

**SUNDAY SPECIAL**



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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Republic of the Union of Myanmar Announcement of National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 8<sup>th</sup> Waxing of First Waso, 1382 ME 27 June 2020

IT is announced that the statements to public, orders, notifications, and directives (excluding eased restrictions) of Union-level organizations and Union ministries effective until 30 June 2020 for prevention, control and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) will be extended to 15 July 2020 as it is required to continue containment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).



**We don't feel small for our country in combatting COVID; We can conspicuously confront the challenges even though we aren't among the wealthiest countries in the region: State Counsellor**

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote on her Facebook page yesterday that we didn't feel small for our country in combatting COVID and we could conspicuously confront the challenges even though we weren't among the wealthiest countries in the region. This was what she wrote.

The State Counsellor stressed that it's not unusual COVID issue was overwhelming in a round of discussions at the ASEAN Summit meetings the other day; They were emphasizing upon how to better handle the post-COVID consequences in the future while tackling the current challenges; The entire world was thinking similarly and it was of vital importance to realize the same concept.

Discussing women's affairs, they touched on the COVID impacts upon women and the roles of the women in rehabilitating of the post-COVID period.

**We need to move forward unswervingly in a middle way like a saying 'Extremes are dangerous'. It is an advantage that we need to share each other more understanding and empathy in this journey.**

I was satisfied and wanted to share one statesman saying male individuals did not notice that they had got their places, positions and opportunities not because of their excellent performances but because they are men.

Considering this, nobody can deny that women are also working hard and excellent. We cannot deny that men take the majority of highest-level positions.

Seventy per cent of service personnel in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs are the female staff. How would it be in the next ten years? I prefer a 50-50. I want to see both women and men representing our country in unison. Representing the

country and taking the responsibilities of the nation, men should also actively and enthusiastically perform their duties. All male and female individuals should be interested in how to handle the issues in the world stage as for no bigger country like us. We didn't feel small for our country in combatting COVID; We could conspicuously confront the challenges even though we weren't among the wealthiest countries in the region; We're announcing to extend the existing restrictions.

We need to move forward unswervingly in a middle way like a saying 'Extremes are dangerous'. It is an advantage that we need to share each other more understanding and empathy in this journey. — GNLM

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## “People are the key”

# Greening activities in progress in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister U Ohn Win and officials inspect the thriving bamboo plants at the greening plantation in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 27 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, inspected greening activities at Phohsaungtaung reserve and Ngalike reserve in Nay Pyi Taw

Council Area, and Ngalike elephant camp yesterday.

At Phohsaungtaung reserve, the Union Minister examined a plot for greening programme, and viewed the growing of grass of a certain kind and bamboo at the places where erosion can take place. He spoke of the need to grow more such grass and bamboo. Afterwards, he inspected the thriving bamboo plants at the greening plantation in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

During the inspection of Ngalike reserve, Union Minister U Ohn Win observed a 150-acre commercial team plantation set up in 2018, weeding at another 150-acre teak plantation set up in 2019, test plantation of teak through pot tube system. He instructed officials to record the growth rate of the test plantation

and to conduct weeding systematically.

The Union Minister stressed the need to replace dead saplings with the new ones at the plantations, keep systematic records of the plantations, financial accounts and statistic and keep office equipment systematically during visit to two 100-acre plantations one established in 2019 and the other in 2020 for ecosystem conservation, with the help of Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs Association.

The Union Minister was conducted around the Ngalike elephant camp by officials who presented a report on laying of a forest track and a beach track, and erection of a pontoon bridge, a suspension bridge and two gorge-crossing bridges. —MNA  
(Translated by TMT)

## Quality education calls for collective efforts: Union Minister

BASED on the assessment reports, requirements for COVID-19 prevention and containment programmes at schools will be fulfilled before the start of the new academic year, said Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi at a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 this month.

Speaking at the meeting held at his ministry in connection with the reopening of schools, the Union Minister said as the school reopening date is set on 21 July, officials at all levels should facilitate arrangements for the adequacy of classrooms, desks, text books, exercise books, hand-washing basins, hand gel, toilets, non-contact

infrared thermometers, based on student population, reusable masks, and PPE rooms at the schools. He also dealt with the maintenance work, health awareness campaigns, teaching courses, the minimum number of teachers and the maximum seating capacity of a classroom, curriculum assessment and backup plans.

The Union Minister said stipends for students of the low-income bracket families will be increased, and the school enrolment weeks will be conducted in accordance with the COVID-19 prevention and containment rules. Quality education calls for collective effort. The ministry



Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi (right photo) speaks during the meeting on reopening of schools at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

will open the schools as it does not want the students to lose their education opportunities, he noted.

Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun explained measures

for the success of the education programmes when the schools reopen.

Then, officials of the education sector presented matters in connection with financial allot-

ments, development undertakings, health and safety measures at schools, and enrolment weeks. The Union Minister looked into the requirements. —MNA

(Translated by TMT)



Myanmar citizens returned from Malaysia queue for immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 27 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Fifth batch of Myanmar citizens repatriated from Malaysia

A total of 169 Myanmar nationals — 150 stranded in Malaysia, and 19 migrant workers who face difficulty to go to the work-site of Peck Chew Pilling (M) SdnBhd Company in Klang, Selangor State, Malaysia — were brought back yesterday.

Myanmar Airways International (MAI)'s relief flight had carried the Myanmar citizens to the Yangon International Airport.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government provided the returnees proper medical examination and arranged 21-day quarantine for them.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is working in line with the guidelines set by the National Central Committee on Prevention, Control and

Treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 and cooperating with relevant ministries, Myanmar embassies abroad to repatriate Myanmar citizens stranded in other countries due to COVID-19.

Until now a total of 639 Myanmar citizens stranded in Malaysia have been brought back home. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## UEC assures equal opportunities for all parties in accord with laws and rules

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) and political parties held talks at Melia Hotel in Yangon yesterday morning on the successful holding of the coming 2020 General Election.

During the talks, Chairman of UEC U Hla Thein said the election for the third term of the Hluttaw will be held in the late 2020. Myanmar is now making all-inclusive efforts against COVID-19, which is a global pandemic. The designation and announcement of the date for 2020 General Election may depend on the degree of success in preventing and containing COVID-19. In accordance with the parliamentary procedure, the election date will be fixed and announced after Hluttaw-wise constituencies have been issued. The number of political parties listed for the coming general elections till now is 97. The UEC is arranging a series of meetings with political parties in all seriousness. The UEC is holding meetings with the participation of political



UEC Chairman U Hla Thein (left photo) speaks during the meeting on successful holding of 2020 General Election with the political parties at the Melia Hotel in Yangon on 27 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA



parties, social organizations and its officials at regions and states for the parties to present their aspirations one after another in time, instead of forwarding them all at the time when they meet the UEC. While the UEC is in the process of meeting will political parties, a group formed with 30 of them asked 12 questions. As the 12 questions are concerned

with all the legal parties, and not only those 30, they will be explained here.

The UEC in office has held the elections, better than the former ones. It has already made public that the coming general elections will be held under five norms. It is working with the aim of improving the elections, and promised a fair election that en-

sures equal opportunities for all parties under the laws and rules in force, the UEC chair said, and requested the parties to try to win seats in the elections as the ones that can be put to test. UEC will hold a free and fair elections in 2020 that is transparent and that meets the aspirations of the public desire, he assured.

The UEC chair and mem-

bers gave answers and clarifications in response to the suggestions and questions raised by the political parties. The UEC chair gave the concluding remarks.

Officials of Commission Office and Yangon Region election sub-commission and 81 political parties and guests were also present.—MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

## Insolvency Practitioners' Regulatory Council holds meeting in Yangon

INSOLVENCY Practitioners' Regulatory Council held its first meeting for 2020 at the training school of the Union Auditor-General's Office in Yangon on 26 June.

At the meeting, Union Auditor-General U Maw Than recounted the establishment of the council on 26 March 2020 under notification 25/2020, and dealt with the formation of the practitioner certification committee, the practitioner disciplinary committee, the advisory committee or the executive committee and the council office for the effectiveness of the council's functions. He said the regulatory committee should be formed with advocates for legal matters, accountants for financial matters, and economists for the functions. The Union Au-

ditor-General called for inclusive participation for the successful enforcement of the Insolvency Law, which has eleven parts.

The chairman of the Bar Council, the governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, the president of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, a member of Securities and Exchange Commission, the patron, the chairman and the members of board of Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the head of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, who are members of the Insolvency Practitioners' Regulatory Council, took part in the discussions.

The meeting elected the Un-



Insolvency Practitioners' Regulatory Council's meeting is in progress at the training school of the Union Auditor-General's Office in Yangon on 26 June 2020. PHOTO: MNA

ion Auditor-General as the chair of the council, acknowledged the formation of the insolvency practitioner association, and focussed on issuance of insolvency

practitioner certificates soonest, and gave suggestions on priority matters.—MNA ■

(Translated by TMT)

## Man arrested for impersonating border patrol, selling unlicensed car

A man was arrested for allegedly impersonating a border Guard Forces (BGF)'s personnel, stealing cash, and selling unlicensed cars in Hpa-an Town, Kayin State, according to the report of Tatmadaw True News Information Team. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested the suspect, identified as Bee Lar, son of U Mo Vit Ramen and who lives in Bein Byaw Village in Kyaikmayaw Township, Mon State, at the Hpa-an Town's bus station in the afternoon of 23 June, together with a .38 revolver and three bullets. Police filed a case against him at the Hpa-an Police Station.—MNA ■

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## No more case of COVID-19 in Myanmar on 27 June, total figure remains at 293

Updated at 8 pm, 27 June 2020



New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 27 June 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

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# Over 140,000 unemployed in coronavirus pandemic crisis

WITH the suspension or withdrawal of more than 5,700 factories, workplaces and restaurants, more than 140,000 people have become unemployed during coronavirus period, said Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaing of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Moreover, over 250 big factories and workplaces are also shut down, he said at the press briefing on the government's fourth-year performances held

at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 26 June.

"During the coronavirus period, more than 100,000 overseas workers came back to Myanmar. A total of 5,658 factories, workplaces and restaurants were closed including over 250 large factories and workplaces. The suspension, withdrawal and closure of the factories and workplaces have rendered over 140,000 people unemployed," he stated.

"If we add over 100,000 workers who are coming back from abroad to the list of the unemployed, there will be over 200,000 people unemployed during this period," U Myo Aung, the permanent secretary for the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

During the pandemic period, the ministry took legal action in respect of 25 cases concerning the factories and workplaces for disobedience of government in-

structions, he added.

Additionally, those workers who have come back from abroad are getting registered in the related regional labour offices to seek a job, said the deputy minister.

From March to June during the pandemic period, more than 110,000 repatriates came back from Thailand, Korea, Japan and China. —Aye Maung

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Over 98,000 acres of monsoon paddy to grow in Kyaukse, Singaing



A dam gate is seen in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: THET MAUNG (DISTRICT-IPRD)**

WITH the cultivation mainly done through irrigation system in Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Region, a total of 56,207 acres

of monsoon paddy will be grown in Kyaukse township whereas 41,972 acres of the same will be grown in Singaing township.

Previously, the local farmers from Kyaukse township did the farming supplying the water through Namkham, Nga Pyaung,

Thindwe, Min Ye, Zeetaw and Ht-one Gyi dams. This year, a total of 562,017 acres of monsoon paddy will be grown with 7,731 acres having the water from Namkham dam, 27,006 acres with the water supplied by Nga Pyaung dam, 7,892 acres with the water from Thindwe dam, 9,692 acres with the water supplied from Min Ye dam, 881 acres with the water from Zeetaw dam and 3,005 acres with the water supplied from Ht-one Gyi dam.

