Govt, NCA-S EAOs conclude two-day meeting, results ensure moving forward

The two-day meeting of the Union Government and the Ethnic Armed Organizations (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatories) concluded yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, bringing positive results which will allow the two sides to move forward.

The two-day session focused on holding the bilateral meeting and the Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee meetings in parallel, in accordance with decision number 1 of the 8th JICM.

Following the meeting, Sao Sai Ngin, leader of the NCA-S EAOs Peace Negotiation team expressed thanks to the delegates of the two sides for achieving good results for the JMC-S Parallel Process.

The results achieved by the meeting reflect that the two sides can negotiate between them for the good of all, said Sao Sai Ngin, acknowledging that the results came as the two sides were not moving in parallel but towards a point of convergence.

The peace negotiations could build understanding and trust during the meeting after they discussed the JMC-S Parallel Process in a friendly and open manner from different points of view, he said.

No new case of COVID-19 reported in Myanmar on 2 August, total figure remains at 353

Updated at 8 pm, 2 August 2020

Total Cases 353
New Case 0
Total Health Daily 6

Recovery Update on 2 August 2020 after two consecutive tests

Total Recoveries 298
New Recoveries 1
Discharged from Hospital 285

New Persons under Investigation from the past 24 hours to 12 noon of 2 August 2020

New PUIs 16
THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is speeding up issuing citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible people. On 2 August, 36 people at Nay Pyi Taw conducted a tour of inspection of the ministry’s teams issuing the citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible people. The Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, the Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaw, the Nay Pyi Taw Council member and Minister for Ministry of Security and Border Affairs Colonel Min Naung, and the Union Territory Sub-Election Commission Chairperson U Thein Htwe and other officials visited the locations. Then, the Union Minister; the Deputy Minister and other officials presented citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible citizens.

Similarly, the Union Minister and his entourage visited religious hall near Youk Thwar Inn Village Tract Administration Office near Y ouk Thwar Inn Village Tract in Pyinmana Township, and the Chin Ywa Basic Education Primary School in Oattarathiri Ward, Oattarathiri Township. Theberries from Department of Immigration and Population conducted field tours to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible citizens.

Similarly, the Union Minister and his entourage visited religious hall near Youk Thwar Inn Village Tract Administration Office near Y ouk Thwar Inn Village Tract in Pyinmana Township, and the Chin Ywa Basic Education Primary School in Oattarathiri Ward, Oattarathiri Township. The

People are the key

Issuing citizenship scrutiny cards speeded up to ensure voting right

THE Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is speeding up issuing citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible citizens. On 2 August, 36 people at Nay Pyi Taw conducted a tour of inspection of the ministry’s teams issuing the citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible people. The Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, the Deputy Minister U Myint Kyaw, the Nay Pyi Taw Council member and Minister for Ministry of Security and Border Affairs Colonel Min Naung, and the Union Territory Sub-Election Commission Chairperson U Thein Htwe and other officials visited the locations. Then, the Union Minister; the Deputy Minister and other officials presented citizenship scrutiny cards to the eligible citizens.

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136 Myanmar nationals fly back home by relief flight

A relief flight by Myanmar Airways International (MAI) bringing back 100 Myanmar nationals 70 are from the United States, and 30 are from the Republic of Korea from Incheon International Airport landed at the Yangon International Airport at 8:00 pm yesterday. With the help of the Myanmar Embassies in Washington and Seoul, 70 Myanmar nationals stranded in the United States, as well as 30 Myanmar nationals including seamen in the Republic of Korea could be brought back home by the relief flight. Similarly, an Air China Cargo/Relief Flight bringing back 36 Myanmar students from the People’s Republic of China landed at 7:10 pm yesterday. With the help of the Myanmar Embassy in Beijing, the 36 Myanmar students stranded in China after their study programmes, could be brought back home by the Beijing-Yangon Air China Cargo/Relief Flight. As they arrived in the Yangon International Airport, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Yangon Region government arranged proper medical check-ups and 21-day quarantine for the returnees.

To bring back Myanmar nationals stranded in foreign nations by relief flights and charter flights in accordance with the instructions from National-Level Central Committee for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is cooperating with the relevant ministries and Myanmar embassies from respective nations.

On 4 August, an Incheon-Yangon relief flight carrying Myanmar nationals who were stranded in some countries will land at the Yangon International Airport. Myanmar nationals who were stranded in the United States will be brought back to Myanmar through ROK on 12 August, by another Incheon-Yangon special flight.—MNA (Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

Elections are the root for development of democracy.
NREC Union Minister inspects tree nursery, lead refinery, elephant camp in Shan State

UNION Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win planted trees together with officials from township, district- and state-level departments under the ministry at the Hinthada reservoir in southern Shan State on 1 August. After listening to the reports on land utilization in Hinthada Reserved Forest, watershed area of the reservoir, the Union Minister gave instructions on conservation of the reserve forest in accordance with the departmental procedures, to conduct field inspections and report in a timely manner to prevent squatter in the protected areas and to check water quality regularly on a monthly basis.

The reservoir was constructed in 1967, and the water in reservoir is supplied to the people in Thitlaw, Pyidawtha, Yadanaroo, Mingalaroo, Yayayekwin, Kangpauk wards and Sao Sai Tan General Hospital.

The Union Minister also inspected demonstration planting of various trees established in Aye Thayar Green Zone, in Taunggyi. The minister urged the officials to establish the various kinds of trees plantation, to plant nitrogen-rich trees to improve quality of agricultural land, to dig drainage canals to conserve water and soil, to grow bamboo and vetiver grass at the bottom of the hill side and to carry out model plantation as an educational venue.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party visited lead refinery plant of Ten Hteiktan Kywel production company in Bawsai, Kalaw Township in Shan State. The Union Minister listened to the reports presented by company officials, and gave necessary instructions to the officials concerned.

At the Shan Yoma Elephant camp in Kalaw Township in the evening, in charge of the elephant camp reported to the Union Minister on the renovation of elephant camp and future plans. The Union Minister instructed that to ensure food security for elephants and health of elephants, to prepare for the best services to the visitors in accordance with the health guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health and Sports, to do special attention to cleanliness of environment of the elephant camp and rest room and reporting the reopening plan of the camp in post-COVID-19.

