

NATIONAL

Constitutional Tribunal marks 10th anniversary of its establishment

PAGE-4

BUSINESS

MoPFI Union Minister attends 25th ASEAN Finance Ministers' Virtual Meeting

PAGE-4

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VII, No. 349, 4th Waning of Tabaung 1382 ME

www.gnlm.com.mm

Wednesday, 31 March 2021

Equal term of rights must be carefully created for ethnics: Senior General



State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing presides over the Council meeting 8/2021 in Nay Pyi Taw on 30 March 2021.

CHAIRMAN of the State Administration Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing delivered an address at the meeting 8/2021 of the Council at the Chairman of the State Administration Council's office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Also present at the meeting were Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Council members General Mya Tun Oo, Admiral Tin Aung San, General Maung Maung Kyaw, Lt-Gen Moe Myint Tun, Mahn Nyein Maung, U Thein Nyunt, U

Khin Maung Swe, Daw Aye Nu Sein, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, U Mounng Har, U Sai Lone Saing, Saw Daniel and Dr Banyar Aung Moe, Secretary Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dwe, Joint Secretary Lt-Gen Ye Win Oo and Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Soe Htut.

In his address, the Senior General said that the Council had taken responsibilities for two months. The reason for taking responsibilities for the State has been explained many times. Although the Tatmadaw severally made clarifications to hold a free and fair election, the state of emergency was declared for the State in accord with the 2008 Constitution due to attempts to form

the government with vote-rigging and the Tatmadaw was assigned to take necessary action. As Myanmar is immature in democracy, there would be innocent errors on the voter list. It was found that current errors of the voting list were systematically arranged. The scrutiny showed voting of 10.4 million people without identity among more than 39 million eligible voters and suspicious voting. As more than 25 per cent of the questionable votes were found, such a problem was not solved.

The 2008 Constitution was drawn for paving the multiparty democracy the people chose. Many countries exercise differ-

ent democracy and forms. Even countries in Europe cannot be similar in democracy, and Asian countries are different in democracy as well. Myanmar needs to

exercise democracy in conformity with its current situation. Nobody was threatened to vote for the 2008 Constitution to walk on

SEE PAGE-3

The Tatmadaw firmly decided to emerge a genuine multiparty democracy in the country. The Senior General expressed his firm belief that it is sure to secure success in the work process for the country's development. Continuous efforts will be made for the improvement of the nation. Tasks are being undertaken for holding a free and fair election. It is necessary to review the practice of the PR system for ensuring fairness in the Hluttaw.

inside TODAY

NATIONAL

Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy meets

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

About one-year suspension of hotels and tourism industry brings loss to people

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Senior Officials held

PAGE-5

NATIONAL

MoALI Union Minister discusses mixed crop plantation in Chaung Ma Nge Dam area

PAGE-12



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

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.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No (106/2021)

3rd Waning of Tabaung 1382 ME
30 March 2021

Appointment of members of the State Administration Council

The following persons are appointed by the State Administration Council, in accordance with the right to exercise the powers under Section 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of Union of Myanmar, as the members of the State Administration Council.

1. Lieutenant-General Soe Htut
Minister for Home Affairs and
Ministry of Union Government's Office
2. U Shwe Kyein

By Order

Sd/ Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Order No (107/2021)

3rd Waning of Tabaung 1382 ME
30 March 2021

Appointment of member of Palaung Self-Administered Zone Administration Body

1. U Khin Zaw Hlaing is appointed by the State Administration Council, in accordance with the right to exercise the powers under Section 419 of the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, as the member of Palaung Self-Administered Zone Administration Body instead of U Shwe Kyein.

By Order

Sd/ Aung Lin Dwe
Lieutenant-General
Secretary
State Administration Council

Military hospitals continue providing healthcare to civilians

MILITARY hospitals in the townships of regions and states keep providing medical treatments to the people to solve their healthcare services difficulties. A total of 104,157 outpatients and 4,368 inpatients reached these hospitals from 5 February to date.

Senior medical experts, medics and nurses have conducted 4,851 major operations and 2,562 minor operations. The

senior doctors treat severe cases. These hospitals managed to birth 6,615 babies while bringing 6,615 pregnant women to the respective military hospitals. Of those, 2,591 cases are done in caesarean section and 4,024 cases in ordinary delivery.

Officials from the respective commands also provided the patients with foods, and medical workers were provided with cash assistance. — MNA



Locals seen receiving healthcare services at the military station hospital in Mawlamyine.

Equal term of rights must be carefully created for ethnics: Senior General

FROM PAGE-1

the path of democracy, and people of their own accord cast votes for the Constitution. Currently, collective leadership is being practised to strengthen democracy the people chose with civilian administration bodies supported by the Tatmadaw. Although the people aspired to genuine multiparty democracy, voting frauds were committed in the election for the third time of the government as assaulting the people and making fun of democracy the people have chosen. Personal cult brought inappropriate occurrences. The Tatmadaw firmly decided to emerge a genuine multiparty democracy in the country. The Senior General expressed his firm belief that it is sure to secure success in the work process for the country's development. Continuous efforts will be made for the improvement of the nation. Tasks are being undertaken for holding a free and fair election. It is necessary to review the practice of the PR system for ensuring fairness in the Hluttaw.

Peaceful protests were staged as of the third day when the Tatmadaw took responsibilities for the State. Later, protests were transformed into riots, violent acts, setting fire for destruction, rebellion and killing. These events were tackled under the law step by step. Handling the riots in the international community, it can be seen that the countries on the path of democracy for a long time take more severe action than that of Myanmar. Meanwhile, some ethnic armed organizations attacked some outposts of the Tatmadaw and Myanmar Police Force as an act to fish in trouble water. It was known that they committed such actions due to foreign countries' support without any political concepts. As such, the Tatmadaw responded to them. The Council maintains the peace to realize the peace process and develop the country in democracy as they are ethnics and have signed the NCA. However, the Council responded to them, which broke the NCA. In reviewing such events, it can be



The Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services reported on security arrangements, riotous and violent organizations' attempts to commit destructive acts, and future plans to take regional security.

known whether these organizations wish to grasp peace or not.

In implementing five future programmes, the Council places emphasis on the tasks to be done, including inspection of the voting list in accord with the law, control of COVID-19 and resurgence of the economy, which declined in the outbreak of COVID-19. If cargo transport is smooth, the food supply will improve. Myanmar cannot discard rural-based businesses. In enhancing the economy, it is necessary to narrow the gap between rural and urban areas. As such, efforts are being made to establish institutes of agriculture and institutes of livestock breeding. Knowledge and skill must be secured to grant the rural people having necessary monetary and technical assistance. Agricultural loans must be disbursed to the farmers in the shortest way so as to enjoy an effective convenience. The Council needs to consider the improvement of the lives of farmers and rural people.

Quality species of crops suitable for regional climatic conditions must be grown. Rice and wheat are the main staple foods across the world. As Myanmar is an agro-based country, it is necessary to ensure the country's food sufficiency with smooth transportation. Awareness must be raised to the people to save consumption of water. The Senior Gen-

eral stressed the need to place reclamation of slush and burn farming under control while upgrading highland agriculture and fulfilling the requirement of agricultural water with farsightedness for long term interests of the country.

Council members U Thein Nyunt, Mahn Nyein Maung, U

fulfilment of security machinery of the State, deployment of more security forces at ward/village administrator offices and other significant points, donation of necessary alms to monasteries and Buddhist learning centres in various areas, further response to incitement and propaganda of anti-government groups, and

The Internet cannot be shut down for a long time because many works depend on it. It is necessary to control the correct use of the Internet, and effective punishment must be sentenced to those who broke the disciplines. Media is identified as the fourth pillar of the State.

Khin Maung Swe, Jeng Phang Naw Taung, Daw Aye Nu Sein and Dr Banyar Aung Moe reported on reviewing of the law on child's rights, the opening of special courts by enacting the special laws in the necessary areas under the security, amendment of tax rates, control of rumour on social network pages, approvals for new investments in Ayeyawady Region, the continuation of building the deep seaport in Patheingyi, further raising of awareness for the rule of law, more supplies for education and health staff, systematic formation of media organizations,

security coverage for the people, parties and organizations wishing to live peacefully.

The Vice-Chairman of the Council Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services reported on security arrangements, riotous and violent organizations' attempts to commit destructive acts, and future plans to take regional security.

In response to the reports, the Senior General said the law on child's rights would be reviewed to make necessary amendments and supplements. Emphasis will be placed to open special courts. Relevant minis-

tries have been instructed to expand the levying tax sector without raising the income tax rate, not to cause burdens for the people. The collection of the tax rate in Myanmar is lesser than that of ASEAN countries.