Moreover, a total of 41,972 acres of monsoon paddy will be grown in Singaing with 3,105 acres of land will be put under cultivation with the water supplied from Thindwe dam, 6,357 acres with the water from Min Ye dam, 8,641 acres with the water from Min Ye dam, 13,570 acres with the water from Zeetaw dam and 10,299 acres with the water from Zeetaw dam, according to the District Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department.—Thet Maung (District-IPRD)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

## Chindwin ferries charge usual fares even half passengers onboard

THE ferries cruising along Chindwin River in Monywa are now resuming their service with usual fares although they carry only half passengers onboard, said U Myo Nyunt Tun, the officer in charge of MGRG ferry service.

"The ferries started to run beginning on 18 June. The cargo ferries resumed their service on 8 June. Only half of

the accommodation capacity is allowed to use on the ferries. However, we didn't change the water ferry fares.

The price of fuel oil is on the decline in our joy. So, we can operate the ferries with usual fares," he added.

Out of the six ferries, three are running in the morning and the rest three in the evening. They are daily cruising along

Chindwin River from Kani to Homalin. There will be ten water ferries running daily if Min Kin route is to be included.

"There will be more passengers on weekdays. The ferries are operating under a contract system according to the terms of which they have to run if it is their turn whether there are enough passengers or not. If the ferry boats refuse to

run, their turn will be jumped," he stated.

The fare of the ferry is K15,000 for Monywa-Homalin, K13,000 for Monywa-Phaung Pyin, K10,000 for Monywa-Mawlaik, K8,000 for Monywa-Kalaywa, K6,000 for Monywa-Minkin routes.—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Trade Mark Ads

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# COVID-19 committee honours volunteers, CSOs in Yangon, Ayeyawady



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye presents certificates of honour for volunteers and CSOs to Yangon Region's social affairs minister at the Damayanthi Mogok Vipassana Yeiktha's quarantine centre in Yangon on 27 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment on COVID-19 presented certificates of honour, badges, face masks and hand sanitizers to the volunteers and civil society organizations (CSOs) that are fighting against COVID-19 pandemic in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions yesterday.

The central committee's

secretary and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye was accompanied by Yangon Region's social welfare minister, director-general of Social Welfare Department, and officials from Yangon Region's Public Health and Medical Services department and General Administration Department at the Yangon Region's honouring ceremony.

The Union Minister and party went to the Damayanthi Mogok Vipassana Yeiktha's quarantine centre in Yangon, made offertories to Sayadaw Bhadanta Sunanda, and viewed the preparation of foods for the persons who are being quarantined at the centre.

He gave certificates of honour for volunteers and civil service organizations to the Yangon

Region's Social Affairs Minister, and presented badges, face masks and hand sanitizers to the volunteers' representatives.

He handed over a total of K 4.38 million, K 30,000 per one, for 65 pregnant women, 26 children under five-year-old, and 54 elderly persons, to Deputy Director-General of Yangon Region's Public Health and Medical Services Department.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister accompanied by Ayeyawady Region's Chief Minister U Hla Moe Aung, social affairs minister, director-general of Social Welfare Department, and officials from the region's public health and medical services department and General Administration Department, went to the quarantine centres of Patheingyi Education College and Patheingyi University.

At the quarantine centres, the Union Minister expressed thanks to those who participate in the processes of fighting against COVID-19.

He gave certificates of honour for volunteers and civil service organizations to the Ay-

eyawady Region's Chief Minister, and presented badges, face masks and hand sanitizers to the volunteers' representatives.

The ministry also provided a total of K 5.7 million, K 30,000 per one, for 79 pregnant women, 74 children under five-year-old, 33 elderly persons, and four persons with disabilities, which are handed over to an official from Ayeyawady Region's public health and medical services department at the ceremony.

Yesterday's ceremonies presented certificates of honour to 4,657 volunteers and 224 CSOs in Yangon Region, and 9,936 volunteers and 177 CSOs in Ayeyawady Region.

If there are volunteers and philanthropic organizations that were not included in this batch, the committee will arrange additional certificates for them, according to the committee.

The honouring ceremonies in Yangon and Ayeyawady regions were held in accordance with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

## 634 migrant workers return from Thailand via Myawady border on 27 June

A total of 634 Myanmar migrant workers returned home on 27 June through No 2 Friendship Border Bridge in Myawady Town in Kayin State, bordering with Thailand.

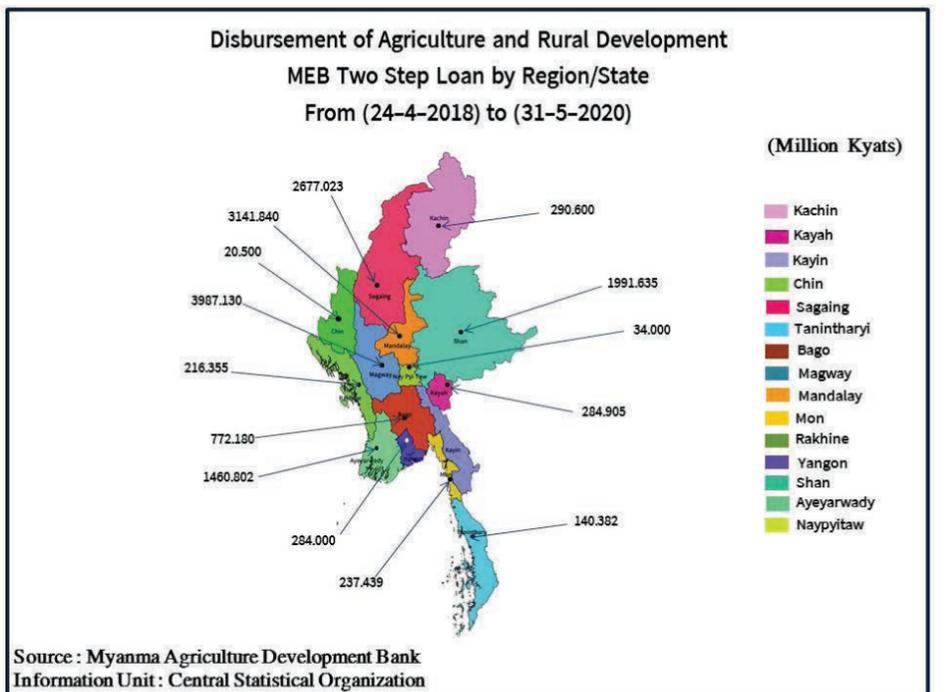
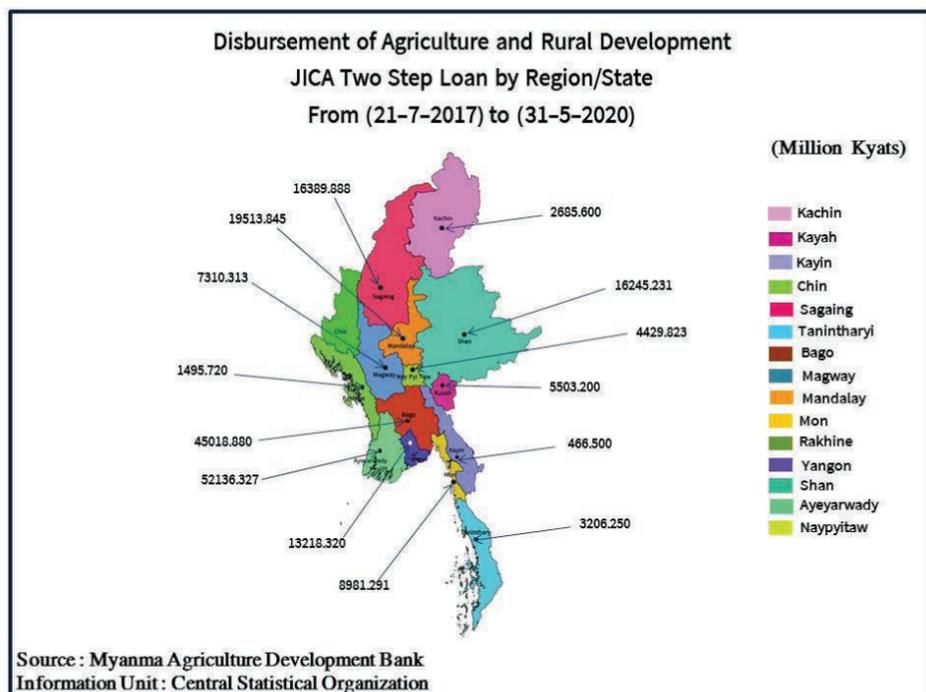
All of them came back home in their own arrangements with the permission of Myanmar Embassy in the Kingdom.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 35,579 until now. The latest group of returnees included 381 males and

253 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) (Translated by TTN)

Two healthcare officials check the health condition of a woman returned from Thailand at the Myawady border on 27 June 2020. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**



## BRINGING THE PANDEMIC UNDER CONTROL

## Global partners require \$31 billion to speed up COVID-19 medicines for all

MORE than \$31 billion is needed over the next 12 months to develop medicines that will be effective against COVID-19, and make them available to all people, the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners said on Friday.

Ahead of a major pledging summit, they updated journalists on a recently announced initiative to speed up production of these treatments, known as the Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator.

"It's clear that to bring this pandemic under control, and to save lives, we need effective vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics – in unprecedented quantities and at unprecedented speed", WHO chief Tedros Adhanom said.

Access for all

The ACT Accelerator

was launched at the end of April, bringing together governments, health organizations, scientists, businesses, civil society and philanthropists.

Members work across four pillars: diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, and what they call "the health system connector".

They have outlined a plan that sees low- and middle-income countries receiving 500 million diagnostic tests, 245 million courses of treatments, and two billion vaccine doses, before the end of next year.

Race for a vaccine

The UN Health agency this week warned that the global COVID-19 caseload was approaching 10 million. So far, more than 484,000 people have died from the disease.

A safe and effective

vaccine is the only way to prevent further spread and transmission of the new coronavirus, according to Dr Soumya Swaminathan, Chief Scientist at WHO.

Although it normally takes up to 10 years to develop and manufacture a vaccine, the partners are looking to significantly shorten that timeline.

"We're aiming for 12, maximum of 18 months. And that would be unprecedented", said Dr Swaminathan. "The good news is we have over 200 candidates at some stage of clinical development; about 15 of them are actually now in human clinical trials."

ACT now

WHO and partners will need \$31.3 billion to achieve their goals. So far, \$3.4 billion has been received.

"This is an investment



Lab technicians load vials of investigational coronavirus disease (COVID-19) treatment drug Remdesivir at a Gilead Sciences facility in La Verne, California, March 18, 2020. **PHOTO: (GILEAD SCIENCES INC/HANDOUT)**

worth making, more than any other we can think of", said Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, one of the two Special Envoys for the ACT Accelerator.

"If we don't rally now, the human costs and eco-

nomie pain will deepen. So, though these numbers sound big, they are not when we think of the alternatives."

The European Commission will host a pledging summit on Saturday to sup-

port the initiative.

It will be followed by a concert organized jointly with the advocacy group Global Citizen, hosted by American actor, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson.

SOURCE: UN News

## FACING A BOYCOTT BY ADVERTISERS

## Facebook ramps up efforts to curb 'hateful content' in ads

FACEBOOK said Friday it would ban a "wider category of hateful content" in ads as the embattled social media giant moved to respond to growing protests over its handling of inflammatory posts.

Chief executive Mark Zuckerberg said Facebook also would add tags to posts that are "newsworthy" but violate platform rules – following the lead of Twitter, which has used such labels

on tweets from President Donald Trump.

The initiative comes with the leading social network facing a growing boycott by advertisers – with soft drink behemoth Coca-Cola and Anglo-Dutch giant Unilever joining Friday – as activists seek tougher action on content they deem to promote discrimination, hatred or violence.

The new policy on

hateful content in ads will "prohibit claims that people from a specific race, ethnicity, national origin, religious affiliation, caste, sexual orientation, gender identity or immigration status are a threat to the physical safety, health or survival of others," Zuckerberg said.

"We're also expanding our policies to better protect immigrants, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers" from hateful ads, he continued.

Facebook has underscored its moves to stem racism in the wake of civil unrest triggered by the May 25 killing of African American George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

"We invest billions of dollars each year to keep our community safe and continuously work with outside experts to review and update our policies," a spokesperson said.

