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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Peace negotiators continue discussions on work plans for Union Peace Conference next month



Peace negotiators discuss fourth session of Union Peace Conference scheduled for second week of August after the sixth coordination meeting in last week of July. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

**R**EPRESENTATIVES of the government and NCA-S EAOs continued discussions on the work plans for holding the fourth session of Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong scheduled for second week of August.

The second day of fifth coordination meeting was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) on Shweli

Road in Yangon yesterday.

Present on the government's side at the meeting were the NRPC Vice-Chairman and Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win, Secretary of Peace Commission retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw MP

U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, members of the Peace Commission Advisory Board U Hla Maung Shwe, U Moe Zaw Oo and Director-General of the Office of the State Counsellor U Zaw Htay.

The NCA-S EAOs were represented by the coordination of NCA implementation framework negotiation committee leader Pado Sao Sai Ngin, co-

ordinator U Myo Win, and members of negotiation team U Hla Htay, Saw Mya Yar Zar Lin, Dr Salai Lian Hmon Sakhong, Salai Htarlar Hay, Saw Sein Win, Pado Saw Tar Do Hmu, Pado Saw L Klu Sae, Kya Salmon, Saw Kyaw Nyunt, Nai Aung Ma Ngae, Dr Sai Oo and Khun Myint Tun, and other representatives on videoconference.

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# "People are the key"

## MoHS officials inspect broadcast media, sample film shooting to enforce healthcare guidelines

OFFICIALS from the Ministry of Health and Sports inspected facilities of Forever Group media company and sample shootings at the Film Development Centre and at Bogoyoke Park for Bogoyoke Aung San biopic in Yangon yesterday.

The health officials suggested guidelines for prevention of COVID-19 in media and film production processes as they arrived at the makeup room, studios, editing room, staff canteen, indoor and outdoor places of Forever Group Company in Mayangon Township, and the company's broadcast facilities in Dagon

Myothit (North).

The officials also looked into sample shootings at the Film Development Centre and for Bogoyoke Aung San biopic in Bogoyoke Park in Bahan Township.

U Pyae Phyo Han, General Manager of Forever Group said: "We follow COVID-19 guidelines such as social distancing of the Ministry of Health and Sports in the works. We also spray disinfectants on production equipment and assign lesser numbers of staff."

Dr Thandar Lwin, the Deputy Director-General (Disease Control) Department of Public

Health said, "We conducted inspection according to the guidelines of the ministry. We mainly scrutinize this industry in two sectors. The first one is to work in social distancing of six feet apart from each other and the next one is to set a time limit not more than 15 minutes in continuous physical contact as the actors will not wear personal protective equipment during their performance."

Film teams will also need to work far from the fans during the shootings.

The Union Ministers for Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, Ministry of



Dr Thandar Lwin, Deputy Director-General of Public Health, inspects studio (1) of Film Development Centre in Bahan Township on 4 July. PHOTO: HLA MOE

Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Health and Sports discussed with the officials of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, film pro-

ducers and cinema owners to set up COVID-19 preventive plans in their businesses.—Yi Yi Myint (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Dr Thandar Lwin and party look into sample shooting of Forever Group in Dagon Myothit (North) on 4 July. PHOTO: HLA MOE



Deputy Director-General Dr Thandar Lwin and health officials view preparations for shooting at Yegu broadcast facility in Mayangon Township on 4 July. PHOTO: HLA MOE

## COVID-19 figure in Myanmar reaches 313 as 7 new cases reported on 4 July

FROM PAGE-1

Seven more COVID-19 cases on 4 July 2020: updated at 8 pm

Case No	Age	Gender	Address	Contact with positive patient	Overseas travel history	Hospital for medical treatment	Lab result	Remark
307	24	Male	Hline Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, India	Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Hline Township)
308	32	Male	Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, Bangladesh	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Kamayut Township)
309	24	Male	Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, Bangladesh	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	
310	34	Male	Insein Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, Bangladesh	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	
311	43	Male	Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, Laos	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	
312	39	Male	Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, Thailand	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	
313	55	Female	South Okkalapa Township, Yangon Region	No	Yes, Singapore	South Okkalapa Specialist Hospital	Positive	Held under quarantine (Mayangon Township)

Ministry of Health and Sports

## Need to Distinguish between Politics and Being Disciplined

You are required to distinguish politics from being disciplined. Nothing will work without having discipline. If someone wants to violate a discipline, they must be well convinced of the kind of punishment they will deservedly receive as a consequence. Try your best by being disciplined to have an order changed. Abide by disciplines before having it changed. This is the difference between politics and being disciplined.

(Excerpt from Bogyoke Aung San's speech given at the All Workers' Union meeting and dinner in Natmouk, on 25 March 1947)



## MoALI organizes 98<sup>th</sup> International Day of Cooperatives in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 2020 International Day of Cooperatives that falls on 4 July was celebrated at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu made an opening remark at the meeting that the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) had urged the cooperatives to give special consideration to work for addressing climate change through cooperation among the members of the cooperatives as per the theme "Cooperatives for Climate Action" and to cooperate with the cooperative communities in building the prosperous and more united economy.

He added that people nowadays are suffering from the disasters such as insufficient foods, environmental degradation and natural disasters as well as the plagues.

The Union Minister also said that the cooperative communities will have to perform to reduce inequality, disputes and challenges.



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu speaks during a ceremony of 2020 International Day of Cooperatives at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 July 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

He said that there was a policy for climate change called "National Policy for Climate Change (2017-2030) in Myanmar and they were doing the best to provide resettlement and relief as well as to reduce the natural disaster.

Myanmar cooperative sector is being operated by 4.2 million of members and 39,929 cooperative departments providing financial support to the cooperative member farmers, the ability to

buy the farming machineries by hire purchase system, promoting farming and assisting the farming services, producing the seed, supporting the input, and promoting the development of the cooperative in order to form the standard cooperative regions.

He also said that there were impacts on Myanmar's agricultural sector due to COVID-19 and they were planning to perform three projects to develop

the agricultural cooperatives by spending US\$35 million from \$200 million of the loan from World Bank for the National Food and Agriculture System Project.

He concluded that the cooperative works have developed across the world, in helping for the socio-economic sector of the people, and that it needs to work more in agriculture, livestock and manufacturing sectors of the cooperatives in Myanmar.

Afterwards, president of the Central Cooperative Society U Khin Maung Aye made a speech to honour the International Day of Cooperatives, and Dr Toe Nandar Tin, the member of Executive Committee of the Central Cooperatives Society read the formal message from the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA).

The event was closed by showing the video clip of the cooperative actions in honour of the 98th International Day of Cooperatives.

The event was attended by the Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Aye Maung Sein, the representatives of the parliament U Yan Lin and Dr Sein Mya Aye, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member Daw Sabai Htway, the permanent secretary, the directors and respective officials and the professors from the Universities of the cooperatives, the principal from the Colleges of the cooperatives and the presidents of the respective states and regions' cooperative communities took part by video conferencing. — MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

## Asia-Pacific YMCA Executive Committee holds meeting online

THE Asia & Pacific Alliance of YMCAs held its executive committee meeting on 2 and 3 July, and it was attended by 104 committee members.

YMCA Myanmar's President U Tha Sein, General Secretary U Maung Maung Win, Executive Committee Secretary U Htay Win Shwe, and Youth Assistant Secretary Nan Yoon Pyae Sone also joined the online meeting from the YMCA Myanmar's head office in Yangon.

President of APAY Prof Chen Chin-Seng made an opening remark at the meeting, and officials

from partner organizations delivered speeches.

The meeting discussed financial and budget, strategy programmes, effects of COVID-19, and ongoing producers of World Alliance of YMCAs.

YMCA representatives from Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Timor-Leste also participated in the meeting online from their countries. — MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Representatives from YMCA Myanmar participate in the Asia & Pacific Alliance of YMCA Executive Committee Meeting on 2 and 3 July from Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Phakant landslide investigation body gives assistance to victims

THE investigation body into mining landslide in Lone Khin, Phakant provided cash assistance to the landslide victims who were receiving treatments at the Phakant Township Hospital in Phakant, Kachin State yesterday.

The investigation body's chairman Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and members Union Minister for Home Affairs Lieutenant General Soe Htut, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, and Kachin State Chief Minister Dr Khet Aung arrived in Phakant via Myitkyina.

The chairman and members visited the Phakant Township Hospital, and encouraged 14 landslide victims who were re-

ceiving treatments at the hospital.

They also provided the patients with cash assistance from the National Disaster Management Committee, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, and Kachin State government.

Officials from Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar Thura Gems Company also gave the victims cash assistance.

At the Phakant Township Administrator's Office, the investigation body discussed their works with Kachin State government's ministers, Hluttaw representatives, and in-charges of departments and organizations concerned.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye (Second R) gives cash assistance to a landslide victim at the Phakant Township Hospital in Phakant, Kachin State on 4 July 2020. PHOTO: MNA

## 144 Myanmar nationals return home from China via Lashio on 4 July

LOCAL authorities in Lashio of northern Shan State helped the returnees back from China through Muse, Kokang Self-administered Zone and Chinshwehaw border town by transporting them to the respective regions by trains. Among 144 people yesterday, 7 persons from Kachin, 2 from Chin, 27 from Sagaing, 12

from Bago, 22 from Magway, 12 from Mandalay, 2 from Mon, 24 from Rakhine, 30 from Yangon and 6 from Ayeyawady.

A total of 12,033 persons have returned to Myanmar from China through border crossings from 6 May to date.—Nan Thanda Oo (IPRD) (Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar nationals returned from China are seen on a train on 4 July 2020. PHOTO: NAN THANDA OO (IPRD)

## 41 Myanmar migrant workers enter into facility quarantine in Kawthoung



Myanmar migrant workers are seen at Kawthoung border crossing as they arrived back from Thailand on 3 July. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

A total of 41 Myanmar nationals arrived back to Kawthoung border town in Taninthayi Region from Ranong province of Thailand on 3 July afternoon.

Local authorities arranged

for the quarantine of these 14 males and 27 females in Kawthoung. They will spend 21-day facility quarantine and 7-day home quarantine while their swabs are taken to the Depart-

ment of National Health.

The Kawthoung border has accepted 979 Myanmar migrant workers until now.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Aung Khin)



## 19 Myanmar seafarers quarantined at Kawthoung

A total of 19 Myanmar seafarers who signed off their job from MT Theresa Jiangsu ship docked in Andaman Sea near Kawthoung Township arrived

Myanmar seafarers walk across the Kawthoung Myoma Jetty on 4 July 2020. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

at Kawthoung Myoma Jetty in 3 July evening.

The local officials of jetty and health department helped them with medical tests and other supplies and put under 21-day hotel quarantine, while their swabs will be sent to the National Health Laboratory of Yangon.

These 19 Myanmar sea-

farers handed over their duties to other 18 seafarers who will join that the cargo vessel of M/S Raffles Ship Management Service Pte Lts, from Singapore, and anchored near waters of Kawthoung via Hong Kong.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

## Myanmar engineers share knowledge with foreign counterparts in Yangon



Union Minister U Han Zaw (L) participates in the online seminar on the responsibility and accountability of the bodies and technicians of the construction industry on 4 June 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Myanmar Engineering Council (MEC) with the involvement of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies (FMES), the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO), and the Federation

of Engineering Institutions of Asia and Pacific (FEIAP) held a seminar conducted over the Internet on the responsibility and accountability of the bodies and technicians of the construction industry at the MEC Office

in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

In his speech, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw categorized the discussion into two parts – safety and improvement. More and more news about the casualties re-

sulting from building collapses and occupational accidents are coming up day after day, he said, adding, the improvement of the standards of quality control is the best way to regulate the industry.

Designing, tender invitations, erection, and testing which are the different stages of the development projects must be under proper regulation and control. Standard norms and detailed guidelines for quality designs and FIDIC directives must be observed, the Union Minister said.

MEC is improving the qualifications of professionals and junior engineers, and at the same time, the relevant government bodies are focusing on skill improvement and standardization. Moreover, the Government involvement in promoting the responsible behavior and accountability will help develop the construction industry, he noted.

Afterwards, Former President Dr Marlene Kanga of the World Federation of Engineering Organizations (WFEO) gave talks on The Latest Changes in Australia, and Secretary General Ir. Dr Tan Yean Chin of the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and Pacific (FEIAP) on Responsibility & Accountability of Stakeholders in Construction Industry in Malaysia.

The president and the joint secretary of MEC acted as moderators at the Webinar, where papers on development undertakings, engineering bodies, high-rise building and public building projects, Present Inspection System for High-rise and Public Building Projects, and Challenges ahead for Myanmar Construction Industry were presented. Other participants also took part in the discussions and shared knowledge.—MNA

*(Translated by TMT)*

## “We have already reached a number of agreements on the NCA Implementation Framework,” says U Myo Win

**U Myo Win, NCA-S EAOs representative**  
Interviewed by Ye Gaung Nyunt

THE government representatives group involving the representatives of the Government, the Tatmadaw, and the Hluttaw (the parliament) and the representatives of Ethnic Armed Organizations—Signatories of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA-S EAOs) held their fifth coordination meeting of at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) on 2 and 4 July to sign the part three of the Union Accord at the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

The Myanmar News Agency (MNA) interviewed U Myo Win, the representative of the NCA-S EAOs and the NCA Implementation Framework Coordinator, about the topics and results of the 5th coordination meeting and the latest developments on the holding of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

**Q:** What were the topics of the fifth coordination meeting?

**A:** Not so much different from the previous meeting. This time, the meeting was in two sections, and the first one

was on the Union Accord that will be reached at the fourth meeting of the coming Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. Another part concerned with the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

**Q:** Well, as regards the part three of the Union Accord, which has three parts, which ones have been agreed and which ones remain unsettled?

