

SUNDAY SPECIAL



NATIONAL

Union Betterment Party, Federal Union Party and Shan State Kokant Democratic Party present their policies, stances and work programmes

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 4 October 2020

Myanmar nationals abroad arrive home by relief flight

THE relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines landed at the Yangon International Airport yesterday bringing back a total of 122 Myanmar citizens stranded in Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

The fifth relief flight of MNA took a total of 122 Myanmar citizens — 88 Myanmar citizens from Australia and New Zealand and 34 from Papua New Guinea — from Sydney, Australia.

Myanmar Embassy in Canberra, Australia has organized the relief flights.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged 14-day quarantine at specific places or designated hotels, followed by the 7-day home quarantine.

The relief flights and chartered flights have been bringing back the Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries in line with the instructions from the National-Level Central Committee on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). The Ministry of Foreign



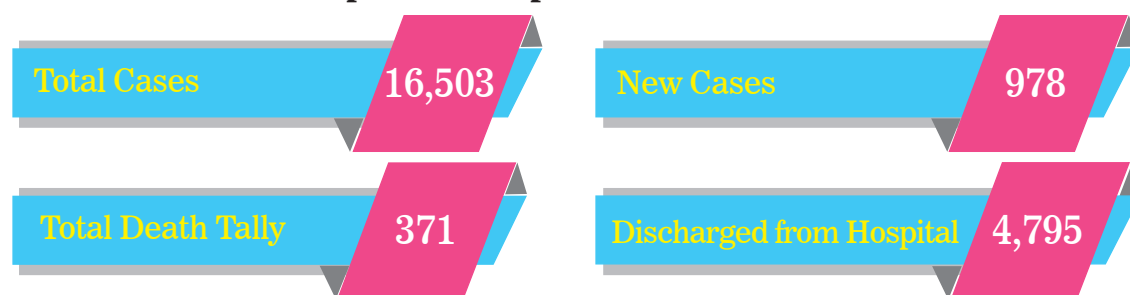
Myanmar returnees from foreign countries arrive at the Yangon International Airport on 3 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

Affairs has been cooperating with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective countries. Sydney, Australia. — MNA This relief flight is the fifth time from (Translated by TTN)

978 more new cases of COVID-19 reported on 3 October, total figure rises to 16,503

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rise to 16,503 after 978 new cases were reported on 3 October according to Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these 16,503 confirmed cases, 371 died, 4,795 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 3 October 2020



Death toll until 8 pm 3-10-2020

18

Ministry of Health and Sports

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Union Minister U Kyaw Tin joins meeting on overseas voting

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin and heads of Myanmar Embassies, and Permanent Representatives and Consulates-General Offices in foreign countries organized second coordination meeting over advance voting of Myanmar citizens living abroad for 2020 General Election via videoconference on 2 October 2020.

Deputy Director-General of the Union Election Commission office U Ye Yint Lwin detailed about delivering of advance ballot papers to the Myanmar Embassies in time amid COVID-19 restrictions to ensure voting rights of the citizens abroad and advance voting rules.

The Union Minister said that the ministry working on organizing 2020 General Election in accordance with five norms of free, fair, transparent, credible and reflecting the will of the people.

Myanmar Embassies, and Permanent Representatives



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin discusses with heads of Myanmar Embassies, and Permanent Representatives and Consulates-General Offices in foreign countries advance voting of Myanmar citizens living abroad for 2020 General Election via videoconference on 2 October 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Consulates-General Offices in foreign countries are also making efforts so that Myanmar citizens abroad can get advance

voting rights in accordance with laws and by-laws. The Embassies in Singapore and ROK began advance voting.

Ballot papers were already sent to the respective embassies starting from 27th September. The Union Minister thanked

the Union Election Commission for the arrangement to send the ballots on time by fixing the requirements presented by the embassies despite the travel restrictions in the COVID-19 crisis.

He also urged to take care not to get infected the COVID-19 disease, to ensure all eligible voters have the right to vote and to work together for the free, fair and successful election, to abide by COVID-19 restrictions and rules of the respective country.

The Union Minister and the Deputy Director-General of the Union Election Commission replied to the discussions and questions raised by heads of Myanmar missions abroad.

Permanent Secretary U Soe Han from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Director-General of Planning and Administrative Department U Aung Soe Win and officials were also present at the meeting. —MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe discusses COVID-19 measures with township medical officers

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe held a videoconference with township medical officers from six states/regions to encourage them and receive advice from them for prevention and control measures against COVID-19 yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted crucial role of township medical officers for effective works of public health departments in respective townships; coordination between the local level and the headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw, and reports to the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19.

He also advised the township health officers to browse internet page of MoHS every day for update information, to use email regularly, to manage lockdown areas and to check



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe attends a videoconference with township medical officers from six states/regions for prevention and control measures against COVID-19 yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

the needs of medical supplies. The MoHS has imported the stay-at-home order in Insein, South Okkalapa, Thingang-

yun, Mingaladon, Kyimyindine, Thanlyin, Dala and Hlinethaya townships in Yangon Region; Mahaaungmye and Amarapura

townships in Mandalay Region; Sittway Township in Rakhine State; Mawlamyine Township in Mon State; Maubin Township

in Ayeyawady Region; Kawa Township in Bago Region and Phakant Township in Kachin State.

Medical officers from these townships reported the works on COVID-19 control measures.

Deputy Minister Dr Mya Lay Sein discussed her management on supplies and transport of medicines.

Permanent Secretary Professor Dr Thet Khaing Win, Director-General of Union Minister Office Dr Tha Tun Kyaw and Director-General of Public Health and Medical Services Department Dr Soe Oo presented their discussions.

The Union Minister concluded the meeting with necessary instructions and expressed his appreciations on the works of health workers in respective areas.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Section 58 (d) in Hluttaw Election Law

IN accordance with section 58 (d) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to give speeches at meetings, instigation, writing, distribution of using posters or attempting by other means to disturb the voting or election. Anyone who is found guilty of or abet this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.



2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION



Who is eligible to vote?

- irrespective of sex or religion
- those who are 18 years of age on the date of the election
- citizens, associate citizens, and those who have permission to become naturalized citizens, who do not contravene the provisions of the Hluttaw Election Law
- a person whose name has been included in the voting list of the respective constituency

Who is ineligible to vote?

- a member of a religious order
- person serving a prison sentence
- person adjudged to be of unsound mind as provided for in the relevant law
- person who has not yet been discharged as an insolvent
- person prohibited by the Election Law
- foreigner or person who has assumed foreign citizenship

2020
General Election
Sunday, 8 November 2020



Advice to people in Nay Pyi Taw

1. People should not illegally come to Nay Pyi Taw. If a person comes back from other places to Nay Pyi Taw, he/she needs to inform and receive medical examination. The charge for COVID-19 tests has been considerably reduced.
2. It has been learnt that some people get out of the cars on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway and some old roads, and then they entered into Nay Pyi Taw via motorcycle roads and inter-village roads. So, authorities are cooperating with the Myanmar Police Force to take strict measures to control these illegal entries.
3. The ward/village administrators have been instructed to report, manage and send individuals who entered or came back to the ward/village to the quarantine centres.
4. To make the flow of goods smooth, truck drivers will be given the slip at the entrance gate. From the entrance gate, the drivers must drive their trucks directly to the exit gate, where the slip must be returned. The truck drivers are not allowed to go to other places between the entrance gate and the exit gate.
5. Face mask rule has been imposed in Nay Pyi Taw townships and COVID-19 awareness has been raised via loudspeakers. A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been in force, and surprise checks have been carried out on restaurants.

Digital Media Trends and Opportunities Webinar discusses promotion of new media

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint joined the Digital Media Trends and Opportunities Webinar organized by the formation committee on Myanmar Digital Media Association yesterday.

The discussion was taken part by Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, departmental heads, the committee members, media personnel and some other enthusiasts of digital media.

In delivering opening remark, the Union Minister expressed his appreciation for the efforts of leading persons at the committee and the speakers for sharing knowledge at the event.

He also remarked that it was expected more experts and media enthusiasts could join the future works after they realized the objectives of the committee.

U Thaung Su Nyein, the chairman of formation committee, made an opening remark, talking about the 2020 General Election and the COVID-19



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint joins the Digital Media Trends and Opportunities Webinar organized by the formation committee on Myanmar Digital Media Association yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

pandemic in Myanmar as both issues are largely concerned with the media personnel.

He continued the background reasons for forming an association to promote and protect the rights of digital media producers and its users, adding that the committee was set up on 1 September and it will invite more members for digital media development in Myanmar.

U Ko Ko (Ko Ko-YIT),

vice-chairman of committee, discussed the topic of 'Digital Media Guide to Work-from-Home that explained the need of a balance between comfort and professionalism in this working style, skills in using mobile applications for management in the works, media equipment, quality productions and media ethics.

U Min Swe Hlaing, the secretary of committee, presented the topic of 'Digital Media



Monetization Opportunities & Challenges' on the importance of content and production in digital media based on the changing trend and figures of mobile phone users, internet users, social internet users, and number of viewers.

He also talked about international trends in producing quality content and effective distribution, monthly-payment of viewers, relations between advertisement on digital me-

dia and E-commerce, income sources of digital media, and difficulties in getting incomes through Facebook and Youtube.

The questions of Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and online participants were answered by U Thaung Su Nyein, U Min Swe Hlaing and Acting Director-General U Aye Kywe from the Information and Public Relations Department.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

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YRTA extends exemption of YBS daily management funds until Oct-end

By Nyein Nyein

YANGON Region Transport Authority (YRTA) has extended the exemption period for paying in the management funds by YBS buses until the end of October, according to YRTA.

Previously, YRTA set the exemption period deadline for paying in the management charges of K4,000 by 27 March and it has now been extended to 30 April. Then, the extension

of the due date will be moved up to 31 October for the seven times to assist the YBS companies and the bus lines, according to YRTA.

"By doing so, YRTA is supporting YBS companies in one way or another," said U Aung Nyi Nyi Maw, Managing Director of YRTA.

Earlier, over 4,500 YBS buses are running daily, with 1.8 estimated passengers. Now, YBS operates more than 900 buses

from 109 bus lines, providing service for over 80,000 passengers in Yangon Region, according to YRTA.

YBS companies must report to the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) on their daily process such as applying for waivers and recording the routes as usual.

Moreover, YRTA is making efforts to solve the problems facing the YBS buses under the supervision of the Yangon Region

Government if it is hard for them to overcome the difficulties, he noted.

At present, YRTA is cooperating with YBS companies to prevent the Covid-19 pandemic according to the guidelines and instructions issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports.

Before that, more than 100 bus lines are running 4,500 buses on 135 routes, along with the airport shuttle and city transit.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Ladies' fingers get good profit in Kawlin, Wuntho

THE local people from the villages from Kawlin and Wuntho townships in Sagaing Region are growing okra, known as ladies' fingers or Ochro, in their family as okra is a profitable crop for vegetable growers.

"We grew the okra seeds last year. One acre of okra cultivation costs K250,000 including the seeds, fertilizers, pesticide and ploughing. This time last year, the yield was 20,000 okras per day for growing half-acre of the crop. The okra was sold for K2-3 per one depending upon the size of okra, which could not make high profit. This year, we have grown two baskets of okra seeds. We have collected the okra from farmland for three weeks, and the yield was 25,000 okras. And, we have sent the okra to the regular customers from Kawlin for K6-7 per okra depending upon the size. During the pandemic period, the local farmers are happy with making a good profit from okra



Women pick ladies' fingers at a field of a village in Sagaing Region on 3 October 2020. PHOTO: MYINT TUN MIN (KAWLIN)

farmland," said U Maung Tun, a local villager from Oakpho village.

"For the half-acre of okra farmland, we have to hire two labours paying K2,500 to grow okra. The cultivation of okra can create jobs for the local villagers, and they are earning daily income.

On the other hand, we can get the regular income as well," he added.

"Last year, the local farmers could not make a profit from growing okra. As the coronavirus breaks out this year, we could not get the okra as many as we want. We were buying the okra

from growers and sent them to Phakant, Mohnyin, Moe Kaung, Mandalay, Monywa, Kanbalu and Shwebo towns by train, said Ma Kyaung, an okra seller. —Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade rises dramatically this year

THE bilateral trade between Myanmar and Bangladesh from 1 October to 25 September 2019-2020 financial year has jumped up to US\$ 748.36 million, a dramatical increase of nearly \$725 million from the same period of last year, according to the monthly data issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar-Bangladesh total border trade during the

period included Myanmar's export of \$444 million and its imports of \$304 million.

At this time last FY, Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through two borders hit \$22.82 million, with exports worth \$21.51 million and imports amounting to \$1.31 million. When compared with last FY, this FY saw a significant increase in the value of exports by \$422.53 million while the bilateral imports

rose by \$303.01 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is conducted mainly through Sittway and Maungtau points of entry.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is conducted mainly through the Sittway and Maungtau points of entry.

The products traded between the two countries include bamboo, ginger, peanuts, saltwater prawns and fish, dried plums, garlic, rice, mung beans, blankets, candy, plum jams, footwear, frozen foods, chemicals, leather, jute products, tobacco, plastic, wood, knitwear and beverages. —Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Thanks again to all healthcare workers, volunteers, and volunteers helping at the quarantine centres

When I speak about the public service personnel from the health sector, what I wish to say is that there have been some cases of infection among these workers. There have been deaths also. This is something that healthcare workers find it difficult to avoid because of the nature of their jobs. I want to thank again all these healthcare workers, volunteers, and volunteers helping at the quarantine centres, who have been working dutifully with Cetana and Metta although they know about the risks involved.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's reports to people about latest COVID-19 situation, on 29 September 2020)

MoSWRR discusses work plan for civics, decent citizens

THE MINISTRY of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement hosted a virtual meeting on drafting of work plan for civics and decent citizens which is a priority of National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy (2020-2024) on 2 October.

Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, in his capacity as Chairperson of Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, Permanent Secretary, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General, officials of the Ministry of Information, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, Union Civil Service Board, Anti-Corruption Commission, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, National Reconciliation and Peace Centre and young members of Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee joined the meeting.

The Union Minister said that implementation of youth policy strategic plan (2020-2024), which was already approved, will begin in 2020-2024 FY.

All people cooperatively need to fight against COVID-19, and the ministry is also largely participating in COVID-19 prevention, control and treatment processes.

Youths including Nay Pyi Taw Council/State/Region

youth affairs committees are working on implementation of the strategic plan, he added, saying that not only three responsible Union Ministries but also departments concerned need to cooperate in the process.

He called for participation of civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, UN organizations and experts in drawing up of policy and strategic plan.

There are 16 procedures in the strategic plan, and it is important to nurture new youth generations. The Ministry of Education plays a crucial role in implementing the strategic plan.

There are six strategies in one sector. Strategy 1 is adopting teaching methods for civics curriculum that based on the values of human rights, democratic norms and federalism.

The ministry will cooperate with relevant ministries including the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs to add in long-term curriculum plans.

Strategy 2 is about teaching – which includes conducting training for out-of-school youths, trainings that can bear benefits during stay-at-home period, teaching youths in wards and villages and cooperation with youth affairs



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye holds meeting with relevant organizations and youths on drafting work plan for civics and decent citizens via videoconference on 2 October 2020. PHOTO: MNA

committees.

Strategy 3 emphasizes on conducting educating programmes for the emergence of youths in full of responsibility and accountability.

The youth affairs committees should lead for the participation of young ethnic people. The Human Rights Commission, civil organizations and international organizations should hold online roundtable talk for the people to know the democratic norms. But it will need technological support.

Strategy 4 states to create programmes for the volunteer-

ing spirit among the young people while Strategy 5 focuses on participation of young people in altruism sectors. Nowadays, Myanmar young people actively participate in volunteering processes.

Strategy 6 is to develop the mindset of young staff to actively perform in their works and to implement programmes to practise good habits without any corruption in workplaces by understanding well the democratic norms and federalism. The Union Minister also called on the attendees to participate in discussion to

implement these six strategic plans.

Director-General of Social Welfare Department reported on budget allocation, expenses, programmes for youths affairs and drafted work plans.