Government service personnel have a lifetime guarantee for enjoying pension despite lesser salaries than private businesses' staff. Hence, it is necessary to create a social system suitable for their ranks to spend wages efficiently.

The Senior General stressed the need to operate businesses suitable for respective areas in regions and states and equally develop all the areas so as to narrow the development gap between rural and urban areas. Efforts will be made for having sound foundations to build ports to admit mooring of ocean liners in Patheingyi, Mawlamyine and Dawei. The Senior General said he emphasizes the sufficiency of food, clothing and accommodation of State service personnel and people. The research will be conducted for ensuring food sufficiency in Chin State.

Current riots and violent acts do not affect the government but cause the deterioration of the economy for the State and the people. The Council does not perform its tasks beyond the law and do things step by step under the procedure of the rule of law.

The Internet cannot be shut down for a long time because many works depend on it. It is necessary to control the correct use of the Internet, and effective punishment must be sentenced to those who broke the disciplines. Media is identified as the fourth pillar of the State. It is necessary to take knowledge via media.

Office holidays will be considered to effectively utilize them for the State. Anyone cannot turn a blind eye to democracy in a disorderly manner. The Senior General stressed the need to create an equal term of rights to ethnics carefully. Council members were urged to undertake effective tasks in line with five future programmes of the Council. — MNA

19 new cases of COVID-19 reported on 30 March, total figure rises to 142,412

MYANMAR'S COVID-19 positive cases rose to 142,412 after 19 new cases were reported on 30 March 2021 according to the Ministry of Health and Sports. Among these confirmed cases, 3,205 died, 131,793 have been discharged from hospitals.—MNA

Riotous protests transformed themselves to the anarchic mobs breaking laws and then to armed violent acts

Members of the Myanmar Police Force control all riotous protests under the mob control manual. Now, riotous protests transformed themselves to the anarchic mobs breaking laws and then to armed violent acts in holding destructive elements such as arms, home-made guns, home-made grenades and arson wares, setting fire to State administrative buildings, police stations, law office and people’s housings as well as factories and making attempts to raid these buildings. Moreover, those rioters set fire to factories built with local and foreign investments and attacked security personnel. Hence, the order of martial law was released in Hlinethaya, Shwepyitha, Dagon Myothit (South and North), North Okkalapa and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) townships of Yangon Region for ensuring security, the rule of law, and community peace and tranquillity. It was seen that some incite the youths to commit acts against nationality, language, religion and culture so as to cause violence and riots and these attempts are dangerous for the State.

(Excerpt from the speech to officers, other ranks and their families in Myeik, Kyunsu and Cocogun stations made by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Administration Council Chairman Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 21 March 2021)



Constitutional Tribunal marks 10th anniversary of its establishment

THE 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union was organized in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Constitutional Tribunal Chairman U Than Kyaw made his remark at the ceremony and presented employee

awards to the outstanding staff and those who did not miss office in 2020 and provided basic foodstuffs.

The ceremony was attended by Tribunal Chairman, members, Permanent Secretary, Director-General, Deputy Directors and staff. — MNA

The Constitutional Tribunal Chairman presents employee awards to the outstanding staff yesterday.

MoPFI Union Minister attends 25th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Virtual Meeting

UNION Minister for Planning, Finance and Industry U Win Shein virtually joined the 25th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting yesterday.

Brunei Darussalam, Chair of ASEAN for 2021, hosted the meeting under the theme of “We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper”.

During the meeting, the Union Minister discussed the COVID-19 responses, cooperation with IMF, progress for sustainable development via financial integration, eases in financial services, and other matters related to ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services.

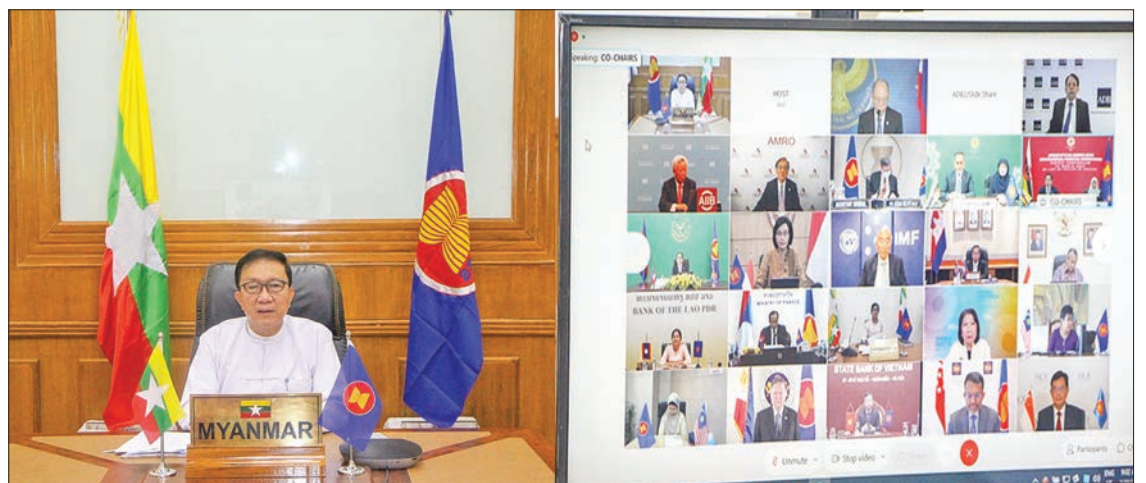
He then highlighted the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) of government as Comprehensive Economic

Stimulus Plan, financial assistances in public health, cooperation work with ASEAN countries and international financial organizations to revise economic sectors.

The meeting discussed economic relief plans of member countries, COVID-19 vaccination programmes, and ASEAN countries’ financial integration.

The leaders also focused on the cooperation of ASEAN and Central Bank in financial sectors for the regional economic development, sustainable development programmes and work plans being implemented under ASEAN Blueprint 2025.

They also discussed matters related to the ASEAN financial integration for essential infrastructure development,



Union Minister U Win Shein joins the 25th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting online yesterday.

cooperation in insurance industries, budget for ASEAN natural disaster managements, the collaboration of ASEAN Customs and Revenue Departments, money laundering and eliminating programmes on financial supports for violence.

The Associated Meetings of the 25th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting were also held and exchanged views on economic status of region countries, risk and opportunities, effective use of human resource in drafting the relief plans,

cooperation with alliances, regional and IMF for sustainable economic development. Cambodia will be the Chair of the 26th ASEAN Finance Ministers’ Meeting and its Associated Meetings in 2022. — MNA

Working Committee to address impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy meets

THE meeting (3/2021) of the Working Committee to address the impact of COVID-19 on the country's economy was held yesterday afternoon.

The meeting was chaired by U Aung Naing Oo, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations. Members of the working committee Deputy Ministers, from Ministry of Planning, Finance, Industry, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and Ministry of Commerce, and representatives of the Ministries concerned joined the meeting.

In the meeting, the Union Minister highlighted that a six-month extension of the grace period of COVID loan under the guidance of the State Administration Council, the formation of monitoring teams in states and regions to scrutinize the use of COVID-19 loan by the businesses and the revision of functions of the working committee.

The meeting also discussed matters relating to measures to address the economic impacts of the COVID-19 and further measures to proceed expeditiously.—MNA



Union Minister U Aung Naing Oo chairs the Working Committee meeting to address the COVID impact on the country economy yesterday.

About one-year suspension of hotels and tourism industry brings loss to people

“HOTELS and tourism services are allowed to resume their operations across the nation. However, they need to abide by the guidelines of the Ministry of Health and Sports for the prevention and control of COVID-19,” said Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Maung Maung Ohn at a meeting with officials from Myanmar Hoteliers Association and those from hotels in Thandwe District of Rakhine State yesterday morning.

About one-year suspension of the hotels and tourism industry due to the outbreak of COVID-19 brought loss to people from all strata. Arrangements have been made



Union Minister U Maung Maung Ohn meets the hoteliers in Rakhine State yesterday to revive tourism.

to resume hotels and tourism services in Bagan, Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Yangon, Chaung-

tha, Ngwehsaung, Taunggyi, Inlay and Pindaya in line with the rules and regulations for

COVID-19. The government has extended six more months for the term of COVID-19 loans

issued to the hotels and tourism sector, he added.

Rakhine State Administration Council member (3) U Than Tun discussed that destination management organization would be re-constituted for the resurgence of the hotel and tourism industry in Rakhine State. A plan is underway to implement ecotourism service on Manaung island.

The Union minister unveiled the hotel and tourism services of the Ngapali region.

