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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. VI, No. 6, 4th Waning of Tagu 1381 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 23 April 2019

Senior General visits Irkutsk Aviation Plant, Irkutsk town



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his entourage pose for a documentary photo together with Russian officials in front of the Statue of Tsar Alexander III of Russia Irkutsk in Russia. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

A MYANMAR military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing who is currently visiting Russia visited the Irkutsk Aviation Plant yesterday morning.

Upon arrival at the Irkutsk Aviation Plant, Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party were briefed about the production of airplanes in the plant by Irkutsk

Aviation Plant director general and officials while the Senior General raised question and held discussions. Next the Senior General and party inspected the production of planes in the plant and then visited significant places of Irkutsk Town according to news released by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. — MNA

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Rice destruction at Cote d'Ivoire is not concerned with quality or exporters: MRF

THE destruction of a consignment of Myanmar rice at Cote d'Ivoire recently cannot be linked to the quality of the rice, nor can the exporter companies be held accountable for the issue, as they were in conformity with the purchase agreement, said U Ye Min Aung, Chairman of the Myanmar Rice Federation.

"The quality of rice from Myanmar is not at the bottom of this issue. Rice millers and exporters are working as hard as possible to improve rice quality to meet international standards. Local consumers must not harbor concerns over the quality of rice," said U Ye Min Aung.

"The vessel carrying rice from Myanmar left in October, and the rice was in the cargo for about 10 months before reaching the African countries. It has also been learnt that the rice was loaded onto the vessel during the rains. It is impossible for any rice of high quality to remain good after being stored as cargo at sea for nine months," said U Ye Min Aung at a press conference held at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry yesterday.

"Investigation in the matter isn't complete yet. The matter is being investigated from all sides. The press conference has been held to apprise people as well as interested persons of the information and news gathered till date," he said.

SEE PAGE-3

President's Office continues announcement of illegal drug arrests, seizures acting on tip-offs

THE Office of the President issued Press Release No. 19/2019 yesterday, publicly announcing the Ministry of Home Affairs' arrests and seizures in the fight against

illicit drug trafficking up till 20 April.

The ministry made the arrests, acting on information, sent to the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department of the Of-

fice of the President as of 20 April.

The full text of the press release will be reported in the 24 April issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar. — GNLM

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Joint Committee to amend 2008 Constitution holds meeting 9/2019



Meeting 9/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution underway in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Meeting 9/2019 of the Joint Committee to amend the 2008 Constitution was held at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Joint Committee Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung @ U Tun Tun Hein, Deputy Chairman of the Joint

Committee Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Joint Committee Secretary Dr. Myat Nyana Soe, Joint Secretary U Htay Win Aung @ U Pyone Cho and members who were Hluttaw representatives from political parties and Tatmadaw Hluttaw representatives and officials from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee holds meeting



The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee convening in Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

PYIDAUNGsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D yesterday afternoon to discuss the Tax Management Bill.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee Chairman U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, Joint Bill Committee dep-

uty chairmen, secretary, joint secretary and committee members, Joint Public Accounts Committee deputy chairman and committee members, officials from Union Supreme Court Office, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Union Attorney General Office and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Meeting on raising quality, service level of hotels convenes in Yangon

A MEETING aimed at developing the travel business in Myanmar by raising the quality and service level of its hotels was held at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel yesterday afternoon.

Addressing the meeting, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung said UNWTO (United Nations World Tourism Organization) and international experts are regularly invited to meetings like this to

raise the quality and service level of hotels in Myanmar and to be on par with international standards. They were asked to suggest and comment if there were any quality and service level shortfalls of hotels in Myanmar. A new Myanmar Tourism Law was enacted on 17 September 2018. As per that law, Nay Pyi Taw Council, States and Regions were granted certain rights. The new law prescribed ways to con-

duct travel business matters easily and speedily. The ministry will also provide necessary policy and supports toward having a sustainable travel business and for human resources courses to be opened at required places for Human Resources development.

As the day's meeting will discuss required quality matters for hotel businesses it will be a beneficial meeting, said the Union Minister.

Next, Myanmar Hotelier Association Chairman U Aung Myo Min Din spoke words of appreciation to the ministry for conducting the meeting and explained about the background of how the meeting came to be and future work processes.