**A:** We have already reached a number of agreements on the NCA Implementation Framework, the first part of the three-part Union Accord. Precisely, we have 13 agreements, and they include two framework agreements and 11 other agreements. The remaining four points will be discussed again at the coming meetings.

The table (1) indicates the stage-wise work programmes and implementations of the part two of the Union Accord after 2020, and the table was agreed at the previous coordination meeting. Further discussions will continue, and today's meeting will focus on how the table 2 will be discussed, how the agreement will be reached at the conference and how the Union Accord will be signed. Both the Government and the EAOs have the proposals, and

the ways to include the agreed points of the proposals in the Union Accord will be sought.

As regards the basic consensus which are important agreements of the part three of the Union Accord, we are getting closer in coordinating the compiled points based on the proposals of both sides. We have compiled the points that are agreeable for both sides, and they will be discussed by the relevant groups. All in all, we have the agreements as well as disagreements in the bilateral discussions, and we will cement the agreed ones and hold a continuous dialogue on the disagreed ones. They are all concerned with the part three of the Union Accord.

**Q:** Well, what about your response on the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, which is the remaining section?

**A:** This section is the holding of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong. It is a common knowledge that the estimated date of the Conference was set in the second week of August 2020. Besides, there are the JICM meeting and the UPDJC meeting which are related with the Conference, and after those meetings comes the Union Peace Confer-

ence-21st Century Panglong. First, we will set the provisional dates for the meetings, and the Government, the Tatmadaw and the EAOs will be informed. So, we can set appropriate dates and topics for the coming Conference and the meetings before it.

**Q:** So, you have confirmed the final dates?

**A:** It's still too early to announce the dates. We can confirm the dates only after acknowledging the relevant leaders. What we need is the preparation for the part three of the Union Accord through coordination. Then only will the Union Accord be systematic and politically approved. We are taking coordinated measures in advance in formulating the Union Accord that will shape the Union through political dialogues held after 2020.

**Q:** What will be date and the topics of the sixth coordination meeting?

**A:** We all will meet again on 25, 26 and 27 of this month in Yangon, and our representatives meeting will be followed by pre-JICM meeting of both sides in Nay Pyi Taw. Afterwards, the JICM and UPDJC meetings will be held in Nay Pyi Taw. We are now focusing on holding the Conference in



U Myo Win, NCA-S EAOs representative. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAY**

the second week of August.

**Q:** Well, you said “We all will meet again”, so it means the representatives previously taking part in the Online Video Conferencing will attend the meeting in person this time?

**A:** Right! We are now coordinating with the Government for the inclusive participation of all EAOs representatives in the coming meetings. As the EAOs representatives will come from different places, we will coordinate with the Government for their timely arrival at the meeting that will be held for three days from 25 to 27 July 2020 under the Covid-19 preventive measures.

*(Translated by TMT)*



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

## Fake Thanaka from neighbouring country impacts local genuine Thanaka growers



Central Myanmar townships are the main areas that grow Thanaka plants since a long time ago.

**PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN**

MYANMAR Thanaka growers suffer as some cosmetics are being sold in the market in the name of Thanaka when they are imported from the neighbouring countries, it is learnt.

"The genuine Thanaka growers and producers are really in great trouble. It is unethical of those who fraud-

ulently sell their products. Many products in the name of Thanaka are imported from a neighbouring country especially from Thailand. They are selling the fake Thanaka in the market by adding the colour and odour of Thanaka. This has a large impact on those people who are relying on Thanaka business for

their livelihoods, said Chairman U Kyaw Moe from Myanmar Thanaka Growers and Producers Association.

"A proposal for Myanmar Thanaka was submitted to UNESCO in March. If Myanmar Thanaka is listed in UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list, the world will be interest-

ed in Myanmar Thanaka. If the Thanaka contains chemicals or other fragrant substances, it will damage the image of both Myanmar Thanaka Association and the government," he added.

"We wish to see in the market the Thanaka products made from genuine Thanaka raw materials. The government should monitor effectively the production and sale of Thanaka cosmetics. We don't want the image of Myanmar Thanaka adversely effected as our traditional Thanaka has been in use for more than 2,000 years. We hate it to end up in an era of chemicals," said U Kyaw Moe.

There are more than 300,000 acres of Thanaka plantations in Monywa, Budalin, Myaing, Pauk and Pakokku. With the increase of the foreign make-up brands in Myanmar market, the Thanaka market has declined and thereby the local people are growing other crops such as mango, drumstick and Tragacanth Gum Herb (locally called Say Kalam).—Myo Win Tun (Monywa)  
*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Myanmar-Bangladesh border trade increases by \$730 mln in 2019-2020FY Q3

BILATERAL border trade stood at over US\$ 747.63 million as of 26 June in the current 2019-2020 fiscal year which saw an increase of \$730 million from the corresponding period of last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

At this time last FY, Myanmar-Bangladesh trade through two borders hit \$17.26 million, with exports worth \$15.98 million and imports amounting to \$1.27 million.

When compared with last FY, this FY saw a significant increase in the value of exports by \$427.42 million while the bilateral imports rose by \$302.96 million.

Between 1 October and 26 June, Myanmar exported \$443.4 million worth domestic products to Bangladesh and imported goods valued over \$304.2 million.

Myanmar exports goods to Bangladesh through both maritime and land routes. Bilateral border trade is conducted mainly through the Sittway and Maung-taw 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, plastics,

wood, knitwear and beverages.

The trading through Sittway land border has been suspended temporarily after the coronavirus positive patient 292 was found in Sittway checkpoint. However, bilateral through Maung-taw border crossing is still being conducted regularly.

During the pandemic period, the trade is still being conducted through Maung-taw border although the crossing has been suspended for people to cross. At present, the bilateral trading was suspended for a temporary period though Sittway land border. So, the cargoes which have been prepared to export will be

traded through Maung-taw border, according to the traders.

Currently, cargo boatmen, who came back from Bangladesh through Maung-taw border, are restricted from travelling, thus they have to stay at the private buildings in the jetty. The imported cargoes from Bangladesh are also sprayed before being allowed to load onto the jetty.

For prevention of the spread of coronavirus disease, the fire services personnel from Maung-taw Township sprayed all-cargo boats in Maung-taw border with the disinfectants at 10:30 am on 1 July.—Zwe

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## 35 deaths in Yangon-Mandalay highway accidents in first half of 2020

THIRTY-five people died while 202 were injured in the traffic accidents that occurred on Yangon-Mandalay highway from January through June, according to the highway traffic police.

There were a total of 183 road accidents in the first half of 2020, according to the highway traffic police.

However, there were fewer deaths and injuries in the first half of 2020 compared with the

same period of last year. In the first six months of 2019, a total of 258 collisions on Yangon-Mandalay expressway left 50 dead and 472 injured.

There were three deaths and 15 injuries in 25 accidents in January, five deaths and 26 injuries in 27 accidents in February, nine deaths and 48 injuries in 36 accidents in March, two deaths and 47 injuries in 20 accidents in April, six deaths and 33 inju-

ries in 34 accidents in May and six deaths and 33 injuries in 41 accidents in June.

Among them, March saw the highest number of deaths while April saw the lowest number of road accidents and deaths because the highway was closed temporarily because of the coronavirus pandemic, said an official from the highway traffic police.

However, there is an average of 48 traffic accidents daily in

Myanmar in a normal situation, killing 14 people and injuring 73 others.

To reduce road mishaps, the traffic police are conducting regular awareness talks and distributing educational pamphlets. The traffic police have filed charges against suspected reckless drivers under Sections 279, 337, 338, and 304 (A) of the Penal Code.—Aye Maung

*(Translated by Hay Mar)*

## Peace negotiators continue discussions on work plans for Union Peace Conference next month

### FROM PAGE-1

The participants continued to discuss the NCA framework agreement to implement decisions at the 8th Joint Implementing Coordination Meeting (JICM), phase-by-phase peace process beyond 2020, fundamental agreements and schedules for 4th session of Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong.

In his concluding remark on the meeting, the negotiation committee leader, Pado Sao Sai Ngin, said that the meeting reached some agreements on the remaining issues in the part 3 of Union Accord, and made plans for the upcoming peace conference under the guidelines of COVID-19 prevention measures.

They also agreed on forma-

tion of a team to draw a draft accord in developing a format for the part 3 of Union Accord. Results from meeting will also be presented to political group of Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee.

The 6th coordination meeting was also scheduled in the last week of July.

Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo remarked the meeting reached more agreements than the previous ones and the remaining issues will be discussed in the next meetings.

Peace Commission Advisory Board member U Hla Maung Shwe said the meeting mainly focussed on holding the next round of Union Peace Conference in the second week of August.

He added they discussed the three topics to be signed at



Representatives of government and NCA-S EAOs hold meeting with members of UPDJC in political group on 4 July afternoon. PHOTO: YE GAUNG NYUNT

the Union Peace Conference for the parts of Union Accord and the requirements for holding the conference.

The meeting also talked on

preparatory meetings for JICM, UPDJC secretary meeting and the conference.

The decisions of meeting were presented to the

members of UPDJC in political group in the afternoon. —Ye Gaung Nyunt

(Translated by Aung Khin)

## 813 Myanmar nationals come back home via Myawady border bridge on 4 July

A total of 813 Myanmar nationals returned home from Thailand through No. 2 border bridge in Myawady Town, Kayin State, on 4 July.

Kayin State Hluttaw MP U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrative Office U Tay Zar Aung and local officials helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies.

The number of migrant workers who returned home from abroad through this border has been 40,360 until now.

The latest group of returnees included 457 males and 356 females from different regions and states.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)



Myanmar nationals returned from Thailand queue for immigration processes at the Myawady border checkpoint on 4 July 2020.

PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)

## One member of Defence Services confirmed COVID-19 positive

ONE of the members of Defence Services who recently returned back from India has tested COVID-19 positive, according to the statement of Tatmadaw True News Information Team.

The statement released on 27 and 28 June said that the military personnel returned from India via military flight after

completing course on 26 June, and 7 out of 48 soldiers who were quarantined at Yangon Region Command area tested positive.

On 3 July, 68 soldiers who had contacts with the two COVID-19 positive soldiers were under quarantine and their specimens were tested by Polymerase Chain Reaction

(PCR) at the 1,000-bedded Defence Services Hospital (2) in Mingaladon and one soldier was confirmed positive.

This confirmed case is now taking medical treatment at Defence Services Liver Specialist Hospital (Mingaladon) and is in good health condition.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

### 'A PATRIOTIC PRESIDENT'

## Bolsonaro fans applaud his maverick virus response

As the number of dead from coronavirus shot up in Brazil, the popularity of far right President Jair Bolsonaro has remained unchanged.

For his supporters, the president has done nothing wrong despite more than 63,000 deaths and 1.5 million infections.

Bolsonaro originally dismissed the coronavirus as a "little flu" and his opposition to lockdowns and flouting of measures aimed at stifling the spread have provoked a hail of criticism from some.

Local epidemiologists and the World Health Organization have expressed concern about the president's approach in a

country that is second only to the United States in terms of total cases and deaths from the virus.

Yet a poll by Datafolha at the end of June found that 32 per cent of Brazilians thought Bolsonaro's government was "good or very good," a number that hasn't dropped since the start of the health crisis.

"People are suffering a lot financially, and when Bolsonaro says: 'We can't stop Brazil from working,' he's speaking to people's despair," said Vinicius Valle, a political science researcher.

He says most of the president's supporters recognize there's a health risk -- but with

Brazil set for a record recession this year, many have been deeply resistant to the lockdown.

However, today the people supporting Bolsonaro are not the same as those before the pandemic, said Valle, the co-author of a study on Bolsonarism published in June.

"He's lost some points amongst those that supported him since the election. The faithful make up only 22 per cent," he said. On the flip side, "he's gained some amongst the lower social classes thanks to the 600 reais (\$112) emergency support" given to almost 60 million Brazilians.

SOURCE: AFP

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# So this is a must

**D**IFFERENT countries have different situations concerning the worldwide pathogen outbreak and spread. Governments have been containing viral infections in their respective countries with many and varied but similar preventative measures systematically according to the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO).

International news stories are telling us that the coronavirus pandemic has not stopped yet.

The second wave can appear at any time in the coming days and months. Even some countries start suffering from it. They have to spare no effort once again in combatting the second blow of the pandemic upon the world countries.

Some countries even have to roll back the relaxation of a set of restrictions – stay-at-home, no crowded gathering, and frequent handwashing etc. Reopening of schools has to be closed again in some countries. A few countries can resume their commercial flights except for entries from selected countries.

In Myanmar, we have a total of 313 reported cases to date. Most of them are imported ones rather than home-grown transmissions. Our country has to fight against the COVID with the Union Government taking the leading role. The Ministry of Health and Sports and relevant ministries are practically preventing, controlling and treating the COVID-related patients.

Here, we do want to quote the State Counsellor writing on her Facebook page the other day: “Let’s come up with determined efforts to win the war against COVID, once and for all with the participation of everyone.”

Once again, we do want to urge all Myanmar people to very strictly follow health protocols such as frequent handwashing, keeping themselves off from crowded gatherings, physical or social distancing, and wearing of facemasks etc.

Let’s be aware of the second wave and prepare for the worst while hoping for the best.



## A NEW CHRONOLOGY

# WHO says it was first alerted coronavirus by its office, not

**T**HE World Health Organization has updated its account of the early stages of the COVID-19 crisis, saying it was alerted by its own office in China, and not by China itself, to the first pneumonia cases in Wuhan.