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

Govt, NCA-S EAOs conclude two-day meeting, results ensure moving forward
701 Myanmar migrant workers return home via Myawady border

A total of 701 Myanmar migrant workers – 412 males and 289 females – came back home from Thailand through the Myawady Friendship Bridge (2) yesterday.

Kayin State Hluttaw representative U Thant Zin Aung, Myawady District Administrator U Tha Zar Aung, and local authorities helped the returnees with medical tests and other supplies. A total of 56,756 returnees including 11,680 in May, 25,338 in June and 19,797 in July and 440 on 1 August have come back home through this border crossing since 1 May.

Yesterday’s returnees were successfully sent to the respective quarantined centres in line with COVID-19 prevention measures. – Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Patrol team deployed to protect dolphins from illegal fishing

ABOUT 100 retailers have offered Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) to resell the reserved rice at a much fairer price to the people, said an official of the federation.

At present, more than 1,000 bags from reserved rice have been sold to some retailers. Those reserved rice are planned to be sold at K22,500 per 108-pound bag to the registered retail shops, with the maximum 200 bags per batch. The shops must resell the rice to the consumers not exceeding K3,000-1,100 per pyi (2.3 kg) depending on the regions.

If retailers are found to hike the rice price more than the set price, they will be struck off from the list to resell the reserved rice, MRF stated.

Moreover, there is a separate plan to sell the rice at the labour-intensive factories for the workers. MRF stated that the respective Consumer Affairs Department of the regions and states will monitor the sales to ensure systematic management.

MRF received proposals from factories for the reserved rice. Plans are underway for the industrial workers.

Regarding the rice purchase at a much fairer price, those interested retailers and factories can contact through mobile numbers 09-69436994 of MRF and 09-69436996 of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association.

The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITIS), the authorized organization of the State and MRF implemented rice reserve scheme on 30 April. Myanmar has purchased an adequate amount of rice for the national reserve, and the State’s purchase from the exporters temporarily halted starting from 1 August.

The state’s emergency rice reserve is to ensure the food security, keep the price stable in the domestic market, continue to export them regularly, lessen the worries of the consumers during the COVID-19, and not to harm the rice production of farmers due to the price fall when the new paddy is harvested.

To ensure the self-sufficiency during the coronavirus pandemic, the government decided to spend K38 billion to purchase foodstuff (50,000 tonnes of rice and 12,000 tonnes of palm oil) as the emergency food reserves, said Dr Than Myint, Union Minister for the Commerce. – Ko Khant

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

About 100 retailers interested to resell the reserved rice: MRF reports

Conservation areas and conduct surveillance operations are set to protect endangered dolphins from extinction.

PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN

Patrol team deployed to protect dolphins from illegal fishing

MRF, the reserved rice source, said the patrol team will strictly combat illegal fishing to protect dolphins in Ayeyawady River, said U Tun Tun Win, head of Sagaing Region Fisheries Department.

“We must take strict measures to curb illegal fishing”, he added.

Surveillance operations around the conservation area (1) were conducted by the team led by Deputy Director-General U Myint Zin Htoo of Fisheries Department accompanied by the officials of the respective departments, Ayeyawady Dolphin Conservation Society and Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Foundation.

The deputy director-general instructed further measures to end electrocution of the fisherman, protect dolphins from illegal fishing and maintain living marine resources.

The pod of seven Ayeyawady dolphins were spotted during the surveillance operations near Nandawkyun village, Madaya Township, said U Tun Tun Win.

This year, about six dolphins were killed along the Ayeyawady River by electrofishing. As a result of this, a team comprised of officials from Police Force, Fire Services Department, the General Administration Department and Fisheries Department will monitor the conservation areas along the Ayeyawady River.

Additionally, there will be a surprise inspection to seize the dolphin hunters.

The conservationists and dolphin lovers will also monitor illegal fishing along Ayeyawady River, and they will tip the nearest security team off.

To protect endangered dolphins from extinction, Myanmar set conservation areas and conduct surveillance operations.

According to the latest survey, there are over 70 Ayeyawady dolphins around 400 kilometres from Mandalay to Bhamo, Kachin State. An area between Male and Shwegu along Ayeyawady River is primary dolphin habitat.

PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)
CMP garment exports worth $3.6 bln in past 10 months

EXPORTS of garments manufactured under the cut-make-pack (CMP) system were valued US$3.6 billion in the past ten months of the current financial year 2019-2020, according to the data from the Ministry of Commerce.

The export figures reflect a decrease of $60 million as against a period ago. Myanmar’s manufacturing sector is largely concentrated in CMP garments and textiles, which contribute to the country’s GDP to some extent.

The garment sector is among the prioritized sectors driving up exports. The CMP garment industry has emerged as a promising one, with preferential trade from Western countries.

The majority of Myanmar’s garment factories operate under the CMP system, and those engaged in this industry are striving to transform CMP into the free-on-board (FOB) system, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.

At present, some CMP garment factories have shut down on the reason for the lack of raw materials due to the coronavirus negative impacts, leaving thousands of workers unemployed.

The labour-intensive enterprises are badly battered by the coronavirus impacts, said an official of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

However, foreign direct investment is flowing into many types of businesses including the garment enterprises. The foreign investors are not bothered by the disputes between employers and employees and the closure of some CMP businesses during the mean times.

Of the investment proposals, the manufacturing and labour-intensive businesses are prioritized by the commission.

Myanmar Investment Commission is planning to accept investment projects in manufacturing masks, pharmaceuticals and others which can contribute to the fight against the coronavirus in the country at the soonest.

The CMP garment sector which contributes to over 20 per cent of Myanmar’s export sector is struggling because of the cancellation of order from the European countries and suspension of the trade by western countries amid the pandemic. It can harm the export sector to a certain extent, the businesspeople pointed out.

The export value of CMP garments was only $850 million in the 2015-2016 financial year, but it has tripled over the last two FYs. In the 2016-2017FY, about $2 billion was earned from exports of CMP garments. The figure increased to an estimated $2.5 billion in the 2017-2018FY and $2.2 billion in the 2018 mini-budget period (from April to September). It tremendously grew to $4.6 billion in the 2018-2019FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar mainly exports CMP garments to markets in Japan and Europe, along with the Republic of Korea, China, and the US.

