

NATIONAL

MoALI discusses comprehensive development project implementations

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Union civil service board holds meeting (1/2021)

PAGE-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 329, 13th Waning of Tabodwe 1382 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Thursday, 11 March 2021

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Anti-Terrorism Central Committee Withdrawal from declaration as terrorist group Order No (1/2021) 13th Waning of Tabodwe 1382 ME 11 March 2021

The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee has issued this order with the approval of the State Administration Council in exercising the Anti-Terrorism Law Section 6(c) and Section 72 (b).

1. The Anti-Terrorism Central Committee declared the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) as a terrorist group with Order No (1/2020) on 23 March 2020.
2. Currently, the United League of Arakan (ULA)/Arakan Army (AA) no longer commit any terrorist acts and so, the State Administration Council withdraws the declaration as a terrorist group starting 11 March 2021 to establish an eternal peace in accordance with the five future work plans and nine objectives of the Council.

*Chairman
Anti-Terrorism Central Committee*

11th ASEAN Military Operation Meeting held online

THE 11th ASEAN Military Operation Meeting was organized via video conferencing yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff (Army) Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, other military personnel, Brig-Gen Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abdul Kadir of Brunei, Maj-Gen Pen Sokrethvithyea of Cambodia, Maj-Gen Tiopan Aritonang of Indonesia, Brig-Gen Sonthong Keolokham of Laos, Maj-Gen Hashim bin Aman Shah of Malaysia, Maj-Gen Edgardo Y. De Leon of the Philippines, Brig-Gen Ho Kum Luem of Singapore, Lt-Gen Chitchanok Nujjaya of Thailand and Maj-Gen Nguyen Duc Can of Viet Nam.



Chief of Staff (Army) Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun joins the online 11th ASEAN Military Operation Meeting on 10 March 2021.

During the meeting, Brig-Gen Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abdul Kadir of Royal Brunei Armed Forces, Chair of 11th AMOM, firstly delivered an opening speech.

The meeting exchanged views on the topic “We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper towards an Integrated ASEAN Military Cooperation”, including 2-year work plans of ASE-

AN armies and other matters. Then, Brig-Gen Haji Abdul Razak bin Haji Abdul Kadir of Royal Brunei Armed Forces made the closing remark and handed over the Chairmanship

of 12th AMOM to Maj-Gen Pen Sokrethvithyea of Cambodia. Maj-Gen Pen Sokrethvithyea of Cambodia also made a greeting speech and concluded the meeting.—MNA

inside TODAY

NATIONAL

MoSWRR discusses national strategic plan for youth policy (2020-2024) and establishment of Myanmar youth committees

PAGE-4

NATIONAL

Myanmar Navy Vessel repatriates Myanmar fishery workers from India

PAGE-5

LOCAL NEWS

Greenback-Kyat exchange rate drops over K20 per dollar in over 2 weeks

PAGE-7

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar natural rubber price soar to nearly K1,000 per pound on weak global trend

PAGE-7



Announcement of Union Election Commission

10 March 2021

- Regarding the Multiparty General Election held on 8 November 2020, the Union Election Commission has inspected the voter lists and the casting of votes of Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region.
- According to the inspection findings, the previous election commission released 209,208 eligible voters in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region. The list of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in November 2020 showed 214,085 eligible voters who had turned 18. The voter lists mentioned that there were 13,806 citizens, associate citizens, nationalized citizens, and non-identity voters, 801 persons repeated on the voter lists more than three times and 13,314 persons repeated on the voter lists two times.
- Findings in inspections were as follows:

Findings on scrutinized voting list of Chanmyathazi Township

Sr	Township and number of polling stations	List of township sub-commission	List from immigration department	Those involved in voting list without citizenship scrutiny cards	Those involved in voter list more than three times holding one CSC	Those involved in voter list more than two times holding one CSC
1	84 polling stations in Chanmyathazi Township of Mandalay Region	209,208	214,085	13,806	801	13,314

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region, together with the respective township election sub-commission, head of police force, Immigration and Population and administrator according to the Hluttaw Election Law Section 53.
- According to inspection on the ground, a total of 84 poll stations in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay Region took out 222,050 ballot papers. It used 149,343 ballot receipts. The remaining ballots were 70,726 instead of the exact remaining 72,707. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective poll stations. The missing ballots were 9,474 which is lesser than the actual numbers of remaining ballots and illegal extra-used ballots were 7,493. The findings were as follows:

On the ground inspections on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Chanmyathazi Township

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/Village-tract ballots	215,350	148,769	66,581	60,476	9,474	3,369
2	Township advance ballots	600	574	26	50	-	24
3	Township remaining ballots	6,100	-	6,100	10,200	-	4,100
Total		222,050	149,343	72,707	70,726	9,474	7,493

- The Ward/Village-tract of Chanmyathazi Township took out 215,350 ballot papers and used 148,769, and the remaining ballots were 60,476 instead of 66,581. It found 9,474 ballots were missing, and extra 3,369 ballots at some poll stations.
- U Phone Myint Thein, secretary of Kyun Lone Oak Shoung Ward election sub commission returned 9 unused ballot books for Pyithu Hluttaw on 5 March 2021 while U Myo Zaw Tun, secretary of Tamma Wady Ward election sub-commission returned 11 unused ballot books for each Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region Hluttaw and U Aung Kyaw Kyaw, secretary of Aung Pin Lal Ward election sub-commission returned 4 unused ballot books for Pyithu Hluttaw. The inspection team also found 82 books (4,100 papers) at the office of township election sub-commission.
- The findings at 84 ward/village tract polling stations in Chanmyathazi Township were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Poll station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	Than Hlat Maw Tin Ward	6	17,350	11,278	6,072	5,646	826	400
2	Kyun Lone Oak Shaung Ward	5	12,050	8,715	3,335	3,035	900	600
3	Tamma Wady Ward	6	15,450	11,375	4,075	4,075	550	550
4	Chanmyathazi South Ward	9	23,450	17,073	6,377	5,286	1,600	509
5	Myo Thit No (1) Ward	4	10,350	6,707	3,643	3,393	250	-
6	Myo Thit No (2) Ward	4	11,000	7,152	3,848	3,298	550	-
7	Myo Thit No (3) Ward	4	7,850	4,922	2,928	2,978	50	100
8	Myo Thit No (4) Ward	4	11,500	7,700	3,800	3,550	250	-
9	Myo Thit No (5) Ward	4	8,950	6,014	2,936	2,986	100	150
10	Kanthayar Ward	9	22,300	15,672	6,628	6,338	500	210
11	Aung Pin Lal Ward	7	17,400	11,753	5,647	4,297	1,650	300
12	Hton Tone Ward	9	22,150	15,803	6,347	5,499	848	-
13	Mya Yi Nandar Ward	7	20,250	13,468	6,782	6,282	950	450
14	Aung Thayar Ward	6	15,300	11,137	4,163	3,813	450	100
Total		84	215,350	148,769	66,581	60,476	9,474	3,369

The measures it is taking are even softer than the ones in other countries

THE State Administration Council has been discharging the duties of the State for a month now. The nation was peaceful during the first week of its administration, but riots and protests have been occurring since the second week. Those demonstrations are caused by the persons who are disgruntled by the action taken against the vote-rigging amidst the COVID-19 prevention and containment restrictions. The Myanmar Police Force is controlling the situation by using minimum force and through the least harmful means. The MPF is doing its work in accordance with democracy practices and the measures it is taking are even softer than the ones in other countries.

(Excerpt from the speech to the meeting of the State Administration Council made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 2 March 2021)

MoALI discusses comprehensive development project implementations

UNION MINISTER for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Tin Htut Oo attended the coordination meeting on the effective implementation of the comprehensive development projects for the entire agricultural sector yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo said that in the transformation of Myanmar's economy, the agricultural sector will focus on food security as well as job creation, adding the necessity to include plans that will cover not only crop and fish production but also the entire production process to the final stage in implementing projects. The meeting also discussed



Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo chairs the MoALI coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 10 March 2021.

the development of long-term plans for the production of key crops, including rice, for the food and nutrition of the next 100 million people; including

local development plans in the implementation of the projects by the Agricultural sector in order to narrow the development gap between urban and rural areas,

states and regions; coordination with the regional organization, inter-country cooperation programmes and international financial assistance programmes

to obtain the necessary projects in accordance with the projects being carried out by the Ministry; the completion of projects being implemented with the support loans in a timely manner; adapting production practices to adapt to the current changing climate; the development of plans for the transformation of livestock farming and plans for sustainable socio-economic development in rural areas and implementation of plans to minimize wasteful and efficient use of water from dams and river reservoirs.

The meeting was also attended by officials from the implementation of comprehensive development of the agricultural sector.—MNA

Union civil service board holds meeting (1/2021)



UCSB Chair presides over the first quarterly coordination meeting 1/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

CHAIRMAN of the Union Civil Service Board U Than Swe addressed the first quarterly coordination meeting (1/2021) of the Union Civil Service Board yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Permanent Secretaries, Directors-General and Rectors and the Deputy Permanent Secretary from the Union Civil Service Board, Chairman's Office, departments and the Central In-

stitutes of Civil Service discussed the review of operational conditions for the first quarter from January to March and further plans and the Chairman coordinated the meeting.

