

NATIONAL

Issuing citizenship scrutiny cards speeded up to ensure voting right

PAGE-2

NATIONAL

NREC Union Minister inspects tree nursery, lead refinery, elephant camp in Shan State

PAGE-3

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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,



The meeting between representatives from the government and Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatories Ethnic Armed Organizations in progress in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 August, 2020. **PHOTO: KO HTEIN**

acknowledging that the results came as the two sides were not moving in parallel but towards

a point of convergent.

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 views, he said.

SEE PAGE-3

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

Updated at 8 pm, 2 August 2020



Recovery Update on 2 August 2020 after two consecutive tests

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

New PUIs

16

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All information and illustrations are based on data available at the time of publication and subject to change without notice.

“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 ahead of the upcoming General Election to safeguard the right to vote.

Yesterday, the officials from the Department of Immigration and Population, Zabuthiri Township, Union Territory Area 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 Kyaing, 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 in Pyinmana Township, and at the Chin Ywa Basic Education Primary School in Oattarathiri Ward, Oattarathiri Township. The

Union Minister and other officials presented citizenship scrutiny cards to the residents.

During the tours of inspection, the Union Minister U Thein Swe highlighted the importance of citizenship scrutiny cards. He urged the card holders to memorize their card numbers, and to take care of the cards in order not to lose them. He also urged the residents to check the voters lists to know whether their names and correct card numbers are properly filled in the lists or not. As for the voters who still do not have citizenship scrutiny cards, he explained what must be done.

The Union Minister said that his ministry is cooperating with the General Administration Department and electoral sub-commissions in order that the card numbers in the voters lists to be correct. The Union Minister also made detailed explanations about how his ministry is working to ensure the data about the citizenship scrutiny card numbers in the voters lists be correct and comprehensive.

He emphasized that the voters list must be accurate, and ensuring the right to vote is an important task for the country. He urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively and implement



Union Minister U Thein Swe inspects the mobile team issuing citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens in Nay Pyi Taw on 2 August, 2020. PHOTO: MNA

the task as a national duty.

With the aim of safeguarding the right to vote, the officials and staff from Department of Immigration and Population have been working hard even on off-days to ensure the voters lists with correct citizenship scrutiny card numbers and issuing the cards to citizens across the country ahead of the General Election.

On 2 August, 36 people at the field tour at Aungzabu Ward Administration Office in Zabuthiri Township received the cards, and 30 people in Youk Thwar Inn Village Tract in Pyinmana Township; and 35 people in Oattarathiri Ward in Oattarathiri Township received their cards on the same day.

Similarly, although 2 August is a non-working day, officials and staff from Department of Immigration and Population conducted field tours to issue citizenship scrutiny cards at Ah-lyin-lo Village Tract in Zabuthiri Township, Pyu Twin Village Tract in Pyinmana Township, Ward 3 and Ward 4 in Lewe Township and Yan Aung Myin Village Tract in Dekkhinathiri Township.—MNA

(Translated by Maung Maung Swe)

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 Embas-

sies 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 na-

tionals 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)



Myanmar returnees conducting their immigration process at the Yangon International Airport on 2 August. PHOTO: MNA

Elections are the root for development of democracy.

2020 MULTIPARTY DEMOCRACY GENERAL ELECTION

Advance voting process for local voters outside their constituencies in 2020 General Election

- Heads of trainings, schools, hospitals and jails are to contact the sub-election commissions to get documents of Form 15
- They must return these documents to sub-commission of respective townships by 26 August 2020 after the documents are filled by the voters.
- Sub-election commission of respective townships must send ballot papers and envelopes for advance voting to the trainings, schools, hospitals and jails by 7 October 2020.
- Advance voting must be organized at trainings, schools, hospitals and jails on their appropriate day from 8 October 2020 to 21 October 2020.
- The envelopes containing ballot papers must be sent back to sub-election commission of respective townships by 4 pm on 8 November 2020.

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 Htithen reservoir in southern Shan State on 1 August. After listening to the reports on land utilization in Htithen Reserved Forest, watershed area of the reservoir, the Union Minister gave instruction 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 are supplied to the people in Thittaw, Pyidawtha, Yadanaroo, Mingalaroo, Yayayekwin, Kanpauk wards and Sao San Tun General Hospital.

