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Saturday, 5 December 2020

State Counsellor reports on COVID-19 containment measures

As of now, COVID disease has been in our country for quite some time. Because of the prolonged period, I can understand that this has caused stress for our people. However, at this time, it is important for our people to understand that it is necessary to take extraordinary care. At the present moment, the number of people who have tested positive with the COVID disease is over 90,000, and it is getting near to the 100,000 marks. This is quite significant. Therefore please note this fact carefully. In the post-election period, within a period of more than one week, we estimated that the infection rate would increase because the people started to gather in crowds. The infection rate went up just as we had estimated.

Apart from that during the Tazaungdine holidays, there had been instances of people gathering in crowds. We will surely see the effect of these crowds. This is something which could not be avoided. We have said this repeatedly. Please wear masks when you go outside. Please wash your hand regularly. We told people to practice social distancing and to stay apart from other people at least six feet apart as much as possible. However, people have not followed these rules and regulations. Their compliance level has been low. That is why we have seen a slight increase in the infection rate in the states and



divisions, in fact, in the whole country. When we say a slight increase, actually it is quite considerable. In order to drive home the point to our people, I wish to quote some facts and figures. We have to give medical treatment in the case of a citizen or even a foreigner who is visiting our country. If a person gets infected with the disease, if we have to provide medical treatment, the cost is between K15 to K20 lakhs. This represents the direct costs as well as indirect costs. This is for one person. If the situation gets critical, the cost

is between K25 to K50 lakhs. This is the total cost when we add up direct costs as well as indirect costs. So please think about this. In our country as the number of infected persons is now over 90,000 and getting near the 100,000 figure, you can imagine how much money we have spent on medical costs; as we have said earlier, if we had to spend between K15 to K20 lakhs for a normal patient, this is equivalent to the amount of money we would have to spend to provide vaccines to 300 patients when we get these vaccines.

We don't have the vaccines yet. Even if the vaccines are available, we would have to buy in competition with other countries. Donations make up a certain amount. However, we would have to buy the bulk of these vaccines. When we have to buy where will the money come from? It will come from the Union treasury. At the present when we are providing medical treatment to COVID patients, all these costs are being paid from the Union treasury. The Union government gets money from the people to put in the Union treasury.

Therefore, although we are expending money for the people we had to spend money for unavoidable reasons not where this money should be spent. The cost of providing medical treatment to infected persons (if the infection is not critical) can be used to provide vaccines for 300 persons.

The expense of medical services for each critical case is equivalent to the cost of the vaccine for 1,000 persons. Moreover, the average quarantine cost for each person who had contact with a positive case is about Ks.600,000. The considerable amount of this budget expenditure could not be used for other issues. We need to work for the economic recovery of the country in the post-COVID-19, and the country would also need to rehabilitate economy. If we could use medical treatment budgets in the economic recovery plan, it will benefit the country and the people in the long term.

Everybody should consider it. We have frequently reminded that 65 per cent of positive cases do not show symptoms; and that, they might feel well. Most of these persons are middle-age persons with good health conditions without showing any symptoms. However, the virus can spread to others. The infected persons might have any underlying disease and poor health conditions.

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Objectives for 100th Anniversary of National Day 2020

- Rights to basic education for all school-age children
- Rights to life-long learning of practical and useful subjects for socio-economics
- More education investment in ethnic areas for multi-sectoral development of the Union
- Technological and infrastructural inputs for education development
- Establishment of a Democratic Federal Union with the collective strength of all the nationals

Motto of 100th Anniversary of National Day 2020

- Make the Union Peace with collective efforts of all the nationals commencing 100th anniversary of National Day

10th Waning of Tazaungmon 1382 ME
(9-12-2020)

Announcement on making ballot papers, envelopes for 2020 General Election

(4-12-2020)

1. THE Union Election Commission published the ballot papers and envelopes including advance ballot papers and envelopes used in 2010 General Election, 2012 By-Elections, 2015 General Election, and 2017/2018 By-Elections at the Ministry of Information.
2. The commission also made the ballot papers and envelopes including advance ballot papers and envelopes for 2020 General Election at MoI.
3. Ballot papers and envelopes for the elections had to be published to be sufficient for all Hluttaws (including Ethnic National) from all constituencies (including the places where elections could not be held). The ballot papers and envelopes ordered and received are as follows;

Table of ordered/received ballot papers

Sr.	Name of the Hluttaws	Number of ballot papers		Payment (Kyats)
		Ordered (sheets)	Received (sheets)	
1	Pyithu Hluttaw	44,169,344	44,169,344	An advance payment of K4,000 million was made to MoI.
2	Amyotha Hluttaw	44,148,229	44,148,229	
3	Region/State Hluttaw	43,295,374	43,295,374	
4	Ethnic National Hluttaw	7,718,173	7,718,173	
	Total	139,331,120	139,331,120	

Table of ordered/received ballot envelopes

Sr.	Size of the envelopes	Number of Envelopes		Payment (Kyats)
		Ordered (pieces)	Received (pieces)	
1	Big Envelope (10" x7")	3,200,000	3,200,000	96,000,000
2	Small Envelope (7" x5")	10,300,000	10,300,000	149,350,000
	Total	13,500,000	13,500,000	245,350,000

Union Election Commission

National Literary Award winners for 2019 announced

THE Ministry of Information has announced National Literary Awards, and two veteran writers for the Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement yesterday.

The National Literature Award Selection Committee chose writers U Earnt Maung (pseudonym Earnt Maung) and U Nyunt Maung (pseudonym Maung Maung Nyunt-Mandalay University) for the Lifetime Award for Literary Achievement, in recognizing their dedicated efforts into literary works.

The committee has also selected the books in the first edition and the authors in the following list.

Genre	Winners and Books	Publishing Houses
Novel	Nga-Phan-Tha-Mar by Moe Kyaw Zin	Kant Kaw Wut Yee
Short Story	Lan-Sone-Tot-Ywa by Natmauk Ani Cho	Lin Lun Chin
Poem	Kha-Yu-Pit-Laun-Chor	Hnit Kar La Myar
Sar-padetha	Hnin-Taung-Tan-Ka-Pan-U-Yin by Nyan Wai (Myittha Myay)	Seik Kan Thar
Translation (Knowledge)	Glimpses of World History: Author Jawaharlal Nehru by Boe Hlaing	Hnin-Siphyu
Translation (fiction)	The Puppet Boy of Warsaw by Sein Win Sein	Lin Lun Khin

Genre	Winners and Books	Publishing Houses
General Knowledge (arts)	Revolution of 20 th Century Myanmar Poems by Dr Zaw Naing	Moe Thaut Pan
General Knowledge (applied science)	Cancer and Myanmar foods by Dr Hla Kyi (Nutrition Specialist)	Shin Ma Taung
Political Literature	International Relations of Myanmar by Sinbyukyun Than Tun	Quality Publishing House
Fictional Paper (Essay)	Playing Dice with God and Es-say collection	Wun Cha Taung

Each winner of Lifetime Award for Literary Achievements will receive K5 million and K2.5 million for each author of National Literary Award respectively.

Winners are urged to contact the Literature Award Administration and Support Committee at 01-387724 and 01-381449. They must bring two 5x8 inches colour photos and two passport-size colour photos along with a brief personal summary to the committee's office within one week of this announcement. The address of the committee is No. (529/531), Merchant Street, Sarpay Beikman Building, Yangon.

The reward-giving ceremony will be held on 1st Waxing Day of Nadaw (at the celebrations in honour of the The Literati Day, 15 December (Tuesday) at the ceremony.—MNA

(Translation by Aung Khin)

Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards announced

SARPAY Beikman under the Printing and Publishing Department of the Ministry of Information announced its awards for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Competition for 2019.

The awards were chosen for the genres of novel, selected short stories, selected poems, general knowledge (arts), general knowledge (science and applied science), sar-padetha, Myanmar culture and arts, children literature, youth literature, politics, plays, translation (knowledge), and translation (fiction).

The first-prize winner will receive K 1million, the second one K700,000 and the third one K500,000.

Winners are urged to contact the Literature Award Administration and Support Committee at 01-381449.

The award presenting ceremony will be held in Yangon in line with the COVID-19 preventive rules of Ministry of Health and Sports. Its time and venue will be announced.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Strive for development with united strength

All our ethnic national brothers and sisters need to strive with united strength based on national unity for the success of the peace process, for overcoming the various steps of the democratic transition process, for democracy to take firm root and for it to develop, progress and endure.

(Extract from the Message of Greetings sent by President U Win Myint on 4 January 2020 on the occasion of the 72nd Anniversary of Independence Day.)



Landscape of Bagan Cultural Heritage Zone. PHOTO BY: TUN TUN THEIN

State Counsellor reports on COVID-19 containment measures

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Moreover, it is needed to have constant vigilance because these elderly persons are also vulnerable to the infection and could suffer life-threatening complications.

The death toll has passed 1,900. The exact and updated figure is 1,998. It can be expected that the number would reach over 2,000 tomorrow. The death of each person cannot be substituted with anything, although the cost for medical treatment could be estimated at about 1.5 million, 2 million, 2.5 million or 5 million kyats. However, human life is invaluable. Therefore if you lose a family member or a close friend, because of your fault, how can you substitute for this loss? If you lose someone who is not from your family or nor your friend and this happened in another family or among their friends, how would you substitute for this loss? This loss is invaluable. You cannot put a monetary value to this loss.