The coordination meeting was also attended by the members of the Union Civil Service Board, U Sitt Aye, U San Myint, Daw Khin Myo Myint, U Ye Nang.—MNA

Request to Public

1. Democracy practices have granted the public for freedom of speech, practices and living. Such freedoms should not harm others. Diverse views of others should be understood, but should not be disturbed or harassed. However, with the reason of human rights, some persons are now under pressured, harassed and threatened in breaching the laws. Undisciplined acts could lead to tarnish the image of democracy.
2. For preventing destructive actions against stability of the state, safety of the public and rule of law, it is also required to proper actions in line with the law.
3. All the people who favour justice, freedom, equality and safety are requested to oppose breaching the laws and prevent such actions for the benefit of country and people.

Five future programmes of State Administration Council

1. The Union Election Commission will be reconstituted to carry out tasks that should be done, including inspection of voting lists in accordance with the law.
2. Effective measures will be taken for the prevention of current infectious COVID-19 with added momentum.
3. Efforts will be made to recover businesses that faced loss caused by COVID-19 in various ways as quickly as possible.
4. Emphasis will be placed on restoring eternal peace in the entire nation in line with agreements from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) as much as possible.
5. When missions will be accomplished in accord with provisions of the state of emergency, a free and fair multiparty democracy election will be held in accordance with the Constitution (2008), and further tasks will be undertaken to hand over State duty to the winning party meeting the standards of democracy.

MoSWRR discusses national strategic plan for youth policy (2020-2024) and establishment of Myanmar youth committee

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement held the coordination meeting on National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy (2020-2024) and establishment of the Myanmar Youth Committee yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine, Deputy Minister U Aung Tun Khine, the Permanent Secretary, the Director-General, Deputy Directors-General and officials. At the meeting, the Union Minister said young people are the country's future as children are for the families and it is such an honour for her ministry to take responsibility for youth affairs. She called on the discussion of implementation programmes for



MoSWRR Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine chairs the coordination meeting on 10 March 2021.

the National Strategic Plan for Youth Policy (2020-2024) which have been published and further

programmes on forming a youth committee in Nay Pyi Taw Council, states and regions and town-

ships and districts.

The Deputy Minister said it is not possible to stop the activ-

ities for youth development and his ministry is in charge of providing services for children, youth, women, people with disability and elders, adding that cooperation will be continued with relevant ministries and organizations.

The Director-General and the Deputy Director-General for Social Welfare Department discussed Myanmar's youth policy, the development of the strategic plan for youth policy (2020-2024) and proposals for reforming the Myanmar Youth Committee.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Minister and party inspected the Department of Social Welfare, Disaster Management Department, Rehabilitation Department and the Emergency Management Centre and greeted the staff.—MNA

Obstructors arrested with handmade mine in Mayangon

SECURITY forces in Mayangon Township arrested obstructors with a handmade mine while conducting law enforcement and community peacekeeping operations, according to a statement from the Myanmar Police Force.

The statement said Khine Zaw Oo, 31, Aung Ko Oo, 41 and Hein Zaw Aung, 19, residents of the ward (Ga) in Mayangon Township attacked the security forces around 10:55 pm on 9 March with slingshots and rocks. Despite the warning from the security forces, Khine Zaw Oo threw a handmade mine to them and hurt his right hand.

They were arrested with slingshots, rocks, handmade mines, a bag with NLD party flag and a hand phone and will be prosecuted in accordance with the law.—MNA



Three were arrested for using handmade mines to attack the security forces.

Security forces clear entrance and exit of Ma Hlwa Gone station compound



Security forces are inspecting the basic foodstuffs for CDM workers yesterday.

AS the CDM participants blocked the entrance and exit of the Ma Hlwa Gone station compound in Mingala Taung Nyunt Township, the security forces had to remove these materials, according to the statement of the Myanmar Police Force.

The CDM participants

blocked the entrance and exit of the station compound with sandbags and threatened the non-CDM staff by force daily, it said.

According to the tip-off, the security forces conducted appropriated security operation in the Ma Hlwa Gone station compound step by step starting

5 am on 10 March and completed the operation at 9 am.

It found K3million worth of rice, cooking oil, salt, eggs, onion and seasoning power donated by organizations for CDM participants at the clinic of the station and the security forces detained 7 men for further investigation, it read.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Nine Objectives

1. Political affairs

- (a) Building of a Union based on democracy and federalism in practising genuine disciplined multiparty democracy in a full fairness manner
- (B) Emphasizing of restoration of eternal peace for the entire nation in line with the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)
- (c) Continuous practising of the “principle” of peaceful co-existence among countries by holding up the independent, active and non-aligned foreign policy

2. Economic affairs

- (a) Further development of production based on agriculture and livestock breeding through modern techniques and all-round development of other

sectors of the economy as well

- (b) Stability of market economy and inviting international investments to develop the economy of entire ethnic people
- (c) Encouragement of local businesses to create employment opportunities to be able to produce many products of the State

3. Social affairs

- (a) For ensuring of dynamism of Union spirit which is genuine patriotic spirit
- (b) Following customs and traditions of all ethnic nationalities and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national characters
- (c) Enhancement of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

Myanmar Navy Vessel repatriates Myanmar fishery workers from India

MYANMAR Navy Vessel (Tabin Shwe Htee) led by Colonel Kyaw Lin Zaw of Myanma Tatmadaw (Navy) left for India to bring back the Myanmar fishery workers stranded at Andaman Island of India on 6 March in accordance with the instruction of State Administration Council Chairman Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The military ship Tabin Shwe Htee arrived at Port Blair of Andaman Island in India on 7 March noon and Indian officials transferred a total of 70 Myanmar marine workers on 8 March. The military officials conducted health checks on the marine workers and provided food and clothes. The ship left for Myanmar on 9 March and it drove a total of 830 nautical miles for a round trip and arrived at the No (3) jetty of Yangon yesterday afternoon.



Myanmar returnees from India are seen undergoing healthcare services and COVID-19 rules yesterday.

The medical teams provided security measures, healthcare services including exercise programmes and entertainment programmes on the ship for the returnees.

Commander of Central

Naval Command Brig-Gen Htein Win and other military personnel of the Navy warmly welcomed the Myanmar returnees from India.

The returnees are currently placed at Tatmadaw’s quar-

antine centres in accordance with the COVID-19 health rules. They will be then transferred to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement for their returns to respective regions and states. The officials

will also create job opportunities for them.

A total of 1,156 Myanmar nationals were brought back home from foreign countries in the State Administration Council term.—MNA

Handmade mines confiscated in North Okkalapa and Insein townships



13 handmade mines made of Redbull containers were seized.

WHILE clearing roadblocks in North Okkalapa and Insein townships, handmade mines were confiscated, according to the statement of Myanmar Police Force.

The statement said security forces have accelerated activities for the rule of law and peace in the country by patrolling day and night, maintaining riots and clearing roadblocks set by rioters.

While the security forces were removing roadblocks put by rioters at the intersection of Thudamar road and Nweni road in North Okkalapa road in the afternoon of 9 March, two handmade mines made of plastic pipes were

confiscated.

Similarly, during the riot control in Insein Township, 4 men including Aeik Pan, 35, were arrested and confiscated 13 Redbull containers filled with gunpowder and investigation are underway to take action against those, who devised handmade mines, in accordance with the law.

As rioters have transformed the peaceful protests into violent ones by using explosive devices in various places, people should avoid protests to prevent unwanted injury and report to the relevant departments when suspected items were found in the neighbourhood, according to the state of Myanmar Police Force.—MNA

Public information

Yangon Administration Council is working with relevant departments to help the businesses in the region. People are informed to contact the following phone numbers to get assistance for their small and medium-scaled businesses and investments which are facing some delays and working to do new businesses.

Phone numbers: 01 830 1975, 01830 2175

Yangon Region Administration Council

Organizations, persons from Malaysia, Korea make illegal financial support for CDM



Dar Toot Zaw Min Than (L) vice-chair of Kapone funeral service team, is seen receiving cash donations for CDM.

THE organizations and persons living in Malaysia and Korea are illegally providing financial assistance for CDM in Myanmar.

According to the financial

inventory seized by the security forces from Funeral Service Team (Yangon) on 9 March, it was the fixed deposit account of K2 billion and saved since

four years ago in accordance with the terms and conditions of the respective bank.

When the illegal financial flows were investigated, the donors from local and foreign countries transferred money to this team to support CDM staff.

The following persons living in Malaysia collected the cash donation and illegally transferred to Myanmar.

The cash donations by Art-hawka Health Foundation in Senine of Johor were transferred to Khine Mye Taw Lat Myar led by Dal Oh Sayadaw U Thu Mingala in Hmawbi Township and Daw Myint Myint Khin Pe (aka) Shwe Zee Kwat, wife of U Kyaw Thu is member of that team. Presiding Sayadaw U Zagara Buddhi of Yadanar Yama monastery in Selangor collected cash donations for CDM staff in Myanmar, Ko Thet (aka) Thet Khine Soe (Nhalone Hla Parahita Youth Blood Donation Team) in Kuala Lumpur also collected cash donations and transferred to Myanmar to support 20 CDM staff in Shwepyitha and those died in protest on 26 February

2021 and U Aung Zaw Htwe member of Shwepyitha NLD received the money. Then, he transferred money to support 85 Thamine and Kanbe railway station staff on 27 February 2021.

Moreover, Ko Myo (aka) Aung Myo Naing (Shwe Myanmar Parahita Team) from Selangor, Aung Thant Nyunt (aka) Ni Laing Oo Aung owner of We Love Motherland-MM Malaysia account from Li-Ning and Dar Toot Zaw Min Than (vice-chair of Kapone funeral service team) from Kapone also collected cash donations and transferred in illegal ways.