The Union Minister also inspected demonstration plantation of various trees established in Aye Thayar Green



Union Minister U Ohn Win feeds the elephants at the Shan Yoma Elephant Camp in Kalaw on 2 August. PHOTO: MNA

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. — MNA ■

(Translated by Tun Tun Naing)

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

FROM PAGE-1
The two sides reached consensus for moving the peace process forward thanks to the relentless efforts of the negotiators, he said, adding that the achievement showed that the negotiators demonstrated their responsibility and accountability.
In his concluding remarks, Sao Sai Ngin urged the representatives of the two sides to produce good results at the forthcoming coordination meeting on holding the JICM meeting to be held on 4th and 5th August.
Afterwards, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Vice Chairman of the NRPC and Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, called the final day meeting as “an auspicious day” for producing good

results.
In his remarks, he also acknowledged the two-day meeting’s achievement saying that the two sides could reach agreement on some points through negotiation and understanding.
He also appreciated the fact that the participants of the meeting demonstrated responsibility and accountability while understanding each other during the meeting.
The Union Minister said he assumed that after the two-day meeting, the two sides could further strengthen their understanding and trust which the two sides had already built over two years.
The achievement which paved the way for moving for-

ward came as the two sides made relentless efforts with commitment to the peace process and the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, said the Union Minister.
He urged the participants of the meeting to continue their cooperation in the coming meetings on 4th and 5th August, JICM preliminary meeting on 10th and 11th August and JICM meeting on 13th August.
He also called on the peace negotiators for continuing their efforts for successful holding of the fourth session of the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong on 19th, 20th and 21st August which would pave the way for further steps towards

total peace and the Democratic Federal Union aspired by the people of the country.
U Kyaw Tint Swe also reiterated his sincere thanks to the participants of the meeting for their magnanimity, mutual understanding, sympathy and commitment to peace during the negotiations.
He said he was confident that if the two sides continued to work with the above mindset and attitudes, they would surely achieve peace aspired by the people.
Representatives of the government at the meeting were U Kyaw Tint Swe, Vice Chairman of the NRPC and Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-

Gen Min Naung and Lt-Gen Tin Maung Win of the Office of the Commander-In-Chief (Army), Secretary of the NRPC Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, Peace Commission advisors U Moe Zaw Oo, and Director-General U Zaw Htay from the Ministry of the State Counsellor’s Office.
Representatives of NCA-S EAOs peace negotiation team present at the meeting were its team leader Sao Sai Ngin, coordinator U Myo Win, coordination members U Hla Htay, Dr Lyan Hmon Sar Khaung, Salai Hta Lar Hay, Saw Sein Win, Pado Saw Tardo Hmu, Pado Saw L Klu Sae, Kyar Saw Lamon, Nai Aung Ma Ngay and Khun Myint Tun. — Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing

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701 Myanmar migrant workers return home via Myawady border



Officials giving key messages for COVID-19 prevention and control to the Myanmar returnees from Thailand on 2 August. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD)**

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 Tay 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 18,597 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

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). The deputy director-general instructed further measures to end electrocution of the fishermen, 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 near-

est 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.—Myo Win Tun/Htet Myat
Conservation areas and conduct surveillance operations are set to protect endangered dolphins from extinction. **PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN**

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



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

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 K22,800 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 K1,000-1,100 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 09-694386994 of MRF and 09-694386996 of Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association.
The Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar Inspection and Testing Service (MITS), 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 se-

curity, 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)

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 investments flow 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.



Textile workers sewing on the production line at a garment factory in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

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 sec-

tors 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 K6 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 businesses slowdown 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 4,764

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 instalment 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)

WARM HEARTS

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 Hideyuki Matsuda, 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.



A medical worker picks up a boxed meal at a food truck in Tokyo on July 4, 2020. PHOTO: KYODO

"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 companies 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

HEAVY GUSTS OF WIND

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



A man guides a tow truck under a downed power line pole after Tropical Storm Isaias affected the area in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico on July 30, 2020. (PHOTO BY RICARDO ARDUENGO/AFP)

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.

"Little change in strength is expected during the next couple of days," it said.

The Miami-based NHC said the center of Isaias was expected to move "near or over the east coast of Florida today through late tonight," before moving on Monday and Tuesday off the Georgia coast and into the southern mid-Atlantic.

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 northern 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 battered 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

NEW MILESTONE

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 500,130.

The 7-day average number of new cases is 7,819 per day. The

7-day average from the week prior was 10,005, 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

ACTION-ORIENTED RECOMMENDATIONS

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 United Nations has commended governments in South-East Asia for acting swiftly to stem the most serious health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. Robust regional cooperation, coordinated by ASEAN, has also resulted in South-East Asia reporting significantly lower confirmed COVID-19 cases and related deaths compared to most other global regions.

The UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on South-East Asia issued today however warns that these early successes must be translated into addressing the serious socio-economic setbacks which threaten to further deepen inequalities across the region.

"As in other parts of the world, the health, economic and political impact of COVID-19 has been significant across South-East Asia — hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. The pandemic has highlighted deep inequalities, shortfalls in governance and the imperative for a sustainable development pathway. And it has revealed new challenges, including to peace and security," shared UN Secretary General António Guterres, adding that while the region has much work to do, it also has formidable capacities at its disposal.

