

NATIONAL

VP U Henry Van Thio chairs disaster management committee meeting through video conferencing

PAGE-3

PARLIAMENT

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debates bills sent by the President

PAGE-2

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State Counsellor's video conference emphasizes COVID-19 protective measures in reopening of food shops, restaurants



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi emphasizes protective measures when food shops and restaurants reopen amid COVID-19 pandemic. **PHOTO: MNA**

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her capacity as Chairperson of the National-Level Central Committee for Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 discussed protective measures in reopening food shops and restaurants

amid the COVID-19 pandemic in her video conference with relevant persons in this sector yesterday.

After words of greeting by the State Counsellor, U Win Htay, the managing director of Shwe Palin Business Group, explained

about the habit and culture of Myanmar people going to restaurants and teashops; COVID-19 preventive measures at food shops and plans to continue such measures; and difficulties encountered in exercising COVID-19 preventive guidelines.

Daw Yin Yin Nyein, a consumer talked about the main reason why women go to restaurants and cafes; the difficulties encountered by small food shops in wards and roadside stalls mostly frequented by office employees and low-wage earners;

and the need to manage the process of reopening these shops.

U Kyaw Myat Moe, the managing director of Khine Khine Kyaw Group Trading Company, explained about their efforts to ensure cleanliness and

SEE PAGE-3

COVID-19 in Myanmar

1. Result on testing of 179 samples at the Department of Medical Research and 187 samples in the first group at the National Health Laboratory (Yangon), totalling 366 on 22 May afternoon showed **No new cases**.
2. There are a total of 199 confirmed cases in Myanmar up to 8:00 pm on 22 May.
3. More 8 old cases (Case 55, 112, 164, 165, 167, 171, 172, 174) were tested negative two consecutive times, and that a total of 116 cases have recovered up to 22 May. Among them, 101 persons have been discharged from the hospital and they will be kept isolation at the designated places.
4. The total death toll remains at 6.
5. There are a total of 35 new persons under investigation in the past 24 hours from 12 noon of 22 May.

SEE PAGE-2

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL

Tatmadaw discusses COVID-19 strategic preparedness, response plan

PAGE-4



NATIONAL

Myanmar Investment Commission holds Video Conference

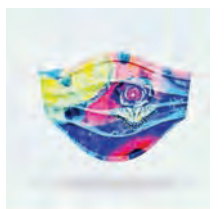
PAGE-2



LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar artist's creation selected for UNESCO's "Mask-Art Creativity under lockdown" virtual exhibition

PAGE-6



PYIDAUNGSSU HLUTTAW

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debates bills sent by the President

PYITHU Hluttaw discussed proposals sent by the President during its 3rd-day meeting yesterday.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and Deputy Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Maung Maung Win discussed US\$50 million loan proposal from the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank as the proposal was put forward by the President. It was passed by the Hluttaw.

The MPs also approved for the Road Safety and Vehicle Management Bill and the Industrial Zone Bill tabled by the President with his recommendations through the Hluttaw Bill Committee.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Tatmadaw Lt-Col Htin Lin Oo and U Soe Thein (a) U Maung Soe from Taninthayi Region constituency (10) discussed the budget proposal bill for Region/State governments.

The MPs also discussed incomes and expenditures, as well as policy and basic principles of additional budget allocation bill for the Union in 2019-2020 financial year.

Those participated in the discussions were Major Naing Lin Aung who suggested adher-



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe.



Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win.



Dr Myat Nyarna Soe.



Lt-Col Myo Htet Win.



MP U Khin Cho



Daw Wint Wah Htun.



Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo.



Naw Chrisa Htun.

ence to rules, principles, orders, directives and procedures in budget management; U Khin Cho from Hlaingbwe constituency about issuing clear and concrete directives for systematic collecting taxes.

Lt-Col Myo Htet Win advised the Union government to relax some rules that can delay the projects and centralization. He also proposed legal actions against corrupted persons on

the budgets.

MP Dr Thet Thet Khaing from Dagon constituency urged for urgent reforms in revenue management and state economy.

The matter was also discussed by other 14 Hluttaw representatives.

In discussions about loan proposal of US\$700 million from the International Monetary Fund, Lt-Col Thaung Sein sug-

gested the needs of systematic management and inspection of loans, identifying focal ministries and detailed plans for the short and long term period.

MP Daw Cho Cho from Ottwin constituency supported the loan proposal as it is also required for fulfilling expenditures in health, social and economic sector during the post-COVID-19 crisis of the government.

Tatmadaw representative

of Pyithu Hluttaw Lt-Col Aung Kyaw Moe discussed prevention of budget waste through systematic procedures.

The other eight MPs also debated the loan proposal before concluding the 3rd-day meeting of Hluttaw and its 4th-day meeting will be held on 26 May. —Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Myanmar Investment Commission approves nine new projects, additional investments



The MIC approves nine new projects and additional investments in two existing projects. PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) held its regular meeting via video conferencing system, yesterday morning. Chairman of the MIC, Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Vice-Chairman, Union Minister Dr Than Myint and members of the Commission participated in the meeting from their respective offices in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

The meeting approved nine new projects in the manufacturing sector, hotel sector, power sector and services sector as well as additional investments in two existing projects. The approved projects amounted to USD (684.2) million, Kyat (96,034.451) million and (4,180) job opportunities are expected to be created.

By the end of April 2020,

the countries with the largest investments in Myanmar are Singapore, the People's Republic of China and Thailand. The oil & gas sector accounted for 26.74%. This was followed by the power sector, accounting for 26.07% and the manufacturing sector, accounting for 14.16% of the total permitted amount of foreign investment.—MNA

Updated at 8 pm, 22 May 2020

No new caseTotal: now 199

COVID-19 in Myanmar

FROM PAGE-1

COVID-19 Laboratory Tests Report at 8 pm, 22 May 2020

Samples tested at National Health Laboratory (Yangon) on 22 May	187
Samples tested in first group at Department of Medical Research on 22 May	179
COVID-19(SARS-CoV-2)	0

COVID-19 Situation Report at 8 pm, 22 May 2020

	New	Total
Confirmed Cases	0	199
Recovered Cases	8	116
Death	0	6

Ministry of Health and Sports
(Translated by Aung Khin)

State Counsellor’s video conference emphasizes COVID-19 protective measures in reopening of food shops, restaurants

FROM PAGE-1

hygienic preparation of food; preparations for social distancing; and plans being made for reopening the restaurants by forming various committees for reviewing employees to bring them back to work, planning and implementation, healthcare, and training and education.

In response to the discussions, the State Counsellor stressed the need to ensure health safety when restaurants and cafes are reopened and to adopt the practice of “take-away” for small shops. She also spoke about the need for economic enterprises to resume operations, and the Union Government’s plans to assist and support the reopening of restaurants and roadside stalls.

In her concluding remarks, the State Counsellor said that she understood the challenges faced by food shop owners; she also believed that the people who were listening to the discussions would understand as well; the difficulties faced by the shop owners in making plans to reopen are related to what the people need to be aware of; the people need to be aware of these things and also need to participate and cooperate; the plan to reopen the food shops could succeed only if everyone participates and cooperates.

She added that they wanted to reopen the food shops and restaurants as quickly as possible for the regular income of workers and employees who are relying on these shops; she also wished shop owners to restart their businesses; the success of businesses could help the economic development of the country; the government will do the best for the convenience



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a video conference with respective persons for reopening of food shops. PHOTO: MNA

of customers; roadside food stalls need to offer takeaway system although the use of plastic bags is getting high during this pandemic crisis; how to recycle the used plastics and how to prevent environmental contamination must also be considered by the Union Government as the impact of plastics is high. She added that advice of entrepreneurs and the people was required on how to control the high demand for plastics.

The State Counsellor continued saying that the practice of social distancing during the COVID-19 period was the most difficult issue for people; human beings wished to live in close friendship happily and that this culture could not be changed easily; that was why everyone needed

to help others; in times like this people should learn to live without letting go of their friendships with others; that was why she wanted every individual to make an earnest effort. She assured that she has taken note of all the points made during the discussions; that the Union Government would seek out ways to offer help so that restaurants and food shops could be reopened as soon as possible; she understood the fact that it was the small roadside vendors who needed the most assistance and support. She added that they would take into careful consideration in what manner the roadside vendors could be permitted to reopen as soon as possible; she would coordinate with the Ministry of Health and Sports and issue the necessary rules and

regulations to ensure that this matter was handled in a satisfactory manner.