These organizations and persons from Malaysia made illegal money transfer of 54949.89 Malaysia ringgit (about K18.8million) via Wave Money and other unofficial money transfer services. Most of the donations were transferred to U Kyaw Thu, chair of Funeral Service Team (Yangon) and his wife Daw Myint Myint Khin Pe (aka) Daw Shwe Zee Kwat.

The illegal money transfer was served by the house of Dar Toot Zaw Min Than in Thakayta,

Shwe Kabar (shoe shop) and Shwe Hnin Si (electronic shop) at No (004) of no (22) apartment, B (11) street in Yuzana Garden City in Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township.

Similarly, Yan Naing Tun (chairman of the NLD Unification Committee—Korea branch) in Korea organized an Anti-Coup Committee (Korea) on 7 February and his second leader Soe Moe Thu collected cash donations at account no 312-0031-6030-71 of Nonghyup Bank with the name of Yan Naing Tun and transferred 1685 million Korea Won (K208.6million) to Myanmar for CDM staff via Korea money transfer services on 19,23,24 and 27 February and 3 March and they also transferred to Thailand to make money transfer to Myanmar via Thai agents.

Therefore, the people should report to the nearest military command and police stations if they find the money transfer agents and suspects and action will be taken against those hide the suspects at home.—MNA

Leaders of All Burma Federation of Students Unions arrested

THE leaders of the former All Burma Federation of Students Unions (former ABFSU) and the leaders of the current All Burma Federation of Students Unions (ABFSU) have been arrested.

In the afternoon of 3 March, 2021, All Burma Federation of Student Unions (former ABFSU) led by Kyaw Ko Ko, Lynn Htet Naing (a) James, current ABFSU and other student unions in Yangon, CSOs led by Generation Wave (GW) and Future Nation Alliances (FNA), in collaboration with NLD, ALD, DPNS by over 1,000 people conducted Civil Disobedience Movement in front of the Tamwe Township Police Station on Banyardala road.

The crowd was dispersed by sound bombs and tear gas bombs and a total of 188 men, 200 women and 1 monk was detained. Among them, Vice-Chair of ABFSU Wai Yan Phyto Moe, Lay Pyay Soe Moe, Zaw Htet Naing, Aung Phone Maw, Hpone Htet Naung, who were members of ABFSU and Thuta Soe (Yankin Education College Student Union), Aye

Aung (alumni of 1996 batch) were also included.

Kyaw Ko Ko, who led the riot, fled in an ambulance under the name of San Tun Aung, claiming that he was tired, and is being prosecuted.

According to the confession of Wai Yan Phyto Moe, the Vice-Chair of the ABFSU and the students involved in the federation. The main leaders of the riot are as follow:

Kyaw Ko Ko, Lynn Htet Naing (a) James, Moe Htet Nay, Aye Aung (arrested) from former ABFSU; Thant Nyi Nyi Win (Chair) and Wai Yan Phyto Moe (Vice-Chair, arrested) from the current ABFSU; Min Han Htet (Chair) who involved in removing the national flag and secretary Thuta Kyaw from Dagon University Students Union; Nyi Zaw (Chair), Aung Kaung Sett (Information), Hayman Soe Nyunt (Secretary), Lay Pyay Soe Moe (responsible for student rights, arrested), Hpone Htet Naung (Education, arrested) and Aung Hpone Maw (responsible for research, arrested) from Yangon University Students Union; Nway

Nway San (Secretary) from Yangon University of Foreign Languages (YUFL) Students Union; Htoo Aye Lin (Chair) from Cooperative University Students Union (Thanlyin); Zaw Htet Naing (Vice-Chair arrested) from Yangon University of Education Students Union; Pyae Phyto Zaw (Chair) and Kyaw Kyaw Lin (Secretary) from Yangon West University Students Union; Moe Thwe from Generation Wave (GW); Thet Swe Win from Future Nation Alliances (FNA); Phoe Saung from NLD; Myo Kyaw from ALD and Aung Moe Zaw, Hnin Hnin Hmwe and Ei Thinzar Maung from DPNS and Kyaw Ni and Phoe Kyaw from Trade Union.

Twenty-three people mentioned above including Kyaw Ko Ko, were charged under Section 505-A of the Criminal Code at Tamway and Mayangon police stations and it is reported that those who found them can report to the nearest police stations and those who hide them will be taken effective legal action in accordance with the law.—MNA

Security forces detain 37 rioters across country

SECURITY forces detained a total of 37 rioters yesterday, according to the statement of the Myanmar Police Force.

Rioters across the country have been doing mass protests, fast posting videos and pictures taken during the riots on social media and immediate crowd dispersal in accordance with the incitement and information shared on social media.

Security forces also have been conducting riot control in accordance with the law, rules

and regulations. Although there were not mass protests in various areas yesterday, security forces had to disperse the crowd with riot control agent in some townships and detained 37 rioters.

It has been found that many young people are not aware of their future and are participating in demonstrations by following the incitements behind and confronting the security forces in the front line.—MNA

Request to health workers

1. It is appreciated for the strenuous efforts of the medical doctors, nurses, medical experts and other health works at the respective departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports at the front-line in the fight against prevention, containment and treatment of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).
2. As the vaccination programme of COVID-19 is being conducted for the public and the real-time healthcare services are required for the people, all the staff members at the respective departments under the Ministry of Health and Sports are strongly urged to return to their duties with taking the well-being of patients into consideration.

Ministry of Health and Sports
8 February 2021

Greenback-Kyat exchange rate drops over K20 per dollar in over 2 weeks

The exchange rate of the US dollar has been on the decline against Myanmar Kyat in the domestic currency market, a dropping by over K20 in over two weeks, according to the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The rate went down from K1,447 per dollar on 22 February to K1,423 per dollar on 10 March in the domestic exchange market.

Similarly, the domestic gold price is also dropping in the market. The price per tical (0.578 ounces, or 0.016 kilograms) of gold was around K1,410,000 on 3 February but had dropped to K1,325,000 by 10 March.

In the domestic market in 2021, the highest and lowest exchange rate is currently fixed around K1,327-1,345 in January and K1,330-1,447 in February.

This year, the exchange rate moved in the range of K1,465-1,493 in January, K1,436-1,465 in February, K1,320-1,445 in March, K1,395-1,440 in April, K1,406-1,426 in May, K1,385-1,412 in June, K1,367-1,410 in July, K1,335-1,390 in August, K1,310-1,355 in September, K1,282-1,315 in October, K1,303-1,330 in November and K1,324-1,403 in December.

In the last six months in 2019, the rates were fixed at K1,508-1,517 in July, K1,510-1,526 in August, K1,527-1,565 in September, K1,528-1,537 in October, K1,510-1,524 in November and K1,485-1,513 in December.

On 20 September 2018, the dollar exchange rate hit a record high of K1,650 in the local exchange market. — NN/GNLM



In the domestic market in 2021, the highest and lowest exchange rate is currently fixed around K1,327-1,345 in January and K1,330-1,447 in February.

External trade drastically drops by \$3.37 bln as of 26 Feb

Myanmar's external trade between 1 October and 26 February in the current financial year 2020-2021 shrank to US\$12.75 billion, a sharp drop of \$3.37 billion compared with the corresponding period of the FY2019-2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

During the same period in the previous FY, the trade stood at \$16.12 billion, according to data released by the ministry.

During the past five months, Myanmar's export was worth over \$6.45 billion, which plunged from \$7.6 billion registered a year-ago period. Meanwhile,

the country's import was valued at \$6.29 billion, showing a decrease of \$2.223 billion compared with the last FY.

Both sea trade and border trade dropped amid the coronavirus impacts. The neighbouring countries tightened border security and limit the trading time to contain the spread of the virus. Pandemic-induced container shortage pushed up the freight rates to almost triple in Myanmar, causing delays for traders.

Additionally, some ocean liners suspended cargo transport from Myanmar, according to the Myanmar Mercan-

tile Marine Development Association.

Furthermore, the current political conditions drag down the trade. At present, the traders have a transaction problem triggered by the shutdown of the private banks, a market observer shared his opinion.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals, forest products, and finished industrial goods, while it imports capital goods, raw industrial materials, and consumer goods.

The country's export sector relies more on the agricultural and manufacturing sectors. The government is trying

to reduce the trade deficit by screening luxury import items and boosting exports.

Under the National Planning Law for the Financial Year 2020-2021, Myanmar intends to reach an export target of US\$16 billion and import at \$18 billion.

The Ministry of Commerce is focusing on reducing the trade deficit, export promotion and market diversification. Since 2011, the Ministry of Commerce has adhered to its reform policy. A series of moves to liberalize and open the economy have been introduced through policy development to improve the trade environment. — KK/GNLM

Myanmar natural rubber price soar to nearly K1,000 per pound on weak global trend



Rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar.

The price of domestic natural rubber jumped to nearly K1,000 per pound as global rubber is in a bull market, Mon State's rubber market data showed.

The natural quality rubber was priced at K750 per pound in late January 2021, while it reached K950-980 per pound (for RSS1 and RSS3) in the second

week of March 2021.

Myanmar's natural rubber price is tracking the global rates, Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association (MRPPA) stated.

The pandemic hinders international producers. Consequently, natural rubber prices went into a bear market in 2020.