Ngapali beach, attractive to local and foreign travellers, is one of the Rakhine State and Myanmar's beautiful landmarks. — MNA

ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Senior Officials meeting held



Director-General U Aung Myint of Historical Research and National Library Department and delegates attended the meeting.

THE 4th Meeting of the ASEAN Working Group on the Declaration on Culture of Prevention (CoP) for a Peaceful, Inclusive, Resilient, Healthy and Harmonious Society and the 30th Meeting of the Senior Officials Committee for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council, organized by Brunei and ASEAN Secretariat, took place through video conferencing on 29 and 30 March.

Director-General U Aung Myint of Historical Research and National Library Department and

delegates attended the meeting. The meetings focused on action plans of relevant working groups for six culture of prevention (CoP) tasks, work procedure for road map 2025 of ASEAN Social-Cultural Community, application of Timor-Leste to the membership of ASEAN, facts to be submitted to the 25th ASEAN Social-Cultural Community Council Ministers' Meeting, a statement to be approved by ASEAN leaders at the 38th ASEAN Summit and procedures for putting it on record. — MNA

Applications for entrance to post-graduate courses invited

The Department of Human Resources for Health of the Ministry of Health and Sports issued an announcement inviting applications for the entrance of post-graduate diploma courses, master's studies and doctoral courses to be conducted at medical and medical-related universities from 1 to 30 April 2021. Eligible applicants need to submit subjects on their priority to learn to the Department of Human Resource for Health. For further information, dial 067-3411145/067-3411636, Ext: 832 of the department. — MNA

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Announcement of Union Election Commission

27 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 Kani and ChaungU townships of Sagaing Region.
- Findings in respective townships were as follows:

Findings on voter lists in each township

Sr	Township and numbers of polling stations	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	121 polling stations in Kani Township of Sagaing Region,	117,221	84,048	8,548	638	10,974
2	86 polling stations in ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region,	89,225	75,680	8,415	635	9,616

- The Union Election Commission has inspected the withdrawal/receipt/use/remaining of ballot papers used for Pyithu Hluttaw Election of Kani and ChaungU townships of Sagaing 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.
- A total of 207 polling stations in these two townships took out 234,726 ballots and used 162,653 ballots. It left 69,094 ballots instead of 72,073 ballots. The difference was 3,202 and it found 223 extra ballots. The extra/shortage ballots and illegal extra ballots were found at respective poll stations. Findings were as follows:

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in each township

Sr	Township	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	extra
1	Kani Township	121	134,477	88,146	46,331	44,894	1,447	10
2	ChaungU Township	96	100,249	74,507	25,742	24,200	1,755	213
	Total	207	234,726	162,653	72,073	67,094	3,202	223

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Hluttaw Election in Kani Township

- According to the inspection, a total of 121 polling stations in 45 village-tract of 3 Wards in Kani Township of Sagaing Region took out 134,477 ballots and used 88,146. It left 44,894 ballots instead of 46,331. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village tract ballots	130,154	87,511	42,643	41,206	1,447	10
2	Township advance ballots	635	635				
3	Township remaining ballots	3,688		3,688	3,688		
	Total	134,477	88,146	46,331	44,894	1,447	10

- It found 1,447 ballots were missing at 121 polling stations in 45 village-tract of 3 Wards in Kani Township and also found 10 extra ballots.
- The strange thing is that it did not found Pyithu Hluttaw election ballot receipts at No (2) polling station in Boke Gone Village of Kani township and it only found advance ballots. The ballot receipts were kept at poll head and they did not return the ballots.
- Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/ Village-tract	Total polling station	Withdrawal	Used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
							Missing	Extra
1	No 1 Ward	1	1,800	1,273	527	527		
2	Kaetaung Village-tract	1	1,850	1,255	595	595		
3	Kane Village-tract	3	3,000	1,920	1,080	1,080		
4	Kyawywa Village-tract	3	3,150	2,059	1,091	1,041	50	
5	Kyunpinai Village-tract	3	2,450	1,173	1,277	1,179	98	
6	Sakamyar Village-tract	3	1,900	993	907	907		
7	Sulaygon Village-tract	2	3,050	2,047	1,003	1,001	2	
8	Hsinohe Village-tract	4	3,550	2,255	1,295	1,195	100	
9	Tapon Village-tract	2	2,350	1,417	933	933		
10	Dapaung Village-tract	1	2,550	1,707	843	843		
11	Htanaungpakar Village-tract	2	2,750	1,704	1,046	1,046		
12	Htupauk Village-tract	1	1,300	837	463	463		
13	Natgyi Village-tract	4	4,000	2,648	1,352	1,320	32	
14	Natyetaung Village-tract	3	4,450	2,650	1,800	1,800		
15	Botkone Village-tract	4	2,050	1,170	880	535	345	
16	Bommazin Village-tract	2	2,950	1,907	1,043	992	51	
17	Moekaung Village-tract	1	2,600	1,792	808	808		
18	Maedin Village-tract	4	3,550	2,329	1,221	1,221		

19	Yin Village-tract	3	3,700	2,601	1,099	1,099		
20	Yinyein Village-tract	3	2,450	1,499	951	901	50	
21	Wayar Village-tract	2	2,150	1,526	624	624		
22	Winmanar Village-tract	4	4,700	2,855	1,845	1,745	100	
23	Ohnma Village-tract	3	2,900	1,873	1,027	1,027		
24	No 2 Ward	1	1,400	1,060	340	340		
25	No 3 Ward	1	1,650	1,286	364	364		
26	Kin Village-tract	6	5,404	3,866	1,538	1,434	104	
27	Kuseik Village-tract	3	2,750	2,389	361	371		10
28	Kintaung Village-tract	2	2,100	1,541	559	559		
29	Chaing Village-tract	2	2,750	2,021	729	725	4	
30	Khongyi Village-tract	3	2,800	2,081	719	517	202	
31	Chaungma Village-tract	3	2,850	2,021	829	829		
32	Zipintwin Village-tract	1	2,600	1,597	1,003	951	52	
33	Twin Village-tract	3	2,550	1,621	929	928	1	
34	Tazechaung Village-tract	4	4,250	2,837	1,413	1,413		
35	Taungpauk Village-tract	5	4,850	3,498	1,352	1,302	50	
36	Dainggyi Village-tract	2	1,500	1,079	421	421		
37	Natlaport (N) Village-tract	3	2,800	1,462	1,338	1,338		
38	Natlaport (S) Village-tract	3	3,400	2,324	1,076	976	100	

39	Muhtau Village-tract	2	2,100	1,459	641	641		
40	Myaing Village-tract	1	1,650	1,074	576	576		
41	Yargyi Village-tract	2	2,900	2,239	661	661		
42	Yinthwin Village-tract	2	1,650	1,253	397	397		
43	Yetkantine Village-tract	3	1,900	1,330	570	570		
44	Linponyay Village-tract	2	1,950	1,180	770	770		
45	Laeshae Village-tract	1	900	630	270	170	100	

46	Larpot Village-tract	2	2,550	2,027	523	519	4	
47	Thaminchan Village-tract	2	2,500	1,846	654	652	2	
48	Aitaung Village-tract	3	3,200	2,300	900	900		
Ward/village tract ballots		121	130,154	87,511	42,643	41,206	1,447	10
Township advance ballots			635	635				
Township remaining ballots			3,688		3,688	3,688		
Total		121	134,477	88,146	46,331	44,894	1,447	10

Findings on ballot papers for Pyithu Huttaw Election in ChaungU Township

9. According to the inspection, a total of 86 polling stations in 26 village-tracts of 6 Wards in ChaungU Township of Sagaing Region took out 100,249 ballots and used 74,507. It left 24,200 ballots instead of 25,742. The extra/shortage ballots were found at respective polling stations. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Subject	Withdrawal	used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Ward/village tract ballots	95,600	74,217	21,383	19,841	1,755	213
2	Township advance ballots	290	290				
3	Township remaining ballots	4,359		4,359	4,359		
Total		100,249	74,507	25,742	24,200	1,755	213

10. It found 1,755 ballots were missing at 86 polling stations in 26 village-tracts of 6 Wards in ChaungU Township and also found 213 extra ballots.