The new UN report examines how COVID-19 has affected



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

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. Responding to the pandemic and delivering on the Sustainable Development Goals are closely interlinked. We need a future that is

more equitable, sustainable and resilient," noted United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Armida Salsiah Alisjahbana.

Moving forward, four areas will be critical in the region's plans for recovery: tackling inequality, bridging the digital divide, greening the economy, and upholding human rights and good governance. The uneven landscape of social protection systems has placed tackling inequal-

ity 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 beyond the reach of the 55 per cent of South-East Asia's population who remain offline. A regionally

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

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 organizations, 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

Swiss tone down national celebrations as virus cases rise



The Swiss National Day is the national holiday of Switzerland, set on 1 August. Although the founding of the Swiss Confederacy was first celebrated on this date in 1891 and annually since 1899, it has only been an official holiday since 1994. PHOTO: AFP

SWITZERLAND held muted celebrations on its national day Saturday as the Swiss president warned the coronavirus crisis

was far from over, with positive tests spiking again.

"The virus is still there. We have to live with it while we wait

for a vaccine," President Simonetta Sommaruga told national broadcaster RTS. "It's not over — that is very clear." The wealthy Alpine nation has recorded 35,323 positive tests and 1,706 deaths since the pandemic began.

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 now 26 cantons first joined together in confederation.

SOURCE: AFP

PRESTIGIOUS EVENT

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 there are no intermissions or catering.

SOURCE: AFP

Enjoy peace by turning negative emotions into positive ones

DHAMMACAKKA day – ‘The turning of the wheel of teaching’ falls on the Fullmoon Day of Waso, today. This is a Theravada celebration of the First Proclamation by the Buddha to five ascetics in the Deer Park at Sarnath. The main activity that takes place on this day is the chanting of the discourse known as the Dhamma Cakka Sutta (the Setting in Motion of the Wheel of Truth). This would usually be in the original Pali language. The month of Waso marks the beginning of the three months long retreat period for Buddhist monks, a period of meditation and restraint, and it is also a time when lay Buddhists offer robes to the monks.

One could transform the negative emotions such as anger, desire, fear, and anxiety into the positive energy of love, peace, and happiness by training the mind through practising righteous conduct highlighted in Gautama Buddha’s “Eightfold Path.”

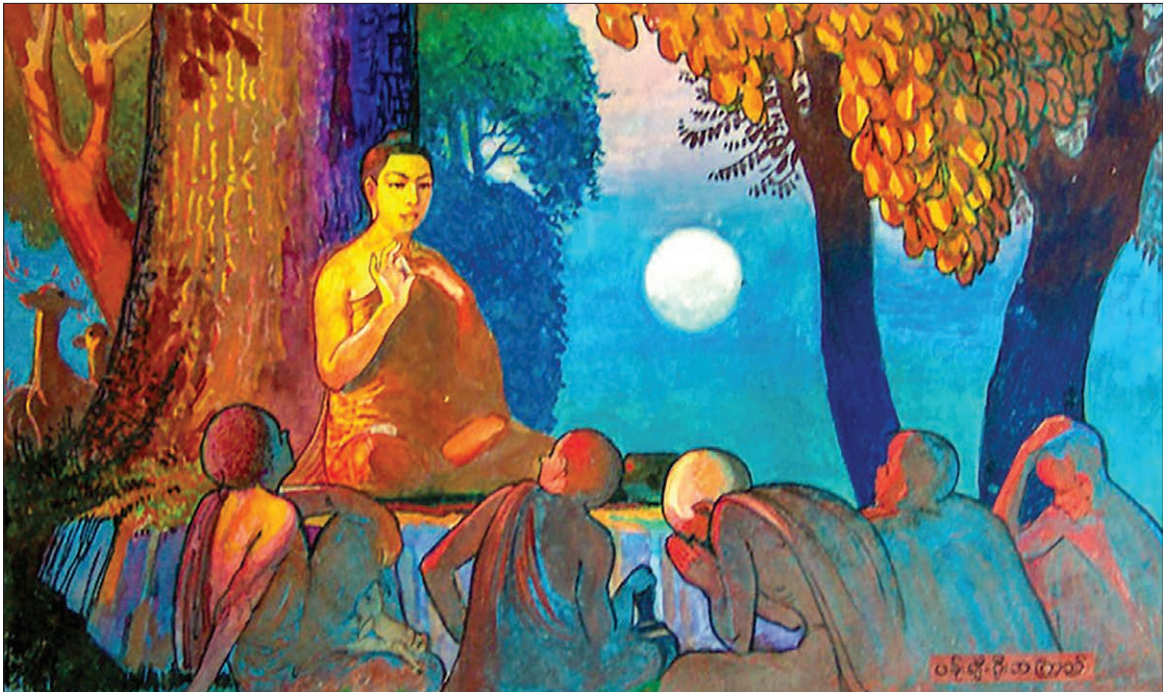
macakka Day, the two-day meeting of the Union Government and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement signatories ethnic armed organizations brought positive results which will allow the two sides to move forward to our country’s total peace. The peace negotiators of the two sides brought the positive results to the country by transforming their fear and anxiety into the positive energy of love, understanding and friendship. We are confident that their efforts “with the wisdom and vision of peace” would “help us to create unity out of our diversity, to develop the potential of our people, and to meet the challenges of a nation in quest of sustainable peace and development.