However, the natural rubber hit up to K1,000 per pound at the end of 2020.

Myanmar's rubber is priced lower than the international rate owing to raw material variability. Rubber price stood at US\$2,600 per tonne in 2020-end in global market, whereas Myanmar rubber fetches only \$2,100 per pound.

"The uniformity is an important quality measure. Tyre manufacturers do not need to change the formula in the production process because of raw material risks. Product uniformity can bring sustainable development for both sides. If there is no raw material variability and risk factor, the price will automatically go up," MRPPA Chair U Aung Myint Htoo affirmed.

"Myanmar's rubber body is endeavouring to export its natural rubber with the country of origin labelling to external markets. Nevertheless, illegal exports are happening and it contributes to revenue losses," added MRPPA

Secretary U Khaing Myint.

Thailand is buying Myanmar's natural rubber at a good price through the black market in Payathonzu, Kawthoung and Myeik towns. As a result of this, the government needs to strictly control illegal rubber exports, MRPPA stated.

Thailand re-exports those illegally imported rubber under its origin label. This being so, we want to earn the country of origin label, said the MRPPA secretary.

Additionally, the natural rubber is estimated at K1,300 per pound in Thailand, whereas Myanmar's rubber is priced about K400 lower than their prices, he added.

"Myanmar's rubber has raw material variability and it may lead to quality compliance issues, process inconsistency, productivity problem and high input cost. Meanwhile, Thailand's rubber is priced at a premium due to its quality and consistency. Thailand's rubber fetches US\$2,500

per tonne, while the global rate is at \$2,200 per tonne, U Khaing Myint stated.

Rubber is primarily produced in Mon and Kayin states and Taninthayi, Bago, and Yangon regions in Myanmar. As per 2018-2019 rubber season's data, there are over 1.628 million acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar, with Mon State accounting for 497,153 acres, followed by Taninthayi Region with 348,344 acres and Kayin State with 270,760 acres. About 300,000 tonnes of rubber is produced annually across the country. Seventy per cent of rubber produced in Myanmar goes to China. It is also shipped to Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Republic of Korea, India, Japan, and other countries, according to the MRPPA.

Myanmar yearly exports over 200,000 tonnes of natural rubber to foreign countries, generating income of over \$200 million. — GNLM

Modern farming methods is key to overcoming challenges in agro-sector

Myanmar has made sincere efforts to gain significant achievements in promoting the productivity in from the agricultural sector in the past decades.

However, on the other side, environmental degradation, loss of biodiversity, food wastes, weakness in the security of the life of workers in the food production chain, and the impact impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic on food supply chains and on food systems are continuing ongoing occurring.

When it comes to tackling the above challenges, we need to take consideration into the irrigation sector which is also directly impacted by climate change.

Annual data on the water storage capacity in the dams and the volume of irrigation water it can provide to farmland is declining every year.

In this predictable situation, local farmers would also have to do their part to change their farming strategy quickly, climate wise. Market wise, they all must scrutinize which would be the most beneficial and profitable crop.

Only good preparation and management can help the country and the people overcome predictable and unpredictable disasters, and reduce their risk.

Farmers, on their part, can choose suitable crops and plan farming methods and inputs to ensure a good harvest.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, on its part, would review the projects and draw plans to ensure that the people in rural areas enjoy the benefits from the socio economic development projects.

With Myanmar experiencing the impact of climate change, the agricultural, livestock and irrigation sector, which is related with the climate, needs innovation and systematic management so it can adapt to the changing situation. The plans must also focus on effective use of irrigation water without wastes.

Only good preparation and management can help the country and the people overcome predictable and unpredictable disasters, and reduce their risk.

A change in climate is being witnessed not year by year, but month by month. Crops that grew well in the past may no longer show good yields due to climate change.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will educate and distribute as much news and information as possible to farmers. The government will help and assist them, but farmers and peasants themselves must have the will to study.

Planting methods and crops need to be changed. Continuous study must be undertaken and appropriate and timely changes made.

Encouraging modern farming methods which is adaptable to climate change is playing an important role in helping farmers, who are important for our country's economy as well as for the food sufficiency of our people, to overcome predictable challenges.



Impact of COVID-19 'heavily felt' by prisoners globally: UN Expert

People incarcerated across the world are being "disproportionately affected" by the COVID-19 pandemic according to a UN expert on prison reform.

On Wednesday, the impact of the virus in prison settings is being discussed at the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice which is underway in Kyoto, Japan.

Philipp Meissner is a prison reform expert at the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). UN News spoke to him ahead of the event in which he is participating.

How badly are prisoners around the world being affected by COVID-19?

Prison systems and the more than 11 million prisoners worldwide have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19. It's estimated there are more than 527,000 prisoners who have become infected with the virus in 122 countries with more than 3,800 fatalities in 47 countries.

With limited testing capacity in many jurisdictions and the rapidly evolving situation, the actual number may be much higher. It should also be recognized that due to their close and regular interaction with prisoners, prison officers, health-care professionals and others working in prisons, also face an enhanced risk of infection. Undoubtedly, prisons are high-risk environments for COVID-19 for those who live and work there.

Where are prisoners suffering most?

The impact is heavily felt by prisoners in the majority of countries on all continents. Even relatively well-resourced penal systems face serious challenges

in mitigating the impact of the pandemic in prisons. The consequences are particularly severe in prison systems that have been over-stretched to start with, including due to systemic neglect, a lack of staffing and other resources. That has led to poor prison conditions, for example insufficient sanitation, hygiene and health services.

Prison overcrowding, which continues to affect a majority of countries worldwide, exponentially increases the challenges posed by COVID-19 and the actual feasibility of introducing meaningful infection prevention and control measures.

What difficulties do national authorities face in fighting the pandemic in prison settings?

Already prior to the pandemic, many prison systems struggled to even cater for the basic needs of prisoners and ensure prison health. Sufficient space, nutrition and drinking water, access to sanitary items and decent sanitary facilities as well as proper ventilation in accommodation and working areas, are not a given in many prisons around the world. And access to personal protective equipment (PPE), infrared thermometers or testing capacities specific to COVID-19 is challenging. These factors are aggravated by the typically weaker health profile of prison populations, including a higher prevalence of both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

The principle of equivalence of care, which should provide prisoners with access to health services free of charge and of a similar standard as provided in the community, is not ensured in many countries. It is also crucial that international standards, in particular, the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, the so-called Nelson Mandela Rules, are adhered to.

The measures adopted in many countries have typically resulted in the further tightening of prison regimes, including the



Barbed wire fencing surrounds a detention centre. PHOTO: UNSPLASH/HÉDI BENYOUNES

suspension of visits as well as very restricted access, if at all, to rehabilitation programmes and other constructive activities outside of accommodation areas. Not being able to see families and children over extended periods of time, has a serious impact on the mental health and well-being of prisoners, including incarcerated mothers and fathers, and significantly aggravates the suffering inherent in a situation of imprisonment.

Is enough attention being paid by national authorities to the plight of prisoners during the pandemic? Prison management and services are a weak link in the criminal justice systems in many countries. Prisoners constitute a segment of society which is easily forgotten by policymakers and the general public alike.

From the outset of the pandemic, UNODC and others have been very vocal about the need to firmly embed prisons, prisoners and prison personnel into the overall COVID-19 public health response of countries. While many jurisdictions are heeding these calls and have engaged in commendable efforts, more needs to be done to fully address the plight of prisoners during the pandemic and to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in prisons; that should include vaccination programmes.

Source: UN News

What solutions are being found to stopping the spread of the virus in prisons? One of the key issues for prisons is severe overcrowding and so many countries have sought to curb the continuous inflow of prisoners; for example by issuing suspended sentences for less serious crimes and by engaging in the emergency release of prison-

What solutions are being found to stopping the spread of the virus in prisons?

One of the key issues for prisons is severe overcrowding and so many countries have sought to curb the continuous inflow of prisoners; for example by issuing suspended sentences for less serious crimes and by engaging in the emergency release of prison-

Source: UN News

demically, UNODC and others have been very vocal about the need to firmly embed prisons, prisoners and prison personnel into the overall COVID-19 public health response of countries. While many jurisdictions are heeding these calls and have engaged in commendable efforts, more needs to be done to fully address the plight of prisoners during the pandemic and to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 in prisons; that should include vaccination programmes.

What solutions are being found to stopping the spread of the virus in prisons?

One of the key issues for prisons is severe overcrowding and so many countries have sought to curb the continuous inflow of prisoners; for example by issuing suspended sentences for less serious crimes and by engaging in the emergency release of prison-

Source: UN News

Specifically, UNODC has engaged with national prison and correctional services from more than 50 countries to assist in enhancing measures to prevent and control infections, to ensure continued adherence to minimum prison standards, as well as to promote, in suitable cases, an increased use of alternatives to imprisonment.

What solutions are being found to stopping the spread of the virus in prisons?

One of the key issues for prisons is severe overcrowding and so many countries have sought to curb the continuous inflow of prisoners; for example by issuing suspended sentences for less serious crimes and by engaging in the emergency release of prison-

Source: UN News

Objectives of 76th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

FOR the Tatmadaw to join hands with the entire nation to safeguard democracy, which is the aspiration of all the nationalities of the country, from deviating from its path, in accord with the basic principles of the Constitution, while observing Our Three Main National Causes, which is the national policy;

To protect the people from all dangers including natural disasters at any time and in any situation and to provide all-round assistance for ensuring social security of the people;

To restore eternal peace based on NCA, without deviating from Our Three Main National Causes, as the cessation of armed conflicts is the principal requirement in realizing democracy;

To build a strong and compact Standard Army, which has the combat prowess and combat power; to effectively safeguard the State peace and stability and sovereignty.