11. Findings were as follows:

Sr	Ward/Village-tract	Withdrawal	used	Exact remaining	Remaining on the Ground	Difference	
						Missing	Extra
1	Myothit Ward	4,200	3,105	1095	996	99	
2	Myoma Ward	2,800	2,160	640	537	103	
3	ChaungU (N) Ward	3,150	2,473	677	674	3	
4	Nwekhway Village-tract	2,650	1,960	690	692		2
5	Butar Village-tract	1,500	1,202	298	296	2	
6	Htoon Village-tract	1,200	1,007	193	193		
7	Ngarshan Village-tract	3,750	2,717	1,033	1,034		1
8	Natyaykan Village-tract	1,450	1,111	339	339		
9	Bahlway Village-tract	1,250	998	252	252		
10	Kyauksitkan Village-tract	850	744	106	106		
11	Thanpinkan Village-tract	1,350	1,087	263	213	50	
12	Hmancho Village-tract	3,900	3,060	840	843		3
13	Khinmon Village-tract	7,150	5,673	1,477	1,579		102
14	Aungchantha Village-tract	1,350	1,229	121	121		

15	Ngarlontin Village-tract	6,600	5,373	1,227	825	402	
16	Magyikhwa Village-tract	5,300	4,370	930	980		50
17	Yanaungmyay Ward	3,050	2,333	717	769		52
18	Chaungootaung Village-tract	4,000	3,057	943	943		
19	Tamarmyaing Village-tract	2,450	1,728	722	722		
20	Kyeekon Village-tract	3,550	2,675	875	874	1	
21	Amyint Village-tract	2,400	1,806	594	594		
22	Tawkyaunggyi Village-tract	3,700	2,951	749	749		
23	Shwehlay Village-tract	2,500	1,992	508	483	25	
24	Kalargyi Village-tract	2,650	2,058	592	572	20	
25	Nyaungpintha Village-tract	2,100	1,715	385	385		
26	Sulaygon Village-tract	1,800	1,448	352	352		
27	Thonpanhla Village-tract	2,900	2,359	541	541		
28	Kinmontaw Village-tract	3,600	2,935	665	667		2
29	Chaungmana Village-tract	2,950	2,296	654	655		1
30	Wayar Village-tract	3,050	2,262	788	786	2	
31	Shweku Village-tract	2,300	1,590	710	360	350	
32	Tawkyaunglay Village-tract	4,150	2,743	1,407	709	698	
Ward/village tract ballots		95,600	74,217	21,383	19,841	1,755	213
Township advance ballots		290	290				
Township remaining ballots		4,359		4,359	4,359		
Total		100,249	74,507	25,742	24,200	1,755	213

Union Election Commission

MoHS Union Minister inspects FDA



Union Minister Dr Thet Khaing Win holds talks with the FDA officials yesterday.

UNION Minister for Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win met the officials Department of Food

and Drug Administration (FDA) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The Union Minister appre-

ciated the efforts of FDA for ensuring safe and quality foodstuff and medicines in the country.

He also discussed quick inspections on food and medicines as a supportive manner to revise the businesses in the post COVID-19 period, e-submission system, online payment system to the state to eradicate the possibility of corruption, systematic inspection on foodstuff like sugar, salt and fat contact to prevent from hyper tension, diabetes, heart disease and cancer and Post Market Surveillance.

The Union Minister also talked about the requests to the healthcare workers to return to their duties starting 8 February and contact numbers and email addresses for them to inform the officials if they find difficulties in returning to their duties.

He also said the healthcare workers should serve their duties as quickly as possible. The postgraduate diploma in medicines, master of medical science courses and PhD courses will be opened soon and so FDA and relevant departments should cooperate to meet the needs of human resources.

Director-General of FDA Professor Dr Khin Zaw briefed about the work plans while Deputy Directors-General about offers of other countries to sign MOU and cooperation work with ASEAN's FDA. FDA is currently serving online registration services for foodstuff, medicines, medical equipment and cosmetics. —MNA

New Yangon City Project key to dealing with growing population

ACCORDING to a survey on urbanization, the population in Myanmar's cities and towns is expected to increase from 15.4 million, or 30 per cent of the country's total population, in 2014 to 20 million in 2030.

Hence, this situation has demanded an expansion of urban areas by formulating a modern urbanization plan.

Under the plan, smart city projects are being implemented in three big cities: Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, and Mandalay. The New Yangon City Project being implemented in the area of Twantay, Kyimyindine and Seikkyi Kanaungto in the south-western part of Yangon is estimated to be developed into a megacity in the next ten years.

With a step to complete the remaining land issues in the project, Yangon Region Administration Council expressed its commitment to the successful completion of the project yesterday.

At the meeting on the project, the council's Chairman U Hla Soe stressed the need to complete a few land issues that remained to be finished in the project.

Yangon's population density was 310 people per sq. km in 1973, 387 people per sq. km in 1983, and was 716 people per sq. km in 2014. The population of Yangon is estimated to reach ten million people in the next ten years.

With its urban management plan, the New Yangon City Project comes as an opportunity to shape the Yangon Region for sustainable growth and for poverty reduction.

Myanmar is still in an early phase of urbanization. With the megacities projects in big cities Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay, we are confident that our people would enjoy the benefits of the urban management, public services and dwelling, and safety of the people in a rapidly changing environment.

Like Myanmar, other countries in the world are also facing problems caused by insufficient urban infrastructures, such as water supply, electricity, roads, drainage, and garbage systems. Squatting and unsystematic expansion of urban areas are especially putting people at risk of natural disasters.

Our country's infrastructure development projects, including New Yangon City Project, is key to dealing with the growing population and creating jobs.

WHO experts say Covid probably came to humans from animals

AN international expert mission to Wuhan has concluded it was very likely that Covid-19 first passed to humans from a bat through an intermediary animal, while all but ruling out a laboratory leak.

A team of international experts will present details Tuesday of their findings from a mission to China, which concluded Covid-19 probably passed to humans from a bat via an intermediary animal, all but ruling out a laboratory leak.

But the report, drafted by World Health Organization-appointed international experts and their Chinese counterparts, offers no definitive answers on how the new coronavirus jumped to humans.

AFP obtained a copy of the final report ahead of its official publication on Tuesday.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the international experts would hold a press conference Tuesday at 1400 GMT to discuss their findings, adding that all hypotheses on the pandemic's origins remained open and needed further study.

Covid-19 has killed more than 2.7 million people worldwide in the 15 months since it emerged, forcing governments around the world to introduce restrictions that have battered the global economy.

Ahead of a meeting with world leaders, UN chief Antonio



People are continuing to protest coronavirus restrictions, such as here in Romania. PHOTO: AFP

Guterres called Monday for more debt relief for the poorest countries struggling with economic fallout from the pandemic.

In the United States, there was good news about progress of its vaccine roll-out, but President Joe Biden warned Americans the battle was far from over.

Mexico, meanwhile, released new figures on excess deaths that suggest its official coronavirus death toll -- already the third-highest in the world -- is a massive underestimate.

'New Debt mechanism'

The expert report on the origins of Covid-19 has had a troubled

birth, with publication delays adding to the hold-ups and diplomatic wrangling that plagued the WHO's attempts to get experts into Wuhan -- the city at the centre of the initial outbreak.

They finally arrived on January 14, more than a year after the first cases surfaced.

Experts believe the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the Covid-19 disease originally came from bats.

The report authors judged that the most likely scenario was that it had made a direct leap to humans, while not ruling out other theories.

Beijing's theory that the virus did not originate in China at all but was imported in frozen food was judged "possible" but very unlikely.

Claims promoted by former US president Donald Trump's administration that the virus escaped from a research lab were judged "extremely unlikely."

Meanwhile, UN chief Guterres called for a "new debt mechanism" allowing such options as debt swaps, buy-backs and cancellations to help worse-off countries.

Addressing an online forum that included dozens of world leaders, he said the pandemic has pushed the world to "the verge of a

debt crisis" and required "urgent action."

"We need to change the rules," he argued.

The pandemic had also "shattered the lives" of millions of women and girls and reversed progress towards gender equality, he said. 'War far from won'

In the US, the White House said that 90 per cent of adults would be eligible for Covid-19 shots within three weeks.

But in a television address, Biden warned the country -- which has the world's highest death toll -- that "our work is far from over. The war against Covid-19 is far from won."

He condemned the reckless behavior of some people flouting social distancing measures.

New government data from Mexico showed that it had registered 294,287 Covid-19 deaths -- substantially more than previously recorded, and the third-highest in the world behind Brazil and the United States.

In Britain on Monday, people rushed to pools and parks to enjoy new-found freedoms, as the government allowed small groups to gather and sports activities to resume.

"We haven't swum since January 5, so we were beyond excited to come back and get back into the water," said swimmer Jessica Walker a London pool.

The country is also lining up an FA Cup semi-final football match in April as a test run for reopening large events.

Johnson & Johnson announced a deal with the African Vaccine Acquisition Trust (AVAT) to bring relief to that continent.

AVAT has an initial deal for 220 million doses of the single-shot vaccine with J&J subsidiary Janssen Pharmaceutica for delivery from the third quarter of this year.

