipment supplier, has grown its global market share in the first half amid increased 5G network gear spending in China and various overseas markets. PHOTO:XINHUA

WASHINGTON — US regulators estimated Friday that it could cost small telecoms firms more than US\$1.8 billion to remove and replace Huawei and ZTE gear flagged over 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 75 million in 2020, generating unprecedented idleness in the industry worldwide," Moraes added. — Xinhua ■

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Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (100N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-9-2020** 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.

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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 only 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 Khin. 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 railway 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 co-operation 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 pas-

sengers 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.



Photo shows a railway station in Yangon. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAIR



Pazungdaung railway station. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAIR



The platform at the Mahl wagone station is begun upgrading. (6459)

rcular railway ompletion



PHOTO : PHOE KHWAR



A station over-bridge. PHOTO : PHOE KHWAR

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M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (1125S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO GENESIS VOY. NO. (1125S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **6-9-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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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 (Twantay))



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 champion 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)



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

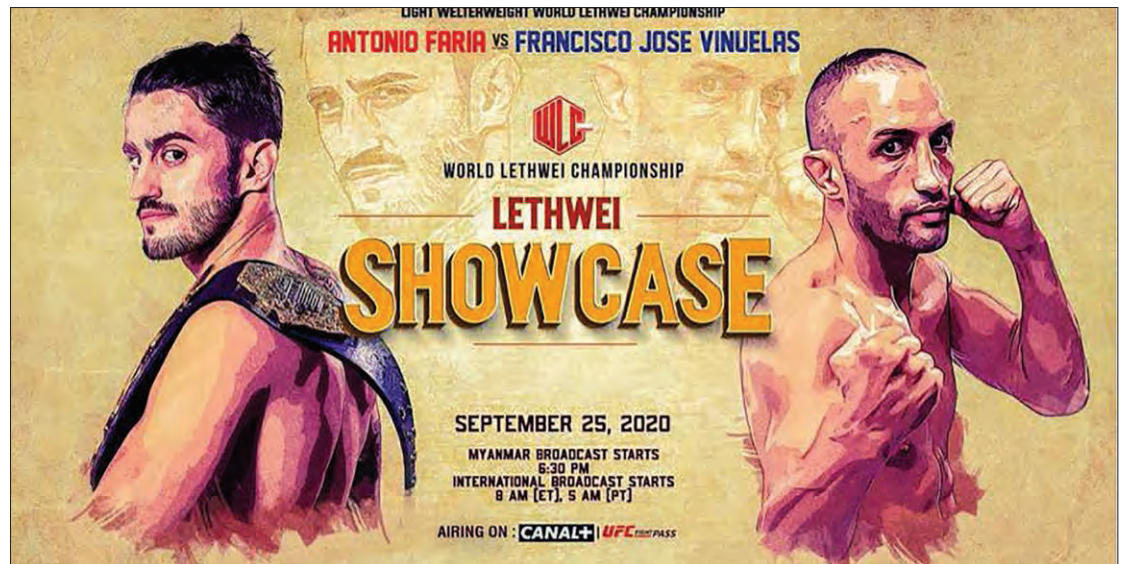


PHOTO:WLC

Lethwei Showcase scheduled for 25 September: WLC

World Lethwei Championship (WLC), has recently announced one of its main spectacle-free event named "Lethwei Showcase" 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

champion Antonio Faria will defend his WLC light-welterweight belt against Spanish veteran Francisco Jose Vinuelas.

"As the world's largest Lethwei organization, World Lethwei Championship is excited to continue to showcase the world-class talent in the sport of Lethwei. The upcoming event will be a night to remember as the knockout king of Lethwei, Antonio Faria, returns to action against his toughest opponent yet, Spain's Francisco Jose Vinuelas. This bout, along with other great bouts on this fight card, will

be a testament to the shining qualities of Lethwei," said WLC Chair Zay Thiha.

Antonio Faria defeated Saw Htoo Aung to become the inaugural WLC light-welterweight champion and will now defend his championship title for the first time amidst pandemic.

On the other side, Francisco Jose Vinuelas, a veteran of the Chinese mixed martial arts and 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)

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 the 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 Puy-

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

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 21-year-old to leave their camp to settle the details.