Officials from relevant Union Ministries and organizations, and members of Myanmar Youth Affairs Committee also gave suggestions for drawing up of work plan for civics and decent citizens which is a priority of National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy (2020-2024).— MNA (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Section 59 (g) in Hluttaw Election Law



IN accordance with section 59 (g) of the Hluttaw Election Law, no one is allowed to vote more than once in any election for a Hluttaw constituency in which he or she has the right to vote. Anyone who is found guilty of or abetting this act shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding one year, or with fine not exceeding K100,000 (one hundred thousand Kyats), or with both.

Myanmar citizens in Thailand, Japan, Russia cast advance votes

ADVANCE voting of Myanmar nationals living in Thailand, Japan and Russia for 2020 General Election began at the embassies of respective countries yesterday.

Three hundred and eighty-five citizens voted in Thailand, 1,159 voted in

Japan, and 100 voted in Russia on the first day of advance voting at the embassies of respective nations.

Myanmar nationals in Singapore, Republic of Korea and Brunei also continued the second day of advance voting at the respective embassies.

Some 1,700 voted in ROK and about 70 voted in Brunei on the second day of advance voting of the respective countries.

Following the respective countries' COVID-19 measures, Myanmar citizens in six foreign countries cast advance

votes yesterday.

Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo will open a polling station in Nagoya City of Aichi Prefecture till 11 October for the Myanmar citizens in Aichi, Gifu, Mie, Shizuoka prefectures in Tokai Region. — MNA (Translated by E'i Phyu Phyu Aung)



Myanmar citizens in Japan cast advance votes at the Myanmar Embassy in Tokyo on 3 October 2020.



Myanmar citizens in Russia cast advance votes at the Myanmar Embassy in Moscow on 3 October 2020.

THE WHITE HOUSE RACE

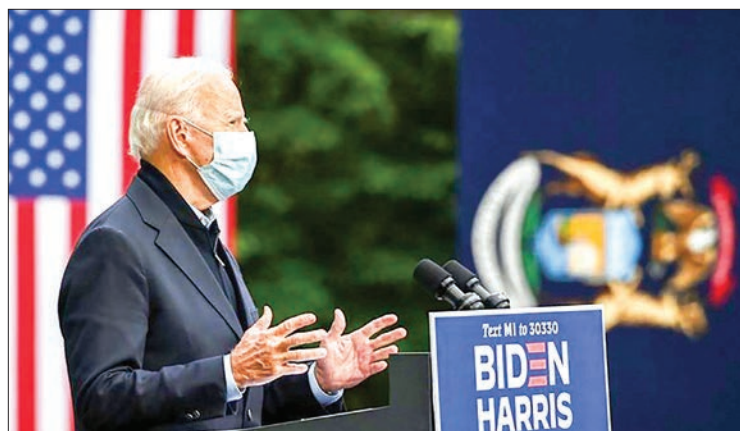
Biden, once mocked by Trump, now the only man on campaign trail

FOR months Donald Trump mocked Joe Biden for his cautious campaigning during the coronavirus pandemic.

But with the president in quarantine from Friday after testing positive for Covid-19, his Trump train derailed for now, Democratic challenger Biden has the stage to himself one month before Election Day.

It is too soon to predict how Trump's diagnosis could impact the White House race, already the most turbulent US presidential battle of modern times and one repeatedly upended by history-making events.

But the irony of the latest twist in the septuagenarian show-down was lost on no one.



Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden hit the campaign trail in Michigan, while Donald Trump headed to a military hospital after testing positive. PHOTO: JIM WATSON AFP

After all, just Tuesday night Trump doubled down on his ribbing of Biden for taking too many virus precautions.

"He could be speaking 200

feet away from you, and he shows up with the biggest mask I've seen," the 74-year-old Republican incumbent sneered.

In the early months of the

pandemic, as Biden, 77, remained isolated in his Delaware home, Trump belittled "Sleepy Joe" for "hiding" in his basement -- a charge his supporters lapped up and repeated ad infinitum. But on Friday, Trump was the one hunkered down, receiving treatment at the Walter Reed military hospital after his positive diagnosis.

Biden mostly has been meticulous about avoiding crowds and wearing masks in public.

But he was on stage with the president during their off-the-rails debate, three nights before Trump's diagnosis.

Biden and his wife were quickly tested for the virus Friday. Minutes after their results came back negative, his team fired

up the campaign jet and Biden flew to battleground Michigan, a key Rust Belt state that Trump claimed in 2016.

The sombre appearance at a labour union in Grand Rapids had only a few dozen people present and no visible personal interaction with voters. But the message was clear: Biden is not letting Trump's diagnosis upend his own campaigning, which has ramped up recently including Wednesday's whistlestop train tour across Ohio and Pennsylvania. Michigan voters who lined the road outside Biden's event offered their own take on recent developments, with one woman holding a small sign reading "Masks work."

SOURCE: AFP

REGIONAL LOCKDOWN

Random police checks as Madrid partial lockdown begins



Masked police set up temporary checkpoints in Madrid after a partial lockdown was imposed. PHOTO: AFP

"Nothing has changed, it's just like any other day in the neighbourhood," shrugged Martinio Sanchez on a busy street in Madrid, a city in partial lockdown to slow the spread of the virus.

"They should have done this in August and maybe we wouldn't be where we are right now," said this 70-year-old as he walked his dog through the eastern neighbourhood of Ciudad Lineal.

Some 4.5 million people are affected by the closure, which came into force at 10:00 pm (2000 GMT) on Friday as the region

battles a soaring infection rate of 730 cases per 100,000 people, compared with just 300 per 100,000 in the rest of Spain -- in itself the highest rate in the European Union. For the next 14 days, residents of the capital and nine nearby towns, will not be able to leave the city limits except for work, school or medical reasons.

But they are not confined to their homes and can circulate freely.

Hours after the city limits were closed off to all non-essential traffic, masked police could be

seen setting up temporary checkpoints and stopping cars for about 20 minutes before moving on, an AFP correspondent said.

But inside the city, little appeared to have changed with life largely carrying on as normal on a brilliant October morning with a sharp autumnal chill in the area.

"Everything's open and you can't see police anywhere. We can move around Madrid but you can't go out to the nearby villages or to the mountains," says Feliza Sanchez, 78.

SOURCE: AFP

MOUNTING UNEASE

Covid discontent as UK Tories convene for annual conference

BRITISH Prime Minister Boris Johnson faces mounting unease from his Conservative rank and file over the coronavirus pandemic as the party opens its annual conference on Saturday in a quieter virtual format.

Instead of the usual tub-thumping speeches in cavernous halls and crowded drinks gatherings, the party faithful will follow proceedings online, depriving Johnson of a chance to deliver one of his barnstorming turns.

But that may be a blessing in disguise, with polls suggesting he is increasingly becoming the target of public disquiet over the government's handling of the coronavirus pandemic, as a second wave worsens what is already the highest death toll in Europe.

According to a survey by the ConservativeHome news site, support has slumped among party members for mandatory lockdowns, and more now fa-



Prime Minister Boris Johnson updated Britain remotely earlier in the week on the covid-19 pandemic at his 100th coronavirus briefing since the pandemic hit the UK. PHOTO: AFP

your a Sweden-style approach that emphasises voluntary social distancing.

Confidence

Just under half of respondents now prefer the Swedish policy, up from one-third in May, when Britain was three months into a nationwide lockdown during the first wave of Covid-19.

"So Boris Johnson will enter the Conservative party conference with support among party members for his Covid-19 policy having deteriorated sharply, if our survey is anything to go by," ConservativeHome editor Paul Goodman wrote in a blog.

"This decline in confidence echoes that seen in polls of the public as a whole, though sup-

port for the government is obviously higher, and reflects the fall in the prime minister's own rating that our recent surveys have found."

It is a far cry from last year, when Johnson became Conservative leader and won a general election vowing to "get Brexit done", after years of parliamentary deadlock on how to implement British voters' decision in 2016 to quit the European Union.

Kippers and Covid

The EU is now pursuing legal action after Johnson's government pushed legislation through the House of Commons to bypass the bloc on future trading arrangements within the UK, in breach of the two sides' divorce treaty.

The controversy has caused alarm among Conservative lawmakers who are worried about the damage to Britain's reputation as a defender of the rule of law. But bashing Brussels is normally lapped up by the party

faithful -- and Johnson has traditionally been its main exponent.

Last year, he brandished a plastic-wrapped smoked kipper at delegates to condemn EU health and safety rules and red tape, no matter that the packaging had nothing to do with Brussels.

For party members and the public at large, the EU spat is completely overshadowed by the pandemic, as a surging caseload compounds fears of a winter crisis for Britain's overstretched health service.

But in combatting the renewed outbreak, Johnson has been accused by some of his own lawmakers of governing by diktat, and they have been rallying around his popular young finance minister, Rishi Sunak.

Sunak, who is gaining a reputation for slick presentation, gives a keynote address on Monday, before Johnson closes the conference on Tuesday.

SOURCE: AFP

A SECOND WAVE

Virus situation 'critical' in Canada's Quebec province: premier



People walk down Place Jacques-Cartier on July 28, 2020 in the old quarter of Montreal, a city normally visited by some 11 million tourists every year. PHOTO: AFP

A second wave of Covid-19 in Canada is on its way to topping the average number of new daily cases from the outbreak's May peak, with the situation in hardest-hit Quebec province reaching a "critical" point, authorities warned Thursday.

"The situation is critical in Quebec," the province's Premier Francois Legault said, reporting 16 new deaths

in recent days, a figure unmatched since the end of the first wave of the epidemic in late June.

"Compared to mid-August, we went from 50 new cases per day to 900 per day... from a hundred hospitalizations to 275," he said of his province of 8 million people.

SOURCE: AFP

EDUCATION SYSTEM

Pandemic lays bare inequalities in Brazil's schools

THE 13-year-old boy selling mangos at the market in Rio de Janeiro was the same age as Vanessa Cavaliere's daughter, studying in the same grade at school.

But while her daughter was home taking classes online, the boy's schooling was interrupted by the coronavirus pandemic, showing how Covid-19 has exposed and exacerbated the deep inequalities in Brazil's education system.

"He hasn't had classes since March 16. He's helping

his father sell fruit at three different markets," Cavaliere, a juvenile court judge, wrote in a Facebook post that went viral. "Meanwhile, Valentina is studying Portuguese, English, science and math online," she said.

"The abyss of inequality between public and private school students, which is already horrible, is only going to get worse."

The wreckage Covid-19 has left on its way to killing nearly 150,000 people in Brazil -- the second-highest death toll worldwide, after the United States --

has not been spread equally.

It has hit the poor and people of colour hardest in this sprawling South American country of 212 million people.

Education is one of the areas Brazil's divisions have been laid most bare.

As Brazilian parents, teachers and policy makers wrestle with the questions facing schools everywhere -- is it safe to go back? is the health risk worse than the academic and social costs of quarantine? -- they face an added layer of complexity.

Brazil's 48 million primary and secondary students are essentially divided into two different education systems: elite private schools for the 19 per cent whose families can afford them, and public schools for the rest.

With schools slowly starting to reopen, that is forcing some uncomfortable conversations.

"This situation hasn't been easy for anyone or any country, but Brazil's circumstances make it all the more difficult," said Catarina de Almeida Santos, an education professor at the University of Brasilia. — SOURCE: AFP



Cinthia Pergola helps her son Francisco during an online class at their home in Sao Paulo, Brazil amid the novel coronavirus pandemic. PHOTO: AFP

Crisis drills are expected in post-COVID-19 pandemic

WELL-DISCIPLINED citizens are the decent citizens that have proper rules and observe them precisely. That is why we need to educate our people about the rights and duties of citizens. Rules and disciplines are of paramount importance in our daily lives, especially in crisis situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Health authorities have issued rules and directives amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Many people seemed to be unfamiliar with these orders at the initial stage of the pandemic, with less awareness of social distancing and gatherings, as well as personal hygiene.

In fact, people should not be totally condemned for it. If they got enough training to strictly follow the strict rules and disciplines during their school days, they would be familiar with such practices.

Adherence to the rules and discipline during critical periods is one of the factors that can enable people to endure terrible conditions and crisis situations.

In the post-COVID-19 pandemic, authorities need to consider conducting crisis drills at schools for the younger generations. Such drills may require months to plan and develop, may need collaboration with outside experts or consultants for guidance in conducting crisis exercises, and must not be mistaken for a real crisis situation.

When faced with a crisis, people at all levels often fail to abide by simple social rules and disciplines seemingly. It is important to keep in mind that discipline is the practice of choosing between what we want in the near term and what we want

most in the long term.

Therefore, crisis drills should be considered at all levels of society, from schools to government departments, to develop practices on how to follow strict rules and disciplines during emergency situations.

Sputnik I Anniversary, Venusian Microbial Life, Conjectures regarding Intragalactic Travel

By Dr Myint Zan

Launch of Sputnik (4 October 1957)

4 October 2020 is (using the historic present tense) the 63rd anniversary of the launch of the human-made satellite Sputnik I by the then Soviet Union on 4 October 1957. (Sputnik I is not 'Sputnik V' which is the ostensible or claimed vaccine against Covid 19 and the reference is categorical to the launch of Sputnik I into Space and not to the 'launch' of the supposed vaccine against Covid 19). Hence 4 October 1957 can generically be considered to be the date that ushered in the 'Space Age'.

Postulate Re Microbial Life on the Clouds of the Planet Venus (14 September 2020)

Almost 63 years after the launch of Sputnik I on 14 September 2020 the scholarly journal Nature Astronomy published an article 'Phosphine gas in the cloud decks of Venus' written by a group of 19 scientist-authors. Within hours of the publication of their scientific paper news media the world over has summarized the statements made in the paper with fairly dramatic headlines such as 'Is there life floating in the Clouds of Venus?' (By Jonathan Amos, BBC Science Correspondent, 14 September 2020, <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-54133538>)

The detection of the gas phosphine in the clouds 60 metres above the planet Venus ('Venusian') surface was what led these group of scientists to 'conjecture' that the presence of phosphine might indicate the presence of microbial life on some Venusian clouds.

The BBC news item stated that on the 'Earth, phosphine is associated with life, with microbes living in the guts of animals like penguins, or in oxygen-poor environments such as swamps'. The writer of the news item mischievously also stated that 'there are no penguins on Venus'.

In this writer's humble view the postulate or proposal that the Venusian clouds might harbour 'microbial life' is not a strong scientific hypothesis yet. In fact even the 3rd author (out of 19) in the scholarly journal article Dr William Baines cautioned against (over) enthusiasm regarding this (scientifically) intriguing proposal.

Microbial Life on Mars 3.6 bil-

lion years ago?

On 7 August 1996 a scientific news item 'Meteorite yields evidence of primitive life on Mars' <https://www2.jpl.nasa.gov/snc/nasa1.html/> was published.

In retrospect, the title can be considered as 'premature' Using the logicians' phrase it might even be regarded as a 'fallacy of hasty generalization'. The postulate then was a rock first discovered in 1984 in Antarctica could have fallen onto Earth through a meteorite about 16 million years ago. And apparently it contained fossilized microorganisms from Mars going back to about 3.5 billion (3,500,000,000) years.

Then United States president Bill Clinton (born 19 August 1946) over-enthusied (so to speak) regarding that news item. He reportedly said that news item was 'the greatest scientific discovery of the 20th century'!

As far as this writer can discern the current occupant of the White House being monumentally egotistical, malignantly narcissistic and politically 'engaged' as he is for his reelection -including through foul means- has not commented on this 'Venusian clouds' news item.

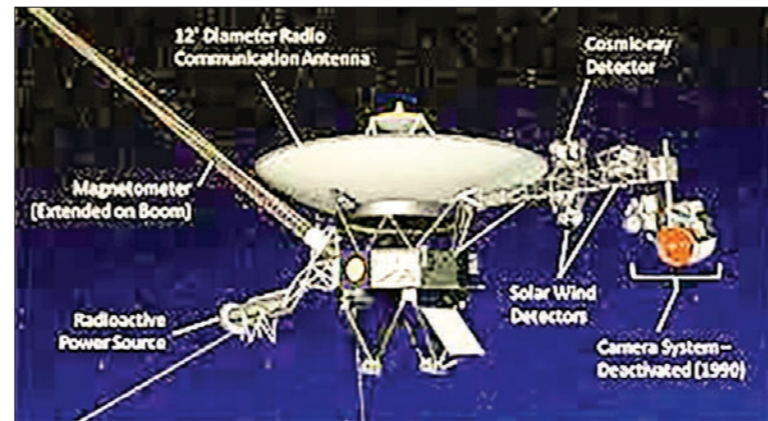
More than 24 years after the supposed discovery of Martian microbial fossils in a rock supposedly coming from Mars this claim can be said to be inconclusive or 'unproven'.