Therefore, everybody needs to have constant vigilance. The cool season has set in with a

cool climate. We have already reminded that the disease can spread more easily under this condition. We wish to remind you again. Tazaungdine holidays have ended, and it is closer to the

some protection, it cannot guarantee 100 per cent protection in the tight areas. Therefore, constant vigilance is needed to prevent crowds from forming. The pandemic has broken out since

ing years. I understand that our people have a sense of duty. However, this attitude occasionally can vary because mental ability would decline in the long term. However, this ability must be strengthened. I still remember the advice of a Sayadaw (senior Buddhist monk) that moral disciplines need to be observed strictly although it can come loose like the sarong on the waist. The sarong will not cling tightly on the waist the whole day. It needs to be tightened. Similarly, moral disciplines must be maintained when they begin to come lax.

Therefore, the disciplines must be enforced against if it is needed for the well-being of the public. No one can imagine who would be the next victim of COVID-19. Carelessness could lead to full of remorse. The government could not do anything for regret. Therefore, please be vigilant. Controlling oneself means protecting others, their own future and the country. The government has spent tens of thousands, millions kyats up to now. Money did not fall down from the sky. It was taken from the state budget

from allocations meant for the country and the people. We will put more financial resources into the economic recovery plan next year with public contributions and more state funds as much as possible for a better trajectory in the post-COVID-19 period. That's why everyone needs to join hands and participate in starting from now.

We must compete with the whole world. When the COVID-19 vaccine comes out, all the countries will rush to buy it. After the vaccination programme, everyone will focus on the economic recovery plans. If we want to be the front-runner in this race, we need human resources and financial resources. So as not to lose our human and financial resources unnecessarily, I request everyone to follow the COVID-19 rules strictly. As the present year is about to end soon, try to leave behind your weariness and boredom in the old year, so that we may face the New Year with fresh and renewed spirits. Be happy and be healthy. Thank you.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Myaing, Aung Khin)

The government has spent tens of thousands, million kyats up to now. Money did not fall down from the sky. It was taken from the state budget from allocations meant for the country and the people.

Christmas and New Year events. It is very important not to have gatherings. It is an unavoidable fact that the infection will spread as soon as a crowd forms. It is not possible to stay 6-ft apart from each other in the crowd, while some persons would not wear their masks in the crowd. Although the mask gives you

March. In December, it has been 9 months. Actually, this 9-month period is much shorter than our future. There is no future for the dead. The 9-month is nothing compared with having no future.

Therefore, try to keep vigilant at present. We will have to make strenuous efforts for our country to recover in the follow-

COVID-19 Call Centre opens daily

In efforts to speed up the prevention, containment and treatment of the COVID-19 disease, the call centre (phone number 2019) is established by four communications operators and the Blue Ocean Company with the coordination of the Medical Research Department of the Health and Sports Ministry and Post and Telecommunications Department from 9 am to 5 pm daily at the Medical Research Department in Yangon.

Over 43 staff from the Medical Research Department and 17 volunteers from the Myanmar Medical Association totally 60 workers have been working at the centre since 8th April.—MNA

“People are the key”

DSA 62nd intake holds graduation parade

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Maha Thray Sithu Min Aung Hlaing attended the 62nd intake graduation parade of the Defence Services Academy in Pyin Oo Lwin yesterday.

Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Zeya Kyawhtin Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air Force) General Zeya Kyawhtin Maung Maung Kyaw, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commandant of Defence Services Academy, and senior officers from Pyin Oo Lwin station attended the ceremony.

Senior General Min Aung



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends the 62nd intake graduation parade of the Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin on 4 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

Hlaing first took their salute, and presented prizes to the outstanding cadets.

The Senior General ad-

dressed the cadets, took the salute from the cadets, and departed from the parade grounds.

After the event, the Senior



General met five award-winning cadets and gave words of encouragement at the guest hall of the headquarters of the academy,

according to the news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.—MNA (Translated by KZT)

MoI minister inspects MRTV (Tatkon) in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds meeting with MRTV officials at the MRTV Office in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw on 4 December 2020. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint inspected the works of the Myanmar Radio and Television in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Union Minister heard reports of MRTV Director-General U Ye Naing on the plan for celebrations of its 75th Anniversary, broadcasting of news and production of songs and other programmes for the special occasions, and technical arrangements.

MRTV has been performing its duties of informing, entertaining and educating since it was first established in 75 years ago.

The Union Minister urged the officials to try hard in producing creative programmes and news presentation, and work for production of new songs in commemoration of special occasion.

The Union Minister and party also inspected the broadcasting service's gramophone record section, film and tape preservation division, and archiving division.

MRTV was founded on 15 February 1946, and its 75th Anniversary or Diamond Jubilee will fall on 15 February 2021.

It is also making preparations for airing entertainment and commemorative programmes for its 75th anniversary.—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Two-day meeting on peacemaking processes concludes

A coordination meeting on making peace with ethnic armed organizations was concluded at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was participated by Vice-Chairman of NRPC and Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Lt-General Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), Secretary of Peace Commission retired Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Pyone Cho (a) U Htay Win Aung, Peace Commission Advisory Group members U Hla Maung Shwe and U Moe Zaw Oo and Direc-



Second day of coordination meeting on making peace with EAOs is in progress at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 4 December 2020.

tor-General of Ministry of State Counsellor Office U Zaw Htay.

They discussed future peace negotiation with NCA-S EAOs, the decisions made during the eighth and ninth JICMs, and implementation of the frameworks of NCA.

The meeting also detailed about further discussions on Table 2 for step-by-step implementation of works beyond 2020, the amendment to the framework for political dialogue, peace negotiation with non-signatories of NCA, and other peacemaking plans.

The peacemaking coordination meeting came to an end in the evening.—Myo Min Naing (Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

Capacity and technical skills of the public must be promoted



Capacity and technical skills of the public must be promoted. Knowledge will be shared on how to use mobile phones effectively for business and family affairs. At the same time, better relations could be established between the government departments and the public. Another example is the application of a licence. It could be applied online. Such methods will be explained in these programmes. These are only some of the programmes for the economic development of the country. The government has other major plans. For example, the foundation will be laid for the establishment of Korea-Myanmar industrial zone in Hlegu Township next month, followed by Myanmar-Singapore industrial park in the near future in the same township. The smart and eco-city project will be implemented in Dagon Myothit Township. It will be a new city project with developing technologies.

(Excerpt from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's report on COVID-19 situation amid containment measures, on 21 November 2020)

National Social Security Board Meeting (1/2020) held online

SOCIAL Security Board under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Immigration held the National-Level Social Security Board Meeting (1/2020) through videoconferencing yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw and Union Minister U Thein Swe, in his capacity as the Chairman of the National-Level Social Security Board addressed the meeting.



Union Minister U Thein Swe speaks during the National-Level Social Security Board Meeting (1/2020) on 4 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA

The Union Minister said that his office is focusing on implementing the four main pillars: to revive the economy and employment sector in response to the COVID-19 crisis based on international labour standards, to support work departments for employment and income generation, to protect workers in the workplace and to continue the social dialogue for solutions.

He continued the Social Security Board is accelerating the reform plans in information technology, medicine, administration and legal issues in collaboration

with international organizations including ILO, while working to ease the process of the delivery of benefits and the payout of insured workers in order to reduce the delay in the process and is testing the Wave Money financial service system to allow the payment of benefits through the online payment.

He added a three-month deferral on contributions of employers and workers in the industries and workplaces covered by the project; increased

financial benefits in medical and travel expenses from 6 months to 1 year during unemployment; and issuance of medical certificate (S-1) in accordance with the law and 60 per cent financial benefits to insured pregnant workers, COVID-19 affected workers and workers under quarantine.

The Union Minister also added that his office is providing medical treatment to 4,571 inpatients and 1,087,764 outpatients including those under treatment during the COVID-19 period in

2019-2020 fiscal year as well as COVID-19 positive patients since 14 November 2020.

The Ministry provided K19,791,178 million to 804,585 insured workers from 6,750 industries and workplaces as 40 per cent Social Security benefits from 13 May to 16 November and is also scrutinizing the issuance of the remaining insured workers.

A total of 67,792,563 million kyats has been earmarked for the second 40 per cent social security allowance for 979,109 workers in

the workplaces included in the Stay-at-Home programmes during the second wave of COVID-19. From 24-9-2020, applications are being received through the Online Web portal and township offices. As of 30-11-2020, 42,486,246 million kyats have been approved for 674,001 insured workers from 5,780 departments that completed the application.

Union Minister concluded the meeting after Director-General for Social Security Board U Maung Maung Aye coordinated the meeting. The meeting approved the 37 bulletins and 5 points to be decided and further activities.

The meeting was also participated by the members of the National-Level Social Security Board, representatives from Employers and Employees Associations and specially invited guests.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)

MoE discusses National Education Strategic Plan (2021-2030)

A coordination meeting on National Education Strategic Plan (NESP) (2021-2030) was held via videoconferencing yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun, Regions and States Social Affairs Ministers, Ethnic Affairs Ministers, the Permanent Secretary and other officials of Education Department.

The Union Minister firstly discussed the work plans in implementing the education reforms based on non-discrimination, leaving no one behind, no drop-out and rights to learn according to NESP(2016-2021), plans to meet the 21st-century



Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi joins the virtual meeting on National Education Strategic Plan (2021-2030) on 4 December. PHOTO: MNA

skills for all the students to become decent citizens with full of responsibilities and creative mind, the increase of government budget in education reforms,

capacity building for teachers, improving technology and infrastructure, the high rate in primary, middle and high school completion as well as in technical

and vocational training for giving first priority to ethnic regions.