Press briefing 2/2021 of Information Team to be broadcast live

The press briefing 2/2021 of Information Team of the State Administration Council will be broadcast live on MRTV, and MITV and aired live on Myanmar Radio starting from 2:00 pm on 11 March, at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information. — MNA



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Wednesday 10 March 2021)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the South Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere over the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 11 March 2021: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Taninthay Region and Kachin State. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon Regions and Shan, Chin, Rakhine, Kayin, Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (4-7) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 March 2021: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 March 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11 March 2021: Generally fair weather.

First Person: Fighting For Women's Financial Freedom

Around the world, the opportunities for women to lead successful, financially secure lives are being limited by government legislation, company policies and deep-rooted misogyny. The UN is leading efforts to give women more access to digital financial tools, seen as essential to playing a full part in the global economy.

In her role as a senior advisor at the UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), which makes public and private finance work for the world's poorest people, Nandini Harihareswara focuses on ensuring that more

women are able to take advantage of digital finance, as a means of lifting them out of poverty. Ms. Harihareswara spoke to UN News ahead of an online panel discussion, involving UNCDF, The World Bank and other partners, promot-

ing financial equality for women, and International Women's Day, both held on 8 March.

"I would describe myself as a digital finance and inclusive digital economies professional who really cares about making sure

the benefits of digital reach women. I come from a lower-middle class income immigrant family and I am first generation Indian-American. I grew up on a budget. But my dreams always bridged the two countries that

defined my identity, the United States and India.

A lack of agency

This quote from the Women and Money report, published by the Gates Foundation, says

it best: "Money is the domain of men. Society doesn't view it as [a woman's] role to earn money, or her right to make financial decisions". This is true for many of the countries we work in.

Source: UN News

circulation@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
သတင်းစာများပို့ရန်ပိုမိုတက်သွယ်နိုင်ပါသည်။
Circulation order is in easier way. **HOTLINE** 09-45237515

It is better if a civil servant chooses to join CDM with his own conscious decision rather than being forced to do so.

Interviewer: Mone Muyar Moe

HERE are the voices of civil servants and people from my interview, who are facing difficulties due to the Civil Service Movement (CDM).

Civil Servant Daw Win (not her real name)

I had never thought that I would have to go to the office with difficulties and work stealthily like this. I believed that being a public servant is doing a righteous job. We are not stealing from others or we are not doing the business in the wrong ways. I have been working as a civil servant for over 20 years with a small amount of salary but with dignity. The current situation is that I have to go to work stealthily and when I arrive there, I can't get inside the office from the front door. It has been quite a while that I didn't take the lunch box to work. When I go back home, I have to look out to get out of the office. Because I am scared I would be in danger. I used to stay late at work but I don't dare to do so. I because there is various news outside saying to drag the staff who don't join CDM or to protest in front of offices that don't join CDM. The more I heard this news, the more scared I am. However, I do go to work.

Civil Servant Ma Eaint Nge (not her real name)

I am really disturbed by the threatening posts on social media to those who don't join CDM. I am not interested in

joining CDM. Sometimes I even want to quit my job because of stress. We have to rely on salary for living, therefore, I expect to get paid my salary. I neither want to involve in politics nor understand it.

The situation outside is that staff who don't join CDM are being treated as an enemy. Besides, we are also scared of being in a riot on the way. We are indeed stressed. I have some friends who join CDM, and staying among them makes me uncomfortable. I don't want to blame them. Truth to be told, I want only peace.

Ma Zin Mar Win from Sagaing Region (not her real name)

When I went to the bank to transfer the salary for staff, the bank manager said the staff of the bank were participating in the CDM movement and couldn't reach them. He said the staff locked their computer with passwords, transferring or withdrawing money can't be done.

The Yangon Head office transferred money on 24 February and the money couldn't be withdrawn till 25 February. So, I went again on the 26, but couldn't withdraw. Therefore, I notified the situation to head of office and they were also worried as it is the salary for staff. We were in trouble as we couldn't withdraw money from the bank. The next day, I went again but the person who was responsible for the money withdrawal had



The situation is that we are being treated as the enemy if we don't join CDM. The worst thing is that some people are bullying staff who don't join CDM on social media with their photos and we don't feel safe day after day. I chose to be a civil servant although the salary is not attractive because I want to work peacefully and stably.

gone and I had to return home and finally on 3 March, I could withdraw the money.

There were only 8 or 9 staff who were still left in the bank. I really thank them as they didn't join CDM. If not, I don't think I can pay for my staff. I appreciate them as they work thoroughly although they were tired.

Civil Servant senior clerk Daw Mary Cho (not her real name)

By the time we all were worried because an official from the department was COVID-19 positive, voices shouting to stop working was really annoying. They don't think about what

we are going through, they are just asking what they want and taking photos and it's really irritating. We just heard rumours to close offices and markets from 8 March to 10 March. We have no idea what we will have to go through. We just want to work peacefully. We have never thought of what others are accusing. The situation is that we are being treated as the enemy if we don't join CDM. The worst thing is that some people are bullying staff who don't join CDM on social media with their photos and we don't feel safe day after day. I chose to be a civil servant although the salary is not attractive because I want to work peacefully and stably.

U Win Zaw (not his real name)

I think public service departments shouldn't be forced to join CDM. For example, the Municipal department is responsible to clean garbage every day; providing water and even cremation. There are of course many other departments including the Healthcare Department. If staff from those essential departments join CDM, it is very likely for the public to face difficulties. Actually, it is better if a civil servant chooses to join CDM with his own conscious decision rather than being forced to do so.

Translated.

YCDC strives for 3.3-mln-gallon water supply per day to Dala

THE Water & Sanitation Department under Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) is making arrangements to supply sufficient water to Dala Township in the southern district of Yangon.

The project will be developed with the assistance of the Japanese government. About 1 million gallons of water is being supplied daily

from Yangon drinking water supply camp to Dala Township. This project could supply 3.3 million gallons of water.

Besides, the department will be able to distribute and sell the 66,000 gallons of drinking water daily by water container vehicles to Kungyanon, Kawhmu and Twante townships in the Yangon region.

To be able to access the

aid from the Japanese government, YCDC conducted field inspection tours for three years starting from 2015. The water purification factory will be constructed near Phaya Gyi Su village next to the Twante Canal. Then, the water from the Twante Canal will be extracted and refined.

Also, pumping station and service reservoirs, which can accommodate 3.3 million gal-

lons of water will be constructed in Dala township. Water will be distributed to Dala town. The water pipeline connection project to Dala town is being implemented with the spending of YCDC's fund.

The department heads are conducting day and night to construct the entrance road of the project to carry out every season to prevent the delay of the water purifica-

tion factory project. The sand filling work on 18.78 acres of project land is being carried out starting from the 2019-2020 financial year.

KFE engineering corporation company won the tender of the water purification factory. The estimate of the whole project is ¥4.176 billion. The duration of the project is about two and a half years. — Myo Min Thura/GNLM

Open letter to Ma Byaing

By May Joe Phyu

THE issue becomes famous around us now is CDM. It is difficult to say like a Myanmar saying: An ignorant person walks over the pot of gold. The informed person digs it up. We can neither get rid of nor ignore it as the people use various ways daily to get public attraction in this movement.

No matter how hard they try, I totally do not join the CDM activities with my own stance. My opinion is just a simple one. I was born into a governmental staff's family and I have to serve the country when I finish my education. Being a citizen, I cast my vote for the party I like and peacefully serve my duties.

There is a reason for saying that. Some of my friends and other young people join CDM. They can do whatever they like. We cannot stop them due to ethnics and human rights. The next one is that they are educated persons and new generations and we have been working together for nearly one decade.

But, I cannot believe they change their mindset in a short while. Although we were good friends in our work field including education, social and health sectors, they now treat me like their enemy. It is just a doing that I am really sad.

When we have different directions, they personally attack me without thinking of our friendship or ranks via social network like Facebook. Although we have learnt to respect other people in Buddha teachings even if they were born one day ahead of us, they treat us as the enemy to others who supposed to be their teachers or guides.

There is Khin Pon Gyi Sal Par (10 persons who should be respected and never to be wronged) in Buddha teaching. Parents, teachers and those who feed you just one time are the components of these ten highly-respectful persons. If people insult these persons, they will face only hardships throughout their life and will not free from hell. They are the ones to rely on the income from their job for their life survivals.

I remember a folktale I have heard in my childhood. It is just about plum seller Ma Byaing who forgot her real life and a cowboy who died for insulting his teacher. I do not want to say many things as you all know about it.

Once a cowboy saw a fishing way of egret and practised like egret, and became famous for throwing up the spear into the air and catching it with his mouth. He got a chance to

There is Khin Pon Gyi Sal Par (10 persons who should be respected and never to be wronged) in Buddha teaching. Parents, teachers and those who feed you just one time are the components of these ten highly-respectful persons. If people insult these persons, they will face only hardships throughout their life and will not free from hell.

entertain in front of the king. All the people and king were satisfied with his talent and honoured as their hero. But, when he was asked who was his teacher, he replied he did not have any teacher as he was embarrassed to answer his teacher was just an egret. Then, he faced an incident during his performance as the spear he threw into the air stuck in his mouth and he died on the spot.