The U.N. health body has been accused by U.S. President Donald Trump of failing to provide the information needed to stem the pandemic and of being complacent towards Beijing, charges it denies.

On April 9, the WHO published an initial timeline of its com-

munications, partly in response to criticism of its early response to the outbreak that has now claimed more than 521,000 lives worldwide.

In that chronology, the WHO had said only that the Wuhan municipal health commission in the province of Hubei had on Dec. 31 reported cases of pneumonia. The U.N. health agency did not, however, specify who had notified it.

WHO director Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told a press conference on April 20 the first report had come from China, without specifying whether the

report had been sent by Chinese authorities or another source.

But a new chronology, published this week by the Geneva-based institution, offers a more detailed version of events.

It indicates that it was the WHO office in China that on Dec. 31 notified its regional point of contact of a case of “viral pneumonia” after having found a declaration for the media on a Wuhan health commission website on the issue.

The same day, WHO’s epidemic information service picked up another news report transmit-

## MANAGING YOUR MENTAL

# How to control your mind

**A**S the news about COVID-19 Pandemic dominates the headlines all over the world, people are getting panic and feeling out of control. With more than 11 million coronavirus cases up to 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020 according to the worldometer, more and more people are getting in the middle of mental crisis. It is normal feeling stressed, anxious and frustrated during the pandemic. But you need to remind yourself that you are not the only one who is suffering as we are all in this together.

One of the challenges we are facing during the pandemic is physical distancing which adds to the feelings of loneliness, fear and anxiety. When fear takes control, we cannot think of normally which leads to panic and feeling

out of control. If a person has a history with anxiety and depression, it can intensify preexisting mental illness. The followings are some ways to control our mind during the COVID-19 Period.

### Limit the amount of information you consume

To keep fear and panic at bay, it is recommended limiting the news consumption to about five to ten minutes per day and setting a similar time limit for checking our social media accounts. Constantly reading, watching, or listening to upsetting media coverage can unnecessarily intensify worry and agitation.

### Get information from only reliable sources

Finding credible sources we can trust is important to avoid the fear and panic that can be caused by misinformation. We should analyze and check the information we receive on reliable sources like World Health Organization (WHO) website or here in Myanmar, the Ministry of Health and Sports’ official website.

### Keep things in perspective

As it is said above, this is the situation we are all in. In a situation that is uncertain, we need to focus on things which are within our control.

The most important thing we can do to help ourselves and our loved ones is to take all the precautions including wearing masks, washing hands and practicing physical distancing.

### Stay connected with your family and friends

As physical distancing does not need to mean social disconnection, there are many ways we can use technology to stay connected. Receiving support and care from others has a powerful effect on helping us cope with challenges. Spending time with supportive family and friends can bring a sense of comfort and stability.

Talking through our concerns, thoughts, and feelings with others can also help us find helpful ways of thinking about or dealing with a stressful situation.



Exercise can give your life a sense of normality and rhythm during lockdown. **PHOTO: AFP**

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# orted to ot China



ted by the international epidemiological surveillance network ProMed – based in the United States — about the same group of cases of pneumonia from unknown causes in Wuhan.

After which, the WHO asked the Chinese authorities on two occasions, on Jan. 1 and Jan. 2, for information about these cases, which they provided on Jan. 3.

WHO emergencies director Michael Ryan told a press conference on Friday that countries had 24-48 hours to officially verify an event and provide the agency

with additional information about the nature or cause of an event.

Ryan added that the Chinese authorities immediately contacted the WHO as soon as the agency asked to verify the report.

U.S. President Donald Trump has announced that his country, the main financial contributor to

WHO, will cut its bridges with the institution, which he accuses of being too close to China and of having poorly managed the pandemic.

The WHO denies any complacency toward China.

SOURCE: AFP

## HEALTH DURING COVID-19

# and during COVID-19 period

### Keep active manners

This is a tactic for keeping anxiety under control. We should focus on our daily obligations and add in fun activities to our days to keep anxiety to a minimum. It is said that engaging in activities that distract us from current events can also be helpful. We can do a lot of things to have our mind occupied like reading, writing, and painting, dancing, singing, doing physical exercises or watch our favorite movies and TV shows, pick up a new hobby, or do something creative.

### Acknowledge your feelings

Whatever we are feeling right now, it is important that we know it is okay to feel that way. It is necessary to make time to notice and express what we are feeling. This could be through journalling, talking with others, or channelling our emotions into something creative (e.g., drawing, painting, poetry, music). While acknowledging our feelings, we should motivate ourselves to do what is needed to do in our daily life. Understanding and developing our self-motivation can help us to take control of many other aspects of life.

### Yoga

Yoga is known for its ability to ease stress and promote relaxation. In fact, multiple studies have shown that it can decrease the secretion of cortisol, the pri-

mary stress hormone. There are so many courses of Yoga on online teaching us how to practice Yoga. So we can practice Yoga when we are staying at home.

### Meditation

Meditation is something everyone can do to improve their mental and emotional health. Mindfulness meditation exercises can help us stay grounded in the midst of an emotional storm. We can learn how to witness and let thoughts and feelings come and go in their own time, without getting overwhelmed by them. There are also many science-based benefits of meditation like reduces stress, controls anxiety, promotes emotional health. We can achieve emotional and mental well-being even if we only have a few minutes to do it each day.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi wrote on her facebook page on 17th June, 2020, "When we say the Mijima or the middle path we might think this is the easiest path. In reality, we are finding that this is not easy. Treading the path with stability, without losing balance and without going towards the extreme seems to be more difficult. Here I am talking about the path we have to tread with regard to protecting ourselves

from COVID. We have to keep reminding people not to worry too much while at the same time we have to urge them not to be careless." She reminded us to refrain from extremes that we should not be scared out of our wits or not to stay unheeded to the danger of COVID-19.

During this time of change, it's natural for our minds to feel stressed and anxious as we are not able to do all the usual activities which we used to. As mental health is no less important than physical wellbeing, it is necessary to adapt or focus on the activities we are still able to do in order to keep stress and anxiety at bay.

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## Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> July, 2020)

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2020:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing and Magway Region, fairly widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay Regions and Kayah State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of regionally heavy falls in Rakhine State and isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Regions, Kachin, Chin and Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with rough seas are likely at times off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35-40)m.p.h. Wave height will be about (9 -12) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Moderate monsoon.

**FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2020:** Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2020:** Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

## 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](mailto:dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been 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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# Malaysia's ruling coalition wins first by-election since coming to power

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's ruling Perikatan Nasional (PN) coalition won its first by-election by a landslide on Saturday since coming to power in March.

The candidate from United Malay National Organization (UMNO) that representing PN defended its Chini state-assembly seat in Pahang state, drawing 13,872 votes while two competing independent candidates obtained 1,222 and 137 votes respectively, the Election Commission said.

The by-election was held following the death of UMNO assemblyman Abu Bakar Harun from a heart attack in May.

The opposition Pakatan Harapan (PH) fielded no candidate but former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad endorsed one of the independent



PM Muhyiddin Yassin cobbled together Perikatan Nasional in March after the sudden collapse of the previous administration. **PHOTO: AFP/MALAYSIA'S DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION/NAZRI RAPAII**

candidates.

PN is led by Prime Minis-

ter Muhyiddin Yassin, who was sworn in in March following

the resignation of Mahathir. —Xinhua ■

## Australia locks down high-rise apartments as virus cases spike

MELBOURNE — Thousands of residents in several high-rise apartments in Melbourne went into lockdown for at least five days Saturday, as officials struggle to control a virus outbreak in

Australia's second biggest city. Hundreds of police were deployed to enforce the lockdown of nine public housing towers, as the country recorded its biggest daily increase of coronavirus

cases in months.

The rise is driven almost entirely by 108 new cases in the southeast state of Victoria.

"There are many, many vulnerable people who live in these towers," Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews told media on Saturday.

"Some of them will be returning home in the latter part of today, knowing that they will not be able to leave their home for a further five days."

The immediate lockdown in Melbourne's north would be a "massive logistical task" that includes supplying food to around 3,000 residents and deploying at least 500 police officers per shift, he added.

Victoria's Deputy Chief Health Officer Annaliese van

Diemen said a number of cases had been detected in the towers, possibly exposing a highly vulnerable community with underlying health conditions.

"The first priority here is to find every case in those towers, so that we don't have an explosion of infections," van Diemen said.

Victoria has ramped up testing and restrictions since a flare-up of cases last week.

Another two Melbourne neighbourhoods were also told to stay at home from midnight Saturday, adding to the nearly 300,000 people put under restrictions on Tuesday. The measures allow residents to leave their homes for essential reasons only, including for work and to buy food. — AFP ■



Hundreds of police enforce the lockdown of nine public housing towers in the Australian city of Melbourne. **PHOTO: AFP**

## 14 feared dead in nursing home as heavy rain lashes western Japan

TOKYO — Fourteen people were feared dead at a nursing home in western Japan Saturday as record rainfall triggered massive floods and landslides, forcing authorities to issue evacuation advisories for more than 200,000 residents.

The victims were found "in cardio-respiratory arrest" at the facility for elderly people that was

flooded after a nearby river broke its banks, governor Ikuo Kabashima from the western region of Kumamoto told reporters.

Authorities in Japan often use that term before a doctor officially certifies death.

"The Self-Defence Forces have launched rescue operations," Kabashima said, adding that three others at the home

were suffering from hypothermia.

Some 60 to 70 people were in the home as water rushed in to the second floor Saturday morning, public broadcaster NHK said.

Local officials separately said another person was also found in cardio-respiratory arrest in landslides in Kumamoto. They had previously said two

were feared dead.

Elsewhere in Kumamoto, one person was seriously injured and nine others were missing while about 100 people were stranded as roads were cut off by floods and landslides, NHK reported.

The nation's weather agency downgraded rain warnings by one notch from the highest emer-

gency level in Kumamoto and nearby Kagoshima, but Prime Minister Shinzo Abe urged local people to be "on maximum alert".

Abe ordered 10,000 troops on stand-by for immediate deployment to join rescue and recovery operations, pledging the central government would "do its best to take emergency measures, prioritising people's lives". — AFP ■

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### China's major internet firms log higher revenue

BEIJING — China's internet and related services sectors have maintained expansion in the first five months, displaying enhanced profitability despite the COVID-19 epidemic, official data showed.

Major internet companies raked in 471.9 billion yuan (about 66.8 billion U.S. dollars) in the January-May period, up 14.9 per cent year on year, 10 percentage points higher than the growth rate registered in the January-April period, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

During the first five months of the year, the operating profit of the industry rose 3.1 per cent year on year to 53.3 billion yuan.

Meanwhile, the sector's spending on research and development neared 23.7 billion yuan, increasing by 10 per cent over the same period in the previous year. The internet sector has become a key component of China's "new economy" as the country undergoes a shift to growth driven more by technology and consumption.

— Xinhua ■

#### Afghanistan President's cousin shot dead in Kabul

KABUL — A relative of Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani was shot dead in Kabul, Afghan media reported on Saturday.

As per the reports, Police on Saturday said cousin of Ghani was found shot dead inside his home in Kabul. Further details are awaited. — ANI ■

## Amid US virus struggle, Trump visits Rushmore and bemoans racial protests

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump bemoaned protests demanding racial justice as “violent mayhem” Friday, but said little about an alarming resurgence of coronavirus cases as he attended a crowded, fireworks-studded Independence Day celebration beneath majestic Mount Rushmore.

Trump, under fire for his response to America’s spiraling coronavirus caseload four months before the presidential election, spoke on the eve of the July 4th celebrations before thousands of closely-packed people — many of whom chanted “Four more years;” few of whom were wearing masks.

In the shadow of four notable predecessors — George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln, whose likenesses

are carved into a granite cliff in South Dakota’s Black Hills — the president called on supporters to defend America’s “integrity”.

He accused protesters calling for racial justice of “a merciless campaign to wipe out our history, defame our heroes, erase our values, and indoctrinate our children.”

“The violent mayhem we have seen in the streets and cities... is the predictable results of years of extreme indoctrination and bias in education, journalism and other cultural institutions,” he added.

he US has been engulfed by a once-in-a-generation reckoning on racism and police brutality since George Floyd, an African American man, was killed by a white police officer in Minneapolis on May 25.

That has included a rethink of how America venerates sym-



US President Donald Trump, shown here with First Lady Melania Trump, said little about the coronavirus during his remarks at Mount Rushmore. PHOTO: AFP

bols of the pro-slavery Civil War

of Confederate generals to re-tiring the Mississippi state flag,

which featured the Confederate emblem.— AFP ■

## Dominican Republic vote goes ahead despite virus threat

SANTO DOMINGO — Voters in the Dominican Republic are set to defy rising coronavirus infections on Sunday to choose a new president in an election that could end 16 years of unbroken

rule by the center-left Dominican Liberation Party.

Opposition candidate Luis Abinader is favorite, having taken a commanding lead in opinion polls despite being forced to

abandon his campaign after he tested positive for COVID-19.

Abinader, a 52-year-old businessman, had recovered sufficiently to close out his campaign at a rally on Wednesday.

“Change is coming and the PLD is going,” he promised a crowd of hundreds of his supporters, allowed to gather after the government eased a lockdown.

A Gallup poll gives Abinader, from the opposition Modern Revolutionary Party (PRM) more than 53 per cent of voter intentions, 20 points ahead of the ruling PLD party’s Gonzalo Castillo. Another poll gives Abinader a slimmer 12 point margin.

“The Dominican people should remember that a president is elected in one day, but the consequences last for four

years,” Castillo told a crowd of his supporters in the town of Monte Plata.