With EU approval already in its pocket, the US drugmaker also plans to begin European deliveries on April 19.

The bloc has lagged far behind Britain in its vaccine rollout.

Rising case numbers in Germany led Chancellor Angela Merkel to lambast the heads of the country's regional states, including her own party colleagues, for failing to reintroduce restrictions.

In neighboring France, President Emmanuel Macron may announce new measures this week after partial regional shutdowns failed to keep the number of people in intensive care below its second-wave peak.

Meanwhile, leaders from 23 countries including Merkel and Macron, the EU and WHO backed a push for a new global treaty to better prepare the world to tackle future pandemics.

SOURCE: AFP

Global leaders call for new pandemic treaty

LEADERS from 23 countries, the EU and WHO on Monday backed a push for a new global treaty to better prepare the world to tackle future pandemics.

The call came in an op-ed published internationally that was signed off by leaders from five continents, including Germany's Angela Merkel, Britain's Boris Johnson, France's Emmanuel Macron, South Korea's Moon Jae-in and South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa.

"We believe that nations should work together towards a new international treaty for pandemic preparedness and response," the op-ed said.

"Such a renewed collective commitment would be a milestone

in stepping up pandemic preparedness at the highest political level."

The push to bolster common efforts comes as the planet struggles to combine forces to overcome the Covid-19 pandemic that has killed almost 2.8 million people worldwide.

The spread of the virus has seen blame traded between capitals and accusations that rich nations have hoarded vaccines as economies around the globe have been battered.

The op-ed said the treaty should be aimed at "greatly enhancing international cooperation" on alert systems, data-sharing and research to help track rising threats and the production

of vaccines, medicines and protective equipment to tackle diseases.

"Together, we must be better prepared to predict, prevent, detect, assess and effectively respond to pandemics in a highly coordinated fashion," the leaders said.

"At a time when COVID-19 has exploited our weaknesses and divisions, we must seize this opportunity and come together as a global community for peaceful cooperation that extends beyond this crisis."

The treaty -- first proposed by European Union Chief Charles Michel at the United Nations last year -- would likely be the focus of major international wrangling. Michel and World Health Or-



FILE - A mural paying tribute to the sacrifice of doctors, nurses and paramedics in the fight against the coronavirus is seen in Warsaw, Poland, April 2, 2020. PHOTO: AFP

ganization head Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus are to hold a press conference on Tuesday on the

proposal. Leaders from key world powers including the United States,

China, Russia and Japan were not among the signatories.

SOURCE: AFP

Sarpay Beikman Literature Award and Pakokku Literary Award ceremonies to be held

THE 2019 Sarpay Beikman Literature Award and Pakokku Literary Award established by Pakokku U Ohn Pe have been announced in state-owned newspapers. The award ceremony will be held on 1 and 2 April.

The 2019 Sarpay Beikman Literature Award Ceremony will be held on April 1 (Thursday) at 10 am, and the Pakokku Literary Award Ceremony will be held on 2 April (Friday) at 10 am at the Department of Printing and Publishing at No. 228, Theinphyu Road, Yangon.

Award winners are invited to attend the ceremony. For more information, please contact the Administration section of Sarpay Beikman at 01-381449.—MNA

Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued at 7:00 pm Tuesday 30 March 2021)

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 31st March, 2021: Rain or thundershowers will be fairly widespread in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin, Chin States, scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon Regions and Northern Shan, Kayin, Mon States. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy to cloudy in the Remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated to scattered rain or thundershowers in Upper Sagaing, Taninthayi Regions and Kachin, Kayin, Mon States.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 March 2021: Partly cloudy.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 March 2021: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 31 March 2021: Partly cloudy to cloudy.

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Be careful not to get involved in destroying the country under

By Thurein Thaw

YOU will notice some of the words that appear on social media every day. “For Democracy, for the fall of the military dictatorship, CDM till the end, fighting martyrs Gen Z...”

It is irritating to see the insulting to the current government that is systematically carrying out under the law. They are slandering government employees who are taking their responsibility and flattering young people, who do not understand politics at all, as martyrs when they are affected. They are inciting protesters to repeated violence and unlawful acts, thereby making people scared.

Every day, we hear people struggling with jobs are worrying about their health too. Friends and families pass away. It is not because they could not access medicines but because the number of doctors who can prescribe appropriate medications decreases. I wonder if the doctors who are joining CDM

do not know how they feel when they do not see doctors who wear white duty coat running or when the outpatient department’s door is shuttering in some township hospitals.

I dare not blame doctors who could ignore patients who are waiting for a specific appointment at the hospital for radiation therapy, people who need to have regular kidney dialysis two to three times a week and those mothers who lost their lives due to postpartum haemorrhage.

Yesterday, I saw a doctor who came quietly to the clinic to give his regular patients medical treatments. He did not seem as active and strong as before. It was not surprising to see that he did not want to face anyone, although he came as he worried about the patients. When I asked, “Sayar, please come back to the hospital,” he said, “I don’t want to do that to my friends.” I asked, “Do you not worry about us?” “I will be back,” he replied.

The people will be confident

I dare not blame doctors who could ignore patients who are waiting for a specific appointment at the hospital for radiation therapy, people who need to have regular kidney dialysis two to three times a week and those mothers who lost their lives due to postpartum haemorrhage.

that doctors will run to public hospitals with the admonition to “respect and protect human life and medicine with medicine”, one of the ethics of doctors’ oath on the day of their education.

Last month, a proud friend in the office in a clean uniform was seen online with three fingers raised. I stayed distant from him as we had a different opinion, and recently he called me and cried. He explained the struggle with his job; difficulty for

his family to survive in a situation where there is no income; a second notice letter from work.

It is a significant loss for him as he could not get out of the extremist CDM of so-called ‘credit’ anonymous writers’ incitements. These insulted colleagues have worked together for many years in the same department, quitting his job by believing false rumours.

It is never too late to correct the mistake. It is a time when we need to fight back, thinking that we must prevent the country’s destruction. Please do not ignore students who are always waiting for the teachers, patients who are waiting for the doctors with great expectations.

In a suburb of Yangon where a friend of mine lives, the house that does not strike a pan is reportedly unsafe. No excuse is accepted. If not, there will be a rain of stones over the place. Whenever my friend heard the shouting “Children are defeated, one person out from one house”, he has to stop what he is doing and go out. He has to stand guard, although he does not want to. He said he feared he would have been regarded as a traitor and tortured if he refused to do so. He also has to contribute to buy sandbags and helped to put those on the road.

When security forces called for the roadblocks to be removed, they disappeared, and only those who wanted to live in peace had to remove the roadblocks. The

leaders who called for the road to be closed were awakened after the removal was done only.

Once there are no security guards, people shout, “One person from one house out”, once again in the neighbourhood. People do not know where to run. If this is called democracy, people would say they would go back to a feudal system, pre-colonial and prehistoric times.

I remember some anti-democratic acts in March by a group of evil terrorists who called themselves pro-democracy activists.

On the night of 1 March, the gold-plated signs of the historic Buddhist Youth Association (YMBA) in Pazundaung Township, Yangon, were smashed with bamboo sticks, breaking mirror windows and doors and three air conditioners. Dirty words were painted on the walls of the building, and the flagpoles were destroyed.

On 2 March, about 100 rioters shot with slingshots at the Wat Kywe Taw Pyay Monastery’s senior monk in Dagon Seikkan Township and injured him at the head, forehead and left eye.

On 3 March, the headmistress and her husband were abducted in Monywa, and their hair and eyebrows were shaved.

On 4 March, in Pinyinmana, a mob arrested and beat a police officer for no reason and shaved his eyebrows. On the same day, about 30 people gathered at the District Information and Public Relations Department in Pyay

Last month, a proud friend in the office in a clean uniform was seen online with three fingers raised. I stayed distant from him as we had a different opinion, and recently he called me and cried. He explained the struggle with his job; difficulty for his family to survive in a situation where there is no income; a second notice letter from work. It is a significant loss for him as he could not get out of the extremist CDM of so-called ‘credit’ anonymous writers’ incitements. These insulted colleagues have worked together for many years in the same department, quitting his job by believing false rumours.

ved among those who are der the guise of democracy

and locked the office entrance with barbed wire.

Besides, roads in regions/states were blocked in various ways; Arrests and torture of security forces; Violence against monks to undermine the religion; Destroying banks and breaking ATMs; Looting money, including the destruction of state-owned buildings and vehicles.

On 14 March, the family of U Zaw Lwin, a resident of Chan Mya Thar Si Township, Mandalay Region, was beaten and arrested by a group of terrorists under the pretext of informing them. Moreover, they burnt township police stations in Mahaaungmyay Township, Aungmyaythazan Township and Pyigyitagon Township in Mandalay Region.