Afterwards, Dr. Dimitris Koutoulas, an expert from World Travel Organization, discussed matters relating to raising the quality of hotels. The meeting was attended by officials from Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar Travel Association, Myanmar Hotelier Association and sister associations, and officials from hotels, motels and inns in Yangon Region. — MNA (Translated by Zaw Min)



Union Minister U Ohn Maung addresses the meeting for developing the travel business by raising the quality and services of hotels held in Novotel Yangon Max Hotel. **PHOTO: MNA**

Central Bank of Myanmar Governor receives Global Director of World Bank Group



CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung holds meeting with a delegation from World Bank Group led by its Global Director. **PHOTO: MNA**

Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung received the World Bank Group's Finance, Competitiveness and Innovation Global Director Mr. Alfonso Garcia Mora and delegation at Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, development of financial and banking sectors in Myanmar, continuing World Bank's technical support in these sectors and establishing an all-inclusive Financial Inclusion matters were discussed. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

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We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30th March 2018)



May we all be able to build the peaceful, modern, prosperous and genuine Democratic Federal Republic which is the dream of the fathers of our independence and which is what our people desire.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2nd Anniversary of NLD Government on 1st April 2018)

Myanmar, Thailand hold Joint Technical Working Group meeting on return of verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand

THE First Meeting of Myanmar-Thailand Joint Technical Working Group on the preparation of the return of verified Myanmar nationals from Thailand was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 April 2019. The Meeting was co-chaired by U Myo Thant Pe, Director General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mrs. Kanchana Patarachoke, Director General, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of the Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand.

Myanmar officials were comprised by the officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representative of Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the au-



Representatives attend the 1st meeting of the Myanmar-Thailand Joint Technical Working Group on the Preparation of the return of Myanmar nationals from Thailand held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

thorities from respective State and Region Government Office. Thai delegation was composed by the officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand International Cooperation Agency-TICA, Ministry of Interior and Royal Thai Armed Forces.

During the meeting, both sides discussed to continue effective collaboration between technical working Group levels and to carry out the schemes for the repatriations process and guidelines which were laid down by Joint Working Group.

And also both side discussed to receive the verified Myanmar nationals systematically as well as to maintain the future cooperation for the sustainable repatriations. Additionally, regarding the National Verification Process and legally

employment in Thailand were also discussed at the meeting. The meeting agreed on the 4th Batch of repatriation process for Myanmar Displaced Persons at the last week of May 2019 based on friendship and good neighborliness.—MNA

Rice destruction at Cote d'Ivoire is not concerned with quality or exporters: MRF

FROM PAGE-1

More than 150,000 tons of rice was exported to other African countries at the same time as Cote d'Ivoire, and currently, rice shipments from Myanmar are on their way to other coun-

tries.

A review has found that a Singaporean company bought the rice from three Myanmar companies — 13,500 metric tons from the Shwe-Wah-Yaung Company, 500 tons from the Ayeya

Hintha Company, and 8,000 from MEC — to sell it in Guinea, Africa.

MV-Ocean Prince arrived in Yangon to transport the shipment of rice at the end of August last year. Due to the rainy

season, it took about one-and-a-half months to load the rice. The vessel left Yangon with 22,000 tons of rice on 15 October, 2018. It then proceeded to India, where it was loaded with 14,000 tons of rice. It left India in November last year and arrived in Guinea at the end of December.

"As the rice was traded under the FOB system, companies in Myanmar were responsible for the period before the loading. Olam International Co. Ltd was responsible for the remaining operations. Olam is also investigating the case," said U Ye Min Aung.

"Our customers also know about the case. After this case, our company has loaded rice on 17 vessels. We will load over 100,000 tons of rice in May and June. We have received further orders," said U Lu Maw Myint Maung, the Managing Director

of the Shwe-Wah-Yaung Company.

The Myanmar Rice Federation will conduct an investigation into the destruction of rice at Cote d'Ivoire to ascertain the actual circumstances of the case.

"In fact, if they want to destroy the rice which they consider unfit for consumption, they must first inform the companies, governments, and embassies concerned," said U Aung Than Oo, Vice Chairman, MRF.

Myanmar has exported more than 2.2 million tons of rice and broken rice between 1 April, 2018 and 15 February, 2019 through the sea route.