Since an outbreak like COVID-19 might happen in the future it is necessary to prepare for a sufficient supply of raw materials. The public and private sectors will cooperate in setting up the supply chain on our sources, including weaving, knitting, dyeing, and sewing factories.

The MGMA has more than 500 members, and garment factories in Myanmar, employing more than 500,000 workers. Investors prefer to invest in countries with inexpensive labour, such as Myanmar. — Ko Htet (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

ARIC endorses 3 projects worth $4.979 mln, K3.2 bln

THE Ayeyawady Region Investment Committee (ARIC) has given the green light to three enterprises in the hotels and tourism, construction and manufacturing sectors, with an estimated capital of US$4.979 million and K3.215 billion. The decision was taken during a meeting held on 30 July.

The projects are expected to create 2,173 jobs, according to a press release issued by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

Since its establishment, the ARIC has endorsed around 35 domestic, foreign, and joint venture projects in the manufacturing, hotel services, construction, transport services, industry and other sectors.

Among the regions and states, Yangon Region absorbs 60 per cent of investments, while Mandalay attracts 30 per cent. The other regions and states get only a small share of investments, according to statistics released by the DICA. To simplify the verification process of investment projects, the Myanmar Investment Law allows the region and state Investment Committees to approve local and foreign proposals, where the initial investment does not exceed K1 billion, or $5 million. — Mon Mon (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

Myanmar cuts tariff on import of private cars, SKD vehicles amid COVID-19 impacts

IN a bid to remedy the business lowered caused by the COVID-19 impacts, the government has brought tax cuts on the importation of private cars with non-commercial purpose and semi-knocked down vehicles assembled in Myanmar starting from 1 August, according to notification of the Ministry of Planning, Finance and Industry released on 29 July.

This move is likely to bring down the prices of vehicles with engines above 1,500 CC, said a car dealer.

The government lowered tax rates from 30 to 20 per cent on imported private cars with the engine under 2,000 CC and 40 to 30 per cent on cars with 2,001 CC and above. Meanwhile, the locally assembled cars under the SKD system were exempted from 10 per cent tax. Additionally, tariffs on SKD vehicles with 2001 CC and above were reduced from 20 to 5 per cent.

However, tax cuts still do not cover special goods tax, commercial tax, and income tax and registration fees at the Road Transport Administration Department (RTAD) to hold the vehicle ownership status.

“We are encouraging vehicle owners to update the ownership status as the tax rate drops significantly to 3 per cent from 15 per cent. However, the rate will be applied only for the current financial year (1 October 2019-30 September 2020),” said an official of RTAD.

Production of brand-new cars in Myanmar showed a decrease of 22.3 per cent in the first five months from January to May in 2020, as per statistics released by the ASEAN Automotive Federation.

The production of cars in January-May plunged to 4,704 units from 6,128 units registered in the year-ago period.

Meanwhile, the sales of brand-new cars slightly rose 4 per cent during the period compared against 2019. A total of 7,552 cars were sold between January and May as against 7,215 cars in the previous year, according to the statistics released by ASEAN Automotive Federation.

Purchase of brand-new cars on installment plans is popular among people. Before the coronavirus outbreak, the new auto market was booming and some buyers have shown interest in purchasing vehicles assembled under the semi-knocked down (SKD) system. About 18 companies have been permitted to assemble cars using the SKD system at local plants. — Ko Khant (Translated by Ei Myat Mon)
Food trucks serving up free hot meals to front-line medical workers

WITH no end in sight to the coronavirus pandemic, food trucks in Tokyo are spending the summer serving up hot meals to front-line medical workers free of charge with costs covered by the public through crowdfunding.

Acting to encourage doctors and nursing staff at the same time as helping food truck operators make up some of the income they have lost as more people work from home, the scheme — launched by a hospital association in the capital — is a win-win situation for all.

On July 4, it was the turn of staff at Tobu Chiiki Hospital in Tokyo’s Katsushika Ward to get free meals. In a food truck offering Indian curry, Lalit Mohan was busy baking naan, while Hitoe Matsuoka, the food truck’s operator, handed out helpings of naan and curry to smiling hospital staff.

The pair prepared 100 hot lunches in all for the hospital’s workers, who usually get their lunches from neighborhood convenience stores or bring them to work from home.

“Normally, we aren’t able to eat any hot meals, so I really appreciate this,” said Yukari Horikawa, a nurse at the hospital.

Tobu Chiiki Hospital has been admitting coronavirus patients since April. Initially, there was heightened tension because of rumors and fears about the virus, and even now the anxiety continues.

“We have been able to get an energy boost from all of the support we’ve been given. It warms our hearts,” said Midori Oku, chief of the hospital nursing staff.

The association began recruiting businesses to join the project in May. For the crowdfunding, a target of 3 million yen ($28,700) was set to deliver 100 meals each to 25 hospitals in the metropolitan area. The goal was reached by the deadline at the end of June, and the scheme is scheduled to continue until the end of August.

Koichi Nagai, secretary general of the hospital association, said, “There are hospitals where dining halls have been shut down, and employees of kiosks have quit. We want to support medical staff in the field with hot meals to show our feeling of gratitude.”

Similar endeavors are under way. Mellow in Chiyoda Ward, Tokyo, which runs a food truck brokerage business, launched an initiative in May. Food and fuel costs are borne by sponsors, and Mellow has provided more than 10,000 meals from food trucks for hospital workers in the Tokyo metropolitan area so far.

The efforts will help food truck operators whose sales in office districts have been in sharp decline. An employee of an event company involved in the Tokyo Metropolitan Hospital Association’s project, said, “This not only helps hospitals but food trucks too. There is a good part for both.”

SOURCE: Kyodo

Threat to Florida eases as Isaias is slated to remain tropical storm

ISAIAS neared the Florida coast Sunday threatening to bring strong winds, flash flooding and storm surges but was no longer expected to regain hurricane strength.

Isaias, downgraded from a category 1 hurricane, was packing sustained winds of 65 miles (105 kilometers) per hour on Sunday morning as it moved slowly toward Florida’s southeast, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) said.