"The investments we have made in (artificial intelligence) mean that we

find nearly 90 per cent of hate speech" and take action before users report it.

'Newsworthy' exception

Zuckerberg said the "newsworthy" exemption normally occurs "a handful of times a year," when Facebook decides to leave up a message that would ordinarily be removed for rule violations.

Under the new policy, Zuckerberg said, "we will soon start labeling some of the content we leave up because it is deemed newsworthy, so people can know when this is the case."

He said users will be allowed to share the content "but we'll add a prompt to tell people that the content they're sharing may violate our policies."

Twitter in recent weeks has labeled at least one Trump tweet misleading and has flagged others as violating platform rules, accessible only when users click through a warning. The move has angered the

president and his allies.

Internet platforms have faced intense pressure from activists following Floyd's death.

A coalition including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) has been urging companies to stop advertising on Facebook, using the #StopHateForProfit hashtag.

At the same time, Trump and his allies have voiced anger over what they claim is biased against conservatives.

Brand boycott accelerates

Zuckerberg made no mention of the ad boycott but said the changes were based on "feedback from the civil rights community and reflect months of work with our civil rights auditors."

Coca-Cola, a major force in global advertising, said it would suspend ads on social media for at least 30 days as it reassesses its policies, though it said the

decision was not related to the #StopHateForProfit campaign.

"There is no place for racism in the world and there is no place for racism on social media," James Quincey, chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company, said in a brief statement.

He said social media companies need to provide "greater accountability and transparency."

Unilever, home to brands including Lipton tea and Ben and Jerry's ice cream, said it would stop advertising on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in the US until the end of 2020 due to the "polarized election period."

American Honda said it would halt ads on Facebook in July, "choosing to stand with people united against hate and racism," adding to a list that includes US telecom giant Verizon and sporting goods makers Patagonia, North Face and REI.

SOURCE: AFP



Consumer products giant Unilever said it would pause ads on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter through 2020. **PHOTO: ANP/AFP**

SUMMER IN VIRUS SHADOW

## Drones and CCTV: surveillance for safety on the sand in Spain



For now, only a handful of beachgoers are setting out towels and adjusting sunloungers on this kilometre-long (half-mile) beach which can accommodate up to 15,000 people. **PHOTO: AFP**

**S**URVEILLANCE is the watchword at the seaside this summer, with Spanish beaches using drones, cameras and coloured tape to ensure safety for tourists holidaying in the shadow of the virus.

Although the pandemic is

now well under control, Spanish resorts are gearing up for a summer with a difference, with a host of precautions to keep beachgoers safe.

Over the curve of the bay in the northeastern resort of Lloret de Mar, a drone lazily flies overhead, the eye in the sky keeping

a close watch to ensure there's no overcrowding.

The aim, says mayor Jaume Dulset, is to "find the balance between people being comfortable and relaxing while ensuring a safe environment."

At this resort some 70 kilometres (45 miles) up the coast

from Barcelona, the town hall has drawn up plans to reassure tourists in the wake of the pandemic which in Spain has claimed more than 28,300 lives.

Always full in summer, its beaches are being partitioned off, with cameras and sensors transmitting real-time information to potential visitors via an app.

With more municipal staff to flag up any non-compliance, they are also using drones that can play recorded messages about social distancing should they spot overcrowding.

There's also a scheme for reserving areas on the sand — which would be easier to manage than a free-for-all — but for now, that won't be activated at this resort which is popular with British and French tourists for its family-friendly atmosphere and vibrant night-life.

### Saving the summer

For now, only a handful of beachgoers are setting out towels and adjusting sunloungers on this kilometre-long (half-mile) beach which can accommodate up to 15,000 people.

"Normally we would be full

by this point but for now, there are very few people so it's easy to respect the security distance," explains 78-year-old Jose María Quicio.

He and his wife Olga, 81, have set up folding chairs a few metres from the shore inside a red cordon roping off space for those over 70.

"This is our area," say his wife after coming back from a dip in the sea.

"It makes you feel safer, it's good, better than before."

About 50 metres away, a lifeguard sits on his watchtower, wearing sunglasses and a fabric mask. As well as his normal duties, he must also watch for anyone flouting the distancing norms as well as disinfect the toilets and the first aid posts.

"Our first priority is ensuring no one drowns. But from now, we're also helping out with the rest," explains lifeguard coordinator Joel da Silva.

The town hall's plan involved training 8,500 workers in how to ensure health and safety in such places as well as in restaurants, hotels and nightclubs.

**SOURCE: AFP**

## SEASONAL WORKERS

## Fruit pickers sweat as virus flares in northern Spain

**I**N the verdant orchards of northeastern Spain, Guinean national Said Doumbia is picking nectarines in a job that earns him just 5.25 euros (nearly \$6) per hour.

After a long day in the sun, he's exhausted but when he finally clocks off, he must have his temperature taken before entering the sports hall where he's staying — the complex has been set up especially for seasonal workers following a flareup of the virus.

Thousands of immigrant workers come to this fertile valley in the Aragon region every year but a fresh outbreak of infections has worried the authorities.

To tackle the problem, the small town of Fraga on Thursday opened temporary accommodation for up to 50 workers who had been sleeping outside and to detect new cases of COVID-19.

When Doumbia arrives, a Red Cross worker scans his forehead with an infrared thermometer, then he must disinfect

his shoes and his hands.

After showering, he can have a hot meal then sleep in one of the halls' well-spaced beds, with lights out at 10:00 pm and breakfast served from 5:00 am.

"Some are working, others are looking for work," said Red Cross official Oscar Gracia.

"Some get very emotional, saying that at last they have a roof over their heads and a plate of hot food."

Many homeless fruit pickers travel around the country seeking work according to the season.

Mame Cisse, a lean 34-year-old in a grey t-shirt, arrived from Senegal two years ago and so far this season, he's earned earning six-euros-per-hour for picking onions in Albacete, and eight for picking olives in Huelva, both areas in the southeast.

Now he's in Fraga "looking for more work".

'Couldn't do it without them'

Spain has been badly hit by the virus, suffering more than

28,300 deaths, and the state of emergency had only just been lifted on June 21 when a new outbreak was detected at a fruit farm near Fraga which has been forced to close.

On Thursday, the health ministry said 250 cases had been identified in the area, almost all among seasonal workers, as the World Health Organisation warned of a resurgence in Europe since restrictions were eased.

After 14 weeks of lockdown but only one death, Fraga has had to reimpose some restrictions, banning gatherings of more than 15 people and visits to elderly care homes.

But mayor Carmen Costa said it was important "not to stigmatise the seasonal workers".

"We need them to come and work, we need them as much as they need us," she said.

"We can't have people sleeping in the street, especially not with the current health concerns."

There are around 1,000 ag-

ricultural holdings in the area, and 80 per cent of produce is earmarked for export with a market value of 60 million euros, says Ignacio Gramunt, director of mercoFraga which helps market the produce.

"In Fraga alone, we employ 5,000 seasonal workers who pick fruit and some 12,000 in the area. We couldn't do it without them."

On his farm, he employs 10 Bulgarians, all wearing masks and carefully spaced as they pick

nectarines destined for Germany.

Also staying at the sports hall is Faye, a 43-year-old Senegalese national who has been sleeping rough for a month.

All he wants is to be able to work legally, addressing his plea to Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez.

"Please, Pedro," he says. "Give us papers."

**SOURCE: AFP**



Eighty per cent of the fruit from the Fraga region is earmarked for export with a market value of 60 million euros. **PHOTO: AFP**



# Taliban reject claims Russia aided fighters in attacks on US troops

KABUL — The Taliban on Saturday rejected a newspaper report claiming their fighters had received rewards from Moscow's spies to kill US troops in Afghanistan.

The New York Times reported Friday that bounties offered by a notorious arm of Russia's military intelligence service gave incentives to Taliban fighters to target US forces, just as US President Donald Trump tries to withdraw troops and end America's longest war.

"The nineteen-year jihad of the Islamic Emirate is not indebted to the beneficence of any intelligence organ or foreign country," the Taliban said in a statement issued in Kabul.

The group also denied previous US accusations it was given arms by Russia.

"The Islamic Emirate has made use of weapons, facilities and tools ... that were already present in Afghanistan or are war spoils frequently seized from the opposition in battles."

The Taliban said home-



The Taliban said home-made explosives accounted for most of the casualties among US forces. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

made explosives accounted for most of the casualties among US forces.

The group reiterated it was committed to an accord signed with Washington in February that paves the way for with-

drawing all foreign forces from Afghanistan by mid next year.

Earlier on Saturday Russia also denounced the New York Times report.

The "baseless and anonymous accusations," published

by the newspaper, had "already led to direct threats to the life of employees of the Russian Embassies in Washington D.C. and London," the Russian Embassy in Washington wrote on Twitter. — AFP ■

## Locust swarm enters Nepal: ministry

KATHMANDU — Nepali government said Saturday that the locust swarm has entered the country from its southern neighbor India.

Nepal's Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Development confirmed the entry of the locusts in a statement after farmers of a few districts in Province 2, Province 5 and Bagmati Province reported an increment in the number of insects in their fields.

"Swarms of locust have reportedly entered Bara, Parsa, Sindhuli, Sarlahi and Rupandehi, among other districts," said Hari Bahadur KC, spokesperson at the agriculture ministry.

The insects are a collection of certain species of short-horned grasshoppers that migrate and swarm at the plants, destroying leaves and fruits, and leaving only stem. They are known for damaging large portion of crops in a very short period of time.— Xinhua ■

# India passes 500,000 coronavirus cases

NEW DELHI — India now has more than 500,000 confirmed coronavirus cases, according to government figures released

Saturday that showed a record daily leap of 18,500 new infections.

Authorities said a total of 15,685 people had died after an-

other 385 fatalities were added to the toll in 24 hours.

The pandemic is not expected to peak in India for several more weeks and experts say the number of cases could pass one million before the end of July.

Some state governments are considering imposing new lockdowns. A hard-hitting nationwide lockdown that started March 25 is gradually being eased because of the damage caused to the economy.

The virus has particularly hit India's densely populated cities and there are now major concerns for New Delhi which has overtaken Mumbai with nearly 80,000 cases.

The city's government has

predicted it will have 500,000 infections by the end of July. It is already using railway carriages to house patients and has taken over hotels and banquet halls to relieve the pressure on hard-pressed hospitals.

The government has been criticised over a lack of testing that experts say has hidden the true number of cases in India, which now stands at 509,000.

The country is currently fourth in the world for the number of infections, behind the United States, Brazil and Russia, though it has a much lower death toll.

In a bid to boost tracing efforts, Delhi authorities have called in 33,000 health workers to screen about two million peo-

ple in sealed off zones across the city of 20 million people. But cities across the nation of 1.3 billion people are braced for a huge wave of new cases in coming weeks.

"It is likely that we're going into a state, unless we are able to reinforce a strict physical distancing mechanism or a hard lockdown, where the rate of infection will continue to increase," said Anant Bhan, a leading public health expert.

"Unlike China, where the pandemic was relatively more concentrated around Wuhan and a few other cities, India has a more diffused spread that makes it a bit more challenging for the healthcare system," he told AFP.— AFP ■



Residents wait to offer a sample for COVID-19 testing in Chennai. **PHOTO: AFP**

# Shanghai launches self-driving ride service

SHANGHAI — Ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing (DiDi) on Saturday launched the trial run of self-driving ride service on designated test roads in the eastern metropolis of Shanghai.

Users who have registered in

advance on DiDi's mobile app can hail an autonomous vehicle for a free ride, as long as their points of departure and arrival are within the 53.6-km designated roads in Shanghai's Jiading District.

DiDi said safety person-

nel have been deployed on the self-driving vehicles to respond to emergencies and take over the steering wheel if needed. In addition, DiDi has set up a safety center for monitoring the vehicle's operational status

and provide remote assistance when necessary. Zhang Bo, CTO of DiDi, said the company will start by assigning orders to both human and robotic drivers as autonomous vehicles can only work in certain areas.

