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Sunday, 14 June 2020

Those who come into the country illegally, those who receive them knowingly, and those who cover up will be dealt with strictly and severely according to the law: State Counsellor

THE State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote on her Facebook page yesterday that those who come into the country illegally, those who receive them knowingly, and those who cover up will be dealt with strictly and severely according to the law. This was what she wrote:

Recently, many returnees have been coming back on a daily basis, some via border entry points and some by airplanes. The fact that these people have a feeling of trust on the State and wish to depend on it is something to be proud of.

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

At this time when the COVID disease is spreading all over the world, all countries are dealing with this problem in various ways. "People are the key"; we have placed our belief firmly on this. We place value on the people and derive our strength from the people. We

We place value on the people and derive our strength from the people. We are striving to overcome the dangers of this disease by building up the spirit of "all for one and one for all."

are striving to overcome the dangers of this disease by building up the spirit of "all for one and one for all".

One of the measures taken by the Union Government is to make it possible for those citizens living in foreign countries to be able to return; because the infection rate of the disease is high in some foreign countries, we have to make special preparations to

make sure that the infection does not spread from the returnees.

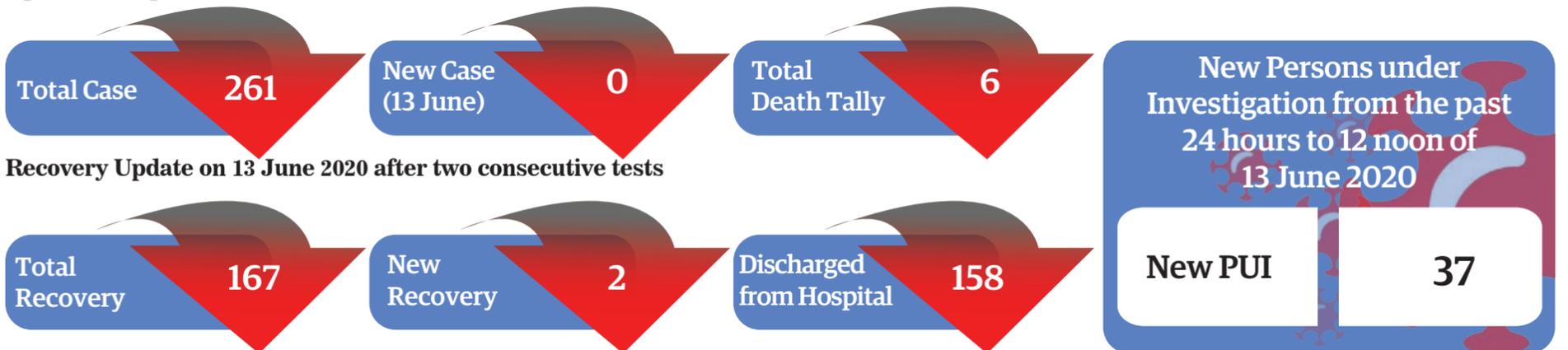
In this type of situation, all of us need to prevent and severely restrict dangerous illegal border crossings. Those who come in illegally do not enter quarantine; if they carry the infection, the disease can spread to others. The steps needed to be taken to investigate and search for people who might have been exposed to the disease (contact tracing) and to quarantine them is such a huge burden for the country. This is a duty we have to undertake without fail so that the people would be free from danger.

Those who come into the country illegally, those who receive them knowingly, and those who cover up will be dealt with strictly and severely according to the law. If you happen to know any occurrence that endangers the public, please inform the ward/village administrative authorities. Giving this type of information does not mean that you are putting someone into trouble. This is just to prevent innocent people from falling into the COVID-19 abyss.

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

No new case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 13 June, total figure remains at 261

Updated at 8 pm, 13 June 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

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Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko inspects conservation measures in Bagan

UNION Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko arrived in Bagan on 12 June afternoon, and inspected security and conservation measures at the temples.

The Union Minister held a meeting with officials at the Bagan Archaeological Museum yesterday morning.

He said that the ministry is preparing for an implementation report on 18 recommendations of the World Heritage Committee.

The Bagan conservation report is scheduled to be sent back to the committee in December 2021.

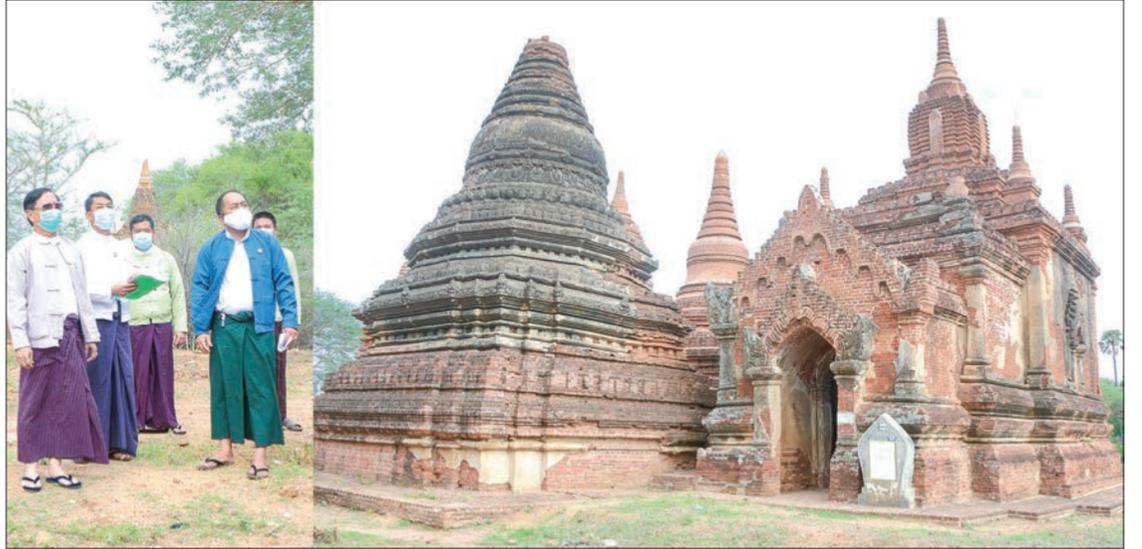
He continued to say that the ministry has received complaints on illegal construction of modern building, earth excavation with

machines and bulldozers, burying container boxes, soil digging, and driving heavy loaded vehicles on roads and streets of cultural heritage monuments.

The UNESCO has informed the ministry about erecting brick fences in Thiri Piccaya of new Bagan town, construction of walking streets, and fencings in cultural heritage area.

The Union Minister confirmed that the theft of treasures from 12 temples and it is suspected that some sacred objects were stolen from 33 edifices, while the media reports on the thefts from 50 temples have caused worry for the government and people.

The ministry is working to tighten security in this area, will categorize ancient temples for



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko inspects Bagan temple conservations on 12 June. **PHOTO: MNA**

public access in the long-term conservation of cultural heritage site and will help socioeconomic development of local people for

enhancement of their cooperation.

Officials have filed lawsuits against the thefts, and detailed

information is available on the website and social media page of the ministry.—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Shan State gains momentum for infrastructural development

UNION Minister for Construction U Han Zaw, Deputy Minister Dr Kyaw Lin, Permanent Secretary U Wint Tint and heads of department looked into the requirements of the undertakings for development of urban and rural roads and bridges, housings and other facilities in eastern and northern Shan State through video conferencing from Nay Pyi Taw.

Director (Civil) of Road De-

partment U Thura Zaw, Deputy Director (Civil) of special team 12 of the Bridge Department U Thant Zin, Director (Civil) of Rural Road Development Department U Win Shein, and Assistant Director of Urban and Housing Development Department U Tin Tun Aung of eastern Shan State presented a power-point report on the progress in implementing the road, bridge, building, urban and housing development pro-

jects, maintenance and repair of the existing facilities, budget allotments, financial sources, priority tasks and the requirements in the areas under their responsibility.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and party heard the reports on ongoing projects, progress of work in implementing regional development projects, maintenance and repair undertakings, financial matters, constraints

and other issues presented by Director (Civil) of Road Department U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Deputy Director (Civil) of special team 4 of the Bridge Department U Myint Naing Oo, Director (Civil) of Rural Road Development Department U Kyaw Zeya Win, Assistant Director of Urban and Housing Development Department U Khin Maung Win, and Assistant Director of Building Department Daw Aye Khaing

Mon of northern Shan State, with the help of audio visual aids.

In response, the Union Minister and the deputy minister expressed the harmonious progress of infrastructures including roads, bridges, housing estates, rural roads and bridges and other facilities in Shan State. They spoke of the need to meet the required standard and quality. Improvement of roads and bridges leads to smooth and swift flow of commodities in the area, they noted. The development projects are being implemented in the interest of the public, they said, and pointed out the need to ensure work-site safety. Officials concerned should ensure uninterrupted road transport through constant supervision, the Union Minister and the deputy minister stated.—MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)



Union Minister U Han Zaw discusses on progress of infrastructures and other facilities in Shan State via the videoconference yesterday.

PHOTO: MNA

Notification on COVID-19 prevention in IDP camps

1. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement is implementing action plans to prevent, contain and treat COVID-19 in IDP camps across the nation.
2. Management committees and temporary residents of the IDP camps are notified to proceed with the following action points:
 - Regularly and systematically wash hands with the hand basins and soaps provided in the camps.
 - Be wary of personal hygiene and minimizing contact with other persons when using public toilets and showers.
 - Be extra vigilant for the elderly and persons with chronic illnesses living in the camps.
 - To regulate camp residents from going outside

- and to maintain records of persons going outside for compulsory reasons. Every time they leave or enter the camp, their body temperatures should be checked, surgical or cloth-sewn masks should be worn and hands should be washed systematically.
- Always wear fabric-woven face mask. Mark two colours for interior and exterior of face mask. Completely cover nose and mouth. Never touch mask with hand when worn on face. Remove from face using the strings attached to the mask. Clean the fabric-woven face mask thoroughly every day.
- Prevent external persons from entering the camp.
- Report immediately to authorities for unusual activities or requirements concerning COVID-19.
- Carefully read SMS messages from Ministry of

Health and Sports on updates and information related to COVID-19.

- Follow patient referral procedures in case of COVID-19 symptoms.
- Connect with local general administration department, health department and philanthropic organizations to swiftly transport patients under surveillance and suspected persons to their designated locations.
- Adhere to notifications issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports and local governments concerning COVID-19

**Ministry of Social Welfare,
Relief and Resettlement**
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

“People are the key”

Volunteers, CSOs in Sagaing, Mandalay honoured for COVID-19 works



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye handing over health supplies to a volunteer for their services in measures against COVID-19 yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE National Volunteers Steering Committee presented honorary certificates, badges, face masks and hand sanitizers to the volunteers and civil service organizations in

Sagaing and Mandalay regions yesterday for their services in measures against COVID-19.

Pregnant women and the children under age five who are staying under quarantine

also received cash assistance in Monywa Township.

Union Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as the secretary of

committee, Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing, the Minister of Social Affairs of Mandalay Region government, the director-general and the deputy director-general of the Social Welfare Department and officials from the General Administration Department and Public Health and Medical Services Department attended the donation ceremonies.

The Union Minister and party first visited the quarantine centres at Nandawun Staff Housing and Dawna Compound in Monywa Township, where they presented honorary certificates for the volunteers and CSOs through the Sagaing Chief Minister, as well as badges, face masks and hand sanitizers to the representatives of CSOs.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement also gave K30,000 each for 35 pregnant women, 30 children under age five and two elderly persons over age 60.

The Union Minister and party arrived at the quarantine

centre temporarily established in Mandalay Sangha hospital, where they provided honorary certificates for volunteers and CSOs through the Social Affairs Minister of Mandalay Region government, and volunteer badges, face masks and hand sanitizers through the representatives of CSOs.

The ministry also gave K30,000 each to 72 pregnant women, 76 children under age five and 16 elderly persons over age 60 there.

The honorary certificates of National Volunteers Steering Committee will be presented to 4,541 volunteers and 286 CSOs in Sagaing Region and 5,494 volunteers and 511 CSOs in Mandalay Region through the General Administration departments of respective regions and township volunteering supporting committees. More certificates will also be given to the remaining groups after collecting the lists.

—MNA ■

(Translated by Aung Khin)

MoC has purchased 39,000 tonnes of emergency reserved rice until 12 June

THE Ministry of Commerce has bought a total of 39,000 tonnes of emergency reserved rice until 12 June.

The ministry has stockpiled 35,000 tonnes of rice in Yangon, 3,000 tonnes in Mandalay and 1,000 tonnes in Nay Pyi Taw.

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo, as the Chairman of Emergency Food Supplies Procurement Supervisory Committee, witnessed the purchase of reserved rice at the Myanmar Agrobusiness Public Corporation rice mill in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the visit of Deputy Minister and party, Myanmar Rice Federation Chairman U Ye Min Aung and responsible persons explained quality inspection and ongoing works for development of rice sector.—MNA ■



Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo visits the Myanmar Agrobusiness Public Corporation rice mill in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

MoTC extends international passenger flight restriction until 30 June

THE Ministry of Transport and Communications announced yesterday that the effective period of temporary restrictions on international commercial passenger flights will be extended until 30 June 2020, 23:59 Hours of Myanmar Standard Time, with the approval of the National Central Committee for Prevention, Control, and Treatment of COVID-19.