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Waso, The Month of Ordination Festival

By Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt (Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu)



The full moon day is called Dhammacakka Day because our Lord Buddha preached his very first sermon “Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta” on the full moon day of Waso (Saturday) in the year 103 of Maha Sakarit. **IMAGE COURTESY: ARTIST U BA KYI**

WASO, the fourth month of Myanma lunar calen- dar approximates to July. It is the first of the three heavily rainy months..Waso, Wagaung, and Tawthalin, i.e. July, August and September respectively. The astro logical name of Waso is Kataka (Cancer) and its symbol is crab. In this month Myat Lay flower (fragrant Jasminum grandiflorum) blooms, and so Myanmar people regard it as the flower of this month.In the year M.E. 1355, there were two Waso months- first Waso and second Waso, as a month was intercalated after Waso. So this type of year is called Wa-htat year i.e. two Waso year.

In the early lithic inscriptions of ancient Bagan this month was called “Malweita” or “Nweita” or “Nweita” or “Nweta, all of which mean “the month for measuring land”. It is in this month that wet cultivation is done in full swing, and so the farmers have to measure the extent of the lands to till. Hence the land-measuring month is an appropriate name.As Theravada Buddhism flourished and its influence permeated the daily life of Myanma people, this month acquired a new name of religious importance “Waso”. It is believed that in the time of King Anawrahta (A.D.1044-1077) when the Theravada Buddhist monks promoted Pariyatti Sasana, the name “Waso” for this month came into common use. The word “waso” is a compound of two words “wa” and “so”. “Wa” is derived from Pali word “wasa” meaning “to recite” “to say” or “to tell”. “So” is a Myanma word which also means “to say” or “to tell”. On the first waning day of this month Buddhist monks say to the Lord Buddha (take vow in front of the Buddha statue) that they will stay in their residing monastery during the three months of rainy season.

The history of observing Waso rite goes back to the lifetime of the Lord Buddha. At first there was no religious restriction of the movement of monks. They freely went about throughout the year. They travelled in all seasons. Greengrass, plants, cultivation and little insects were accidentally trodden upon by travelling monks, thereby damaging or destroying them. When the Lord Buddha heard of public complaint of such unintentional harm he forbade the monks to go out of their residing monasteries for overnight travel during the three

months of cultivating season. For the convenience of the monks the Lord Buddha prescribed two alternative periods of Wa or Lent, namely Purima Wa and Pyitsima Wa. Purima Wa or first Wa is the period of Lent which begins on the first waning day of Waso month and ends on the day of the completion of three solid months which is the fullmoon day of Thadingyut (October). Pyitsima Wa or second Wa begins on the first waning day of Wagaung month (August) and ends on the day of the completion of three solid months which is the fullmoon day of Tazaungmon (November). Depending upon their conditions monks may choose either of these two was.

Either in the evening or at night of the first waning day of Waso all monks of the same monastery are gathered in the assembly hall facing the shrine room of Buddha images. The monastery and the shrine room are artistically decorated with flowers, candles, festoons and various offertories, highlighting the Waso occasion.

Firstly they pay homage to the Lord Buddha. Then the Head monk of the monastery explains to the monks the boundaries of the monastery and its compound within which they are obliged to stay during Lent. Starting with the most senior monk (seniority is counted not in terms of age but in terms of wasa or ordained

In the early lithic inscriptions of ancient Bagan this month was called “Malweita” or “Nweita” or “Nweita” or “Nweta, all of which mean “the month for measuring land”.

years), every monk by turn recites the following formula of Wa vow:

Imasmim vihare imam temasam vassam upemi”
(ဣမ္မံသိဝိဟာရဣမ်တေမာသံဝဿံဥပေမိ)

Which means “I shall stay in this monastery during the three months of rainy season” Every time each monk recites this vow either once or twice or thrice, the rest of the monks utter in chorus word of appreciation in Pali “Sadu” (welldone) three times. Owing to the unavoidable circumstances if a monk has to travel and thus has to stay away from the mon-

astery during Lent, he can make a fannal request for a dispensation from the duties of Lent. This kind of request is called “wa pan” request for leave of absence from the monastery during Lent. But leave of absence must not exceed more than seven days. If he fails to make this request and stays away overnight from the monastery he commits breach of Wa vow and thereby he suffers “wa kyo”. Wa kyo means losing the priestly character in consequence of a breach of monastic vow as he has not recited the formula of permission.

supplied by lay devotees and public.