The State Counsellor expressed thanks to all the food shop operators and their customers as both sides were interdependent; it was hoped that some shops would be able to open in the coming month and that all shops would not be able to reopen at the same time; necessary advice would have to be given depending on the situation and experience of those shops which were able to reopen; also what changes needed to be made and what kind of assistance and cooperation needed to be given would have to be taken into consideration. — MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Myaing)

Vice President U Henry Van Thio chairs disaster management committee meeting through video conferencing

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as the Chairman of National Disaster Management Committee, presided over its first meeting for this year through video conferencing at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting, the Vice President said that the biannual meetings of his committee took preparatory measures on the possible disasters; preparations for disaster managements in monsoon, and control of risks and dangers from the

results of higher climatic temperatures amid the outbreak of COVID-19.

He also said the first discovery of COVID-19 in Wunhan city of China on 31 December 2019, the first death from this disease on 11 January 2020, the first case outside China (in Thailand) on 13 January and the declaration of WHO on this disease as the Public Health Emergency of International Concern, and the numbers of cases and death toll across the world have reached over 5 million and 330,000 dead up to 22 May 2020.

SEE PAGE-4



Vice President U Henry Van Thio holds a video conference of the National Disaster Management Committee yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

VP U Henry Van Thio chairs disaster management committee...

FROM PAGE-3

Myanmar has formed a National-level Central Committee to Prevent, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 on 13 March 2020 led by the State Counsellor, and the control and emergency response committee led by the Vice President U Myint Swe on 30 March 2020, in coordination with the relevant ministries, local governments and INGOs.

The first COVID-19 case was confirmed in Myanmar on 23 March 2020. The figures of Ministry of Health and Sports have showed 199 positive cases, 108 recoveries and 6 deaths as of 21 May 2020.

Social distancing was being exercised by avoiding mass gathering, holding meetings on video conferencing, 3 to 6 ft distance among every person

was required and face masks and hand gel were being used at event which were necessary.

The Vice President also advised his committee to carry out preparatory measures for strong winds, floods, landslides and thunderbolts, while the country was facing the dangers of drought, fire and strong winds, causing some losses in agriculture, livestock and health sectors.

He said the outbreak of COVID-19 has added more problems in the socioeconomic sector, and that the committee needed to take part in COVID-19 measures.

The Vice President continued to say that the awareness programmes of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement must include dissemination of knowledge about natural disasters.

The ministry was also providing healthcare items, such as reusable masks, basins, soaps, hand sanitizers, disinfectants and lime powder bags.

He also recommended the local governments to adopt plans for natural disasters and emergency response plans in their regions in accordance with the National-level Central Committee to Prevent, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 and the emergency response committees in working together with the relevant ministries.

The world was encountering global warming, environmental degradation and climatic changes amid the spread of COVID-19 and conflicts, and that plans must be made not only for regular events but also for future events based on time and circumstance.

He finally called for the

suggestions of participants at the teleconference about their preparations for prevention of COVID-19 and natural disasters during the monsoon.

Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, who are the vice-chairmen of committee, discussed rescue plans, readiness of relief aid, and effective supports to the disaster affected people in line with rules for COVID-19.

Deputy Minister U Soe Aung, the secretary of committee, reported on the progress in implementation of resolutions made at meeting number 2/2019 of the committee.

The Union Ministers who are the chairmen of work committees also briefed on emergency measures, coordination with

foreign countries, systematic management on funds, awareness programmes, release of information and management in natural disaster.

The other Union Ministers who are the members of committee, the Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council, and local Region/State chief ministers presented their discussions about rescue and relief plans during the video conference.

The deputy ministers, officials and U Chit Kyaw, secretary of the advisory board in the disaster management committee, presented action plans.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio gave advice and comments to ensure coordination after which the meeting came to a close.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Tatmadaw discusses COVID-19 strategic preparedness, response plan

COMMANDER in Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing chaired the seventh coordination meeting of the Tatmadaw in the fight against COVID-19, which was held at the meeting hall of the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air Force) General Mya Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Maung

Maung Kyaw and senior military officers.

Participants at the meeting discussed the works of COVID-19 control and emergency response committees and services of military medics at the Central Civil Service Institute (Lower Myanmar).

In response to the discussions, the Senior General advised preventive measures against the disease, including personal and environmental hygiene, wearing face masks and eye shields, hand washing, avoiding crowded places and keeping these events to a minimum, and learning practices of strict rules in New Zealand and Australia in controlling the disease and containment



Tatmadaw holds the 7th coordination meeting to work for fighting COVID-19 disease on 21 May. PHOTO: MNA

of COVID for the overseas returnees.

He continued to say that while countries all over the world were encountering unemployment and crisis due to

economic decline. He said that depending on the situation local businesses and needy persons needed to be assisted as much as possible, and that monasteries and nunneries, as

well as some grass root people, require foodstuff and relief aid.

He concluded by saying that it was necessary to collect correct information from the ground to

manage the COVID-19 crisis, according to a report of the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)



Myanmar returnees from Republic of Korea queuing for their immigration process at the Yangon International Airport yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Relief flight brings back 132 Myanmar nationals

AN MAI relief flight transported 132 Myanmar nationals stranded abroad from Incheon International Airport, South Korea, to Yangon International Airport around 8 pm yesterday.

The passengers included 72 Myanmar nationals from South Korea and 60 Myanmar nationals from Belgium, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Norway, Qatar, Britain, Italy, America, and Hong Kong who had been stranded overseas

since the suspension of commercial flights due to the spread of COVID-19.

In addition, seven Myanmar nationals stranded in France and 25 Myanmar seamen stranded in Italy were transported back from France to Yangon by special flight Amelia-NL 401 yesterday morning.

The Myanmar nationals were subjected to medical checkups upon arrival and will be quarantined for 21 days as managed by

Yangon Region government and relevant ministry departments.

The National-level Central Committee on Protection, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19 has been working with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies to bring back Myanmar nationals facing difficulties overseas. They have brought back 2,201 Myanmar citizens so far. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

MoHT discusses finalizing COVID-19 tourism strategic roadmap

UNION Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung attended a video conference for coordinating on the COVID-19 Myanmar Tourism Strategic Roadmap (draft) from his ministry's office yesterday.

The meeting was also attended by Deputy Minister U Tin Latt, Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw of the Directorate of Hotels and Tourism, ministry officials, the chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Federation and chairpersons of the 11 affiliated associations.

The Union Minister first delivered a speech where he said they drafted a strategic roadmap at the Online Workshop on COVID-19 Crisis Management: React, Rethink, Recover on 27 April.

The Union Minister said the first step of the roadmap focuses on survival and immediate action with the self-finance and stimu-

lus package, and the second step focuses on reopening and relaxing of lockdown and quarantine to be implemented within three to six months. He said the third step focuses on re-launching and will be implemented within six months to a year and includes long-term plans for reinventing Myanmar tourism and relaxing of regulations.

This strategic roadmap includes action plans from the national COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) that need to be accomplished before the end of 2020. The draft roadmap had been sent to the Myanmar Tourism Federation and 11 affiliated associations for suggestions and recommendations.

The Union Minister said this meeting will finalize all remaining aspects of the strategic roadmap and will compile suggestions and recommendations from all stakeholders of the trav-



Union Minister U Ohn Maung holds the video conference to discuss COVID-19 Myanmar Tourism Strategic Roadmap. **PHOTO: MNA**

el sector for detailed action plans at each step of the roadmap.

After the meeting, Deputy Minister U Tin Latt said they will incorporate the suggestions received when finalizing the strategic roadmap and are still open for additional suggestions. He said the COVID-19 Safe Services standards need to be practical for hotels, restaurants and other businesses in the travel sector. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Govt COVID-19 coord committee holds meeting with KNPP

THE national coordination committee for negotiating COVID-19 measures with ethnic armed organizations (EAOs) held an online video conference with the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) from the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre

(NRPC) yesterday.

Joining the conference on the government's side were national committee chairman Dr Tin Myo Win, committee members, and members of the advisory board to the Peace Commission while KNPP Vice-Chairman

Khu Oo Reh led the party's representatives.

Dr Tin Myo Win and Khu Oo Reh first delivered separate opening speeches.

National committee vice-chairman Lt-Gen (retd) Khin Zaw Oo said they explained

the seven points of agreements discussed with the ten NCA-S EAOs on 8 May and discussed containment and treatment of COVID-19, the matter of people returning from overseas and uncovering persons suspected of the disease and those who have been in close contact with positive cases, acquiring international aid, and further cooperation.

Peace Commission advisory board member U Hla Maung Shwe said they are reaching out to ethnic armed organizations who have not signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement as COVID-19 is a concern for everyone.

He said they discussed the same six topics they discussed with the NCA signatories, which includes containing COVID-19, treatment, people who will be returning from across the border, acquiring international aid, handling people who had been in close contact with positive cases,

and other general matters.