About 50 per cent of rice exported by Myanmar through normal trade goes to African countries. —Aye Yamone

(Translated by TTN)



Representatives of the Myanmar Rice Federation hold the press conference on the destruction of rice from Myanmar at Cote d'Ivoire. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tatmadaw columns clash with AA group in Buthidaung, seize landmines

TATMADAW columns conducting security operations in Rakhine State engaged AA group in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State, on 21 April and seized landmines and fertilizer bags used for installing them.

In the skirmish in Buthidaung Township, Tatmadaw columns were scouring the vicinity of Nayon Taung Village when they were fired upon by AA troops from the northeast around 4pm. The Tatmadaw retaliated and the AA retreated in the southeast around 4:30pm. Tatmadaw confiscated 5 landmines and 10 bags of fertilizers used for installing them.

On the night of 21 April, two landmines planted by the AA detonated near the Maung-taw-Angumaw road, Kaing Gyi Village, Maungtaw Township.

Local residents who wished for peace and stability sent information to authorities that the saboteurs were hiding in Mawyawady Village, Maung-taw Township. Security forces joined with village administrative personnel to search the village and captured an AA member identified as Kyaw Thein of Mawyawady Village. Investigations are still ongoing.



Improvised explosive devices and bags of fertilizers confiscated from AA Group. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Since January 2019, the AA have planted a total of 41 landmines in 13 instances along public roads in Rakhine State. Tatmadaw columns are consistently conducting security and landmine clearing operations to protect the public, according to news released from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

ARSA attacks police vehicle by landmines, small arms in Maungtaw

A police vehicle on the way from Maungtaw Township Taungpyo (Letyar) area office to Kyeinchaung area office was attacked by land mines detonation by ARSA yesterday morning.

Some security personnel Maungtaw Township Taungpyo, Ngakhuya and Kyeinchaung area offices were being transported to Kyeinchaung area office on a police vehicle when it was attacked with land mines at Zipinchaung and Lateya road junction by two ARSA groups from a nearby hill. The vehicle was also fired on and the security personnel returned fire.

The smoke from the blast caused minor irritant to the right eye of the driver but the front end of the vehicle was smashed. A Tatmadaw column is conducting security operation in the area. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Improvised Explosive Device used by ARSA to attack police. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment, hear civil cases

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, Supreme Court judges U Myo Tint and U Myo Win of Special Appellate Bench sits at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning and passed judgment on five (Certiorari) civil cases and heard five other (Certiorari) civil cases. — MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Notification 56/2019
3rd Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME
(22 April 2019)

Nine Defence Services Personnel representatives from Region and State Hluttaw substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute nine Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following nine Region Hluttaw and State Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 3/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016, the Notification 4/2017 of the commission dated 2-2-2017, and the Notification 10/2017 of the commission dated 16-5-2017 with those shown on the right column.

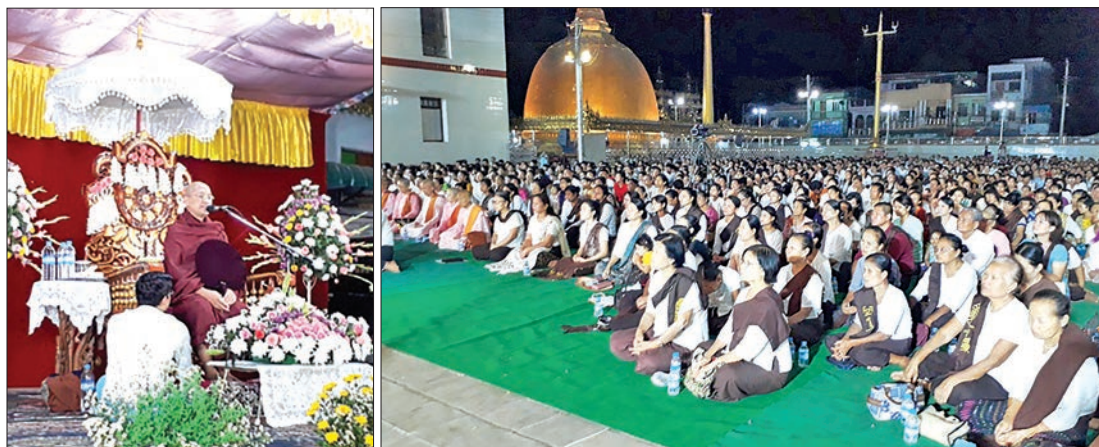
The Defence Services Personnel Representatives of Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second Multi-party General Election held on 8 November 2015.