"Autonomous driving needs to move beyond being a novel but limited experience and become a reliable and efficient daily mobility option for the general public in a highly complex world," Zhang said.— Xinhua ■

# Fianna Fail's Micheal Martin elected as Ireland's PM

DUBLIN — Fianna Fail leader Micheal Martin was elected Saturday as Ireland's new prime minister, replacing Leo Varadkar as the country's Taoiseach during a special sitting of the Dail parliament.

Martin's election follows months of negotiations between his centre right party, Fine Gael and the Green Party, to reach an agreement following elections in February, before the onset of the coronavirus crisis.

"To be elected to serve as Taoiseach of a free republic is one of the greatest honours which anyone can receive," Martin told

the parliament.

The 59-year-old will be formally appointed by Ireland's president, Michael D Higgins, and is set to announce his ministers later in the day.

Martin takes over the role of Irish premier from Fine Gael's Varadkar in an historic reconciliation of Ireland's two major political parties which dates back to the foundation of the state a century ago.

Under the agreement, Fine Gael is set to regain the post of Taoiseach at the end of 2022.

The two parties needed the support of the Greens to have

a working majority in the Irish parliament, equating to around 80 seats.

Fianna Fail was Ireland's biggest party with 38 seats in the 160 seat chamber following February's election, Fine Gael received 35 seats and the Greens 12.

The political deal excludes republicans Sinn Fein from power.

The one-time fringe party won the popular vote with 24.5 percent of first preference ballots, becoming the second-largest force in parliament and is expected to become the main opposition party.—AFP ■



Fianna Fail leader Micheal Martin (R) talks with the man who he has replaced as Irish prime minister, Leo Varadkar after the vote at a special sitting of the Dail parliament **PHOTO: AFP**

## Ethiopia says on track to fill mega-dam as African Union pushes for deal

ADDIS ABABA — Ethiopia said Saturday it was on schedule to begin filling a controversial mega-dam on the Blue Nile River within weeks but vowed to try resolving its dispute with downstream neighbours Egypt and Sudan.

The statement from Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed's office undercut claims made Friday evening by Egypt and Sudan, whose leaders said Ethiopia had agreed to delay filling the dam's reservoir until an agreement was reached.

The Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD), set to be Africa's largest hydroelectric project, has been a source of tension in the Nile basin ever since Ethiopia broke ground on it nearly a decade ago.

Ethiopia says the project is essential for its development, while Egypt and Sudan worry about access to vital water supplies from the Nile.

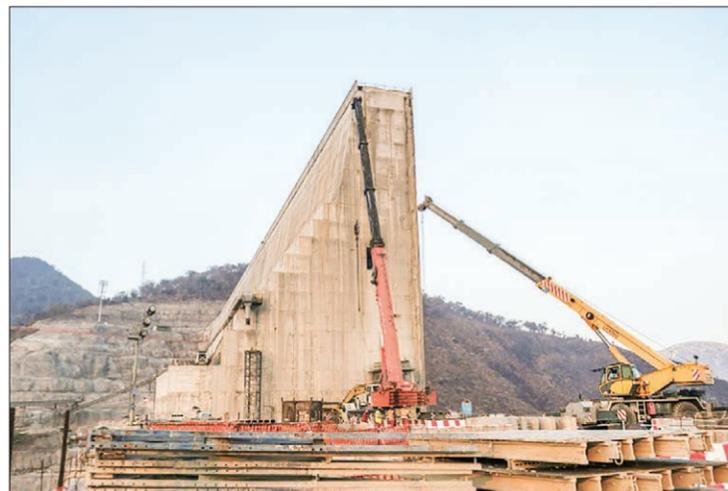
Addis Ababa has been vocal about its plans to start filling the reservoir in July, and Abiy faces intense domestic political pressure to stick to that timeline.

The leaders of all three countries spoke Friday evening on a call convened by South African President Cyril Ramaphosa, the current chair of the African Union.

But while Sudan and Egypt said afterwards that Ethiopia had agreed to hold off on filling the reservoir as negotiations continued, Ethiopia's statement Saturday made no mention of a delay.

"Ethiopia is scheduled to begin filling the GERD within the next two weeks, during which the remaining construction work will continue," the statement said.

"It is in this period, that the three countries have agreed to reach a final agreement on a few pending matters."—AFP ■



Ethiopia says the mega-dam is essential for its development, but Egypt and Sudan worry about access to vital water supplies from the Nile. **PHOTO: AFP**

## France arrests six over Banksy artwork stolen from Bataclan

PARIS — Six people have been arrested in France over the theft of an artwork by street artist Banksy commemorating the victims of the 2015 Paris attacks that was stolen from the Bataclan concert hall, sources said Saturday.

The suspects were arrested across France this week after the artwork, an image of a girl in mourning painted on one of the Paris venue's emergency doors, was found in Italy earlier in the month, judicial and police sources told AFP.

Two were charged with theft while the other four were charged with concealing theft, the sources added. All six were placed in pre-trial detention.

The door with the artwork was cut out and taken in January last year at the Bataclan, where Islamic State gunmen massacred 90 people in 2015.

French and Italian police said on June 10 this year that

they found the work in an abandoned farmhouse in Italy's central east Abruzzo region.

One of the French policeman who intervened in the 2015 Bataclan attack was present when the door was found, and was overcome with emotion, according to the French crime unit.

Works by Banksy, known for their distinctive style, irreverent humour and thought-provoking themes, have been found on walls, buildings and bridges from the West Bank to post-Hurricane Katrina New Orleans.

At auction, they have sold for more than \$1 million.—AFP ■



The stolen artwork by Banksy was found in Italy earlier this month. **PHOTO: AFP**

## Serbian defence minister tests positive for COVID-19

BELGRADE — Serbian Defence Minister Aleksandar Vulin has tested positive for COVID-19, the Defence Ministry said Saturday in a press statement.

Vulin underwent a regular test after having contact with one of the state secretaries in the Ministry of Defence, who was recently hospitalized due to COVID-19 infection, said the statement.

"The Minister of Defence is feeling well and since there are no symptoms of COVID-19 infec-

tion, he is in self-isolation," read the statement, adding that he will continue to perform the duties and adhere to all prescribed measures during self-isolation.

In the past several days, Serbia has been experiencing a surge of new coronavirus cases. As of Saturday, 13,792 cases of the novel coronavirus have been confirmed, with 267 deaths. In the past 24 hours, 227 new cases were confirmed, while two more people died. On June 23, Serbia's crisis response team ordered

mandatory use of face masks in public transportation, and recommended wearing them also in indoor spaces such as post offices, banks, public institutions, markets and shopping malls.

An emergency was declared in the central city of Kragujevac and the southern city of Novi Pazar due to spikes of new infection cases. Serbia had declared a state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic on March 15 and lifted it on May 6.—Xinhua ■

# Coca-Cola says pausing social media advertising



Coca-Cola told CNBC the decision does not mean it is joining the #StopProfitForHate initiative. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

SAN FRANCISCO — Coca-Cola, a major force in global advertising, announced Friday it would suspend ads on social media for at least 30 days, as platforms face a reckoning over how they deal with racist content.

“There is no place for racism in the world and there is no place for racism on social media,” James Quincey, chairman and CEO of The Coca-Cola Company, said in a brief statement.

He said social media companies -- which other major brands have boycotted to force

changes in how they deal with hateful material -- need to provide “greater accountability and transparency.”

Coca-Cola will use the pause to “reassess our advertising policies to determine whether revisions are needed,” Quincey said.

The beverage giant told CNBC that the “break” does not mean it is joining the movement launched last week by African American and civil society groups.

The coalition, which includes the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), has been urging companies to stop advertising on Facebook, using the #StopHateForProfit hashtag.

It aims to achieve better regulation of groups inciting hatred, racism or violence on the platform.

Unilever, home to brands including Lipton tea and Ben and Jerry’s ice cream, said it would stop advertising on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram in the US until the end of 2020 due to the “polarized election period.”—AFP ■

## L’Oreal to remove words like ‘whitening’ from products

PARIS — French cosmetics giant L’Oreal announced Saturday it was removing words like “whitening” from its products, against the backdrop of global anti-racism protests.

“The L’Oreal Group has decided to remove the words white/whitening, fair/fairness, light/lightening from all its skin evening products,” the company said in a statement.

The announcement follows Thursday’s decision by the Indian and Bangladeshi arms of Unilever to rename their locally marketed “Fair & Lovely” skin-lightening cream for the same reason.

Anglo-Dutch firm Unilever -- which reportedly raked in some \$500 million in revenue from the product in India last year -- said it would stop using the word “Fair”

in the name as the brand was “committed to celebrating all skin tones”.

Several companies -- including L’Oreal -- have been criticised recently for skin-lightening products after the global rise of the Black Lives Matter movement following the police killing in the US of African-American George Floyd last month.

Johnson & Johnson said last week it would stop selling some Neutrogena and Clean & Clear products, advertised as dark-spot reducers in Asia and the Middle East.

Several American groups have said they would to change their visual identity, such as Mars, which says it plans to develop its famous Uncle Ben’s brand, which uses a caricature of an African American as its logo.—AFP ■

## Microsoft to permanently close all retail stores

SAN FRANCISCO — Microsoft said Friday it will close all of its stores and move its retail operations online, keeping just four locations and transforming them into “experience centres.”

The move means the more than 80 Microsoft stores closed due to the coronavirus pandemic will not reopen as the tech giant enters “a new approach to retail”, according to a statement.

“Microsoft will continue to invest in its digital storefronts on Microsoft.com, and stores in Xbox and Windows,” the statement said.

The four locations that will become Microsoft Experience Centers are in London, New York, Sydney and at the com-

pany’s Redmond, Washington headquarters.

Retail team members will “serve customers from Microsoft corporate facilities and remotely providing sales, training, and support,” the company said.

Microsoft said it will set aside \$450 million to cover the costs of closing the locations. The number of employees who would be affected was not immediately available.

“Our sales have grown online as our product portfolio has evolved to largely digital offerings, and our talented team has proven success serving customers beyond any physical location,” said Microsoft corporate vice president Da-

vid Porter. Microsoft in recent years has been relying more on its services such as cloud computing, with the retail locations focusing on its Surface tablets and laptops as well as Xbox gaming gear. But the physical stores failed to gain the momentum of rival Apple.

Independent technology analyst Neil Cybart said the closures were because “the Surface business increasingly looks to be losing momentum in the consumer space.”

The impact of the pandemic has not yet been reflected in Microsoft’s financial results. It posted a net profit of \$10.8 billion from January to March, up 22 percent year-on-year, on a turnover of \$35 billion.—AFP ■

## Nationwide residential property prices in Philippines up by 12.4 pct in Q1, highest in 4 years

MANILA — Residential real estate prices of various types of housing units in the Philippines grew at a faster rate of 12.4 per cent year-on-year in the first quarter of 2020 based on the residential real estate price index, the Philippine central bank said on Friday.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) said this is the third consecutive quarter that the index has registered a double-digit growth, which is higher than the 10.2 percent growth in the previous quarter and 3.3 per cent a year ago.

“This is also the highest growth rate since the first quar-

ter 2016,” the BSP said in a statement. By area, the BSP said residential property prices increase year-on-year in both the National Capital Region (NCR) and in areas outside NCR (AONCR).

The BSP said residential property prices grew at a faster pace in NCR at 18.3 per cent compared with those in AONCR at 8.5 percent. “The brisker growth of property prices in NCR can be attributed to the higher increase in the prices of condominium units, which outweighed the decline in prices of single detached or attached houses, duplexes and townhouses,” the BSP said.—Xinhua ■



Microsoft is closing all its retail stores and moving sales online, keeping only four locations that will become “experience centres”. **PHOTO: AFP/FILE**

## Continued decline in all-India power demand affecting thermal PLFs: Ind-Ra

NEW DELHI — The all-India energy demand decreased 14.9 per cent year-on-year to 102.7 billion units in May while energy supply also decreased 14.9 per cent, resulting in the energy deficit remaining at 0.5 per cent (May 2019).