This is a renewal of the restriction directive ‘Temporary Measures to Prevent Importation of COVID-19 to Myanmar through Air Travel’ released by the Ministry of Health and Sports on 29 March 2020, and it was previously extended to 15 June 2020.—GNLM ■

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

ITC border trade hits K29 bln in 7 months of this FY

BORDER trade value with the use of the Individual Trading Card (ITC) from 1st October to 30 April reached over K29.14 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The export value with ITCs is K2.3 billion while the import value with ITCs is over K26.74 billion in seven months of this fiscal year.

Out of border trade camps, Myawady border trade zone is reported to have the biggest volume of trade with a value of K18.56 billion and followed by Mawtaung border trade zone with K5.11 billion, according to the official figures of the Ministry of Commerce.

The Trade Department issued a total of 1,734 cards so far, including 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in 2013-2014FY, 317 cards in 2014-2015FY, 146 cards in 2015-2016FY and 248 cards in 2016-2017FY, 168 cards in 2017-2018FY, 92 cards



Myawady is a border trade route of Myanmar with Thailand. PHOTO HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

from 1st April 2018 to 30 Sep 2018 interim period, 163 cards in 2018-2019FY and 47 cards from 1 October 2019 to 30 April 2020, according to figures re-

leased by the ministry.

A businessman can trade K3 million a day with an ITC, and the trade department granted trade value up to K15

million a day, which amounted to a five-day trade value. —Zwe ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Hotels in Chin State to reopen in next week of June

THE hotels and guesthouses in Kanpetlet and Mindat in Chin State will be reopened in the third week of June following the temporary suspension because of the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic, according to the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Chin State.

“The inspection team is now checking the hotels and guesthouses in Chin State whether they follow the rules and regulations in accordance with the guidance of the Ministry of Health and Sports. The

inspection team may issue the permission letters officially beginning from next week,” said an official from the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism in Chin State.

A total of 13 hotels and guesthouses in Chin State are holding the hotel licence issued by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Most of the hotels and guesthouses are located in Kanpetlet and Mindat townships.

Although the Chin State government permitted the

resumption of the passenger bus lines in Chin State starting from 3 June, there are only a few people travelling because of the pandemic.

“Some of the hotels and guesthouses are not resuming their operation on their own will because there are not enough travellers. Only a few visitors reach the state with their own special reasons,” said the official.

At present, only one-third of the hotels have resumed their hotel operations across

the country. Yangon Region topped the list with 284 hotels reopening followed by Shan state with 94 hotels resuming operation as of 29 May.

For the moment, tourist arrivals in Myanmar have dropped by 45 per cent because of the outbreak of coronavirus pandemic in the first four months of this year compared to the corresponding period of last year, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. —Van Maung (Chin State) ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Express bus passengers drop to one fifth during pandemic

THE number of highway bus line passengers has dropped to one fifth because of coronavirus pandemic, declining from over 30,000 to 6,000, according to the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

Aung Mingalar highway bus lines are suspended not because of the instruction of the relevant authorities just because of the insufficient number of passengers during the pandemic period and of the restrictions in and out

of the other regions.

“We have not restricted them from the operation of their service nor does the Yangon regional government. It is the respective destination states and regions concerned which imposed the restrictions. The passengers from across the country also stopped travelling. There were no passengers in April,” said the official from YRTA.

“We got instructions from the authorities to sell the tickets,

keeping the social distancing rule.

During this period, the passengers are travelling only in case of emergency. The buses with accommodation capacity of 40 to 50 passengers are operating with only 15 to 20 passengers,” he added.

There are also the rumours that the bus fares are two-fold and the passengers need to buy the tickets for two persons. Our YRTA has not given such a di-

rection and only announced to keep the social-distancing rule.

According to the official report of YRTA on 10 June, a total of 574 buses from 191 bus lines are being operated in Aung Mingalar highway terminal. Moreover, a total of 196 buses from 62 bus lines are being operated in Dagon Ayeyar highway terminal. —Aye Maung ■

(Translated by Hay Mar)

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Kayin State Chief Minister inspects preparedness for schools reopening

KAYIN State Chief Minister Daw Nann Khin Htwe Myint along with her Social Affairs Minister U Bo Bo Wai Maung and departmental officials inspected preparedness for reopening of basic education schools for 2020-2021 academic year yesterday.

The Kayin State Chief Minister and officials went to No 1, No 2, No 3, No 4, No 5 basic education high schools and Taung Galay Basic Education

High School and inspected washing basins in the schools, readiness of face masks for students, six-foot distancing plan, ratios of school children per class.

The Chief Minister and officials also gave instructions to teachers to follow directives of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nann Khin Htwe Myint inspects a school being prepared for reopening, yesterday. PHOTO: SAW MYO MIN THEIN (IPRD)

MoUGO, MoC, CBM to hold press conferences on 15 June

THE Ministry of Union Government Office, the Ministry of Construction, the Central Bank of Myanmar will hold joint press conferences on the fourth-year performances at the Office No.7 of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw at 1 pm on 15 June. — MNA

775 migrant workers return from Thailand through Myawady border on 13 June

A total of 775 Myanmar migrant workers returned home through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge (2) of Myawady border town in Kayin State yesterday.

Among them, the 198 came back home by cars, and 577 persons came back home in their own schedules from various parts of the kingdom with the

approval of Myanmar embassy there.

Myanmar has been making systematic arrangement for the return of migrant workers from Thailand since 1 May.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, District Administrator U Tay Zar Aung, Deputy District Administrator

U Aung Chan Nyein and other local authorities helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

A total of 26,902 Myanmar migrants have arrived back home through this route until now.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

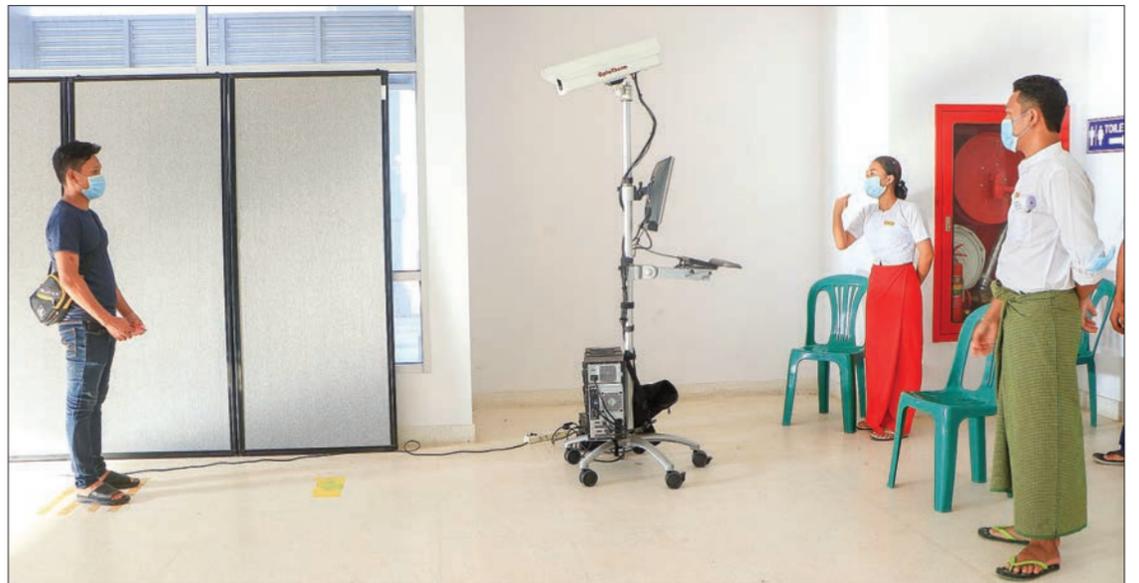
(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Correction

Please read "...Unilever EAC Myanmar Co., Ltd \$53,280 worth of 2,880 2019-nCov Nucleic acid Diagnostic kits,..." instead of "...Unilever EAC Myanmar Co., Ltd \$3,280 worth of 2,880 2019-nCov Nucleic acid Diagnostic kits,..." in the third-paragraph of second column of news story titled "Well-wishers continue donations to COVID-19 central committee" on page-7 of the 13 June Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.— Ed

Trade Mark Ads

Call Thin Thin May, 09251022355, 09974424848



A nurse conducting medical tests on a Myanmar returnee from Thailand via Myawady border yesterday. PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

Bagan lacquerware college to conduct free vocational training courses

THE Lacquerware Technology College in Bagan will conduct the five vocational training

courses in post-COVID-19 period, said Daw Su Su Khaing, the vice principal of college.

Training courses on the Black Body Making with Japanese technology, the Incised Lacquerware, the Relief Moulded Lacquerware with mosaic and Gilt Lacquerware for making accessories will be

allowed to 15 trainees for each course that will last 14 days free of charge.

Detail information for the courses is available at 061 2460 267 and 09 2590 51321. —Kyaw Min Oo (Yenangyoung)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Relief Moulded Lacquerware items of Myanmar traditional handicrafts.

PHOTO: KYAW MIN OO (YENANGYOUNG)

Fresh China cluster raises fears for pandemic control

BEIJING — Lockdowns were imposed in parts of Beijing on Saturday to try and prevent the spread of a new coronavirus cluster, highlighting the challenges that lie ahead even for places where outbreaks are under control.

It came as Brazil claimed the unenviable position of having the second-highest virus death toll worldwide behind the United States, with no sign the infection rate is slowing in Latin America.

Some of Europe's hardest hit countries meanwhile are further emerging from lockdown, even as fingers are being pointed at who is to blame for the health and economic crisis.

The respiratory disease

was first detected in central China last year, believed to have jumped from an animal to humans at a market that sold wildlife.

China largely eliminated transmission within its borders through hyper-strict lockdowns that were emulated across the globe.

But after mass testing at a wholesale food market in southern Beijing this week detected more than 50 new infections, people were forced indoors at 11 nearby residential estates.

It has fuelled fears of a resurgence in local transmission and marks a painful step backwards in the capital's return to normality.—AFP ■



Police guard a Beijing market linked to a new coronavirus cluster. PHOTO: AFP

Chile registers new daily record of COVID-19 deaths, cases

SANTIAGO — Chile registered its worst daily figures for coronavirus fatalities on Friday, with 222 deaths and more than 6,700 new infections in the previous 24-hours, authorities said.

“The situation in our country continues to rise, above all in

the metropolitan region,” health ministry official Arturo Zuniga said.

Infections have risen steadily in the South American copper giant despite the capital Santiago and its seven million people being placed on lockdown four weeks ago.

On Friday, the government also put the cities of Valparaiso and Vina del Mar under mandatory quarantine, along with nearby rural towns.

The quarantine orders mean that nearly half of Chile's 18 million population is under strict confinement.

Chile had registered more than 160,000 infections early Friday, with a total 2,870 deaths.

Health officials said the emergency services were operating at maximum capacity to contain the virus.

Zuniga said 1,391 patients were on ventilators Friday, with 373 of them in critical condition.

“We have the possibility to continue increasing our mechanical ventilator capacity, according to patients' requirements,” said Zuniga.

“Purchases that we have committed to will continue coming.”—AFP ■

Ukraine scientists see signs of hope after huge Chernobyl fires

KIEV — Ukrainian scientist Oleksandr Borsuk looks bitterly at the charred trunks of old pine trees as the acrid smell of burnt wood hangs in the air.

The scene he is taking in would not be out of place on the set of a sci-fi post-apocalyptic movie. In the spring a huge fire battered the Chernobyl exclusion zone, devastating the lush forests at the scene of the world's worst nuclear accident and dealing a major blow to its ecosystem.

“This pine forest will never be reborn,” Borsuk, the 32-year-old head of the flora and fauna lab at the Chernobyl reserve, told AFP, adding a new ecosystem will form in its place.

The fire, which broke out in April and was only put out in mid-May, reached to within just 1.5 kilometres of the protective

dome over a ruined reactor, according to Greenpeace.

The blaze — the largest since the 1986 catastrophe — spanned 66,000 hectares (14.8 acres), including 42,000 hectares of forests. The fire also tore through 10 abandoned villages and an old cemetery near the village of Rozsokha, leaving behind burnt iron crosses and charred nameplates. Several pine trees fell across the tombs.

Authorities said that no increase in radiation levels had been detected and there were no human casualties.

Local wildlife has not been spared, however.

While birds and large animals such as wolves, elks and lynxes managed to escape, some small mammals like hares as well as snakes and other reptiles perished.—AFP ■



Chilean security forces check a woman's documents as they enforce a total quarantine to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in Santiago, on June 10, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

Thousands march for racial justice in Australia

PERTH — Thousands of protesters rallied for racial equality in cities across Australia on Saturday despite official warnings the demonstrations could undermine the country's success in suppressing the coronavirus.

The biggest demonstration took place in the Western Australian capital Perth where several thousand people gathered in a park waving “Black Lives Matter” signs and Aboriginal flags.

Smaller protests for Aboriginal rights were held in Darwin, capital of the Northern Territory, and towns in neighbouring Queensland — both regions with numerous indigenous communities. “We are here to support our future as indigenous people and to walk against the injustices of... what happens to our people, with over 400 black deaths in custody,” one unidentified protester told public broadcaster ABC at the

Darwin march. With the exception of the Darwin demonstration, which had authorization, the other protests violated official injunctions against mass gatherings instituted three months ago to curb the spread of the coronavirus.