Kayin State Hluttaw	
(1) BC 27384 Captain Aung Myint Tun	BC 53789 Captain Nay Zaw Soe
Sagaing Region Hluttaw	
(2) BC 33404 Major Aung Thu Ya	BC 29670 Major Kyaw Soe
Bago Region Hluttaw	
(3) BC 29682 Lt-Col Myat Hlaing	BC 32393 Major Ye Win Tun
(4) BC 24935 Major Myo Hein	BC 40474 Major Win Aung Than
(5) BC 36023 Major Kyaw Win Tun	BC 31003 Major Lin Min Latt
Mon State Hluttaw	
(6) BC 28034 Major Zaw Lin Aung	BC 31068 Major Thet Khaing
Yangon Region Hluttaw	
(7) BC 36474 Major Ko Ko Latt	BC 36479 Major Thu Aung Zaw
Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw	
(8) BC 36443 Major Myo Thant	BC 34717 Major Nay Win Naung
(9) BC 33900 Captain Tin Win Naing	BC 54526 Captain Aung Nyi Htway

Sd/-
(Hla Thein)
Chairman

Union Election Commission

Eternal peace Dhamma ceremony held at Thit Hta Man Aung Pagoda, Hpa-an



Buddhist devotees are seen at the Eternal Peace Dhamma ceremony in Hpa-an. **PHOTO: MNA**

IN commemoration of the arrival of religious objects to be fixed atop Nay Pyi Taw Eternal Peace Pagoda and Buddha images to Hpa-an, an eternal peace Dhamma ceremony was held on the platform of Thit Hta Man Aung Pagoda, Hpa-an, Kayin State yesterday evening where Shwe Parami Forest Monastery Sayadaw Ashin Sandadika delivered a sermon on peace.

The event was attended by Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, Kayin State government members, departmental officials, pagoda trustee board members, Buddhist or-

ganizations, donors and devotees.

Earlier in the morning the Buddha images and religious objects were consecrated in the consecration hall of Lawka Marazein Pagoda in Dawei by Sayadaws and sanghas. The Buddha images and religious objects were then carried around Dawei town on a motorcade by Taninthayi Region Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Maung Aye, Taninthayi Region Chief Judge U Tin Aung, Taninthayi Region Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Kyi Soe, Region government members, trustee board members and Buddhist

organizations.

The Buddha images and religious objects were then sent to Kayin State, Hpa An town where Kayin State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, Kayin State Chief Judge U Saw San Lin, State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker Daw Nang Thuzar Khin, Kayin State government members, departmental officials, pagoda trustee boards and Buddhist organizations were at hand to welcome it.

The Buddha images and religious objects will tour 11 States and Regions for public obeisance. — Han Lin Naing
(Translated by Zaw Min)

MoALI, donors provide agricultural equipment to Hsenwi farmers

A ceremony to provide input equipment to protect against the fall armyworm and hand out Good Agricultural Practice G.A.P certificates took place at the Aung Mingalar Hall in Hsenwi Township, Shan State, on 21 April.

Dr. Aung Thu, the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, delivered a speech at the ceremony, where he highlighted the challenges of climate change and pests on agricultural production and what needs to be done to resolve these issues. The Union Minister then handed over pesticide sprayers and personal protective clothing and Shan State Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, U Sai Lone Kyaw, handed over pesticide for the farmers to a representative. Additionally, Permanent Secretary Dr. Khin Zaw and Dr. Ye Tint Tun, the Director-General of the Agriculture Department, handed over maize seeds and fertilizers donated by C.P Company and G.A.P certificates to officials



An official hands over a pesticide backpack sprayer to a representative of Hsenwi farmers in the township's Aung Mingalar Hall. **PHOTO: MNA**

respectively. In the afternoon, the Union Minister and delegation attended a meeting with department officials in Shwe Li Yadanar meeting hall in Muse Township. He instructed them to be extra diligent in preventing diseases transmitted from animals, continue the meat industry in Mya Sein Yaung Village, upgrade laboratories in the border regions, hire additional staff, and

cooperate with relevant departments to monitor and prevent illegal transportation of animals and animal products through the border gates.