The power demand declined amid the Covid-19 led lockdown on account of a decline in commercial and industrial demand from major manufacturing states like Maharashtra (down 11.3 per cent), Gujarat (down 13.5 per cent) and Tamil Nadu (down 15.1 per cent).

The decline in power demand narrowed in May (down 14.9 per cent, April: down 22.3 per cent) due to the gradual lifting of lockdown for certain economic activities, increase in domestic consumption with the peak summer season and increase in agricultural usage due to the onset of sowing

season.

With the decrease in demand, electricity generation (excluding renewables) also decreased 17.7 per cent to 96.3 billion units in May (April: down 25.4 per cent) with thermal generation declining 21.4 per cent (April: down 28.5 per cent).

Thermal plant load factor (PLF) declined to 47.9 per cent (April: 42.4 per cent, May 2019: 63.6 per cent) on account of the lower demand, said Ind-Ra in its latest credit news digest on India's power sector.

Central, state and private sector PLFs decreased to 55.2 per cent in May (May 2019: 69.6 per cent), 40 per cent (61 per cent) and 49 per cent (61.3 per cent) respectively. Thermal PLFs were the most impacted due to the decline in the power demand over March to May, given the must-run status of nuclear, hydro and renewables.—ANI ■

## S.Korea's consumer sentiment rises for 2 months

SEOUL — Sentiment among South Korean consumers over economic situation rose for two straight months thanks to fiscal stimulus packages, central bank data showed Friday.

The composite consumer sentiment index (CCSI) stood at 81.8 in June, up 4.2 points from the prior month, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

After bottoming at 70.8 in April, the index continued to gain for the second consecutive month as the government unveiled stimulus packages, including relief grants that were given to all households.

However, the index stayed far lower than 104.2 tallied in January, the month before the COVID-19 outbreak spread in the country. The reading below 100 indicates pessimists outnumbering optimists.

Sub-indices gained ground. The index for the current state of living advanced 5 points over the month to 84 in June, and the index for prospective state of living added 2 points to 87 this month.

The index for prospective household income and prospective consumer spending rose to 88 and 93 respectively this month.—Xinhua ■

## China's external debt slightly up

BEIJING — China's outstanding foreign debt stood at 2.0946 trillion U.S. dollars by the end of March, data from the country's forex regulator showed.

The amount was 1.8 percent higher than that at the end of 2019, said Wang Chunying, spokeswoman and chief economist at the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE).

The country's external debt structure continues to improve amid stable expansion in recent years, according to Wang.

Facing the COV-



This undated photo shows the headquarters of the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), in Beijing, China. (PHOTO / XINHUA)

ID-19 epidemic, the central bank and SAFE have rolled out a raft of

measures to facilitate cross-border financing without triggering a

sharp increase in external debt volume, according to Wang.—Xinhua ■

## UK car production hits worst May since 1946 with 95.4 pct drop

LONDON — British car production plunged by 95.4 percent in May amid the coronavirus pandemic compared with the same month last year, marking the worst May since 1946, the Society of Motor Man-

ufacturers and Traders (SMMT) said Friday.

Data showed that only 5,314 vehicles rolled off production lines across Britain as car plants either closed or restarted at a reduced capacity due

to COVID-19, with 4,260 units being exported and just 1,054 for domestic buyers.

"While some two thirds of the UK's automotive plants started getting back to business during the month, capacity was severely held back by social distancing requirements and reduced demand, with key global markets only just beginning to reopen and the UK remaining in lockdown," said the SMMT.

Meanwhile, in the first five months this year, British cars manufactured reached 324,763 units, representing a decline of 41.7 per cent from the same period in 2019,

with "the full year outlook now expected to be fewer than one million units," the business organization said.

It warned that "potentially up to one in six jobs is at risk of redundancy" when the furlough scheme, a move launched by the government to support employees to keep jobs and receive a certain amount of wages, comes to an end in November.

Mike Hawes, chief executive of the SMMT, said: "May's figures are yet more evidence of why the UK industry, like its global rivals, needs dedicated support to drive a successful restart."—Xinhua ■



Robotic arms work on the bodyshells of Mini cars as they pass along a section of automated production line at the BMW Mini car production plant in Oxford in 2017. BMW, Peugeot PSA and Japan's Nissan have factories in the UK. FILE PHOTO: AFP

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY 1080)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ALVAN VOY. NO. (SCY 1080)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **28-6-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S LAND AND SEA INTERMODAL LOGISTICS  
SDN BHD LINE**

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (027W)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V ISEACO FORTUNE VOY. NO. (027W)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **29-6-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MIP/MITT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Shipping Agency Department  
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:  
**M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

# Three major bridges under construction in Ayeyawady Region

By Kyaw Htike Soe

**T**HE road transport network plays an important role in promoting economic and social development of a region, improving socioeconomic status of local people, and boosting the flow of trade. The proper development of road transport network not only reduces the cost of transportation both in terms of money and time but also helps in the integration of various regions and states in the country and better understanding of neighbouring countries at the international

level.

The Kyunpyathat Bridge near milepost 22/4 on the Bogale-Mawlamyinekyun-Kyone-mangae-Wakema-Myaungmya Road is being built by Special Bridge Group-2 of the Department of Bridge under the Ministry of Construction and the project as a whole is 85 per cent complete, according to a site in-charge tasked with overseeing the project. The bridge is 720 metres long, 7.5 metres wide and has a one-metre long pedestrain walkway on each side. The bridge is a steel box girder



Kyunpyathat Bridge is a steel box girder with the floor of reinforced concrete and can withstand up to 60 tones of weight.—(Photo: IPRD)



Sawke Bridge on the Bogale-Mawlamyinegyun-Wakema-Myaungmya Road will be an important bridge in Ayeyawady Region.—(Photo: IPRD)



with the floor of reinforced concrete and can withstand up to 60 tons of weight. The bridge's piles are mainly constructed from reinforcement cement concrete and its clearance is 40 ft. and waterway under the facility is 240 ft.

The Sawke Bridge near milepost 17 on the Bogale-Mawlamyinegyun-Wakema-Myaungmya road section under the Road Network Development Project in Ayeyawady Region is also under construction in Mawlamyinegyin Township. The bridge over the Sawke River is 750 metre in length, 7.5 metre in width and has the capacity to withstand 75 tones of loads. The bridge's clearance is about 40 ft. and the waterway under the bridge is 240 ft. Construction of the bridge has been about 85 per cent finished so far and it is scheduled to be opened to traffic soon. The projects are slated for completion in September and many skilled workers currently involves in the construction of the bridges, said U Aung Thiha, Director (Civil) of the Special Bridge Group-2.

Once completed, the bridg-

es would reduce travel time between Mawlamyinegyun and Patheingyi by two hours. Local people from Mawlamyinegyun and Bogale Townships would be able to travel to Labutta and the region's capital Patheingyi in a convenient manner and would be able to use the facilities in all seasons with greater ease. The new bridges would contribute to development of trade in the area, facilitate swift flow of commodities and reduce transportation charges for local people. Reliable road transport networks could support businesses of the locals and promote their socioeconomic status. Infrastructural development of a region plays a vital role in helping the country's GDP increase and uplifting the standard of living of poor people.

The Patheingyi Bridge-2, designed to link Patheingyi city and some residential wards on the west bank of Ngawun River is being built by Special Bridge Group-16 under the ministry at an estimated cost of Ks. 28.5 billion. The bridge construction project has been about 84 per cent finished so far. The

bridge is of a steel reinforced concrete facility and is 2,380-ft long with 28-ft wide traffic route. The bridge will be able to withstand up to 60 tones of weight and have a 5-ft wide pedestrian walkway on each side. The width of pillars and height for waterway will be 416-ft and 60-ft respectively. Construction of the bridge began on 27 October 2018 and the facility is slated for completion in July this year.

With rapid urbanization of Patheingyi City and urgent need for extension of urban residential housings on the west bank of Ngawun River, the Patheingyi Bridge-2 is built by the ministry. The bridge is expected to become an important landmark for Patheingyi, contribute to regional development and offer a faster route to beaches such as Ngwehsaung, Chaungtha and Shwe Thauk Yan, and to Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State's coastal roads. Upon completion of the bridge, locals will be able to easily transport fishery products in the region to major cities in the country without any delays.

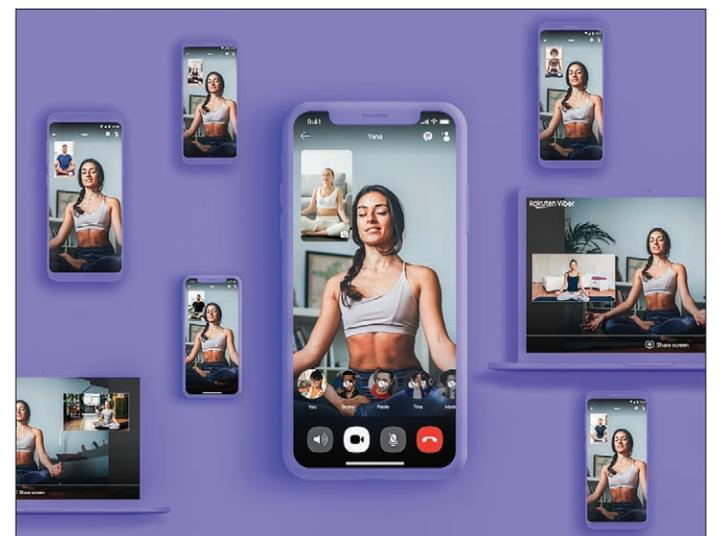
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## Viber launches Group Video Calls for up to 20 people together!

*You can now video chat with up to 20 of your colleagues, friends, or family*

**R**AKUTEN Viber has launched its new Group Video Calls feature in Myanmar, enabling group video calls for up to 20 people with unlimited duration. Inspired by the tremendous success of Viber's Group Audio Calls feature, the added support for video meets the growing demand for large video calls to replicate face-to-face conversations and conferences. Social distancing has compelled people to rethink the way they gather in groups, making alternative online meet ups not only convenient but necessary. From chefs running cooking classes to yoga instructors training their pupils to master breath cycles, all working groups need a secure, efficient online platform. Viber's Group Video Calls are easily accessed from the Viber app, with support for work-friendly features like screen sharing and video broadcasting for both mobile and desktop devices. Together with Viber's group chats and group voice calls, this new way of face-to-face communication is an ideal way to cope with the new normal. Starting a Group Video Call is easy. Just tap the new "video" button added to the top of the screen, or simply add more participants to an ongoing video call. Group Video Calls give the speaker the floor, displaying their video for all participants. Users can choose to privately pin anyone's video to their personal screen during the call. Users can also mute themselves or disable their video during the call, as well as see if other participants are on mute or if their video is turned off. "We're excited to enable users to participate in video calls with up to 20 people, and we're going to expand this further very soon. Viber serves an important purpose to society, now more than ever, in that it enables users to communicate easily. Video discussions will be part of our lives much more than before, that is why we decided to launch this feature, and bring users another step closer to real, face-to-face meetings when these aren't an option," said Ofir Eyal, COO of Viber.

Social distancing doesn't have to keep us apart. With Viber, you can communicate face-to-face with co-workers, friends, and family while staying healthy and safe.—GNLM



THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  
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## MFF to hold Futsal Knockout Cup 2020 in September

THE MFF Futsal Knockout Cup 2020 will be held in September, according to the meeting of the MFF (Myanmar Football Federation) Futsal and Beach Soccer Committee last week.

The event was originally

planned for the end of July or early August, but with the MFF on the verge of confirming a new Futsal head coach, the tournament has had to be pushed back to a later date.

A total of 14 teams — 11 teams from the MFF Futsal

League and three teams from the MFF Warrix Futsal Cup in Mandalay — will take part in the tournament, which will be held under a new format at the MIU Futsal Club's new stadium in Yangon.