### Odebrecht cloud

Corruption has been a key issue after protests in recent years over the involvement of local officials in the Latin America-wide Odebrecht graft scandal. The Brazilian construction giant has admitted to doling out \$92 million in bribes in the Republic in exchange for winning public works contracts.

Castillo, a former public works minister, is standing for the PLD because outgoing president Danilo Medina cannot seek another term under the Republic’s constitution.

The Republic has a poor record on corruption, ranking 137th out of 180 countries on Transparency International’s corruption index.— AFP ■



Ruling Dominican Liberation Party (PLD) candidate Gonzalo Castillo shakes hands with supporters in San Pedro de Macoris ahead vote / at Gonzalo Castillo’s press office. PHOTO: AFP

## Suicide attempts, fights aboard rescue boat carrying 180 migrants

### ABOARD THE OCEANVIKING IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

— After suicide attempts, fights erupting on board, and migrants jumping into the sea, charity SOS Mediterranee launched an emergency alert on Friday, demanding to be allowed to immediately disembark at a safe port.

The humanitarian group, whose vessel the Ocean Viking has been at sea for over a week with 180 migrants aboard, said it could no longer guarantee the safety of the migrants or crew and called a state of emergency in an unprecedented step.

The boat, which has been in limbo in the Mediterranean south of Sicily, has been waiting for over a week for permission from Italy or Malta to offload the migrants at a safe port. Tensions have risen in the past week, as witnessed by an AFP reporter aboard the boat, as migrants have become increasingly desperate to reach land. Others have become distraught not being able to telephone their families to let them know they were safe. A member of the crew, Ludovic, told AFP he had never witnessed such violence on board a rescue vessel, after a spate of fights between migrants and threats of suicide.— AFP ■

## Spain locks down 200,000 as US gears up for July 4 crowds

BARCELONA — Spain put 200,000 people back in confinement and England reopened its beloved pubs on Saturday as Europe stuttered its way out of lockdown while the United States braced for large crowds hitting the streets to celebrate Independence Day.

The death toll in Russia surpassed 10,000 and Brazil’s right-wing President Jair Bolsonaro, who once called the coronavirus a “little flu”, diluted facemask

rules even though his country’s death rate is the world’s second-highest and steadily rising.

The announcement from Spain’s northeastern Catalonia region came as Europeans began converging on their favourite holiday spots thanks to an easing of border restrictions put in place to stop the spread.

“We have decided to confine the Segria zone following data confirming a sharp rise in

COVID-19 infections,” Catalonia’s regional president Quim Torra said.

Gatherings of more than 10 people would be banned — a relatively light lockdown similar to one Britain imposed this week in the city of Leicester.

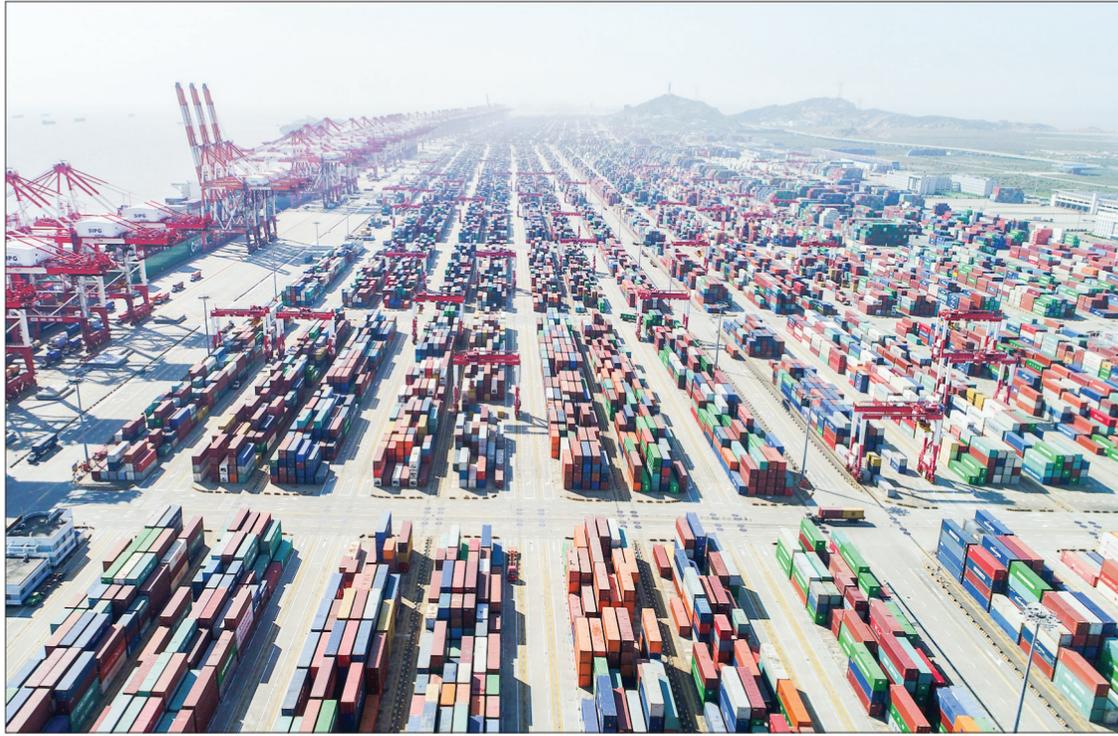
A virus that has touched almost every country since emerging in China late last year is making an uneven retreat after forcing billions to spend months confined to their homes.

‘I’m no killjoy’

Nations are now rethinking how their cities can function and economies survive in the face of an illness that has infected at least 11 million and killed 526,000 globally.

But some hints of the old way of life are returning — none less so than in England, where drinkers trooped back to their local pubs for the first time since late March.— AFP ■

## China goods, services trade surplus tops 420 bln yuan



A container dock at Yangshan Port in Shanghai, east China. PHOTO: (XINHUA/DING TING)

BEIJING — China's international goods and services trade surplus stood at 424 billion yuan (about 60 billion U.S. dollars) in May, official data showed.

Trade income amounted to 1.59 trillion yuan while expenditure stood at 1.17 trillion yuan, according to data from the State Administration of Foreign Exchange.

In breakdown, China's goods trade income stood at 1.46 trillion yuan with an expenditure of 965 billion yuan, leading to a 494.2-billion-yuan surplus, the data showed.

Meanwhile, services trade saw a 70.2-billion-yuan deficit, as services income and expenditure stood at 130.2 billion yuan and 200.4 billion yuan, respectively. —Xinhua ■

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### S.Korea's foreign reserves grow to 410.75 bln USD in June

SEOUL — South Korea's foreign reserves grew for the third consecutive month to June as the weak U.S. dollar raised the conversion value of non-dollar assets, central bank data showed Friday.

Foreign currency reserves amounted to 410.75 billion U.S. dollars as of the end of June, up 3.44 billion dollars from a month earlier, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK).

The reserves increased by 3.77 billion dollars in April and 3.33 billion dollars in May each amid the weak dollar that expanded the conversion value of non-dollar assets.

Amid the COVID-19 outbreak across the world, the foreign exchange market saw a rise in volatility.

The country's foreign reserves were composed of 372.58 billion dollars of securities, 26.04 billion dollars of deposits, 4.79 billion dollars of gold bullion, 3.08 billion dollars of special drawing rights (SDR) and 4.25 billion dollars of IMF positions. — Xinhua ■

## Portugal announces plan to raise stake in national airline TAP

LISBON — The Portuguese government on Thursday announced its decision to increase its stake in the national airliner Air Portugal (TAP) from 50 per cent to 72.5 per cent to retain the company's financial control.

"In order to avoid the collapse of the company, the government opted to reach an agreement with private shareholders to buy part of its position for 55 million euros (61.84 million U.S. dollars)," Finance Minister Joao Leao said at a press conference.

The European Commission's approval of a lending in the amount of 1.2 billion euros (1.36 billion U.S. dollars) to TAP is "to unblock financial aid for TAP and avoid the bankruptcy of an essential company for the country," he said.

"This is a very important investment for TAP," which "must

be managed with a sense of responsibility and rigour," Leao said.

Meanwhile, Minister of Infrastructure and Housing Pedro Nuno Santos said that after weeks of negotiations, "the state will have the conditions that will allow it to assist TAP."

The current CEO of TAP Antonioaldo Neves will be replaced "immediately," Santos said, adding that the government will choose a company to find "a qualified team to manage TAP in the international market."

"It was a good solution for TAP, that was always our goal and now we will start a more challenging phase for the airline," Santos added.

According to the minister, TAP needs "qualified management" and "qualified managers with competence in the aviation

area." Since 2016, the state has held 50 per cent of TAP, a result of negotiations by the government with the Gateway consortium (of Humberto Pedrosa and David Neeleman), which took 45 per

cent of the carrier's capital. The remaining 5 per cent is in the hands of the workers.

TAP has been virtually paralyzed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. — Xinhua ■



The Portuguese government on Thursday announced its decision to increase its stake in the national airliner Air Portugal (TAP) from 50 per cent to 72.5 per cent to retain the company's financial control. AFP/FILE PHOTO

### Philippines to open another air terminal to international flights

MANILA — The Philippines said Saturday it will reopen one more terminal at its main airport in the capital for international travel, expanding service operations to airlines from Japan and other countries beginning next week.

Ninoy Aquino International Airport in Manila said it will restart international flight operations at Terminal 3 beginning July 8.

Arrival and departure flights of All Nippon Airways, along with seven other airline carriers, will be allowed to resume at the terminal, airport authorities said. Japan Airlines and JetStar Japan, as well as other foreign carriers permitted to operate, will continue flying out of Terminal 1. — Kyodo ■

## Port sector to witness cargo volume contraction, project delays: ICRA

NEW DELHI — Although the port sector has been classified under essential services and remained operational during the lockdown, the adverse impact on domestic economic activity as well as a slowdown in global trade has resulted in a steep contraction in cargo volumes at the major ports.

Similar to the 22 per cent decline in April, May also saw a 22 per cent decline in throughput, according to a research report by rating agency ICRA.

While the decline was across major cargo categories, petro-

leum, oil and lubricant (POL), thermal coal and container segments witnessed significant contraction, it said.

"The recovery in port sector will be contingent on the pace of recovery of the domestic industrial activity and the global economy," said Ankit Patel, Vice President and Co-Head of ICRA Ratings.

"Further, factors like changes in global supply chain pattern during the recovery phase will also have an impact on the cargo profile."

Of late, anti-China senti-

ment has also been building up momentum which could also be a headwind for the trade growth. The full year outlook for the sector remains negative with volume contraction expected in FY2021, said Patel.

The recovery among the cargo segments should be relatively better for essential products like POL and thermal coal, which should be in line with lockdown relaxations and the pickup in domestic economic activity, while for segments like coking coal and containers the recovery may be long drawn.

ICRA expects that while general cargo throughput may witness five to eight per cent contraction for full year 2020-21, the container segment may witness a decline of 12 to 15 per cent during the same period.

K Ravichandran, Senior Vice President and Group Head of ICRA Ratings, said the credit profile of port sector companies is expected to witness pressure in the near to medium term due to the impact of Covid-19 outbreak and the subsequent lockdown imposed. —ANI ■

# UK, Indian firm salvage satellite operator Oneweb

LONDON — The UK government and Indian telecoms giant Bharti are to take control of the collapsed satellite firm Oneweb, they said Friday, as Britain seeks to expand its post-Brexit space capability.

Britain and Bharti will each invest \$500 million into Oneweb, the government said in a statement after it quit the European Union's Galileo satellite programme with its exit from the bloc on January 31.

The deal is aimed at delivering Britain's "first UK sovereign space capa-

bility," the statement said.

Oneweb, which is headquartered in London, will now seek to complete the construction of a constellation of low earth orbit satellites providing enhanced broadband and other services to countries around the world.

"The move signals the government's ambition for the UK to be a pioneer in the research, development, manufacturing, and exploitation of novel satellite technologies through the ownership of a fleet of Low Earth orbit satellites," the statement said.

Britain will take a "sig-

nificant" equity share in the company, while Bharti will provide commercial and operational leadership for the venture. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's spokesman declared that Britain could now become a "pioneer" in new satellite technology that enables it to also develop better broadband and telecommunications services. "The deal will support the UK to be a pioneer in the research, development, manufacturing, and exploitation of novel satellite technologies, whilst boosting UK manufacturing," the spokesman said.—AFP ■



The UK government and Indian telecoms giant Bharti are to take control of the collapsed satellite firm Oneweb. **IMAGE CREDIT: ONEWEB**

# Wireless carriers start disaster info service for foreign tourists

TOKYO — Major Japanese wireless carriers recently launched a service to provide foreign tourists with disaster relief infor-

mation via mobile phone short message service in the event of an earthquake or typhoon.

Three mobile phone

service operators -- NTT Docomo Inc., KDDI Corp. and SoftBank Corp -- began the service last Wednesday and will send information such as the number of a visitor hotline run by the Japan National Tourism Organization and the web address of NHK World-Japan, the multilingual broadcasting service, when a disaster occurs.

Messages will be written in English, Korean and simplified or traditional Chinese characters according to the user's domestic wireless carrier. Travellers will have to use a roaming service provided by one of the three Japanese carriers to receive them.

The introduction of the new service comes at a time when the estimated number of foreign visitors to Japan plunged to just 1,700 in May, an all-time low for the second consecutive month, due to travel restrictions imposed by Japan and many other countries to curb the spread of the novel coronavirus. The three companies said they began preparations for the multilingual disaster information service after many foreign visitors were unable to receive emergency information when a magnitude 6.7 quake hit Japan's northernmost main island Hokkaido in September 2018.—Kyodo ■

# Philippine officials faked data showing ex-Wirecard exec in country

MANILA — Philippine immigration officers falsified records to show ex-Wirecard executive Jan Marsalek briefly visited the country after he was sacked from the collapsed German payments processor, the justice minister said Saturday.