The Union Minister continued to say about the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) 2019 Results that showed better abilities of Myanmar students than other three member countries out of six countries, the contribution of school textbook per student only in Myanmar and Malaysia among six countries and the performance of one-third of student that brings above the average in math skills while one-fourth of the student in reading skill and one-fifth of the student in writing skill.

He appreciated the efforts of teachers and other educational

officers and the participation of student's parents for bringing great success.

He emphasized the transparent performance in conducting the education reforms without taking bribes.

Then, Permanent Secretary for Education Dr Zaw Myint presented the NESP (2021-2030), and Director-General for Basic Education U Ko Lay Win briefed the Chapter (5) Basic Education of NESP (2021-2030) while other officials about Chapter (6) and Chapter (7).

The meeting came to an end after the discussions of attendees.—MNA *(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)*

MoSWRR organizes coordination meeting on establishment of Patheingyi Youth Training School

A coordination meeting on the establishment of Patheingyi Youth Training School in Mandalay was held via videoconferencing yesterday.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye said the training centre is aimed for establishment of a correction and rehabilitation centre to shelter the youths who have violated the law.

The Union Minister discussed the plans to accept more youths under 18 years old at the centre according to the Child Rights Law which defines a child as anyone at 18 years old, the management system of Patheingyi Youth Training Centre like 16 staff members for 211 youths, challenges amid COVID-19 pandemic, efforts of ministry for the centre including healthcare service, security and buildings in the first quarter of 2020-2021FY, plans to follow the COVID-19 health rules in the



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye joins the virtual meeting on the establishment of Patheingyi Youth Training School in Mandalay on 4 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA

centre, the Youth Policy which defines youths aged between 15 and 35 years, work plans in accordance with the 16 prior-

itized sectors of Youth Policy for the development of youths and awareness programmes for the youths to know their rights and

chances to stay in the scope of the law.

Then, the Head of Region Social Affairs and Principals and

staff of youth training schools briefed the current plans and needs of centres and the Deputy Minister, Directors-General, Deputy Directors-General and other officials coordinated the meeting.

In his concluding remark, the Union Minister emphasized the plans to keep carrying out despite COVID-19 to be familiar with the health guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports, trials for youths via videoconferencing, online intellectual talks in respective training centres, support of training for the human resource development of the country, educating programmes for the youths to know how to behave within the scope of law, group talks to exchange their views for mental development and the talks especially with those have experience regarding with drugs to refrain from using drugs. -MNA

(Translated by Khine Thazin Han)

Myanmar nationals abroad arrive back home by relief flights



Myanmar returnees are seen at the Yangon International Airport on 4 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA

A total of 181 Myanmar citizens stranded in foreign countries – 31 from France, Spain and neighbouring areas and 150 from Singapore –because of suspension of commercial flights returned home by relief flights yesterday.

Myanmar Embassy in Paris organized the relief flight of Amelia Airlines to bring back 31 from France, Spain and neighbouring areas. The flight landed at Yangon International Airport in the morning.

Myanmar Embassy in Singapore arranged the 29th relief flight of Myanmar National Airlines to repatriate 150 Myanmar citizens from Singapore. The flight landed at Yangon International Airport in the evening.

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

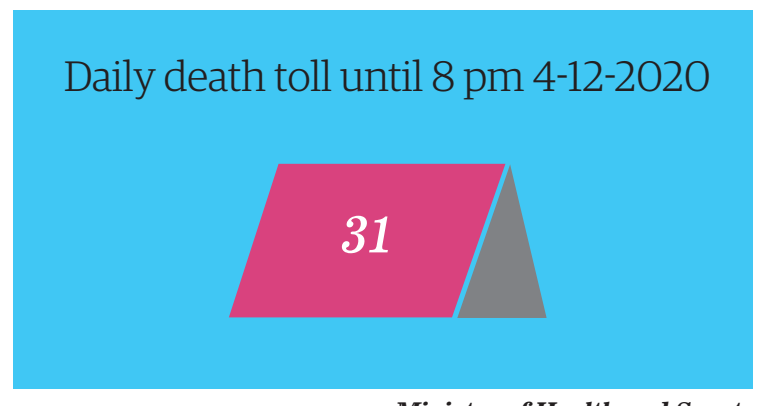
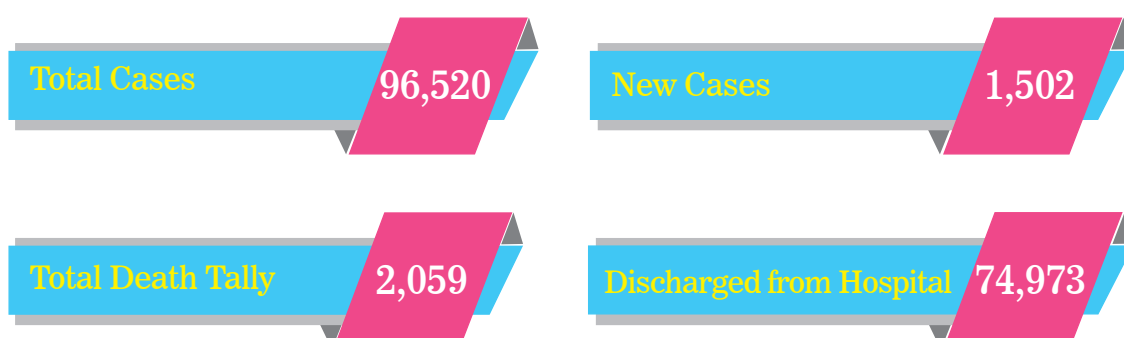
The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been working with Myanmar embassies in foreign countries, local ministries and shipping companies/organizations to bring back Myanmar citizens stranded abroad in accordance with the guidance of the National-Level Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19. -MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Tun)

1,502 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 4 December, total figure rises to **96,520**

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to **96,520** after **1,502** new cases were reported on 4 December according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these **96,520** confirmed cases, **2,059** died, **74,973** have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 4 December 2020



Ministry of Health and Sports

MoPFI deputy minister joins Sixth Tokyo Fiscal Forum virtually

DEPUTY Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win joined the Sixth Tokyo Fiscal Forum virtually yesterday morning from Nay Pyi Taw.

Deputy Minister for International Bureau of the Finance of Japan Mr Kenji Okamura and Dean of the Asia Development Bank Institute Mr Tetsushi Sonobe delivered opening remarks respectively at the forum.

At the forum, senior international officials and experts including the International Monetary Fund (IMF) discussed to increase emergency medical expenses at present as well as fiscal policy and measures for the post-COVID-19 economic recovery since COVID-19 is still having a significant impact on households and businesses; debt

relief methods and programmes; low-interest loans and grants provided by the IMF and the Asia Development Bank (ADB) to developing countries; extension of the debt repayment period to G-20 countries from January 2021 to end of June 2020 to support the growing spending on health of developing countries; and the possible financial risks of increased spending during the COVID-19 crisis and how to remedy it.

The forum focused on the management of fiscal risks as in response to COVID-19, which leads to a decline in government revenue and expenditure, increasing deficit and declining GDP growth and rising debt.—MNA

(Translated by Ei Phyu Phyu Aung)



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win participates in the Sixth Tokyo Fiscal Forum via videoconference on 4 December 2020. PHOTO: MNA

FDI inflow drops over \$800 mln in two months of this FY

By Nyein Nyein

THE Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) reached about US\$200 million in two months of this financial year (FY) – a decline of over \$800 million compared to the same period of last FY, according to the report of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

From 1 October to 25 November of this FY2020-2021, Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) allowed 14 foreign direct investments worth \$199.756 million.

“During the same period of last FY, MIC greenlighted 39

foreign investment projects valued at over \$1,027.013 million. Among them, the number of permitted or endorsed enterprises this year was 25 less than in the same period of last year, and the investment volume has reached only one-fifth,” DICA Director-General U Thant Sin Lwin said.

“FDI reached over K1 billion at this time last year. This year, FDI hit only K200 million, which is one-fifth of that last year,” said U Thant Sin Lwin.

MIC has set an FDI target of \$5.8 billion in the current FY.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Telenor launches Web Shield to keep Business Customers safe from cyber threats

TELENOR Myanmar on 1 December, announced Myanmar’s first new cloud-based internet security solution, Telenor Web Shield, for business customers of all sizes. This digital security tool, enabled from the Telenor network, helps protect customers from key cyber threats: malware, phishing and botnets attacks. Web Shield requires no additional hardware or software installations and is available for all Telenor business customers starting 1 December 2020.

“More and more businesses are moving online and rely on secure digital communication. COVID-19 has only accelerated this rapid digitalization. Business owners and executives must relate to and protect their businesses from rising cyber threats. With no installation required and instant protection over the network connection itself, Telenor Web Shield is the perfect solution to safeguard the enterprise while enabling our customers to focus on what matters to them – their business,” said Daw Yin Yin Htay, Chief Business Officer at Telenor Myanmar.

Growing concerns with cybersecurity and online safety

Concerns with cybersecurity and online safety are growing in Myanmar, and customers are looking to telecoms operators and the government for protection. According to a U-Report Myanmar’s Poll from earlier this year, 4 in 10 respondents expect internet service providers to help protect them online.

Telenor Web Shield blocks threats to customers’ cybersecurity even before a connection is established by applying Domain Name System (DNS) security technology. The Web Shield service analyzes DNS data to deliver real-time, effective, and accurate threat protection.