Therefore, I am worried about those who insult the teachers including colleagues and friends as they would suffer something bad for their verbal

attacks.

The next story is about plum vendor Ma Byaing who was loved by the king and became queen for her beauty. She was killed by the anger of the king as she forgot her real-life situation because, when her brother came to meet her, she denied he was not her brother. Everyone knows about their life background and other people also know this. When the kind knew all about it she was punished to death at the end. Different people have different life backgrounds. No one should not attack others verbally at

random. Such misdeeds shall come back to doers, surely.

They should not think of making enemies with their active and well-educated or well-versed friends full of empathy working together through thick and thin. I really do not want them to be like 'Ma Byaing' nor 'Cowboy' mentioned earlier.

Let's be free from deceiving each other!

Let's be free from letting down each other!

Let's be free from impoverishing each other!

Translated.

WORLD NEWS TOP STORIES

Russian mining giant pays \$2bn fine for Arctic spill

Russian mining giant Norilsk Nickel announced on Wednesday it had paid a nearly \$2 billion fine for a giant fuel spill in the Arctic last year.

Some 20,000 tonnes of diesel leaked into lakes and rivers near the northern city of Norilsk in May last year when a fuel reservoir collapsed at a power plant owned by Norilsk Nickel.

President Vladimir Putin declared a state of emergency and ordered the mining conglomerate, which is owned by one of Russia's richest men Vladimir Potanin, to pay for the spill. Norilsk Nickel, also known as Norinickel, said in a statement



Some 20,000 tonnes of diesel leaked into lakes and rivers near the northern city of Norilsk in May last year when a fuel reservoir collapsed at a power plant owned by Norilsk Nickel. **PHOTO: AFP**

on Wednesday that it had paid 146.2 billion rubles (\$1.9 billion) "for damage caused to the environment" by the May 29, 2020, leak.

It was the largest compensation paid for environmental

damage in the country's history.

The company said last month it would not dispute a court ruling holding it responsible for the incident and ordering the mining group to pay the penalty.—AFP ■

Suspense in Iceland as dormant volcanic zone shows signs of life

Unusual seismic activity in a volcanic zone near Iceland's capital Reykjavik that has been dormant for almost 800 years has left experts stumped and searching for clues as to whether an eruption is imminent.

The eerie cone of Mount Keilir rises up over the lunar-like landscape, just 25 kilometres (15 miles) from Reykjavik, looming over the area now being closely monitored by volcanologists for the first signs of an eruption.

Iceland has been on high alert since last week after a series of small earthquakes

and tremor pulses related to increased magma flow in the Krysuvik volcanic system, with the chances of an eruption seen as pretty likely last week. But since then, with no eruption forthcoming, doubts have arisen about whether there will be one after all.

The Civil Protection Agency on Monday said "we must continue to assume there is a possibility of an eruption."

"This always has to be taken seriously because it can change very fast," Thorbjorg Agustsdottir, a seismologist at Iceland GeoSurvey, told AFP.—AFP ■

Bosnians 'unhappy' at lack of Covax vaccines, says FM

BOSNIA'S foreign minister voiced anger on Tuesday that her country had yet to receive any of the promised vaccines from the EU-backed Covax scheme, saying Bosnians were "justifiably unhappy".

"We expect Covax to fulfil its contractual obligations," Bosnian Foreign Minister Bisera Turkovic told a press conference during a visit to Berlin.

She said Bosnia had met its obligations and paid for more than 1.2 million doses through the international Covax scheme, a global vaccine-sharing effort, but "not a single dose" had arrived to date.

"Our citizens are justifiably unhappy," Turkovic told reporters, speaking alongside German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas.



Medical staff attend to people arriving for a coronavirus test, at a hospital in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Aug. 10, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

"Every day counts. We're talking about people's lives," she said, in remarks translated to German. The Balkan nation of 3.5 million people has recorded

more than 5,000 deaths from Covid-19, giving it one of the world's highest per capita mortality rates from the virus.

Bosnian authorities have

looked elsewhere for help, procuring some 22,000 doses of the Russian-made Sputnik V which is being doled out in the country's Serb-dominated half, Republika

Srpska.

Neighbouring Serbia last week donated 10,000 AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccines, which will be distributed in the country's other post-war entity, the Croat-Muslim federation.

German Foreign Minister Maas said he regretted the delayed start to the Covax rollout but that the pace would pick up soon. Covax is set to deliver than a million vaccine doses to western Balkan countries "in the coming weeks and until the end of May", including 130,000 for Bosnia-Herzegovina, he said.

"I can understand that this isn't fast enough for many, and of course I see that there are others offering vaccines and who expect favourable political conduct in return," Maas added. —AFP ■

17 European countries received AstraZeneca batch suspected of link to death

AUTHORITIES in Austria have stopped using a batch of AstraZeneca vaccines following a death and an illness of two nurses.

Meanwhile, seventeen European countries have re-

ceived the same batch, ABV 5300.

Christa Wirthumer-Hoche, the head of Austrian public health agency AGES' medicines market supervisory body, was quoted by Reuters as say-

ing: "We informed all European colleagues in the European network as this batch, which amounted to roughly a million doses in total, was sent to 17 European countries."

The case will be discussed

in the European Medicines Agency's Pharmacovigilance Risk Assessment Committee (PRAC).

AstraZeneca said all vaccines undergo strict quality controls. —AFP ■

Estonia to go into partial lockdown as Covid cases spike



Estonia already has its own system of electronic health records. PHOTO: AFP

ESTONIA will go into partial lockdown this week, the Bal-

tic state's prime minister said Tuesday, after its per-capita

coronavirus infection rate rose to the second highest in the world.

Prime Minister Kaja Kallas said the measures were required as the health-care system was struggling, adding that they would be in place for at least a month.

"We haven't yet learned to live with the virus in a way that would allow us to continue our daily life in the safest way possible," Kallas, who is currently self-isolating, said ahead of a government meeting on Tuesday that is set to formally approve the measures.

The new restrictions will stay in effect at least until

April 11 and the government will decide whether to extend depending on the situation in hospitals. Under the new measures, all schools will be shut down and parents will be asked to send their children to kindergartens only if absolutely necessary.

Only shops selling basic necessities will stay open, and restaurants will only offer takeaway service. Church services will only be allowed outdoors with a maximum of 10 people attending.

People will be allowed out of their homes but must maintain social distancing of at least two metres. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sputnik V makers demand apology from EU medicines agency

THE makers of Russia's Sputnik V vaccine Tuesday demanded an apology from the EU's medicines regulator after a senior official warned member states against hastily authorizing the jab, comparing emergency rollouts to "Russian roulette". —AFP ■

England's 'Nightingale' field hospitals to close

EMERGENCY field hospitals set up in England to treat patients with Covid-19 are to close due to the fall in patient numbers, the government said on Tuesday.

Seven "Nightingale" hospitals were opened with fanfare during the first wave of the virus last year and the government has put their total cost at £532 million (\$738 million, 620 million euros). —AFP ■

Equities advance as US inflation muted

European and US equities mostly pushed higher and US inflation remained muted as the massive \$1.9-trillion stimulus programme neared the legislative finish line on Wednesday.

This year's global equities rally has recently hit an air pocket over fears over the prospect of soaring inflation and rising interest rates as the global economy emerges from the deadly coronavirus crisis.

As approval of Biden's vast Covid-19 stimulus nears, investor focus has been on the impact of an expected post-lockdown spending splurge by the government and Americans.

Thus, markets were paying keen attention to US consumer price inflation data for February, which in the event rose only by 0.1 per cent over the month excluding volatile food and energy prices.

Annual "core" inflation, actually dipped a tenth of a percentage point to 1.3 per cent.

"The key takeaway from the report is the recognition that it didn't contain any headline surprises to fan the flames of inflation concerns," said Patrick J. O'Hare at Briefing.com.

Inflation concerns had recently pushed investors to sell their holdings of government bonds, as they worried that inflation would eat into their returns. Fears that inflation would force the Federal Reserve to begin winding back ultra-loose monetary policies -- including record low interest rates -- that have been a key driver of the year-long equities rally, saw investors sell off equities.—AFP ■

Asian markets up but inflation fears keep traders in check

Asian investors struggled to extend a global markets rally on Wednesday on concerns over the prospect of soaring inflation and a hike in interest rates as the global economy explodes out of the coronavirus crisis.

With US President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion handout-rich stimulus on the cusp of being passed, focus on trading floors for weeks has been on the impact of an expected spending splurge by the government and pent-up Americans as they emerge from lockdowns with plenty of spare cash.

In reaction to that, benchmark 10-year



Employees work on a car wire harness production line at a factory in China. PHOTO: AFP

Treasury yields have climbed in recent months to one-year highs as dealers sell up in expectation that higher inflation will eat into their returns. This has fanned fears

the Federal Reserve will have to begin winding back the ultra-loose monetary policies -- including record low interest rates -- that have been a key driver of the year-long

equities rally.

Those worries were soothed Tuesday when a closely watched sale of new three-year US debt passed off without a hitch -- helping push yields down -- though focus is now on the auctions of 10- and 30-year Treasuries on Wednesday and Thursday. Weak demand for seven-year notes last week sparked a sharp sell-off across world markets.

The news provided a much-needed boost to Wall Street, where the tech-rich Nasdaq soared 3.7 per cent, while the Dow and S&P 500 were also well in positive ter-

ritory. European markets also rose, with Frankfurt tapping a new record high.