While the KNPP has not been a signatory of the NCA, they signed a bilateral ceasefire agreement with the Government on 7 March 2012 for the state level.

When asked about the KNPP's discussions, U Hla Maung Shwe said they explained they had 18 screening points for COVID-19 along the border with Thailand they are located in. He said they also had mobile medical groups disseminating public awareness on the disease.

U Hla Maung Shwe said Kayah State is currently the only state/region without COVID-19 and is lucky to have no positive cases in Mae Hong Son Province that it shares a border with.

The national coordination committee will distribute humanitarian aid for COVID-19 to EAOs in the coming week. —Ye Khaung Nyunt

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



National coordination committee for negotiating COVID-19 measures with ethnic armed organizations hold the online video conference with the Karenni National Progressive Party yesterday. **PHOTO: POE HTAUNG**

Sedona Hotel Yangon celebrates healthcare heroes

THE Sedona Hotel Yangon management and associates marked the celebration of International Nurses Day on 12 May, 2020, by preparing 200 lunch boxes for all the healthcare and essential workers at Waibargi Hospital, the epicen-

tre of Myanmar's continuing battle with Covid-19.

The lunch boxes were prepared by our Executive Committee members led by General Manager, Henry Lee, and assisted by our Taskforce Team. "These frontline heroes

are making tremendous sacrifices for the safety of others in the most challenging of circumstances and Sedona is one with the Myanmar people in showing our appreciation and gratitude to all of them," said Mr Lee.

Together with the lunch boxes are handwritten messages from our colleagues addressed to all healthcare workers thanking them for their dedication, passion, and selflessness for putting their lives at the forefront of the pan-

demic. Similarly, the hotel also displays its appreciation on the hotel's billboard fronting the Kaba Aye Pagoda Road junction enjoining motorists and passersby to continue fighting the pandemic by being responsible citizens. — GNLM

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YGN forest department to raise mangroves for disaster protection



Yangon Region Forest Department will grow mangrove forests to withstand impacts of natural disaster **PHOTO: MYINT MAUNG SOE**

OVER 30,000 acres of mangrove forest will be raised to withstand the impact of natural disaster in Yangon region, according to the Yangon Region Forest Department.

The department has

planned to designate about 31,353 acres of mangrove as protected mangrove forest in Thonegwa, Kyauktan and Kung-yangon townships.

“Over 30,000 acres of new protective mangrove forest are

being planned to raise in Yangon region. We are taking necessary measures to designate the land as a protected mangrove forest in accordance with the 2018 Forest Law. The field inspection tours are also being conduct-

ed and the farming land under plants will be left. The mangrove along the gulf of Mottama will protect the Yangon region as a green wall. So, the local people do not need to worry about the natural disasters, said Director U Thein Toe of Forest Department in Yangon region.

In order for the mangrove forest to emerge in Yangon region, a team has been formed with personnel from Yangon region government, relevant township general administration departments, the Agricultural Land Management and Statistics Department, the regional Forest Department and two residents from each region. In 2015, there were 2,282 acres of mangrove forest in Yangon region. Now, there are 3,807 acres of mangrove forest in the incumbent government period, according to the Yangon regional Forest Department. —Myint Maung Soe

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Myanmar artist’s creation selected for UNESCO’s “Mask-Art Creativity under lockdown” virtual exhibition

ARTWORK of Myanmar’s prominent artist Tin Win (Beikthano) has been selected to be part of the UNESCO’s virtual exhibition titled “Mask-Art Creativity under lockdown-UNESCO & MEADOWs artists against COVID-19.

The exhibition is expected to be launched on 29 May to mark the World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development addressing the pandemic and mitigation efforts through different means.—GNLM



Maintenance works carried out at Yangon International Airport

THE Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited (YACL) is conducting airport maintenance, safety and cleaning measures at the Yangon International Airport during the suspension of its operations, according to the press release of YACL.

Regarding the airport maintenance, safety and health of all airport users and the business partners, YACL, the operator of Yangon International Airport, has strengthened the type and frequency of airport maintenance as well as cleaning and the disinfection processes in all areas of airport

building during all international flights restriction period as preventive measures for containment of the coronavirus outbreak.

“Yangon International Airport is providing its services effectively and rapidly. During this restriction period, Myanmar needs to keep the necessary things such as cargo transportation and other support such as medicines and medical equipment and other relief flights.

Moreover, we need to make preparation for the airlines to resume and to implement the

airport process for the management of prevention and control of coronavirus disease,” said Mr Pedro Cavem, Operation and Safety Director of YACL.

Yangon International Airport will allow only the assigned airport staff and the passengers to be inside the airport terminal to prevent coronavirus disease, according to the Yangon International Airport.

In accordance with the announcement of the Civil Aviation Department, people are prohibited from entering the airport terminal. Under the re-

striction order was issued on 29 March 2020, the Yangon International Airport allowed only those who are holding the flight tickets and the assigned airport staff to be inside the terminal, it is learnt.

Moreover, the authorities are having the disinfectants sprayed at the airport to prevent coronavirus. Also, the sky link joining the airport car parking and the airport terminal has also been temporarily closed, according to the Yangon International Airport.—Aye Cho

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Tatmadaw holds press conference on peace efforts, COVID-19 measures



TATMADAW True News Information Team held a press conference yesterday on the issues of peace efforts, armed clashes and measures of Defence Services personnel in fighting COVID-19 disease.

Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun led to release information about announcement of ceasefire and lasting peace on 9 May, armed clashes with AA terrorists in northern Rakhine State,

Brigadier General Zaw Min Tun answers media questions during the press conference of Tatmadaw True News Team yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

conveying relief aid for locals in Paletwa area amid the blocks of AA on land and water ways and their attacks on some vehicles of World Food Programme.

Tatmadaw is also donating medical items for the hospitals in respective military commands for prevention, containment and treatment of COVID-19 with the cash donations of Tatmdaw families, including the Commander in Chief of Defence Services, medical and relief supplies to the locals, UWSA (Wa) and KIO/KIA organizations and possible assistance to the remaining ethnic armed groups, according to the Office of Commander in Chief of Defence Services.—MNA

(Translated by Aung Khin)

Manage the COVID-19 Crisis by living each day to its fullest – one day at a time

By Luc De Waegh

THESE is no denying it – these are complicated and difficult times for the world, and Myanmar is not exempt. While the COVID-19 crisis has not hit us as hard here as many other countries, the current lockdown, with its suspension of many types of employment and cancellation of public events, has led to frustration among many citizens over how they can get by and make the best use of their time.

The great American self-help author Dale Carnegie, whose legacy forms the backbone of the professional training organization I lead here in Myanmar, wrote his final book, “How to Stop Worrying and Start Living,” in 1948, after he had lived through the Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II in the 1940s, perhaps the only events of the past century that were larger than the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of global scale and economic impact. Those, too, were troubled and uncertain times, when the direction of many societies – and even the world – was difficult to predict.

So what did Dale Carnegie advise we do to stay productive and combat worry?

“Live in day-tight compartments,” he said. That is, treat each day as an isolated space of its own. Drawing from the Latin phrase *carpe diem*, which translates to “seize the day,” Carnegie

suggests that we make the most of each day by compartmentalizing – limiting our concerns to those we can handle within that day.

While there are certain behaviors everyone can undertake to protect ourselves and those around us (and surely everybody knows the benefits of facemasks by now), we cannot expect to exercise control over the Covid-19 pandemic. But there are three things that we can control, which Dale Carnegie identified: our effort, our energy, and our enthusiasm. We can take the first 10 minutes of each day to focus on the things we can control and the those we wish to accomplish, then stake our terms of a successful day on whether we get them done.

“Today is life – the only life you are sure of,” Carnegie says. “Make the most of today. Get interested in something. Shake yourself awake. Let the winds of enthusiasm sweep through you. Live today with gusto.”

To be clear, living day-tight does not mean “Don’t plan for the future,” but rather “Don’t stress about the future.” It means breaking down larger plans and goals into smaller, more manageable actions that can be accomplished in a day, so you end the day satisfied with what you have done, instead of anxious about how much there is left to do. Rather than obsess

over how you and the world will make it through a crisis that will continue for an unknown time, simply focus on getting through this day. And then do the same tomorrow.

This concept is proving to be useful. Dale Carnegie Myanmar surveyed our social media followers about their most common activities during the stay-home order, and “living in day-tight compartments and focusing only on the present” tied for the second most popular response with “spending more time with family,” behind only practicing meditation. And the behaviors are complementary: Meditation helps you train your mind to focus and drive out distraction so you can think and act with clarity on the tasks of the day, while spending time with family can give us both a sense of purpose and a means of support.