German and Philippine authorities want to question the former chief operating officer as part of their separate investigations into the Wirecard accounting scandal, but his whereabouts are unclear.

Entries in the Bureau of Immigration database show Marsalek arrived in the Philippines on June 23 -- the day after he was

fired -- and left for China on June 24.

But CCTV footage, airline manifests and other records prove Marsalek was not in the country on those dates, minister Menardo Guevarra said in a statement.

"The investigation has now turned to the persons who made the false entries in the database, their motives, and their cohorts," Guevarra said.

The immigration employees have been stood down and face punishment. Investigators were also looking into "possible criminal responsibility" for the fake entries, he said.—AFP ■



File photo taken Nov. 7, 2018, in Tokyo's Shinjuku Ward shows the logos of Japan's three major mobile phone companies -- NTT Docomo Inc., KDDI Corp., the operator of "au" services, and SoftBank Corp. **PHOTO: (KYODO)**

<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (093N/S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V PACAO VOY. NO. (093N/S)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>5-7-2020</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AWPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA SHIPPING LINES</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2012S)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V BLPL TRUST VOY. NO. (2012S)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>5-7-2020</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>AIPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE</b></p>	<p><b>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</b> M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1122 S/N)</p> <p>Consignees of cargo carried on <b>M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1122 S/N)</b> are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on <b>5-7-2020</b> and cargo will be discharged into the premises of <b>HPT</b> where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. Phone No: <b>2301185</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Shipping Agency Department Myanma Port Authority</b></p> <p>Agent For: <b>M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES</b></p>
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# Green areas of urban pride need to be sustained in Yangon

By Swe Oo Wai

**P**UBLIC health and greening natural environments with hygienic conditions have to be taken into consideration to make joint efforts in the implementation as the global nations of nowadays are doing their utmost to undertake all-round development. The green areas gradually becoming smaller in size can be seen in the major cities in the international community once the urban areas make more progress. With this notion that the green areas should not shrink slowly by slowly, Yangon, the most economic developing city, is being transformed to the one with larger green areas.

We are putting more efforts in transforming Yangon into the

one with larger green areas, quoted the speech by Yangon Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, adding that conservative measures are required to keep up the green areas in Yangon that has emerged as the world-class city with accelerated momentum.

Measures to maintain green areas in Yangon

Constant measures are being taken to keep up green areas in Yangon such as Maha Bandoola Park, Thakhin Mya Park, People's Square and Park, Kandawgyi Garden and Lake, Inya Lake. In addition, efforts to green in their environs are being made for ensuring that the areas will be covered with trees and plants as well as grass. But actions have



Inya Lake. PHOTO: TIN SOE

to be taken not to have effect on existing green areas as modern buildings are under construction near the environs of Kandawgyi Garden and Inya Lake.

The experts point out that a city must have at least 30 percent of green area so that it can contribute to the public health. The increased construction of new buildings brings the trees to be cut down in Yangon, thereby leading to the biggest challenge to the conservation of green areas.

The green areas of Yangon

The renowned parks and lakes of Yangon like Kandawgyi and Inya are the eye-catching sites in the modern urban lifestyle. In these environs, a series of high-rise buildings remain to emerge. Only if this condition is well dealt with can the green areas of Yangon be conserved.

It is necessary to create more parks in Yangon for the public to spend relaxation hours and also to conserve the existing ones to continue for a long time. There are 63 parks and 112 playgrounds under the control of Yangon City Development Committee. Out of



The photo shows Kandawgyi Garden and Lake, one of the designated green areas in Yangon. PHOTO: TIN SOE



them, some are being upgraded with the growing of more trees and plants and conservative efforts.

The green areas of a town can retain its atmosphere and temperature and water sources can be also conserved. Moreover, it can prevent from natural disasters and it can protect underground water resources from shrinking. As a result of these advantages, the YCDC launches monsoon tree planting programmes in the townships every year during which more than 600,000 saplings are grown.

In addition to parks, playgrounds and gardens of the YCDC, flowers, plants and shady trees are grown on the roundabouts, triangle islands and traffic islands and constant conservative measures are being taken by municipal workers almost all the time in Yangon.

#### **Prevention against the decline of green areas**

The authorities imposed a ban on further construction of the buildings on the green areas and environs in Yangon. The

government's move should be welcomed as it is of importance. If the buildings emerged from these areas, there would be population growth, environmental pollution, loss of natural resources, and reduction of green areas. For these reasons, the ban had to be imposed.

The municipal workers have to tackle the pollution on the water surface of Kandawgyi Lake brought about by the restaurants and remove the pollutants from the water with the help of heavy machinery.

In a bid to carry out conservative measures to compete with modern cities from neighboring countries, Yangon Zoological Garden, Kawdawgyi Garden and Lake, Inya Lake, Hlawga National Park are designed as green areas in Yangon. Conservative measures are being constantly carried out in these green areas along with the further growing of plants and trees.

#### **Shady trees grown as many as possible**

Ever-beautiful sceneries

must be created in Yangon and shady trees must be grown on vacant lands as many as possible. The collective growing of the trees and plants must be undertaken. It is necessary to get the habit of small-scale growing of plants at the apartments. The modern buildings are constructed in conjunction with gardens in the international major cities such as New York, Sidney, Tokyo and Singapore. Gardens are earlier designed in the construction of high-rise buildings these days.

In the international cities, secondary students have to grow 10 trees each. They are being nurtured to have the good habit of nursing the trees since the age of the student and they are awarded at the end of every year. This knowledge convinces them that the trees and plants bring benefits not only to the people but also their environment.

*Translated by  
Htut Htut (Twantay)*

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## Positive views of technology signify opportunities for tech companies in Myanmar

**T**ECHNOLOGY companies are finding growth opportunities and revenue during the COVID-19 pandemic, and they are poised to gain reputational strength from their performance as more people depend on technology while in social isolation.

A consumer survey report of people across several Myanmar cities that was conducted prior to the outbreak indicates overall positive sentiment towards the technology sector and high expectations among the Myanmar public for technology companies to improve many facets of life.

The survey, conducted by research firm InsightAsia and public relations and digital marketing agency Vero, found that over 80 per cent of respondents say the growth of technology in the country makes information easily available, while 2 in 3 consumers believe tech improves the quality of education and 64 per cent say it improves quality of life.

“Technology has enabled business continuity during forced social distancing, and tech companies have stepped up to deliver innovative solutions as only they can,” said Vero Asean Managing Director Brian Griffin. “After Covid-19, we will see technology playing an enhanced role in everyday life, with the potential to reshape business conduct and consumer behavior.”

The survey shows that 61 per cent of Myanmar people believe that the growth of technology creates more business opportunities, which has proven true during the crisis period, as individuals and organizations now rely on digital technology more than ever before. Seventy per cent of respondents reported overall positive feelings about tech products, while only 3 per cent said their overall feelings are negative.

Despite the benefits of technological advancement, people in Myanmar also have concerns about its dark side: 81 per cent of respondents said that some people use tech for evil and criminal behavior, while

more than half (53 per cent) believe that social media carries fake news. The latter statistic is particularly relevant in the context of Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg's recent statements that the site will not fact-check political speech or ads.

“While Myanmar people appreciate technology now more than ever, fears about the potential harm caused by technology persist, and people want to know that technology companies are doing their best to address some of these negative consequences such as cybercrime, data privacy, and false information. We are confident that most technology companies recognize the need to address these threats and will step up their efforts to protect their users,” said Skylar, Vero's Myanmar Account Director.”

As a result of the generation gap in tech adoption in Myanmar, the age of a brand's target audience has a major impact on how it handles communications. Younger people who have grown up in a world of ubiquitous mobile devices and internet access have a different perspective from older generations. One example from the report shows that 40 per cent of Gen Z compare tech products online, while only 5 per cent of Gen X do so.

“From scheduling meetings to delivering meals, technology companies have embraced their power to connect people. During the COVID-19 crisis, these services have become the bedrock of our new reality,” said Barkha Narula, Research Manager of InsightAsia Thailand. “After the pandemic, we expect to see Myanmar's homegrown tech industry becoming more competitive, fueled by innovations like IoT, while effective market communication and flexible customer support service will be the key differentiators that set companies here apart.”

InsightAsia and Vero's full Tech Consumer Reports for Thailand, Viet Nam, and Myanmar are free download available at <https://vero-asean.com/vero-insightasia-tech-consumer-report/>

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## FIFA opens online refereeing course 2020

The Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), an international federation of football associations, was conducting an online refereeing course 2020 from 4 to 8 July.

On 4 July, FIFA instructor Mr Mohamad Rodzali Yacob (FIFA Refereeing Development Officer), Singaporean Mr John Chia Eng Wah, and Malaysian Widiya Habibah

Shamsuri taught the class.

MFF's general secretary U Ko Ko Thein made one of the opening remarks at online course.

A total of 35 persons under the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) – referee instructors, two referees' supervisors, 20 male referees, and ten female referees – joined the refereeing course.—Kyaw Khin ■

## Gabriel Martinelli signs new long-term contract with Arsenal

LONDON — Gabriel Martinelli has signed a new long-term contract with Arsenal.

The 19-year-old Brazilian forward put pen to paper on his new deal exactly one year after he joined the Gunners.

The Arsenal youngster has scored 10 goals in 26 appearances for the Gunners this season since joining from Ituano last summer.

“I am very happy that Gabi has signed a new contract with us. He is a very talented young player and he has impressed us with his performances, attitude and work-rate,” said Mikel Arteta, Head coach in an official statement.

“We are looking forward to getting him back to full fitness and to watching his development at our club,” he added.—ANI ■



Arsenal's Brazilian striker Gabriel Martinelli. (PHOTO | AFP)

## Thiem to donate prize money from Djokovic's Belgrade event: report



Storm in Belgrade: Dominic Thiem pictured with Novak Djokovic. (AFP PHOTO/ANDREJ ISAKOVIC)

VIENNA — World number three Dominic Thiem will donate the prize money that he won in Belgrade during the ill-fated Adria Tour, where Novak Djokovic and three other participants tested positive for coronavirus, his father was quoted by Austrian media on Friday.

Thiem took part in the Belgrade leg of the exhibition event organised by Djokovic, where social distancing was minimal and matches were played in front of thousands of fans, earning a storm of criticism.

Thiem's father, Wolfgang, who also trains the 26-year-old,

defended Djokovic, telling Austria's Presse daily that the world number one had not broken any of Serbia's and Croatia's coronavirus rules and the tour had aimed to collect money for charity.

“Of course the dancing in the nightclub (during the tour) was not ideal, but Djokovic did nothing bad in principle,” he was quoted as saying.

“...a few thousand euros (dollars) are collected for a clinic treating children with cancer.”

He did not say to whom Thiem would donate his prize money.

The 33-year-old Djokovic donated more than 40,000 euros (\$45,000) to the Serbian town of Novi Pazar, badly affected by the pandemic to help it fight a growing outbreak of the disease, Serbian media reported Wednesday.

Thiem has acknowledged tennis players at the Adria Tour made “a mistake” after Djokovic, Grigor Dimitrov, Borna Coric and Viktor Troicki all tested positive to COVID-19.

Djokovic and his wife Jelena, who had been self isolating since returning from the tour, have now tested negative.—AFP ■

## Lampard, Ancelotti call for VAR 'reflection'

LONDON — Frank Lampard called for a “big reflection” on

VAR at the end of the season after another controversial in-

cident involving the technology in the midweek Premier League fixtures.

Tottenham were controversially denied an equaliser against Sheffield United on Thursday when Harry Kane's goal was chalked off for a dubious handball against Lucas Moura.

In a Premier League season marred by debatable calls, Spurs boss Jose Mourinho, whose side lost 3-1, said he feared for the future of football if the system were not addressed.

Chelsea boss Lampard, who played under Mourinho as

a player at Stamford Bridge, said the goal should have stood.

“It was certainly one where common sense could have been involved but if the rule book states something, then the handball is given,” he told reporters on Friday.

“We need a big reflection at the end of the season.

“VAR has improved us in ways but there are ways to improve it and I think a collective sit-down at the end of the season with everybody - referees, managers, players, anybody involved in football that loves the game can have an input to try and

get it closer to where we want to get it to.”

Everton boss Carlo Ancelotti also called for a review of the rules.

“It was a really, really complicated and difficult decision,” he said.