The fullmoon day of Waso is one of the important days in the Buddhist history because it was on this day that four great events of the Lord Buddha’s life took place. Firstly it was on the fullmoon day of Waso Thursday, that Prince Siddhartha (the Buddha-to-be) was conceived in the womb of Queen Maha Maya, the Chief Queen of King Suddhodana of Kapilavatsu. Secondly it was on the fullmoon day of Waso, Monday that Prince Siddhartha at the age of 29 after seeing four Omens, renounced his mundane life and left his palace for forest to become a recluse. Thirdly it was on the fullmoon day of Waso Saturday that the Lord Buddha gave his first sermon “Dhammacakya” to the five recluses namely Kondana, Vappa, Bhaddiya, Mahanam, and Assaji in the Deer Park Migadawunna. Fourthly it was on the fullmoon day of Waso that the Lord Buddha under the Mango tree in Sawutti showed his miracles to the heretics to sub due them.

During Lent monks devote themselves fulltime to the observance of religious practice. Especially in the Pariyatti monasteries teaching and learning of Tipitakas and all Buddhist scriptures and literatures are intensively carried out by teacher and student monks, preparing for the religious examinations held in the month of Nayon (June). At the meditation centres, the instructor monks teach their pupils correct ways of meditation. Material needs of teacher and student monks are

M.E. 900 (1538A.D.). In Myanmar literature of Innwa and other periods we find references to ordination festival held in the month of Waso. In fact there is no specific time or month fixed for ordination. Ordination can take place in any month of the year. But there are two special reasons for holding ordination on the fullmoon day of Waso. Firstly it was on the fullmoon day of Waso that one of the five recuses whom the Lord Buddha gave his first sermon named Shin Kondana became monk. Secondly those who have passed religious examinations in the previous month, Nayon are ready to be ordained in Waso so that they can pursue learning (Pariyatti) during Lent. Ordination festival in Waso is in sequence with religious examination festival in Nayon.

The purpose of ordination is twofold- to recruit for Sangha the Priestly Order so as to promote and perpetuate Buddha Sasana from those who choose to remain monk for life and to impart Buddhist education and culture to those who stay in monkhood for a certain period. It is a religious requirement for every Buddhist male to become novice or ordained monk. According to Buddhism the highest religious merit one can attain is by becoming oneself novice or being ordained monk if one is a male or by making one’s son or other’s son novice or ordaining him monk. By performing this religious work the performer becomes an “inheritor of Buddha Sasana”. The performer receives from the community an honorific title of “Shin Taka” “Shin Ama”

“Yahan Taka” “Yahan Ama” “Donor of Novitiation” “Donor of Ordination” which is prefixed to his or her name. At death his or her body is carried with two ceremonial gold umbrellas shading it as a token of honour to the deceased “inheritor of Buddha Sasana”. Two historical evidences that support novitiation and ordination as a religious requirement for the Buddhists are the novitiation of Prince Rahula, son of the Lord Buddha and the ordination of Prince Mahinda and Princess Sanghamitta, son and daughter of King Asoka. A year after the attainment of Buddhahood the Lord Buddha came to Kapilavatsu and resided at the Nigrodha Vihara monastery. One day while the Lord Buddha was at the Court of his father King Suddhodana, Rahula’s mother Queen Yasodhara told her son that the Lord Buddha was his father and urged Rahula to ask patrimony from his father. When the son did accordingly, the Lord Buddha kept silent. Rahula followed the Lord Buddha to the monastery, repeatedly asking patrimony on the way. When they reached the Nigrodha Vihara the Lord Buddha told his disciple Shin Sariputtara to novitiate Rahula in the Order. Making Rahula a novice (Samenera) was the grant of patrimony by the Lord Buddha to his son because by becoming a probationer for the priesthood, Rahula was inheriting Buddha Sasana from his father.

The other evidence is as follows:

Great King Asoka was very lavish in charity. He built 84000 stupas and dug 84000 wells and constructed 84000 tanks among other works of religious merit. He promoted Buddhism by sending out Buddhist missionaries to the four corners of the world. One day he asked his guru monk Shin Moggaliputta whether he deserved to be the inheritor of Buddha Sasana. The gurunok replied that although the King’s religious givings were incomparably plenty he was only the contributor to the support of Buddhism, and that only when he ordained his own offsprings would he become the inheritor of Buddha Sasana. On hearing that his son Prince Mahinda and daughter Princess Sanghamitta offered themselves up to their royal father for ordination.