Conjecture regarding the presence of Microbial Life on the Venusian Clouds (Now)

As stated above a more radical and dramatic, if you will, scientific paper, proposed in September 2020, that there might be microbial life on some clouds of Venus presently (now).

This claim is significant in that at least 'on paper' it can be subject to falsification empirically though that may take some time. The BBC news item quoted above states that 'the US space agency (Nasa) asked scientists recently to sketch the design for a potential flagship mission in the 2030s' to verify (or refute) the 'Microbial life in Venusian clouds' proposal.

That is a decade away in the future but let us hark back briefly into the topic of 'space travel' from the relatively recent past to places



far, far away from the Earth and long, long into the future.

Human Space Travel, Voyager Space crafts, Intragalactic Travels of Other Civilizations

The Space Age which dawned on 4 October 1957 made it possible for the conjectured and potential (emphasis added) 'flagship mission' (i.e. unmanned or should I state 'unpersonned') space craft that might be sent to the clouds of Venus.

Less than twenty years after the launch of Sputnik I by the Soviet Union in August and September 1977 Voyager II and Voyager I 'unmanned' space crafts were respectively launched by the United States 'into' the solar system. The Voyager space crafts included a plaque containing among others a sketch of a male and female, the cosmological location of the Earth (so to speak) and greetings (a few seconds long) in 55 languages including Burmese. The greeting Mar Yei Lar Khin Byar ခရီးသွားခင်ဇရာ (Are you well?) apparently made by the then (in 1977) 10 year old Burmese boy can be listened at https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&ved=2ahUKEwjIqeXgz5PsAhXf63MB-HXNUC1YQFjACegQIAhAC&url=https%3A%2F%2Fvoyager.jpl.nasa.gov%2Fgolden-record%2Fwhats-on-the-record%2Fgreetings%2F&usq=A0v-Vaw3EYyAkA_ETntltZzHAMQp

Various sources stated that in about 40,000 years either or both of the Voyager space crafts would pass within 1.6 light years of the nearest star vis-a-vis their 'trajectories'. (Light travels at the rate of approximately 186282 miles per second; a light year is the distance light will travel in a year: Hence the distance from the 'nearest' star and the Voyager space crafts would be 40,000 years in the future would be (186282 x 60 x60 x24 x365 x.6) miles

from that star!)

The year 2020 is also the 90th birth year of scientist, astrobiologist Frank Drake (born 28 May 1930). In the early 1960s Professor Frank Drake devised the (so-called) Drake equation. The Drake equation calculates the 'chances' regarding the existence of 'Extra terrestrial intelligence' (ETI) or extra terrestrial civilizations (ETCs). (Note that ETI and ETC are vastly different from microbial life. On planet Earth, it takes 3.8 billion-3800 million- years to progress from 'mere' microbial life to homo sapiens who are able to use radio astronomy.) Frank Drake is one of the pioneers of 'Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence' (SETI).

Suffice to say that this 'search' and attempts to communicate with extra terrestrial civilizations is not based on religious rites and rituals of any religion. Nor is SETI based on magic, 'hocus pocus' or science fiction but on communication through radio astronomy.

Radio astronomy can communicate 'only' at the speed of light. If, say, an extra terrestrial 'civilization' 'located' 40,000 light years away had sent signals to Earth it would have taken 40,000 Earth years to reach Earth. Those radio or messages would have arrived perhaps, at the earliest, some time in the 21st century! And forty thousand years ago the discovery of agriculture by homo sapiens had not yet taken place and Neanderthals (now extinct) and homo sapiens probably still co-exist at least in parts of (what is now) Europe!

(Almost no? Chance of Communicating with 'Extra terrestrial Civilizations' and Extreme Improbability of More Advanced Other Extra terrestrial Civilizations to 'do' Intragalactic Travel

There may or may not be extra terrestrial microbial life forms now (as contrast to millions of years ago) in the solar system

especially in the clouds of Venus or perhaps one or more of the moons of the planet Jupiter. Most scientifically literate persons should know that not withstanding science fictions especially regarding Mars there IS no (nil) extra terrestrial civilizations in our solar system.

Metaphorically (or is it cosmologically?) let us deal briefly with 'our' Milky way galaxy. It would be overwhelming even in the imagination to consider intergalactic travel (travel from one galaxy to another) in contrast to intragalactic (traveling within 'our' Milky way galaxy) . 'Our' 'nearest neighboring' galaxy is the Andromeda galaxy but discussion here would only be on intragalactic travel. (travel within the Milky Way galaxy).

A (wild) guess would be that among the billions of planets orbiting their own Suns (stars) the odds of extraterrestrial technology-proficient (that could use radio astronomy and 'do' space-travel) 'civilizations' emerging would be a ten billion to one chance (100,000,000 to 1). Since there are supposedly 250 to 500 billion stars (i.e. 25,000,000,000 ? to 5,000,000,000?) in the Milky Way galaxy if only one in ten billion host a 'civilization' there could be 25 to 50 extra terrestrial civilizations (ETCs).

The late astronomer, scientist and (in the complimentary sense of the word) populariser of science Carl Sagan (9 November 1934- 20 December 1996) stated that in the Milky Way galaxy alone there could be millions (!) of extra terrestrial civilizations. Arguably, the great scientist was not merely a tad but also very much optimistic and enthusiastic re the existence of and communication with 'extra terrestrials'.

Alone in a 'Lonely Universe' or Arrogance of Cosmological Proportions?

On the other hand paleobiologist Simon Conway Morris (born 6 November 1951) of the University of Cambridge asserts that humans ALONE are the only civilization in the entire Universe with its billions of galaxies and trillions of stars and roughly equal number of planets orbiting these stars.

He made this contention in his book Life's Solution: Inevitable Humans in a Lonely Universe (2003). This writer asserts (this time not so humbly): the claim that there isn't (wasn't, wouldn't be) a single

ETCs in the entire Universe is monumentally (cosmologically) 'human centric' so to speak and is almost indescribably presumptive and arrogant.

'Glorious Isolation' and Thinking about other extra terrestrial civilizations from the perspective of 'other' extra terrestrial civilizations

The writer does not recall where he reads it but an astronomer scientist has expressed his view to the effect that perhaps a few planets - perhaps one, two or three - or a few more planets orbiting may be up to a billion or even ten billion stars in the Milky Way galaxy might have been able to eventually develop the technology, modes and methods of intra-galactic travel (i.e. travel within the Milky way galaxy) but perhaps before they could do so their Suns (stars) would have died out and their civilizations too would have disappeared. (Our own Sun supposedly would begin to die out in 4 to 5 billion years). Should there be extra terrestrial civilizations in the Milky way galaxy they probably do (or) did exist in 'glorious isolation' of each other.

Perhaps like a million or so SETI enthusiasts on Earth (the world over), 'SETI' enthusiasts in other extra terrestrial civilizations might be 'wondering' (instead of actually wandering or travelling within the Milky Way galaxy) as to whether, for them, 'other' extra terrestrial civilizations exist.

What we can say is that, on planet Earth, albeit assisted by radio astronomy, cosmological theories, advanced mathematics and physics, organic chemistry and biology as well as a slew of other disciplines SETI enthusiasts and researchers might only be able to guess or 'wonder' about the existence or other wise of 'other' extra terrestrial civilizations.

This article commemorates the 63rd anniversary of the launch of Sputnik I in October 1957 and the publication of a scientific article on the possibility of microbial life in the clouds of planet Venus in September 2020. It also belatedly commemorates the 90th birthday (in May 2020) of Professor Frank Drake who is one of the contemporary pioneers of SETI research.

၂၀၂၀ ပြည့်နှစ်၊ အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာ သဘာဝဘေးအန္တရာယ်ထိခိုက်ဆုံးရှုံးနိုင်ခြေလျော့ချရေးနေ့
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION (2020)
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"It's All About Governance"
အောက်တိုဘာလ(၁၃)ရက်

Flood Warning

(Issued at 11:00 hrs MST on 3-10-2020)

According to the (13:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Dokehtawady River at Myitnge is observed as about (1) foot below its danger level. It may reach its danger level during the next (2) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying area at Myitnge, to take precaution measure.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

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Union Betterment Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Union Betterment Party Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann presented party's policy, stance and work programmes through radio and TV on 3 October.



My fellow beloved citizens

Parliamentary democracy came to an end in our country on 2 March, 1962. I was then not even 14 years old. After 59 years on 31 January 2011, a new parliament emerged. Then I became the Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw.

During the intervening 49 years, we had to contend with a variety of political creeds that emanated from the passage of events which unfolded. During the Revolutionary Council era the country was ruled under the ideology "The System of Correlation between Man and his Environment". With 1974 Constitution, one-party political system came into practice by securing the three powers of government. The conceptually sound Burma Socialist Programme Party government had to relinquish power in 1988 general uprising. The underlying reason was a refusal by the people for continued endurance of economic hardships. A lesson to be learnt.

The Union Solidarity and Development Party won in 2010 general elections in accordance with the 2008 Constitution and was able to form the government. The National League for Democracy party which won a landslide victory in 2015 general elections is currently in power.

Fortunately, I had the opportunity to be able to well comprehend the political thinking, management practices and governance methods of ruling political parties and governments during the early years of multiparty democracy era. I also came to comprehend the modus operandi of successive governments of the Revolutionary Council, the BSPP, SLORC and SPDC. I became to aware that there can be a dictator in any era. As for the people, no type of authoritarian is acceptable. Thus, all of us must do our utmost to strengthen democracy. Given that we have the experience and knowledge of successive eras I believe that we can, with due diligence, strive for the betterment of the country and the people.

My fellow citizens

After serving as chair of the Parliamentary Commission on Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues for three years, and taking into account the evolving political and economic situation in the country, I decided to form a political party and initiate an independent, active and dynamic undertaking for the betterment of the country and the people. In fact, I made this decision to take the risk based on a calculated assessment of benefits for the people and the country given my old age and my personal circumstances. With the acronym "Betterment" the UBP party received its registration approval on 25 April 2019, and in a little over one year has grown into a mega party which is now in a position to be able to form a government (by itself if the party wins), having received the trust and confidence, endorsement, and strong support of the people. A total of 927 candidates will be fielded in the elections across 261 townships.

Lessons drawn from my own life experiences have revealed that a lack of unity and solidarity within the country, prioritization of individual or organization's interests, breeding of animosity and hostilities between and amongst organizations supposedly formed to promote the country's interests have all led to the country's current backwardness and deprivation.

Therefore, the UBP Party has laid down the following principles and concepts when striving for solidarity,

national interests, and rule of law –

- To collaborate with any individual or organization if in the best interest of the country and the people.
- If there is a conflict of interests between the Party's interest and the national interest, the national interest is to be given precedence.
- Do not speak ill of others and keep yourself upright, do not criticize others and stay faultless yourself.
- Be ethical even if others are decadent.
- Whatever you do, act in accordance with the law.
- In the national interest we will build anew as well as upgrade the current.

My fellow citizens

The UBP Party will assume responsibility and carry forward the development endeavours of preceding political parties and governments and collaborative relationships with national and international organizations and individuals.

As UBP has set out to become the kind of party and government that the people desire, the Party has brought together individuals with good motivation, excellent talents, and solid experience.

The UBP has profound empathy for and understanding of the tribulations confronting the country today such as the political stalemate, flagging economy, social hardships, rule of law, internal peace process and unrelenting pressures on external relations from the international community.

On top of having to contend with this myriad of problems, the country and the people presently have to cope with the Covid-19 epidemic and its consequences of rising unemployment, economic distress, emotional trauma, disrupted livelihoods and even threats to survival. Many hawkers, retailers, small, and medium businesses have been forced to close down or scale back.

Farmers, livestock breeders and fishermen are being stuck in debt swamp and facing severe hardships. Manufacturers, import/exporters, traders, transport, travel and tourism businesses, artists from the film industry, writers, musicians, drivers and assistants of trucks and buses, three-wheel and rickshaw operators, daily-wage earners and laypeople are in dire economic distress. Basic-level workers are struggling to make ends meet. To make matters worse, migrant workers who have gone abroad to seek better job opportunities have to return home because of the raging Covid-19 pandemic. The revival and restoration of a broad spectrum of economic enterprises and operations and the regeneration of employment opportunities is an arduous mission.

My fellow citizens

The UBP has tried its best to comprehend the accurate factual state of affairs of the people, to discern the obstacles faced and aspirations of the people, and have conceived relevant and efficient immediate, short and long-term strategies for effective improvement of livelihoods and social conditions from the current circumstances. In building the nation we have to be beholden to the people, and the interests of the country and the people have to come first. Our Party is committed to ensuring federal rights and citizen's fundamental rights since our doctrine is "The people come first, the people are foremost".

Founding principles laid out by the UBP are to:

1. build a federal democratic nation.
2. stimulate the economic development of the country as well as strive for increase income and better livelihoods for individual households
3. strive for a balanced and harmonious advancement of social and cultural sectors such as education, health and culture.
4. promote conservation of the natural environment in harmony with the multifaceted development of the human environment.
5. strive for the emergence of a constitution that is appropriate for the country, and to amend, annul,

and promulgate laws in order that the legal framework of the country will be coherent with the prevailing country context and serve the best interest of the people.

6. strive for achievement of peace through encouraging progress and advancement in peace building processes such as rule of law, tranquillity and stability, prevalence of justice, and cessation of armed conflicts.

7. endeavour towards the emergence and application of fast-track, hassle-free policies and standard-operating-procedures (SOPs) for all interface with the general public; and effective utilization and adoption of IT and data technologies.

My fellow citizens

In order to improve socio-economic situation of individual citizen, the following issues will be addressed in respective sectors:

1. Issues relating to land disputes
2. Strategic basic infrastructure and rural development, reduction of urban-rural disparities through improvements in water supply, electricity distribution, roads and transport, education, health services and livelihood
3. Augmenting loan amounts and lengthening of repayment period for farmers, livestock breeding and fishery folks, and assurance of fair prices and markets for farm produce
4. Prevalence of amicable working relationships between employees and employers, and increments in wages and profits
5. For civil servants to receive remuneration and rewards commensurate with their status in order that they may maintain their dignity and integrity in serving duties, and ensuring a proper standard of living for retirees
6. Promotion of micro, small, medium, and large businesses and investments and providing access to soft loans for capitalization
7. Expeditious creation of employment opportunities for all job-seekers of working age.
8. Moreover, speedy modification of bothersome and annoying practices, which is causing people "lose much time, cost more money and even exhausting", such as payment of tax, application for licences, tender bidding processes, utility bill payment processes, urban area toll collections, municipal matters, issuance of National Registration Card to citizens and so on will be implemented.
9. A special programme for recovery from impairments to social services such as health and education and the disruption of employment and economic activities caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and a re-development which is congruent with the "new normal" will need to be implemented, so as to offer a revitalized socio-economic order for the people.

The UBP will carry out any and all actions in accord with the law, with justice, fairness and impartiality.

My fellow citizens

The concept of democracy does not complete when the people have elected a government, it is complete only when the elected government have fully realized improvements in the people's standard of living and provided socio-economic security. In other words, in democracy, there are duties of the people on one hand and duties of the government on the other. The country and the people will benefit only when a government fulfils its obligations. Thus, a Government that can Change for Betterment needs to be elected in the 2020 elections.

Hence, people should swing to vote for "UBP – the party with capability to change for the Betterment, the party which "delivers on its pledges", and "Choose Right to get the Right Choice". The UBP firmly pledges that it will deliver what is promised and meet its obligations to the people.

May all have fulfilment of your noble desires.