— Kyaw Khin ■

## 'Misconceptions and falsehoods': WADA formally responds to US report demanding reform

MONTREAL —The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) formally responded to a US government report that recommended lawmakers be given power to withhold funding from the global drugs watchdog in the absence of governance reforms.

In a letter to James W. Carroll, director of the office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), WADA president Witold Banka reiterated the agency's "disappointment" at what WADA says are factual inaccuracies in the report as well as a lack of consultation as it was compiled.

"Given that, during our 12 June telephone meeting, we discussed a renewed spirit of cooperation, I would have expected your office to have consulted us on the Report; or, at the very least, to have verified the factual veracity of the allegations being made against WADA," Banka wrote.

"Instead, in the days before publication, you informed us of



WADA has formally responded to a US government report demanding reforms in the global anti-doping watchdog, saying it contains errors and urging collaboration going forward. (AFP PHOTO/TOFIK BABAYEV)

the impending Report and asked us to verify three paragraphs by a certain deadline; and, when we did so in good faith, you chose not to incorporate our clarifications.

"As the saying goes, 'why let the truth get in the way of a good story?'"

Banka attached a summary of WADA's views on the report, reiterating the agency's view that it was littered with "multiple in-

accuracies, misconceptions and falsehoods."

The ONDCP study released this week questioned whether the United States was receiving value for money for its contribution of \$2.7 million per year to WADA.

It urges reforms to include independent athlete and anti-doping representatives on WADA committees and decision-making bodies.—AFP ■

## Minamino determined to help Liverpool win another title



File photo taken June 21, 2020, shows Liverpool's Takumi Minamino. PHOTO: KYODO

LONDON—Liverpool's Premier League title victory has yet to sink in for Takumi Minamino, but the Japan international said Friday he wants to play a bigger role in helping the club win more silverware.

Minamino transferred in January from Austrian champions Salzburg to Liverpool, who clinched their first domestic league title in 30 years after second-place Manchester City lost 2-1 at Chelsea on Thursday.

He has so far played in five league and three FA Cup games for the newly crowned English champions.

"I've only played for half a year with the club, so (the championship) hasn't really sunk in. But I want

to contribute to the team in the future and taste victory again," the 25-year-old attacker said in a comment released by the club.

While Minamino had limited playing time, he appeared in two matches after the league resumed on June 17 following a roughly three-month suspension due to the new coronavirus pandemic.

He said he was able to "gain confidence and noticed areas for improvement" in the two games -- a 4-0 win over Crystal Palace and a goalless draw at Everton.

With seven more matches remaining in the season, Minamino said,

"I want to achieve results in the games I play in and help my team win." —Kyodo ■



American Amanda Anisimova, seen here at the 2020 Australian Open, rallied to beat Caroline Dolehide in the Credit One Bank Invitational women's exhibition tournament in Charleston, South Carolina. PHOTO: AFP

## Anisimova rallies to beat Dolehide in Charleston

WASHINGTON—Amanda Anisimova saved a match point en route to a 5-7, 7-5, 10-2 victory over fellow American Caroline Dolehide at the invitational women's tennis tournament in Charleston, South Carolina.

Anisimova, 18, was staring at defeat when she trailed 5-7, 3-5 against her hard-hitting opponent, but the 2019 French Open semi-finalist blasted a forehand down the line to save match point and turned the tide, eventually triumphing in a 10-point tiebreaker.

She said the challenge of clawing her way back was just what she'd

missed with the WTA Tour shut down in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. With the WTA slated to resume play in Palermo on August 3, this week's 16-player team event in Charleston — on the green clay courts that normally host a WTA event each year — is a chance for players to gain a little match experience in the disrupted year.

"That's why I miss being out here, just trying to face challenges and get yourself back together mentally as quick as possible," said Anisimova, who won 25 of the match's final 28 points.

Three top-20 players are taking part in the tournament, led by fourth-ranked Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin. Among other results on Friday, American Danielle Collins defeated former world number one Victoria Azarenka 6-1, 7-5.

Azarenka played just one WTA match in 2020 before the coronavirus shutdown and it showed as Collins raced through the opening set, winning seven straight games on the way to a 6-1, 2-0 lead. Collins, who reached the semi-finals of the 2019 Australian Open, wobbled slightly at the last.—AFP ■

# SUNDAY SPECIAL

## The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

28 JUNE 2020  
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



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

# WHILE ALIVE

**A** saying goes, "One who passed away is forgotten in the course of time." but it is not true for me. I must admit I am a completely obsessed person especially in association with my loved ones, including not only my family members but also my pets. I think one might meet the separation from their loved ones at a certain time without fail. It is the ways of the mundane world and no one can avoid it. It is not easy, to some extent, for a person to cope with this when he or she meets it in real life situations.

I had an elder sister. There are no other siblings. As I am a younger one, I always wheedle on my sister. My elder sister always had much patience with me. However, she never kept silent when she saw my inappropriate behaviour. She often admonished me either harshly or softly. I often did not listen to her admonitions. I thought her admonitions made me tired of hearing. In the family, she was a very reliable person but I was a fair-weathered one. Although my sister and I were different in likes and in appearances, we loved each other dearly. To tell you the truth, our attachment was beyond the limit. What is more, she was well-liked by many people and had been good to me in everything.

The nature of humans is difficult to probe into. While close to each other, the value of the attachment is ignored but while far from each other, you yearn for the missing dear one. Getting separated may take place either temporarily or permanently. In other words, the former is separation living far apart and the latter, separation forever. Nevertheless, the emotions of the bereaved ones remain quite different. You feel it only when you experience it yourself.

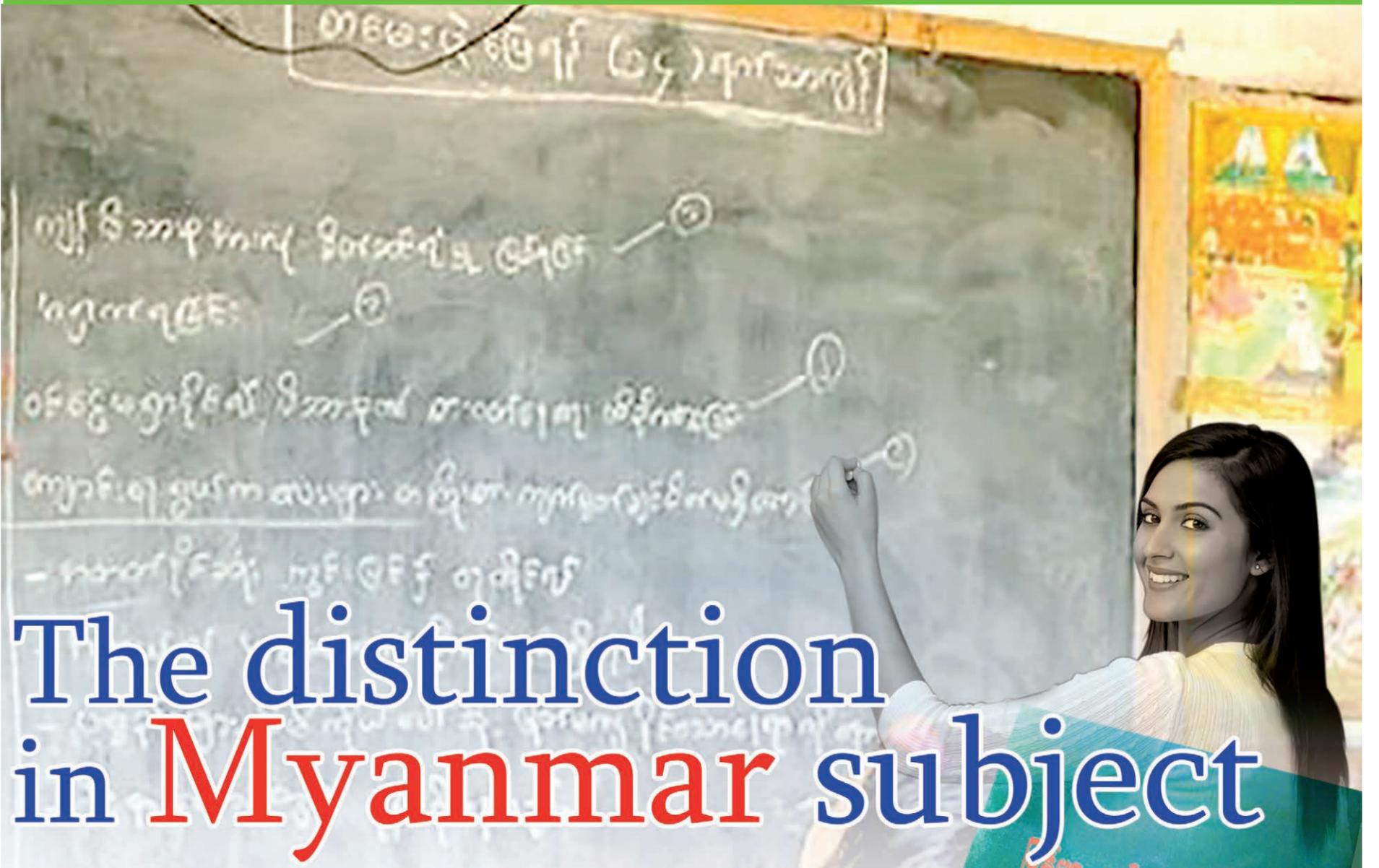
Life often brings to people unexpected happenings. Unexpectedly, one day, an unfortunate fate fell upon our family.

They called it 'Cancer'. It was a horrible

gift of fate for my elder sister. Although she took the necessary treatments given by the physicians, she never recovered and was incurably stricken with it. She ate too much oily food and readymade snacks, and gradually became fat. Finally, she was affected and she lost her life. In her 40s, she could not find her way to the progress of life and she left the world forever. I always dream we brother and sister would remain single, and look after our parents for our whole lifetime. Now, she betrayed me, left me behind, being snatched away by the Lord of Death. I cannot console myself.

Regret always comes only later. Now I realize and understand my mistakes she pointed out to me. But it was too late. When she admonished me, I did not listen but retorted her instantly. As I knew that she loved me a lot and indulged me, I deliberately showed my naughtiness. When I was asked to do the household chores, I would shirk, and did not do my duty. For my mistakes and bad deeds, I did not admit her or make an apology to her at the moment. She acted as a mother for she was the elder one. In the past, we went together and ate together. In every problem I could not solve, there she stood by me and solved the issue for me decisively.

For the above reasons, I cannot forget my elder sister. The reason that I share my own and bitter experience is to convince my esteemed readers \_ you are like my brothers and sisters for we share the same love of literature \_ in order to pay respect to your family members, love one another, and stay in peace and tranquility in the family while we are living on this earth.



# The distinction in Myanmar subject



By **Khin Moh Moh Aung**  
Yadanabon University

“ Saya, please teach my son Myanmar-sar for winning a distinction” is a common request of parents each and every year. Now, the exam in schools has just finished recently. I have heard this request for about ten times, and I replied, “Alright! Perhaps he can get it. I’ll teach him as much as I can”. I explain those parents patiently. In short, “Do you think if a Myanmar subject teacher is good, a student gets a distinction? He or she can get the distinction in Myanmar if he or she is a clever student. In fact, a teacher’s teaching involves 20 per cent, the student’s intellect is 80 per cent. The teacher can be proud of himself for about 20 per cent. The students whom I teach may win distinction in Myanmar subject, and then they pay homage to me for my teaching. Very often the parents say words of thank to me. I, then, reply that I have only 20 per cent to be proud of myself. 80 per cent goes to the students to be proud of themselves. In fact, teaching Myanmar subject, literature, is different from teaching Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. A student can get the distinctions in these subjects if the teacher is really good. So, the teacher has 50 per cent of success to be proud of himself if the students get the distinctions in these subjects. Even in English, I think, 50 per cent of

success goes to the teacher for his teaching. So, if your child has 80 per cent of intellect, he or she will get the distinction because he gets a share of my 20 per cent completely.”