SEE PAGE-10

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 2 August 2020)

BAY INFERENCE: Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

SPECIAL FEATURES: According to the observations at (18:30)hrs MST today, the Tropical Storm “Sinlaku” over the Thanh Hoa (Viet Nam) reach over the Laos. It is downgrade to Tropical Depression by tonight and forecast to move westwards.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL NOON OF THE 3 August 2020: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Sagaing and Magway regions, fairly widespread in Mandalay Region, Kachin and Northern Shan states and widespread in the remaining regions and states with likelihood of regionally heavyfalls in Taninthayi Region, Kayin and Mon states and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions, Southern Shan and Rakhine states. Degree of certainty is (80%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough to very rough seas will be experienced Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon–Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40-45)mph. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (10-14) feet Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon–Taninthayi Coasts and about (5-8) feet off and along Rakhine Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Strong to vigorous monsoon.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 August 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 August 2020: Some rain or thundershowers which may be heavy at times. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 3 August 2020: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at: 12:00 hrs MST on 2-8-2020)

Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at NyaungU 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 (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Seiktha has exceeded by about (1½) feet above its danger level. It may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Hinthada has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (½) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

According to the (11:30) hrs MST observation today, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Zalun has exceeded by about (½) foot above its danger level. It may continue to rise from the present water level by about (½) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level.

Advisory

It is especially advertised to the people who settle near the river banks and low lying areas in Hinthada and Zalun Townships, and Seiktha to take precaution measure.

Waso, The Month of Ordination Festival

FROM PAGE-9

In the time of Myanmar Kings, ordination in Waso was the great festive event of the month. The Hluttaw or the King's Council arranged the ordination festival. It made a list of names of candidates to be ordained, names of donors who would bear the expense of ordination ceremony, names of persons who would support the ordained monks, and names of monasteries the ordained monks were to reside. At this ceremony Byaw music was played. Byaw is a kind of drum. Byaw music is played on occasion of religious charity. Byaw musicians were appointed by the King and were quartered in a separate village. The ordination festival of the Innwa Period was graphically described in the Lawka Byu Har In-Yone Sardan, a Treatise on Court Ceremonies and Festivals compiled by Minister Thiri Uzana of In-Yone as follows:

"First the list of candidates to be ordained was submitted to the Hluttaw. The Crown Prince, Senior Prince, Minister of Royal Granary, Ministers, Governor of town, Minister of Cavalry, Minister of Elephantry, Minister of Treasury, Minister of Gunnery, Minister of Artillery, Minister of the Palace Precincts, Minister of Royal Shield, Minister of Justice, Junior Ministers, wealthy men etc. each took care of one candidate for ordination."

"The Minister of Royal Treasury provided umbrellas and eight priestly utensils namely three pieces of yellow robe, an alms bowl, a girdle, a short handle adz, a needle, and a water dipper. These were sent to the monasteries where the ordained monks would reside. An allotment of K 50/- for each candidate was issued from the

Royal Treasury to bear the cost of celebrating the occasion at his house. On the 9th waning moon of Waso, candidates for novitiation and ordination were dressed in fine clothings and in the early hours of that day they were taken to the Innwa Shwezigon Pagoda. They wore gold coloured head-dress and gold chains provided by the Royal Treasury. They were carried on the palanquins in ceremonial procession which included gunners, musicians, palanquins bearing Kamma Vaca or Plates of Scriptures to be recited at the ordination service, bearers of four ceremonial white umbrellas shading the Kamma Vaca, bearers of eight priestly utensils, bearers of betel boxes, tea containers, and water goblets and several other paraphernalia. After paying homage to the Pagoda the procession turned to the Palace. Except the gunners, all entered the Palace City through the right Marabin Gate."

"After making a round of the Palace podium they went up to the Northern Samok (Gate house in a palace) Building where the King was waiting with his Ministers and attendants. The royal drums were being struck to mark the occasion. The Officer-in-charge of ceremony submitted the list of Candidates to be ordained by reading it out to the King. His Majesty gave the candidates his exhortation as follows:

"To have been born human is a rare opportunity. To be literate and knowledgeable is a rare opportunity

To have been born human male during the period of Buddha Sasana is a rare opportunity. and To be ordained monk is a rare opportunity.

"These five rare opportunities were pointed out by the Lord Buddha himself. You should

therefore be aware that you have now got all these five rare opportunities. You should therefore strictly abide by Vinaya, the Priestly Disciplines, and faithfully follow the teachings of the Lord Buddha."

"After delivering his words of admonition the King performed the libation ceremony by pouring out lustral water from the golden ewer. Then the royal drum was struck and religious music Byaw was played. The procession re-

turned to the Shwezigon Pagoda and at the big rest house the King's admonition was read out in public. The procession then went on to the Sima or Ordination Hall where the candidates were formally ordained by the Chapters according to the prescribed procedure".