Designed with SMEs in mind: seamless and affordable

Telenor Web Shield is designed with small business owners in mind, keeping both cost and complexity of deployment low. Its secure technology is seamlessly enabled over the Telenor network, which means no software installations or configurations are required on customer devices. By placing cybersecurity systems in the network, itself, business customers can obtain stronger and more up-to-date protection against cyber threats than what individ-

ual software clients can deliver.

“Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) have been challenged by the need for cybersecurity solutions to protect their customers, employees and partners beyond the standard firewall and antivirus software. Firewall and antivirus software may block some threats but today’s security threats like malware, phishing and botnets are getting more sophisticated. By launching the Web Shield service in its network, Telenor will deliver next-generation protection for its business customers,” said Sid Pisharoti, Regional Vice-President - APJ Media and Carrier from Akamai, Telenor Myanmar’s technology partner on the Web Shield product.

While every device and every business are open to cyber security attacks, Telenor Web Shield will make customers much harder to reach. Business mobile customers signing up during the promotional launch period will receive Web Shield protection free of charge up to 28th February 2021. Telenor Web Shield complies with end-user data privacy rules and regulations to provide customers with a transparent, sustainable security solution. — GNLM

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Addressing post-COVID-19 economic recovery challenges is everyone's concern

WITH the number of COVID-19 cases approaching 100,000, the number of deaths from the COVID-19 is expected to reach over 2,000 tomorrow.

We have anticipated this situation due to gatherings of people without social distancing after the November-8 elections.

No one knows how much it costs to give medical care to every patient with severe infection and mild infection from the coronavirus, and also to patients at quarantine centres in our country. Researchers in the healthcare field have estimated costs associated with different levels of care, ranging from those experiencing mild symptoms to those requiring ventilators.

It is found that one hospitalized case with mild infection is equivalent to vaccinating 300 people against the coronavirus.

Where will the money for giving treatment to the patients come from? This is important because it affects everyone directly. Yes. The Union Government has spent the budget collected from the people to provide free medical care to the patients.

According to researchers, a single symptomatic COVID-19 infection costs from 1.5 million to K2 million for mild infections. Even when considering only the costs during the severe infection and not those needing follow-up care, one hospitalized case costs from K2.5 million to K 5 million to save the patient's life.

So, everyone can calculate how much the Union Government spent on treating over 90,000 patients infected with the novel coronavirus based on different infection rates.

It is found that one hospitalized case with mild infection is equivalent to vaccinating 300 people against the coronavirus.

We should all note that the money spent on the patients was intended to be used for the development projects in the country.

The country must deal with the financial and debt management in the post-COVID-19 period.

That is the same problem being faced by the people who are also impacted by the pandemic.

The closure of industries and reduced productivity among the operating firms, laid-off employees, salary cut, and unpaid leave, all these have translated to huge job and revenue losses.

The tourism and transport sectors have been grounded due to the government's containment measures to curb the coronavirus. Hotels and restaurants have been shut following lockdown and cancelled travel.

We need huge investments to put the country back on track to recovery.

We must brace hard times in the post-COVID-19 period. We're all in this together. And we will get through this together.

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF RANGOON (YANGON)

By Dr Myint Zan

THE University of Rangoon (as it was then officially named) was established in December 1920. Starting from 2019 preparations were made for gala celebrations of the 100th anniversary of what was one of the top Universities in Southeast Asia during the 1930s, 1940s and 1950s. But the scourge of Covid 19 intervenes and even if the occasion were to be commemorated it probably would have to be done without much public gatherings and festivals as it was initially envisaged.



Impish Satire of the Plucky Journalist Oway U Nyo Mya

Second Rangoon University Student Strike of 1936 and 'political storm'

One event which should be commemorated was the 2nd strike of the Rangoon University in early 1936. One of the protagonists of that notable event was the journalist and writer Oway U Nyo Mya (10 April 1914-29 September 1985).

In January 1936 Oway The Voice of the Peacock, Volume V, No. 1 (January 1936) by the Rangoon University Student Union) was published. The magazine included an article in English, 'The Hell-hound At Large' under the pseudonym 'Yama Min' (King of Hell). It is a four-sentence, 104-word article not even as lengthy, as the gentle reader has read so far, of this article.

It would not be much of an exaggeration to state that 'Hell-Hound' article caused a political storm (more than a 'storm in a teacup', more on that later) which affects not only the history of the University of Rangoon but also added momentum to the student-led freedom struggle against colonial rule.

Of course, the identity of 'Yama Min' was withheld. The Editor Ko Aung San (as he then was) (13 February 1915-19 July 1947) refused to release the identity of the writer of that satirical if also scathing 'piece'.

Soon thereafter student leaders Ko Aung San and Ko Nu (25 May 1907-14 February 1995) were expelled from the University in relation to the article, and it led to the 2nd University student strike in February 1936. Of course, since the 1960s it is generally known that Ko Nyo Mya (also known as Thein Tin) wrote that article. In the December 1970 issue of the

when Nyo Mya did that.

'Goat Balls' and their Deliciousness

Fast forward (from 1936) or back to the past (from the years 1970 or indeed 2020) to the year around 1946. U Nyo Mya had recently returned to Burma from post-graduate studies (among others) in the United Kingdom and United States (after obtaining an MSc in Journalism from North Western University). His University friend Ko Aung San had become General Bogyoke or U Aung San (since by early 1947 Bogyoke has retired from the military). U Aung San apparently said in a speech that some politicians of those times - human nature being human nature and politics being politics one might also add now-

were like 'goat balls' ဆိတ်လစေ့(စ်) 'swinging from one thigh to another' meaning shifting political allegiances or to use a more polite term 'swaying with the (political) winds'. My late mother Professor Dr Daw Myint Myint Khin (15 December 1923-19 June 2004) told me that Nyo Mya wrote in response to Bogyoke's comment that 'Bogyoke probably has not eaten goat balls; they are quite delicious!'

He also mentioned other names including (but not limited to) Ludu (The People) Daw Amar (29 November 1915-7 April 2008) as persons who were involved in the 2nd Rangoon University strike. U Nyo Mya also stated some persons had commented to the effect that the main 'target' of 'The Hell-Hound At Large' article was the late Myanaung U Tin who was one of the authorities at the then University of Rangoon.

Nyo Mya wrote that this imputation was not (necessarily) true. He wanted to target, he wrote in 1970, the then University authorities of 1935 who were 'sycophants' and not any particular person. Nyo Mya also wrote that after the Second World War he invited Myanaung U Tin, gave obeisance to him; they went to a 'photoshop' in Myaynigoan မြေနီကုန်း ဓာတ်ပုံဆိုင် Rangoon and took photos of him giving obeisance to Myanaung U Tin. U Nyo Mya also gave those photos to Myanaung U Tin 'for any future use'. He also wrote affectingly that Myanaung U Tin Aung was unable to withhold tears သူ့ဓမ္မာ မျက်ရည်မဆည်နိုင်ရှာဘူး

Doggerel or Thingyan Thangyat

Talking about powerful persons, let's fast forward or revert to the past of April 1969. In the 15 April 1969 issue, the then newly republished Oway journal (it was republished around October 1968 and had to cease publication by Revolutionary Council fiat' around June 1972) the following (proposed) Thingyan Thangyat in an article by Maung Thumana ဓာတ်သုဓန (another pseudonym of Nyo Mya for his bi-monthly columns in the Oway journal):

General Ne Win a Chinese? His father has tattoos on his thighs!

Our General a China man? (pauk phaw)

When he was young, he wore long [Burmese] earrings!

Our leader, a Chinese money lender?

his family worshipped the traditional Talaing nats ('spirits') thought to do with the Chinese nats နတ် with red ponytails!

Our great Country comprising of many provinces.

O, Yeah, let us joyously celebrate!

ဗိုလ်ချုပ်နေဝင်းတရုတ်ဆို သူ့အဖေမှာ ထိုးကွင်းကြီးနဲ့ တိုမှိုလ်ချုပ်တရုတ်ဆို သူငယ်ငယ်က နားငှောင်ကြီးနဲ့ တိုခေါင်းဆောင်ကြီး ထောင်ကဆို မိခိုင်ဖခိုင် တလှိုင်းနတ်ပဲ ကျစ်ဆန်နို့ ဘာမှမဆိုင် တို့ တိုင်းနိုင်ငံ ဗမာပြည်ကွ ဟေလားမောင်တို့ဝါ။

Perhaps the publication of the late Dr Maung Maung (then Chief Justice of the Union of Burma) (31 January 1925-2 July 1994) in both Burmese and English entitled Burma and General Ne Win မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရေးခရီးနှင့် ဗိုလ်ချုပ်ကြီးနေဝင်း was commented by the Burmese language service of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) a week or so before Maung Thumana published his article in response to the BBC broadcast Maung Thumana was paraphrasing a speech General Ne Win (6 July 1910-5 December 2002) gave at the Convocation Hall of the Rangoon Arts and Science University on 30 April 1965 where Ne Win, among others, stated that there were allegations that he was Chinese. General Ne Win (earlier name Shu Maung) stated that if he were so since it was about 'one's father and one's mother' he would have said so (i.e. he was of Chinese ancestry or 'extraction').