“The storm earlier dumped torrential rain on the Bahamas and claimed at least one life in Puerto Rico. Florida’s coast was experiencing heavy gusts of wind early Sunday, and storm surges of up to four feet (1.2 meters) were still expected on Florida’s northeastern coast, around Jacksonville.

President Donald Trump declared an emergency ahead of the storm’s arrival to free up federal funds. Governor Ron DeSantis warned Floridians late Saturday to brace for the storm, adding that Palm Beach county had issued a voluntary evacuation order.

As the state battened down, it was also battling its coronavirus outbreak, which has complicated preparations.

Florida has the second highest number of cases of all states except California — which has double its population.

SOURCE: AFP

California becomes first state in U.S. to surpass half million COVID-19 cases

CALIFORNIA, the most populous state in the United States with a population of around 40 million, became the first state in the country to have more than half million confirmed cases of COVID-19, authorities said on Sunday.

A daily report released by the California Department of Public Health showed a daily jump of 6,542 COVID-19 cases, bringing the total number of cases in the state to 590,130.

The 7-day average number of new cases is 7,819 per day. The 7-day average from the week prior was 10,065, according to the California Department of Public Health.

Public health officials also confirmed 219 new COVID-19 deaths in the daily update. There have been 9,224 COVID-19 deaths in California since the start of the pandemic. Officials noted that there have been 7,886,587 tests conducted in California, representing an increase of 75,546 over the prior 24-hour period.

“As testing capacity continues to increase across the state, an increase in the number of positive cases has been expected,” said the department in the daily report. The number of confirmed cases in California surpassed New York last week for the most in the United States.

SOURCE: Xinhua
THE United Nations has commended governments in South-East Asia for acting swiftly to stem the most serious health consequences of Covid-19 but highlighted the need to curb rising inequalities across the region.

Pandemic response in SE Asia must address rising inequalities: UN Report

UN has commended governments in southeast Asia for acting swiftly to stem the most serious health consequences of Covid-19 but highlighted the need to curb rising inequalities across the region.

The new UN report examines how Covid-19 has affected eleven countries in South-East Asia and proposes action-oriented recommendations on mitigating immediate impacts and planning pathways out of the crisis.

“The Brief highlights the disproportionate impact of the pandemic on vulnerable groups, particularly workers in the informal economy. The crisis is threatening to push them back into poverty and unemployment,” said UN Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Arminda Alisjahbana.

Moving forward, four areas as will be critical in the region’s plans for recovery: tackling inequality; bridging the digital divide; green economy; and upholding human rights and good governance. The uneven landscape of social protection systems has placed tackling inequality at the centre of both short and long-term recovery efforts, according to the report. Increased investments to strengthen health systems and accelerate progress towards universal health care will be critical to support those excluded from formal policy and social protection measures.

Digital technology has also proved to be a critical tool in response to the pandemic. However, the benefits it offers are being threatened by new challenges, including to peace and security,” she said.

The report calls for a coordinated and scaled up effort is needed to put in place next-generation infrastructure networks and ensure universal digital connectivity, highlights the Brief.

The Swiss tone down national celebrations as virus cases rise

The Swiss daily case numbers were low and stable but have crept up again in recent weeks, with the 200 mark being passed on Thursday and Friday for the first time since April 23.

In response, Geneva has shut down its nightclubs again. The August 1 date marks the signing of the Federal Charter of 1291, when three of Switzerland’s 26 cantons first joined together in confederation.

100th Salzburg festival kicks off under virus restrictions

WHILE many theatres, opera houses and concert halls across the globe remain closed, one of the world’s most prestigious summer music festivals opened in Austria this weekend – with strict anti-coronavirus measures in place.

Organisers of the annual Salzburg Festival had originally planned a glittering array of 200 events for its star-studded 100th edition. But they were forced to shelve many of the concerts, operas and theatre performances as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and drew up a much slimmed-down programme instead.

The month-long festival kicked off on Saturday with a performance of Richard Strauss’s blood-curdling opera “Elektra” in a brand-new staging by Poland’s Krzysztof Warlikowski.

Organisers are imposing strict safety measures on the 110 shows that are still going ahead. All 80,000 tickets on sale – down from the usual 230,000 – are personalised to enable contact-tracing in case of an infection.

Spectators have to wear masks until they are seated, and those under 18 can be watched from above. The city in 2019. Tourism is referred to as the engine driving the kingdom’s economy. PHOTO: AFP

People visit the Grand Palace in Bangkok, Thailand on Sunday as it reopened for visitors following the loosening of restrictions to curb coronavirus. Thailand’s capital Bangkok was named the world’s most-visited city in 2019. Tourism is referred to as the engine driving the kingdom’s economy. PHOTO: AFP

The crisis presents an opportunity for countries to re-orient their development towards sustainability, particularly through green recovery packages. Stimulus packages should be directed to industries that are low-carbon, resource efficient and aligned with environmental and climate objectives. By phasing out fossil fuel subsidies, countries could finance most or all of their current stimulus packages. Such measures would create massive fiscal space and greatly boost low carbon alternatives such as renewable energy and energy efficiency.

The Brief further underscores that countries in South-East Asia and their leaders can play an important role in upholding human rights and good governance practices in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic. Leaders can leverage community-based organisations, promote inclusion, participation and unity, and speak out against discrimination.

The report is part of a series of policy briefs issued by the United Nations that examine the sectoral and geographical dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world.

SOURCE: ESCAP
Enjoy peace by turning negative emotions into positive ones

Dhammacakkna Day is a very holy day for the Theravada Buddhists. This religious festival day is celebrated on the full moon of Waso. It is meant to celebrate the teachings of the Buddha from the Dhamma.

In his First discourse, the Buddha taught his five friends the Eightfold Path and the Four Noble Truths. The essence of the Buddha's teaching is that the suffering in this world is due to negative emotions or craving; the cause of such suffering is craving; and the solution to the problem is to stop craving.

In this context, the Buddha taught the followers of the Sangha to cultivate the noble path of the Dhamma in a seven-day retreat. This is to show gratitude to the Buddha for his teaching and to help the followers see the path clearly.