But organizers made efforts to keep the protesters spread out and mostly wearing face masks, and police did not intervene. It was the second straight weekend of large protests in Austral-

ia, initially organised in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement in the United States following the killing by a white policeman of African-American George Floyd. Elsewhere in Asia, hundreds gathered in a Taipei park with some holding signs with slogans such as “This is a movement, not a moment”. At one point the crowd went down on one knee to mourn black people killed by police in the United

States and held eight minutes of silence to remember Floyd.

Dozens also marched in Tokyo in the rain to raise awareness about racial discrimination.

Racial injustice

The movement has resonated particularly strongly with many in Australia, a country also wrestling with the legacy of racial injustice towards the country's indigenous peoples.—AFP ■

ECONOMIC PROJECTIONS

U.S. Fed sees near zero interest rates through 2022, warns of long road to recovery



An Amazon worker at a warehouse in New York where employees called for greater coronavirus safety measures has died of COVID-19. **PHOTO: AFP**

THE U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) kept its benchmark interest rate unchanged at the record-low level

of near zero, and projected interest rates to remain at the current level through at least 2022.

“The ongoing public health crisis will weigh heavily on economic activity, employment, and

inflation in the near term, and poses considerable risks to the economic outlook over the medium term,” the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), the Fed’s policy-making body, said on 10 June in a statement after concluding a two-day meeting.

In light of these developments, the committee decided to maintain the target range for the federal funds rate at 0 to 0.25 per cent, the statement said.

“The FOMC made no major policy changes today, but it left little doubt that it will do ‘whatever it takes’ to help the economy climb out of its pandemic-induced crater,” Jay H. Bryson, acting chief economist at Wells Fargo Securities, wrote in a report.

In a separate statement, the Fed projected Wednesday that the U.S. economy will shrink by 6.5 per cent in 2020, followed by a 5-per cent gain next year.

According to the central bank’s economic projection, the

unemployment rate could fall to 9.3 per cent in the fourth quarter of this year, before reaching 6.5 per cent by the end of next year.

In a virtual press conference Wednesday afternoon, Fed Chairman Jerome Powell said the economic projections were made with the general expectation that the economic recovery will begin in the second half of the year and last over the next couple of years.

“The Fed expects to see a sharper downturn and a slower recovery compared to many private sector forecasters,” Diane Swonk, chief economist at Grant Thornton, a major accounting firm, wrote on a blog.

The Fed also projected that interest rates would remain near zero through at least 2022 as policy-makers strive to support the recovery of the economy from the COVID-19-induced recession.

SOURCE: Xinhua

COMMERCIAL AIRLINE PILOT

Coronavirus pandemic hampers training as pilot shortage looms

THE novel coronavirus pandemic has hampered pilot training programmes overseas, with the aviation industry in Japan bracing for a shortage of pilots in the near future.

Japanese airlines and universities dispatch trainees to facilities abroad, but countries hosting them have halted visa issuance and stopped training programmes to prevent the spread of the coronavirus.

As the large number of pilots who were recruited during Japan’s asset-inflated bubble

economy in the late 1980s and early 1990s will be retiring around 2030, the Japanese government, airlines and universities have been trying to increase training to counter a pilot shortage that could cut flight services.

About 50 trainee pilots of All Nippon Airways Co. have been affected by the closure on March 16 of flight schools in Germany and the United States operated by Lufthansa Group, ANA officials said.

Low-cost carrier Peach

Aviation Ltd., a unit of ANA Holdings Inc., also saw training programs for its five trainee pilots in New Zealand canceled for two months from mid-March.

Seven new trainees are scheduled to undergo pilot training from August, but it is unclear whether New Zealand will issue visas for them in time, according to the airline.

Meanwhile, Japan Airlines Co. is continuing pilot training for 72 candidates in the United States, but it could face a prob-



This file photo taken in October, 2018 shows a trainee pilot of All Nippon Airways readying for a training flight in Goodyear, Arizona.

PHOTO: KYODO

lem when sending its next batch of trainees because Washington has suspended visa issuance.

Around 10 trainees of Sky-mark Airlines Inc. in Australia did not experience any major

disruption, but the company has experienced difficulties related to visa issuance for other trainees who are expected to travel to the country.

SOURCE: Kyodo

DEVASTATING IMPACT

Down but not out: crisis puts the brakes on fast fashion

Zara, H&M and Gap may be slowly reopening their stores but the coronavirus epidemic has had a devastating financial impact on the fast fashion sector, which needs a radical overhaul if it is to recover, experts say.

Nearly 40 per cent of businesses in the sector are expecting the impact to be “much

worse” than that of the 2008 financial crisis, a Euromonitor International survey showed.

It expects sales of clothing and shoes to fall by at least 12 per cent this year.

Global leader Inditex, the Spanish group which owns the Zara fashion chain, posted a first-quarter loss of 409 million

euros on Wednesday, its first-ever loss since it went public in 2001.

With 88 per cent of its stores closed at the height of the global lockdown, the group saw its sales practically halved.

But the group, which has solid financials and whose shares have held up well, has continued

to pay its staff throughout the crisis without having to put them on short-term leave through a furlough scheme.

Its rivals, however, have not been so lucky.

Primark furloughed nearly 8,000 of its employees in Spain and Mango did the same for its 4,700 staff, according to the Work-

ers’ Commissions (CCOO) union.

Sweden’s H&M still has “tens of thousands of employees” on short-term leave throughout the world, a spokesman said, predicting second-quarter losses after sales plunged by 46 per cent in March.

SOURCE: AFP

Keep on practising physical distancing to make public places safer

KEEPING space between each other is still one of the best tools to prevent global pandemic COVID-19. In daily life, it is impossible to dissociate from each other while staying away.

It is better to limit close contact with others, either in indoor or outdoor spaces as the virus may spread even before someone is sick. Therefore, staying away from each other is important for everybody although they might not show any symptoms.

The more spaces there are between you and others, the harder it is for the virus to spread. While restrictions are eased in many areas, it is important for everyone to continue practising physical distancing amid the ongoing threats of this pandemic.

Practising social distancing would be challenging for many people in personal circumstances or situations.

However, recent studies indicate that people with no symptoms play a role in the spread of COVID-19 through their coughs, sneezes, or talks when droplets from the mouth or nose enter such organs of other persons nearby.

Social distancing can also reduce touching with the surface or objects where the coronavirus can live for hours or days, although sunlight and humidity are important factors.

Despite the different levels of infection risks, anyone could be the resource person for getting and spreading COVID-19, therefore everyone needs to have vigilance to protect themselves, their family and their societies.

There are also some suggestions that face-masks should not be used on children under age 2 as they are unable to remove the mask without external assistance when they encounter breathing problems.

People of all ages, including teens and younger adults, need to avoid gatherings of any size outside their households, such as indoor or outdoor entertainments, restaurants or any other places, as well as public places.

Discussions are being made to reopen schools phase by phase. In this situation, children should not have in-person playdates outside school hours.

Although it is necessary to keep in touch with friends and family away from us, we will have to stay connected while staying away by using the internet or smart phones. Everybody should cope with stressful situations of social or physical distancing and keeping away from someone we love. In fact, temporary social distancing is a small price to pay for us to live longer with family and friends.

Always be aware of social or physical distancing in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic which is still with us.

Despite the different levels of infection risks, anyone could be the resource person for getting and spreading COVID-19, therefore everyone needs to have vigilance to protect themselves, their family and their societies.

A ROADMAP TOWARDS CREATING BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

India and Myanmar explore collaboration opportunities in women entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihoods

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi's Act East policy focuses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region.

CREATING a roadmap for exploring opportunities for collaboration between Indian and Myanmar to empower women entrepreneurs and generate sustainable livelihoods for women was discussed at a webinar organized by the FICCI Ladies Organization (FLO).

The interactive session was organized in partnership with the Indian Embassy in Myanmar, India Myanmar Chamber of Commerce (IMCC), and Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association (MWEA). Saurabh Kumar, IFS, Ambassador of India to Myanmar, and Sunil Seth, President of India Myanmar Chamber of Commerce talked about growing business opportunities between the two countries.

Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi's Act East policy focuses on the extended neighbourhood in the Asia-Pacific region. Its primary objective is to promote economic cooperation, cultural ties and develop a strategic relationship with countries in the Asia-Pacific region through continuous engagement at bilateral, regional and multilateral levels.

The policy which was originally (1992) envisaged as an economic initiative, has now gained political, strategic, and cultural



Webinar on India & Myanmar explore collaboration opportunities. PHOTO: ANI

dimensions including establishment of institutional mechanisms for dialogue and cooperation thereby clearly highlighting the new approach of India.

"The cultural exchanges and historical contacts between our two countries are the base and core of our relationship. India and Myanmar both are part of

BIMSTEC and Myanmar is the only country which comes under the ambit of our two foreign policy initiatives 'Act East and Neighbourhood First'. Now we need to focus more on the business interactions and trade between the two countries," said Saurabh Kumar, IFS, Ambassador of India to Myanmar on the webinar.

"It gives me great pleasure to start our Dialogue Series with Myanmar first, among our BIMSTEC countries. In this new decade of 2020's, let us forge ahead to work together for business opportunities and explore the potential for livelihood-linked and entrepreneurship-driven market forces to build a strong economic

alliance for our women and create a cadre of women leaders in both our countries," said Jahnabi Phookan, FLO President giving a background to this webinar.

"Sustainability as the way forward for a Self-Reliant India and that People, Planet and Profits can certainly co-exist together. Keeping in mind Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision, we want to take forward the 3 C's for Myanmar: Commerce, Communication, and Culture," added Phookan.

"These are unprecedented times and we are all fighting the unseen enemy of Covid19. Sustainability has taken centre stage to create livelihood-linked and entrepreneurship-driven enterprises by women. Women must strive to be job creators and not job seekers," said Phookan.

"This session opens up a new door of opportunity of collaboration between the women entrepreneurs of India and Myanmar. With active support from Indian Embassy in Myanmar, IMCC & (MWEA), we are hopeful that we can create a roadmap towards creating business opportunities, areas for collaboration, and also mentoring women from India and Myanmar," she added.

"IMCC started two years back and we have around 119

members from Indian and Myanmar companies. Both India and Myanmar are fast-developing economies, we see great potential in trade between these two countries and there are many sectors and industries where we can work together for improving business relations and community engagements," said Sunil Seth, President of India Myanmar Chamber of Commerce.

"Our Association promotes women entrepreneurs by training, coaching, and mentoring them. We also volunteer to support and motivate school girls towards education," said Khin Thet Maw, General Secretary, MWEA.

"We aim to explore partnership opportunities between the Women Chamber of Commerce of India and Myanmar, to come up with a collaborative platform to help women entrepreneurs in creating sustainable livelihoods," said Dharitri Patnaik, Chairperson FLO Bhubaneswar Chapter was the Day Chair.

Some other eminent members of FLO and MWEA also shared industry-specific inputs during the webinar.

SOURCE: Asian News International



Tokyoites try "new normal" for singing as karaoke boxes reopen



Customers go through temperature checks at the entrance of a karaoke parlour in Tokyo's Shinjuku area on June 12, 2020.

KARAOKE fans in Tokyo got a taste of the "new normal" for singing in a karaoke box on Friday, the first day after business closure requests for such establishments were lifted following a sharp fall in new coronavirus cases.

Customers at a Karaoke Manekineko parlour near Shinjuku Station had their temperatures checked by an AI-installed machine at the entrance and sang with microphones that had cloth covers and plastic shields attached.

The parlour, which reopened at midnight Thursday as soon as the local authorities lifted

the requests, saw a number of masked customers from the morning.

"I came to karaoke for the first time in four months. I'm really happy," said an 18-year-old woman who came with a friend.

A 21-year-old university student found the parlour's measures against the virus appropriate and responsible. "I can use the facility with pleasure" thanks to the measures, he said.

The parlour, which had been shut for more than two months, is limiting the number of customers depending on the size of room and ventilation. Staff

wearing masks and face shields periodically disinfect the rooms.

Gloves are also available for customers who wish to wear them.

A 20-year-old employee of the parlour said she was looking forward to coming to work as she likes interacting with customers.

"The coronavirus has not ceased to exist. We have to take measures properly so customers can feel safe and enjoy themselves," she said.

Karaoke boxes, typically consisting of multiple rooms in various sizes equipped with karaoke machines, fall under

the "3 C's" -- confined spaces, crowded places and close contact -- that should be avoided to prevent the spread of the virus.

"We acknowledge that customers have anxieties," said Masahiko Komuro, chief of the investor and public relations office at Koshidaka Holdings Co., whose group runs the 509 Karaoke Manekineko parlours across the nation, including 73 in Tokyo.

"If we find good steps to take, we would like to introduce them," Komuro said.

SOURCE: Kyodo



World Blood Donor Day 2020
ကျွန်ုပ်တို့တို့ကိုယ်တို့သေချာကြည့်ပါ။
Give blood and make the world a healthier place



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 13th June, 2020)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 14th June, 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in NayPyiTaw, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (5 - 8)feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of increase of rain in Taninthayi Region, Shan, Kayin and Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th June, 2020: One of two rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 14th June, 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

NASA names first woman to head human spaceflight

THE NASA official who managed the inaugural private crewed flight into space last month has been promoted to become the first female head of human spaceflight, the agency said Friday, as it prepares to return people to the Moon in 2024.

“Kathy Lueders has been selected to lead @NASA’s Human Exploration & Operations Mission Directorate,” NASA head Jim Bridenstine announced on Twitter.