Swe Swe Thet Htoo, 29, is a senior executive assistant who works at the non-government organization who is currently working from home. She says that, rather than waiting for the crisis to end, she is focusing on staying in the present, identifying what she wants and needs to do, and getting ready for the future. Part of this involves talking online to friends and cousins who she has not seen for a long time, but she is also taking an online course that she was previously interested in but had not made

time for.

A 28-year-old account manager from a leading marketing agency that Dale Carnegie works with has shared that choosing to live in the present helps her to be much more productive and focused. Like others, she was worried and overwhelmed by the current situation when the outbreak caused instability in the country’s economy, but she realized that stressing about events that are outside her control was less productive than changing her attitude towards those she can control. She chose to see the crisis as an opportunity for growth, both in terms of her life goals and her relationships. Every day, she sets a new goal that she knows she’ll be able to check off by the end of the day. And she takes time each day to spend with her mother, which was not always possible when she was usually at the office late before the crisis. These simple, daily efforts have allowed her to find peaceful and productive days despite the uncertain future.

In his book, Carnegie quotes Thomas Carlyle, who says that “Our main business is not to see dimly what lies at a distance, but to do what lies clearly at hand.” Another version of this idea can be found in a novel that is particularly relevant for this era: Albert Camus’ *The Plague*. In it, the heroic Dr. Rieux, who is



Mr Luc De Waegh

living in a quarantined city ravaged by a deadly disease, says: “I have no idea what’s awaiting me, or what will happen when this all ends. For the moment I know this: there are sick people and they need curing.” It’s this resolve to narrow his focus to the meaningful actions he can take that allows Rieux to continue working and saving lives.

Your job may seem less vital than that of a doctor, but it is nonetheless an important part of the tapestry of society. Perhaps that job is to guide your business to survive this crisis, or perhaps it is simply to be a good parent, sibling, partner, friend, or neighbor – each and every day.

About Author

Luc de Waegh - Founder and Managing Partner West Indochina an advisory firm focusing on Human Resources solutions. In 2018 Luc acquired the franchise of Dale Carnegie Training in Myanmar.

Careful planning called key to avoiding multiple disasters

WITH the beginning of monsoon season, countries in south Asia including Myanmar are bracing themselves for upcoming extreme weather events while managing the COVID-19 pandemic.

April and May are the hottest months bringing heat waves and drought to Myanmar. Late May and June is the beginning of the four-month monsoon bringing floods to parts of the country. In the monsoon season, Myanmar sees not only floods but also disasters caused by torrential rain.

Cyclones are the most pressing problem. If cyclones and floods damage crops, it will place even more pressure on the agricultural sector, and threaten the livelihoods and welfare of poor smallholder farmers, with likely knock-on effects for revenue-raising food exports and food prices.

Meanwhile, the number of mosquito-borne Dengue fever cases often increases greatly in the monsoon season.

With the upcoming season, there is a demand on regional governments and communities to prepare a joint response to COVID-19 and flooding, without increasing the risk of contracting the coronavirus.

Of late, the Disaster Risk Reduction sector has sought to shift disaster-prone countries' focus from response preparedness, where actions plans are simply put in place to deal with the aftermath of disasters, to disaster risk reduction, where a greater level of resilience is built into communities to make them more able to endure disasters.

With time running out before new climate extremes arrive and collide with the COVID-19 pandemic, the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and its partners are making ten recommendations to guide South Asian nations.

Here are the excerpts from recommendations for managing climate disasters concurrently with COVID-19:

- Integrate multiple hazard and COVID-19 hotspots to inform disaster preparedness and response strategies for monsoon planning
- Minimize the burden on hospitals arising from other hazards (by treating COVID-19 patients separately)

hazards (by treating COVID-19 patients separately)

- Revise standard operating procedures (SOPs) for managing cyclone shelters, with the participation of communities.

- Strengthen capacities and resources for preparing for other hazards. For example, explore the possibility of using schools and colleges (with social distancing) as temporary shelters

- Establish COVID-19 protection protocols for disaster response forces.

- Establish support networks (with social distancing) for providing food and financial relief for the most vulnerable

- Put in place provisions for the elderly in disaster-preparedness mechanisms to reduce, or, if possible, eliminate their exposure to COVID-19

- Strengthen hospital preparedness, including access to sanitation and quality water; to protect functionality when natural disasters strike

- Form multiple-hazard response teams with wide-ranging expertise and the capacity to respond rapidly to both, COVID-19 and natural disasters

We are confident that our lessons from past disasters would help us tackle challenges that lie ahead.



Fourth-Year Performances of Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

By Khin Yadana

PHOTO: MIN THAW

STATE Counsellor Law was enacted on 6 April 2016 and formed the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office in the Union of Myanmar.

In accordance with the article (3) of the State Counsellor Law, speedy implementations are going on with the main objectives such as “The law was drawn up with the aim of ensuring a multi-party democratic system, a market economic system, a federal Union, peace and development in the Union.”

Shouldering the onerous duty for the fourth year, the Ministry of the State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar serves and supports in top gear to the enormous obligations of the State Counsellor.

Fourth year performances of the Ministry are being spelled out by Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, and that the data and information are submitted to the esteemed readers and the people.

Systematically, the Ministry is carrying out the coordination role with relevant ministries and relevant bodies over the implementation of policy guidelines as directed by the State Counsellor. In other words, the performances of the Ministry are on the same tract with the work of the State Counsellor.

Implementation of objectives

Implementation of three objectives namely peace, economic development, and democracy, the road to success is that only when the country is in peace and stability, the economy would grow in vigor. Similarly, only when the peace is achieve, the process in the building of the democratic federal union would be smooth. Therefore, the three main objectives are to be dealt as one.

On 4 February 2020, U Min Lwin is appointed and beefed up as Deputy Minister of the Ministry of State Counsellor to concentrate more on the national reconciliation; the social cohesion and harmony; and matters on international court of justice.

Priority given on peace process

Since the advent of incumbent Government, the peace process of the country has been given priority in its policy guidelines. The government formed an 11-member National Reconciliation and Peace

Centre (NRPC) led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, on 11 July 2016.

National Reconciliation Process and the Union Peace Process are the initial steps that the NRPC stepped ahead.

The Peace Commission was formed on 11 July with the aim of facilitating the ongoing peace talks.

The Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA) seeks to achieve a negotiated settlement between the government of Myanmar and non-state ethnic armed organizations (EAOs). The negotiations are ongoing for achieving sustainable peace.

Inclusion and participation of NCA non-signatory organizations in the political framework is the main concern of the government, and that the leaders of EAOs are keeping in touch for building trust.

Emphasis is being given to put under the NCA umbrella, and to invite all to the negotiation table.

The Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) was formed under the NCA and that the body is undertaking the political discussions so far. Chaired by the State Counsellor, the UPDJC consisted of (16) Representatives from the Government, the Hluttaw and the Tatmadaw; (16) Representatives from the EAOs; and (16) representatives from the political parties; totaling (48) Representatives.

The Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signed on 15 October 2015 by the Union of Myanmar Government and 8 Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) created two major joint bodies: the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JMC) and the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC). The JMC includes union, state and local levels to implement ceasefire monitoring at different levels.

JMC-U, in order to implement its function has established Technical Secretariat Center (TSC). TSC is a technical body to advise and support the JMC to oversee, coordinate and integrate the implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement of 15 October 2015, Military Code of Conduct

Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor: Working in full swing for Peace and the Rule of Law, while implementing policy guidelines of State Counsellor



Independent Commission of Enquiry- ICOE presents its Final Report to President U Win Myint.

of 18 November 2015 and Terms of Reference of the Joint Monitoring Committee of 18 November 2015.

Helping the social life of the nationalities

On one hand, the political discussion is ongoing, and that on the other hand, the internally displaced people in the conflicts zones are being assisted for their food, clothing and shelters through the domestic funds and foreign assisted aids.

In accordance with the “Bilateral Agreement” signed with the EAOs, they are officially provided with the funds available.

Reintegration of the internally displaced people is being carried out by assisting through the building of basic infrastructure, road communication, agriculture, education, and health and development projects in coordination among various bodies.

Journey of the Union Peace Conference- 21st Century Panglong

The Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong was a peace conference held from 31 August to 4 September 2016 at the Myanmar Convention Centre 2 in Nay Pyi Taw.

It was attended by the NCA signatories EAOs as well as non-signatories EAOs. The conference was transmitted live from the TV, which resulted in the comprehension of the people over the stand and viewpoint of the nationalities and the different bodies, drawing enormous interest of the public.

Agreement of Federal Basic Principle

The Second Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong was held from 24 to 29 May 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw.

On 29 May, the high-profile second meeting of the Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong drew to a successful close, having made breakthroughs in advancing Myanmar's peace and national reconciliation.