'Storm in a Teacup'

This time 'slow forward' from 15 April 1969 to 15 June 1969 issue of Oway journal. On 3 June 1969, all state-owned newspapers published the various reports of the 33 men Internal Unity Advisory Board ပြည်တွင်းညီညွတ်ရေး အကြံပေးအဖွဲ့ which General Ne Win formed on 2 December 1968.

It included a separate proposal by U Nu that among others (1) Parliament abolished by Ne Win in the aftermath of the 1962 military takeover be recalled (2) that power be handed to him (U Nu) temporarily and he would make sure that newly convened Parliament mainly comprising of the remaining representatives of Parliament abolished in March 1962 will (3) elect General Ne Win as President, and he can serve two full 5-year term as President.

The full translation into English of U Nu's proposal was published in both The Working People's Daily and The Guardian.



papers of 1 May 1965 though in the English language newspaper The Guardian which I had obtained did not provide even a summary translation of his speech). It is said that (perhaps at times) General Ne Win can be quite tolerant of humour or satire about him and I can affirm that Maung Thumana's Thangyat was published and the impish doggerel was not censored.

Within days vicious, indeed vitriolic critiques, as well as crude cartoons mocking U Nu's proposal (U Nu was in India since April 1969) written by the literary hacks of the then regime, were published.

Maung Thumana was perhaps the only journalist of worth who stood with his Ko Gyi (elder brother) Nu in an article entitled in translation 'Storm in a Teacup'. Even if U Nu's proposal of 1969 causes some political 'storm' perhaps - in contrast to the 1936 student strike - and as per Maung Thumana's article it was more of a 'storm in a teacup'.

In U Nu's defence, Maung Thumana wrote that the fact of U Nu being a 'top leader' should not be forgotten ဦးနှုတ်ထိတ်တန်းခေါင်းဆောင်ကြီး တစ်ဦး ဖြစ်တယ်ဆိုတာကိုလဲ မမေ့သင့်ဘူးလျှာ and that how could U Nu have asked otherwise?

The brave journalist U Nyo Mya, on this occasion also bucked the trend and did not 'go with the flow'.

When U Nu made his Declaration in London together with the late U Law Yone (5 February 1911-27 June 1980) on 29 August 1969 that he was still the legal Prime Minister of Burma, the Declaration was again reproduced in full in the original English and Burmese translation on 3 September 1969 issues of all government-owned newspapers.

SEE PAGE-12

အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ် အကြမ်းဖက်မှုပျောက်ရေး (၁၆)ရက်တာလှုပ်ရှားမှု အထိမ်းအမှတ်အခမ်းအနား

“အမျိုးသမီးများအပေါ်အကြမ်းဖက်မှု ကာကွယ်တုံ့ပြန်ရေး ဘီသန်း ရန်ပုံငွေတာရီကို အချက်အလက်ကောက်ယူရန်”

“Orange the World: Fund, Respond, Prevent, Collect!”

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Friday 4th December, 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: According to the observations at (18:30 hrs M.S.T today, the Deep Depression over Gulf of Manner has moved West-Westwards and is crossing South Tamil Nadu coast near Ramanathapuram district (India). Weather is cloudy over the Southwest Bay and partly cloudy over the Andaman sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 5th December, 2020: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Shan, Kayah, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-8) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Shan State.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th December, 2020: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th December, 2020: Likelihood of isolated light rain. Degree of certainty is (60%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 5th December, 2020: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be partly cloudy in Naypyitaw, Mandalay Region and likelihood of isolated light rain in Yangon Region.

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We Love Yangon to construct hospital in Dagon Myothit (South) for free healthcare services

By Nyein Nyein

A hospital will be constructed on a 7-acre plot of land in Dagon Myothit (South) Township by the organization 'We Love Yangon' to provide free healthcare, said U Ah Yay Khyo, the vice-chairman of We Love Yangon.

"The hospital will be built on a 7-acre plot of land. It will be constructed by the funds donated across the country. The hospital will provide free healthcare services to the people with the supervision by the doctors from outside. It looks like the Jivitadana Sangha hospital set up by the Sayadaws. Our We Love Yangon team is an organization that works with the people throughout the country to make Yangon a clean and beautiful city," said U Ah Yay Khyo.

The hospital will be built with the organization of We Love Yangon and with the spending of the fund from the public on the land owned by Yangon City



Picture shows the site where We Love Yangon Group will construct a hospital in Dagon Myothit (South) Township. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Development Committee.

The hospital design has already been drawn, and it will be constructed as soon as possible. Besides, the team is negotiating with the physicians, said U Zaw Win Khaing, the general secretary of We Love Yangon.

tary of We Love Yangon.

"We will build it as soon as possible. We have already formed a committee to build the hospital. We have already looked at the design and negotiated with those concerned at

the meeting held on 3 December to construct the hospital," he added.

Currently, the charity team is on behalf of the donors handing over the funds from donors to the places which require aid during the pandemic period.

Moreover, the Fortune Plaza Centre was set up as We Love Yangon Happy COVID Centre, with spending of K1,000 million. The team also provided K50 million to access the lamp posts and upgrades the roads, according to the We Love Yangon team.

We Love Yangon was formed with 11 committees and located in 42 townships. Later, the We Love will be carrying out a green environment programme in Yangon region. Now, writer Daw Than Myint Aung acts as the chairperson of We Love Yangon which was established on 5 March with about 3,000 members.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

YRTA keeps suspending City Taxi registration amid COVID surge

YANGON Region Transport Authority (YRTA) will continuously suspend the registration of the city taxi because of the rising rate of infection in Myanmar, said U Hla Aung, the joint secretary of the YRTA.

The extension process of city taxi registration has been halted starting from the outbreak of COVID-19 in March

to prevent people from being crowded. Now, more than 40,000 are needed to extend the city taxi registration.

The registrations of the city taxi are carried out only in Yangon region. There were a total of 65,620 registered as city taxis in Yangon Region as of end-October, 2020, according to the data from YRTA. During the

suspension period, over 40,000 are renewal cases which include the vehicle change from red licenses and non-taxi vehicles for different reasons.

YRTA is carrying out the vehicle registration and issuing the driving licences. If YRTA starts its operation for the registration of the city taxis, they will conduct so in line with the guid-

ance of the Ministry of Health and Sports, said the joint secretary of YRTA.

City taxi registration began in 2002 to bring transport services on par with Yangon's image as a commercial hub, and for regulating the taxi services. — Aung Thura

(Translated by Hay Mar)

MDY public rental housing to be constructed within this FY

THE Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) under the Ministry of Construction is carrying out the construction of Mingalar Yankin public rental housing project containing 3,000 flats in Shin Taw Gone village near Yankin Taung (Yankin Mountain) Pathingyi township, Mandalay within this financial year (FY).

This housing project aims for the retired civil staff, who could not afford to buy the flats, those who are near retirement and those who have difficulty purchasing a flat. This project is being implemented, with spending of K75 billion from the Union Government and regional government budgets, said U The

Naing, the director of DUHD.

"The project started implementing on 28 August. At present, the infrastructure of the project, including bridges and roads, is completed. The engineering part of the project is also completed, and now the project is being started with the foundation. Now, the construction of the project is completed by 3 per cent. We targeted to complete the construction of the project within a year. Upon completion of the project, we will set up the policy in Yangon, Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and rent those flats. The apartments will be rented by paying three months' advance and the tenancy period will be fixed. The apartment in Yangon

set up a five-year tenancy period. We have set up the period yet in Mandalay. We will announce officially to apply for the application to rent the apartment after we have accepted guideline and negotiation with the regional government. We attempted to complete the project as soon as possible to assist the people who are having difficulty living. We also have a plan to construct more apartments next year," he added.

The department is building a total of 3,000 flats on 112 acres of plot land. There are 188 five-storey apartment buildings, and each room measures 650 square feet.

This project is implemented

jointly by the Myanmar Urban and Construction Entrepreneurs Association and Myanmar licenced contractors Association.

The Department of Urban and Housing Development is constructing a total of 10,000 apartments covered by this housing project including 6,300 in Yangon region, 700 in Nay Pyi Taw and 3,000 in Mandalay. Upon completion of the project, the department will accommodate those retired civil staff with a cheap rental system which will be less expensive than the outside private apartments. — Min Htet Aung (Man Sub-Printing House)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

NEWS
IN BRIEF

NOT ENOUGH DATA

First in line for Covid vaccine? Some US healthcare workers say no

THEY can move to front of the line for a Covid-19 vaccine if they want, but some US healthcare workers are skeptical about taking a vaccine that was developed in record time -- even as the pandemic rages on. Some want more time, despite assurances from experts that they trust the vaccine vetting process carried out by the US Food and Drug Administration. "I think I would take the vaccine later on, but right now I am a little leery of it," nurse Yolanda Dodson, 55, told AFP. Dodson works at the Montefiore Hospital in New York City and spent the spring in the heart of the deadly fight against the virus. Vaccine studies so far "look promising but I don't think there is enough data yet," Dodson said. "We have to be grateful to those who are willing to subject themselves to take that risk" to participate in the studies, she said. "It is a very personal decision." SOURCE: AFP

SLOVENIA

Mass testing planned, prolonged virus shutdown

MASS coronavirus testing will begin in Slovenia this month as restrictions imposed to tackle the pandemic have not had the desired effect, the government said Thursday.

The nationwide programme should start after December 11 or 12, when the first 100,000 test kits are expected to be delivered, Health Minister Tomaz Gantar told a news conference, adding that the government planned to acquire a total of 1.5 million antigen tests.