“Kathy has successfully managed both the Commercial Crew & Commercial Cargo programs and is the right person to

lead HEO as we prepare to send astronauts to the Moon in 2024,” he added.

Lueders, who joined NASA in 1992, oversaw the May 30 launch of two astronauts on a SpaceX rocket to the International Space Station -- the first ever crewed commercial flight into space.

She has for years been in charge of the exhaustive testing program for space capsules developed by SpaceX, Boeing and other companies that are partnering with NASA to build vessels that can safely take humans into space.—AFP ■



Kennedy Space Centre Director Bob Cabana (left) and Commercial Crew Programme Manager Kathy Lueders attend a NASA press conference at the Kennedy Space Centre on September 16, 2014 in Cape Canaveral, Florida. PHOTO: (AFP/GERARDO MORA)



Tensions between the two Koreas have been rising in recent days. PHOTO: POOL/AFP/FILE

Kim’s sister says N. Korea will take ‘action’ against South: KCNA

SEOUL — North Korea will take “action” against the South and entrust its military to carry it out, Kim Yo Jong, the powerful sister of leader Kim Jong Un, threatened Saturday in a statement carried by the KCNA news agency.

“I feel it is high time to surely break with the south Korean authorities. We will soon take a next action,” she said in the latest denunciation of Seoul.

Since last week the North has issued a series of vitriolic condemnations of the South

over activists sending anti-Pyongyang leaflets over the border -- something defectors do on a regular basis.

“By exercising my power authorized by the Supreme Leader, our Party and the state, I gave an instruction to the arms of the department in charge of the affairs with enemy to decisively carry out the next action,” said Kim Yo Jong, who is a key advisor to her brother.

She added that “the right to taking the next action against the enemy will be entrusted to

the General Staff of our army.”

Kim did not elaborate on what the military action would be but appeared to threaten the destruction of the Joint Liaison Office, in the North Korean border city of Kaesong.

“Before long, a tragic scene of the useless north-south joint liaison office completely collapsed would be seen,” her statement on KCNA said.

Last week she condemned Seoul for not blocking activists from flying balloons carrying anti-regime leaflets across the border.—AFP ■

France says ‘no nuclear accident’ during submarine fire

PARIS — A fire that raged for 14 hours on one of France’s nuclear-powered attack submarines did not lead to an atomic accident as steps were taken to protect its reactor, the defence minister said Saturday.

The submarine was under renovation in the southern base of Toulon when the blaze broke out at about 10:30 am (0830 GMT) on Friday in a hard-to-access part of the lower bow section, the navy said.

It then took around 100 firefighters and 150 support crew to put out the blaze by around midnight (2200 GMT Friday), the navy said in a statement.

“There was a fire, but no, there was not a nuclear accident,” Defence Minister Florence Parly said.

Parly added that during the fire “measures were taken

in the rear area to protect the nuclear reactor compartment”.

The navy said earlier there were no casualties and no risk of radiation because the nuclear fuel had been removed during the renovation of La Perle (The Pearl), one of France’s six nuclear attack submarines.

The extent of the damage -- and what started the fire -- were not immediately clear but an official with the Naval Group repair centre called the incident “serious.”

The regional authorities said that pollution and radioactivity tests carried out by independent experts had not found anything out of the ordinary.

But French nuclear watchdog association CRIIRAD said that a nearby measurement found that radioactivity levels had oscillated at low levels for

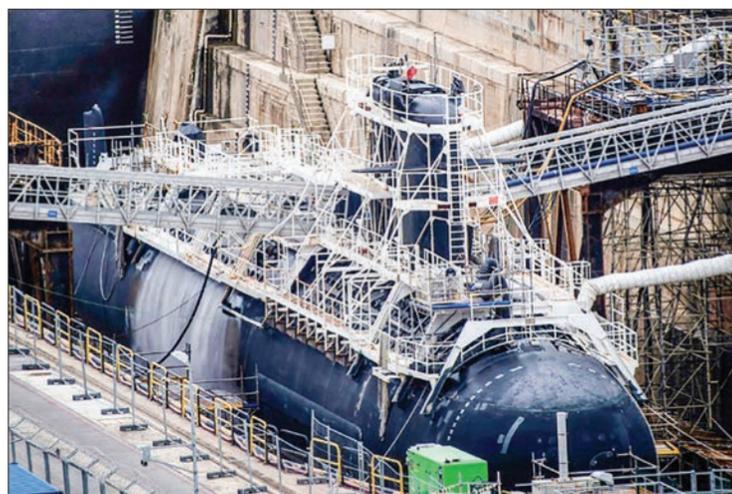
a few hours in the days leading up to the fire.

The NGO said the “troubling” phenomenon “could have several explanations,” but that it did “raise questions”.

Parly responded by saying

that “a natural radioactive element was emitted in infinitesimal quantities before the fire,” adding that it showed that “we have an extremely sensitive and effective detection system”.—

AFP ■



It took 14 hours to extinguish a fire on board the French nuclear attack submarine, the navy said. PHOTO: AFP

Argentina extends deadline of debt talks until June 19

BUENOS AIRES -- The Argentine government said Friday that negotiations with creditors to restructure sovereign debt would continue next week and the deadline for reaching an agreement will be extended to at least June 19.

Friday should have been the deadline for the government to reach a deal with creditors to restructure around 65 billion U.S. dollars of debt, including 503 million dollars in interest, which the government failed to pay on May 22, throwing the country into technical default.—Xinhua ■

Palestine asks Arab states to ensure 100-mln-USD monthly loan

RAMALLAH — A senior Palestinian official announced on Saturday that the Palestinian Authority (PA) had asked the Arab states to ensure a 100-million-U.S. dollar monthly loan to help Palestine overcome its financial crisis.

Saeb Erekat, Secretary of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Executive Committee, told the Voice of Palestine radio that the PA request to get a loan which was under previous Arab League decisions to ensure a secure Arab financial network.

“It’s necessary to provide an urgent Arab financial aid to back the Palestinian Authority treasury to overcome the current difficult situation amid the current challenges,” said Erekat.

Earlier this month, the PA decided not to receive money that comes from the tax revenue dues that Israel collects on behalf of the PA from Palestinian trade at crossing points under Israel’s control.

The PA decision was part of the Palestinian leadership’s



Across divides. A Palestinian man wearing a protective mask stands outside Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem. PHOTO: (AFP)

decision to eliminate all bilateral agreements and understandings reached with Israel in response to the latter’s plan of annexing Palestinian lands in the West Bank.

Due to the financial crisis the PA has been passing through, the

Palestinian government was unable to pay this month’s salaries to its civil and security servants in the West Bank and Gaza.

PA officials announced earlier that the deficit in the PA’s budget has reached 1.4 billion

U.S. dollars.

Meanwhile, Erekat announced that the United Nations Security Council will convene on June 24 to discuss the developments in the Palestinian territories.—Xinhua ■

Fuel prices hiked for 7th consecutive day in India

NEW DELHI — Fuel, petrol and diesel, prices rose for the seventh consecutive day in the Indian capital on Saturday, re-

ported the Press Trust of India (PTI).

Petrol price was hiked by 0.59 Rupees, taking it to 75.16

Rupees (around 1 U.S. dollar) per litre, and diesel became dearer by 0.58 Rupees, taking its price tag to 73.39 Rupees (97 U.S. cents) per litre.

The cumulative increase in rates of petrol and diesel over the past six days stands at 3.9 Rupees and 4.00 Rupees respectively in the last seven days.

Fuel rates have been increased across the country and vary from state to state depending on the incidence of local sales tax or value added tax (VAT), added the report.

This is the seventh daily increase in rates in a row since oil companies on Sunday re-

started revising prices in line with costs, after ending an 82-day hiatus. The freeze in rates was imposed in mid-March soon after the Centre Government hiked excise duty on petrol and diesel to shore up additional finances.

Oil companies - Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Limited (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Limited (HPCL), instead of passing on the excise duty hikes to customers, adjusted them against the fall in the retail rates that was warranted because of a decline in international oil prices.—Xinhua ■



Petrol and diesel prices were hiked on first day. PHOTO: AFP

Hertz allowed to sell \$1 bn in shares despite bankruptcy

WASHINGTON — Coronavirus-hit car rental company Hertz was granted permission Friday to sell \$1 billion in shares, an extraordinary move after it declared bankruptcy in the United States and Canada.

The unusual green light was given by a bankruptcy court in the US state of Delaware, which “held a hearing and approved the

Motion,” according to documents filed by Hertz with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

The company says it will sell the shares at its discretion in terms of timing and volume.

Hertz is trying to capitalize on a surge in its volatile stock price since it filed for bankruptcy on May 23.

Trading at less than a dollar at the end of last week, shares are now worth three times as much, even peaking at \$5.53 at the beginning of the week.

On Friday the stock climbed 37.38 per cent during the day, but fell 10.5 per cent to \$2.53 at 2130 GMT in after-market trading.

Traditionally, shares of bank-

rupt companies lose value with debt repayment taking precedence.

Experts say in Hertz’s case, however, the price has been affected by the abundance of cheap money flooding the economy after the US Federal Reserve turned on the tap to combat the economic impact of the coronavirus pandemic.—AFP ■

NEWS In BRIEF

Volkswagen car deliveries fall 34 pct in May, Chinese market recovering

BERLIN — Worldwide vehicle deliveries by German carmaker Volkswagen fell by almost 34 per cent to around 609,400 vehicles in May year on year, the company announced on Friday.

South America recorded a particularly sharp decline of 69 per cent to only 17,000 delivered vehicles, followed by Western Europe, down by 57 per cent to 147,400 vehicles, according to Volkswagen.

Meanwhile, there was “good news from China” as the Chinese market was recovering from the effects of COVID-19. In May, Volkswagen recorded an increase of delivered vehicles by 5.7 per cent to 330,300 units in China. “The market is driving out of the crisis in a sustainable way,” said Herbert Diess, chairperson of the board of management of Volkswagen.

“The number one car market is rapidly changing towards e-mobility and digital networking,” added Diess. By 2025, Volkswagen is planning to produce 1.5 million electric cars per year in China alone.—Xinhua ■

Chinese car products marketplace Car House Holding files for U.S. IPO

NEW YORK — Car House Holding, which operates an online marketplace of automotive products in China, filed on Friday for an initial public offering (IPO) on the U.S. stock market.

The company plans to list on the Nasdaq under the symbol “CARH,” with an expectation to raise about 37 million U.S. dollars, according to its prospectus filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Founded in 2004, the company began its business in developing, manufacturing, and selling auto perfume and air fresheners. Currently, it also operates an online business-to-business marketplace of automotive products focusing on serving wholesale and retail customers in China.—Xinhua ■

Trump postpones rally scheduled for 'Juneteenth' holiday



Trump said the rally had been postponed 'out of respect' for the June 19 'Juneteenth' holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the US. **PHOTO: AFP**

WASHINGTON — Donald Trump has postponed a controversial rally scheduled for the same day as a holiday commemorating the end of slavery in the US, following fierce criticism, he announced Friday.

The "Make America Great Again" rally in Tulsa, Oklahoma had been due to mark Trump's return to the campaign trail, but he said on Twitter the event had been postponed "out of respect" for the June 19 "Juneteenth" holiday.

Critics had slammed Trump's choice of Tulsa -- the site of one of the worst race riots in US history -- as anti-racism

protests sweep the country following the death of George Floyd in police custody.

"This isn't just a wink to white supremacists—he's throwing them a welcome home party," Senator Kamala Harris tweeted after Trump first announced the rally.

The Republican billionaire announced on Wednesday that he would resume his campaign rallies in four states -- Oklahoma, Florida, Arizona and North Carolina -- despite the coronavirus pandemic that continues to rage in the US.

Raucous rallies have been a hallmark of Trump's presidency

and a key to energizing his base, which he hopes will turn out in big numbers on November 3. He is currently lagging in the polls against Democrat Joe Biden.

Job approval for the president is also down after his response to the coronavirus pandemic and the recent turmoil over police brutality, sparked by Floyd's death during his arrest in Minneapolis.

Although the coronavirus remains a threat, his campaign now feels that the crowds at daily street protests have lifted the political pressure on Trump to avoid large gatherings of his own.—AFP ■

America's original sin: Floyd death prompts historical soul-searching

LAWRENCE — Confederate monuments are coming down and statues of Christopher Columbus are being toppled as Americans grapple with the ghosts of the country's racial history in the wake of George Floyd's death.

"It seems like maybe we've hit a tipping point in the retelling of the narrative of who we are as an American people," said David Farber, a history professor at the University of Kansas.

"We're seeing tens of millions, if not hundreds of millions, of Americans wrestling with fundamental questions of what do we do with the unsavory -- and, let's be frank, even immoral -- aspects

of our past."

The May 25 killing of Floyd, an African American, by a white police officer in Minneapolis has ignited mass protests for racial justice and police reform across the United States.

But the death of the 46-year-old has also triggered a national soul-searching of the country's checkered past.

Demonstrators in several US cities have targeted monuments to generals and politicians of the pro-slavery Civil War South, pulling down a statue in Richmond, for example, of Jefferson Davis, the Confederate president during the 1861-1865 conflict.— AFP ■

African countries call for racism debate at UN rights council

GENEVA — African countries called Friday on the UN Human Rights Council to urgently debate racism and police brutality amid the unrest in the US and beyond over George Floyd's death.