Afterwards, the Union Minister and delegation travelled to Namtu Family Dairy Farm near the 105-milepost in Muse Township and inspected the cattle and silage production.—MNA
(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 54/2019

3rd Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME
(22 April 2019)

Two Defence Services Personnel representatives substituted

ACCORDING to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute two Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following two Pyithu Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 1/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016, and the Notification 2/2017 of the commission dated 26-1-2017 with those shown on the right column.

The Defence Services Personnel Representatives of the Pyithu Hluttaw to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second Multi-party General Election held on 8 November 2015.

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (1) BC 19546
Colonel Myint Cho | BC 20979
Colonel Aye Kyaw Lin |
| (2) BC 37885
Major Myat Thu Ya | BC 41628
Major Aung Pyae Phyto |

Sd/-
(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 55/2019

3rd Waning of Tagu, 1381 ME
(22 April 2019)

Four Defence Services Personnel representatives substituted

ACCORDING to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law to substitute four Defence Services Personnel Representatives who are parliamentarians, the Union Election Commission has scrutinized and substituted the following four Amyotha Hluttaw representatives shown on the left column under the Notification 9/2016 of the commission dated 17-5-2016, the Notification 9/2017 of the commission dated 16-5-2017, the Notification 25/2017 of the commission dated 30-10-2017, and the Notification 5/2019 of the commission dated 15-1-2019 with those shown on the right column.

The Defence Services Personnel Representatives of the Amyotha Hluttaw to be substituted were nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second Multi-party General Election held on 8 November 2015.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| (1) BC 28340
Major Kyaw Moe Naing | BC 30966
Major Ye Tint Aung |
| (2) BC 17073
Brig-Gen Thet Naing | BC 18295
Brig-Gen Nyunt Swe |
| (3) BC 29486
Lt-Col Zarni Aung | BC 32763
Lt-Col Kyaw Kyaw Oo |
| (4) Navy 3779
Cmdr Soe Naing | Navy 4084
Lt-Commander Tin Htut |

Sd/-
(Hla Thein)
Chairman
Union Election Commission

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted 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.glnldaily@gmail.com
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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.

Fisheries Dept issues 'extreme heat' advisory for farmers

THE Wakema Township Fisheries Department has issued an 'extreme heat' warning for fish farmers, urging them to be on the alert to prevent any losses arising from soaring temperatures.

"Because of extremely high temperature, the water of fish breeding ponds can evaporate, thereby, the volume of water in the ponds can reduce. As a consequence, fish can get infected with disease as low water levels can make ponds dirty. And, left-over feed can also be harmful," said U San Maung Oo, the Head of Township Fisheries Department.

"Fish breeders need to follow the instructions in the heat warning issued by the Fisheries Department, under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. If the water in the fish breeding ponds evaporates, they can do two things. They can fill up fresh, clean water, or, if they

Farmers harvest fish at a farm in Wakema Township. **PHOTO: HLWAN THIHA (WAKEMA)**

have difficulty adding fresh, clean water to the fish breeding ponds, they can reduce the number of fish. Another important thing is that breeders must not move the fish into other ponds when the

heat is at its peak. If fish breeders face any issues, they have been advised to contact the Township Fisheries Department," he added.

Fish breeding is mostly carried out in Gayan, Mya Goe Lay,

Mya Goe Gyi, Thila Chaung, Myit Kalay, and Kyay Talin villages of Wakema Township.—Hlwan Thiha (Wakema)

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Huawei, Myanmar Engineering Societies ink pact to develop ICT sector

TO develop the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) sector in Myanmar, Huawei and the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies have signed an agreement to collaborate on three projects within two years.

The projects will build the capacity of the new generation of engineers, develop the domestic network, and improve FTTH (fiber to the home) standards. The signing ceremony for the projects was held on 22 April at the Huawei CSIC hall.

"Initially, we will begin im-

plementing the system for ICS within two years. Then, we will build an e-learning platform by using Huawei's public cloud. These things will not be very easy to implement. But, we will implement these three projects within two years. Currently, the public cloud is already in use in Myanmar. We will raise ICS awareness among the new generation of engineers through Huawei's e-learning platform. Then, we will issue certificates to them," said Mr. Zhang Liman, the CEO of Huawei Myanmar.