While health and care home workers are already being tested for coronavirus, the government plans to broaden the scheme to include other key members of the workforce such as teachers, soldiers and policemen.

By the end of the year the tests, which provide a result within minutes, will be offered to all citizens that apply for it, Gantar said.

SOURCE: AFP

FAUCI APOLOGIZES FOR REMARKS

Fauci walks back criticism of Britain's vaccine approval



Anthony Fauci, who leads the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases had been seen as criticizing the British drugs regulator on their swiftness to approve a coronavirus vaccine for widespread use. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

LEADING American infectious disease scientist Anthony Fauci on Thursday walked back his criticism of Britain's drug regulator after saying it had rushed through its coronavirus

vaccine approval.

His comments came a day after Britain became the first country to approve the Pfizer-BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine for general use, prompting some skepticism among the country's European neighbors and suggestions of politicization.

Widely respected Fauci, who leads the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, told the BBC: "I have a great deal of confidence in what the UK does both scientifically and from a regulator standpoint."

"Our process is one that takes more time than it takes in the UK. And that's just the reality," he said, adding: "I did not mean to imply any sloppi-

ness even though it came out that way."

Fauci had earlier described Britain's Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) as having "ran around the corner of the marathon and joined it in the last mile" and "rushed through that approval."

He contrasted that with the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which he said had been careful to avoid "cutting corners" because it did not want to fuel vaccine skepticism.

"In fact, they were even rather severely criticized by their European Union counterparts who were saying, you know, 'That was kind of a hot dog play,'" Fauci had said.

SOURCE: AFP

FIGHTING DISINFORMATION

Facebook to remove false Covid-19 vaccine claims

FACEBOOK on Thursday said it would remove posts containing false claims about the Covid-19 vaccine as it tries to manage the flow of disinformation on its platform. The social media giant regularly removes incorrect and potentially harmful information about the virus and has since

October banned advertisements discouraging people from getting vaccinations that could end the pandemic.

"Over the coming weeks, we will start removing false claims about these vaccines that have been debunked by public health experts on Facebook and Insta-

gram," the company said in a blog post.

"This could include false claims about the safety, efficacy, ingredients or side effects of the vaccines," including "false claims that COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips, or anything else that isn't on the official vaccine ingre-

dent list" as well as "conspiracy theories" that have been proven false, Facebook said.

The company said the criteria of posts it considers eligible removal will change based on "guidance from public health authorities as they learn more."

SOURCE: AFP

RUSSIA

Registered vaccines and 40,000 volunteers

RUSSIA'S Sputnik V coronavirus vaccine was registered in August and is currently completing the third and final phase of clinical trials, with some 40,000 volunteers taking part.

The vaccine uses two different human adenovirus vectors and is administered in two doses with a 21-day gap. Developers said interim test results showed the vaccine to be 95 per cent effective.

There is not a clear timeline for the vaccination process but authorities expect mass vaccination to start in 2021.

Developers plan to produce more than two million doses of the vaccine by the end of 2020.

Moscow is likely to be the first city to roll out vaccinations, and the mayor said around 300 vaccination points were already on standby waiting for the shots to come in.

The vaccine will be first made available to people in



The Russian coronavirus vaccine has gone into production at the Binnofarm pharmaceutical factory in the town of Zelenograd outside Moscow. PHOTO: AFP

high-risk groups -- including medics and teachers -- and all vaccination will be on a voluntary basis and free for Russian

citizens.

Russia has also started a mass vaccination campaign in the army, expecting to vac-

inate 80,000 soldiers by the end of this year and more than 400,000 servicemen in the future. SOURCE: AFP

COMMEMORATING THE ONE-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIVERSITY OF RANGOON (YANGON)

FROM PAGE-9

The vitriolic attacks against U Nu intensified, and the derogatory term ပြည်ပြေး Pyi Pyae ('miscreants who run away from the country') was devised by the regime's literary hacks. Maung Thu Ma Na in another column that appeared in September 1969 issue of Oway concerning U Nu's declaration wrote another commentary regarding U Nu's rebellion.

Paraphrasing a Burmese poem of yore (cannot recall the name of the author) that the 'the war drums' calling forth for the rains of hate မုန်းရန်ဖွဲ့ မိုး (as evinced by U Nu's declaration) (in the original poem it is written the rains that could cause nostalgia or sorrow) ဆွေးရန်ဖို့ မိုး had been beaten too early.

'Eliminate' Wrong Views if you wish but 'spare our' cravings

One more sense of impish humour of Nyo Mya can be mentioned here. In a January 1970 issue of Oway Journal there appeared an article (in rough translation) 'Feel free to eliminate heretical views but kill not and please spare the craving'. ဒိဋ္ဌိကို သတ်ချင်သော်လည်း တဏှာကိုတော့ချမ်းသာပေးပါ

It was Maung Thumana's response to a ('Buddhist') religious discourse by a particular

(lay) person who purported to 'kill off' both all sorts of 'cravings' as well as 'heretical views' တဏှာသတ် ဒိဋ္ဌိသတ်; the satirical journalist stated in effect that 'Do kill heretical views but please spare the cravings since together with the workers on the sea and workers in the air we as workers with attachments and cravings are building a socialist society (or contributing to the welfare of the country). ရေလုပ်သားကြီးများ၊ လေလုပ်သားကြီးများနှင့်အတူ တဏှာလုပ်သားကြီးများအဖြစ် တိုင်းပြည်အကျိုးကိုဆောင်ရွက်နေပါတယ် The reference to 'workers in the air' was perhaps an ironic reference to the rhetoric, 'the airing' by the then regime to 'march towards socialism in our own Burmese way'!

In Search of Konbaung Dynasty and 'Vehicle to Fly Across the Cosmos'

After the Oway journal was closed (in retrospective permanently) around June 1972, U Nyo Mya produced at least two books: a three-volume monograph 'Commentary on Opium' ဘိန်းဋီကာ (published 1974) and in May 1982 In Search of Kongbaung Dynasty ကုန်းဘောင် ရှာပုံတော် (the first of many editions of the book) was published. This writer has not even seen Commentary on Opium but has had a

quick browse of In Search of Konbaung Dynasty on the world wide web where it can be read for free. Unlike his journalistic pieces where he wrote in colloquial, indeed punchy Burmese prose Nyo Mya's writing style in the historical treatise was formal at times even rhetorical.

Suffice to say that in comparison with work of historian Sayagyi Dr Than Tun (6 April 1923-30 November 2005) (written in English) History of Buddhism in Burma: AD 1000-1300 (4th edition February 2020) Sayagyi U Nyo Mya's work was (perhaps in the 'content-neutral' sense of the word) more 'nationalistic'. One realizes though that (Pagan/Bagan) era under study by Dr Than Tun was at least between 750 years to about 585 years earlier than that of U Nyo Mya's study of the Konbaung period. Western, especially British colonialism, had not reached our shores and our land during the Bagan era.

In one place in his treatise, U Nyo Mya mentioned about part Burmese, perhaps part Pali phrase Set Kyar Yin Pyan စကြာ ယာဉ်ပျံ (perhaps imperfectly translatable as 'vehicle that can fly across the cosmos') as an idea of the ancients (including ancient Burmans or Bamars?) which predated modern Space exploration by a few thou-

sand years. He specifically compared it with the American 'Sky Lab' which was launched in May 1973, which fell onto Earth in July 1979.

It was not the ancients (be they- ancient- Indians, Sumerians, Egyptians etc.) who launched the 'vehicle that can fly across the cosmos'. It was, starting with the contemporary Soviets (later Russians) Americans, (some) Europeans and the Chinese that build vehicles that reached the moon and flew-by a few planets in our solar system. The Space Age actually, historically (not in folklore or imaginings of yore of various cultures and civilizations) started with the launch of the human-made satellite Sputnik I on 4 October 1957 by the then Soviet Union.

Was the (at times) gentle wit being ironic (though not impish) in his juxtapositions with the ancients' fantastical Sekkyar yin pyan စကြာ ယာဉ်ပျံ concept with now outdated and 'demised' Skylab? Or is my mentioning this (to quote from his own article of June 1969) a 'storm in a teacup'?

This article also commemorates the 50th anniversary of U Nyo Mya's article

ကျွန်တော် "ငရဲခွေး" ဆောင်းပါးရေးစဉ်က which was published in early December 1970

"INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS"

India issues demarche to criticize Canadian PM's remarks on Indian farmers protest



Farmers hold placards and shout slogans during a protest at the Delhi-Haryana state border. PHOTO: MONEY SHARMA/AFP

India's External Affairs Ministry on Friday summoned the High Commissioner of Canada in India and informed him that comments by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, cabinet ministers and lawmakers on issues related to the Indian farmers constitute "an unacceptable interference in our internal affairs".

A demarche issued to the Canadian envoy said, "Such actions, if continued, would have a seriously damaging impact on ties between India and Canada." "These comments have encouraged gatherings of extremist activities in front of our High Commission and Consulates in Canada that raise issues of safety and security. We expect the Canadian Government to ensure the full-est security of Indian diplomatic personnel and its

political leaders to refrain from pronouncements that legitimize extremist activism," it added.

On Tuesday, while addressing members of the Sikh community in Canada, Trudeau said that the situation of Indian farmers agitating against farm bills was "concerning" and that his country would "be there to defend the rights of peaceful protest." In response to Trudeau's remarks, Indian foreign ministry spokesperson Anurag Srivastava on Tuesday described the comments as "ill informed". "We have seen some ill-informed comments by Canadian leaders relating to farmers in India. Such comments are unwarranted, especially when pertaining to the internal affairs of a democratic country.