The word “Wa” is a Myanma word which also means “the month for measuring land”. Waso is the first of the three solid months which is the period of Lent which begins on the full moon of Waso month (Tazaungmon). Dependent upon conditions monks may choose either of these two. Either in the evening or at the night of the first waso day monks of all the monasteries are gathered in the assembly hall facing the shrine room of the monastery. One day, one month, and one year, every month, every year, every monk turns recites the following formula of wa vow:

“The full moon day is called Dhammacakkna Day because our Lord Buddha preached his very first sermon "Dhamma kakkam posa su" on the full moon day of Waso (Saturday) in the year 1842 MA. The path to the Buddha Sasana which is popularly known as path to the Buddha Sasana is counted not in terms of age but in days of cultivating season. For those who have passed religious examinations in the previous month, the three days of Waso month can be regarded as the beginning of the month ofWaso, and those who have passed religious examinations in the previous month, the three days of Waso month can be regarded as the beginning of the month of Waso.

In the early liturgical inscriptions of ancient Bagan this month was called “Malaveya” or “Neveta” or “Nveetva”, all of which mean the “month for measuring land.

But as the monks strictly observe their disciplines there is hardly any violation of the Waso vow during Lent, and it is a place where they observe their lay duties by devoting themselves to the observing of the Waso vow.

During Lent monks devote themselves fully to the observance of religious practices. Especially in the Pattiya monasteries teaching and learning of Tipitaka and all Buddhist scriptures and liturgies are intensively carried out by the teacher and student monks.

The process of ordination is festival is held in the month of Waso. It is celebrated by the successor of the Lord Buddha Sasana and the Lord Buddha Sasana on the occasion when the Lord Buddha was at the Court of his mother Queen Yasodhara to receive a bowl of rice from his daughter Princess Sanghamitta, who arrived there with her front. When the son did accordingly, the Lord Buddha said his father had kept his word. The son had given his own name to the Lord Buddha, and the Lord Buddha said his son was the Son of the Buddha Sasana.

It is the beginning of the seven-day interval of the month in which the Lord Buddha preached his very first sermon. It is the beginning of the month in the month of Waso.

In the month of Waso, the Lord Buddha preached his very first sermon to his five friends on the full moon day of Waso month. It is the beginning of the month in the month of Waso.

The Lord Buddha’s preaching that the one who has seduced his father’s wife becomes an “inheritor of Buddha Sasana”. This performer receives from the community an honorary title of “Shin Takaya”. Thus the people who reside near the river banks and low lying areas in Hlaing and Tanin and Isolated heavy rain or thundershowers would be scatted in Sagaing and Mag. It is the first month of the next season. The water level of Ayeyawady River at NyaungU has exceeded its danger level during the next (2) days. The water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha has exceeded its danger level during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Tanintharyi has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may fall below its danger level during the next (2) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hlaingtha has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days. According to the (11:20) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Bago has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise during the next (5) days and may remain above its danger level during the next (5) days.
Mass COVID-19 vaccination in Russia planned for October: health minister

RUSSIAN Health Ministry is planning a mass vaccination campaign against the coronavirus for October, TASS news agency reported on Saturday, citing Russian Health Minister Mikhail Murashko.

“We plan wider vaccination for October. We need to launch a new system of treatment gradually,” Murashko said.

The vaccination against the coronavirus is planned to be free of charge, he added. According to the minister, clinical trials of a coronavirus vaccine developed by the Gamalaya Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology are over.

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin said in late July that he was hopeful that Russia will produce a reliable vaccine against COVID-19 by the fall.

Russia registered 5,462 new COVID-19 cases in the past 24 hours, taking its total to 845,443, the country’s COVID-19 response center said in a statement on Saturday.

SOURCE: Xinhua

Russian media quoted Mikhail Murashko as saying that doctors and teachers would be the first to receive the vaccine. PHOTO: AFP
Foreign tourists to Cambodia’s Angkor down 98.8 pct in July due to pandemic

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia’s famed Angkor Archeological Park received only 1,796 foreign tourists in July 2020, down 98.8 percent compared to the same month last year, the state-owned Angkor Enterprise said in a statement on Saturday.

The ancient site earned 78,440 U.S. dollars from ticket sales in July this year, also down 98.8 percent compared to the same month last year, the statement said.

It added that during the first seven months of this year, the park attracted a total of 389,630 foreign visitors earning nearly 18.2 million U.S. dollars from ticket sales, down 72 percent and 70.8 percent respectively compared to the same period last year.

Located in northwestern Siem Reap province, the Angkor Archeological Park, inscribed on the World Heritage List of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organi- zation (UNESCO) in 1992, is the kingdom’s most popular tourist destination.

The huge slump in the number of foreign tourists to the park was due to the COVID-19 pandemic that had forced the country to impose entry restrictions on all foreign travelers since March to curb the virus spread.

The Southeast Asian nation has so far recorded a total of 239 confirmed COVID-19 cases, with 166 patients cured and 73 remained in hospital. — Xinhua ■

JETRO to help companies export refined-made-in-Japan crafts online

TOKYO — A Japanese government-linked organization will help local companies export made-in-Japan refined crafts including stationery, furniture and accessories through online business meetings with overseas buyers amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Japan External Trade Organization has picked 519 items by 121 producers for this Organization’s Digital Promotion Project, which will launch online sales negotiations this month with 17 e-commerce buyers from such countries and regions as France, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the United States, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

After deals are reached, the Japanese products are expected to be sold via the e-commerce buyers’ websites and pop-up stores, according to JETRO.

“This fiscal year, we’ve taken advantage of the coronavirus pandemic and set up the platform, which will connect producers across the country,” said Emi Teshima, director of the organization’s Digital Promotion Division and who is in charge of the project.

“We’ll support their overseas expansion in terms of management, sales and public relations,” she said. The Taku- mi project started last year to promote sophisticated Japanese products made with traditional techniques and in rich cultural contexts, with JETRO endorsing 260 products by 101 companies for the first year. All of them had to negotiate with buyers face-to-face. — Kyodo ■

Indian banks to require more capital as safeguard against stress: Fitch

MUMBAI — Indian state-owned banks’ plans to raise capital from private sources will not be sufficient to mitigate anticipated risks unless supplemented with additional capital support from the government, according to Fitch Ratings.