Federal Union Party (FUP) presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Federal Union Party (FUP) Vice-Chairperson Sao Tha Oo presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

Mingalaba

I would like to send loving-kindness to all 135 ethnic groups who are residing in both hilly and plain regions of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I am Sao Tha Oo, Vice-Chairperson of Federal Union Party (FUP). Our party was founded in 2013 and officially approved as a political party on 24-12-2013.

Our party is a distinctive party for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. We were not formed with individual persons but created by representatives who had resigned from their former ethnic political parties. Our party is remarkable because resigned representatives of ethnic political parties combined it. All ethnic people across the country can be the members of our party.

It is not wrong if it is said that our party is remarkable because it is a party that revitalizes the word 'federal' which has been discarded in Myanmar since 1962. Federal does not mean 'separation', but it is a system that prevents 'separation'. The purpose of establishing our party is to build understanding among nationalities.

Though the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is sandwiched between two larger countries, it is not a large country. Local ethnic groups are residing in different geographical locations, including the hilly regions and plain areas. Despite different other traditions, languages, faiths, culture, literature and customs, the nationalities are living in unison with weal and woe since thousands of years ago.

Naturally, cracks and reactions may appear if we would transform the diverse people from different locations within one boundary into one ideology. We believe that making the group with equal interests can lead eternal unity, and the success of the agreement depends on enacting laws, ruling, justice, and sharing natural resources that are non-discriminated among the different ethnicities.

Our party, depending on three laws of the world -- liberty, justice and equality -- is making every effort for our country to become a peaceful and prosperous Union.

As an ethnic-based party, we always take priority over ethnic affairs. One of the central policies of our party is to preserve the identities of small ethnic groups. Moreover, our party is taking the path that avoids the two extremes of chauvinism and racialism so that large ethnic groups can notice the fact and take care of smaller ethnic groups.

Foreign policy is also crucial for our party. We shall establish a long-term relationship with two powerful neighbouring countries, for the sake of the Union.

In the economic sector, it is vital only to export the finished goods of local produce, including natural resources from all regions and states. For that, youths will be sent to different places within the country and abroad to study higher education and technology. We shall create fair competition in the market economy. We shall enact laws, by-laws, and infrastructure to support local and foreign investors in a long-term manner.

We shall promote the agricultural sector, which is the backbone of the country, accordingly with the laws. We shall build modern technological universities and enhance farming inputs, and create standardized factories for the growth of local production. We shall make efforts to stop illegally confiscated farmlands and to return the seized farmlands to the farmers.

In the forestry and livestock sector, we shall prevent illegal wood production by practising the system that grows ten more trees after cutting each plant. We shall upgrade unsystematic self-scale breeding into systematically commercial breeding, and facilitate in exporting only finished products of forestry and livestock.

We shall promote the health and education sectors step by step from the basis. We shall make efforts for the State to take responsibility for food security that is threatening to grassroots days to days. We shall set up standardized laboratories for testing food, as fast as possible, in the capitals and cities of the regions and states so that food security can be strictly controlled to promote the health of

the public. Thereby, we shall nurture international standard health professionals and construct hospitals with full facilities.

We shall strive to provide free healthcare and education to government employees and labourers. Staff and their families shall get free healthcare and education at designated hospitals and schools. The government shall bear education and healthcare expenses abroad if needed for them. Accommodation, according to their ranks, shall be provided for those who are going to retire for their future convenience. We shall also provide other facilities such as food rations, uniforms and staff housing. However, if corruption among civil servants and staff occurs, they shall be severely taken actions and charged.

We shall prioritize for the rights of women, and young government employees and labourers. We shall establish a culture that gives priority to those who are excellent and qualified than others.

Our party will approach every issue depending on equal rights of all ethnicities residing in all parts of the country so that we shall achieve peace through faith, respect and unity. If the nation is peaceful, a Federal Democratic Union that can guarantee the fundamental human rights of all citizens will emerge.

That's why we would like to request you to vote for the FUP as it will become like leverage in the establishment of a Federal Democratic Union. We shall bring justice and peace for smaller ethnic groups, and respect individual freedom and rights based on three laws of the world -- liberty, justice and equality.

I wish all ethnic brethren in the country be free from Three Calamities and Five Enemies and can choose real politics and the right candidates in the General Election.

* * * * *



WORLD

Mexico deploys military to block migrant caravan

MEXICO CITY — Mexico on Friday ordered the military to deploy along its southern border to block a migrant caravan that President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador suggested was linked to the US election.

Thousands of mostly Honduran migrants were traveling through Guatemala, heading for the United States via Mexico, just weeks before a tense US presidential vote in which immigration is a key issue.

"It seems very strange to us. It's very strange that this caravan leaves on the eve of the election in the United States,"

Lopez Obrador told reporters.

"It has to do with the election in the United States. I don't have all the elements but I think there are indications that it was put together for this purpose," he added. The migrants, mostly young men, surged across the border from Honduras into Guatemala on Thursday despite restrictions linked to the coronavirus pandemic. Many were not wearing masks to protect against the spread of infection.

Some returned to their country after the Guatemalan government ordered them to be detained and deported.—AFP

Iran announces implementation of strict measures over COVID-19 resurgence

TEHRAN — Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Saturday announced the resolve of country's authorities for implementation of strict measures to deal with the resurgence and spread of COVID-19, state TV reported.

Rouhani said that all the servants in the state institutions and private businesses have to observe health protocols strictly.

The individuals and businesses who violate the rules will be punished, Rouhani

made the remarks in a meeting of national task force for fighting novel coronavirus.

Besides, those people who do not respect health guideline will not receive services from both state and private organizations, he noted.—Xinhua

EU regulator probes possible kidney damage from coronavirus drug

BRUSSELS — The EU's medicines regulator said Friday it is investigating reports of possible "acute" kidney damage in patients taking the coronavirus

drug remdesivir, made by US pharma giant Gilead.

The European Medicines Agency recommended the use of the anti-viral drug, sold under

the brand name Veklury, in June after studies showed it could reduce the length of hospital stays for Covid-19 sufferers. — AFP

Shan State Kokant Democratic Party presents its policy, stance and work programmes

Shan State Kokant Democratic Party General Secretary U Myint Khine (aka) Suh Kyar Khine presented party's policy, stance and work programmes as follows:

Party's Policies

1. To lead to the eternal existence of the Union.
2. To lead to all ethnic groups and all citizens residing together with respect and unity.
3. To be three sovereignties in the hands of all ethnic races and the entire people who are the real owner of the sovereignty.
4. To organize Multiparty Democracy General Election based on the people and to build a Federal Democratic Union.
5. To bring equality, justice, freedom and democracy and human rights for all ethnic groups and the entire people.
6. To work with the attitudes of "For The People", "From The People" and "To The People".
7. No one or no organization is above the laws. All are equal before the law. All people are to be taken care of by the legislation, and all people must respect the rule of laws.
8. All citizens must have freedom of faith and religion, with no discrimination between one another based on races, religions and colours; To establish

gender equality and monogamy.

9. With the motto "all farmers must own farmlands", if we can remove the system that monopolizes farmlands to which Myanmar citizens belong, we can resolve their problems and pains as they have to work abroad after losing their farmlands.

10. To exercise "Self-Administration Right" and "Self-Determination Right" in Self-Administered Zones and Self-Administered Divisions under the 2008 Constitution.

11. To maintain mutual friendly relations with world nations, especially neighbouring and ASEAN countries.

12. To eradicate the menace of all forms of narcotics.

Party's Work Programmes

1. Our party, taking assistance from Union Government, world governments, INGOs and NGOs, shall make efforts "To Prevent Damage to the Beautiful World" as a national duty for "Environmental Conservation Processes".

2. Our party, as possible as we can, is preserving

historical artefacts, buildings, pagodas, monasteries, wildlife, and forests in the Union. We shall renovate "the monument" standing still on "Upper Tar Shwe Tan Market" that was specially built to commemorate nearly 200 ethnic Kokant fallen soldiers during World War II. They combatted the fascists from Kokant region, which is part of the Union.

3. We aim at developing the entire nation, including Kokant region. In this regard, our party, after taking permission from the Union Government, is doing our best in line with the laws to establish the businesses from "One Belt One Road" Project implemented by the People's Republic of China for the positive benefits of the entire Union and both nations.

May the Union be peaceful and developed faster. We conclude wishing all citizens mental and physical wellbeing.



Campaign speeches of political parties for 2020 General Election on 4-5 October

CAMPAIGN speeches of Yeomanry Development Party (YDP) and Democratic Party of National Politics (DNP) for 2020 General Election will be broadcast on MRTV, Hluttaw Channel, Myanma Radio and MRTV Facebook page at 7 pm on 4 October, and will be published in the state-owned newspapers—the Myanma Alinn, the Mirror and the Global New Light of Myanmar—on 5 October. However, that of Danu National Organization Party will only be published on 5 October. — MNA

WORLD NEWS

DRASTIC LIMITS PLACED ON PEOPLE'S FREEDOMS

Coronavirus curbs evoked East Germany memories: Merkel

CHANCELLOR Angela Merkel said Friday that the drastic limits placed on people's freedoms to curb the coronavirus earlier this year had weighed heavily on her, bringing back memories of life in surveillance-riddled East Germany.

Speaking on the eve of the

30th anniversary of German reunification, Merkel told the RND newspaper group she was acutely aware of the sacrifices she was asking of Germans when the country went into lockdown in March.

"That I had to tell people they could only be out in the street

in a single household or just two persons at a time, that no events could take place, that children could not visit their parents in care homes -- these were serious restrictions." A pastor's daughter who grew up behind the Iron Curtain in the communist German Democratic Republic (GDR),

Merkel, 66, said she reflected a lot on her childhood and youth when making those tough calls in the early days of the pandemic.

"My background has shaped me," she said, recalling "the longing for freedom during life in the GDR". But the veteran leader, who as a young woman rejected

an offer to inform for the Stasi secret police, said her experiences in former East Germany also prepared her for difficult times. "We learned to improvise and we always managed well despite many shortages. These are skills that are useful today too."

SOURCE: AFP

BELOW EXPECTATIONS

US sees dire jobs trends as unemployment falls to 7.9% in September

THE US unemployment rate dipped in September but government data points to a slowing recovery ahead of next month's election, with the White House race suddenly thrown into chaos by President Donald Trump's positive Covid-19 test.

The number of jobs added in September came in at a paltry 661,000, the Labour Department said on Friday, below expectations and less than half of the gains seen in August, even as

the unemployment rate dipped to 7.9 per cent.

The report is the last to be released before Trump, who is behind in the polls, faces Democratic challenger Joe Biden in the November election, and analysts fear the weak report and ongoing deadlock over more stimulus in Congress will undermine the economy's recovery from the coronavirus downturn.

"The economy is a deep hole, and the rate at which

we're digging out is slowing," University of Michigan economics professor Justin Wolfers said on Twitter.

The United States has seen tens of millions of job losses since business shutdowns were ordered in March to stop the coronavirus's spread, sending the unemployment rate spiking to 14.7 per cent in April.

Subsequent months have shown it decreasing as the economy adds jobs -- but the rate of

growth is tapering off.

"We have gained back only about half of the jobs we lost in March and April, and employment growth is slowing. This is a disaster for working families in this country," tweeted Heidi Shierholz, director of policy at the Economic Policy Institute.

Ominous signs

The Labour Department said job gains occurred last month in sectors like retail trade,

which has seen a sharp recovery from the downturn, as well as health care, and professional and business services.

Leisure and hospitality, one of the industries hardest hit in the downturn, added 318,000 jobs. However, government employment declined by 216,000, driven by job losses in local and state education as many schools remain closed amid the world's worst coronavirus outbreak.

SOURCE: AFP

Tokyo slips to 4th place in global financial hub ranking: report

TOKYO — Tokyo has slipped one notch to fourth in the latest ranking of the world's leading financial hubs, with Shanghai now rounding up the top three after New York and London, according to a report.

Hong Kong moved up a place to rank fifth and Singapore fell one notch to sixth in the Global Financial Centres Index from London-based think tank Z/Yen Group and the China Development Institute in Shenzhen, southern

China. The slip in Tokyo's ranking as of September came ahead of a full-day trading suspension at the Tokyo Stock Exchange on Thursday after a glitch in its electronic trading system caused the worst failure suffered by the major bourse.

The Japanese capital rose to third place in the index's last update in March after ranking sixth in September 2019. The index is updated bi-annually every March and

September.

The Tokyo metropolitan government has been striving to boost its appeal as a global financial hub by collaborating with major banks and real estate companies to attract foreign financial institutions and talent.

According to the latest report released in late September, financial centers in Asia and the Pacific had a mixed performance, with ten cities falling in the rankings and

14 rising.

Singapore was followed by Beijing and San Francisco, which both remained unchanged in the rankings. Shenzhen and Zurich entered the top ten, pushing out Los Angeles and Geneva.

In a separate ranking of financial centres as competitive locations for fostering financial technology industry, New York ranked first, followed by Beijing, Shanghai, London and Shenzhen.—Kyodo



File photo taken in May 2018 shows signs for major Japanese banks (from L) Resona, MUFG, Mizuho, and SMBC in Tokyo. PHOTO: KYODO

UK looks to EU to break Brexit talks impasse

LONDON — Britain and the European Union on Friday said post-Brexit trade talks remained deadlocked on key areas, as London urged Brussels to give ground to avoid a damaging “no-deal” at the end of the year.

Both sides have pinpointed a European summit on October 15 as the latest agreement could be reached for it to be ratified in time for it take effect at the end of December.

But the EU's chief negotiator Michel Barnier and his UK counterpart David Frost complained of a continued gulf between the two sides in crucial areas such as competition rules and fishing rights.

After the ninth round of talks in the tortuous process broke up in Brussels, with renewed commitments to find a way out

of the impasse, there was clear acknowledgement the clock was ticking. “To reach an agreement, these divergences must necessarily be overcome over the next weeks,” said Barnier. Despite indicating there were signs of agreement in a number of areas, Frost warned disagreements over competition rules and fishing may be “impossible” to overcome without the EU giving ground. “I am concerned that there is very little time now to resolve these issues ahead of the European Council on October 15,” he said.

Next steps may be determined on Saturday in a video conference between European Commission chief Ursula von der Leyen and Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson.—AFP

Ministry of Electricity and Energy Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation Invitation for Bids

Date: 06 October 2020
Loan Agreement No: MY-P20
IFB No: 1/ICB/MY-P20/MESC/2020
Reference Identification No: JICA(MY)7-24006 in July 2020

- The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) toward the cost of Power Distribution System Improvement Project in Major Cities. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the Contract for Procurement of Power Distribution System Improvement Project in Major Cities, Package 12 Introduction of Utility Vehicles.
- Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
- The Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation now invites sealed Bids from eligible and qualified Bidders for the procurement of Utility Vehicles (“the Goods”).
 - Truck Mount Aerial Work Platform 2 Nos. to be delivered to designated place in Myanmar
 - Digger and Pole Erection Machine 2 Nos. to be delivered to designated place in Myanmar
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the Bidding Documents at the office of Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation (MESC), Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE), 27th Street, Between 77 and 78 Street, Chan Aye Thar Zan Township, Mandalay, Myanmar.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders on the submission of a written application to the address above, and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee : MMK 15000 or USD 10
- The provisions in the Instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents under Japanese ODA Loans for the Procurement of Goods.
- Bids must be delivered to the above address at or before 14:00 on 16 November 2020 and must be accompanied by a Bid Security of 20,000USD.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 14:00 on 16 November 2020 at the office of General Manager (Material Planning), Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation (MESC), Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE), 27th Street, Between 77 and 78 Street, Chan Aye Thar Zan Township, Mandalay, Myanmar
Telephone: 1) +95-2-4069121
2) +95-9-780000797
Facsimile number: 1) +95-2-4069121
2) +95-2-4034889
Electronic mail address: 1) gmpm.mesc@moe.gov.mm
2) mescmateplan@gmail.com
3) mescjica@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNIVERSE WHEALTHY V.2008

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V UNIVERSE WHEALTHY VOY. NO. (2008)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **TMIT-2** 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: **2301928**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
**M/S ELDER TRIUMPHANT SHIPPING LINES
PTE LTD**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (080N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V IAL 001 VOY. NO. (080N/S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:
M/S INTER ASIA LINES

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (044W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V PRESIDIO VOY. NO. (044W/E)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **4-10-2020** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **MP/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 SHIPPING PTE., LTD

High-rise buildings stretch in never-ending line in Yangon

By Zin Lin Myint

HIGH-RISE buildings are stretching in never-ending line in the aerial view of Yangon. Unlike in the past, there has been a gradual increase in the number of high-rise buildings in all parts of Yangon. Some high-rise buildings are newly-built ones, but some are under construction. The construction projects are facing difficulty in going on regular operation during the ongoing Covid-19 crisis, but they are making concerted efforts to complete as scheduled.