In the time of Myanmar Kings, ordination in Waso was the great festive event of the month. The Hluttaw or the King's Council arranged the ordination festival.

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The following is the account given in the Myanmar Chronicle called Konbaung Set Maha Yazawin Vol. 3 page 219 of the Ordination Ceremony performed in the time of King Mindon.

"... 500 candidates for priesthood (Upasampada = Being ordained to monkhood) and 500 candidates for novice (Samerera) altogether one thousand were dressed up in fine clothes and were carried on the caparisoned elephants followed by a retinue of attendants lined up in procession. They went round in the Palace City and eventually stopped at the entrance of

the pavilions set up on either side of the Mye Nan Taw Palace Buildings. In the pavilions were gathered 100 senior monks and eight priestly utensils for each of the 1000 candidates about to be novitiated or ordained. Other offertories were artistically displayed in the pavilions. The candidates sat down respectfully in front of the monks. The Queen Mother entered the pavilions and performed the libation ceremony... Celebrations followed after

it."

"In the evening of that day, IGng Mindon, Chief Queen and the whole Court came out in state and made a ceremonial presentation of 1000 candidates in the service of Buddha Sasana. The following day the King and Chief Queen offered rice to the novices and newly ordained monks."

The festive atmosphere of Waso is created by devotees who come to the monasteries to watch with reverence and piety the performance of the Waso rite by the monks. They wear colourful garments and jewellery carrying candles, flowers, robes and other alms to be offered to the monks. These offertories came to be known as Waso candles, Waso flowers and Waso robes. Strictly speaking, Waso robe is offered to the monk in the period between the first waxing day of Waso month and its full moon

day both days inclusive. Waso robe is meant to be worn by monk during Lent. Similar offertories may be presented to the Pagodas and Buddha statues. In the countryside, young people go out to the nearby woodlands to gather wild flowers and sprigs of Thabye, thus providing a merry social occasion for meeting between boys and girls. Folk music, song and dance accompany them if they come out in organised groups. On the fullmoon day and the day after it, shrines, pagodas, and monasteries are crowded with devotees doing works of religious merit.

In the days of Myanmar Kings twice in a year, homage was paid to the parents, elders, superiors, and teachers, namely at the beginning of Lent called "Wa Win (July) and at the end of Lent called "Wa Kyut" (October). On the first waning day of Waso, the King offered to the seven Buddhas white umbrellas, prayer flags, prayer festoons, gold and silver flowers and flower vases. At the Hluttaw princes, ministers, high ranking officers, men of wealth and position presented gold and silver bowls and silk clothes to the King and paid him homage. On the 5th waning day, their wives paid homage to the King. At the monasteries junior monks paid homage to senior monks. In towns and villages, public paid homage to the Governor of the town and the village headman. At home children paid homage to their parents, elders and teachers.

Waso traditions have long been maintained and observed by the Myanmar people. Mass media of to-day carry news and reports of Waso activities at the shrines, monasteries, schools, Colleges and Universities.



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 because 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 Gamaleya Scientific Research Institute of Epidemiology and Microbiology were 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 1,790 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 Organization (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 ■



Cambodian nuns walk during Khmer New Year at Bayon temple in the Angkor complex in Siem Reap province on April 14, 2018. PHOTO: (TANG CHHIN SOTHY / AFP)/FILE

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 year’s Takumi Next project aimed at supporting Japanese

craftsmen’s forays into markets abroad. Takumi means artisan in Japanese. JETRO has established an online system by which crafts producers can access buyers and seek advice from experts in reaching out to overseas markets. It will also create video clips to promote the products on social media such as Instagram.

The items include textiles, wood crafts, glassware, leather goods, metalwork, ceramics and washi paper products. The organ-

ization 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 Takumi 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 ■



JETRO will help local companies export made-in-Japan refined crafts through online business meetings with overseas buyers amid the coronavirus pandemic. The high-quality designs of Japanese artists and artisans. PHOTO: JAPAN OBJECTS/KYODO

NEWS IN BRIEF

Chinese firm to construct wastewater drainage system in Zambia

CHAMBISHI — A Chinese firm, Chambishi Copper Smelter (CCS), has embarked on the construction of a drainage to improve the movement of wastewater in Zambia’s Kalulushi district to help restrict on the outbreak of water-borne diseases.

Xu Laixiang, the CCS deputy general manager, said the 350,000 Kwacha (about 20,000 U.S. dollars) project which was being funded through the firm’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) was aimed at improving the diversion and movement of the wastewater in the area.