“I think the decision they have made comes from the rules that there are in place in this moment and so maybe at the end of this season we can think if it's possible to change this type of rule but in this moment it's like this and we have to respect the rules.”—AFP ■



Tottenham striker Harry Kane reacts after having a goal disallowed by VAR. (AFP/MICHAEL REGAN)

# SUNDAY SPECIAL

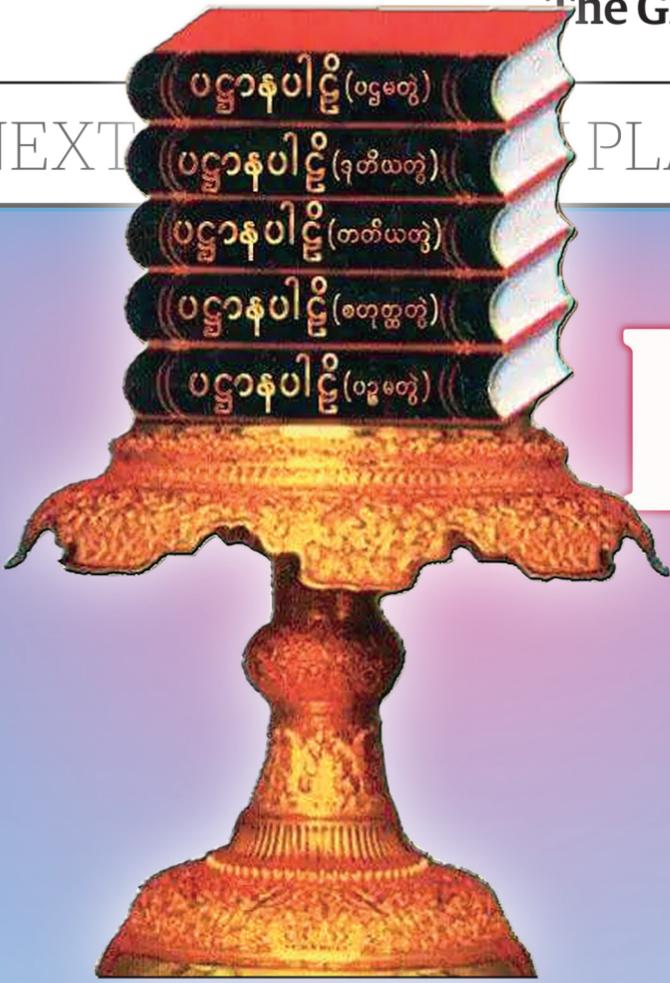
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# PAHTANA PALI and Me

**S**INCE I was ten, I have, so far, heard the sound of the recitation of the PaHtan from the one and only monastery of my quarters every year. In that monastery, 3-day non-stop recitation ceremony of Pahtana Pali is always held in the middle of May. Therefore, I was used to that Pali sound even though I had never seen the Pali text before. When I was fifteen, I could recite some of the text by heart because I intensively listened to that sound of recitation. I was very pleasant in my mind whenever the time came to hold PaHtan recitation ceremony. We, Buddhists, all know that PaHtan is a very great sermon which was preached to all spiritual Nats by our Lord Buddha during three-month of Lent in heaven. There may be a question "Why did Lord Buddha preach it in heaven?" \_ the reason is that Abidhamma(another name of PaHtan) is so wide, deep and difficult to understand for ordinary people. But, we have been listening to it because of the gratitude of Venerable Sariputra, who was the first Buddha's two chief male disciples. Gradually, I got an idea to recite by myself, but I had no text in my hand. One day, I saw a group which shared the texts of PaHtan on Facebook and some donors offered the texts in that group. Fortunately, I received these books through post office. PaHtan has texts in five series. The first book has 464 pages, the second 493 pages, the third 605 pages, the fourth 636 pages and the last 442 pages. As the total pages of five books are 2,640, it is impossible to recite at one sitting. Even the monks have to recite it in turn in 3-day or 5-day non-stop recitation ceremony of PaHtan. I decided to start reciting it on my eighteenth birthday. You must not miss to recite it in at the right time every day if you start to pay obeisance to Lord Buddha with PaHtan.

Here, I would like to share some effective rules that should be obeyed when you recite PaHtan. Firstly, wash your face, hands and clean your body because no Spiritual Nats come to listen to the sound of PaHtan if your body smells dirty. Secondly, recite it at the right time and do it every day. Thirdly, recite loudly and clearly so that Spiritual Nats could hear the Dhamma sound. The last one is to share your merits with various kinds of Spiritual Nats. To be exact, you do not forget to recite Metta Paritta first because some evil Nats do not want to hear such kind of Dhamma sound and they can be angry with you. At that time, they can get you in trouble with their power if your luck is very low coincidentally. So, you should share your loving-kindness with both good srpritaul nats and the evil ones before you recite PaHtan. As for me, I successfully accomplished my first mission by reciting all pages from the first book to the last book two times. Here, you can ask me the question " Is reciting Dhamma important?" \_ In fact, Dhamma is for practice, not for recitation. But, Recitation Dhamma makes you feel peaceful and pleasure of mind even you cannot practise Dhamma. Therefore, I suggest that you can recite PaHtan to pay obeisance to our Lord Buddha if you want to enjoy peace of mind in your life.



**By Myat Lay Ayeyar**  
BA (English)  
East Yangon University



DESIGN: BT

# TO THE ONES WHO WOULD SURVIVE

By Yar Zar Myint Zan

**T**HIS summer was not enjoyable. It was the summer when no cuckoos sang, when no Gum-kino flowers or Cassia flowers bloomed. The days of our renowned water festival came to an end dry and tasteless.

It was in Wuhan, China, during December 2019 that the problem started. Dr. Li Wenliang, an ophthalmologist, warned that it could be a kind of peculiar virus, but his warning was rejected. The authorities concerned even threatened his life, and made him unsay his words. When the Wuhanites, infected by the virus, fell down on the busy streets one after another, the problem could not be concealed any longer. Ironically, Dr. Li had already died of that virus infection. Then, the viruses had gone at large everywhere in the world. It spread up to 185 nations while The U.S, Italy, Spain, Britain, and Iran suffered a serious set-back.

Taking measures to cope with the health crisis of those countries, our motherland had stayed safe for some time. We did not know when the time would come for our turn. Nor did we know how and when it would enter into our body and blood. Nor did we know when it had already got into our blood, body, and flesh.

Up to the time when Boris Johnson, the Prime Minister of The U.K, and Prince Charles were harmed by the virus, Myanmar had still been in the list of two countries in Asia, that had stayed safe. No sooner did Myanmar confirm its first case on the 23rd of March, 2020 than Laos also had a confirmed case on the following day.

A Myanmar well-known poem composed by Poetess Kay Thi Hlaing goes:

"...In spite of seeing clear water  
I do not dare to drink  
Lest it should contain poison..."

That is right. Our situations are that we do not dare to drink clear water; nor do we dare to inhale fresh air; nor do we dare to kiss the fragrance of the flower; though lovers, we do not dare to embrace each other; nor do we dare to do shaking hands with our intimate friends; nor do we dare to open our mouths wide to speak. The

invisible virus could be found on the body of any other person, on my hands or yours, on his or her clothes, on his or her lips, or in the breath exhaled by any other person. It could be hiding anywhere in our organs. The food we often eat, the place we often haunt, the song we often sing, all have been under a large drape of Death. Factories, workplaces, public transportation, all have got frozen. The whole mechanism of the society that had been running without a break has now stopped. Has the world come to the Doomsday?

One of my friends said, "When a disaster strikes, there can take place good values, reflecting the sunny side of the human nature, for some people would even sacrifice their lives and properties"

I agree with him. What is more, when humans meet a kind of disaster or pandemic, when death is knocking at your door, the meaning of existence becomes more serious. For even ordinary people, when death is close at hand, their selfishness and ego get faded, replaced by sympathy and loving kindness. It is the light shining through the darkness, roses among the mud, a water lily amid the fire.

COVID 19 has shaken the earth. Our daily functions have stopped. Our lifestyles have changed. How long will this pandemic continue to confine and threaten us? Therefore, we cannot help thinking to ourselves: "Is the world almost ruined? And who will survive?"

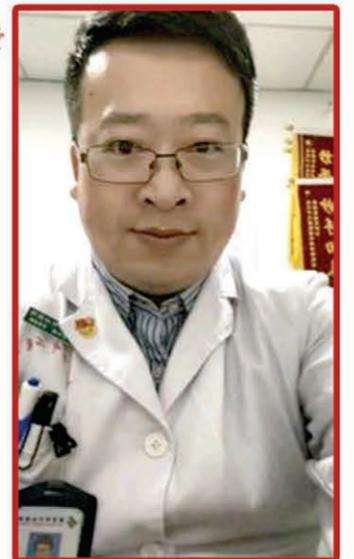
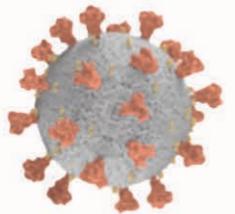
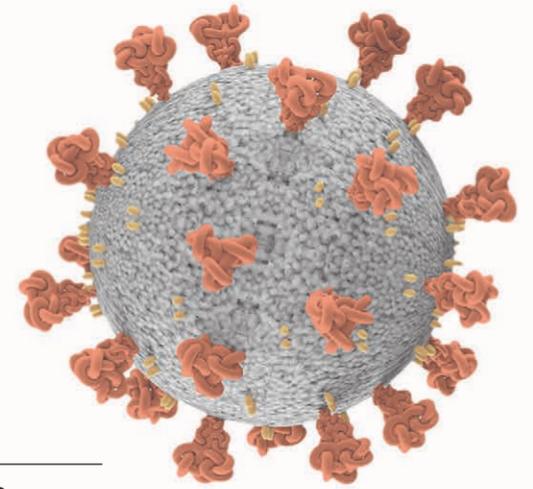
In fact, this pandemic disease cannot be both the first and the last for the Mother Earth has already gone through many pandemic diseases such as smallpox, plague, cholera, influenza, AIDS, MERS, SARS, tolling thousands of lives in Asia, Europe, Africa, and America.

If  
Dr. Li's warn-

ing had been taken seriously, the world would not have encountered a situation like this. In the present, the world has been flung into a situation worse than those of two World Wars.

The folly of human beings is that they take things seriously when they are in danger. But when things are over, they are once again ignorant as ever. It is due to those who did not take a lesson from the mistakes that the record book of history has got thicker and thicker. God forbid it! A pandemic might once again break out in the future. Then, humans will get it over or be overcome. During the pandemic, there would be many losses of human lives. It is uncertain for you and me to survive, but the earth will surely be in existence. The earth will still be beautiful with trees, birds, rivers, mountains, ocean, and a new blue sky.

What has obsessed my mind these days is my worries that the new world would be ruled, once again, by the foolish, greedy, irresponsible hands.



Dr. Li Wenliang



**T**HERE would be different definitions of success for everyone. Some prefer identifying success with happiness to accepting it through what they have conquered their overall professional goals.

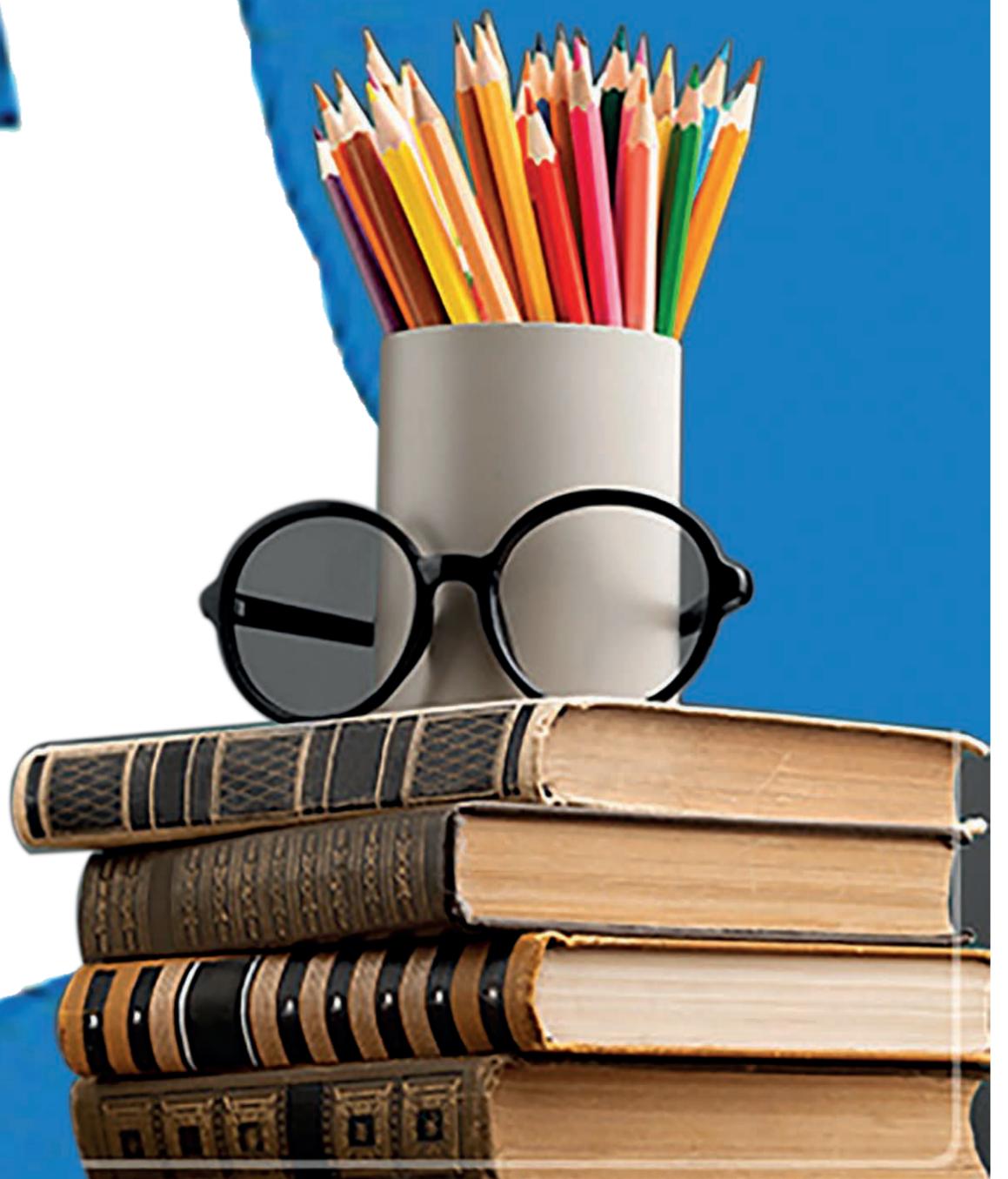
To me, success would not be based on how much money I have, how many friends I have already made, how broad my professional and communicative network is and how I have overcome the obstacles for my accomplishments. Pursuing my further studies for serving my country, on one hand, and on the other hand, fulfilling my professional aspiration in line with the proverb, "The future of the world is in my classroom.", I regard my success with the success of my pupils.