"Of course, we would have preferred if he could have fully concentrated on the national team, but we are aware of the importance for Bayer Leverkusen and Kai," Germany team director Oliver Bierhoff told the German FA website.

Havertz jetted to London, reportedly for his Chelsea medical, after being on the bench for Thursday's 1-1 draw against

Spain in Stuttgart.

On Monday, Leverkusen head coach Peter Bosz confirmed they expected to lose 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**

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Growth happens outside your comfort zone

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.



By Kyal Sin Phu
3rd Year Honours Student
(English Specialization)
University of Yangon



Teachers of seeing and those of hearing

By Yar Zar Myint Zan
B.Sc, Pathein University

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 but I got convenient even with the topmost one. His explanation was brief and clear. He guided me if the PowerPoint is 2007, 2010 or 2013, I will have to enter the home tab, click the replace fonts and choose the boxes which appear.

Then, another problem was that Excel files that were sent to me could not be edited but I could see them. What is more, the formula the sender used could not be estimated how

to be thought because it was locked with a password. In fact, it was not nothing to do with me much but I was curious to know 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.

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 it would be necessary the two software must be installed first: one was Alcohol 120% and the other was Ultra ISO. I saw that the installation was not easy. I watched the video again and again.

Then, I started downloading the Zipped file. Its size was 3.14 GB, a large file. Then I unzipped the file on the desktop screen. I got to the part which was important in the installation. Therefore, I opened the video file and watched it and paused it many times installing the OALD 9th edition. I encountered few errors due to the advantages of the video file that showed how to install the dictionary. 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.





Mission Impossible to Possible

By Htar Sandi Naing
English Specialization,
University of Yangon

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 mis-

sion. 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 Nat Ye Hla

Mara's Army in Bago



○ Collected by National Gallery of Australia



○ Nay Pyi Taw National Museum. Photo: Htein Nan Naw



○ Tiles depict pairs of Mara's daughters who came to seduce the Buddha meditating under the bodhi tree at Bodhi Gaya.

○ Collected by Nay Pyi Taw National Museum.



○ Collected by Nay Pyi Taw National Museum. Photo: Htein Nan Naw



○ Nay Pyi Taw National Museum. Photo: Htein Nan Naw



○ Nay Pyi Taw National Museum. Photo: Htein Nan Naw



○ Collected by National Gallery of Australia.



○ Collected by National Gallery of Australia

PEGU, 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 Buddhaya in Biha State, India in AD 1477 to study and measure the Buddhaya, 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.