Xu said for a long time, the lack of a drainage system in the area has led to the terrain succumbing to the adverse effects of heavy rains as well as increasing risks on the outbreak of water-borne diseases.— Xinhua ■

Chinese sedan brand Hongqi sales up 108 pct

CHANGCHUN -- China’s leading automaker First Automotive Works (FAW) Group Co., Ltd. saw a 108-percent year-on-year growth in the sales of its Hongqi brand cars in the first seven months, said a corporate source.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic, the company sold more than 87,500 Hongqi cars during the period, which was attributed to the company’s expansion of sales channels both online and offline. In July alone, it sold more than 17,500 Hongqi sedans, up 99 percent year on year.

The company fulfilled its sales target of 100,000 Hongqi cars in 2019, and has doubled the target for 2020. The company has planned to expand the brand family to 21 models, mostly electric or fuel-electric hybrids, in the next five years.— Xinhua ■

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 govern-

ment’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 reduction in the state’s majority share-

holding in some of its banks may dent depositor confidence and potentially lead to negative rating action as their long-term ratings are anchored to state support,” said Fitch.— ANI ■

India's home minister tests positive for COVID-19

NEW DELHI — India'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 in the 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 connected 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 1:20 am", a court spokesperson told AFP.—AFP ■

China's Mars probe completes first orbital correction

BEIJING — 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 230 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 ■



This is an image of the scene taken at the Beijing Aerospace Control Center (BACC) in Beijing, capital of China, Aug. 2, 2020. China's Mars probe Tianwen-1 successfully carried out its first orbital correction at 7 a.m. (2300 GMT Saturday) after its 3,000N engine worked for 20 seconds, and continued to head for the Mars. **PHOTO: (XINHUA/CAI YANG)**

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 of-

ficials 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 ■



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

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 moder-

ate 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 7 percentage 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 1954, when the city received 3,451.6 mm rainfall.—Xinhua ■

Syrian gov't 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-



A US military vehicle, part of a convoy arriving from northern Iraq, drives past an oil pump jack in the countryside of Syria's northeastern city of Qamishli on October 26, 2019. PHOTO: (AFP)

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.— Xinhua ■

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 follow-

ers 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 reais (\$365,000) and issued a summons for its top executive in Brazil, Conrado Lester.

“This new legal order is ex-

treme, 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 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 ■



A young man disguised as death walks on the beach of Puerto Morelos, Mexico, inviting tourists and locals to return home, as the beaches are still closed to visitors. PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN BRIEF

Moroccan, Italian FM's discuss Libyan crisis, bilateral relations

RABAT — Moroccan Foreign Affairs Minister Nasser Bourita on Saturday held a telephone conversation with his Italian counterpart Luigi Di Maio on Libyan crisis and bilateral relations.

Di Maio expressed his country’s “appreciation” for the contribution and role played by Morocco for the resolution of the Libyan crisis, a statement by the Moroccan Foreign Affairs ministry said.

The talks also focused on the bilateral relations between Rabat and Rome, in the light of the Joint Declaration on the multidimensional strategic partnership signed on November 2019, it added.

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement on its website that Di Maio reiterated in this phone call the importance of collaboration with Rabat so as to achieve a political solution of the ongoing crisis in Libya.— Xinhua ■

Two-thirds of Americans disapprove of Trump's handling of COVID-19: poll

WASHINGTON — Only 34 per cent of Americans approve of U.S. President Donald Trump’s handling of the novel coronavirus pandemic, according to a new ABC News/Ipsos poll.

The survey, whose results were released Friday, also found that the U.S. public broadly disapproves of the president’s handling of other recent crises such as the nationwide protests following the death of African American George Floyd.

According to the poll’s result, “just over a third of Americans (36 percent) approve of President Trump’s handling of the response to the protests across the country.”

“Specifically, a majority of Americans (52 percent) believe the deployment of federal law enforcement to cities with protests have made the situation worse,” it added.—Xinhua ■

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 Kengtun 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,



Yat Taw Mu Pagoda. **PHOTO: GOLD LIFE MYANMAR**

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 Hermit Tonga built a pagoda on top of Swam Tong hill. The

small lake and the town took up the name of the Hermit Tonga and became Naung Tung Lake and Kengtung town.

Saopha administration and tradition

Earlier, Kengtung region



Kanyin Phyu tree being seen on the Lone-Tree Hill(Thit Ta Bin Taung). **PHOTO: GOLD LIFE MYANMAR**



Naung Tung Lake. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

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 be-

come 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@ygnutd.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 K500,000 and 10 hours free of charge for futsal field while 1st Runner Up will earn K300,000 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) ■

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 named 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) ■

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

trophy since joining the Londoners from Borussia Dortmund in January 2018. The Gabon international has been prolific in his two-and-a-half years in England, attracting interest

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 to-

wards 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.

Argentine 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 Nicolo Zaniolo cross for his second of the night as Juventus fell to their third defeat in four matches. —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