In a letter written on behalf of 54 African countries, Burkina Faso's ambassador to the UN in Geneva asked the UN's top rights body for an "urgent debate" on "racially inspired human rights violations, police brutality against people of African descent and the violence against the peaceful protests that call for these injustices to stop."

The letter, addressed to rights council president Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger of Austria, re-

quested that this debate be held next week, when the council's 43rd session resumes, after it was interrupted in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The call came after Floyd's family, along with the families of other victims of police violence and over 600 NGOs this week called on the council to urgently address systemic racism and police impunity in the US.

For the council to consider such a request, it needs to have the backing of at least one country. With the request now coming from a large group of states, "that increases the chances" it will take place, a council spokesman told AFP.— AFP ■

UK PM defends history in statue row, as fears grow over protests

LONDON — Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Friday said a wave of anti-racism protests across Britain had been "hijacked by extremists", as fears mounted about clashes between activists and far-right groups, and vandalism spread.

Several statues were boarded up as a precaution, including one of World War II leader Winston Churchill and the Cenotaph war memorial in central London, after previous damage.

In Liverpool, street signs of Penny Lane, which was immortalised in The Beatles' 1967 song, were daubed with graffiti claiming it was named after a slave trader.

In Bannockburn, central

Scotland, a statue to king Robert the Bruce -- who led the Scots to victory against the English in 1314 -- was defaced, calling him a racist.

Statues, monuments, street and building names commemorating historical figures from Britain's colonial past have increasingly become targets for activists, amid calls for a re-examination of how the country's historical legacy is marked in public spaces, and for many monuments to be torn down or relocated to museums.

On Sunday, crowds in Bristol, southwest England, toppled a statue to a 17th century slave trader and philanthropist, Edward Colston, and threw it into the harbour.

Several television shows, including an episode of the cult 1970s comedy series "Fawlty Towers", were also pulled from streaming services because of language now deemed offensive.

Johnson said he recognised the "legitimate desire to protest against discrimination" but "we cannot now try to edit or censor our past."

Earlier generations "had different perspectives, different understandings of right and wrong. But those statues teach us about our past, with all its faults," he said.

"To tear them down would be to lie about our history, and impoverish the education of generations to come."—AFP ■



In London, authorities boarded up several statues, including one of World War II leader Winston Churchill. **PHOTO: AFP**

Conte calls for 'courage' to save Italy at talks with EU, IMF



Italian Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.
PHOTO: ARIS OIKONOMOU/AFP

ROME — Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte called Saturday for a “courageous plan” when he launched virtual talks with EU and IMF leaders to rescue Italy’s economy and society from the “unprecedented shock” triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Conte said the plan was needed to surmount the nation’s crisis as Italian opposition figures

shunned the hastily organized and roundly criticised emergency talks.

European Union leaders “must show that they have understood that it is about defending mutual interests,” Conte said in an opening speech transmitted to leading executives in Brussels.

“We are in the process of living an unprecedented shock with very high hu-

man, social and economic costs,” Conte said.

The EU’s third largest economy is expected to contract by at least 8.3 per cent in 2020, under the most optimistic estimate from Italy’s national statistics agency.

To stimulate activity in EU countries most affected by the COVID-19 crisis, the European Commission has proposed a 750-billion-euro (\$847-billion) recovery plan – 500 billion euros in grants and 250 billion euros in loans.

Italy is expected to receive around 172 billion euros of this sum.

“We must also take advantage of (the moment) to transform the crisis into an opportunity to eliminate all the obstacles that slowed (the country) down for the last 20 years,” Conte said.—AFP ■

India’s forex reserves cross 500 bln USD for first time

NEW DELHI — India’s foreign exchange (Forex) reserves have crossed the 500 billion U.S. dollars mark for the first time, said the central bank - the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) latest weekly statistical data.

The Forex reserves registered a massive surge of 8.22 billion U.S. dollars during the week ended June 5, which was mainly attributed to higher foreign inflows.

According to the RBI’s weekly statistical data, the overall Forex reserves increased to 501.70 billion U.S. dollars on June 5, from 493.480 billion U.S. dollars as reported for the week ended May 29.

India’s Forex reserves comprise foreign currency assets (FCAs), gold reserves, special drawing rights (SDRs) and India’s

reserve position with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

The FCAs, said to be the largest component of the Forex reserves, climbed by 8.42 billion U.S. dollars to 463.63 billion U.S. dollars, as compared to the previous week. Value of the country’s gold reserves decreased by 329 million U.S. dollars to 32.35 billion

U.S. dollars, as compared to the previous week.

The SDR value rose by 10 million U.S. dollars to 1.44 billion U.S. dollars, as compared to the previous week. The country’s reserve position with the IMF increased by 120 million U.S. dollars to 4.28 billion U.S. dollars, as compared to the previous week.—Xinhua ■



The foreign exchange reserves had stood at \$487.039 billion, increased reported for the week ended May 15.
PHOTO: AFP

Virus mine closures stir unease in Poland’s rust belt

WARSAW — A spike in reported coronavirus cases in Poland’s coal mines has put the country on edge but residents worried about jobs are playing down the health crisis.

The issue is particularly sensitive ahead of a hard-fought presidential election on June 28 in Poland, where miners are still a powerful voting bloc.

Dominik Kolorz, head of the Solidarity trade union for the Silesian coal basin, told AFP he was concerned the increase in virus cases could serve as a pretext for the definitive

closure of some mines. “We hope the government will go on to restore the mining sector,” Kolorz

told AFP, speaking in Katowice in southern Poland, the regional capital of Silesia.



A spike in reported coronavirus cases at coal mines such as the Ruch Zofiowka plant has put the country on edge but locals worried about jobs are playing down the health crisis
PHOTO: AFP

Miners and their families accounted for a high proportion of recent cases of coronavirus diagnosed in Poland, prompting the government to suspend work at 12 mines until the end of June.

All of them belong to the JSW mining group and the PGG conglomerate — Europe’s two biggest coal companies — and employ thousands of people.

Poland depends on coal for 80 per cent of its power needs but the closures are not expected to affect energy production as it has ample stockpiles.—AFP ■

S.Korea’s economy faced with reduced downside risks amid uncertainty: gov’t report

SEOUL — South Korea’s economy is faced with more or less reduced downside risks amid lingering uncertainty from the COVID-19 outbreak, a government report said Friday.

The Ministry of Economy and Finance said in its monthly eco-

nomics assessment report called Green Book that the economy’s downside risks somewhat eased on an alleviated consumption slump and a slower employment decline though uncertainty remained from the coronavirus pandemic.

The ministry said

some of economic indicators improved on resumed economic activity in major economies, but it noted that concerns about the global economic recession lingered as the possibility remains for the COVID-19 to spread again.

Credit card spending

grew 5.3 per cent in May from a year earlier, after sliding 5.7 per cent in April and 4.3 per cent in March respectively.

Revenue for department stores shrank 9.9 per cent in May, but it was slower than a 14.7 per cent drop in the previous month.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM DAY NOTICE

M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (092N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CAPE FLORES VOY. NO. (092N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-6-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM DAY NOTICE

M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (077 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PACITA VOY. NO. (077 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14-6-2020 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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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

A delivery service, extending image in metropolis Yangon

By Swe Oo Wai

IN recent days, youths riding bicycles on the roads in Yangon City give door to door service of goods to customers. During the period when people stay at home due to outbreak of pandemic Covid-19, number of people increases to give orders to those youths for delivering foodstuffs and goods to their homes. Consequently, such kind of service is booming in the city with momentum.

The door to door foodstuffs and good transportation service has been given in Yangon by bicycle for many years. But, orders for delivery service were on the rise at the end of March and in April, said Ko Myat Oo, who is one of food and goods delivery service provider by bicycle.

Many delivery services

such as Food Panda, Great Food and Food Mall are giving their services to the people in Yangon City. They recruited youths to deliver foods and goods to the people using bicycles on a daily basis. Some service providers are formed with more than 50 youths and some with more than 70.

Door to door service

After the World Health Organization has declared Covid-19 as the pandemic, the government of Myanmar issued a notification on 13 March 2020 not to gather crowds of people. The notification was valid till 30 April for the first time but it was extended to 15 May for the second time. As the people staying at home gave more and more orders of foodstuffs to the service providers, youths transport

foodstuffs and goods to be delivered to homes of customers by bicycle.

At present, there are two door to door delivery services. One of two is to charge payment for foods only called as free of charge charity service. During the Covid-19 period, volunteer groups give such kind of services to the people. The second one collects transport charge for delivery service to homes from customers on a commercial scale.

Giving orders through online platform

Applying online platforms such as applications, facebook pages and telephones of the services, anybody may give orders of foodstuffs to the delivery services, which charge payments for the door to door delivery of foods.

Have to give payments

If the customers contact these service companies, the latter will order reachable restaurants for giving orders of foods to be delivered. Consumers can view the rates of foods while eating the foods at the restaurants so as to choose the foods as they like. Consumers or customers have to pay charges when foods are delivered at home.

Some companies operating such kind of services in Yangon City provide services free of charge but some collect not only payment for foodstuffs but also for transport charges.

More needs of cyclist servants

Now, restaurants cannot allow sitting consumers yet, so number of parcel orders is on the rise. As such, the service providers require more and more number of cyclist servants. They are salary servants, and the company fulfills them with bicycles and necessary accessories.

As their work processes, service providers express transport time for delivery of foodstuffs. The companies arrange monitoring their cyclist servants through GPS system. The companies undertake the best supervision for food safety as well as fulfill the cyclist servants with masks, hats, gloves and hand gel.

What is quality?

However, it is still weak in supervision for health and safety of consumers and quality of

foodstuffs in providing door to door food delivery service. It is necessary to have the best touchable system for ensuring food safety and service safety as well as good tracing system, said officials from Myanmar Consumers Union.

Following the disciplines

Currently, food delivery services in Yangon City place emphasis on service to provide satisfactory services to the customers so as to glitter their prestige recognized by the people. The services are trying the best without any mistake while the cyclist youths are also following the disciplines.



Food delivery service become popular in Yangon City. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)



Door to door delivery service of food has surged in Yangon City. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN (NLM)





working hours from 8 am to 10 pm on a daily basis. During the Covid-19 period, their working hours last till about 8 pm because the curfew was declared.

Careful scrutiny

“Some orders were sent as a joke. Moreover, some orders were not mentioned with full address, so we faced difficulties for searching the houses. Now, the company carefully scrutinizes addresses for orders,” said Ko Myat Oo. As local authorities ban use of motorcycle in Yangon City, riding of bicycles is more safety for transporting the foods along the traffic congested roads in the city.

Increasing number of cyclists on recent days

Increasing number of youths riding bicycles with loads of food boxes were seen on main roads in Yangon City on recent days, especially at Hledan traffic light and environs and on Yangon-Insein Road. In fact, it is a service business suitable for the current period.

Based on trust

It is necessary to wait and see such kinds of food delivery services whether they would develop with momentum in Yangon City in the aftermath of Covid-19. As now is time of giving priority to safety and security of foods in accord with the health situation, such services are image of Yangon City based on mutual trust.

*(Translated by
Than Tun Aung)*

Accepting many orders

Actually, the door to door food supply service was initiated by an Egyptian IT engineer Shady Ramadan in Yangon City. The Egyptian Chief Executive Officer & Founder of the service implemented his thoughts to eat something he wished at home easily. He initiated the door 2 door service with 10 staff as of December 2013. Despite initial difficulties and lesser orders, his service improved in 2016 with a large number of orders for providing services to the people.

With regard to the food delivery services, some services extend their wings to 35 townships of Yangon Region and some services to 30 townships. All service organizations set



Transport employees giving door to door service of food delivery to dwellers staying at home in Yangon City. **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN**

TCP Group donates over 25 million MMK to Ministry of Health and Sports and We Love Yangon Charity for COVID-19 relief

YANGON, June 05, 2020 – T.C. Pharmaceutical Myanmar (TCPMM), a member of TCP Group, has donated more than 25 million MMK in funds, products and personal protective equipment to combat COVID-19 in Myanmar. Over the past two months, TCPMM has extended its relief efforts towards grass-root communities and front-line healthcare professionals, including five thousand N95 masks to Myanmar’s Ministry of Health and Sports and 10 million MMK in cash to the charity group We Love Yangon.

TCPMM’s humanitarian response to the ongoing pandemic began with a monetary donation of seven million MMK to the Mandalay Regional COVID-19 Prevention Fund on 9 April. The company also supplied one million MMK worth of Red Bull and Sponsor beverage to Mandalay General Hospital and Wai Bar Gi Hospital in Yangon for healthcare professionals.

“Early on, TCPMM made a contribution to the relief fund in conjunction with the government and other stakeholders to represent our will for Myanmar to persevere through this crisis and emerge from it stronger as a community,” said Ms Sarah Lee, Country Director of TCPMM.

Moreover, in helping vulnerable households in rural areas of Yangon Region, TCPMM donated 10 million MMK in cash to local charity We Love Yangon to actively distribute food and aid packages via volunteer-driven trishaws. The company also provided six hundred bottles of Sponsor isotonic beverage. U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Chief Minister, represented We Love



TCPMM seen receiving certificate of honour. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Yangon during the donation ceremony at Yangon Region Hluttaw Hall on May 22.

And most recently, TCPMM donated five thousand N95 protective masks to the Ministry of Health and Sports on June 5 for distributing to healthcare professionals. The personal protective equipment is important in preventing virus transmission to front-line medical professionals, who play an essential role in virus detection, prevention, and recovery across Myanmar.