If some highest high-rise buildings in Yangon are mentioned, Diamond Inya Palace Yangon is currently the tallest high-rise building among those in Yangon. The 34-storey high-rise building is located in U Tun Nyein Street, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, with 122 metre in height and 376 rooms. It provides a wide variety of activities such as swimming, and it is built meeting with international standards. It has eight lifts for dweller use purpose and other two for carrying things. It has other three lifts for car parking. The cars can park on the first floor to the fifth one,

and these car parking spaces can hold 500 vehicles at the same time.

This high-rising building is neither near nor far from the downtown Yangon, and it is also near Yangon International Airport, and it is a crucial place as well. It is currently the highest high-rise building not only in Yangon but also in the whole country. Committee for Quality Control of High Rise Building Construction Project (CQHP) said the construction contractors are not allowed to build more than 34 storeys nationwide.

The high-rise buildings are not allowed to be higher than 34 storeys in the entire country. In Yangon, the 34 storeys have been the highest until now, and the high-rise buildings must not be higher than Shwedagon Pagoda, that is, the buildings must not be higher than 417 feet. Construction permit comes after inspection of soil condition and zone in Yangon. The CQHP is empowered to inspect the buildings with 12 and a half storeys and above and Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), the buildings with 12 and a half



storeys and below. The YCDC has to inspect the 12-storey facilities first, and then they are to be sent to the CQHP for further inspection.

The second highest high-rise building is situated on Yankin Street in Yankin Township, Yangon Region and its name is Golden City. It is like a complex, and it has four high-rise buildings. They have 33 storeys each and 118 metres high each. They have hotels, business centre, shopping mall, cinema halls and apartments. They are situated in the place neither near nor far from Yangon, and they are also in the major place. All four high-rise buildings were built by Singapore-based ETC. The construction began in 2015 and its Phase I was completed in 2016 and Phase II in 2018. They are condominium.

The third highest high-rise building is Lotte Hotel on Pyay Road in Hline Township, Yangon Region and it is just 5 metres far from Shwedagon Pagoda. It is situated in the west of Inya Lake and the north of Shwedagon Pagoda. It is 104 metres high with 29 storeys and 343 rooms. It has a big hall that can hold more than 600 people where international meetings, business seminars and receptions can be held. There are international class hotel rooms for foreign tourists and business entrepreneurs, and one can view Shwedagon Pagoda and beauty of Inya Lake. It was built by the business consortium, also known as Korea-based Lotte Group and its design looks new and novel. Korean cuisines are available, and it is a good place for Korean audiences, and it provides a wide variety of activities, including swimming, recreation and restaurants. It is one of the best places for celebrating State ceremonies and wedding receptions.

Another similar one is Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road in Yankin Township, Yangon Region. It is situated at the corner of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road and Sethmu-1 Street. It is 104 metres high with 29 storeys. It has 420 rooms facing Inya Lake. It is not far from the downtown of Yangon, and one can go there in a short time. Seminars, meetings, workshops and receptions can be held there, and there are also small shops. It provides activities, including swimming and it has international class hotel rooms as well. Now Myanmar Plaza and Melia Hotel are in the near locality of Sedona Hotel.

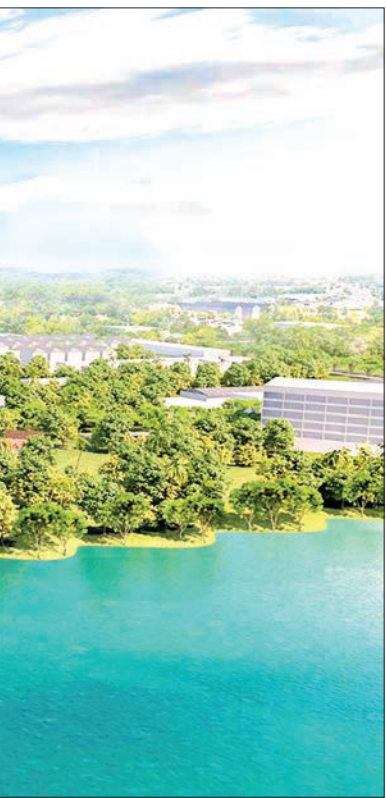
This place can be regarded as the development community of Yangon.

One more high-rise building in Yangon is Kabaraye Executive Residence Yangon. It is situated on Nagayon Kyaung Street of Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. It has 29 storeys and was designed by Japan-based M'S Group. It is comprised of shopping centre, residences and car parking. There are swimming pool, sports hall and playground. It has six lifts—three for the shopping centre and the rest for residences—the areas of residence range 1,200 square feet to more than 4,000 square feet.

Additional high-rise buildings in Yangon are 27-storey M Tower, 27-storey Thanlyin Star City, 27-storey Paragon Residence Yangon and 27-storey Myanmar Plaza. There are also high-rise buildings under construction. If all high-rise buildings are completed, the skyline of Yangon will see changes. Yangon, the commercial city of Myanmar, has the highest number of high-rise buildings and it will point out the development example like the major cities of the world. Although all construction businesses are facing difficulties during Covid-19, they are stepping up measures to finish as scheduled. As the number of high-rise buildings is increasing, they need practical measures such as quality control and inspection in the construction processes.

The organization concerned officially recognizes just laying the foundation by pile-driver when a high-rise building starts construction. E-test is needed for designing





a high-rise building. Ordinary laying foundation is not allowed at all. It is learnt that laying the foundation by pile-driver can withstand the earthquake. Quality control, safety and fitness are given priority when high-rise buildings are constructed these days. Inspections are carried out phase by phase to meet with the international norms.

The places intended for the construction of high-rise buildings in Yangon have been divided into zones. The construction of high-rise buildings has been restricted in six downtowns, Sangyoung, Bahan, Kamayut, Dagon, Mingala Taungnyunt, Yankin, Tamway, Kyimyindine, Ahlon and Mayangon among 33 townships. The restrictions are aimed at systematically constructing high-rise buildings and not harming the environment. These restrictions are worth-carrying out measures.

Other high-rise buildings and hotels are going to emerge one after another in Yangon in the future as global businesses, and foreign investments are concentrated. At the same time, it is also required to create green areas in Yangon for enabling the public to spend resting and enjoying themselves. Only then Yangon is going to appear as a pleasant city full of high-rise buildings.

Translated by
Htut Htut (Twantay)



Screen Time for Children During Homebased Learning – A View from Yangon American International School

By Victory Gabriel

EVEN before COVID-19, there was a significant focus on the overuse of technology with children and the concerns surrounding too much screen time. Many parents found themselves negotiating the amount of time their children spent on a screen, which caused a strain on family relationships as arguments and tantrums often followed. Now with home-based, online learning being the “new normal”, families are adjusting to the current situation along with the previously recommended screen time limits being thrown out the window.

When the global pandemic hit Myanmar and Yangon American International School was forced to move to an online learning model, teachers and parents immediately recognized the need for a shift in the approach to using technology.

Teachers had to quickly pivot to giving fully online instruction, using video calls as a way to teach and interact with their classes. Yangon American started using a number of apps and websites to support student learning and ensure that essential content was still being covered. Students moved from having technology integrated as one tool throughout the day to it being the single most essential piece of equipment for their learning. Video calls, educational videos, and digital assignments suddenly filled their days, causing a huge spike in screen time and technology fatigue.

“Screen time will be unavoidable during COVID19 times, so better it be guided and supported by teachers with the goal

to enhance student learning. It is also important to use it as a time to have them socialize and get to know each other to create and foster meaningful relationships within our school community. Longer screen time is not ideal, but when managed in a constructive and positive way we can use it to help our children’s learning and development” Phyllis Lopez, Grade 1 Teacher.

Following the inquiry based IB PYP curriculum, Yangon American teachers have taken to discussing the situation directly with their students. Facilitating inquiry in online learning often limits collaboration opportunities for students, which are a significant component of problem solving and creative thinking.



Teachers have started implementing wonder or question walls, where students have the opportunity to document their ideas while interacting with teachers and peers in asking and answering questions. Through discussions and sharing information, students have started to realize that they needed some time away from their screens



outside of school hours.

“Our daughter, Akshita, has recently joined Yangon American in Grade I. She was already a little apprehensive about joining a new school and then we learnt that schools cannot reopen ow-

support learning. Students are asked to take regular breaks throughout the school day, whether it is to help with chores around the house, play with their siblings, or just move their bodies. Parents and families are also encouraged to enjoy screen-free time together after the school day, reading, going for a walk, or just having a discussion free from devices.

“Now more than ever, teachers need to reinforce students’ resilience and flexibility. Fortunately, at Yangon American, we have found creative ways of transitioning to online learning. As an Arts and Technology teacher, I have found that these two subjects complement each other perfectly when it comes to remote learning. We are lucky we live in a time when technology offers so many possibilities! Designing lessons for remote learning is a challenge, undoubtedly, but the sight of students engaged and participating from afar, is a delightful reward. There is, of course, no substitute for in-person-learning, but let us for the time being remain positive and embrace the opportunities that online learning presents to us all” Mrs Mariana de Heredia, Media Specialist, Art, and IT Teacher.

Focus on educational online resources help to make the heightened level of screen time more positive and allow students some control over how and when they learn. As the future of education continues to change, teachers at Yangon American will work to balance technology and off-screen learning and are ready to adapt to whatever else might come our way.

ing to C-19. However, once the online classes started, we were all very pleasantly surprised. Akshita loves her school and has managed to make some friends in the class, all thanks to the efforts of her teacher, Ms. Phyllis Lopez. As parents, we are extremely happy with how the school has planned and implemented the online classes. The teachers are always online, very supportive and have managed to create a very warm and friendly atmosphere, which is conducive to learning. It is as good as any online school for 6-years olds could be; in fact, much better than we had even hoped for!!! We are very excited to be a part of the Yangon American family” comments Anurag Sharma.

Yangon American continues to communicate and collaborate with students and families to find a workable balance between on and off-screen activities to



Thuwunna Youth Training Centre turned into COVID-19 facility



MFF president and Ayeyarwady Foundation chairman U Zaw Zaw (black jacket) supervising betterment of the Ayeyarwady Centre in Yangon on 22 September. **PHOTO: U ZAW ZAW'S FACEBOOK PAGE**

MYANMAR Football Federation president U Zaw Zaw who is also the chairperson of the Ayeyarwady Foundation is su-

periving the betterment of the temporary treatment centre named Ayeyarwady Centre in Yangon to accommodate COVID-19 positive patients for their treatment, according to the foundation statements.

The centre has been running from 19 September 2020 and it was built at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre.

The Ministry of Health and Sports gave full permission to run the temporary healthcare centre and the ministry has contributed medical equipments for the centre, according to the Ayeyarwady Foundation.

The centre can accommodate over 400 positive patients, and it is now becoming

a key place to give healthcare treatment in Yangon by Ayeyarwaddy Foundation in line with guidelines of Ministry of Health and Sports.

The MFF president's Ayeyarwady Foundation has constructed temporary buildings for over 400 patients, Intensive Care Unit, Duty Room (Control Centre), store building for medical stuffs and essential things, bathrooms and restrooms, examination rooms, protective chambers for swab test, lounges for health workers and volunteers, washing machines, PPE changing rooms and bathrooms with the disinfecting system, accommodations for 150 health workers and volun-

teers, CCTV system, fire alarm system and fire extinguishers, public address system, registration system by QR code, communication places between doctors and patients via video conferencing, generators for fully electricity support, garbage management system and daily meals support, according to the foundation.

The MFF president, along with other donor's support, also provided the daily needs of the temporary healthcare centre.

Currently, the Ayeyarwady Centre is expanding the construction to 920-bedded field hospital, according to the foundation. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Liverpool's Sadio Mane tests positive for Covid-19, will miss trip to Aston Villa

LIVERPOOL — Liverpool's in-form Senegalese forward Sadio Mane has tested positive for Covid-19 and is self-isolating, the club said Friday (Oct 2).

"Sadio Mane has tested positive for Covid-19 and is currently self-isolating according to the necessary guidelines," Liverpool said in a statement.

"The forward, who started and scored in Monday's 3-1 victory over Arsenal, has displayed minor symptoms of the virus but feels in good health overall.

"However, like with Thiago Alcantara, Liverpool Football Club are - and will continue to - follow all protocols relating to Covid-19 and Mane will self-isolate for the required period of time."

Thiago missed the Arsenal game after his own positive test and he and Mane will both be absent for Sunday's Premier League trip to Aston Villa.

Manager Jurgen Klopp will hope to have both players available when the Reds return to action after the international break in October 17's Merseyside derby at Everton.

Mane, 28, has been in fine form this season, scoring both goals in Liverpool's win over Chelsea before also netting against the Gunners.

His enforced isolation will also affect his international commitments after Mane was named in Senegal's squad for their upcoming friendlies against Morocco and Mauritania.—AFP



Sadio Mane has displayed minor symptoms of the virus but feels in good health overall. **PHOTO: AFP**

Football: Cavani left out of Uruguay squad for World Cup qualifiers

MONTEVIDEO — Former Paris Saint-Germain striker Edinson Cavani has been dropped from the Uruguay squad named Friday (Oct 2) for the upcoming World Cup qualifiers against Chile and Ecuador.

The 33-year-old, who scored a record 200 goals for PSG, is without a club after his contract with the French champions ended in June.

Uruguay's assistant coach Mario Rebollo said Friday there were concerns about Cavani's fitness as he had not played for several months.

"Beyond the fact that we all know the capacity that Edi has, this pandemic has interrupted his training regimen," said Rebollo.

Cavani's last match for PSG was a Champions League game on March 11, as the coronavirus



Edinson Cavani has been dropped by Uruguay. **PHOTO: AFP/LUIS ACOSTA**

pandemic swept through Europe.

Coach Oscar Tabarez told AFP last month Cavani would still feature during the long South American qualifying campaign for Qatar 2022.

"Cavani will be there! Because he is a very important player; and that weighs heavily on any

decision" said Tabarez.

Cavani has scored 50 goals in 116 appearances for Uruguay. He has formed a long-standing international strike partnership with Atletico Madrid's Luis Suarez, who is from the same town on the Argentine border and is three weeks older.—AFP

Japan's Hataoka grabs one-stroke LPGA ShopRite lead

GALLOWAY (New Jersey) — Japan's Nasa Hataoka fired a four-under par 67 to seize a one-stroke lead over South Korea's Lee Mi-hyang and England's Mel Reid after Friday's second round of the LPGA ShopRite Classic.

Hataoka made five birdies against a lone bogey at the Seaview resort in Galloway, New Jersey, to stand on 11-under 131 for 36 holes.

"I wasn't striking the ball as well as yesterday, but I was able

to convert my birdie chances where I wanted to and that was good," the 21-year-old Asian star said. "The pin placements were pretty difficult, so just didn't really change from the first hole."

Reid fired a bogey-free 64 to share second on 132 with Lee, who stumbled late with bogeys on two of her final four holes, while France's Celine Boutier and American Amy Olson shared fourth on 133.

After a birdie-bogey start,

Hataoka made back-to-back birdies at the fourth and fifth holes and closed strong with birdie putts from four feet at the 16th and three feet at the par-5 18th.