Huawei and the Federation

of Myanmar Engineering Societies have promised to bring about the development and extension of the domestic network in cooperation with the government, communications operators, and organizations in the ICT industry.

According to the agreement, Huawei and the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies will hold events on network coverage for the digital transition, develop and extend the domestic network, and implement FTTH norms and standards, assist business

operations, and promote sales.

"We have entered an agreement to increase the capacity of our new generation of engineers. The two organizations will hold events on network coverage for the digital transition in Myanmar. Moreover, we will conduct research on more popular domestic network coverage. We want to thank Huawei for its cooperation and expect a long-term collaboration," said U Aung Myint, the president of the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies.—Aye Yamone

(Translated by Hay Mar)

Over 60,000 seedlings planted in Yinmabin Township

WITH an aim to fix climate change, re-balance the ecosystem and create a fair weather condition, the Dry Zone Greening Department planted over 60,000 seedlings in Kaung Hsin nurseries in Yinmabin Township according to the Dry Zone Greening Department.

"Currently, the department is taking measures to reduce the outbreak of the natural disasters and re-balance the ecosystem by planting the trees. In this juncture, the department is also raising the fire wood plantations annually to fulfil the fuel require-

ment of the local people," said U Nay Myo Tun, the head of the Dry Zone Greening Department of Yinmabin Township.

Under the Myanmar reforestation project in 2018-2019 fiscal year, the department has been conducting the dry zone greening, raising the firewood plantations to fulfil the fuel wood requirements of the villages, holding the festivals to raise plantations and demanding the households to plant three teak trees and 20 hard wood trees per house.—Than Htay Aung (Kani)

(Translated by Hay Mar)



Seedlings in plant nursery in Yinmabin Township.

PHOTO: THAN HTAY AUNG (KANI)

Youths leaving traditional carving jobs to make tombstones in China

YOUNG stone carvers in Khattakan village of Monywa Township are leaving their traditional business to make tombstones in China, which is more lucrative, according to locals.

“Sculptors have become rare and most of the young people have taken up jobs overseas. Those who make carved tombstones can save K20 million in eight months. That is impossible for them if they stay in their village and so, they are mostly engaging in carving headstones and tombstones,” said U Myo Myint, a local.

With raw stones becoming rare, metal mortars will replace stone mortars in the next 10 years, according to an elderly carver.

“Young people are not interested in the mortar-making business, and only the middle-aged are engaged in it. Hand-made mortars fetch K350 per mortar, while machine-made mortars are priced at K500 per mortar.



An elderly man carves a stone mortar. PHOTO: MYO WIN TUN(MONYWA)

Those who make mortars by hand can produce 5 or 6 mortars a day, while those who use machines can manufacture 15 mortars per day,” he added.

Mortar manufacturers source raw materials such as siltstones and sandstones from the

Phoekhaung Mountain. But now, these are being used as paving stones, and so, raw stones have become scarce. “Entrepreneurs order different sizes of raw stones, and a truck full of stones is worth K150,000. A ditch can be sold for K50,000, and about

150 mortars can be produced per ditch. There are two sizes of pestles and five types of mortars in the market,” said a stone miner from Phoekhaung Mountain. — Myo Win Tun(Monywa) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Onion growers hit by low price in Mahlaing Township

WITH the plentiful supply of onions during the harvest season leading to a fall in prices, growers in Mahlaing Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Region have said they are facing losses.

“Farmers need three or four pyi (2.3 kg) of onion seeds for cultivating one acre of the crop. The price of seeds increased to K100,000 per pyi this year due to fungal diseases in onion seeds last January,” said U Aung Thein, an onion grower. “The cost of cultivation is estimated at K1 million per acre, including input costs and harrowing,” he added.

Additionally, fertilizers and pesticides were required this year because of the erratic weather, pushing cultivation costs to K1.7 million per acre at the time of harvest, said growers.

The yield is pegged



Farmers harvest onion in Mahlaing. PHOTO: AUNG HTAY (MAHLAING)

at about 5,000 viss of onions per acre, and the prices have been ranging between K300 and K325. The prices increased to K350 per viss on 21 April, but growers said they are still facing losses.

“Onions are mostly cultivated in October and November and har-

vested in April. Onions fetched K500 per viss during harvest time in previous years, and the prices climbed to K1,250 when onion stocks ran low. Growers will make a profit only if the prices reach K650-K700 per viss,” said Daw War War, an onion farmer.