The 37 adopted principles out of 41, resulting from state and regional level political dialogue, included 12 within the political sector; (11) from economic sector; (4) from social sector; (10) from land and natural environment sector.

They are signed as a Part One of the Pyidaungsu Accord. These achievements of (37) principles are of historic significance in the peace process of Myanmar; and of

challenges in front of us. The Ministry of the State Counsellor Office has determined to step ahead towards the goal of Union Peace.

The door of peace is always open for the non-signatories EAOs, and that the NRPC and the PC is building trust through formal as well as informal meetings.

Following the successful convening of the Third Union Peace Conference - 21st Century Panglong, the Government and the EAOs have continued their meetings on multidimensional themes with positive approach.

Aspiration for ceasefire agreement in the whole country

Officials of the Joint Implementing Coordination Meeting (JICM) for the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA) at the 8th meeting reached an 8-point agreement including fixing a date for convening the fourth meeting of 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference. The JICM meeting was held at National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw on 8 January 2020.

The working groups of the government and Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-Signatories, (10) ethnic armed organizations (NCA-S EAO) held (3) coordination meetings on implementing the decisions made at the 8th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM).

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the need to have flexibility and broadmindedness in achieving genuine peace and emergence of a federal union.

Chairperson of both the National Reconciliation and Peace Center and the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee, made the remarks at a ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw to mark the 4th anniversary of the signing of the government's Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement (NCA).

The State Counsellor outlined three-step peace process to be pursued by the government in the future. The first step is to draft a common process on how to carry on the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference and to obtain framework agreements on the implementation of the NCA. These

agreements will become the first part of the Pyidaungsu Accord to be signed in the forthcoming 4th Panglong Peace Conference.

The Second Peace Process

Second peace process is to include those who are required to take part in the NCA, and that the Government is to bring in the non signatories EAOs under the NCA umbrella.

The third peace process is to share the end result of peace among the people such as that of the allocation of aids assistances from international community as well as the domestic peace funds. Funds are to provide to the people and the nationalities in the conflict zones by building basic structure; the road communication; the agriculture; the education; and the healthcare.



Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe.

The State Counsellor called on all stakeholders to strive for the success in achieving all these steps of future peace process.

Development of Rakhine State

UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency, and the UN Development Programme, signed on 6 June 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

This MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation between the UN and the Government aimed at creating conducive conditions for the voluntary, safe,

dignified and sustainable repatriation of refugees from other side and for helping to create improved and resilient livelihoods for all communities living in Rakhine State. The MOU was extended for another one year on 6 June 2019.

During the period, the UN-HCR is allowed Rapid Need Assessment for (6) times; the Follow Up Visit (6) times; the Quick Impact Projects (45) cases; including the work authorizations and the travel permits.

The Rakhine State development projects are ongoing and under implementation.

Special Envoy of UNSG Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener is extended with all sort of cooperation and that she has visited Myanmar for (6) occasions.

IDP camps in Kyauktaw and Myaybon have been closed down and the people have been resettled. More IDP camps are to be closed down with “Camp Closure Strategy” drafted at the Union level.



Challenges in Rakhine State

Despite the positive efforts of the government for development in Rakhine State, there are bleak, cynical and pessimistic challenges keep coming in from many angles including the ICJ, ARSA, RSO and AA; resulting with negative impact. Upholding the social cohesion and harmony, the population in the IDP camps in Rakhine State have been facilitated with household registration lists; the e -IDs; the NVC through proper and systematic planning, including the services provided through the mobile teams.

SEE PAGE-10

Fourth-Year Performances of Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

FROM PAGE-9

Myanmar Response with regard to ICJ

Myanmar has responded defiantly to a ruling by the UN’s top court ordering measures to prevent the genocide of population in Rakhine State.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it presented a “distorted picture of the situation”.

The measures imposed by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) are binding and not subject to appeal.

However the ICJ has no way of enforcing them.

The case was lodged by the African Muslim majority nation of The Gambia. The ruling warned that genocidal actions could recur.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs said its own commission, the Independent Commission of Enquiry (ICOE), found that there had been no genocide in Rakhine state. However it did say that war crimes had occurred, and were being investigated and prosecuted by Myanmar’s national criminal justice system.

It also blamed condemnation by “human rights actors” for affecting Myanmar’s bilateral relations with some countries.

“This has hampered Myanmar’s ability to lay the foundation for sustainable development in Rakhine State,” it added in a statement.

Myanmar has responded that its military campaign was waged to tackle an extremist threat in Rakhine State.

During the defence statement at the court in The Hague, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi described the violence as an “internal armed conflict” triggered by militant attacks on government security posts.

Response of Myanmar over ICJ

The Ministry of the State Counsellor Office, in collaboration with relevant bodies, has responded defiantly against the ICJ on alleged violation of genocide.

On 11 November 2019, the Republic of the Gambia filed in the Registry of the Court an Application instituting proceedings against the Republic of the Union of Myanmar concerning alleged violations of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Myanmar signed the Con-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi participates in the 8th Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting-JICM for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement- NCA in Nay Pyi Taw on 8th, January, 2020.

vention on 30 December 1949.

On 2 September 1955, Myanmar Minister explained at the Parliament that Myanmar has never ever committed genocide on a group; race; religion; whatsoever. The Minister added that it will never be in the future. With that statement Myanmar abide by that commitment until today.

State Counsellor leads the team

The State Counsellor defended Myanmar against accusations of genocide at the international court of justice, calling the allegations an “incomplete and misleading factual picture of the situation”.

The Gambia lodged application with the ICJ against Myanmar, initiating the case. The ICJ held a public hearing on that request for three days, 10-12 December 2019 at The Hague, the Netherlands.

At the end of its second round of oral observations, Myanmar requested the Court:

“(1) to remove the case from its List;

(2) in the alternative, to reject the request for the indication of provisional measures submitted by The Gambia.”

Rejecting on factual ground

In customary practice, the ICJ pronounced the “Provisional Measure” on 23 January 2020.

The court indicates the following provisional measures:

(1) The Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to the members of the group in its territory, take all measures within its power to prevent the

commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention;

(2) The Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall, in relation to the members of the group in its territory, ensure that its military, as well as any irregular armed units which may be directed or supported by it and any organizations and persons which may be subject to its control, direction or influence, do not commit any acts described in point (1) above, or of conspiracy to commit genocide, of direct and public incitement to commit genocide, of attempt to commit genocide, or of complicity in genocide;

(3) The Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence related to allegations of acts within the scope of Article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide;

(4) The Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall submit a report to the Court on all measures taken to give effect to this Order within four months, as from the date of this Order, and

thereafter every six months, until a final decision on the case is rendered by the Court.

The Court further reaffirms that the decision given in the present proceedings in no way prejudices the question of the jurisdiction of the Court to deal with the merits of the case or any questions relating to the admissibility of the Application or to the merits themselves.

It leaves unaffected the right of the Governments of The Gambia and Myanmar to submit arguments and evidence in respect of those questions.

Myanmar to resolve through international norm

On 26 November 2019, the government formed a Special Unit on International Criminal Justice in order to strengthen internal capacity and expertise and provide legal opinion to relevant ministries on issues related to international criminal law.

The special unit comprised experts from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Union Attorney General’s Office and the Office of the Judge Advocate General.

ICOE was formed on 30 July 2018. The body is tasked to investigate allegations of human

rights violations and that Myanmar Government published the Executive Summary of ICOE’s Final Report on 20 January 2020, and submitted to the President.

It covers that the killing of villagers and the destruction of their homes were committed by some members of Myanmar security forces. However, it mentioned that the allegations regarding “genocidal intent” on the part of members of Myanmar Defence services have not been substantiated. Myanmar Government and the Myanmar Defence services must continue their respective investigation.

Experiences shared to the public through TV discussions

Myanmar Representatives that appeared at the ICJ in The Hague of Netherlands have shared their experiences to the public through the Myanmar TV.

The TV shows on ICJ laws; ICJ hearings; ICJ and Myanmar; and ICJ Provisional Measures were aired on Myanmar TV in December 2019 and January 2020.

On 21 February 2020, a (10) member leading committee chaired by the State Counsellor is formed to respond and handle the matters with regard to ICJ. The leading committee is to adopt policy guidelines and principles; to assign separate working team to submit reports in response to Provisional Measures (PM); and to coordinate with relevant bodies. Moreover, the working committee in connection with the ICJ was formed on 27 February 2020 with (20) members led by Deputy Minister U Min Lwin.

The working committee is to implement the guidelines laid down by the leading committee; to submit response report on Provisional Measures (PM); to collect data and information to counter the allegations; to study over the evidences being collected; to study local, foreign reports and documents on Rakhine State.