“We will stand by Myanmar and its people through this difficult period of combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, and we remain committed to supporting volunteer groups and healthcare professionals on the front line who give their best and save lives every day. TCPMM inherited values of resilience and sustainability from our founding father, Mr. Chaleo Yoovidhya of TCP Group in Thailand, and we will continue to promote the same philanthropic spirit in the Myanmar market,” Ms Lee added.

Mr. Saravoot Yoovidhya, CEO of TCP Group, said: “In 2017, TCP Group decided to expand its business in Myanmar by setting up TCPMM. Myanmar has since become a fast-growing and important market for us, to which we are committed. Under the COVID-19 pandemic, Myanmar’s health care providers are experiencing great challenges. We hope that our contribution to support the government’s aid efforts and to protect the healthcare workers can help Myanmar pull through this crisis as safely as possible.”

In Myanmar, TCPMM markets and distributes Red Bull energy drink, a global household name, as well as the popular Sponsor electrolyte beverage. TCPMM’s parent company is TCP Group, the Thailand-based creator and global owner of the Red Bull and Sponsor brands. TCP Group’s global mission is to respect social values and ensure sustainable practices throughout its operating value chain around the world.—GNLM



TCPMM seen donating to We Love Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Myanmar Lethwei matches planned to be held worldwide

MYANMAR Lethwei matches will be held worldwide in the time of post-pandemic, according to the statement with the World Lethwei Championship.

Officials from the World Lethwei Championship have announced that the eight WLC matches are scheduled to be held in five countries: Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Japan and the United States this year-end

and next year. As first tentative match officials have arranged a WLC match in Yangon, Myanmar on 7 August 2020.

Next, Lethwei authorities arranged the second match in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 18 September 2020.

The third match is going to be held on 27 November 2020, in Mandalay, Myanmar and fourth match on 8 January 2021 in Bang-

kok, Thailand.

Then, the fifth match is slated to be held on 12 March 2021 in Yangon, Myanmar and sixth match in Hpa-an, Myanmar on 1 May 2021. The seventh match is planned to take place in Tokyo, Japan on 6 August 2021 and eighth match in the United States on 3 December 2021, according to the World Lethwei Championship. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Tokyo Olympics will be safe, governor says

TOKYO — Next year's Olympics will be safe despite the coronavirus pandemic, Tokyo Governor Yuriko Koike has said, pledging a "120-per-cent effort" to ensure the first-ever postponed Games can go ahead.

Koike — who announced Friday she would stand for re-election next month — said the city was committed to holding the event as a "symbol of human triumph" over the virus, but admitted it would be downsized.

"I will make a 120-per-cent effort," Koike, 67, said in an interview with AFP, but declined to say how confident she was that the sporting extravaganza would open as planned.

Tokyo 2020 became the first Olympics ever postponed in peacetime earlier this year as the coronavirus marched across the globe, upending lives and forcing the cancellation of sporting and cultural events.

They are now scheduled to



Tokyo governor Yuriko Koike has pledged a '120-per-cent effort' to ensure the delayed 2020 Olympics can go ahead. PHOTO: AFP

begin on July 23, 2021 -- though they will still be known as the 2020 Games — but medical experts have raised concerns that the delay will not be long enough to contain the virus and hold the event safely.

Officials in Japan and from the International Olympic Committee have warned it will not be possible to postpone

again.

Koike said she was continuing to "make all-out efforts in the battle against the virus to put on a Games that is full of hope".

And she pledged an event "that is safe and secure for athletes and fans from abroad as well as for residents of Tokyo and Japan".—AFP ■

Cardboard cut-outs and Zoom parties: the new normal for Premier League fans

LONDON — From cardboard cut-outs in the stands to Zoom watch parties, the return of the Premier League will be a bizarre experience for locked-out supporters.

The English top-flight resumes behind closed doors on Wednesday, with fans forced to adapt to an unsettling new normal due to the coronavirus.

Anyone watching the Bun-

desliga since German football's return will have noticed the eerie silence in the stands and echoing shouts of players are not conducive to a riveting viewing experience.

In the absence of fans, the games often seem soulless and resemble reserve team fixtures rather than high-stakes encounters.

Former Arsenal manager

Arsene Wenger is certain the Premier League product will suffer from the lack of colour and passion provided by supporters.

"What makes it special in England is the way people react to the game," Wenger told The Athletic. "It is the best country in the world for the way the fans respond to what's happening on the pitch."—AFP ■

Rakhine United to sign more local and foreign players

IN preparation for the second round matches of the Myanmar National League 2020, Rakhine United will sign more local and foreign players to have bigger power of the team, said Rakhine United's head coach U Than Wai.

As an expatriate player, Sunday Mathew was injured and the team is also arranging to sign a new expatriate player plus three new local players according to the head coach.

We are now preparing for a strong attack. We want physically fit and disciplined expatriate player for attacker position. We have scheduled local players to be placed in the middle line, he added.

As Myanmar National

League matches will resume on 16 July, according to the football authorities meeting this week, Rakhine United head coach revealed about his team's preparation.

We are now waiting for the official approval of teams' training. The exact date for the training has not been released yet and I wish the team's training to resume as soon as possible. We also need to conduct the team's training following the health instructions set by the government, he stressed.

Rakhine United is currently standing in the sixth place, earning 15 points after week 9 matches of the Myanmar National League.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Varner leads as McIlroy charges in PGA return at Colonial

LOS ANGELES — Harold Varner overcame a triple-bogey start to maintain the lead at the halfway stage of the Charles Schwab Challenge on Friday as the hard-charging Rory McIlroy and Jordan Spieth appear poised to strike.

Varner, one of three black players in the top 200 in the world rankings, fired a four-under-par 66 at Colonial Country Club to reach 11-under 129 after 36 holes in the US PGA Tour's return event after a three-month shutdown due to the new coronavirus pandemic.

"I have learned a lot about myself through adversity. America is going through adversity right now so it is pretty eye-opening," said Varner, later referring to protests against the death of George Floyd, a black man killed recently as he was detained by white police officers.

Jordan Spieth and Bryson DeChambeau are tied for second, one stroke back after a second consecutive 65s, while world number one McIlroy fired a 63 to join Collin Morikawa and Xander Schauffele sharing third on 131.—AFP ■



Harold Varner III fired a four-under par 66 on Friday to seize the lead in the second round of the US PGA Tour's Charles Schwab Challenge. PHOTO: AFP

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

14 JUNE 2020
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

I went to the Shan States as a volunteer at the Mudita Foundation School, founded by a German monk who was ordained at Pharr Auk Taw Ya monastery over seven years ago. It was founded for the sake of orphaned children. I left Yangon at 5pm and arrived at Nyaung Shwe around half past five the next morning. I took a taxi to the school which is situated on the top of the mountain a little far from the town. It was icy cold because it was winter. As I entered the school compound, I heard the children chanting a prayer before having a meal. I was so moved to hear. I had never heard of such a pleasant chanting in Yangon.

A tall slim fair girl came and accommodated me at a bamboo Kuti. She was a sociable girl. Her name is Ei Ei Kyaw. She and her mother stayed at the same Kuti too. They came from Inn dawgyi in Kachin State. Her father had passed away. She was also one of the teachers there. She just finished the matriculation exam. Her mother took the responsibility of cooking for all staying in the compound: monks, nuns, novices, children, teachers, local volunteers and international volunteers.

One foreigner couple and a gentleman named Fran stayed in the same Kuti too. They came from different countries. I often had a conversation with Fran who came from France. I found it really amazing to have a chat with a foreigner using my English. It was my pleasant moment because I love to speak English so much. All at once, Ei Ei Kyaw requested me to teach her English. I accepted her request.

Days passed doing regular activities. My job was to sand and polish the bamboo rails. I did all kinds of all odd jobs. I was determined to help the school in every possible way. There were two male teachers. One came from Wetlet township and the other came from Inn dawgyi. We all had to join the meditation at night. This is a must. The Sayadaw talked about the Dhamma in English and we discussed.

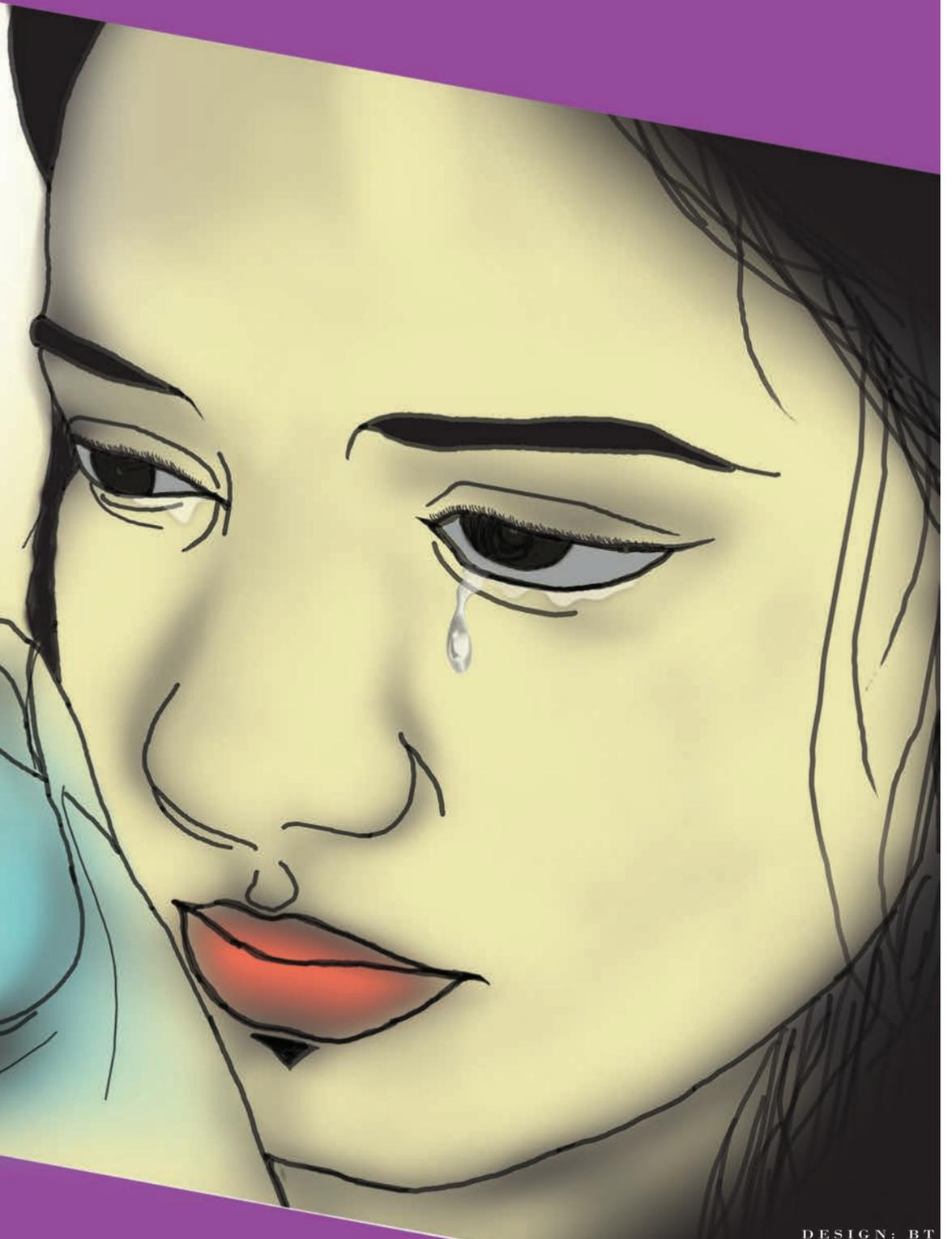
After two months, I had to be in charge of teaching. I enjoyed it. Then, there came a special program for all teachers. It was none other than teaching training. I found it really exciting. Two teachers who were famous across the country came and shared the knowledge. My favorite activity was the River Of Life. In this program we had to share our childhood life. This made all of us bosom friends. We all shared our childhood experiences trustfully. I discovered that everyone had a colorful past. The story which touched my heart most was the one Ei Ei Kyaw shared because I have never known anyone who had gone through such kind of vicissitudes. While she was narrating her true life story, we all shed tears. The story ran like this:

"One day a tragedy, which I will never ever forget all through my life, happened to me. On that day, a motorbike accident broke out

SEE PAGE-S-3

RIVER of LIFE

By Zaw Naing



DESIGN: BT

“Discipline”



By Lynn Thant Kyaw,
Final year (History)
West Yangon University,

LIFE is not an expected circumstance, motivating ourselves to gain evolutions without any misdeeds. It is an activity of observation which is preceding to great forward-looking.

The first thing to regulate ourselves is self-esteem. It is of bearing a better conception to be brilliant to ourselves. A good conception is based upon our brilliant observation. If not, we would encounter with misdeed. We should have a good capacity to optimize what is default or a defect. By optimizing ourselves, we must ensure to give out a good vision. One vision to be regulated is "Well begun is half-done". We must dedicate ourselves to tasks to have a good solution or a good outcome. Indeed, optimization is analysis of incidents and enhances all-round deductions for observations. We must especially compete ourselves in reality. This is way of obligation to all activities. Therefore a vision is a successive way to form obligation. We must have communal ideology to gain transparent visions of long-term which is called regulations. Discipline is analysis of attaining the welfare of human-interests.