Several large state banks have recently announced plans to raise a total of around USD 6 billion in fresh equity from the capital market. Government banks already face significant execution risks in raising equity due to depressed stock market valuations and weak investor interest.

Reports say the government’s plan to reduce the number of state banks to five from 12 while selling majority stakes in several others to raise resources could add to uncertainties. “A reduc- tion in the state’s majority shareholding in some of its banks may dent depositor confidence and potentially lead to negative rating actions as their long-term ratings are anchored to state support,” said Fitch. — ANI ■
Indonesia's home minister tests positive for COVID-19

NEW DELHI — Indonesia's senior leader and Home (Internal Security) Minister Amit Shah tested positive for COVID-19, he himself confirmed through a tweet on Sunday.

He appealed to all those who came into his contact to test themselves for COVID-19.

"Experiencing some symptoms I got myself tested for COVID-19 and have been found positive.

I am feeling healthy but on the advice of doctors I am admitting myself to a hospital," tweeted Shah.

He advised those who came into his contact in the past few days to immediately isolate themselves and get tested.

Earlier on the same day, a lady minister in northern state of Uttar Pradesh had died of COVID-19 infection. —Xinhua

South Korean sect leader arrested for hindering virus efforts

SEOUL — The elderly leader of a secretive South Korean sect at the center of the country's early coronavirus outbreak was arrested on Saturday for allegedly hindering the government's effort to contain the epidemic.

Lee Man-hee, 88, is the head of the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, which is often condemned as a cult.

People linked to the church accounted for more than half of the South's coronavirus cases in February and March, when the country was enduring one of the worst early outbreaks in the world.

As of July 19, more than 5,200 Koreans who are connect-
ed with the sect were infected, making up 38 percent of all confirmed cases in the country, according to the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Lee is accused of giving inaccurate records of church gatherings and false lists of its members to health authorities.

He was taken into custody early Saturday "after the Suwon District Court granted an arrest warrant at 3:20 a.m," a court spokesperson told AFP. —AFP

China's Mars probe completes first orbital correction

BEL retroing — China's Mars probe Tianwen-1 successfully carried out its first orbital correction Sunday morning, according to the China National Space Administration (CNSA).

The probe conducted the orbital correction at 7 a.m. (Beijing Time) after its 3000N engine worked for 20 seconds, and continued to head for Mars.

All the systems of the probe were in good condition. Before the orbital correction, the Mars probe had traveled more than 300 hours in space, and was about 3 million km away from the Earth.

The operation also tested the performance of the 3000N engine. The probe will undergo several orbital corrections in a more than six-month journey to Mars, said the CNSA source.

China launched the Mars probe on July 23, designed to complete orbiting, landing and roving in one mission, taking the first step in its planetary exploration of the solar system.

The Mars probe is expected to reach the red planet around February 2021. After entering the orbit, it will spend another two to three months surveying the candidate landing sites before landing. —Xinhua

Afghan ceasefire holds as hundreds of Taliban prisoners freed

KABUL — A rare ceasefire between the Taliban and Afghan government appeared to hold for the third and final day on Sunday, with hundreds of militant prisoners released in a bid to bring peace talks closer.

Calm prevailed across much of Afghanistan, with officials not reporting any major clashes between the two foes since the truce began on Friday to mark the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha.

President Ashraf Ghani and the Taliban have both indicated that long-delayed negotiations could begin straight after Eid.

“This Eid feels different, parks are full with people... you almost forget that there has been a war in this country for 40 years," said Shahpoor Shadab, a resident from the eastern city of Jalalabad.

In restive Zabul province, several residents recited poems calling for the ceasefire -- only the third official halt in fighting in nearly two decades of conflict -- to be made permanent.

"Peace is everybody’s need and aspiration," said Sardar Wali, who took part in the poetry session.

“This is a great opportunity to extend the ceasefire today and start intra-Afghan talks tomorrow.”

Under a deal signed by the Taliban and the US in February, the “intra-Afghan” talks were slated to start in March, but were delayed amid political infighting in Kabul and as a contentious prisoner swap dragged on.

The deal stipulated that Kabul would free around 5,000 Taliban prisoners in return for 1,000 Afghan security personnel held captive by the Taliban.

The National Security Council said Sunday that a further 300 Taliban prisoners had been released since Friday, taking the total number of insurgents freed so far to just over 4,900. —AFP

Mumbai may receive very heavy monsoon rainfall

MUMBAI — The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecasted heavy to very heavy rainfall in Mumbai and surrounding coastal districts from Monday to Wednesday, the weather agency said on Sunday.

As per IMD's classification, 15.6-64.4 mm stands for moderate rainfall, 64.5-115.5 mm rain as heavy rainfall, 115.6-204.4 mm as very heavy, and a precipitation of over 204.5 mm as extremely heavy for a 24-hour period.

The IMD has issued an orange alert till Wednesday for Mumbai while the neighbouring coastal district of Raigad has been issued a red alert for Monday.

So far this monsoon season that began June 1, the Indian financial capital received average rainfall of 1,897.6 mm and may see its second consecutive wettest monsoon season with 43 more days to go. According to the city's civic authority, the rainfall so far in the city is 75 percent points more this season compared to 66 percent last year.

Last year, the city received 3,458.2 mm of rainfall beating the 75-year record in 1946, when the city received 3,451.6 mm rainfall. — Xinhua

Afghanistan

Kabul says just over 4,900 Taliban prisoners have been released so far. PHOTO: AFP/FILE

ASIA

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Syrian governmnet slams oil deal between Kurdish militia, U.S. firm

DAMASCUS — The Syrian Foreign Ministry on Sunday condemned a deal signed recently between the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) and a U.S. oil company to modernize the oil industry in areas controlled by the U.S.-backed SDF in northeastern Syria, the state news agency SANA reported.

“This agreement is considered an integrated and aggravated theft and can only be described as a deal between thieves who are stealing and thieves who are buying, constituting an assault against Syria’s sovereignty,” the ministry said in a statement.