In conclusion, the Ministry of the State Counsellor Office is implementing the tasks with regard to NRPC; the rule of law and the development of Rakhine State.

All in all, the Ministry is working in full speed in implementing the policy guidelines and the directives spelled out by the State Counsellor.

Translated by UMT (Ahlon)



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin



Deputy Minister U Min Lwin

Real estate sector fetches over K27.8 bln in three months

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 730 units of apartment were sold at a property expo which earned over K27.8 billion in three months in 2020, according to the report of the iMyanmarHouse.com.

A leading Myanmar real estate website has successfully hosted two expos and 26 private property expos in three months from January to March. At these expos, more than 730 units of real estate were sold for K27.8 billion (over US\$19 million).

Out of two, one took place in Singapore while the remaining one was hosted at Pullman Hotel in Yangon in cooperation with AGD bank. The 26 private properties expo were held at hotels and other project location places.

“The year 2020 is one of the good years for iMyanmarHouse.com. The sale of the property has increased over 60 per cent in three months in 2020 compared to 2019. After three months in 2020, the coronavirus started to break out in Myanmar and the real estate expos had to be suspended. However, iMyanmarHouse.com is still providing its



Over 730 units of apartment were sold at a property expo which earned over K27.8 billion in early 2020. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

service through online. iMyanmarHouse.com wants to stand as a good platform in any situation in Myanmar's real estate sector,” said Managing Director U Nay Min Thu of iMyanmarHouse.com.

“In this situation, iMyanmarHouse.com launched the first online property expo for

the convenience of those people who wish to sell or buy houses, apartments and land. Those who are interested in real estate are able to see through online without having the need to go outside. The property was sold within two hours via online. Also, the plots of land are sold with promotion, and they were sold

out within a week. So, iMyanmarHouse.com is encouraging the developers to conduct more promotion events, he added.

Moreover, iMyanmarHouse.com is planning to provide better services in the aftermath of coronavirus pandemic, he stated.

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over \$12-mln-worth 3 FDI projects flow into Bago region

FIVE domestic and foreign investments worth USD12.318 million and about K4 billion are flowing into Bago region, according to a press release of Bago regional investment committee issued on 19 May.

The permitted investments are one foreign investment, one joint foreign investment and domestic investment. The three foreign investments will make a total of over \$12 million, according to the Bago regional investment committee. The investments will create 4,500 job opportunities for residents.

The one permitted investment has requested the extension of the construction period because of coronavirus pandemic, according to the committee.

Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) has also granted investments during the coronavirus period. On 28 April, MIC granted eight investments worth \$60 million. The commission announced that more than \$3.4 billion worth foreign investments flowed into Myanmar from October 2019 to April 2020.—Aye Maung (Translated by Hay Mar)

Earthen pots from Wuntho selling well

THE residents from Kanmyintha Sanpya village in Wuntho township in Katha district, Sagaing region earn their livelihood making the traditional earthen pots.

“To make earthen pots, the locals have to dig the land from their farmland near Don-tok creek, two miles away from Kan Myint Thar Sanpya village.

There are two types of earth called Myaywar and Innmyay (Myay Mae). The earthen pots need to dry for six to eight hours under the sun and bake for 10 hours. Each stove can bake 50 earthen pots,” said U Kyaw Aye from Kanmyintha Sanpya village. The earthen pots are sold for K1,000 for the big ones

and K600-800 for smaller one as wholesale prices. The earthen pots are sold in Mohnyin, Moegaung, Myitkyina, Kachin State Phakant in upper Myanmar and Pinlebu, Kawlin, Kanbalu, Shwebo, Mandalay towns in lower Myanmar.—Myint Tun Min (Kawlin)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Production of earthen pots is a livelihood in Wuntho Township. PHOTO: MYINT TUN MIN (KAWLIN)

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင် ဝယ်ယူပတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

မြန်မာ့အောင်စာပေ
အမှတ် ၅၈၊ ကိုယ့်မင်းကိုယ့်ချင်းလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

ကြေးမုံခင်စာပေ
အမှတ် ၇၇၊ ၅၂ လမ်းနှင့်မဟာဗန္ဓုလမ်းထောင့်၊ ပုဇွန်တောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။

သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း စာအုပ်အရောင်းဆိုင်
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The Global New Light of Myanmar
အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း (ကင်းဘလမ်း)၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့။
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10 European nations regret US pulling out Open Skies Treaty

PARIS — Ten European nations on Friday issued a joint statement regretting the United States’s withdrawal from the Open Skies Treaty, which they consider “a crucial element of the confidence-building framework that has been created over the past decades to increase transparency and security across the Euro-Atlantic area”.

“We regret the announcement by the government of the United States of its intention to withdraw from the Open Skies Treaty, although we share its concerns regarding the implementation of treaty provisions by Russia,” said the foreign ministers of France, Germany, Belgium, Spain, Finland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Czech Republic and Sweden in the statement.

“We will continue to



President Donald Trump said he will pull the United States out of the Open Skies Treaty with Russia, accusing Moscow of breaking its commitments under the defence pact. **PHOTO: AFP**

implement the Open Skies Treaty which has obvious added value for our conventional arms control architecture and our common security,” said the statement.

“We reaffirm that this

treaty remains functional and useful. The withdrawal becomes effective after a period of six months,” it added.

“On matters relating to the implementation of the treaty, we will continue

dialogues with Russia as previously agreed between NATO allies and other European partners in order to resolve outstanding issues such as undue restrictions imposed on flights over Kaliningrad,” it said.—Xinhua

UK to introduce 14-day quarantine for international arrivals

LONDON — Travellers arriving in Britain from abroad will face 14 days in quarantine, a senior minister confirmed on Friday, saying the government would give details later.

The self-isolation rules will apply to international arrivals to the UK and include Britons returning to the country.

“People who are coming to the UK will have to do quarantine,” Northern Ireland Secretary Brandon Lewis told Sky news.

“We’re saying to people you’ve got to make your own arrangements, if you’re coming to the UK then you need to make those arrangements.

“Obviously for the UK citizens coming back they’ll be able to quarantine at home, for visitors they will need to make arrange-

ments for where they can do that quarantine for 14 days.”

The plans are expected to come into force next month and further details are due to be outlined by Home Secretary Priti Patel at a daily briefing.

Lewis said the policy would be reviewed every three weeks. There are expected to be exemptions for road hauliers and medical officials, and the common travel area with Ireland and the Channel Islands will be unaffected.

But it is thought that arrivals from France will have to quarantine despite claims earlier this month that there would be an exemption. Anybody who fails to self-isolate could face a fine of £1,000 (\$1,220), according to media reports.—**AFP ■**

Sons of murdered Saudi journalist Khashoggi ‘forgive’ killers

RIYADH — The sons of murdered Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi said Friday they “forgive” the killers of their father, a move analysts said effectively grants clemency to five convicts on death row.

Khashoggi — a royal family insider turned critic — was killed and dismembered at the kingdom’s consulate in Istanbul in October 2018, in a case that tarnished the reputation of de facto ruler Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

His family’s pardon is expected to spare the



Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi - a royal family insider turned critic - was killed and dismembered at the kingdom’s consulate in Istanbul in October 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

lives of five unnamed people sentenced to death over the murder in a Decem-

ber court ruling, which was lambasted by human rights groups after two top aides

to the crown prince were exonerated. “On this holy night of this blessed month (of Ramadan)... we the sons of martyr Jamal Khashoggi announce we forgive and pardon those who killed our father,” the Washington Post columnist’s son Salah Khashoggi said on Twitter.

Saudi authorities did not immediately comment on the legal ramifications of the announcement from Salah, who resides in the kingdom and has denied reports of a financial settlement with the government.—**AFP ■**

German health minister pushes for large-scale COVID-19 tests in hospitals, nursing homes

BERLIN — Preventive COVID-19 tests should be carried out in hospitals and nursing homes in Germany on a large scale, German Minister of Health Jens Spahn said on Friday.

“My goal is to present a regulation before the

end of May that will enable preventive serial tests in hospitals and nursing homes,” Spahn told the German newspaper Die Welt on Friday.

“When patients and residents are hospitalized or transferred, SARS-CoV-2 (or novel coronavi-

rus) testing should be the norm.” In the case of an infection in a facility, all staff, residents and patients should also be tested as a precautionary measure.

Even symptom-free contacts of infected persons should have the right to be tested, Spahn added.