“The wages were estimated at about K2,000 last year and this year, they have increased to K3,000. Therefore, growers hope to get a good price in the market,” said U Nyo Lay, another grower. —Bo Bo(Mahlaing) ■

(Translated by La Wonn)

Domestic investments cross K18,600 bln: MIC

DOMESTIC investments in Myanmar from the 1994-1995 fiscal year up to the end of March this year have exceeded K18,600 billion, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission.

As on March-end, a total of 1,549 enterprises have been allowed to invest in 11 sectors in Myanmar, with an estimated capital of over K18,609 billion.

According to figures from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, the real estate sector accounts for 22 per cent of the total fund inflows, with investments of K4,172 billion from 79 enterprises. The manufacturing sector has attracted investments of K3,366 billion from 856 enterprises.

A total of K3,065 billion has flowed into the services sector from 132 businesses, the transport and communications sector has received investments of K2,834 billion from 50 projects, the hotels and tourism sector has raked in over K1,952 billion from 163 enterprises, and the construction sector has pulled in K1,075 billion from 68 projects.

The industrial estate sector has received K862 billion from 11 projects, the energy sector has obtained K676 billion from 19 businesses, the mining sector has pulled in

K197 billion from 71 enterprises, the livestock and fisheries sector has raked in K354 billion from 87 businesses, while the agriculture sector has seen investments worth K52.5 billion through 13 projects.

Domestic investments have increased this year compared with recent years, according to the DICA. Under the incumbent government, 51 enterprises invested K1,572 billion in the 2016-2017 fiscal year, 119 enterprises put in K3,978 billion in the 2017-2018FY, 105 enterprises invested K995 million in the mini-budget period from April to September, 2018, and 36 projects brought in K795.68 billion between 1 October, 2018 and 15 March, 2019 in the current fiscal year, according to data from the DICA.

Under the Myanmar Investment Law, the region and state investment committees are authorized to endorse investment proposals with a capital of not more than US\$5 million (K6,000 million). This has been done to simplify the verification of investment projects.

While some projects no longer need MIC approval, businesses that are strategic to the government require an MIC permit. —GNLM ■

(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V TAN BINH 245

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TAN BINH 245 VOY. NO. (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23-04-2019 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.S.T.L-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(SINGAPORE) PTE, LTD

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Bringing about great changes for benefit of future generations by working together

AS PART of efforts for building the nation's human resources, the Union Government is providing monetary assistance to pregnant women and new mothers so they have access to good nutrition, and children up to two years of age have better care. In addition, it is also providing aid to people living with disabilities and there are plans to roll out pension for the elderly in Chin State.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement has provided more than K889 million to 30,177 children aged under two, over K80 million to nearly 2,700 people with disabilities, cash assistance to 13 philanthropic centres, childcare centres and nurseries, and youth centres through authorities in Chin State. There are plans to disburse cash assistance in the form of social pensions to the elderly, aged 85 and above, in Chin State, which is not easily accessible by road.

From the time a child is conceived until the age of two, proper brain development is vital and therefore, the government has been raising awareness about nutrition in addition to providing K15,000 to new mothers so they get sufficient nutrition, especially while they are breastfeeding.

As the efforts of the Ministry would directly benefit the people, the respective departments and social organizations in the regions and states must work with the Ministry to ensure it can carry out its work as effectively as possible.

The greater the cooperation between the ministries and civil society organizations that are helping relieve the problems of the people, the greater will be the benefit to the people.

On the path to making Myanmar peaceful and prosperous, we can overcome all challenges through collective efforts.

At the same time, advice from local CSOs can be very helpful for the socio-economic development of the people in the regions and states.

The Department of Social Welfare began implementing the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) and Child Protection Programme in December last year.

Successful implementation of the ECCD Strategy requires cooperation from each parent, teacher, and relevant department, and ultimately, all the people living in the country.

In order to create a good strategic shift for our country, the direction of the strategy needs to be understood and there is a need for all stakeholders to make the push together.

The implementation of work processes and the time frames need to be systematic. Projects drawn sector-wise and region-wise must not only meet the requirements, but must also be implementable.

It is very important for the ministries and the state and region governments to plan and conduct annual projects so they include all the people and ensure that there are connections and linkages throughout.