"Today wasn't about making long putts," Hataoka said. "It was more like converting the small chances I had." Eighth-ranked Hataoka seeks her fourth career LPGA victory after the 2018 Northwest Arkansas Championship, 2018 Toto Japan Classic and 2019 Kia Classic.—AFP

SUNDAY SPECIAL

The Global New Light of Myanmar

NEXT GENERATION PLATFORM

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR



Spectrum of Sympathy, Empathy and Compassion



By **Hein Htet Naing**
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TWO months ago, I was walking around the park near my house when, by chance, I came across an old poor woman begging for money from the passers-by. Without a second thought, I came up with the two confusing words, "Sympathy and Empathy", and also which one is better than another? Both sympathy and empathy have roots in the Greek term, *páthos* meaning "suffering, feeling". It is said that it's very easy for us to sympathize with someone poor, but it is hard for us to empathize with someone. No one can deny that it is totally true.

When I was young, I always saw someone poor begging for some money or something to eat house to house. If my memory serves me right, I didn't give away anything although I said I felt utterly sorry for them. As I didn't contribute anything to them but feeling sorry, it is called "Sympathy". "Sympathy" is feeling compassion, sorrow, or pity for the hardships that another person encounters. When I grow up, my attitude towards the word "Sympathy" gradually changes into "Empathy".

To talk about "Empathy", it is a little bit different from "Sympathy" even though both have the effects of kindness and humanity. Let's look at how different the two concepts are. Instead of saying "How poor!", if our minds pass from sympathy to action, let's say giving away some money to such someone poor, this is called "Empathy" because we behave sympathetically. When it comes to the term "Empathy", most of us may understand like that "Empathy" is putting ourselves in the shoes of another. So when someone gets their personal cases off their chests, we'd better put ourselves in the shoes of theirs. Empathy is visceral feeling of what another person feels. Thanks to what researchers have deemed "mirror neurons," empathy may arise

automatically witness pain. Let's saw someone slam their fingers, you might feel pain in your fingers as well without hurting you. That feeling means your mirror neurons have kicked in.

What's more, "empathy" is stronger than sympathy. It is the ability to put yourself in the place of another and understand someone else's feelings by identifying with them. With empathy, you put yourself in another's shoes, often feeling things more deeply than if you just felt sympathy.

Of course, empathy matters more than anything else because if we have empathy for other people's situations, then we can live together with them peacefully. Empathy always brings peace to us by sharing our feelings and helping each other. Empathy isn't just for unpleasant feelings. You can feel empathy when you see someone happy, too. Isn't it great when someone walks in the room smiling, and that makes you smile?

When it comes to "Compassion", compassion takes empathy and sympathy a step further. When you are compassionate, you feel the pain of another (i.e., empathy) or you recognize that the person is in pain (i.e., sympathy), and then you do your best to alleviate the person's suffering from that situation.

At its Latin roots, compassion means "to suffer with." When we're compassionate, we're sharing our sympathetic and empathetic suffering upon someone's pain, depression and a feeling of deep hurt with someone else. When we are practising compassion, we can stay present with suffering.

Showing compassion can help gain perspective or a new point of view because it puts us in someone else's shoes and makes you put time and thought into alleviating someone's suffering.

The simple act of listening with our full heart can be one of the most compassionate acts we can offer. However, compassionate listening makes us experience a great deal of burnout, which has been labeled as "empathy fatigue" by some researchers. When you have the ability to feel empathy for the other person but then extend a hand to alleviate someone's pain, you are less likely to burn out. It is the best solution to both who listen to and get it off the chest as a fifty-fifty profit.

Research indicates that compassion and empathy employ different regions of the brain and that compassion can combat empathetic distress. The 14th Dalai Lama famously said in the book *The Art of Happiness*, "If you want others to be happy, practice compassion. If you want to be happy, practise compassion."

Summing up, in the real world, hardly ever do we sympathize in action with someone. But after thinking about these two confusing words for a little while, the things that come to my heart through my flesh are that if we usher in the empathetic society with much our kindness to each other, our lives are absolutely worth living and we are always proud of being humane ones. Finally, I become alert again and after that, I donate some money and foods to this old poor woman. On that day, I felt thoroughly euphoric about such kind of contribution because it could make me determined to lead an empathetic life with sympathy, kindness and compassion.

Be compassionate!

Be empathetic!

Be sympathetic!

Let's lead a life of empathetic figure with sympathy.



I have recently read a story with the above title which is associated with our motherland on a web page.

"In Bagan, Myanmar, we hired a scooter to get around the temples in Bagan. On our way back we took a 'shortcut', which finally got us lost.

To make matters worse, we hit a rock on the road. After hearing a loud bang we pulled over and the back tire was completely flat.

We had no idea what to do.

Luckily a boy cycled up to us stopping to put his hands on his head and let out an "oh!" He was about 4 and didn't speak English but still wanted to help.

He used hand gestures asking us to follow him up a hill to his house where he explained our problem to his dad. His dad then repaired our puncture and directed us back to the main road.

We were so grateful for meeting such a kind boy and his dad. We wish they would receive the same luck and kindness in their lives."

This story was provided by Nicola and Chris from the travel blog. After reading it, there arose a query in my mind. What is kindness? We all are familiar with this word. It cannot be touched but can be felt very well. I never ask such a query to myself and any others, including even my dad or mom. First, I looked up the word in the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary. Kindness is an uncountable or a countable noun and it means 'the quality of being kind'. In addition, I was interested in the words at the end of the title of the story: 'from all ages'.

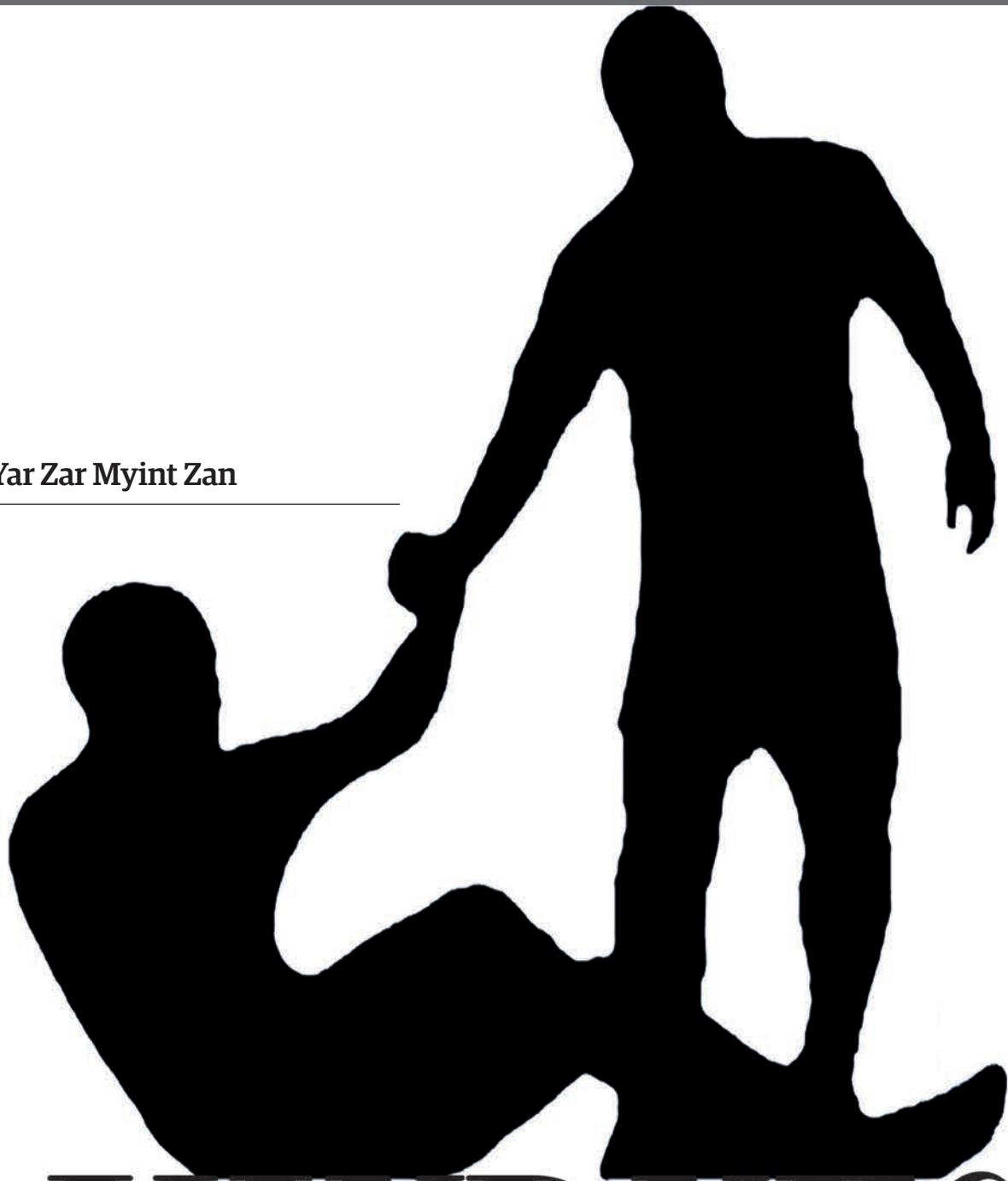
The travellers emphasized the age of the boy who was about 4 and his dad and the kindnesses that they happened to see in their minds.

I would like to share another story entitled 'Coffee on the wall'. It goes as follows:

"I sat with my friend in a well-known coffee shop in a neighbouring town of Venice, the city of lights and water. As we enjoyed our coffee, a man entered and sat on an empty table beside us.

He called the waiter and placed his order saying, Two cups of coffee, one of them there on the wall. We heard this order with rather an interest and observed that he was

By Yar Zar Myint Zan



KINDNESS

comes from all ages

served with one cup of coffee but he paid for two. As soon as he left, the waiter pasted a piece of paper on the wall saying A Cup of Coffee.

While we were still there, two other men entered and ordered three cups of coffee, two on the table, and one on the wall. They had two cups of coffee but paid for three and left. This time also, the waiter did the same; he pasted a piece of paper on the wall saying, A Cup of Coffee.

It seemed that this gesture was a norm at this place. However, it was something unique and perplexing for us. Since we had nothing to do

with the matter, we finished our coffee, paid the bill, and left.

After a few days, we again had a chance to go to this coffee shop. While we were enjoying our coffee, a man entered. The way this man was dressed did not match the standard nor the atmosphere of this coffee shop.

Poverty was evident from the looks on his face. As he seated himself, he looked at the wall and said, one cup of coffee from the wall. The waiter served coffee to this man with the customary respect and dignity.

The man had his coffee

and left without paying. We were amazed to watch all this when the waiter took off a piece of paper from the wall and threw it in the dust bin."

To make the long story short, let me wind up.

I think both stories show us the kindness of man in all ages. In the same way, they revealed the highness of the standard of a society. In the first story, the boy and his dad did not know the travellers at all. However, they could have sympathy and kindness upon the stranger without hope. In the second story, some customers of the coffee shop could have sympathy

and kindness upon the needy ones to whom they did not know even their names in person.

Our society needs much kindness to make our world developed and improved. However, we hear countless disagreeable news of cruelty every day. Whenever we hear it, our mind gets wilted and sad. May everyone raise sympathy and kindness in their minds day after day. May everyone hear and see the pleasant news and scenes daily. May our society flourish into prosperity soon.



WILLIAM Shakespeare in the Wednesday corner of the Shwedagon Pagoda?

Yes. If the Bard of Avon were christened Shakespeare in the Myanmar naming system, he must have been a Wednesday born. According to our age-old tradition, on the days the stars had not aligned for him, before retiring to Stratford, he would have to visit a pagoda with eight planetary posts, known as Gyo-Pye Nan-Pye Pagoda. There comes the Englishman, a stout, old man wearing, not a collared shirt and pant shorts in the Elizabethan costume style, but a long-sleeved, Mandarin-collar white shirt and a green-and-purple chequered Kachin longyi. The Bard, with a prominent forehead, a beard and moustache, and long wavy hair flying over his shoulders, he stands before a small alabaster Buddha image, in seated Bhumisparsha mudra. This forty-nine-year-old poet would have to pour forty nine cups of water on the Buddha image so that he could keep the impending influence of a malevolent planet at bay.

When a foreigner is introduced to a Myanmar boy or girl, his or her name might ring strange to the foreigner's ear: "My name's Maung Aye Myint"; "I'm Ma Aye Myint."

Every word in the Myanmar name carries a particular meaning, which is more or less associated with success, or fame or wealth. The name of the Oxford-product Myanmar writer Maung Htin Aung means: Maung (honorific name for young man; Htin (famous; outstanding) and Aung (success); Thida means "water", which carries the associated meanings of peace and coolness; the name Teza means "fire; fame shining like a flame); Maung Nyein Chan (Master Cool and Peaceful). But some names have sort of conflicting denotative meanings, e.g., Cho Mar (sweet but hard and strong)

The names are usually given by a child's parents or grandparents or by a revered monk or chosen from the names offered by an astrologer. Superstition has it that a Saturday born son first born under Nay-tet Ye-tet (under the rising sun and the rising tide) to a family could bring either too good or too bad impact to the family. So he may be taken to a monastery and placed at the feet of the abbot. The abbot, then, pays a coin to the parents and 'buys' him. The monk may also give him a new name as if his (the monk's) adopted son.

Names speak the personality. No wonder the writers make the most of it. The characters in Sheridan's play The School for Scandal, the characters' names reveal something about their personality: Lady Sneerwell, Mr Surface, Mrs Candour, Sir Benjamin Backbite. And Charles Dickens's character Mr Gradgrind in Hard Times speaks something about his strict personality.

A Myanmar man or woman has no sir name or Christian name. The naming system is based on the Myanmar traditional eight-day calendar, e.g., ka, kha, ga, nga for coining a name for a Monday born beginning with Kyaw, Khin, or Ngae, to name a few; sa, has, za, and nya for a Tuesday born

What's in a Name?

By Maung Nyein Lu

beginning with San, Hsan, Zaw or Nyan; la and wa for a Wednesday born beginning with Lwin, Lin, and Wai, Win, Wunna, Wai, etc.

The following may not be an exhaustive list of names but the reader may add as he or she likes.

Old names and titles: It is very interesting to do a research on the old names and titles. For example, the great general of the Konbaung Period had a name, Maung Yit (probably because he was named after a hair-knot), but after his bravery and conquests, he was bestowed the prestigious title Bandoola (a great legendary warrior). The following names are closely associated with the rural folks: Maung Pu (Master Short), Maung Paw (Master Prosperity);-Ma Pu (Miss Short), Ma Eain Myint (Miss Home, Tall, High). The names first given to a child in his or her horoscope may change as he or she grows up. For example, my mother's horoscope name is Ma Eain Myint, but she is well known as Daw Pu (Daw, a honorific for an adult woman). Why? God knows.

Names in the dialect: Maung Ni and Ma Ni (local colour) In

Kyaukka village to the northeast of Monywa, if you have a heavy bundle to put it on your head, and if a young man passes by, you'd make a request, saying, "Maung Ni, could you give me a hand?"

Longer names for Myanmar ladies?: If a survey might be done on the names of young Myanmar men and women, it is assumed that ladies carry longer names: Theint Nadi Aung (success like a river flowing gently), Yu Nanda Hla Myint (father's name is Hla Myint; gentle and placid legendary Nanda

lake)

Treasured Names: Generally, ladies love to have their names associated with jewels, e.g., Han Nilar Tun (sapphire) Paddy Khin (Ruby) Thandar Khaing (coral), Yadana Oo (jewel),

Mixed names: James Hla Kyaw, Mr Maung Hmaing, Honey Htet Htet, Pancy Myint Thein, Cherry Oo; Thant (pure) Thiri (Pali derivative) Win (bright); Sandar (the Pali word for the Moon) Lamin (the Moon) Tun (shining brightly)

The reader may add to the following list of names: Flowers for names: Pan Min Thazin (orchid), Sabai (Jasmine); Months for names: April Zin Mar, July Yè Myint, May-la Than Sin; Childhood names: Chet-gyi (Big Navel), Gu-gu (sound made by a toddler), Wa-Toke (Plump)

Writers and Pen names: The Myanmar writers have their pen names, some having more than one: U Lun had

the pen name Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing, Mr Maung Maing; U Thein Han has the pen name Zaw Gyi; U Wun had the pen name Min Thu Wun; U Mya Than, well known as Mya Than Tint as the translator had many pen names.