I have said these words so as to get parents to understand. Some parents listen to carefully, and I explain patiently. The readers may be cautious about it. The IQ of each child is not the same, but different apparently or imperceptibly. Especially, the language usage (if you make a note cautiously) is very clear. For a child, he has to keep on learning continuously since he was born. The baby learns who is father, mother, grandpa, grandma, their individual appearance and so on. He must get himself familiar with the voices of Daddy or Mommy. He has to make efforts to enunciate the sounds himself. Later, they have to learn different vocabularies, what is a cup, plate, box, tray, bowl, etc. Their learning goes endlessly.

For the next step, they have to learn verbs. Verbs are more difficult to learn than leaning nouns. They have to learn to use ‘eat’ for ‘rice’, ‘drink’ for ‘water’ correctly. The next step is more difficult. Learning ‘Happy’, ‘Sad’, ‘Like’, ‘Disgust’. They have to be learned not only for the sake of knowing the words but also to apply in utterances. They also learn how to put it more effectively. At this stage, I think, the

differences of QA between each and every child are apparent. For instance, after playing a game, the two children take a break. At that time, one kid says, “I’m tired!” and the other one says, “Oh! Tired to death!” Obviously, the second kid has more language instinct.

Later, they learn the vocabulary used by the seniors. I have a grandson attending KG. He often uses an example when he speaks. When he sees an ugly man, he speaks out, “His face is like an alien’s”. We all cannot help laughing out loud. When he sees a woman with ugly lips, he utters, “Her lips are like clipped”. Thank God! He speaks out only when the woman has left. If he uttered these words in her presence, it would be very embarrassing.

Children learn not only the subjects but also the speaking style of the people, uncon-

sciously. When they grow up, they read books, they learn not only the subjects in the books but also the language usage and spelling. When they come across a beautiful or effective expression or a striking example, they cherish it, and take it to their hearts. The outstanding scholars such as medico, historian, lawyer, and astrologer are well known for their intellect. However, not all these scholars write in different writing styles. The one who has greater intellect and practice can write better. Therefore, I am of the opinion that if the student gets a distinction in Myanmar subject, a teacher can get only 20 per cent of the success of a student to be proud of himself.



# The Honest Boy

By Kyaw King

**L**AST week, I listened to the Dhamma talk on five moral precepts delivered by a prominent revered monk (Sayadaw).

He said like there are chiefs among the people, the five moral precepts also have a chief. The “chief” he meant is “an important one and without it other things are not useful. He asked the audience whether they know the chief of five precepts.

People gave different answers to the Sayadaw. Sayadaw said this is *Musāvādā verama ṭikkhāpada samādiyāmi* in Pali, and “I undertake the training-precept to abstain from false speech” in English.

Before Sayadaw gave reasons for why this one is chief. A doubt that abstaining from killing other beings should be chief came into my mind.

Sayadaw explained why lying is the chief of all wrong doings with examples.

He who tells lies has no wrong deeds that he can't do. After killing other beings, he can tell lies that I didn't. After taking what was not given, he can lie that he didn't. After committing sexual misconduct, he can lie that he didn't. After taking alcoholic drink or drugs, he can lie that he didn't. Therefore, there is no misdeed that he can't perform.

Honesty is just not lying? I previously believed that.

After reading the quote of American lawyer James E. Faust “Honesty is more than not lying. It is truth telling, truth speaking, truth speaking and truth loving”, I came to know that it is more than not lying.

For the quote, a story of a young boy who became a king was a good example.

Once upon a time, there was a king. Unluckily, he got no son who will succeed him. When he grew older, he declared that he himself will select a young boy who succeeds him.

He ordered all the young boys in his kingdom to gather at the palace's square, and said, “I will select one of you to reign the kingdom.”

“The essential qualifications for the king position are loving truth, being honesty, being brave, and being humble.” the king said.

He then gave a seed and a pot each to all young boys, saying that it is a test for the king post, and all the young boys have to grow plants by the seed at their home. The decision will be made by seeing the plants grown.

He gave one year duration of planting the seeds, and a date the young boy must come back with their pots and plants.

Among the young boys, Mg Htein, who is tak-

ing care of his aged mother, was also included.

Mg Htein put the seed into the pot, and watered daily, waiting for growing the seed. Although he waters and takes care of the seed daily, it didn't grow after a week, a month, two months, three months and till the last date.

He was heard that his friends' seeds are growing well, and became plants. He felt sad, and told her mother not to go to the king.

His mother encouraged him to go to the king, saying that accepting defeats is a sign of a brave man.

At the palace's square, except Mg Htein's pot all young boys' pots are beautiful with trees.

All the young boys with their pots and plants at their designated places were waiting for the king's decision.

The king nodding his head checked the pots and plants one after another till the last pot that grew nothing. A smile of stratification appeared in the king's face after seeing Mg Htein's pot.

The king took the hand of Mg Htein, and announced that he was selected for the king.

The crowd amazingly stared at the king waiting for his explanation on why he has chosen the boy who grew nothing.

The king explained that all the seeds given are boiled in hot water, and is no cause to grow



the seeds.

Only Mg Htein honestly took back his pot and his seed. All remaining boys replaced their seeds.

The king continued, “Without being honest oneself, how can rule the whole kingdom. It is not easy to be honest. It is important to love truth, and have the attitude of accepting the truth.”





# Conservationists put 20 Loggerhead turtles back in sea in Kawthoung to save rare species

By Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

**T**HE Myeik Archipelago (MA) comprises about 800 islands of primarily limestone and granite located along 60 km off Myanmar's southern coast, supporting breeding grounds for turtle species which are facing extinction in the world.

These islands are covered by lowland wet evergreen forest and surrounded by an extensive coral reef system. Mangrove forests, beach and dune forests, and seagrass beds add to the faunal and floral diversity.

Of the seven turtle species around the world, five of them – Green turtle, Hawksbill turtle, Olive Ridley turtle, Leatherback turtle and Loggerhead turtle – inhabit in Myanmar seas.

Recently, conservationists from the Fisheries Department in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region, put 20 baby loggerheads in the sea after nurturing them on the Nyaung U Phee Island, which is popular for its white sandy beach.

The baby loggerheads were brought from Haigyikyun in Ayeyawady Region in March and they were nurtured in man-made special nest for them on the beach of the island which is about 30 miles nautical miles from Kawthoung.

The loggerhead is considered endangered species in Myeik Archipelago.

In July 2019, turtle conservationists spotted a Loggerhead turtle for the first time in the turtle conservation zone in Rakhine coast.

The Loggerhead turtle came to the scene after the species disappeared in the area for a long time. They loggerhead turtles are becoming rare in the Southeast Asia.

All the five rare sea turtle species could be recorded in southern Rakhine State.

The number of turtles are declining in Myanmar due to use of fishing nets and indiscriminate consumption.



# Bringing back Ngahpein in Inle Lake from extinction

By Nay Myo Thurein

**I**N efforts to conserve Inle carp or locally called Nga Hpein (Cyprinus intha), a Cyprinid fish commonly found in Inle Lake and an endemic species in Myanmar, a government-hatchery in Nyaungshwe produces over 700,000 fingerlings of the species yearly.

Inle Lake is located on the Shan plateau in the Southern Shan State of Myanmar. It is the largest Lake in Shan State.

After finding out that the fish species population abundance has decreased and is facing extinction due to changes in water quality

and decreased clarity, the IUCN Red List declared the Inle carp as endangered in 2011 as it had been impacted by the introduction of some Cyprinus species in the Lake.

The fingerlings produced by the Nyaungshwe Hatchery are distributed to local fish farmers and also released into the lake in efforts to bring the species back from extinction.

In 2018-2019 fiscal year, about 720,000 fingerlings were released

into the lake, according to the Deputy Director of the Shan State Fisheries Department U Kyaw Thiha Htwe.

C. intha inhabits the shallow zone of the Lake, especially in areas with dense submerged vegetation and muddy with high organic bottom. Spawning of this species usually takes place in waters with temperature ranging from 24°C to 26°C, between November and March.

There is an urgent need to uplift the status of the fishermen and also to safeguard the sustainability of array of indigenous, endemic and ornamental fish species that enjoy the eco-friendly nature of Inle water.

Moreover, there is a need to maintain the Inle Lake to be environmentally friendly for the aquatic fauna and flora to thrive.