In the past few weeks, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) had repeatedly pointed out that COVID-19 related deaths in Germany were likely to increase further as there were severe outbreaks of the disease in hospitals and nursing homes.—**Xinhua ■**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V AEC DILIGENCE

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AEC DILIGENCE VOY. NO. (2034) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN
INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS CO, LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ACCORD VOY. NO. (0205-646N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI ACCORD VOY. NO. (0205-646N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-5-2020 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN MARINE
(S'PORE) PTE., LTD.**

Phone No: 2301185

India central bank slashes rates, warns of contraction

NEW DELHI — India’s central bank slashed interest rates on Friday in an effort to contain the economic fallout of the world’s largest coronavirus lockdown and warned the economy could contract this year.

Even before almost all activity shut down in late March, Asia’s third-largest economy was struggling to gain traction with sluggish growth, record unemployment and banks reluctant to lend.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) slashed the repo rate, the rate at which it lends to commercial banks, by 40 basis

points to 4.0 per cent, the second cut this year.

“The impact of coronavirus is turning out to be more than expected.

GDP growth is estimated to remain in negative territory in 2021,” bank governor Shaktikanta Das told an online news conference.

“RBI will continue to be vigilant and will take whatever measures are needed to be taken due to covid pandemic,” Das added.

The RBI also lowered the reverse repo rate, the rate at which it borrows from commercial banks, by 40 basis

The bank had cut the repo rate by 75 basis points in March as fears grew over the spread of the virus in the country of 1.3 billion people.

Recent data have also set alarm bells ringing.

Last month the purchasing managers index (PMI) of activity in the services sector suffered its sharpest contraction since it began in 2005, while inflation soared to 8.6 per cent.

Das said the global economy was headed towards a recession because of coronavirus-induced disruptions to supply chains.—AFP ■



The Reserve Bank of India has cut rates twice this year to support the beleaguered economy. PHOTO: AFP

Japan central bank in \$279 bn loan boost for small firms

TOKYO — Japan’s central bank on Friday offered hundreds of billions of dollars in additional lending to help small firms in the world’s third-largest economy struggling with the economic devastation wrought by coronavirus.

The Bank of Japan expanded its loan programme by 30

trillion yen (\$279 billion), bringing its total package of financial assistance to small and medium-sized firms to 75 trillion yen.

At an unscheduled meeting held to discuss the economic ramifications of the pandemic, the bank also extended the duration of the programme by six months until March 2021.

Japan was struggling from the effects of natural disasters and a hike in consumption tax even before the pandemic crippled the global economy.

Data published on Monday showed Japan had dived into its first recession since 2015 in the first quarter, with most economists warning the worst was

still to come.

Adding to the Bank of Japan’s headaches, the country slipped back into deflation for the first time in more than three years, with prices falling 0.2 per cent in April, according to data released earlier Friday.

The central bank aims to keep the inflation rate at

around two per cent but did not take any monetary policy action at Friday’s exceptional meeting.

Last month, the BoJ fired off its monetary policy bazooka, offering unlimited purchases of government bonds and more than doubling its upper limit of corporate bond buys.—AFP ■

Russian economy to shrink 9.5% in Q2 in virus standstill: minister

MOSCOW — Russia’s economy is forecast to shrink by 9.5 per cent in the second quarter of 2020 compared to the same period last year, while yearly GDP will fall by five per cent, economy minister Maksim Reshetnikov said on Thursday.

“The main factor of the GDP decrease this year is the internal restrictions” on the economy to stem the coronavirus pandemic, which would impact the

second quarter the most, he told Russian news agencies. Reshetnikov said the ministry’s prediction for the third quarter was a decrease of 6.3 per cent, and a 5.2 per cent decrease in the fourth quarter, with economic activity picking up as restrictions are lifted.

He said he expected most of the restrictions to be lifted by the end of the summer, but the decision will depend on how the epidemic evolves.

“We have factored in August-September as the final lifting of the restrictions,” he said. “But... everything depends on the epidemiological situation” while industries will have to comply with new rules like mandatory mask wearing.

“In 2021 we expect the economy to grow by 2.8 per cent,” and to return to pre-crisis levels in the first half of 2022, he added.—AFP ■



A man jogs in front of the building of the Moscow State University in Moscow on 7 May, 2020, amid the spread of the new coronavirus COVID-19. PHOTO: AFP

Invitation for Prequalification – Engineering, Procurement and Construction for Power Generation Facility of Integrated LNG to Power Project in Mee Lin Gyaing, The Republic of The Union of Myanmar

1. Entrusted by Mee Lin Gyaing Electric Power Co. Ltd, Union Resources & Engineering Company Limited (UREC) now invites Applications for Prequalification for Engineering, Procurement and Construction for Power Generation Facility of Integrated LNG to Power Project in Mee Lin Gyaing, The Republic of The Union of Myanmar.
2. Prequalification will be conducted through the procedures in accordance with the applicable international practice for selection of the contractor on EPC basis.
3. Only eligible Applicants within the last ten (10) years with the following key qualifications should participate in the Prequalification:
 - Contracted amount involving gas turbine generator units not less than US\$300 million, and
 - At least four gas turbines equivalent to or higher than 9F family of gas turbines that have been successfully put into commercial operation, as the contractors for design and installation or on turnkey basis, or
 - At least one gas turbine generator unit with the installed capacity equal to or higher than 300MW that has been put into operation, as the contractor on EPC basis.The prequalification criteria are more completely described in the Prequalification Documents.
4. Please visit website www.urec.com.cn for details of the Integrated LNG to Power Project in Mee Lin Gyaing in The Republic of The Union of Myanmar and the Prequalification Documents.
5. A complete set of Prequalification Documents may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible applicants upon the submission of a written application to the Email Address: urec-mlg@urec.com.cn from 8:00, May 21st to 16:00 May 24th, 2020 (local time). The Prequalification Documents will be issued through email only.
6. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes before 16:00 28th May, 2020.
7. Refer to the Prequalification Documents for details of the requirements for the Preparation and Submission of Applications for Prequalification together with Security.

Çandamuni Stupa and stone inscriptions

By Maung Tha
(Archaeology)



Çandamuni Buddha Image.

STONE inscriptions bearing Pitakat treatises dubbed as the Memory of the World recognized by UNESCO take positions in the precinct of Kuthodaw Pagoda at the foot of Mandalay Hill. Likewise, similar stone inscriptions of Tri Pitakat treatises and Tika treatises which can be called the second memory of the world are located in the precinct of Çandamuni Stupa near Kuthodaw Pagoda.

Çandamuni Stupa takes a position between Maha Lawkamarazein Kuthodaw Pagoda and Maha Thakymunirazein Kyauktawgyi Pagoda at the foot of Mandalay Hill. Travellers have easy access to the stupa on the way to Mandalay Hill. Hermit U Khanti erected 1,772 stone plaques of treatises and two record stone plaques in the precinct of Çandamuni Stupa.

Nanmyay Bontha

Çandamuni Stupa takes a position at the corner of 66th street and State Pariyatti Sasana University, northeast corner of the moat of Mandalay royal palace and 200 yards south to Mandalay Hill. The archway of the stupa bears the title of Nanmyay Bontha Sannandawya Çandamuni Stupa.

King Mindon established Yadanabon Mandalay in 1221 Myanmar era. He often took a rest at Nanmyay Bontha in visiting Kyauktawgyi Pagoda, joining ploughing ceremony and inspecting Yadana Nadi Dam.

The book on history of Çandamuni Stupa mentioned that the area of Nanmyay Bontha built by King Mindon would be much larger than the precinct of current Çandamuni Stupa. U Maung Maung Tin who compiled the Great History of Konbaung Dynasty recorded that after completion of the royal palace, buildings for queens and other buildings in the compound, the royal palace was named as Nan-

myay Bontha in line with the choice of scholars.

An uprising led by Prince Myinkun and Prince Myinkhontaing occurred at the shut near the court of Nanmyay Bontha on 2 August 1866. In the event, princess including Crown Prince Kanaung and Myataung governor gun minister were killed. The remains of the crown prince were kept into the coffin in the main building of the royal palace. Eleven months later, the main building was dissolved on 6 June 1867. Remains of Crown Prince Kanaung, Prince Malun, Prince Saku and Prince Pyinsi were buried in the tombs. The urn pagoda was built on the plot, about three feet from the tomb, according to Great History of Konbaung Dynasty.

Tomb of Crown Prince Kanaung

The site of Nanmyay Bontha Royal Palace was taken by Çandamuni Buddha Image and stupa. A tomb assumed as a graveyard where the remains of Prince Kanaung and other princes were buried took place near the pagoda. Later, the tomb was dissolved on 20 June 1992 because officials assumed the tomb was not magnificent for the pagoda. In the site, a stone plaque bearing the profile of Prince Kanaung was erected.