The “null and void” deal is “a continuation of the U.S. hostile approach toward Syria” by “stealing the resources of the Syrian people and hindering the efforts of the Syrian state to re-age the mineral wealth, build what has been destroyed by terrorism that is mostly backed by the U.S. government itself,” the ministry statement added.

Syria’s oil and gas fields are largely concentrated on the northeastern part of the country, especially in the provinces of Hasakah and Deir al-Zour which are largely controlled by the Kurdish-led autonomous administration.

Facebook slams ‘extreme’ ruling blocking Bolsonaro allies

RIO DE JANEIRO — Facebook condemned Saturday what it called an “extreme” ruling by a Brazilian Supreme Court judge ordering it to block the accounts of 12 high-profile allies of President Jair Bolsonaro, which it vowed to appeal.

Brazil’s Supreme Court is overseeing an investigation into allegations that members of the far-right president’s inner circle ran a social media campaign to discredit the court, as well as slander and threaten its judges.

As part of that probe, Justice Alexandre de Moraes ordered Facebook to suspend the accounts of 12 Bolsonaro allies, and Twitter another 16 accounts. The US social media giants complied on July 25 — but initially only blocked visitors in Brazil from viewing the accounts.

The blocked users soon skirted the ban by telling their followers how to change their account settings to another country.

Moraes then ordered the US social media giants Thursday to enforce the suspension worldwide. When Facebook did not initially comply, saying it would appeal to the full Supreme Court, Moraes fined the company 1.9 million reals ($365,000) and issued a summons for its top executive in Brazil, Conrado Lester.

“This new legal order is extreme, posing a threat to freedom of expression outside of Brazil’s jurisdiction and conflicting with laws and jurisdictions worldwide,” Facebook said in a statement.

“Given the threat of criminal liability to a local employee, at this point we see no other alternative than complying with the decision by blocking the accounts globally, while we appeal to the Supreme Court.” —AFP

Virus curfew imposed in Melbourne as S. Africa tops 500,000 cases

MELBOURNE — Australia’s second-largest city imposed an overnight curfew on Sunday to halt the spread of coronavirus cases, as South Africa’s infection count topped more than half a million.

Six months after the World Health Organization declared a global emergency, the virus has killed more than 680,000 people and infected more than 17.5 million.

Fresh clusters have been reported in countries such as Australia — that had previously brought their outbreaks under control.

Australia’s Victoria state imposed fresh, sweeping restrictions on Sunday, including a curfew in Melbourne for the next six weeks, a ban on weddings, and schools and universities going back online in the coming days.

“Anything short of this will see it drag on for months and months,” said Victoria leader Daniel Andrews.

Despite a lockdown, Melbourne has continued to report hundreds of new cases daily even as other states in Australia have reported zero or a small number of cases.

Many other parts of the world are struggling with much bigger outbreaks.

Health authorities in South Africa who had been expecting a surge in cases after the gradual loosening of a strict lockdown reported that cases had exceeded the half-million mark.

The nation is by far the hardest-hit in Africa, accounting for more than half of diagnosed infections, although President Cyril Ramaphosa said the fatality rate is lower than the global average.

With infections and deaths soaring, the UN health agency has warned that the coronavirus pandemic would be lengthy and could lead to "response fatigue." —AFP
Naung Tung Lake – Landmark of Kengtung Town

By Maung Maung Naing (Kengtung)

Historical places of Kengtung

Ethnic Shan tribes settled and lived together in Shan State (East) Kengtung region. From Kengtung Haw (Palace) 44 reigns of Saophas (Sawbwa in Myanmar) ruled the region from AD 1243 to 1962. Kengtung is located at an elevation of 2,700 ft. and is a gateway to border regions of China, Thailand, Laos and Cambodia.

In Kengtung the three hills of Swam Tong, Swam Mon and Swam Sat are situated at an imaginary vertexes of a triangle and the wards of the town are on or at the foot of the hills. Between the two hills of Swam Tong and Swam Sat is Naung Tung Lake about 33 acres wide lying on a north to south axis. Kengtung town was first established on the east of the lake and had many historical places like Swam Tong (also called Swam Kham or Zom Kham) Pagoda, Haw ground on which Kengtung Haw was built, Maha Myat Muni Pagoda, Aung Myay Nat Abode, old market, tomb of Saopha and Pa Leng Gate.

Swam Tong Pagoda, Kanyin Phyu tree and Standing Buddha

On top of Swam Tong hill on the east of Naung Tung Lake is Swam Tong Pagoda built hundreds of years ago. Due to repeated renovations it is now 226 ft. tall. The uniqueness of this pagoda is not having pagoda umbrella like other pagodas in the country. On top of Swam Mon hill is a several hundred years old Kanyin Phyu tree. The tree rises up to a height of 218 ft. and had a girth of 39 ft. 10 inch at the bottom of the tree. Even though the name of the hill was Swam Mon, it was also called One Tree Hill (Thit Ta Bin Taung) due to this lone tree rising high above it.

Southwest of the lake is Swam Sat hill and according to early Shan history there was once a pagoda on top of it. Digging on top of the hill in 1995 unearthed old Buddha images and based on research conducted, the ground was considered as a religious ground. In 1998 a Standing Buddha image 74 ft. 6 inch high was built on the hill. This huge Standing Buddha image is visible from all parts of Kengtung town.

History of Naung Tung Lake

According to a book written in 1930 that was a copy made from early Gon Shan writings, Kengtung was once a flooded area. Four hermits who came down from the north drained the water from the flooded area and after 7 years and 7 months, only a small lake remains. As the water recedes, Naung Tung Lake and Kengtung town.

Saopha administration and tradition

Earlier, Kengtung region
was a vast canyon, gorge or ravine submerged in water surrounded by three hills. The town was established after the hermit built the pagoda. When the hermits drained the water, the submerged land became a fertile land where people came to settle. Later it became a town administered by Saophas. As the region had good climate and fertile land the town was barricaded in 4 miles 1 furlong long with 12 gates and a moat to protect it from invaders. It becomes a tradition for transfer administrative matters of the town from the hermit/moat to the Saophas and successive Saophas continued this tradition.