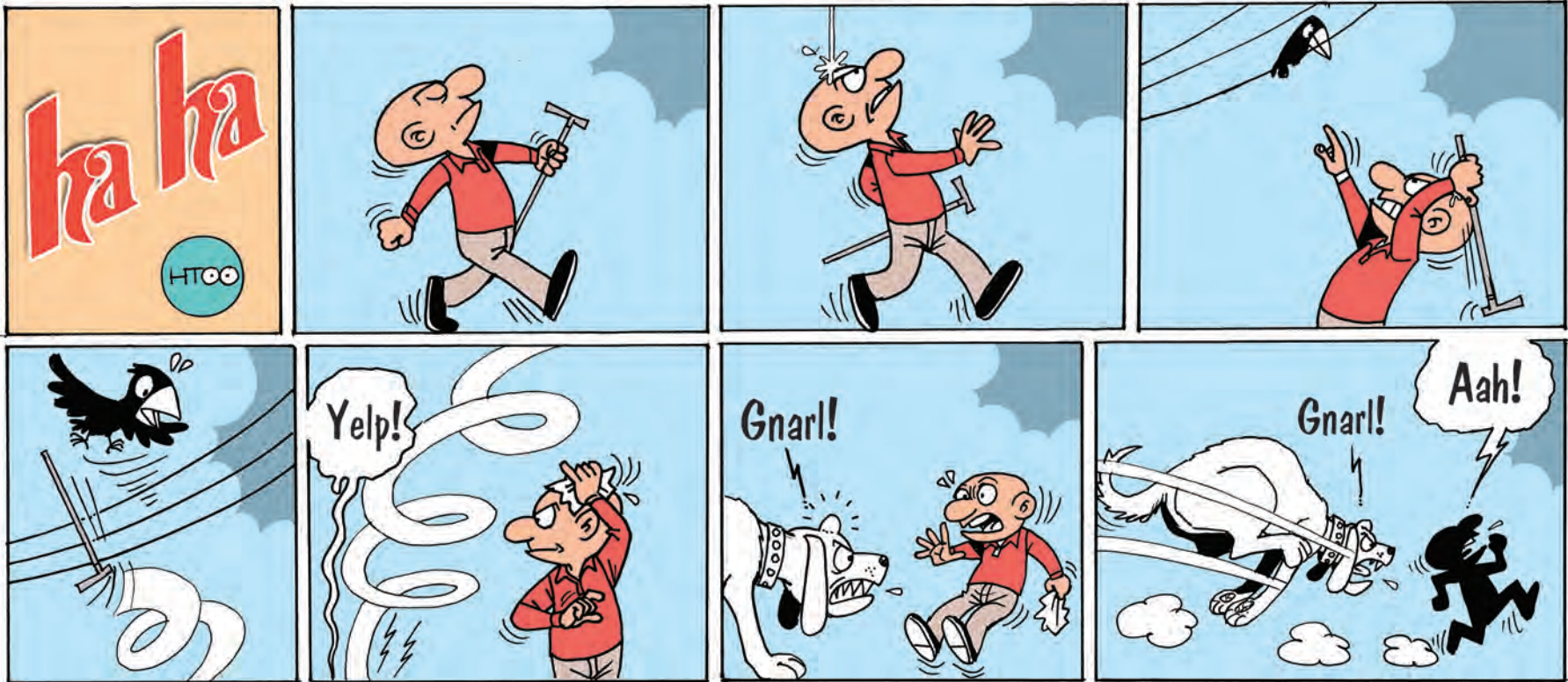
The ceramic tiles, formed part of a larger series illustrating the Buddha's triumph over evil and the rout of Mara's army who attempted to disturb the Buddha from his meditation to achieve enlightenment, was placed around the base of the Shwegugyi pagoda.

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.

SUNDAY COMICS



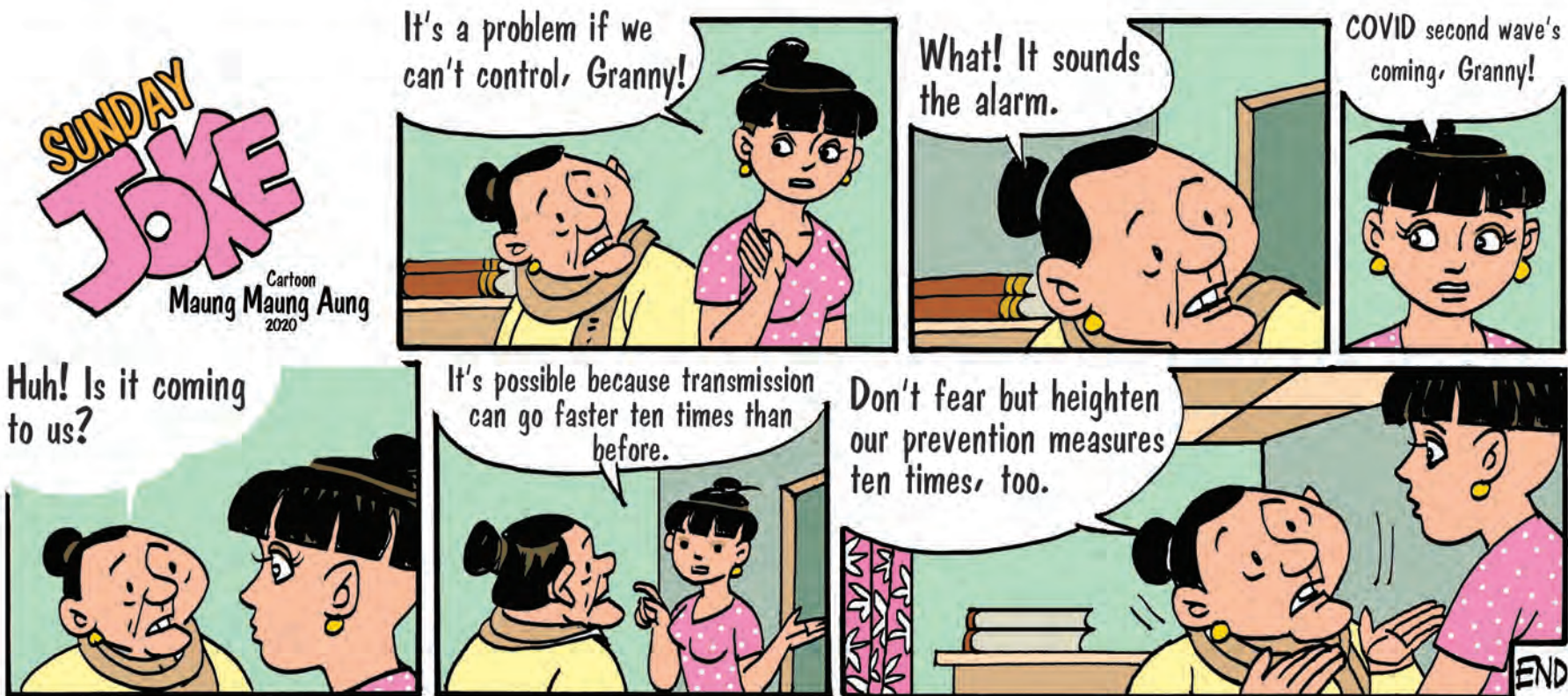
PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2020