Similarly, on 14 March, an innocent woman was arrested and tortured in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region, for not striking pan and brutally stabbed to death.

On 15 March, about 200 protesters arrested and beat four fire brigade members from the Thamine fire station in Mayan-

gon Township, Yangon Region, destroying the fire station's building and fire truck.

On 15 March, the Deputy Chief of the Township General Administration Office and his group were beaten and stabbed by about 30 rioters in Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region. Also, officers from the local battalion in southern Shan State were brutally arrested and killed by a mob while on their way to Pekon Township to carry out military administration.

On 16 March, a group of rioters in Aungmyaythazan Township, Mandalay Region, allegedly threw stones, slingshots at U San Maw's house, accusing him of an informer and smashed the walls of the house and destroyed a vehicle. U San Maw and his family members were also beaten. On the same day, some unscrupulous men set fire to the Kyauk Sayit police station in Myaing Township, Sagaing Region and the Daungmyu Chaung Bridge on the KyunHla-Kawlin Road.

On 18 March, a mob attacked and beat security forces in Dabayin Township, Sagaing

I received a message to save provisions for two weeks and stay away if we did not want to participate in the revolution. He said the final strike would be in two weeks. I asked how, and he said he did not know. So I wondered if it will be a drone strike, and he had no exact answer. People believed in 72 hour-waiting. They followed the silent strike, and they strike pans when they are instigated to do so. They even made a longyi flag, and they say R2P would come, Federal Army would come (I did not know from where they came to where).

Region. Two soldiers were killed, and one was wounded.

On 22 March, people were arrested for burning vehicles in and around the Revenue Office in Taunggyi Township. On

25 March, two policemen were arrested and killed by a mob in Monywa, Sagaing Region.

Although many media outlets have reported that security forces have been firing on peaceful protesters in protest of the pro-democracy demonstrations, it surprises those who blindly support the party and its leader, media people, and protestors are pretending not to notice anarchic acts as described above. Perpetrators use air guns, handguns, handmade grenade, slingshots, petrol bottle, swords and spears to attack security forces, innocent civilians and governing bodies. It is the fate of the country.

As a parent, I am sad to see some of the funerals of young and lovely Gen Z children online. But, not all death of children is online. Some of them were not known even in their township. I'm worried for those young people who will envy those who have died. I am concerned that they will sacrifice their life for fame.

I received a message to save provisions for two weeks and stay away if we did not want to

participate in the revolution. He said the final strike would be in two weeks. I asked how, and he said he did not know. So I wondered if it will be a drone strike, and he had no exact answer. People believed in 72 hour-waiting. They followed the silent strike, and they strike pans when they are instigated to do so. They even made a longyi flag, and they say R2P would come, Federal Army would come (I did not know from where they came to where).

I would like to remind the public that it is necessary to think rationally. It can be said the country is at an intersection. The original road to justice and democracy is in line with the 2008 constitution to fix the wrong system. While the country is on its way to going straight towards democracy, I do not think people should accept the unprincipled people's destructive acts.

Let's try to make our country better by asking ourselves whether our action benefits the country or is harmful to the country.

Translated

Although many media outlets have reported that security forces have been firing on peaceful protesters in protest of the pro-democracy demonstrations, it surprises those who blindly support the party and its leader, media people, and protestors are pretending not to notice anarchic acts as described above. Perpetrators use air guns, handguns, handmade grenade, slingshots, petrol bottle, swords and spears to attack security forces, innocent civilians and governing bodies. It is the fate of the country.

MoALI Union Minister discusses mixed crop plantation in Chaung Ma Nge Dam area



Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo discusses to develop the agro sector yesterday.

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation organized a meeting over the establishment of mixed crop plantation and comprehensive development in Chaung Ma Nge Dam area yesterday.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Tin Htut Oo discussed livestock breeding to raise the income of villagers in addition to agriculture, the use of modern techniques and farming machinery in agro sectors, local manufacturing industry and power supply.

Chaung Ma Nge Dam supplies water to 4,200 acres of

summer paddy this year. The dam is 91,770-acre feet of F.T.L and can store 40,870-acre feet of water currently.

The dam completed in 2006-2007 can supply water to 7,219 acres of farmlands and also provide electricity to villages via one 50 kilowatt turbine.

The Union Minister and party also inspected the dam area. They instructed the necessary things, including job opportunities, for the local people to raise the living standards on the morning of 28 March.—MNA

Quick win projects intended to narrow development gap between Rakhine State and other states

AS Rakhine State has restored peace and stability with the outbreak of COVID-19 under control, emphasis is being placed on clearing of landmines to resettle internally displaced persons to their native villages, said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Thet Thet Khine at the meeting of the Committee on Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister - cum-Chair of Committee on Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development-CHRD, which was formed for Rakhine

State on 16 March, pointed out that it is necessary to implement the arrangement on return of the displaced persons from Rakhine State signed by Myanmar and Bangladesh on 23 November 2017 and the physical arrangement for repatriation of displaced Myanmar residents from Bangladesh under the arrangement on return of the displaced persons from Rakhine State signed on 1 January 2018 if these agreements do not harm the interests of the country. She noted that the Chairman of the State Administration Council had given guidance to accept appropriate points in accord with the Citi-



Union Minister Dr Thet Thet Khine meets the CHRD to bridge development gap between Rakhine State and other states regions yesterday.

zenship Law 1982. She urged attendees to implement the quick win projects for having remarkable results in a short time for narrowing the development gap between Rakhine State and other states as well as urban and rural areas.

Vice-Chairman of the committee Chairman of Rakhine State Administration Council Dr Aung Kyaw Min and Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Aung Tun Khaing discussed ground tasks in Rakhine State

and consideration for tasks related to duty and functions of the committee. The deputy director-general of the Disaster Management Department presented a presentation on repatriation and resettlement for IDPs in Rakhine State. — MNA



Security measures conducted to ensure community peace

TATMADAW, Police Force and Fire Brigade jointly conducted security measures to ensure the State's stability, security of people, the rule of law and community peace starting 14 February night.

Tatmadaw, police and fire brigade

members also jointly conduct security measures for the peaceful night and community peace in respective regions and states and keep serving security measures the whole day. — MNA

Tatmadaw, police and fire brigade members take security measures at night.

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

ASEAN Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors organize seventh virtual meeting

THE Dialogue of ASEAN Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors and International Financial Organizations, 17th ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting (ACGM) and 7th ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (AFMGM) were virtually held yesterday.

The meetings were attended by ASEAN Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors, Officials of IMF, CBM Governor U Than Nyein and Vice-Governors U Win Thaw and Daw Than Than Swe.

The dialogue of ASEAN Finance Minister, Central Bank Governors and International Financial Organizations was held in the morning and joined by AIIB Chairman Mr Jin Liquan under the topic of "Enhancing Digital Infrastructure in the New Normal," while ADB President

Mr Masutsugu Asakawa briefed about "Supporting a Swift and Sustained Recovery in ASEAN," Deputy Managing Director of IMF Mr Mitsuhiro Furusawa about "Global and Regional Economic Outlook and Policy Advice to Foster a Greener and More Equitable Recovery",

Managing Director of WB Ms Mari E Pangestu about "Initiatives and Collaborative Efforts to Ensure Recovery and Subsequently Long-Term Growth" and Director of ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) Mr Toshinori Doi about "Regional Outlook, Risk and Opportunities".

The ASEAN Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors exchanged views on ASEAN regions' sustainable finance, digital infrastructures, COVID-19 responses, monetary policy, and fiscal policy.



CBM Governor U Than Nyein joins the 7th ASEAN Finance Ministers Central Bank Governors meeting online yesterday.

Then, the 17th ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting (ACGM) was held, and Deputy Managing Director of Brunei Ms Noorafidah Sulaiman presented ASEAN Financial Services Liberation (FSL), ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF), ASEAN Payment and Settlement Systems (PSS) and ASEAN Capital Account Liberation under ASEAN Senior Level Committee on Financial Integration.

The ASEAN Central Bank Governors discussed financial services liberation, the signing of the 9th Protocol this year, the ABIF agreement and supervisory agreement in 2022 and other directives to improve financial services in ASEAN regions.

During the meeting, CBM Governor U Than Nyein highlighted the good opportunities of the 17th ASEAN Central Bank Governors' Meeting, Sup-

plemental MOU on ASEAN Cybersecurity Resilience and Information Sharing Platform (CRISP), Financial Integration, Financial Inclusion and Financial Stability to meet the goals of ASEAN Economic Community 2025.