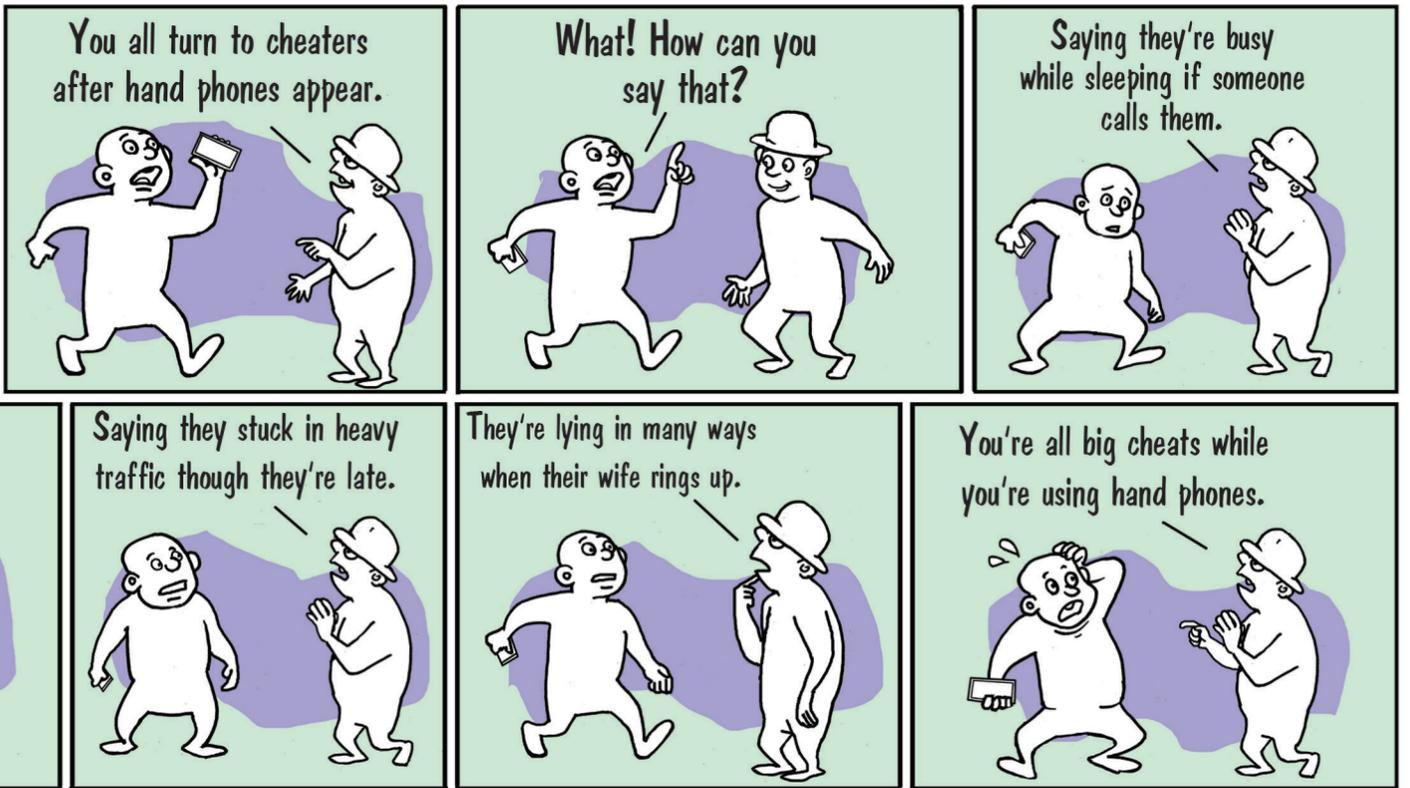


# SUNDAY COMICS



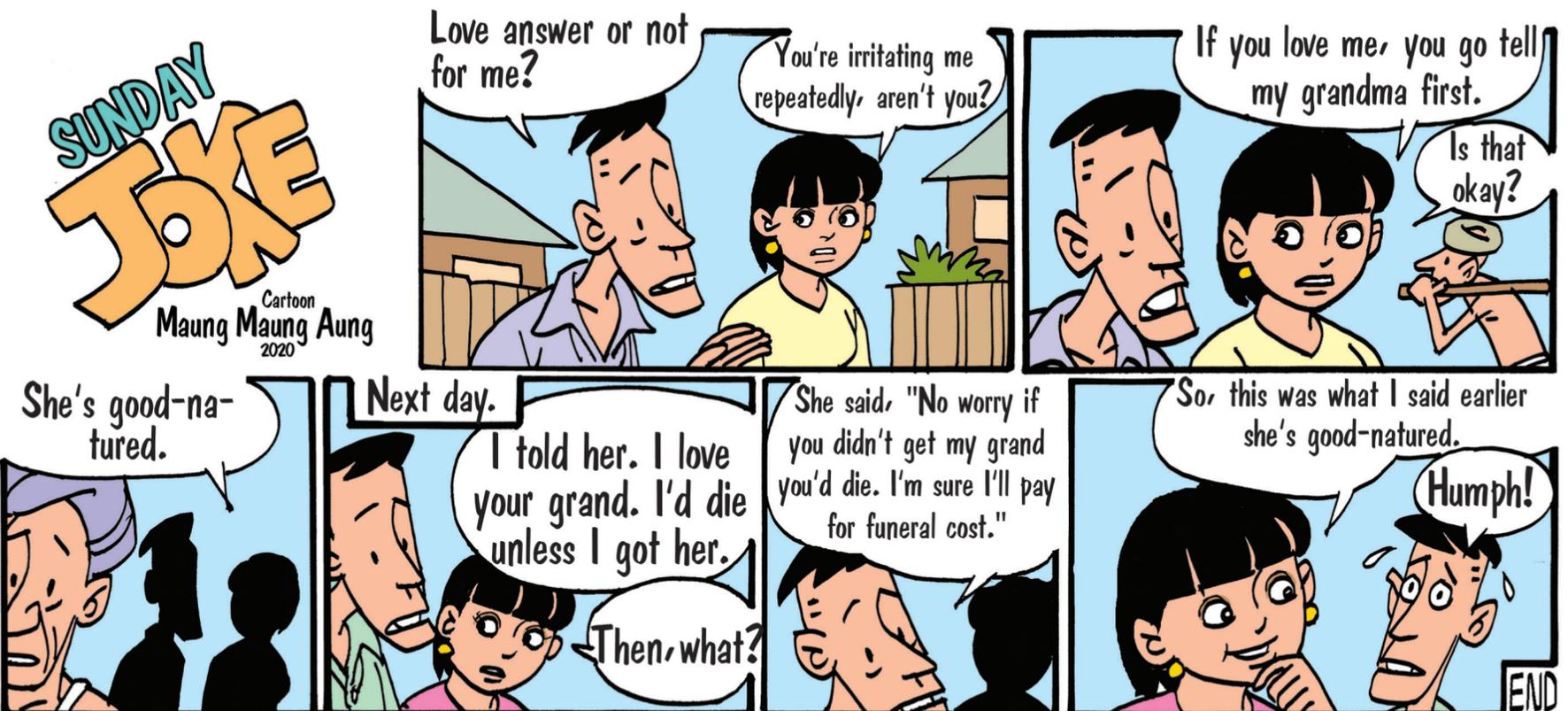
## PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon  
Maung Shwe Win



## SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon  
Maung Maung Aung  
2020



END

**By: Tommy Pauk**

# KA-BYAR-LUT (ကဗျာလွတ်အက), a graceful and enchanting Myanmar Traditional dance

**M**YANMAR has its own traditional dances. A variety of traditional dances which captivates the viewers or audiences due to beautiful and synchronous movements of the dancer's head, waist, legs (feet) and hands in line with Myanmar tunes or Myanmar scale. Myanmar styles of dances, Myanmar music, traditional musical instruments and display or setting of dazzling Myanmar orchestra on stage with performing arts captivate the locals and foreigners alike. The Myanmar orchestra is dazzlingly beautiful as its decoration or ornamentation is made of glass mosaic embedded in gilding. Basic Myanmar traditional musical instruments consist of bronze instrument, string instrument, leather (skin) covered instrument (long and short drums), wind instrument and bamboo-clapper.

The successive governments of Myanmar sent Myanmar cultural troupes to foreign countries, especially Europe countries, on cultural exchange program. Most of the foreign audiences appreciate the graceful and enchanting Myanmar traditional dances and tunes. They also enjoy Myanmar music played by the set of Myanmar drum-circle (ပတ်ဝိုင်း သို့မဟုတ် ဆိုင်းဝိုင်း) and the set of small brass gong of the traditional Myanmar brass gong circle (ကြေးနောင်ဝိုင်း).

In addition, the audiences are mesmerized by the performance of traditional dancers and the traditional beautiful dance costumes. Myanmar cultural troupes are always given laudatory award and appreciation by the audiences in foreign countries whenever the troupes entertain to them. Next to Myanmar plays, dances, Myanmar traditional string-marionette show manipulated by living humans on stage is fascinated by the foreign audiences as well.



Daw Oba Thaung; the choreographer or innovator of Ka-Byar-Lut dance (ကဗျာလွတ်အက)

The theatre-goers and enthusiasts of Myanmar traditional dances are obsessed with the Ka-Byar-Lut dance item consisting 125 (one hundred twenty five) different steps. Basically, all sorts of traditional dance patterns are used with heads, waist, legs and hands, fingers on the flexible motions. So are the Ka-Byar-Lut dance patterns. A Ka-Byar-Lut dancer must be skilful enough to use the flexible motions of her or his body parts mainly heads, waist, legs, hands and proper facial expressions must be shown. Since Ka-Byar-Lut (ကဗျာလွတ်အက) is one of the popular Myanmar traditional dances in Myanmar, Myanmar youngsters especially school students and adults like to learn how to dance it.

Daw Oba Thaung was an eminent Myanmar 'Anyeint' dancer and singer (အပြိုင်မင်းသမီး) in Mandalay. Myanmar term 'Anyeint' means; 'non-dramatic

performance where a female artiste dances and sings to the accompaniment of light music and is usually supported by comedians'. Daw Oba Thaung codified 125 steps

of the traditional Myanmar choreography called Kabyar-lutt dance (ကဗျာလွတ်အက) in 1953. The state School of Music (ဝန်ကျာကျောင်း) was opened in Mandalay in 1953 and Daw Oba Thaung was appointed as a dance teacher. She was the first instructor of dances in that school. She disseminated and shared the innovative dance techniques and patterns of Ka-Byar-Lut (ကဗျာလွတ်အက) to the students of State Music School in Mandalay. In other words, she is the pioneer or innovator of Kabyar\_lutt dance patterns. She coined the word "Kabyar\_lut" for this type of dance. The literal meaning of "Ka-Byar-Lut' (ကဗျာလွတ်) is "A Dance with No poetry". This implies that it is a type of dance comprising no recitation of poem, no chanting of verse and literature. This style of dance can be performed by a single dancer or a group of dancers rhythmically and harmoniously.

Daw Oba Thaung innovated "Ka-Byar-Lut' dance (ကဗျာလွတ်အက) and taught dance patterns and dance-techniques to the professional dancers as well as the Music School students in Mandalay. The students have to exercise to devel-

op the flexibility of their bodies so that the specific physical motions can be performed in accordance with the designed or pattern of the dance accompanied with the proper drum-beat or tune or melody. At first, Daw Oba Thaung had innovated basic 25 steps of Kabyar\_lutt dance played by four short-drums with clappers in metal (စည်းနှံင့်ဝါး) and bamboo.

Gradually, she increased the number of Kabyar\_lutt dance steps. She had designed up to 125 Kabyar\_lutt dance steps. These 125 steps comprise all of the Myanmar dances. Compulsorily, all the would-be professional dancers have to learn Kabyar\_lutt dance. She taught the female students and the artiste by the name of U Shwe Daung Nyo taught male students. Daw Oba Thaung enlisted U Shwe Daung Nyo's help to compose a rhyme for the Kabyar\_lutt dance of the basic 25 steps. Furthermore, she incorporated all six kinds of Myanmar string-marionette "thrust chin' (ရှပ်သေးရှပ်မေးထိုး) movement into the new designed Kabyar\_lutt dance. Thus, the performing of Kabyar\_lut dance become more appealing to the viewers or audiences. She was acclaimed as a choreographer or an innovator for all steps of Kabyar\_lutt dance. Her choreography has added the mesmerizing Kabyar Lut (ကဗျာလွတ်အက) to Myanmar traditional dances. So Daw Oba Thaung is known as the mother of Ka-Byar-Lut (ကဗျာလွတ်အက) in the history of Myanmar performing arts.

The dancer's facial expression has to be cheerful and lively in performing Ka Byar-Lut dance. In other words, Ka-Byar-Lut, (ကဗျာလွတ်) means the rendition of music and instrumental accompaniment played by four-traditional-short-drums (ဝုံလေးလုံး) with timing bells and bamboo clappers (စည်းနှံင့်ဝါး). Since it has no poetry nor song the Ka-Byar-Lut (ကဗျာလွတ်)



Some symbols of Myanmar traditional musical instruments, a marionette, mascots, dancers and play-actors

**SEE PAGE-S-8**

**FROM PAGE-S-7**

on the respective steps and movement played by the four short- drums with timing bells and bamboo clappers.

In the course of KaByar-Lut dance, the positions of hand and fingers or hand attitudes known as-mudras (မုဒြာ) and head, waist, legs (feet) and limbs must be moved in harmony properly. Each step is moved in steady, synchronous and graceful way in line with drum-beats. The dancer has to see the moving hands while dancing and perform a sequence of graceful steps and movements. The dancer does not recite poems, verse and literature lampoon. The dancer or performer can wear Myanmar casual dress for the ordinary occasion or ceremony when she or he entertains to the audiences. If it is a group for dancing KaByar-Lut dance to entertain public, they have to wear same Myanmar casual dresses. However, if it is for state guest entertainment or concert or cultural show or formal occasion, the dancers have to wear full dress.

In Myanmar, the various traditional occasions or ceremonies or events such as schools concerts, opening ceremony of sporting events, opening or closing ceremony of traditional festivals, state banquet for foreign guests are entertained with KaByar-Lut dance. Some of the dancers are amateurs and some professionals indeed. The dancer must be skilful enough to perform KaByar-Lut in respective steps or movements. In some government-owned schools, colleges and universities the basic course of KaByar-Lut dance is being taught as

an extra-curriculum subject (not a compulsory subject) to the students who like to learn how to dance it.

The popular Ka Byar-Lut dance item is admired by ordinary audiences, enthusiasts, traditional dance amateurs and foreigners as well. The government also promotes and transmits the Myanmar traditional

dances to the enthusiastic people. Basic KaByar-Lut dance training course is being given to basic and higher education across the country.

The KaByar-Lut basic course training program intends to disseminate basic course of KaByar-Lut dance to all levels of students for learning how to dance it systematically. The training course is conducted by

the Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. This popular traditional dance is cherished by Myanmar people. We express thankful to those who preserve our own traditional dances including KaByar-Lut dance as professionals or as instructors at the National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon and National University of

Arts and Culture, Mandalay.

Credit; Khaing Mar Lwin, Tutor of National University of Arts and Culture, Yangon

Reference book: ငုံ့လေးလုံးသံစဉ် ဝန္တဝင် အကဗေဒသစ်နှင့် ဩဘာသောင်း ရေးသူ-ဇော်ပုလဲ၊ ခင်ဝင်းနွယ်



Some of the beautiful, supple and graceful dance steps and motions of Ka Byar-Lut dance by using head, waist, legs, hands, MUDRA fingers and knees (ကဗျာလွတ်ကကွက်များ)

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

**The Global New Light of Myanmar** is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, 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](mailto: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**