Let 2020 have a happy ending



By Myat Lay Ayeyar,
BA (English)
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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

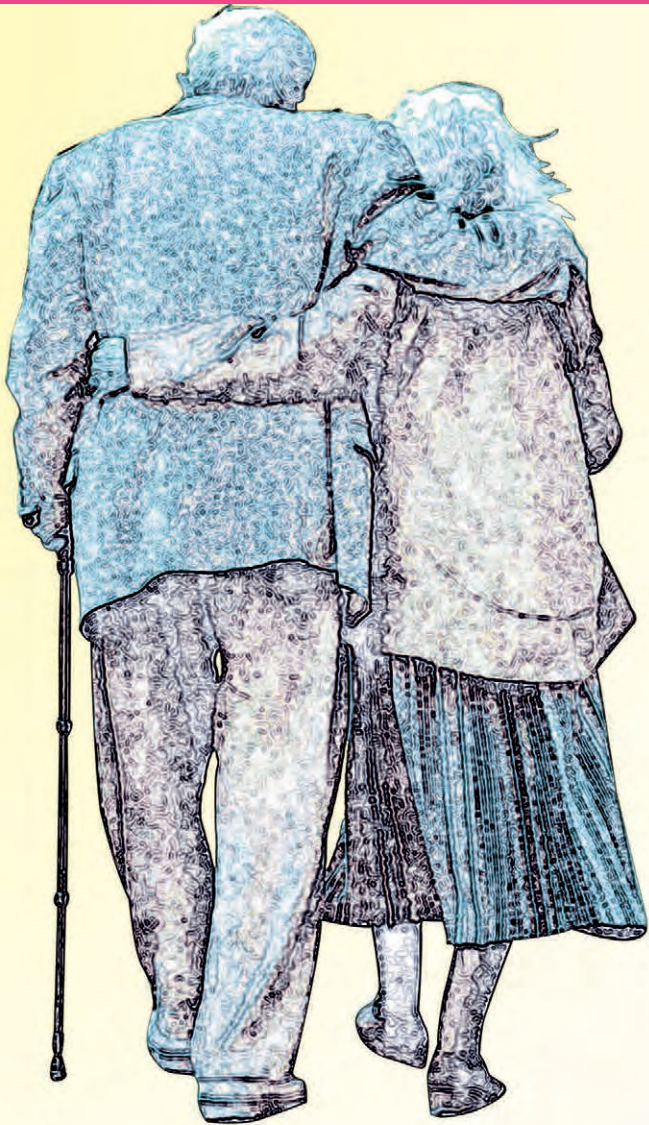
over the country have been opened. Thus, people do not have fear of it and they spent their days as usual and ignore it, that is, they do not wear masks when they go outside and wash hands. Now, we are facing the second wave of local infection. As you know, the infection of Covid-19 in many townships 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 Angel Linn
M.Ed, Y.I.O.E

Love is life, isn't it?

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 were 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.



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