Then, the 7th ASEAN Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting was held. Brunei, Chair of ASEAN for 2021, briefed their priority sectors. The Business Adviso-

ry Councils Dialogues were organized together with ASEAN Finance Ministers, Central Bank Governors, ASEAN Secretary-General, ASEAN-Business Advisory Council (BAC), EU-ASEAN BAC, US-ASEAN BAC.

The ASEAN Secretary-General briefed matters related to AEC Blueprint 2025.

The joint-chairpersons of the deputies of ASEAN finance and central banks meeting continued to discuss working progress and action plans regarding the ASEAN finance and financial integration. After that, they finalized the joint statement of the 7th AFMGM. The 2022 ASEAN Central Banks Governors' Meeting and Deputies of ASEAN Central Banks and its associate meetings are scheduled to hold in Cambodia as the alternative host. — MNA

Violent crowd attacks Bago district police station

THE district police station in Taung Thu Su Ward of Bago was attacked with a rocket-propelled grenade yesterday morning.

According to the attack, five police members were injured. At the same time, about 100 rioters blocked the police station and attacked with catapults, jingalis and homemade guns. Therefore, the security forces fired into the crowd to disperse.

When the security forces conducted a security operation near the police station's vicinity, they found one rocket attached with two iron pipes and two 12-volt batteries about 400m from the station.

Therefore, according to Myanmar Police Force, the security forces will investigate to uncover the suspects in this attack to take action under the law. — MNA



Ravages are seen after violent attack on Bago district police station yesterday.

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Brazil's Bolsonaro overhauls cabinet amid Covid surge



Brazilian former foreign minister Ernesto Araujo (right) had been a key member of the so-called "ideological wing" of far-right President Jair Bolsonaro's administration. **PHOTO: AFP**

BRAZILIAN President Jair Bolsonaro overhauled his government Monday, changing six cabinet members including the foreign, defense and justice ministers, as the far-right leader faced mounting pressure over a deadly surge of Covid-19.

Bolsonaro, who comes up for re-election in October 2022, has drawn backlash with his handling of the pandemic in hard-hit Brazil, where the average daily death toll has nearly quadrupled since the start of the year to more than 2,600, pushing hospitals to break-

ing point.

The shake-up comes the week after Bolsonaro replaced former health minister Eduardo Pazuello, an army general with no medical experience, with cardiologist Marcelo Queiroga, his fourth health minister of the pandemic. While speculation had been swirling that Bolsonaro was about to fire foreign minister Ernesto Araujo, who faced criticism for the government's problems securing more Covid-19 vaccines, many of the other changes came as a surprise.

The president named army General Luiz Eduardo Ramos as his new chief of staff, career diplomat Carlos Franca as his new foreign minister, General Walter Souza Braga Netto – the outgoing chief of staff – as defence minister, and police commander Anderson Torres as justice minister.

He also appointed a new attorney general, outgoing justice minister Andre Mendonca, and government secretary, Congresswoman Flavia Arruda – the third woman in his 22-member cabinet. —AFP ■

Border agents, traffickers and migrants mix on the busy Rio Grande

THE sun has barely set when Mexican traffickers inflate their boat, load 15 migrants on board, yelling at the kids to stop crying, and then row in a frenzy across the Rio Grande, landing on US soil in just a few minutes.

The same scene has been playing out almost daily for two months, sometimes right through the night. In the first half hour of darkness on Sunday, four inflatable boats with about 50 undocumented immigrants from Honduras and Guatemala arrived in Roma, Texas, almost simultaneously.

US agents from the Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) often converse and even exchange shouted jokes with smugglers on the Mexican side of the river, but do not try to stop them if they do not set foot on US soil.

When the migrants arrive – at times in the hundreds, and many of them minors traveling

alone – there are sometimes no agents left on the river banks to process them.

The CBP agents will instead stop them half a mile away, at the end of a sandy trail that leads to this town of 11,000 in the Rio Grande Valley. Most migrants surrender voluntarily in the hopes of being granted asylum in the United States.

'I have to support myself'

"Tell the agents not to hit my boat; we're bringing children, the river is deep, we have already taken off their vests, they should pay attention!" shouts 'Chuchi,' a 25-year-old trafficker as he paddles over to the US side, where there are at least five other punctured inflatable boats already on the sand or in thick bushes.

"Every day" there is a lot of work, 'Chuchi' tells AFP from his boat. "We have kids, just like you" and the work pays well, he says. —AFP ■



A group of undocumented migrants from Honduras and Guatemala get off a Mexican trafficker's boat on the US side of the border near Roma, Texas, on March 28 2021. **PHOTO: AFP**

Search on for 11 trapped in illegal goldmine in Colombia

RESCUERS were working against the clock to rescue 11 people trapped in a flooded illegal goldmine since last week, Colombian authorities said Monday.

The group has been trapped since last Friday in a 17-metre (55-foot) deep shaft flooded in a heavy downpour.

According to the National Mining Agency (ANM), rescuers were using electric pumps to remove water from the mine.

"Eleven people are still missing," Luis Velasquez, governor of the northwestern Caldas department, told reporters. "We hope that in less than 48 hours" they will have been rescued.

Diego Mesa, minister of mines and energy, said the missing miners had been involved in



Rescuers were working against the clock to rescue 11 people trapped in a flooded illegal goldmine since last week. **PHOTO: AFP**

"unauthorized" activity.

Accidents of this type are common in Colombia, where income from illegal gold mining exceeds that from drug trafficking – two practices that funded

armed groups fighting a near six-decade conflict Colombia is still recovering from. So far this year, 33 illegal miners have died, according to the ANM, and 171 last year. —AFP ■

US police officer faces murder charge as George Floyd trial opens

GEORGE Floyd must receive justice, his family said ahead of opening arguments Monday in the trial of the white police officer accused of killing the Black man, whose agonising death ignited protests against racism and police brutality across the United States and around the world.

Derek Chauvin, a veteran of the Minneapolis Police Department, faces murder and manslaughter charges for his role in the 25 May 2020 death of the 46-year-old Floyd.

Chauvin, who was fired from the police force along with three other officers, could be sentenced to up to 40 years in prison if convicted of the most serious charge – second-degree murder.

"I have faith that he will get convicted," Philonise Floyd, brother of the dead man, said Sunday.

A defining moment in US history

The Minneapolis-based StarTribune newspaper called the trial "a defining moment in America's racial history".

The precise cause of George Floyd's death is expected to be the central issue in the case, and a key piece of evidence is likely to be the bystander-filmed video of his death that went viral and triggered a summer of anti-racism protests.

Chauvin was seen in the video kneeling on Floyd's neck for nearly nine minutes while

arresting him for allegedly passing a counterfeit \$20 bill. While lying with his face in the street, the handcuffed Floyd repeatedly complained that he could not breathe.

Chauvin's attorney, Eric Nelson, is expected to argue that the officer was following police procedure and will claim that Floyd's death was due to an overdose of the drug fentanyl and underlying health conditions. **Conviction requires a unanimous verdict**

Ben Crump, a lawyer for the Floyd family, said Sunday that the defense would attack Floyd's character in hope that "you forget what you saw on that video". —AFP ■

Top flight: South Korea's 18-year-old world drone champion

IN a South Korean rice field, the teenage world drone-racing champion is preparing to defend his title in one of the planet's fastest and highest-tech sports.

But at all of 18 years old, Kang Chang-hyeon fears he is quickly passing his prime to compete at top flight levels.

On the starting signal, Kang and his three teammates send their craft buzzing furiously into the air and hurtling around an obstacle course set up on the bare earth in Hwaseong, south of Seoul.

The only human movement was the twitches of fingers on handsets, which the pilots use to control the aircraft while wearing virtual-reality goggles that



Racing drones are custom-built by competitors and their teams. PHOTO: AFP

give them a drone's-eye view of the route.

Three laps and around one

minute later, the race was over and the technical analysis began in a dedicated tent, with pilots,

coaches, technicians and parents poring over flight data.

Like Formula One, drone-flying depends both on precision engineering and pilot skill. Racing drones are custom-built by competitors and their teams, and reach speeds of up to 170 kilometres (105 miles) per hour. But races are so close, with timings measured in thousandths of a second.

And it is a young flyer's game. Lightning-fast reflexes, visual sharpness and hours of training are the key to success, according to Kang.

He says he is already facing physical decline as a new generation of younger rivals arrives, some of them still in primary school. —AFP ■

NEWS IN BRIEF

Top Italian mafia fugitive arrested in Portugal

A wheelchair-bound 'Ndrangheta boss linked to Germany's infamous Duisburg mafia killings has been arrested in Portugal, Italian police said Monday.