SOURCE: Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (206W/E)
Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CTP FORTUNE VOY. NO. (206W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-12-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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CONTINUITY OF BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Japan parliament approves post-Brexit trade deal with Britain

JAPAN'S parliament approved Friday a post-Brexit free trade deal with Britain, clearing the way for its enforcement Jan. 1 next year to ensure continuity in bilateral business operations beyond London's end of transition out of the European Union this month. The deal, signed by Japanese Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi and British International

Trade Secretary Liz Truss in Tokyo in October, passed the upper house following its approval by the lower house last month. Britain still needs to complete its domestic ratification procedures for the pact to enter into force. The two countries needed to wrap up the deal as the existing Japan-EU pact will not cover Britain after the completion of the



The House of Councillors holds a plenary session in Tokyo on Dec. 4, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

Brexit transition period in December and could result in impositions of higher tariffs on both countries. While Japanese companies welcome the deal, those that operate both in the United Kingdom and in continental Europe are still wary about whether London will reach a free trade agreement with the bloc by the end of the transition period.

Without such an agreement, the European businesses of Japanese manufacturers, including Nissan Motor Co. and Toyota Motor Corp., which benefit from supply chains built across the continent and Britain, could be disrupted. The two automakers procure parts from continental Europe and assemble vehicles in Britain. SOURCE: Kyodo

2021 OIL POLICY

OPEC and allies seek to thrash out cuts deal



Saudi Arabia's Minister of Energy Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman Al-Saud speaks via video link during a virtual emergency meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC countries, following the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19), in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia April 9, 2020. PHOTO: SAUDI PRESS AGENCY/ KYODO

THE members of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) cartel of oil producers are meeting with their allies on Thursday to see if they can reach an accord on extending production cuts over the coming months.

The video-conference meeting of the OPEC+

grouping was pushed back from Tuesday and comes after three days of inconclusive discussions among the 13 members of OPEC proper. Observers say the postponement points to an agreement being harder to reach than initially thought.

The meeting was originally scheduled for 13:00

GMT but eventually started almost two hours later.

The first wave of the coronavirus pandemic sent oil demand — and prices — plummeting in the spring, with the benchmark American contract even going into negative territory for the first time in history. After tough negotiations in April, OPEC+ — which includes Russia — agreed on drastic production cuts in order to try to put a floor under oil prices.

Despite hitting producers' revenues hard, those cuts did help drag prices back up again.

However, the second wave of the pandemic has dashed hopes of a rapid "V-shaped" recovery for the economy and for oil demand.

SOURCE: AFP

INTERNATIONAL TOURISM

Air New Zealand launches new safety video to boost local tourism industry

AIR New Zealand worked with Tourism New Zealand to launch a new safety video on Thursday to boost the local tourism industry.

Air New Zealand Chief Customer and Sales Officer Leanne Geraghty said "Aotearoa, the 8th Wonder of the World" is a high impact way to promote destinations across New Zealand, from Cape Reinga to Stewart Island, to both domestic and international audiences.

"With borders closed as a result of COVID-19, we've seen a significant impact on the New Zealand tourism industry. Around 30 per cent of people flying on our domestic network are usually visitors from overseas. In the absence of

international visitors, the safety video is a unique way to stimulate further local demand, benefiting local tourism operators, the New Zealand economy and Air New Zealand employees," she said.

"The video also assists in supporting the recovery of international tourism once borders reopen. We know the decision-making process for visitors to come to New Zealand will be different into the future, so we need to be building the appeal and desire now in international markets in anticipation of borders reopening. It's important to keep New Zealand as a visitor destination top of mind."

SOURCE: Xinhua

PESTICIDES DISTRIBUTER CHANGING

The manufacture of **Beijing Multigrass Formulation Co.,Ltd (China)** has registered the following products in Pesticide Registration Board of Myanmar to distribute in Myanmar. Now, we have to change from old distributor name "**BAIGREEN CROP SCIENCE CO., LTD**", to new distributor name "**Y AGRO SOLUTION CO., LTD**". If any object or enquiry, please contact to Pesticide registration Board, Plant Protection Division, Bayint Naung Road, West Gyogone, Insein Township, Yangon, from here to next 14 days. **Y Agro Solution Co.,Ltd . Ph-00787630272.**

Sr.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration No.
1.	Power Up 20 TB	Gibberellic Acid 20% TB	P2018-4325

SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
PROCUREMENT OF CONSTRUCTION, CIVIL WORKS

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE UNDER THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL WELFARE, RELIEF AND RESETTLEMENT
MCCT4N –MATERNAL AND CHILD CASH TRANSFER FOR IMPROVED NUTRITION PROJECT

Project No.:164129

Contract Title: (250'x75'x24') 2S RC Office Building, Union Office (37500 Sft including water, electricity, toilet, portico)

Reference No. : CW-2.1.1-(1 in Union)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the Maternal and Child Cash Transfer for Improved Nutrition Project (MCCT4NP). The Department of Social Welfare (DSW) under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, in its role as Implementing Agency (IA) of the MCCT4N Project, intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for the procurement of Construction, Civil Works.

The Department of Social Welfare (DSW) now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following construction, civil works (1) in Nay Pyi Taw Council:

CW-2.1.1-(1 in Union): (250'x75'x24') 2S RC Office Building, Union Office (37500) Sft including water, electricity, toilet, portico)

The works are scheduled to start on 10 February 2021 with an estimated completed period of 30th September 2021.

Bids will be evaluated as a bid, taking into account discounts offered. The contract will be awarded to the Bidder offering the lowest evaluated cost to the Employer for this bid, subject to the selected Bidder meeting the required qualification criteria for this bid as the case may be.

Bidding will be conducted through the National Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in "the World Bank's Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014" (the Procurement Guidelines), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Department of Social Welfare (DSW), U Aung Kyaw Moe, Deputy Director General, (socialwelfare.mm@gmail.com) (socialprotection.dsw.gov@gmail.com) and inspect the bidding documents during office hours Monday to Friday from 10:00 to 17:00 Hrs at the address given below.

A complete set of electronic bidding documents in English Language may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders by simple e-mail request to the address below. No printed bidding documents will be made available or sent by DSW.

Interested Bidders that obtained the bidding documents will be invited to attend a Pre-Bid Meeting including an Information Session on the Bidding Documents and Templates on Monday 28 December 2020 10:00 am. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before Thursday 7 January 2021 10:00 am Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives and anyone who choose to attend at the address below on Thursday 7 January 2021 immediately after the bid submission.

Bid must be accompanied by a Bid Security or a Cash Deposit with a reputable Bank in Myanmar, licensed by and under the supervision of the Central Bank of Myanmar for this activity.

The address referred to above is:

Department of Social Welfare (DSW)
Attn: U Aung Kyaw Moe, Deputy Director General
Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

For Detailed information please contact:

U Aung Kyaw Moe 067 404583 (office telephone) 067 404583 (office fax)

e-mail: socialwelfare.mm@gmail.com and socialprotection.dsw.gov@gmail.com

Kaunghmutaw Stupa built by King Thalun



705 years old Zeyapura Sagaing

By Maung Tha (Arcaheology)

AMONG cities in Konbaung era, Sagaing City which was established in 1315 AD turns 705 years now. Plentiful of cultural heritages remain in Sagaing. Among them, a large number of pagodas painted with lime along Sagaing Hill are symbols of Sagaing.

Sagaing in history

Sagaing located at the foot of Minwun mountain range, west of Ayeyawady River, was famous as Zeyapura. Ayeyawady River streams beside Sagaing as a shape of hugging the city.

The Glass Palace History mentioned that the queen of

Tagaung King Thadoe Maharaja gave birth to two blind sons in 40 Sasana era. They were named Maha Sambhava and Cula Sambhava. The king ordered to kill those sons but the queen hid them till their aged at 19 years old and then set them adrift into the Ayeyawady River. The raft they rode hooked up with a branch of Sit tree in an area. From then onward, the area was named Sagaing.

Zabudipa Usaung treatise edited by U Pe Maung Tin and J. S. Furnivall mentioned “Sagaing area is located east and south to Ayeyawady River, west to Sauktaw Inhtwet Creek and north to Magyisi.”

Saw Ywan, son of Taseeshin



Yokesone Monastery at Ariyawuntha Corner on Sagaing Hill

Thihathu who was the youngest of three Shan brothers, established Sagaing in 677 to rule the northern part of the country. He took the title of Thiri Athinkaya.

Various history treatises mentioned the residential term of Athinkhaya Saw Ywan before throne but U Kala, Twinthin, Glass Palace and Zartatawpon treatises mentioned eight years for ruling period.

Seven kings reigned for Sagaing for more than 50 years—Athinkhaya Saw Ywan for eight years, Tayaphya for 14 years, Shwetaungtet for three years, Kyaw Swa for 10 years, Hsinbyushin Nawrahta Minye for seven months, Hsinbyushin Tayaphyange for three years and Min Pyauk for 13 years.

Current Sagaing

Sagaing takes a position on 12.612 square miles of land with 300 feet high of above sea level and Sagaing Township on 485.16 square miles of land. The highest part of the city is 1,373 feet high at Shwemyintin Hill.

Sagaing Township is sharing border with Ayeyawady River, Madaya, Patheingyi and Amarapura townships in the east, Mu River and Myinmu Township in the west, Ayeyawady River, TadaU and Ngazun townships in the south and Wetlet Township in the north.