A story was expressed on the stone plaque in Myanmar and English, bearing that Crown Prince Kanaung was born of King Thayawady and Queen Kyaukmaw on 27 September 1819. He participated in establishment of Yadanabon Mandalay Royal Palace. He made efforts for improving Myanmar economy and led to equip Myanmar royal armed forces with modern arms. The crown prince was killed in the incident of Myinkun-Myinkhontaing uprising on 2 August 1866.

Çandamuni Buddha Image

King Badon, the founder of Amarapura Royal City, cast Çandamuni Buddha Image weighing 11,368 viss of iron on 14th waxing of Tagu, 1164 Myanmar era and kept it in the golden tier-roofed building, northeast of Mingun Alekyun Palace. The image was moved to the place, 100 yards north of the old moat of Amarapura on 12th waning of Tawthalin, 1177 ME. Maha Çandamuni Pagoda on the left side of Mandalay-Amarapura Road was built by King Badon 13 years ago after casting Çandamuni Buddha Image.

King Sagaing conveyed the image from Amarapura to the precinct of Inwa Maha Muni Buddha Image on 5th waning of Wagaung, 1189 ME. The Buddha image was kept in the golden Gandakuti chamber. Eleven years later, King Thayawady conveyed the image to Amarapura on 8th waning of Tawthalin,

stairways made iron frames at four dimensions of the stupa. The hermit safeguarded and maintained the stupa from 1269 ME to 1311 ME.

Atthakatha and Tika treatises

Dhamma stupas, where stone plaques bear treatises

of Atthakatha and Tika of the Lord Buddha, were built in the precinct of Çandamuni Stupa.

These stone inscriptions were carved by Hermit U Khanti under permission of Maha Sangharaja in 1275 ME. The Sangharaja assigned 15 venerable members of the Sangha to edit the inscriptions. Finally,

scriptions of Atthakatha and Tika treatises.

The hermit could build the brick stupas on 883 stone plaques. Now, remaining 891 stone plaques have been kept in the chambers.

A total of 454 stone plaques were kept in 194 chambers at the northeast corner of the stupa, 454 plaques in 194 chambers at the southeast corner, 432 plaques in 184 chambers at the southwest corner and 432 plaques in 184 chambers at the northwest corner.

Hermit U Khanti

The history of Mandalay Hill could not complete without records on endeavours of Hermit U Khanti who decorated the hill with prayer halls and stairways made of iron frames and concrete ladders.

He was born of U Shwe Hla and Daw Kan aka Daw Kho U in Ywatha Village of Yamethin Township on fifth waning of Wagaung, 1229 ME and passed away on 14th waning of Pyatho, 1310 ME.

The youth, named Maung Po Maung, was ordained at 20 at Kyaungma Monastery in Yamethin Township. At 12 vassa, he was initiated into hermit and he resided at Shwemyintin Hill.

In 1908, the hermit moved to Mandalay and focused on construction of religious edifices, totalling 47 buildings in 20 towns. During the period from 1908 to 1949, the religious edifices on Mandalay Hill built by the hermit were valued at K11,639,980.

Stone inscriptions on Tri Pitakat and Atthakatha treatises can be seen in Yangon, Meiktila, Thaton, Hinthada, Kyangin, Aphyauk, Mingun and Mandalay. Among them, number of stone plaques in the precinct of Çandamuni Stupa in Mandalay was the largest. In fact, these stone plaques were Buddhist literature as donations of Hermit U Khanti in addition to historic Çandamuni Stupa and Çandamuni Buddha Image.

(Translated Than Tun Aung)

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Mandalay Hill (Ludu Daw Ahmar)

New History of Mandalay Hill (Bhaddanta Jotikabhivamsa)

History of Çandamuni Stupa and Dhammazedì stone plaques (U Aung Thu)



Çandamuni Stupa.



Hermit U Khanti.

Abhayarama Moehti Monastery Abbot U Jagara supervised expression of stone inscriptions.

One to three stone plaques were erected on brick tables on which one stupa each was built in the precinct of Çandamuni Stupa.

Thuthiri Thinkhawady, daughter of Crown Prince Kanaung, supplicated to Hermit U Khanti that if Kuthodaw Pagoda built by King Mindon was formed with stone plaques bearing treatises of Tri Pitakat, Çandamuni Stupa where the tomb of the crown prince took place should have been formed with stone plaques bearing in-

1200 ME.

The image was conveyed by King Mindon to Yadanabon Mandalay from Amarapura in 1229 ME.

The walls of the stupa built by King Mindon were 730 feet long from the east to the west, 365.5 feet wide from the south to the north and six feet high. The king built the 100 feet high stupa on the five-terrace brick foundation and the seven-tier brick Gandakuti chamber in the east of the pagoda where Çandamuni Buddha Image was kept. The chamber was 36 feet long and 34.5 feet wide.

Hermit U Khanti donated



Swedish fighter Mathias Jonsson showing the knee attack at a training session. **PHOTO: MATHIAS JONSSON'S INSTAGRAM**

Swedish fighter Jonsson joins Myanma Lethwei

SWEDISH Muay Thai Champion, Mathias Jonsson has recently signed with World Lethwei Championship (WLC), according to the statement with the WLC.

His fighting bouts in Thailand were popular and his move to the Lethwei has proved he wants to write a new chapter of his fighting story.

Upon his signing with WLC, he has expressed about how he can perform in fighting:

"I used to be a terrible fighter, probably the worst one in the gym. But my strongest asset has always been my iron will. I am extremely stubborn and I have

a strong will. So when I started training, I just fought with the best and got knocked out all the time, sometimes twice a day, for years and years."

The Swedish fighter is aiming to bring his fabulous style to the World Lethwei Championship and has said, "I am brutal, and I like the idea of fighting without thinking about the score," while stating about his fight style.

"I think head-butts and blood will fit my style pretty well. Lethwei is brutal and I am ready for it," he added. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Drive to succeed: the endless golf dominance of South Korea's women

SEOUL—When South Korea's domestic women's golf tour held its premier event last week – without spectators because of the coronavirus pandemic – no fewer than three of the world's top 10 players took part. The country of 52 million people has a disproportionate share of the women's world golf rankings, providing eight of the current top 20.

In a demonstration of their prominence, Korean women have won at least one major every season since 2010, with coronavirus cancellations perhaps the biggest threat to their run this year.

The phenomenon, players

and commentators say, is the result of several factors: driven parents, intense training, a highly competitive society, sponsorship money, and the shining example of 25-time LPGA winner Pak Se-ri.

Of those, one element is critical – the unstinting support and relentless encouragement of parents, who wait for hours while children practise, shuttle them between venues and spend significant sums on coaching.

"All-out parental support" is vital for success, world number six Kim Sei-young, who has 10 LPGA wins and took part in the KLPGA Championship, told AFP.

It parallels the time, re-

sources and pressure many South Korean parents pour into their children's academic development in the attempt to secure a sought-after place at one of the country's top universities.

Golf millionaires

South Korea ranks eighth globally for number of courses, according to the Royal and Ancient's 2019 Golf in the World report, with 798 spread across 440 facilities.

But while driving ranges and screen golf are cheap and popular, green fees often cost hundreds of dollars and clubs are seen as elitist and expensive.—AFP ■



Kim Sei-young is one of eight South Koreans in the world top 20. **PHOTO: AFP**

MFF eyes new coach for brighter futsal future

MYANMAR Football Federation has been looking for a new head coach for national futsal team during the previous months before coronavirus pandemic.

MFF General Secretary U Ko Ko Thein said that veteran Futsal tactician Vic Hermans would be the most suitable coach to take up the top Futsal job in Myanmar.

Hermans got in touch with ASEAN futsal teams as he first served as the head coach of Ma-

laysia in 1996.

"We will be able to discuss more details about his contract when the pandemic situation has improved. As for now, we could not say more about it," he added.

Hermans also served as the head coach of Iran and Netherlands before taking up the top Futsal job with Thailand in 2012. He then joined with Indonesia from 2017 to 2018. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Nevada officials mull return of boxing in Las Vegas

LOS ANGELES—Boxing could be back on in Las Vegas in June, with the Nevada State Athletic Commission to consider bout applications at a May 27 meeting.

The meeting, which will be via telephone rather than in-person as coronavirus social distancing measures remain in place, will be the NSAC's first since it shut down all combat sports in the state on March 14.

The meeting agenda lists consideration of formal protocols for protecting fighters and their camps from COVID-19 "for events held without the presence of a live audience."

The commissioners will also consider an application from Dana White's mixed martial arts Ultimate Fighting Championship to hold bouts in Vegas on May 30 and June 6.

And they will consider a request from Bob Arum's Top Rank to stage a boxing fight card on June 9 at the MGM Grand.

Approval of the applications will depend on whether the commission decides it can remove or modify the restrictions it imposed after Nevada governor Steve Sisolak closed the state, including all casinos, in March.—AFP ■