Francesco Pelle was found a clinic in Lisbon, the Carabinieri police said in a statement. Italian press reports said he was being treated for Covid-19.

Pelle, 44, was on the Italian interior ministry's "most dangerous fugitives" list, after having been given a life sentence for murder.

He was one of the key players in a feud between 'Ndrangheta clans that escalated in the 2007 Duisburg killings in Western Germany, which left six people dead.

Those killings were a reprisal for the Christmas Day, 2006 murder of the wife of a mafioso, which Pelle had ordered to avenge the shooting in which he lost the use of his legs. —AFP ■

Sierra Leone requests aid after blaze leaves 7,000 homeless



People look on at the aftermath of a large fire that broke out in an informal settlement in Susan's Bay, Freetown on March 25, 2021. The fire burned down hundreds of informal buildings, effecting thousands of people. PHOTO: AFP

SIERRA Leone's disaster-management agency requested aid on Monday after a fire destroyed a slum in the capital Freetown

last week and left about 7,000 people homeless.

"We need help to provide shelter, food, water and clothing

to victims of the fire disaster," said its acting director Sinneh Mansaray.

On March 24, a fire engulfed

the Susan's Bay slum district in the capital of the West African state, destroying homes flimsily constructed from recovered materials and corrugated sheeting.

The cramped passages in the district made it impossible for fire engines to control the blaze.

No one died in the fire, according to a report released by the disaster-management agency over the weekend, but 409 people were injured and 7,093 people lost their homes.

Mansaray said the agency was supplying water to about 5,000 people, while the government has erected 53 tents for the fire victims. But Mariama Kargbo, a widow who had lived in Susan's Bay for 20 years, said neither the government nor aid agencies were providing enough food and water. —AFP ■

Guatemala authorizes force to thwart US-bound migrants

GUATEMALA on Monday authorized the use of force at its border with Honduras to block a new US-bound migrant caravan it said posed a coronavirus contagion risk.

Hundreds of migrants gathered in northern Honduras appeared set to make a push into Guatemala on Tuesday, hoping to travel onwards to Mexico and the United States, according to Guatemalan migration authorities.

President Alejandro Giamattei signed a decree placing five border departments in a "preventive state" to deal with migrants seeking to enter Guatemala without the required travel documents or negative coronavirus test results. The caravan risked creating a "public security crisis" by "aggravating the epidemiological health emergency" posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, states the decree. —AFP ■

Partying foreign tourists rile Spanish locals

IMAGES of drunk foreign tourists shouting in the streets and police raiding illegal parties in Madrid at a time when locals are not allowed to travel between Spain's regions have left many Spaniards up in arms. Spanish TV on Monday aired a video of officers smashing the windows of an apartment over the weekend to dislodge occupants holding a party that violated virus restrictions.

The fact that several of the partygoers were reportedly

foreigners fuelled resentment over the seemingly haphazard nature of travel restrictions in Europe during the pandemic, with many Spaniards taking to social media to vent their anger. While Spaniards are not allowed to leave their own regions until April 9 to avoid a resurgence of coronavirus infections over Holy Week, similar restrictions do not apply to international tourists, who can still fly into Spain on presentation of a negative Covid test. —AFP ■



While Spaniards are not allowed to leave their own regions until April 9 to avoid a resurgence of coronavirus infections over Holy Week, similar restrictions do not apply to international tourists. PHOTO: AFP

Three top venues confirmed for AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022

THE Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and the Local Organizing Committee of the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022 have previously confirmed the three host cities plus stadiums in India for the upcoming tourney, according to the AFC.

The selected stadiums are D.Y. Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, Ahmedabad's TransStadia Stadium and the Kalinga Stadium in Bhubaneswar that will host the tourney, which is slated

to be held from 20 January to 6 February 2022.

Ahead of the preparation for the tourney, AFC General Secretary Dato' Windsor John said: "Women's football in Asia is world-class, and the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and the LOC have selected exceptional venues that will deliver a true spectacle befitting the stature of the tournament.

The AFC is grateful to the AIFF, the LOC, and the three

host cities for their dedication, and we are confident that the tournament will serve as a catalyst to take women's football in India, which continues to make significant strides, to even greater heights in the coming years."

"We applaud them for their vision and wish the AIFF and LOC the very best of success in their ambitions to showcase their capability to stage a successful international showpiece", the AFC General Sec-

retary added.

Next, AIFF President and FIFA Council Member Praful Patel said: "We are excited to kick off the new year with the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022. Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar and Navi Mumbai have put in a lot of work to upgrade their footballing infrastructure.

"While we have seen Navi Mumbai deliver spectacularly in 2017 for the FIFA U-17 World Cup, we are taking the game to

new places with Bhubaneswar and Ahmedabad through the two women's tournaments next year, which is really encouraging for our overall football ecosystem."

The Qualifiers for the AFC Women's Asian Cup India 2022™ is set to take place from September 13 to 25, 2021 in centralised venues with the draw scheduled to be held on May 27, 2021 at the AFC House in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia at 3.30pm (local time). —GNLM ■

Pandemic blamed for lack of VAR in World Cup qualifiers after Ronaldo fury



UEFA has said the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic meant plans to use VAR in the European 2022 World Cup qualifiers had to be abandoned after a weekend in which Cristiano Ronaldo's anger at being denied a late winner for Portugal against Serbia highlighted the lack of technology to help officials. **PHOTO: AFP**

UEFA has said the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic meant plans to use VAR in the European 2022 World Cup qualifiers had to be abandoned after a weekend in which Cristiano Ronaldo's anger at being denied a late winner for Portugal against Serbia highlight-

ed the lack of technology to help officials.

"In 2019, UEFA had proposed to FIFA the implementation of VAR in the current World Cup qualifiers. The impact of the pandemic on operational and logistical capabilities led UEFA

to delay the implementation of VAR in the Europa League group phase as well as to withdraw the proposal to implement VAR in the 2022 European qualifiers," UEFA said in a statement. Video assistant referees are now set to come into the Europa League group stage as of next season.

"VAR was also not in use in the UEFA Nations League group stage in the autumn of 2020 and has therefore to-date never been used in UEFA national team qualifying group stage matches," European football's governing body added. It follows several moments of controversy since the start of qualifying last week for the Qatar World Cup, with the Ronaldo flashpoint casting a light on the lack of any goal-line technology (GLT).

Ronaldo thought he had scored a stoppage-time winner for Portugal in Belgrade as footage appeared to show the ball had crossed the line before Serbia defender Stefan Mitrovic could clear.—AFP ■

Murray eyes greener pastures after tennis career

ANDY Murray has revealed he would like to swap the tennis court for the golf course when he hangs up his racket – eyeing a life as a caddie to a professional golfer. The three-time Grand Slam winner, 33, told the Gentleman's Journal there was "crossover" between the two sports and he could make a difference.

Murray is battling back after hip surgery although his latest comeback was halted when he withdrew from the ongoing Miami Open due to a groin injury.

The Scottish former world number one, who also has two Olympic titles, is not ready to retire yet but has been thinking about his future. "I love sport, so something else that would interest me post-playing would be working in another sport," said Murray.

"I got asked about this a little while ago and, because I really like golf, being a caddie on a golf tour would be exciting — to be up close and personal with top golfers and to learn about another sport like that. —AFP ■



Three-time Grand Slam champion Andy Murray is contemplating life as a golf caddie. **PHOTO: AFP**

Sergio Aguero starts long farewell as Man City exit looms



Sergio Aguero celebrates after his last-gasp goal won the 2012 Premier League title for Manchester City. **PHOTO: AFP**

SERGIO Aguero, who will always be associated with a single gilded moment in Manchester City's history, is starting his long goodbye from the club with his position secure as one of the Premier League's all-time greats.

Fans in the blue half of Manchester are coming to terms with the impending departure of the 32-year-old striker, who will leave when his contract expires at the end of the season.

Aguero joined City from

Atletico Madrid in 2011, three years after the club was taken over by Abu Dhabi owners, and will leave after 10 trophy-laden years as the club's record goalscorer, with 257 goals in 384 games so far.

"When a cycle comes to an end, many sensations arise," the Argentine wrote on Twitter.

"A huge sense of satisfaction and pride remains in me for having played with Manchester City for a whole 10 seasons — unusual for a professional play-

er in this day and age."

Aguero has won four Premier League titles, with a fifth looking almost certain this season for City. Pep Guardiola's side also remain in the hunt for a historic quadruple.

City chairman Khaldoon Al Mubarak has revealed a statue of the striker has been commissioned to stand alongside those currently being made to honour Aguero's former team-mates David Silva and Vincent Kompany. —AFP ■