At present, Sagaing Township formed with two towns as Sagaing and Hsataung, 34 wards and 177 villages from 76 village-tracts. According to the data in September 2018, a total of 283,332 people resided in the township.

Based on statistics in September 2018, a total of 776 pagodas, 1,378 stupas, 1,311 monasteries and 490 nunneries are located in Sagaing Township. Likewise, the township is home to 8,149 monks, 6,379 novices and 7,865 nuns.

The Department of Archaeology and National Museum preserves 10 buildings including Asaykhan Fort, iron smelting furnace, Ariyawuntha corner and Yokesone monastery, Mingun bell, Myatheintan Pagoda, Pondaw Ceti, Pahtodawgyi, two large lion statues, Settawya Pagoda, Kyetdaunt Lake and LaungUmaw Pitakat chamber in Ywathitgyi as ancient buildings in Sagaing.

Historical buildings in Mingun area

Mingun, a famous tourist destination in Myanmar, is 12 miles north of Sagaing, having access to Mandalay via motor road as well as Ayeyawady River.

King Badon who established Amarapura Royal Palace started construction of Pahtodawgyi Temple in 1152 Myanmar Era but could not finish it. The folded paper from the golden treasury proved Pahtodawgyi was purposed to build the one with 293 elbows in diameter and 352 elbows in height. But, veteran historian Dr Than Tun wrote that construction of the Pahtodawgyi reaching 160 feet in height collapsed. King Badon built the 15 feet



Sagaing Hill and Ayeyawady River

high replica of Pahtodawgyi in 1152 ME.

King Badon built two large lion statues with 95 feet each in height in the east of Pahtodawgyi in 1155 ME. The northern lion statue collapsed in 1200 ME and the southern one was also damaged by the earthquake in 1318 ME.

Mingun bronze bell weighing 90.52 tons or 55,555 viss is the world's largest one which can be rung across the world.

In 1447 AD, people paid visits to the umbrella hoisting ceremony of Htupayon Pagoda passing through the temporary bridge. A strong earthquake destroyed the bridge in 1838. King Bagan rebuilt the bridge in 1849 but he could not finish it.

An iron furnace built at the western foot of ShwetawUmaw Hill and Asaykhan Fort on the bank of

stone posts.

A total of 10,186,522 bricks, 164,555 baskets of plaster and 22,492 baskets of concrete were used in building the stupa. King Pintale (1648-1661 AD), son of King Thalun, hoisted the umbrella atop the stupa on 8 April 1649.

The stone inscription posted on the platform of the stupa mentions the history of stupa, donated lands for the stupa and list of servants for serving the stupa.

Zeyapura

Inwa King Thadoe Minphyia (1364-1368 AD) moved his royal palace to Inwa from Sagaing. King Naungdawgyi of Konbaung era reigned over the country from Sagaing from 1760 to 1764 AD. After King Naungdawgyi had passed away, the royal palace was moved to Inwa again.

Sagaing, being a royal palace for more than 50 years, has been a tourist destination for many years.

Since 705 years, Zeyapura Sagaing still maintains its significant symbols such as stupas and temples, fort and industries, stone inscriptions, holly corners on Sagaing Hill and cultural buildings. As such, Sagaing is famous a cultural city of Myanmar among local and foreign travellers till today.

(Translated by Than Tun Aung)



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hmutaw Temple (Einphyu
Tawya Sayadaw)



Inwa Bridge built in 1934

King Badon (1782-1813 AD), the fifth king in Konbaung dynasty, cast the bronze bell on 29 April 1808 AD.

Prince Sagaing built Myatheintan Pagoda in 1163 ME and completed it in 1169 ME. The pagoda was named as Myatheintan due to donation of an emerald stone worth K100,000 by Prince Sagaing for construction of the pagoda.

Construction of Settawya Pagoda in Sagaing, a brick tier-roofed building, was contributed cash by Thiri Thumalla Nanda Devi, spouse of Prince Momeik.

Historical buildings in Sagaing

Htupayon Pagoda, built by Inwa King Narapatigyi (1443-1469 AD) is located in Poetan Ward of Sagaing.

Ayeyawady River can be seen as historical heritages of Konbaung era as well as Inwa Bridge built in 1934 across Ayeyawady River.

Kaunghmutaw Stupa built in Nyaungyan era is located six miles northwest of Sagaing. According to Twinthin New History, King Thalun, the third king of Nyaungyan Dynasty, built Kaunghmutaw Stupa in design of Htupayon Pagoda from Ceylon Island, near Phettinhteik Lake of Sagaing. The stupas called Raza Manicula was enshrined on 4 September 1636.

The dome of Kaunghmutaw Stupa with 274 metres in diameter and 46 metres in height was built with three terraces flanked by 812 five feet high

Myanmar Lethwei World Championship V to be held on 6 December



The fifth edition of the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship will be held behind closed doors on 6 December 2020. **PHOTO:MLWC**

WITH the organization of the Myanmar Martial Arts Group (MMAG), one of the biggest Lethwei events in 2020 named Myanmar Lethwei World Championship V will be held on 6 December.

The event will be launched without an audience to prevent and control the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in Myanmar.

Famous Burmese traditional Lethwei fighters will compete

in the bouts, and all the fights will be broadcast live on Skynet Sports-4 and Skynet Sports-HD Channels starting from 2:00 pm of Myanmar Standard Time, according to the Lethwei officials.

Tun Tun Min will defend his Championship title against Yar Mhan in the main bout of the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship 5.

Next, Byat Gha will fight against Saw Thein Lin and Kyar Thway will face Thar Dane.

Saw A Yine will then take on Da Na Aung and Kanaung Thway will fight with Paing Thet Aung.

Another exciting bout for the Lethwei fans will be the fight of Saw Shwe Lay vs A Phoe Thway.

On 18 August 2019, Myanmar's Lethwei starfighter Tun Tun Min claimed the Myanmar Lethwei World Championship IV title after defeating Russia's Mikhail Vetrilla at the Thein Phyu Lethwei Stadium in Yangon.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Postponement costs for Tokyo Games to total 294 bil. yen



Tokyo Games organizing committee President Yoshiro Mori (back) holds talks with Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike (L) and Olympic minister Seiko Hashimoto (R) on Dec. 4, 2020, in Tokyo. **POOL PHOTO/KYODO**

TOKYO—The organizers of the Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics reached an agreement Friday with the Tokyo metropolitan and central governments on splitting an extra 294 billion yen (\$2.83 billion) in costs arising from the one-year postponement of the games, along with countermeasures for the novel coronavirus.

Tokyo Games organizing committee President Yoshiro Mori, Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike, and Olympic minister Seiko Hashimoto attended the three-party talks.

The additional cost for postponing the games by a year is estimated at 198 billion yen, while the virus countermeasures will cost an extra 96 billion yen.

The metropolitan government will cover the largest slice at 120 billion yen. The Tokyo Games organizers will shoulder 103 billion yen and the central government 71 billion yen.

Prior to the postponement, the Tokyo Games were projected to cost around 1.35 trillion yen, with the organizing committee planning to cover 603 billion yen, the Tokyo metropolitan government 597 billion yen and the central government the remaining 150 billion yen.

Additional operating costs of 198 billion yen caused by the postponement are expected to include expenses related to securing games venues, equipment rental and storage fees, and labor.

Of this amount, the Tokyo Games organizers will shell out 103 billion yen, the metropolitan government 80 billion yen and the central government 15 billion yen.—AFP ■

Premier League, EFL agree £250-million virus rescue package

LONDON—The Premier League and the English Football League agreed a £250-million (\$337 million, 277 million euros) rescue package on Thursday, ending months of uncertainty for lower-league clubs struggling to survive during the coronavirus pandemic.

Most football in England has been played behind closed doors since March, depriving lower-league clubs of vital matchday revenue, although crowds have been allowed back in limited numbers in certain areas this week.

The financial agreement follows months of negotiations between the two football governing bodies, who had been strongly criticised for their failure to reach a deal.

The British government consistently said that the Premier League, rather than the taxpayer, must help the English Football League (EFL).

Clubs in Leagues One and Two -- the third and fourth tiers -- will receive grants worth £50 million (\$67 million).

The Premier League has committed to cover up to £15 million in interest and arrangement fees to enable a £200 million loan to be secured for clubs in the second-tier Championship.—AFP ■



AC Milan are five points clear at the top of Serie A. **PHOTO:AFP**

Juve, Inter play catch-up on AC Milan before big European games

TURIN—Juventus host city rivals Torino on Saturday looking to close the gap on high-flying Serie A leaders AC Milan before next week's final Champions League group clash at Barcelona. The Italian champions are fourth in the table, six points behind Milan, who head to Sampdoria on Sunday looking to extend their unbeaten run in the league.

Second-placed Inter Milan, five points adrift on their city rivals, host Bologna, days before their Champions League hopes will be decided in a must-win game against Shakhtar Donetsk at the San Siro.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic's Milan

are targeting their first Serie A title since 2011, when the Swede last played for the club.

Ibrahimovic has missed their last two games including their Europa League win over Celtic with a muscular injury and will be sidelined for the trip to 11th-placed Sampdoria.

But while Milan have shown they can win without their star striker, who leads the Serie A scoring charts with 10 goals, Juve are reliant on Cristiano Ronaldo. They have drawn five of nine games played this season including last weekend's 1-1 against Benevento when Ronaldo was rested.—AFP ■