Teaching

Some people say that teaching is easy;
To teach something, I am so busy.
Some people believe that teaching is art;
I always teach my pupils all my heart.
Some people believe teaching is to explain;
To explain something, I use my brain.
Some people feel that teaching is boring;
If you are creative, it will be ever-loving.
Some people say that teaching is a noble career;
But a handful of people admire.
Some people think that teaching is happiness;
I never think it in association with cash.
While teaching matters most with women,
Men's lot is to be businessmen.
All teachers believe teaching is to their liking
Teaching makes them a king.

By Myat Lay Ayeyar,
BA (English)
East Yangon University.



Invitation
to young
writers for
Sunday Special

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

WHENEVER I look back into my childhood school life, a surprise exam always comes into my mind as a guilty memory.

It was around two decades ago when I was in the fourth standard. I still remember many voluntary teachers who came to our school and taught us. Most of them are those who passed the tenth standard from our village.

When I was young, my parents strictly disciplined me to study my lessons regularly. And they didn't allow me to play and go to bed unless I finished my homework. In this way, I became one of the best students in our class, but not the best one.

In the monthly tests, I and four of my friends - two boys and two girls - almost alternatively took the position of best students in the class. We boys were smarter than girls, but they were harder than us.

One day in an afternoon class, a Science teacher, who is a voluntary teacher, announced that a surprised test will be held to sharpen our ability, and the winner of the test will be awarded a smart eraser, which was a little expressive, but was available in the school's market. The eraser is multi-coloured and beautifully designed.

She said K 20 from each student will also be collected

The win I feel guilty

By **Johnathan Tun**

to present eraser award to the winner. Most of us got K 50 a day as our pocket money.

The teacher wrote down the questions on the blackboard with a chalk stick. She gave us 20 minutes to answer to all the questions. Before we answered the test, our normal sitting places were changed and we were asked to sit distinct from one another.

Students from the front rows were moved to the back vacant rows. Boys were asked to sit among the girls. I was strangely asked to sit at the teacher's chair.

Some of the questions what the teacher asked were not included in the chapters that have been taught. I even didn't know they are from our textbook during the exam time.

All of the questions were true-or-false and fill-in-the-blanks. Students scratching their heads unwillingly answered the questions.

Our voluntary teacher stood beside me, which is her own place in front of the class, and checked the other students

whether they are talking or copying from the textbook.

She also checked my answer paper thoroughly, and gestured me to correct some of my wrong answers. I even got fill-in-the-blank answers from her.

I happily copied the answers from her notebook she showed me during the exam time. When the result was declared, I got 24 marks out of 25.

I happily received the eraser award she presented me as a winner. I was on cloud nine as I got such a beautiful and expensive eraser.

In this evening when I arrived back home, I showed the eraser to my parents, saying that I have been awarded as I won in a surprise test.

In the late evening, I went to the house of my aunt, who is a teacher, to study together with my friends.

In my aunt's house, I heard my friends complaining about the unfair and dishonest test to my aunt teacher.

But I failed to confess that I

also didn't know some of the answers in the surprise exam. Moreover, I even pretended that I knew the answers as I studied the whole textbook before as I was afraid of returning the beautiful eraser.

In fact, I won in the test, but I still feel guilty of the childhood's fault.

FROM PAGE-S-1

when I was playing. A man was killed on the spot. The other driver drove away without even checking the victim who was lying flat on the ground. No one really recognized who he was. His face was terribly torn and unrecognizable. I felt sorry for him looking at his face which was bleeding. The whole body was covered with blood. I came back home thinking that my father left home on a motorbike too. I prayed that it was not my father. I sat on the steps, waiting for my father's return.

"My father hadn't come back home till the evening. My heart beat faster and faster. All of a sudden, my heart missed a beat when I saw a crowd carrying a body straight to my house. I was flabbergasted. I prayed they would pass by my house. The dead body reminded me of my father anyway. The same size and height of the body convinced me it was my father, but I just couldn't accept it. But the sight of my mother following behind, weeping, going faint time and again, shot me at the heart. I ran straight at the body and saw my father's face which was already washed and recognizable. I was sure his face must be smiling though he was dead. The words failed me to describe how I felt at that time. First, I was surprised. Then, I felt a pain that I had never felt before. I had a surge of anger to take revenge on the other unknown driver

who had got away with no arrest of police. We couldn't, then, afford money to open a file for suing. Finally, I made a promise to my father that I would try to become a policeman, look for him and put him into jail.

"As the old saying goes "Misfortune never comes alone", another tragedy came upon to my life the same year. My brother who had been working in the Hpakant jade mine was killed in a landslide. My sister was there. It happened under her nose. She cried for help. She managed to dig out but in vain. It was big landslide and many miners were lost. Their bodies were not found. They are still there like a graveyard. My mother had nearly gone mad for my brother had long been the breadwinner of our family. We felt like we were thrown helpless in the desert of lost hope.

"I still had one brother and sister with me. My brother begged Mother for the privilege of going to Hpakant jade mine to make a fortune. But Mother would not give her consent. He insisted on going there. Finally, he took matters in his own hands. He made all of his efforts to support the family.

"My sister and mother ran a greengrocery in the market. In the past they were fishmongers. But since my father died in the road accident, they decided not to do fishing anymore in Inn dawgyi Lake. I was attending in Grade 10. I tried my best to be well educated. My father wanted me to be

a teacher but I wanted to be a policeman to take revenge on the one who took away my father's life. I was so confused then but one thing was sure I must be an educated girl. I was not fortunate at school, too. The teacher favored the rich most. I had very few friends. I tried to concentrate only on the subjects. I faced so many difficulties so much so that, sometimes, I wanted to commit suicide. My life was full of misery and misfortune. Why me?

"I did well in the exam that year. During the summer holiday, I helped my mother and sister. I also worked as a daily wagger in the road construction to save money for the school fee.

"One day, when I came back home from work, I saw mother and sister weeping. I asked them what had happened. They said nothing but cried. What I knew later was that my brother was murdered. Someone stabbed him in the face with a dagger. He was dead in the twinkling of an eye. All his savings were taken. No one knew who the murderer was.

"If only you could understand our physical and mental tortures! We couldn't see any ray of hope for the future. Our situation was too much to bear. It was just beyond our limit. We all are women. There was a feeling of darkness in the family for months after the funeral. How can we survive?

"Well, we did pull ourselves through this situation. I worked as a daily wagger in the road construction near my village. I saved enough money to pay for the school fee. I pursued my education and passed the exam at one go. One day, Tr. Thar Thar working here advised me to come here and work. For the first four months I was not paid. I was paid one lakh per month after these four months. It was a small income, but we now survived! My mother was on cloud nine. I have been working here over one year. I am going to join the University of Distance Education next year. I never pass a day without remembering my father and two brothers.

"Thank you, teachers, for giving me a chance to open my heart. Now my heart grows lighter."

After she had finished her talk, we rubbed tears on our cheek. We hit the floor as a token of appreciation and sympathy. We didn't know how to say. She was weeping with her both hands in her face. The teacher hugged her and consoled her. In my mind, I could imagine the touching scene of her mother, before retiring at night, sharing merit with her late husband and two perished sons. Words came out of my mouth:

"May they be free from physical and mental suffering in the River Of Life."





Hand-made hats are ready to provide local demand. PHOTO: SOE SOE HLAING (WETLET)



Rural business craft workers at work in Htan Taw Chak Village, Pakokku Township. PHOTO: SOE SOE HLAING (WETLET)



A great variety of daily used utensils for households. PHOTO: SOE MIN OO (IPRD)

Challenges for hand-made products from rural areas

By Nat Ye Hla

IN Myanmar, about 60 per cent of the handicrafts or folk art comes from rural areas. The production of the hand-made products resumed recently with reflow of commodity after they stopped for about two months due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

With the ancestors passing the folk-art skills to the next generation, the businesses have been established in the villages since many years.

The products include hand woven daily utensils and household products to artistic blacksmith products. This is also occurring with the traditional hand weaving of textiles in hilly areas, especially in Chin and Kachin State, handicrafts in Mon State, and ceramics in Kyaukmyaung near Mandalay and in Twantay near Yangon

The kind of utensils we use on a daily basis could be a barometer of local demand of our folk art. The traditionally produced artistic products are safe for us because the raw materials made for the utensils such as dried wheat stalks, leaves and branches from palm trees are chemical-free.

One of the main problems we are facing today is that the hand-made products are facing competition from imported ones produced by industries.

Besides, the country's younger generation is not interested in making handicrafts or learning the folk art of their ancestors.

Myanmar's arts and crafts industry is threatened almost to extinction, as a result of shortage of skilled labourers and lower demand.

To ensure higher demand in the country, we will have to reduce the use of plastic bags and encourage recycling.

We can dissuade sellers from using plastic bags. His calls for cooperation between civil society, the public and government departments.



Displaying a wide range of beautiful hand-woven and crafted products. PHOTO: SOE MIN OO (IPRD)



Hand-woven shopping basket making needs manual dexterity or artistic skill. PHOTO: U KEY LAIN PE



Leaves and branches from palm trees are raw materials for hand-woven products. PHOTO: U KEY LAIN PE

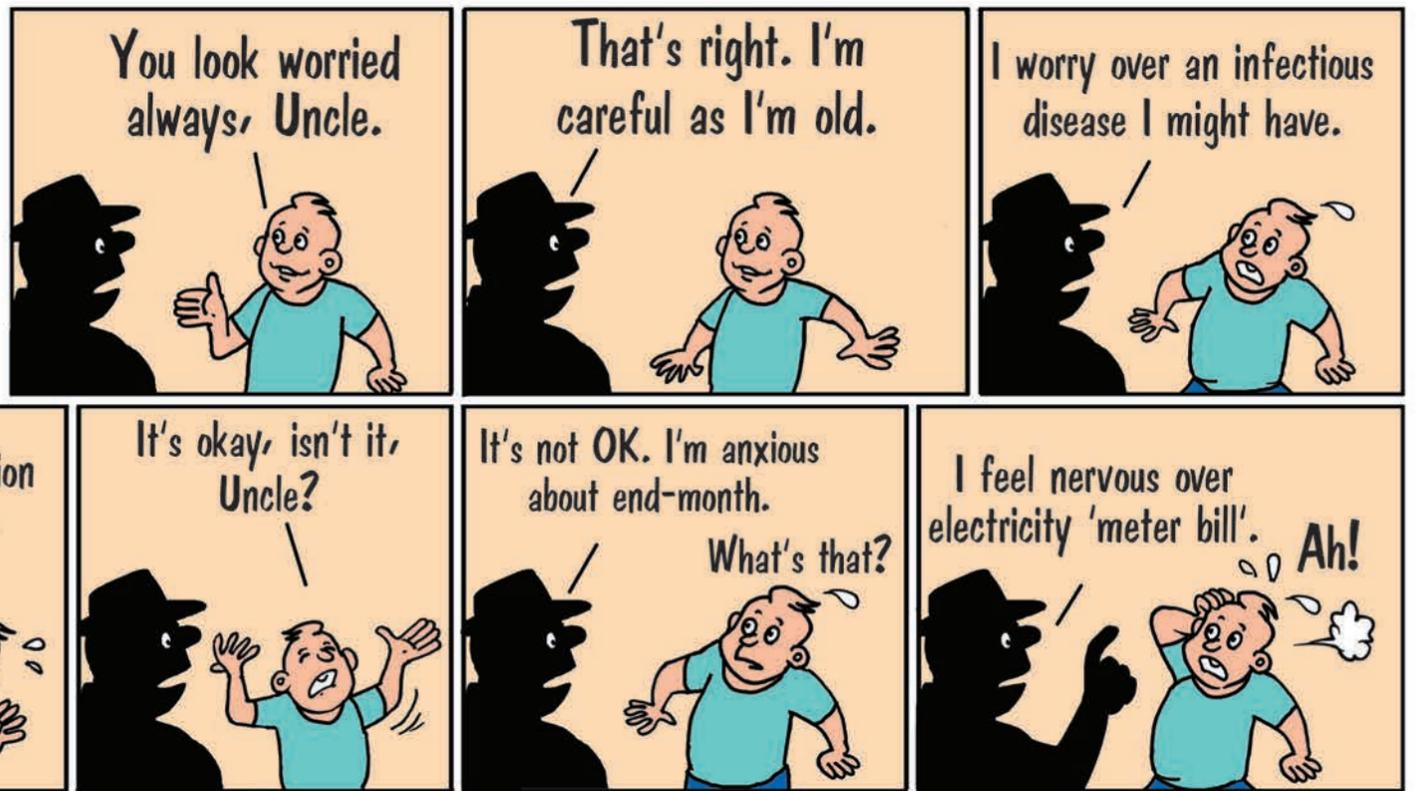


Women making hand-woven baskets in Htan Taw Chak Village, Pakokku Township. PHOTO: U KEY LAIN PE