Western part of the lake is considered as a best view point. From there the Standing Buddha image can be seen to the southwest of the lake. Looking toward the south of the lake, the Swan Mon hill can be seen with the tail imposing Kanyin Phyu tree on top. In the evening the water fountain in the middle of the lake was brightly lit up with multi colour lights.

Today's Naung Tung Lake
Naung Tung Lake has become a well known place in Kongtung. As it existed since the town was founded it became a landmark of the town. Not only was it a well known landmark locally but it was also known by neighbouring countries and had become a landmark for international tourists as well.

Nowaday, Naung Tung Lake had water inlet and outlet systems and the bank of the lake had iron fencing. There were two circuit roads around the lake, one for vehicles and one for pedestrians and trees and flowers were planted between the two roads. Benches were also placed for pedestrians to rest. Around the circuit road for vehicles are food stalls selling local delicacies, restaurants, hotels and houses. There’s also a physical exercise area with fitness and exercise equipments installed.

Today’s Naung Tung Lake
Naung Tung Lake is a place loved and cherished by the locals. It was also a place that remains in the memories of visitors. Local say that visitors who went around the lake once will become so attracted or attached to it that they’ll come back again.

Naung Tung Lake flocks with walkers, joggers, families, children, picnickers and visitors in the morning and afternoon. During sunsets and evenings, Naung Tung Lake become a painting where artists visualize images from their minds. (Translated by Zau Min)
## Sport

### Yangon United conducts Jersey Design Contest

Yangon United, one of the most successful football clubs in the Myanmar National League has invited everyone to participate in their 2021 version of the Jersey Design Contest, according to an official announcement with the football club.

Yangon United’s officials have set rules and regulations for the contestants.

Contestants must compete with their designs approving their artworks and have not copied from other intellectual property rights.

They can submit two designs for Home and Away jerseys and contestants should express their explanations for the design.

Design colours should be the same as the Yangon United logo colour and all the designs must be submitted as AI format with good resolution, according to the football club.

Winning designs will become the sole property of the Yangon United and reserves rights to use and adjust for any activities and promotional purposes in the future.

In case of any dispute, the decision of the board of justice shall be final, said officials.

All the submissions can be sent to info@yuntld.com, and the deadline is 5 pm on 31 August 2020.

The Football club will announce winners on 4 September 2020, and First prize award winners will get K100,000 and 10 hours of free charge for futsal field while 1st Runner Up will earn K200,000 plus 5 hours free of charge for futsal field and 2nd Runner Up will garner K100,000 and 2 hours free of charge for futsal field.

All the winners will achieve other memorable gifts presented by the football club, according to the Yangon United.

—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

### Arteta confident FA Cup winner Aubameyang will stay at Arsenal

Mikel Arteta (right) is confident Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang (left) will remain at Arsenal.

(Photo: AFP/Adam Davy)

LONDON — Arsenal manager Mikel Arteta believes Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang will commit his long-term future to the Gunners after scoring twice to beat Chelsea 2-1 in the FA Cup final on Saturday (Aug 1).

Aubameyang dropped the trophy in his first mistake of the day before lifting Arsenal’s record 14th FA Cup and his first from around Europe with just one year of his contract at the Emirates left to run. But Arteta is confident Aubameyang will be convinced to stay by Arsenal’s upturn since the Spaniard took charge in December.

“He knows what I think about him, I want to build a squad around him,” said Arteta.

“I think he wants to stay, it is about getting the deal done.

“I think moments like that will help to realise and give him belief that we are in the right path and he is a big part of it.

“He is loved by everyone at the club so hopefully he will continue with us.” Victory also secured Arsenal’s place in the Europa League next season to ensure they did not miss out on European football for the first time in 25 years.

Arteta warned that failure to qualify for Europe would further restrict his transfer budget before the new Premier League season starts in just six weeks’ time.—AFP

### Juve crash on season finale, Inter second in Serie A

MILAN — Juventus crashed to their second consecutive defeat as the Serie A champions finished their season with a 3-1 home loss against Roma on Saturday, days before their Champions League campaign resumes.

Inter Milan took second place with a 2-0 win over direct rivals Atalanta in Bergamo, who fell to their first league defeat since January.

Juventus had already wrapped up their ninth straight league title and are looking towards their last 16 home game against Lyon next Friday when Maurizio Sarri’s side need to overturn a 1-0 first-leg deficit.

Cristiano Ronaldo was rested for the final match with nothing left to play for against fifth-place Roma who are already assured of the Europa League group stage next term.

Sarri had threatened to field Juventus’s Under-23 team after his tired troops fell 2-0 to Cagliari during the week.

Argentina Gonzalo Higuain spearheaded the Juventus attack and finished off an Adrien Rabiot cross after just six minutes in the Allianz Stadium.

But Diego Perotti inspired a Roma fightback setting up Nikola Kalinic to nod in the equaliser after 23 minutes. Perotti gave Roma the lead from the penalty spot before the break and six minutes into the second half connected with a Nicolò Zaniolo cross for his second of the night as Juventus fell to their third defeat in four matches.—AFP

(Photos: AFP)

Juventus crashed to their second consecutive defeat as the Serie A Champions finished their season with a 3-1 home loss against Roma on Saturday, days before their Champions League campaign resumes. PHOTO: AFP

### Vietnam makes initial preparations for 31st SEA Games

THE 31st edition of the SEA Games will be held in Hanoi, and ten other provinces in Vietnam from 21 November to 2 December 2021 and the host country is starting their preparation processes for next year tourney according to the statement with the ASEAN Football Federation.

As Vietnam is the defending champions of both the men and women’s football events, they are preparing well for the SEA Games event.

The Organizing Committee for the SEA Games has chosen several venues in the north part of the country for the various football events, according to the AFF.

Currently, Vietnam football authorities have scheduled two football stadiums in Hanoi namely My Dinh National Stadium and the Hang Day Stadium.

The Vietnam Football Federation is also planning to use Thien Truong Stadium in Nam Dinh to host the men’s football event, and My Dinh National Stadium will host all matches of the home team plus holding two semifinals and final matches, according to the AFF.

In the meantime, Women’s Football event is scheduled to take place at Cam Pha Stadium in the northeastern province of Quang Ninh.

Futsal will be held at a sports complex in the northern province of Ha Nam.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)