Fb names: Today young people feel free to use Fb names. Most prefer English names: Pandora Girllay (a little girl named Pandora), Hazel, Scarlet Aster, Christine Mawite (a Chin lady's name), and what else?

Problems, Problems

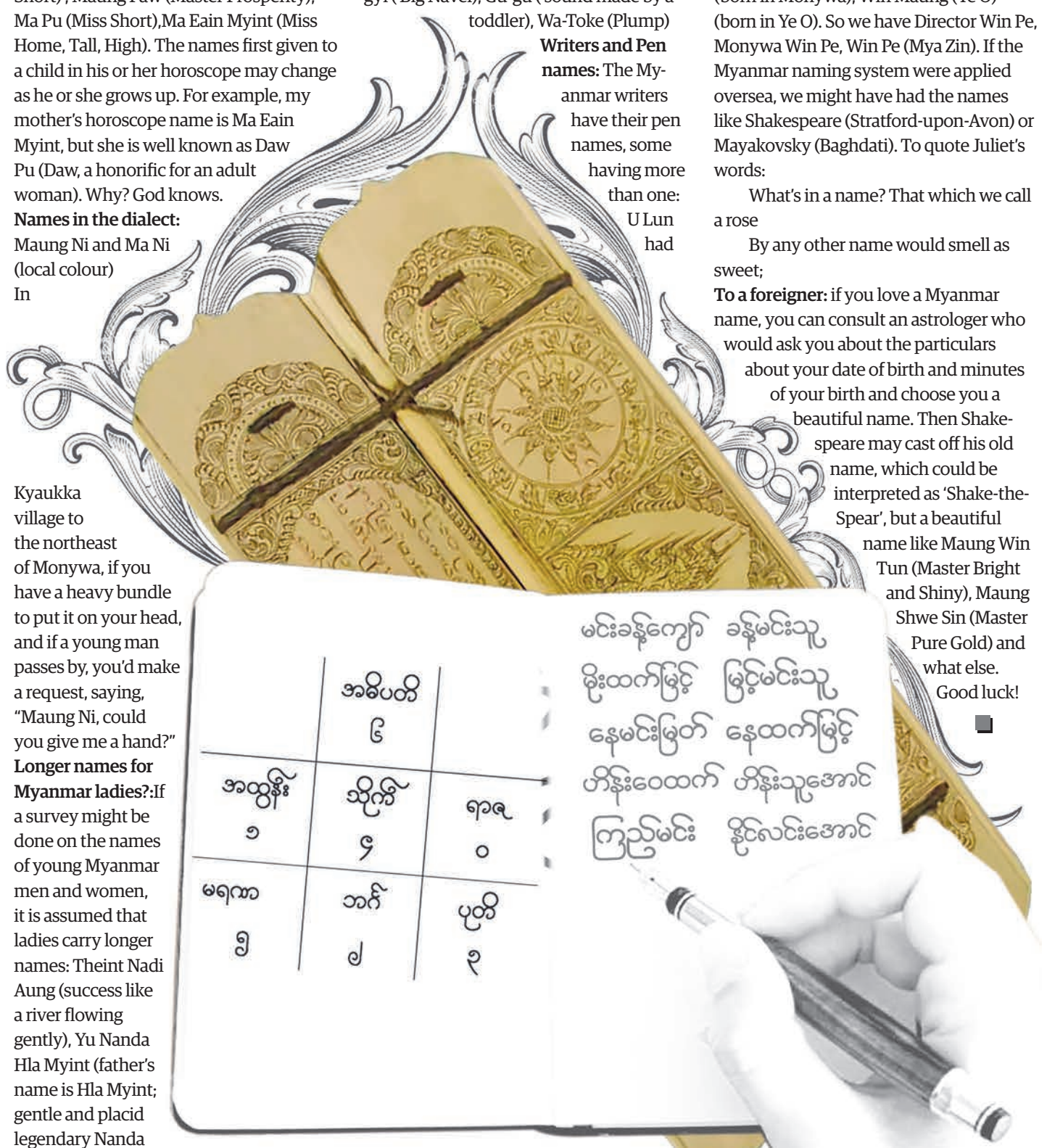
Over a thousand people might share the same name! So we have over a hundred people bearing the same name Win Maung! In Myanmar literature, the name of the great poet U Ponnya gave us a headache. A controversy arose over who was the real writer of a particular poem because we discovered two U Ponnyas belonging to two different periods.

How do some people solve this problem? Well, in an office, if you have more than one Win Maung, we have Win Maung (1), Win Maung (2) or according to the seniority, Win Maung Gyi or Win Maung Kalay. Sometimes, we associate the name with birthplace, e.g., Monywa Win Maung (born in Monywa), Win Maung (Ye O) (born in Ye O). So we have Director Win Pe, Monywa Win Pe, Win Pe (Mya Zin). If the Myanmar naming system were applied oversea, we might have had the names like Shakespeare (Stratford-upon-Avon) or Mayakovsky (Baghdati). To quote Juliet's words:

What's in a name? That which we call a rose

By any other name would smell as sweet;

To a foreigner: if you love a Myanmar name, you can consult an astrologer who would ask you about the particulars about your date of birth and minutes of your birth and choose you a beautiful name. Then Shakespeare may cast off his old name, which could be interpreted as 'Shake-the-Spear', but a beautiful name like Maung Win Tun (Master Bright and Shiny), Maung Shwe Sin (Master Pure Gold) and what else. Good luck!



A visit to Rakhine to pay homage to Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw

By Maung Maung Aye

WHEN the plane we boarded was zooming down into the Sittway airport, a wide expanse of blue water fringed with greenery coconut-groves was swirling into my view. As soon as it landed at the air-port, our team consisting of my parents, my elder sister and myself went direct to a hotel near the Myoma market where we were to put up. We spent two days in Sittway visiting famous pagodas, Buddha images and some relatives. It is said that Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State, located at the mouth of the Kaladan river, was established in 1826 and that its original name was Akyab which was taken after the Akyab pagoda standing a few miles to the west of the town.

After the two-day stay at Sittway, we started on the pilgrimage to the Maha Myatmuni Buddha image in Kyauktaw township. Our car left Sittway early in the morning. It ran fast along the Yangon-Sittway highway. Some hamlets, paddy-fields and low hills on the sides of the road were left behind kaleidoscopically as our car scudded along. We passed the Kyauk-tan bridge and the Amyingyun bridge and soon arrived at Ponnagyun, a small town located on the western bank of the Kaladan river, about nearly 20 miles from Sittway. Beyond it, we saw the Urittaw pagoda glittering in the glow of the rising sun at the top of a wooded hill towering above the Kaladan river. It is said that the

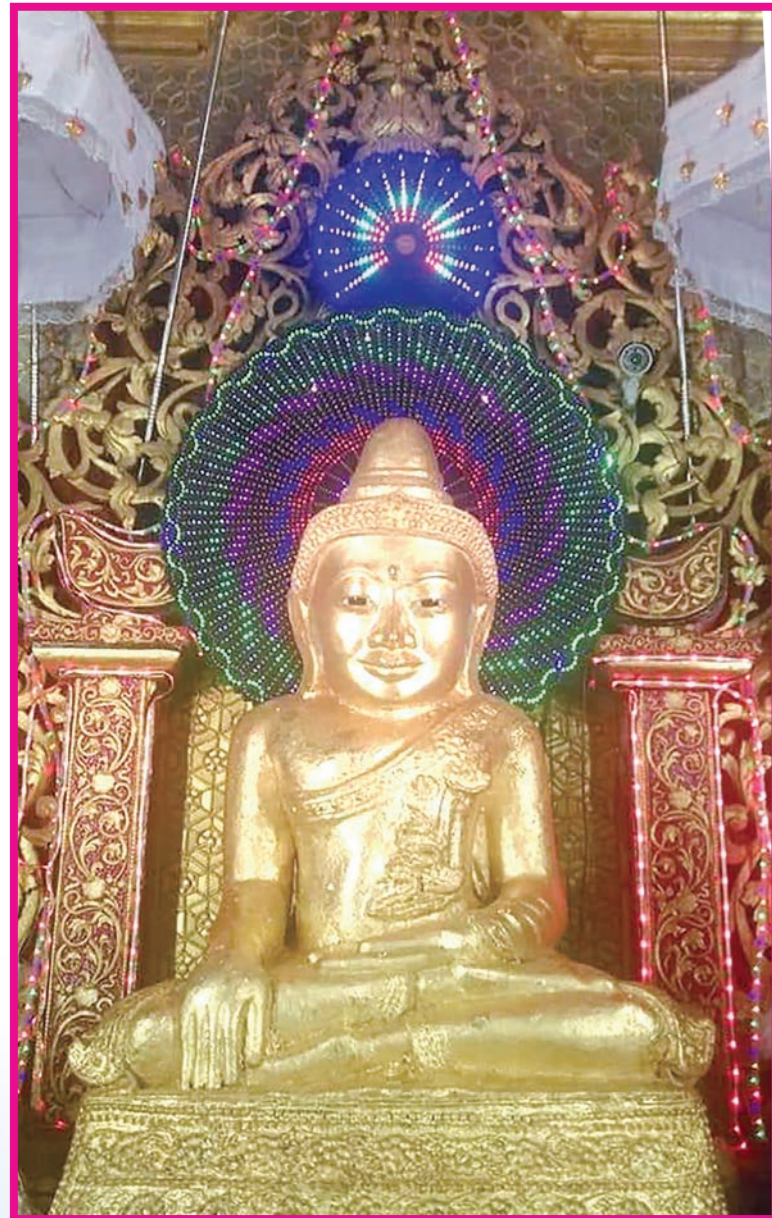
skull of the Buddha was enshrined in it.

We continued our journey along the highway. I espied the Gu-wa Phaya, one of the most well-known ones in Ponnagyun township, on the road-side. Soon afterwards, we reached Yoe-ta-yok village with the Be-ngar-yar mountain in the background, which jutted starkly up from the neighbouring landscape. Due to its beauty, it is metaphorically called 'Mt. Fuji of Rakhine'. I noticed a mass of white clouds gathering above it. I sometimes saw some birds in flight towards the nearby forested foothills of the Kan-zauk mountain. Then we stopped over at a footstall abuzz with passengers on the road-side for twenty minutes. Out of hunger, we wolfed down Rakhine Monhti (Rakhine traditional rice-vermicelli soup) and coffee there. Some minutes afterwards, our car passed the Kan-zauk-mountain bridge which spanned the Yoe creek, a major tributary of the Kaladan river.

At about 11 a.m., our car came to the Kacchapanadi bridge which connected the two opposite banks in Kyauktaw township. It is said that it was the earliest of the river-crossing bridges which had been ever built in Rakhine State and that it was 1312.5 feet in length. From the bridge, we saw some Siberian-geese and wild ducks flying over the river flapping their wings and some cargo-boats inching up and down. When we got to the bank of Kyauktaw, we drove across some vil-

lages scattered about in the outlying area of the town and soon arrived at Srigut mound where the well-known Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image existed. We paid homage to the Buddha image and offered flowers, fruits and candles to it. Then we went round the shrine-hall. The Rakhine traditional chronicles say that the Maha Myatmuni Buddha image was cast out of pancaloha (five noble metals) in the presence of the Buddha who visited Dhannavati city at the mental invitation of King Candasuriya and that it had been the epicenter of Buddhism in Rakhine for many centuries. I discovered some debris of bricks and a few aligning brick-works exposed in the fields surrounding Srikut mound. It is known that they were the remnants of the Third Dhannavati city which thrived between the 6th century B.C and the 4th century A.D and that it was established by King Candasuriya and came to an end during the reign of King Taing Candra. We donated some cash to the trustees of the Buddha image, left Srigut mound at about 2 p.m and proceeded to Minbya where some of my relatives resided.

To conclude, I found that it is a rewarding and exploratory trip, for we were refreshed by the beautiful sea-scape and landscape on the way and, moreover, got some knowledge on Rakhine history.



Maha Myatmuni Buddha Image in Kyauktaw



Aerial view of Sittway. PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)



Sittway View Point. PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)

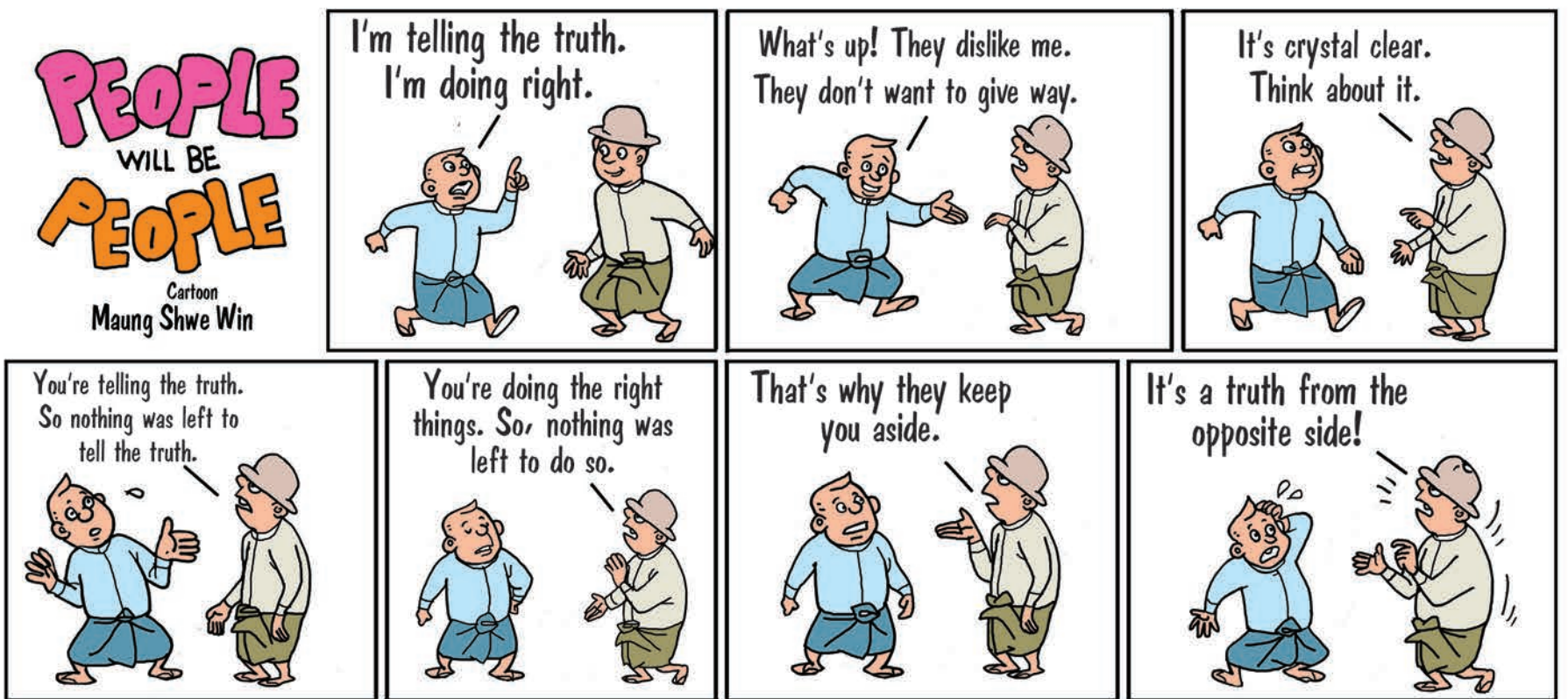
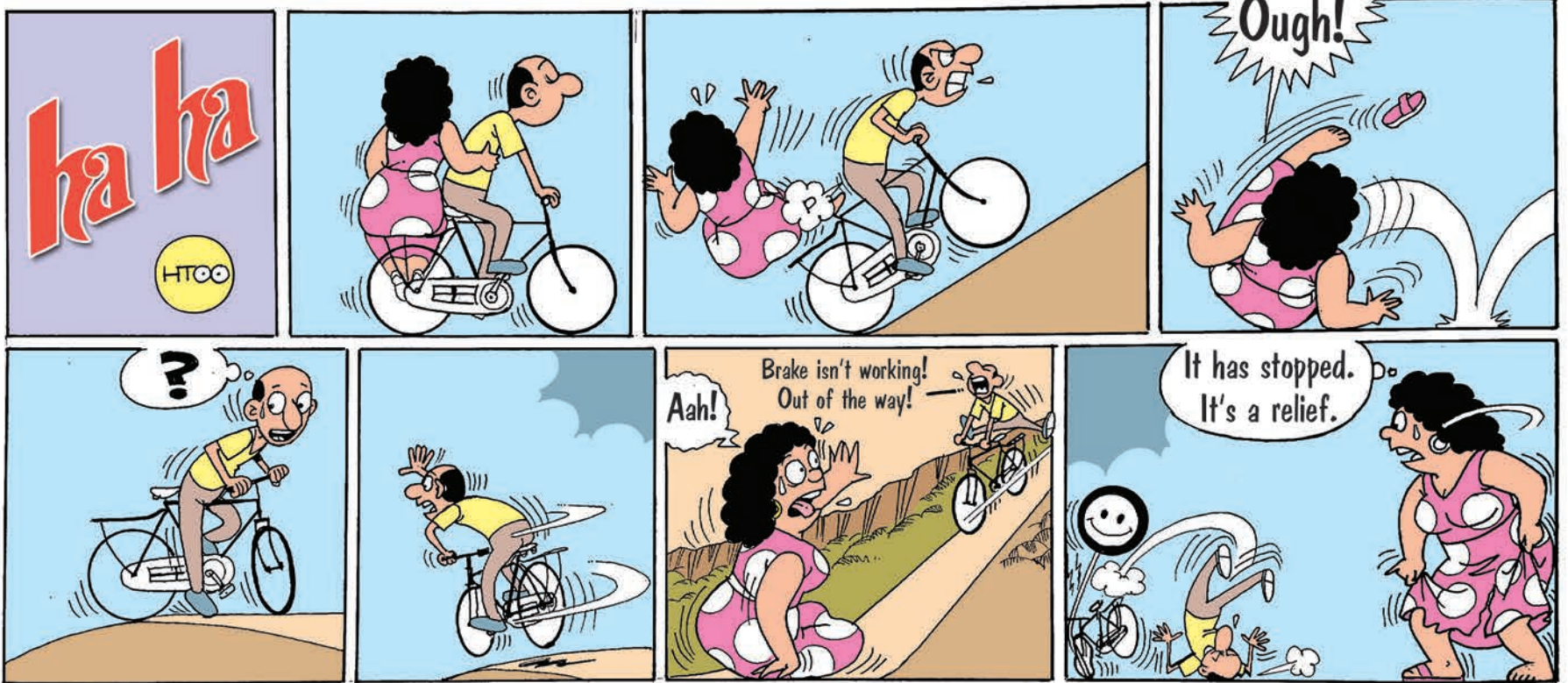