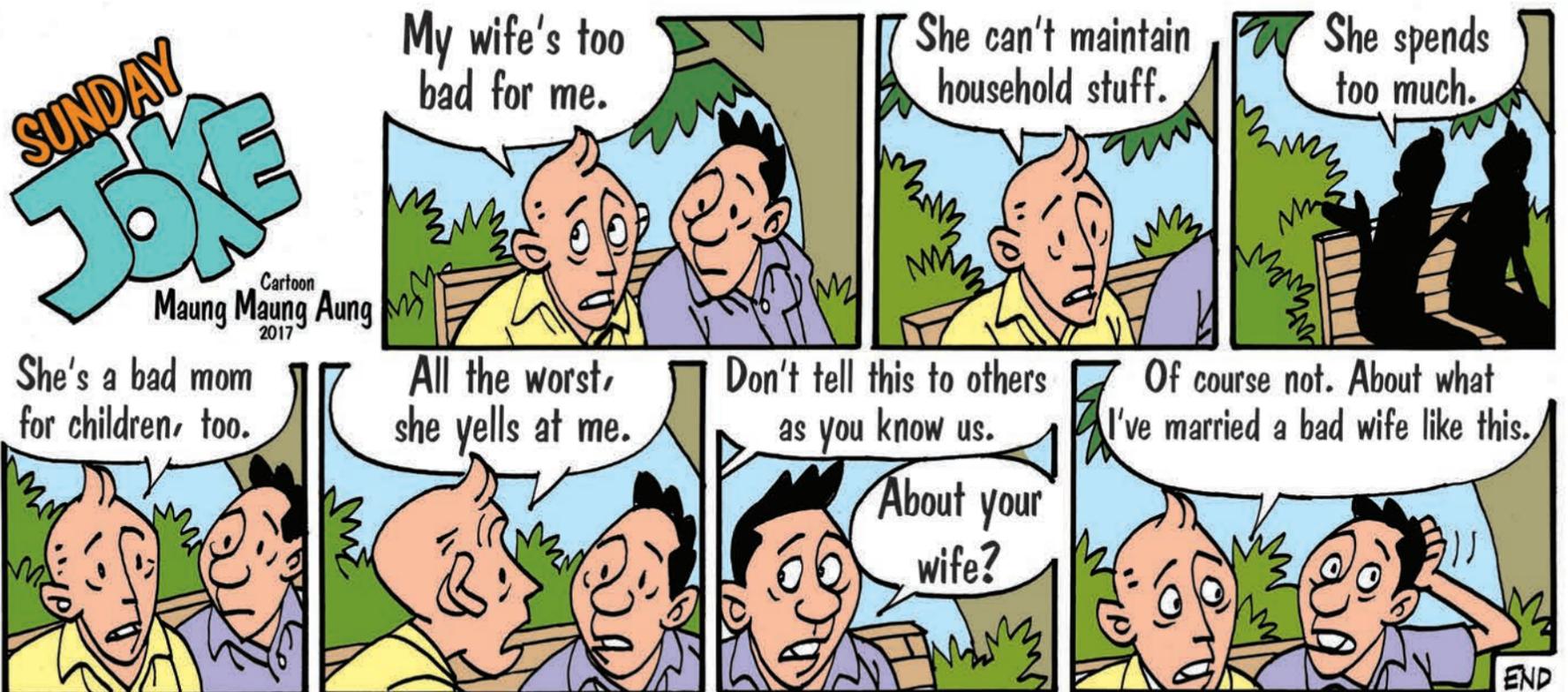
SUNDAY COMICS



PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE
Cartoon
Maung Shwe Win



SUNDAY JOKE
Cartoon
Maung Maung Aung
2017



The Kangaroo Man

By Maung Nyein Lu

"Here comes the Kangaroo Man!"

I love tea. Every morning, around 7 o'clock, I always walk to a tea shop at the corner of the street. As I walk along the dingy street, I am always greeted like that by the people of the quarter, some heads popping out from indoors, and others hanging around and exchanging the latest and most curious information (I could read their mind from the way they looked at me and my child, held so close to my chest, that I was the subject of their gossip).

Every morning, around 8 o'clock, I go to work. I am a postman working at the General Post Office, which is located in the downtown centre. I pedal my rickety bike through the vast bed of swaying wild grass. Every evening, when the big, red, round sun is setting in the western horizon, through the wild grass, I pedal back home. Wherever I am at home, or at workplace, I have my kid always inside a babywearing cover, like a little joey warm and secure in the pouch of the mother kangaroo. No wonder they've given me that nickname, the Kangaroo Man.

In my workplace, where large piles of parcels and letters are heaped around, I am busy until 10 am. If I am too busy, some of my colleagues, especially those Apyogyis (spinsters), take my kid from me, and do the free service of babysitting. Thank you, guys. Then I have my child in babywearing cover close to my chest, take out my bike and perform my duty of delivering letters around the town. Well, this is my life. Whether I like it or not, I must accept it, you know.

At 5:00 am sharp, I get up and prepare a tiffin box while my little son is still asleep. When he

wakes up, I do the morning ablutions for him. I feed him, change his clothes and there we go to the tea shop. Here comes the Kangaroo man! The moment I enter the tea shop, the young waiter shouts, "One strong tea for the Kangaroo man." I always sit on a stool at a low table in the left corner of the shop. I always sip a cup of strong tea and two cups of plain tea. I do not spend money on snacks like samusa or i-chya-kwe (Chinese dough sticks), no matter how much I like these snacks, which, to me, are meant for feasting my eyes only.

Though paid lowly, I love the job of postman. Unlike the telegraphs that carry urgent information, I believe the letters I deliver to people door to door usually bring fond memories of loving friends and relatives. I could notice the changes of facial expression on my customers the moment they receive a letter I hand to them with love and respect. Indeed, their joys relieve me of my tiredness of pedaling in the rain and the sun. Sometimes, the address is a bit far, and it takes me time and energy to get there. No matter how far, I always remind myself to go there and deliver my service to the most efficient way of serving my duty, which I believe is a very important service.

I have read a tragic story written by Ju, in which the main character is a postman. The story bears the title, The Pine Tree Road. The story took place in the setting of a lovely hill station. In the story, the postman was to deliver a bundle of letters. It happened to be Friday, and it was a rainy day. The postman had delivered many letters door to door in the downtown area, and it was already late in the evening when he found the last letter in his hand: its address was

the Pine Tree Road, which is in an isolated area and is a bit far from the downtown center. The young postman thought lightly of postponing his service until next Monday. The tragic ending goes thus: the lady of the house on the Pine Tree Road, who had been bedridden for so long, was then waiting for a letter. She waited and waited. A week was over. Friday came. But no letter came. On the sunny Monday morning, the post man knocked on the door of the house on the Pine Tree Road. Normally, every customer was happy to see him. But on that cheerful morning, the family members looked so gloomy and sad. The letter at last came, but alas! it was too late. The lady of the house passed away last Saturday. This touch-

ing story has given me a salutary lesson concerning my job and my duty: I must deliver my service as efficiently as possible, without putting off the things to dispatch.

Like that poor lady of the house in the story The Pine Tree Road, I was a postman waiting for a letter coming like a bolt from the blue. Every morning, in my post office, my eyes made fervent searches, among piles of letters before me, for a familiar, neat, feminine handwriting on an envelope. I remember that morning when the sun was shining cheerfully. I was sorting out the letters for my delivery service when I caught sight of a pink envelope bearing my name and my address. My heart went pit-a-pat. My trembling hands

opened the envelop.

That letter had changed my life. From then on, like Gregor Samsa in *The Metamorphosis*, who woke from his troubled dreams one morning, and found himself in his bed transformed into a horrible vermin, I've found myself into a kangaroo man! A kangaroo man with a stitched, broken heart. One who always carries a baby with a babywearing pouch.

I have read some stories of kangaroos of Australia. Since in the life of a joey, a young male kangaroo learns to fight. A buck like him is born to be a boxer. As a grown up roo, he must fight to be a lord over his territory.

To me Life is like an arena, and as the kangaroo man, I must fight. Before I got the job of a postman, I found myself as a young black-market trader along the Myanmar-India border. I often took risky rides on the roof of an overloaded bus driving on a narrow road along the mountain cliffs, where landslides often happen. Though I can't swim, I had to risk my life on a small boat down a wide river one moonless night. One dark evening, carrying a swelling canvas army kit bag on my

SEE PAGE-S-8



ALONE TIME



By Htar Sandi Naing
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HAVE you ever given yourself some alone time? Even if not, we all should do so at some point. We sometimes feel like we don't even belong at a certain place. Let's think about the time when you were born. Is there anyone who is holding your hand when you come out? Obviously, No! You were born alone! Being alone is definitely not a negative thing. We sometimes want to be alone. Having the desire to be alone is not a problem that needs to be solved. It's okay to spare yourself some alone time.

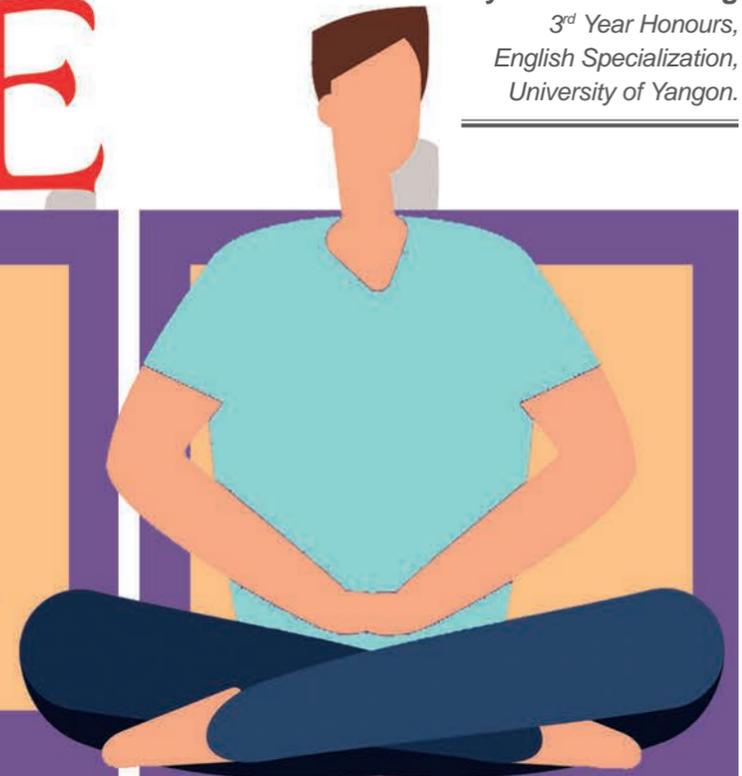
First of all, by being alone, you have that precious time to reflect on yourself. As there is no influence, every single second belongs to you. You can figure out your strengths and weaknesses. One thing for sure is that you can do anything you want as nothing is there to bother you. During that time, you can read a book or even dance to any of your favorite songs. No one is there to judge your actions. No eyes are there to judge your actions. No mouths are there to blame your actions. It's all up to you. It is better to spare yourself some alone time. Silence can help you concentrate more.

Moreover, you can meditate in order to control your emotions. It is true that mindfulness meditation can definitely calm your body. It helps you clear your mind. In that way, you can

be more focused. Life is too short to stay mad at someone for too long. As we are human beings, we may not be calm for the whole time. However, we have to train ourselves to be calm. In that way, we get to know how to control our anger when we have to face some difficult situations in our life. Once you are free from all the stress, you can find true happiness. Nothing can make you happy. Only you can find your own happiness. Silence can help you know yourself better.

In addition, by having some alone time for yourself, you can relax your mind. You can enjoy doing all the activities that you want. Don't waste your time. During this pandemic, you can have a lot of free time

by yourself. If you get bored while watching a movie, you can enjoy reading a book. The word 'bored' will never slip out of your mouth as there are a lot of things



you can enjoy doing. You can get out of boredom for sure. You don't need to depend on anyone in your life once you start to enjoy your alone time.

Overall, sparing some alone time doesn't need to be too long. It can be an hour or so. You can have fun with your friends. However, you should at least spare some alone time for yourself. It is true that no one knows you more than you do. Try to close your eyes and appreciate yourself. No one is perfect. There

is no need to be depressed over little things. Nothing is worth more yourself. Never relinquish easily. Spare yourself some alone time to know yourself more. Try to look at everything from a positive point of view. Spare some time to date yourself!



FROM PAGE-S-7

shoulder, I walked miles, and being given a lift on the way, took a bumpy ride on a bullock cart; I was then going to a village called Chaung Sone, about a hundred miles from my hometown; there, at a monk's funeral, I was a petty peddler.

Year 2000 saw a turning point in my life: I was not only a postgraduate student studying oversea in a developed Asian country, but also a part-time lecturer teaching Myanmar language to a group of foreigners. So, my life had been subject to the drastic vicissitudes of life, like that of Pianist Ko Thein Maung of Myoma Band of Mandalay, who, casting aside a well noted pianist's life, flung himself into the welters of hard

realities.

This evening it was raining hard. The sky looked so grey. With my little kid in a small red rain coat close to my heart, I was pedaling back home along the winding path through the wild grass. The wild grass was swaying in the wind and the rain, whispering a song of hope to my inner ear.

My son was feeling a bit chilled, but with the fresh cool touch of the lashing rain, his eyes were sparkling with innocent joy.

From somewhere Jo Jung Suk's song Aloha came to my inner ear:

*A single candlelight in the darkness ...
I'll protect you, always from next to you*

Because you believed in me ...

*when you are in my arms (I believe) With a smile,
that light won't ever get lost
Cause your love is so sweet You are my everything
You're light of my life You are the one in my life
I promise you (I believe) When things get hard
(I believe) I'll be your shade*

The life of a single father is hard, but I'll take it, with all my heart.

This Kangaroo man must train this little joey to be a great boxer brave enough to fight his way through. I smiled to myself. I saw in my mind's eye my grown-up kid as a good fighter towering in the arena of Life.