But Asia fluctuated through the day Wednesday. Hong Kong and Tokyo were barely moved, though there were gains in Wellington, Taipei, Manila, Mumbai, Bangkok and Jakarta. But Shanghai, Sydney, Singapore and Seoul were in the red.

Cathay Pacific tanked 1.8 per cent in Hong Kong after the troubled carrier announced a record US\$2.8 billion loss last year as it was side-swiped by the impact of coronavirus.—AFP ■

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0231-028N)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V EVER CHANT VOY. NO. (0231-028N)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-3-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **HPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S EVERGREEN MARINE (S'PORE) PTE., LTD

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2103S)

Consignees of cargo carried on **M.V BLPL BLESSING VOY. NO. (2103S)** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on **11-3-2021** and cargo will be discharged into the premises of **AWPT** where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
Phone No: **2301185**

Shipping Agency Department
Myanma Port Authority

Agent For:

M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Victoria's Secret Stores Brand Management, LLC a company incorporated and existing under the laws of Florida, U.S.A., and having its registered office at 4 Limited Parkway, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068, United States of America, hereby declares that the Company is the Owner and Sole proprietor of the following Trademarks:

PINK
VICTORIA'S SECRET

(Classes 3, 25 and 35)

VICTORIA'S SECRET
(Classes 3, 18, 25 and 35)

The above Trademarks are used in respect of the following goods and services:

(For both marks) "Personal care products, namely, bath gels, bath soaps in liquid, solid or gel form, body balm, namely, body butters, body creams, body lotions, body scrub, body washes for humans, bubble bath, shower gels, bath bombs, non-medicated bath salts, cream soaps for hands and body, perfume, eau de parfum, eau de toilette, cologne, body spray used as a personal deodorant and as fragrance, hand creams, hand lotions, hand soaps, massage oils, facial masks, sunscreen preparations, sunscreen cream; hair care preparations, namely, lotions, creams, shampoo, 3-in-1 hair shampoos, dry shampoo, conditioner, hair sprays and hair gel." in **Class 3**

(For VICTORIA'S SECRET) "Cosmetic bags sold empty; cosmetic carrying cases sold empty; handbags, purses, clutches, wallets, wrist purses; all-purpose carrying bags; belt bags; beach bags; backpacks; gym bags; tote bags; travel bags; duffel bags; cross body bags." in **Class 18**

(For both marks) "Bras; bralettes; strapless bras; bandeaus, sports bras; camisoles; panties, bikinis, thong underwear; swimwear; beach clothes; sleepwear, namely, lingerie, robes, boxer shorts, pajamas, sleep dress, sleep shirts, one-piece sleeper, pants, sweatshirts, jackets, t-shirts; clothing, namely, tops, shirts, tank tops, tube tops, bottoms, pants, shorts, skirts, vests, sweaters, sweatshirts, hooded sweatshirts, warm-up suits, tights, leggings, belts, loungewear, sweatpants, yoga pants, yoga shirts; headwear, namely, hats, caps; footwear, namely, socks, sandals, flip flops, sports shoes, boots, slippers; activewear, namely, athletic shorts, athletic tights, sport shirts, sports jerseys, sports pants, lounge pants, yoga pants; jogging pants, track pants, leggings, leotards, tights; hosiery; outerwear, namely, jackets, coats, scarves, gloves." in **Class 25**

(For PINK VICTORIA'S SECRET) "Retail store, catalog and on-line ordering services in the fields of personal care products and accessories, tote bags, travel bags, all-purpose bags, clutches, handbags, clothing and accessories; bonus incentive programs for customers." in **Class 35**

(For VICTORIA'S SECRET) "Retail stores services and online retail store services in the field of clothing, lingerie, intimate wear, leather goods, bags, luggage, fashion accessories, eyewear, jewelry, footwear, perfumery, cosmetics, personal care products, toiletries and accessories." in **Class 35**

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the above Trademarks or other infringements whatsoever thereto will be dealt with according to law.

Daw Yee Mon Aung, (Advocate)

For **Victoria's Secret Stores Brand Management, LLC**

c/o **Baker & McKenzie Limited**

Level 18, Unit 18-03, Sule Square,

221 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Township,

Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated: **11 March 2021**

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Trade Mark Ads

Call
■ 09251022355
■ 09974424848

South Korea to pay 13.9% more for US troop presence

South Korea has agreed to pay 13.9 per cent more towards the cost of the US troop presence on the peninsula, its foreign ministry said Wednesday, in a six-year deal resolving an issue that festered under the Trump administration.

The financial dispute had bedevilled the two allies' security alliance after former president Donald Trump -- who had a transactional approach to foreign policy -- repeatedly accused South Korea of free-loading.

Washington stations around 28,500 troops in South Korea to defend it from the nuclear-armed North Korea, which invaded the South in 1950, and protect US interests in northeast Asia.

Under the new deal, Seoul has agreed to pay 1.18 trillion won (\$1.03 billion) for 2021,



South Korea has agreed to pay Washington \$1.03 billion for the US military presence on the peninsula this year. PHOTO: AFP

with annual increases thereafter linked to its defence budget.

The sum represents a 13.9 per cent increase on the roughly \$920 million Seoul was

paying under the previous agreement, which expired in 2019 -- but is a far cry from the

Trump administration's initial demand of \$5 billion a year.

The new pact "again reaffirmed the need for a stable presence of US troops in Korea," Seoul's foreign ministry said in a statement, adding it resolved a vacuum that had lasted for about 15 months.

Both governments announced earlier this week that they had reached an agreement in principle, but the amounts involved were only confirmed on Wednesday.

The new deal must still be approved by the South Korean legislature.

The agreement came as Seoul and Washington kicked off their annual military training on Monday, which has been scaled down from the usual level due to the pandemic, with no large-scale physical troop involvement. —AFP ■

Libya lawmakers approve interim govt in key step towards elections



Libya's prime minister-designate Abdul Hamid Dbeibah appealed to lawmakers on Tuesday to vote for his government. PHOTO: AFP

Libya's parliament voted Wednesday to approve a unity government to lead the war-ravaged North African nation to December elections, a key step to-

wards ending a decade of chaos. Oil-rich Libya descended into chaos after dictator Moamer Kadhafi was toppled and killed in a NATO-backed uprising in 2011,

resulting in multiple forces vying for power.

"This will be the government of all Libyans," interim Prime Minister Abdul Hamid Dbeibah said, in a brief but emotional speech after the vote.

"It is a historic day," influential parliament speaker Aguila Saleh said. After two days of intense debate in the central city of Sirte, parliament approved Dbeibah's cabinet, with 121 of the 132 lawmakers present voting in support, his spokesman said. The interim government must now tackle the daunting challenge of addressing the many grievances of Libyans, from a dire economic crisis and soaring unemployment to crippling inflation and wretched public services. —AFP ■

Turkey's under fire pro-Kurdish party risks ban

Turkey's pro-Kurdish party is facing a political and legal onslaught that could see it banned and its MPs jailed as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan seeks to strengthen his bid to keep power.

The pressure on the leftist Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP) -- the third-largest in parliament -- runs counter to Erdogan's stated desire to mend ties with Western allies, which are exasperated at the state of Turkey's democratic

freedoms.

But it could mark the final chapter in a campaign that began when a ceasefire collapsed in 2015 between the Turkish state and Kurdish militants, who have been waging an insurgency since 1984.

Erdogan portrays the HDP as the militants' political front and thousands of its members have been arrested, despite the party's rejection of the accusations.

Those detained include

two former co-chairs who were jailed in 2016 and face decades in prison. Most of the 65 HDP mayors elected in the predominantly Kurdish southeast in 2019 have been replaced by government-appointed trustees.

Squeezed

The HDP's future was thrown into question when Devlet Bahceli, Erdogan's ultra-nationalist ruling alliance partner, began calling on Turkey's top courts to take action late last year. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

President of Honduras helped smuggle tonnes of cocaine into US: prosecutor

Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez helped smuggle tonnes of cocaine into the United States, a US prosecutor said Tuesday at the trial of an accused drug trafficker.

That defendant, Geovanny Fuentes, bribed the president with \$25,000 in cash and this made Fuentes "untouchable", prosecutor Jacob Gutwillig said in opening arguments at the New York federal trial.

The president, said the prosecutor, "made the defendant bullet-proof".

Fuentes paid the money to Hernandez in meetings in 2013 and 2014, the prosecutor said. Hernandez, who denies all the allegations against him, has been in power since January 2014.

Accountant Jose Sanchez, who was at those meetings, will tell the jury "the shock, the fear he felt when he saw the defendant sitting with the president", said Gutwillig. —AFP ■

UK TV host Piers Morgan steps down amid Meghan controversies

British television host Piers Morgan on Tuesday left his role presenting ITV breakfast show "Good Morning Britain", shortly after sparking 41,000 complaints and storming off the set in a row over Meghan Markle.

"Following discussions with ITV, Piers Morgan has decided now is the time to leave Good Morning Britain," the network said in a statement.

"ITV has accepted this decision and has nothing further to add."

Morgan has been a vocal critic of Markle ever since she cut off contact with him after she met Prince Harry, and he launched a scathing attack on her following the couple's interview with Oprah Winfrey.

The former CNN host said he did not believe Markle when she said at one point she "didn't want to be alive anymore", sparking a deluge of complaints.