Kacchapanadi Bridge.



A local man and his son in a boat in the Kaladan River. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

SUNDAY COMICS



In Remembrance of Saya Zawgyi on the 30th anniversary of his passing away

By Dr Myint Zan



POET Saya ဆရာ ('teacher/'beloved teacher') Zawgyi ဇော်ရှိ (U Thein Han) (12 April 1097-26 September 1990) passed away 30 years ago on 26 September 1990. With this tribute article I commemorate the passing of this (among others) eminent poet, researcher, scholar and librarian.

Philosophical comment about being 'in the minority'

I recall meeting Saya Zawgyi on three different occasions. The first occasion was in the mid to late 1960s when the renown poet visited the Ludu The People building လူထုတိုက် in Mandalay. Elder Aunt (Kye Kye) ကြီးကြီး Ludu Daw Amar (29 November 1915- 7 April 2008) informed me (I was a kid then) that Saya Zawgyi was meeting the literati of Mandalay. I think I saw Saya from a distance at that time.

In January 1974 elder Uncle (Bagyi) ဘကြီး Ludu U Hla (19 January 1910—7 August 1982) asked me to convey some books perhaps written by him to Saya Zawgyi who at that time was the chief librarian of Rangoon Arts and Science University. After I mentioned my name I presented the books Ba Gyi Hla has given to me to Saya. I then bowed and was about to leave when he asked me whose son I was and I told him.

The 3rd and last time I met him was around January 1977 at perhaps a seminar in Rangoon. I went and introduced myself and told him that about 3 years earlier I had presented him books from Ludu U Hla. He stated that he did not recall and added a philosophical comment : 'You guys are in the majority, we are the minority'. မင်းတို့က လူများစုကို ငါတို့က လူနည်းစု

(Good) Poetry is inherently philosophical?

My categorisation, so to speak, that Saya Zawgyi's comment was philosophical synchronises with an observation made in an article written by the late U Thet Tun, (among others Ambassador of the then Socialist Republic of the Union of Burma to the Republic of France in the mid-1970s).

In a collection of essays mainly in Burmese and a few in English first published around 1991 entitled ဆရာဇော်ရှိ အမှတ်တရ စာစုများ Essays in Remembrance of Saya Zawgyi U Thet Tun recounted that the gentle, self-effacing poet asked why 'Maung Thet Tun' considered him (Zawgyi) as a 'philosophical poet'. Perhaps the implication was that (some?) (good?) poetry has to be ipso facto (by the poetry itself) inherently philosophical.

Translation of a few works of Plato from English (not from ancient Greek) so as not to delay the Translation

Saya Zawgyi's contribution to the development (and slightly more ambitiously) refinement of philosophical thought among his readers is exemplified by his translation of snippets (so to speak) of a few of Plato's Dialogues as ဝလေးတို့ နိဒါန်း 'Introduction to Plato'. Needless to say Zawgyi translated not from ancient Greek but primarily from the English translations of a few of Plato's Dialogues by the British scholar Benjamin Jowett (15 April 1817-1 October 1893).

In his Preface of 'Introduction to Plato' the translator

တပေါင်းမိုး
မိုးမင်းနတ်စည်၊ မြည်ပင်မြည်လည်း
မမြည်ဝံ့ဝံ့၊ မြည်ဝံ့ဝံ့နှင့်
ရွှေလျက်သာလျှင်၊ တိုးတိုးပင်တည်း။
မိုးမင်းခေဝါ၊ ရွှာပြန်ပါလည်း
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ရွှေလျက်သာလျှင်၊ ဖွဲ့ဖွဲ့ပင်တည်း။
မိုးသံမပါ၊ မိုးမပါသည်
ဓာတည်မကျ၊ နွေဦးလတွင်

၂၀၅။ ပန်းနှင့် စာပေ
ပန်းမျိုးရယ်စုံ
ငုံရာမှ ဖူး။
အချိန်တန် အရန်သေ
လန်းပွင့်ဘို့ ဖူး။
ဖြစ်နိုင်သည်မှာ
စာပေနှင့် ဘဝ။
စိတ်ကောင်း အခြေခံ၌
အတွေ့ အခြေခံ၌
သတိအခြေခံ၌
အသိအခြေခံ၌
စိတ်ကူးဉာဏ် မွမ်းမံတတ်ပါမှ
ဟပ်မိမည်ပါ။ " "

ပွင့်ကြွဝါရွှေ၊ မိုးပေါက်ခြွေ၍
မြေခပြန်ကျင်း၊ ငှက်ပန်းခင်းကို
ရွှာရင်းငါ့ဝယ်၊ အသွယ်သွယ်သည်
ဘယ်ဆီလွှမ်းမိ တပ်မသိ။

of a few of Plato's work into Burmese wrote disarmingly, with just a tad of 'mischievousness' but charmingly that should he (Zawgyi) wait for himself to learn ancient Greek, the translation could be considerably delayed! အတန်ငယ် နှောင့် နှေးသွားဖွယ်ရာ ရှိသည်

Saya Zawgyi started translating a select few of parts of Plato's Dialogues into Burmese in 1960 or the early 1960s with monthly instalments being published in the now defunct Shumawa မှုမာ magazine and 'Introduction to Plato' was first published as a book around 1969. I do not know why Saya Zawgyi's masterful translation of a few of Plato's Dialogues did not receive the National literature prize for translation category in the year it was first published (either 1967 or 1969). Perhaps -this is only a guess (and therefore is subject to correction)- in that particular year Saya Zawgyi was himself one of the members of the National literary prize selection committee.

In 1979 his translation of short stories of a few Nobel literary laureates Is this Suffering caused by Love and other Short stories' နှင်လားဟဲ့ ချစ်ခင်ကုန်အခြား ဝတ္ထုတိုများ won the national literary prize (translation category) and in 1987 he won another national literary prize for the collection of his poems on the Ancient Pagan Kingdom နှေခေတ်ပုဂံပြည် ကဗျာများ

Subsequently, I have heard that during the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and State Peace and Development Council (SPDC) regimes a particular - dare I say it - and a 'lesser poet' in contrast to Saya Zawgyi- won the national literary prize for poetry four, may be five times!

Saya Zawgyi prize on librarian ship and Post Graduate Theses on Poetics and Aesthetic Contributions of Zawgyi

The writer understands that there is a Saya Zawgyi prize for librarianship or library studies established by his family and well-wishers. There is also a library with his name (Saya Zawgyi library) in his hometown of Pyapon.

In the mid 1970s, about one and half decades before he passed away Saya Zawgyi's literary and philosophical contributions were analysed by a younger scholar by the name of Mya Win (Philosophy), မြဝင်း (ဒေသန) . U Mya Win,

now a retired Professor of Philosophy submitted a Master of Arts (Philosophy) thesis written in Burmese language on 'Zawgyi's Aesthetics' ဇော်ရှိ၏ ရသညာ. It was submitted to the Philosophy Department of Rangoon Arts and Science University. He was awarded the MA (Philosophy) degree in 1977.

Saya Mya Win expanded and edited his thesis and published as a book in 2018. Saya Mya Win's book was awarded the 2018 national literary prize in the category of Arts (General knowledge). I have bought but have only read about ¼ of the book) of U Mya Win's scholarly study on his (and our) own Saya (Zawgyi's) concept of

aesthetics.

It is indeed noteworthy that the Master thesis of U Mya Win was submitted to the Department of Philosophy and not to the Department of Burmese. This indicates that Saya Zawgyi's scholarly writings, in addition to his poems, 'straddles' at least two broad disciplines: Burmese literature, language/ linguistics as well as philosophy

In January 2020 Ma Maw Maw (now Dr Maw Maw) submitted a doctoral thesis titled 'The art (or technique) of creation of Images in Zawgyi's poems' ဇော်ရှိ၏ ကဗျာများမှ နိမိတ်ပုံဖန်တီးမှုအတတ်ပညာ to the Department of Myanmar at the University of Mandalay. I have read the thesis in its entirety and I have learned from it.

Dr Maw Maw in her Bibliography listed yet another Ph.D. thesis submitted on another set of the poems of Zawgyi to the Department of Myanmar also at the University of Mandalay in 2012. These doctoral theses indicate that Saya Zawgyi's legacy has taken root not only among poem-lovers of all ages; present and future generations of researchers will continue to make scholarly studies of the literary and philosophical contributions and achievements of Zawgyi.

Three Categories of Poems of Zawgyi and Translation of Two Poem Written in the 1930s and 1986

Some (not all) of Zawgyi's poems can be categorised into three categories in that he had written series of poems on the same or similar themes. They are (1) ဗေဒါလမ်းကဗျာ 'Hyacinth's Way' Poems (2) ငါ့ညီ ပြောင်ဝင်း မောင်သစ်ဆင်းကဗျာများ 'My Dear Younger Brother Maung Thit Hsin' Poems (3) နှေခေတ်ပုဂံပြည်ကဗျာများ 'Ancient Pagan (Bagan) Kingdom' poems. All these three series of poems contain literary, philosophical, political (patriotic), religious and aesthetic themes or dimensions.

FROM PAGE-S-7

On the 30th anniversary of the passing of Saya Zawgyi in tribute to his memory I hereby present my translations two of Zawgyi's poems one probably composed in the 1930s and another in 1986. The poem composed in Burmese the 1930s is reproduced in the high school text book Selected Poems for High School [Students] အထက်တန်း ကဗျာလက်ရွှေစင် which was one of two Burmese text books from the academic year 1968-69 to 1985-86.

The Rains in the Month of March

By Zawgyi
Translated by Myint Zan

The celestial drum of the rain god
does make sounds
albeit reluctantly
hesitating, fearing to make them:
the sounds are just audible

the Deva ('rain god') even when it causes
to rain
does so reluctantly, hesitantly:
it only drizzles

the sounds are not quite rain sounds
the drizzles are not quite rain showers
in the unsettled months of early summer
yellow flowers blossom
as the rain drops fall
the Ngu flowers [Indian laburnum]
are spread on the ground:
whilst watching this scene
my thoughts strayed
I felt nostalgic
about what or for which
I actually do not know

The next poem 'Flowers and Literature' was composed by Zawgyi in 1986 apparently about 50 years after the 'March Rains' which he probably composed in the 1930s. 'Flowers and Literature' was distributed at (elderly) literati homage ceremony held in 1986 and is reproduced in The Collection of Zawgyi's Poems

Flowers and Literature

By Zawgyi
(Composed 1986)
Translated by Myint Zan
(26 September 2020)

a variety of flowers
from buds to blooms
when time is appropriate
when the occasion is ripe
they readily become fresh blossoms

'tis with life and literature
based on good thoughts
on experience
on awareness and right contemplation
on knowledge
and only if one's imagination is refined
will [life and literature] reflect each other

My journey of learning english

LET me first express my genuine gratitude for the opportunity to talk about my journey of learning a foreign language.

Before I get started, I would like to introduce myself to all of you. My name is Thein Htike Aung and I am an undergraduate student majoring in Commerce at Yangon University of Economics. I am not actually from Yangon but from a small impoverished village. After sitting for the matriculation exam in 2017, I moved to Yangon, the former capital city of Myanmar and also the largest city in the country. I passed the final exam, known as a turning point for Burmese students' life at that time, in 2017-2018 academic year. Then, I was just a teenager who knew nothing about the language and had no interest in it at all.

My uncle, however, took me to the Language center at my very first day of the arrival and encouraged me to pursue my higher studies with the help of English. It was when I began my boat of learning English not realizing exactly what learning a new language means and not understanding the nature of English properly. Could I survive in this field of English as a persevering learner? I then had no definite answer for this question. At the very beginning, I encountered so many problems and difficulties lying ahead of me such as being worried among the complete strangers in the class, not being capable of keeping up with the classroom activities, not getting wholly what the teacher was talking about, and worst of all, not knowing

how to find a way to approaching the language in an effective and efficient way. At a moment like this, hope was nowhere to be found and those feelings of disappointment and discouragement hindered me from moving forward. It even made me think that I was not smart enough to get over them. In spite of this, I kept on focusing on my assignments assigned by my teacher bearing in mind that where there is a set-back, will there definitely be a set-up for a comeback. What is more, my teacher helped me a lot to get through those tough times and also paved the way for my further progress by giving me instructions I needed most and showing me the right way to be familiar with the language within the short period of time, and besides, getting me on the right track as well.

Still, I was unbelievably overwhelmed by the fact that most of the learners of every language spend their invaluable time just concentrating on the classwork, seemingly oblivious of the nature of the language, which plays a key role in learning. Yet, it seemed to me that being fully aware of the nature of English undoubtedly got me acquainted with any challenges which could reduce my willingness to get to my targeted point in English. After two consecutive years of devotion to the field of English, I found myself engaged in it deeply. It means that I could not pass even a single day without English and it has unknowingly become a part of my life.

On the other hand, I can read, write



By Thein Htike Aung
2nd Year University,
Yangon University of Economics.

and understand English well. But I am usually relatively silent at English Speaking forums because of the fact that I lack speaking skill. So, this is an area I have to lay great emphasis on.

All in all, with the time passing, what comes to my mind is that language is not mere certificates, diplomas and degrees which are not certainly the authenticity of language. They are just the milestones to show how far I have gone and how much effort I have to put into it to get to the point that I am longing for. The real singular purpose of language is to be used in practice to communicate with people throughout the world. So long as there are human beings in the globe, language will go on endlessly. Last but not the least, let me conclude my writing by highlighting an important point that a person who can speak two languages is worth two men.