As a prospective teacher with a passion about teaching, sharing what I know with my students, the future leaders, I always feel enthusiastic to get them motivated for the sake of their life and professional skills so that they could lead themselves towards a better, brighter life. Thus, I give credit to myself as a successful person when I observe that their eyes sparkle with excitement when I explain lectures or share my experiences for the guidance of their life skills. At such times, I feel peaceful and blissful over what I have performed. At present, while making efforts, I have been upgrading my academic knowledge so that I could get such fruits of success, which is not necessary for my life, and with which, however, I would live my life. The brighter their eyes, looking at thirst for learning, the more efforts I put into my career. While explaining every key word of the target lesson interestingly, in the bilingual approach, I continuously make eye-contact with my pupils. When I observe their eyes sparkling with excitement, I feel flattered, saying to myself, "I did it! I am successful today". I really follow the saying, "Better than a thousand days of diligent study is one day with a great teacher.". Each and every word in this truism, being meaningful to me, encourages me so much: I prepare my lessons before going to classroom so that I would appear to my students as an effective, efficient and guiding teacher in the lively pedagogic atmosphere. As all teachers know, different children have different passions in different subjects. Besides, they are also dynamic in their own philosophy of prosperity of life. In fact, they do not want to learn all the subjects prescribed for their respective levels by the Ministry of Education. In fact, some children feel bored during the periods of learning science subjects, while others feel absorbed in learning English as a foreign language. At such times, I strongly believe that a teacher is responsible for dealing with the situation by creating an inclusive educational atmosphere for all students. I am convinced that language teaching should integrate content with language so as to equip the learners both with the language skills and the knowledge of the current trends. So the day I could create an interesting classroom period and inspire my students to learn more is my successful day.

To sum up, my favourite proverb goes: "A good teacher is like a candle - it consumes itself to light the way for others." Accordingly, I am determined to make the most of my life in my humble profession by nurturing the little children of different mindsets like nurturing the plants with different potentials, which would determine my success or measure my success.

# How would you define your success? A Teacher's Perspective

By Htoo Cin Aung  
Final Year, English,  
Yangon University of  
Education



# Traditional weaving on manageable scale in rural areas sees profits amidst COVID-19



**T**RADITIONAL weaving businesses on a manageable scale in Thaphanchaung Village in Minhla Township, Magway Region, have

seen profits amidst COVID-19. During the pandemic, the clothes and blankets made of natural products from the village's domestic traditional loom businesses have attracted customers from other regions.



seen profits amidst COVID-19.

During the pandemic, the clothes and blankets made of natural products from the village's domestic traditional loom businesses have attracted customers from other regions.

The silver lining of the traditional weaving businesses, which are facing a decline in rural areas, came amidst COVID-19.

Jobs for weavers drying up and rural resi-

steps followed are dye, sew, create designs, and weaving. Nowadays, weavers have become rare, and youths are unwilling to take up weaving.

Myanmar's traditional weaving, from which many rural people relied upon for their livelihoods in the past, is facing extinction as it can not compete with machine-operated weaving. — Ahtet Min Hla IPRD

(Translated by GNLM)

Myanmar's weaving businesses were passed down through generations as family businesses. But now, weaving businesses are only surviving on a manageable scale in rural areas.

There are many steps involved in weaving, from the stage of cotton, to weaving, to producing a variety of designs. Normally, the



By Thet Oo (Thaton)

**M**YANMAR'S markets and bazaars teem with a remarkable variety of native handicrafts, with stalls displaying lacquerware, metalwork, brass and marble sculpture, woodcarvings, embroidered textiles and more.

Another great place to hunt for souvenirs are the shops which line the stairways leading into the many Buddhist pagodas. These specialise in quintessentially religious paraphernalia, from incense to mini Buddhas and prayer beads.

Most of the hand-made souvenirs and religious paraphernalia come from rural areas of the country. Made of materials as diverse as wood, crystal, and precious gems, and strung together in varying sizes and quantities,

The beads themselves can be made from wood, depending on the focus of the birthday of the prayer. For example, one who born in Monday is advised by astrologers to use a string of beads made from palm wood.

### Prayer beads made of rattan fruits in Thaton, Mon State

Making prayer beads from fruits of rattan trees is a traditional domestic business for the folk people in the Village of Zayitchaung in Thaton Township, Mon State.

The bead making process begins with collecting rattan fruits from nearby regions in the rainy season (in May) when the trees produce fruits.

To turn the fruits to beads, they are dried under the sun and boiled, and turn them into balls with a machine. A maker can produce about 20 garlands of prayer beads with 108 number of balls.

After stringing the balls, the makers put them on finishing touches.

The customers are from the souvenir shops from pagodas in other regions.

### Prayer Beads Construction

The standard construction of Buddhist prayer bead consists of 108 number of beads with each string in like a garland. The material of the bead may vary according to one's preference. The number of beads can also vary from 18 to 9.

Some decades back in time, many Buddhist Monks in Myanmar and lay persons carry their "Prayer Beads" called in Burmese "Seik Pa De" — when they are on pilgrimage or visiting monastery.

# "Seik Pa De": Buddhist Prayer Beads



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

The prayer beads is a symbol of living a virtuous life style. Looking at the history of Prayer beads -Seik Pu Ta- meaning restraining one's mind using the beads could achieve concentration of a

single point.

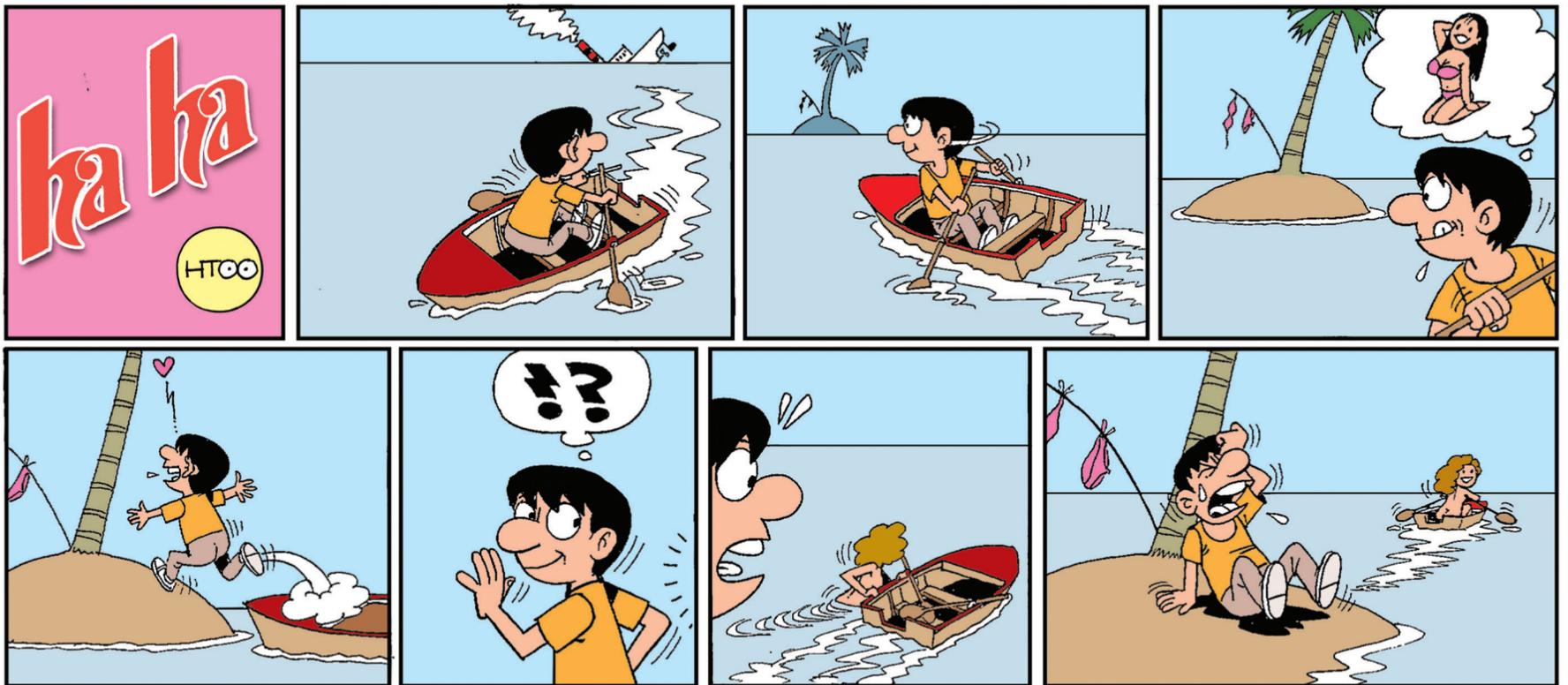
It is strictly considered as Samatha(Concentration) Practice and is not a Vipassana practice.

Prayer beads are a traditional tool in Buddhism and are especially common among Buddhists. The beads are commonly used to count the recitation of the Nine Supreme Qualifications of the Buddha.

Buddhist prayer beads can be as beautiful as they are powerful. Symbolizing important Buddhist concepts, these beads not only serve a role in rituals, but also feature prominently in paintings and sculptures of Buddhist teachers and deities.