Barely a day after his remarks, regulator Ofcom said that it had already received more than 41,000 complaints. Morgan also stormed off the set on Tuesday morning after clashing with fellow presenter Alex Beresford over the interview. —AFP ■

First jurors selected for George Floyd murder trial

THE first jurors were selected on Tuesday in the high-profile trial of the white police officer accused of killing George Floyd, an African-American man whose death laid bare racial wounds in the United States and sparked “Black Lives Matter” protests across the globe.

Former Minneapolis Police Department officer Derek Chauvin is facing charges of second-degree murder and manslaughter in connection with Floyd’s May 25 death, which was captured by bystanders on smartphone video.

Jury selection had been scheduled to begin on Monday

but was delayed for a day as prosecutors sought to reinstate a third-degree murder charge against the 44-year-old Chauvin.

A Minnesota court of appeals has not yet issued its ruling but Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill, clearly impatient to get the landmark trial moving, decided to go ahead with jury selection anyway.

After hours of detailed questioning by the defence team and prosecutors, three jurors were selected on Tuesday for the 12-member panel that will decide Chauvin’s fate.

Second-degree murder carries a maximum sentence



A demonstrator holds a portrait of George Floyd outside the Minneapolis courthouse where the trial of the police officer accused of his death is taking place. PHOTO: AFP

of 40 years in prison.

The jury selection process could take up to three weeks

with opening arguments expected to begin on March 29.

—AFP ■

Clashes break out at Greek protest against police brutality



Police said the injured officer was rushed to hospital after he was pushed off his motorbike and beaten by protesters. PHOTO: AFP

GREEK police said an officer received serious head injuries as clashes broke out Tuesday evening at a protest of some 5,000 people in Athens against police violence.

Two other officers were also

hurt at the demonstration, which follows an uproar over viral video footage that showed an officer beating a man with a baton Sunday during a patrol to enforce a coronavirus lockdown. An AFP photographer at the scene of

Tuesday’s protest said clashes broke out after a group of around 200 masked protesters headed towards the police station in Nea Smyrni, the calm southern Athens suburb where Sunday’s beating had taken place. Dustbins

were set ablaze as the demonstrators threw rocks and Molotov cocktails at a police station, AFP reported. Police responded with tear gas and water cannon. The protest followed months of anger in the Greek media and among campaigners over numerous high-profile cases of alleged police brutality at student and left-wing protests.

Police said the badly injured officer, who was seen being dragged off his motorbike and beaten by protesters. He was rushed to hospital and the ANA news agency reported that his life was not in danger. Ten protesters were detained, police said.

‘Tarnished a peaceful protest’

In a statement, Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis asked people to ensure that “the sad images of violence that we have seen in Athens this evening are the last”. —AFP ■

French theatres occupied as protesters demand reopening

FRENCH protesters occupied three national theatres on Wednesday to demand an end to the ban on cultural activities imposed due to the pandemic as frustration grows with the months-long halt to performances.

Theatres, cinemas, museums and other cultural spaces have been shut since France’s last full lockdown in October, and have remained closed despite most businesses reopening in December. Pressure has been building for weeks and thousands marched in cities across France last Thursday to demand a reo-

pening -- with social distancing -- of the cultural sector. The Paris march ended with around 50 people forcing their way into the shuttered Odeon Theatre and refusing to leave.

Similar actions were seen on Tuesday at two other theatres -- the Colline in eastern Paris and the National Theatre of Strasbourg. University students also spent Monday night in the regional theatre of Pau in southern France. Karine Huet, secretary general of the National Union of Musical Artists in France, said “this is a national movement”. “Regional unions have responded



A march in Paris ended with around 50 protesters forcing their way into the Odeon Theatre and refusing to leave. PHOTO: AFP

and it’s starting to build. They are getting organized,” she told

AFP from inside the Odeon on Tuesday. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Royal family contests Harry and Meghan’s racism claims

BRITAIN’S royal family has begun a fight back against explosive racism claims made by Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, indicating the couple’s comments will not go unchallenged as the country divides into partisan camps.

A keenly awaited statement from Queen Elizabeth II issued Tuesday was conciliatory towards her grandson and his mixed-race spouse after they had an interview with US chat show host Oprah Winfrey.

But it also stressed that “some recollections may vary”, as the Buckingham Palace vowed to look into the couple’s assertion that an unidentified royal had asked how dark their unborn son Archie’s skin would be.

The row is being watched worldwide, in the United States where the couple now live and across the multi-racial Commonwealth, which the queen heads, dragging Britain’s most famous family further into a debate about racism and the country’s colonial past. —AFP ■

Campus crisis tests Pacific island unity

IT may not be as famous as Oxford, as lauded as MIT or as wealthy as Harvard, but the University of the South Pacific might be the most important school you’ve never heard of.

Jointly operated by a dozen countries since its inception in 1968, the university has been a fulcrum of public life in the Pacific islands, producing many of the region’s presidents, prime ministers, accountants, lawyers, scientists and teachers. Today though, the university is mired in crisis, with its future -- and the shining example of regionalism it has represented -- in serious doubt. Beseated by allegations of financial mismanagement, corruption and government meddling, the school of about 20,000 students has become the site of a battle over influence, power and academic and political freedom that has strained ties between Pacific island allies. —AFP ■

AFC confirm hosts for AFC Cup 2021 Group Stage

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has previously confirmed the hosts for the AFC Cup 2021 Group Stage, following an extensive bidding process, according to the confederation statement.

The West Zone matches in Group A, includes strong teams

including Al Hidd Club, Al Nasr, Al Wahda and defending champions Al Ahed FC and the group A matches will be hosted in Manama, Bahrain.

Next, Al Ansar FC, Muharraq Club, Al Salt and Balata Centre club included in Group B, and Al Faisaly, Al Seeb Club,

Tishreen and the winner of the West Zone Play-off match will be put in Group C and which will be held in Amman, Jordan.

Also, ATK Mohun Bagan, Bashundhara Kings, Maziya Sports & Recreation and the winner of the South Zone Play-off will be included in the in

Group D and will be hosted in Male, Maldives.

In the meantime, FC Dor-doi will take in Group E, with Ahal FC and FC Ravshan and Dushanbe team and the group matches will be hosted in Kyrgyzstan.

Next, Tajikistan will be

the host country for Group F, featuring FC Alay, Altyn Asyr FC, FC Khujand and the representative of Uzbekistan, AGMK FC or FC Nasaf, which will be decided after the Play-off match of AFC Champions League 2021, according to the AFC.—GNLM ■

Aguero struggling to get on Man City teamsheet as contract runs down

LONDON— Pep Guardiola says he may not be able to give Sergio Aguero much time on the pitch before his contract is due to end as Manchester City chase an unprecedented quadruple.

The club's record goalscorer, 32, is back in contention after a season ravaged by injury and illness but is short of match fitness and there is little opportunity for the City boss to ease him back into action. There is growing uncertainty over the Argentine forward's future, with his current deal expiring

at the end of the season.

Asked if he hopes Aguero stays longer at the Etihad, Guardiola said: "As a human and as a person, even as a player, of course -- but we have to see what happens at the end of the season.

"We cannot forget how long he was out. He has started getting better. I know he needs minutes to get to his best condition but we are not maybe in the moment to give him minutes for minutes' (sake) because it is an important part of the season. —AFP ■



Is Sergio Aguero heading towards the exit door at Manchester City? **PHOTO: AFP**

Liverpool seek solace in Europe but Leipzig loom



Liverpool have a rich history of turning on the style in Europe to make up for disappointing domestic form, but even a 2-0 first-leg lead over RB Leipzig in their Champions League last-16 tie looks precarious.

PHOTO: AFP

LONDON—Liverpool have a rich history of turning on the style in Europe to make up for disappointing domestic form, but even a 2-0 first-leg lead over RB Leipzig in their Champions League last-16 tie looks precarious.

Jurgen Klopp's stumbling English champions will ap-

proach Wednesday's (March 10) second leg with trepidation - knowing they will not even be at Anfield for the "home" match.

Liverpool's dramatic exploits in European competition over the years have been fuelled by the colour, noise and energy provided by fans

packed into their famous old stadium.

In 2005, Rafael Benitez's league also-rans were inspired to thrilling wins over Juventus and Chelsea before producing the greatest comeback in Champions League final history in Istanbul against AC Milan.—AFP ■

Pegula sends Pliskova packing again to march into Dubai quarters

DUBAI — Jessica Pegula handed Karolina Pliskova a second hefty defeat in as many weeks as she knocked out the sixth-ranked Czech 6-0, 6-2 to march into the Dubai quarter-finals on Wednesday.

The American world No 36, who enjoyed a breakthrough

run to the quarters at the Australian Open last month, needed a mere 53 minutes to send Pliskova packing in even more dominating fashion than the straight-sets drubbing she gave her last week in Doha. Pegula has now won 13 of her last 15 matches on tour and is

through to the quarter-finals at a WTA 1000-level tournament for the second time in her career.

"This is definitely the best of any other year I've had (on tour)," said the 26-year-old, who next faces Caroline Garcia or Elise Mertens for a place in

the final four. She added: "I'm just really happy I'm able to do it, especially in a time where, with the pandemic it's been really hard to know what's going to happen in the future, so I think also in a way maybe it helped me mentally not to take each match for granted.

"I'm definitely going out there competing as hard as I can just with all that's going on in the world."

A Pliskova double fault handed Pegula an early break of serve and the American did not blink en route to a 20-minute 6-0 lead.—AFP ■