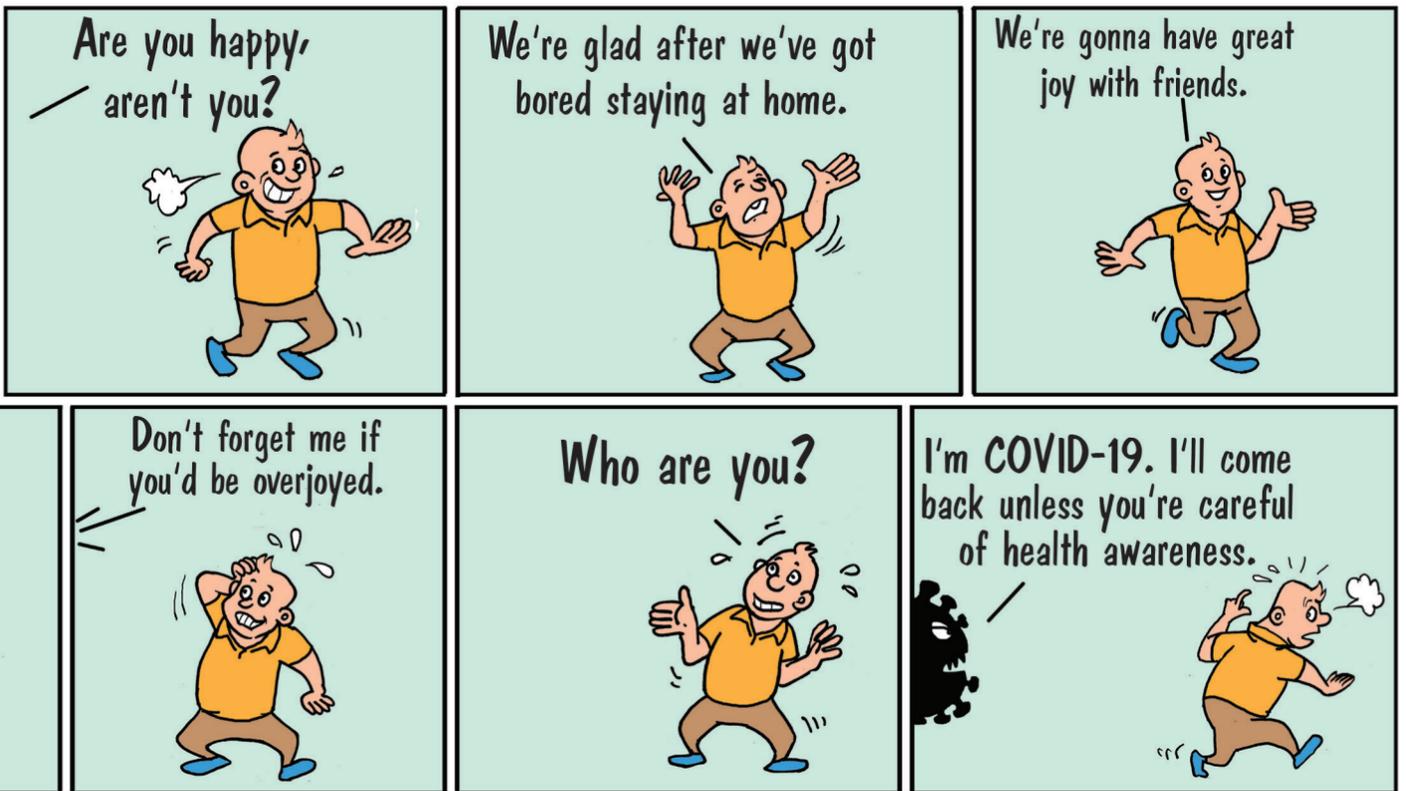


# SUNDAY COMICS



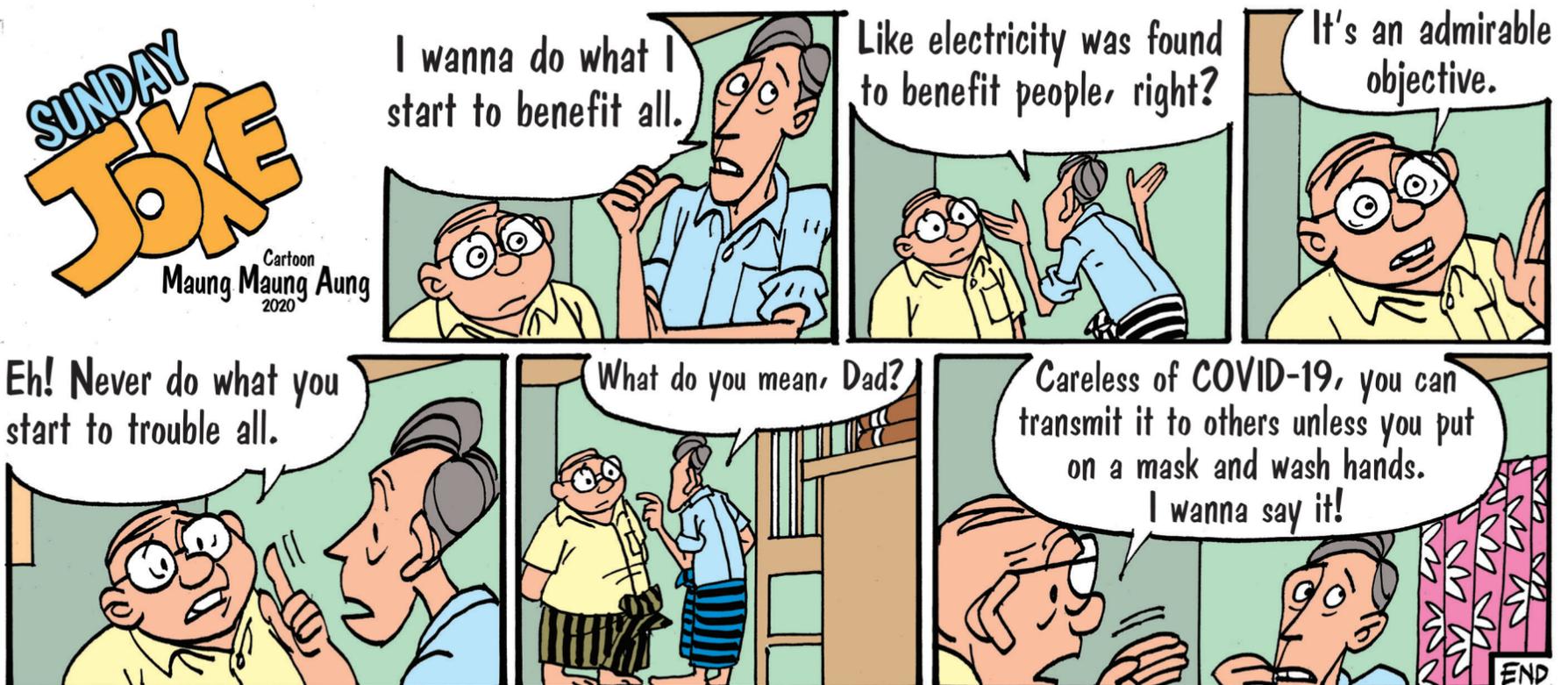
## PEOPLE WILL BE PEOPLE

Cartoon  
Maung Shwe Win



## SUNDAY JOKE

Cartoon  
Maung Maung Aung  
2020



END

# Doubting Thomas

By San Shwe Baw

**S**G 412 - one of Assumption University's language classrooms at Suvabhumi Campus. A lecture was in progress, the lecturer's calm and clear voice dominating the whole classroom.

In the first stanza, the poet is telling her loved ones what she does not want them to do after her death, asking them not to mark her death in the usual way that the dead are mourned. During the second stanza, the poet is addressing what she thinks death will be like for her. She does not want sad songs or flowers at her grave. She does not want a tree planted in her memory and she does not even mind if her loved ones forget her. She is saying that she doesn't want to be a burden to those who she would leave, and wants to let them move on. All she wants from her loved ones is .....

The students in Ajarn Mark's English class seemed to be forgetting even to breathe, listening to his interpretation of Christina Georgina Rossetti's poem 'Song'. However, the effects of his captivating words were fading fast from Thu Ta's mind as a different scenario began to unfold inside his mind.

"Thu Ta, why do you always

refuse to go to Tanyin with me to see U Dar Na? I know you don't have any belief in the afterlife at all. But what's there to lose in accompanying me to a medium who is renowned for making contact with the dead?" A voice echoed in his ears.

The debate on the existence of life after death had been raging between Thu Ta and his childhood friend Chit Tin ever since they left their high school in Yangon. So when Thu Ta came back to Yangon from Bangkok to spend his October holidays with his mother, Chit Tin - who had chosen to remain in Yangon to study dentistry - decided not to let the time pass in vain. Incessantly he kept persuading Thu Ta to visit U Dar Na, whose psychic powers he found so overwhelming. At the same time, Chit Tin knew only too well it would take a gargantuan effort on his part to make Thu Ta give the matter even a passing thought.

"The problem with people here is that they place too much faith on the witch doctors," retorted Thu Ta as always. "You are scientific-minded, Chit Tin. How come you, too, seem to be as superstitious as most other people here? Grow up, Man!"

Chit Tin was well-prepared

for such taunts from Thu Ta, and was therefore ready with a counter punch. "Thu Ta, why do people often say 'Seeing is believing?' I am sure you would come to believe in the hereafter if U Dar Na could arrange a brief meeting with one of your close relatives who has already passed over?"

To Thu Ta, no topic could be more boring than that of life after death. However, this time, Chit Tin looked determined to discuss it - or rather, to argue about it nonstop throughout the holiday period. Unless I shut this man's mouth with some logical explanation, I won't be able to get any peace, he thought. "The cliché you've just quoted is questionable, Chit Tin. Once, we both watched a magic show together, where the magician cut a man into two parts. Remember? We saw the man's torso on the table and the other half on the floor with our own eyes. Did we believe then that the magician really killed the man there?"

Chit Tin saw the cleverness in the defense of his friend, but was not ready to give up yet. "Thu Ta, you'd one day thank me as someone very special for preventing you from becoming an atheist. Remember, what we both watched at that time was a magic

show meant for entertaining people, not a reality show. Now, let's make a compromise. Let's go and see U Dar Na for a session. It will take only ten minutes or so. If you still stick to your original belief that there is no more life once we die even after meeting the mental medium U Dar Na, I, too, will change my way of thinking - I mean if you can convince me otherwise. How' that?"

Thu Ta seemed to be giving the matter some thought before he replied, "I don't actually care if you follow my way of thinking or not," he said at last. "Yet, I am curious to find out how he will indoctrinate me to make me accept that fallacy", evidently shifting his tone from being totally ignorant to somewhat noncommittal.

Sensing a change of tone in his friend's voice, Chit Tin felt that there was no better time than now to press him hard with the topic and said, "It is nothing to do with indoctrination, Boy! It is a matter of providing you

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## FROM PAGE-S-7

with the best afterlife evidence by the most prominent medium in our country. Did you read last week's 'Pyi Myanmar Journal'. There was an interview conducted by the Journal's reporter with three well-known Russian physicists, all of whom agreed that U Dar Na was able to prove them life after death very convincingly. Why don't you let him prove it to you as well if you are such a non-believer? I can drive you there in my own car and you can make contact with your sister?"

That unexpected mention of his only sister, who had died suddenly a few months before, was enough to prompt Thu Ta to think about Chit Tin's proposal in a more reasonable manner. In fact, her death had been shrouded in mystery as no one in his family were able to explain why she had disappeared from home for two days before she was found dead in a car accident near Mont Popa, over 450 kilometers from her hometown Yangon. More inexplicable was the fact that she had died as a nun, not as a laywoman that she used to be. Yes, what's there to lose in seeing U Dar Na - the medium Chit Tin almost worships? he reasoned.

They made the trip the next day.

U Dar Na, as Thu Ta observed, was a hermit. He asked Thu Ta for some personal information about his sister, then began speaking in a loud clear voice, as if to summon her spirit.

"The guardian spirit of the Popa cemetery, help me contact the spirit of the 20-year old Pann Taw Win, who was buried in your cemetery on the eighth of July, 2013."

No sooner were those words uttered by the hermit than another voice - a young woman's voice - so gentle

and affectionate, could be heard coming out of U Dar Na's mouth, but sounding nothing like him.

"Maung Lay (Little brother), can you and Mum forgive me for what I had done?"

Still, Thu Ta said nothing. This was it, he thought: Impersonating voices must be U Dar Na's way of making the gullible believe in the so-called afterlife.

Then U Dar Na said, in his own voice, "Your sister has already left this place because she cannot stay here long. But she left a message to tell you that she had left home secretly to start her life as a nun, knowing that both you and your mother would not allow her to do so. She also said that she had explained why she had decided to be a nun in a letter that she left in a drawer in your mother's bedroom."

At these words, Thu Ta felt a strong shake on his shoulder.

And then, abruptly, he was back in his classroom, back at the university far from home, back to discussing the poem with Ajarn Mark. His seatmate next to him had poked him to get his attention.

"Thu Ta, the lecturer was saying, 'what do you understand by the last two lines of this poem?'"

Thu Ta quickly scanned across and down to the bottom of the poem and read the lines: 'Haply I may remember, And haply may forget.'

His answer, which caused some reaction in the classroom afterward, came to him without thinking..

"Maybe my sister will remember me from her spiritual-world; Maybe not!

# Departure of Dad

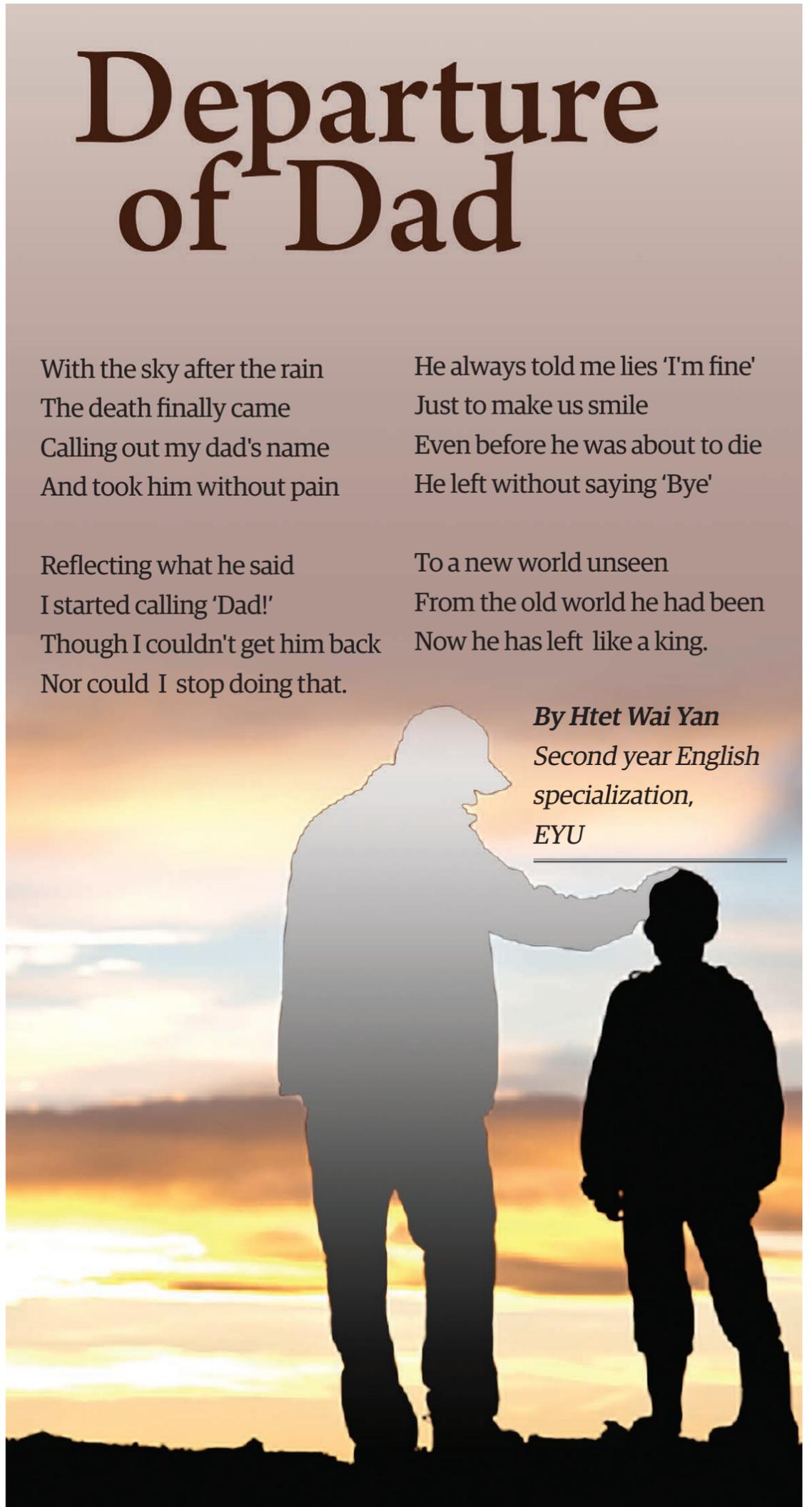
With the sky after the rain  
The death finally came  
Calling out my dad's name  
And took him without pain

Reflecting what he said  
I started calling 'Dad!'  
Though I couldn't get him back  
Nor could I stop doing that.

He always told me lies 'I'm fine'  
Just to make us smile  
Even before he was about to die  
He left without saying 'Bye'

To a new world unseen  
From the old world he had been  
Now he has left like a king.

*By Htet Wai Yan  
Second year English  
specialization,  
EYU*



## Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

**Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**