MIFER: Attracting more investment into the country to boost national development

"A flock of storks will rest near calm waters so it follows that investors and companies will choose to invest where there are good opportunities for them. They will also choose to invest if the processes involved in making investments is comprehensive and simple."

Union Minister U Thaung Tun

Interviewer: Hanni Win
PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW

THE Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations, set up in the incumbent government's third year in office, works to increase investment in the country so that smoother and effective processes can take place between other union ministries, central organizations, regions and states governments which will, in turn, drive up businesses.

The ministry was officially added to the cabinet of the Union Government on 19 November 2018 with Notification No. 87/2018 from the Office of the President. The following is an interview with Union Minister U Thaung Tun on his ministry's progress in the four months since its inception.

Q: Since the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations was established in the third year of the incumbent government administration, could you tell us what the ministry has done so far?

A: The Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations was freshly established in November last year but we aren't

organized with newly hired staff. Rather, we incorporated the Directorate of Investment Company Administration and the Foreign Economic Relations Department from the Ministry of Planning and Finance into our ministry. They are already experienced staff who are able to continue working successfully and simultaneously.

Our main objective is to attract more investment into the country to boost national development. Geographically, our country is in a good location. Our population is proper and have high untapped potential. And with India, China and other ASEAN nations neighbouring us we can achieve our goal to establish a modern, developed and prosperous nation if we can bring in their investments.

It was for this reason a separate ministry to focus on the investment sector was created. I can say we have secured good results since our establishment.

Q: What was the situation like when the ministry was first formed?

A: We occupied Office No.1 of the Ministry of Planning and Finance and started our operations from there with the staff of the



Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations (MIFER) jointly organizes the Invest Myanmar Summit 2019, with Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) in Nay Pyi Taw at MICC-2 on 29-30 January 2019.

two departments I've mentioned earlier.

Q: What are some of the developments the ministry has made so far?

A: Since its inception, the ministry has been working hard to create a new environment that will allow investments by domes-

tic and foreign investors to be conducted in a more efficient and smoother manner.

Here, I'd like to highlight the One Stop Shop project. The OSS brings everything an investor will need into one place, such as work permits. This will greatly convenience both domestic and foreign businesses in Myanmar and we are prioritizing this project as such.

Another one of our tasks in making Myanmar's businesses more attractive. One way of doing this is organizing investment fairs, which we have done in Mandalay and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State. And we also held an Investment and Regional Product Fair of Chin State in Yangon. Additionally, we organized the Invest Myanmar Summit in early 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw which was arranged for both domestic and foreign businesses and investors.

Q: Please tell us the tasks and responsibilities assigned to your ministry's departments.

A: As I've mentioned before, we have two departments in our organization chart: The Directorate of Investment Company

Administration and the Foreign Economic Relations Department.

Any investment conducted in Myanmar needs to file a proposal to the Directorate first. From there it undergoes reviews and is sent to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), which is formed by the President, where it undergoes additional scrutiny. The green light is given only after the MIC has reviewed the proposals.

A lot of people know the Foreign Economic Relations Department with its acronym, FERD. They handle meetings concerning Myanmar and organize communications for Myanmar with ASEAN and GMS business.

Q: How is cooperation going with the international community and the ASEAN economic community?

A: Our ministry is representing the AEC and handling discussions in the ASEAN economic community. This is to enable Myanmar to get on the same level as the international community.

Q: What has Myanmar been cooperating on in the ASEAN region?

A: Currently we are working on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, the proposed free trade agreement between the ten member states of the Association of South-east Asian Nations and the six Asia-Pacific states with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements.

We are discussing for uniform development to the entire region and between their economies. RCEP includes countries such as China, Japan, Australia, South Korea, New Zealand and India.

Q: Could you also tell us about Myanmar's cooperation with the international community and the UN?

A: We need technology for national development. Economic development and better financial stability require investments. We are cooperating with the international community and the United Nations for that. While we may have the will to develop our country, we lack the technology and skills to do so right now. Thus, the Ministry of Investment and Foreign Economic Relations is cooperating with the interna-

tional community to acquire the necessary technology, financial assistance and ODA loans.

When Myanmar actively participates in the affairs and issues of ASEAN and the international community, we do so with the intention of bringing benefits to all parties concerned. We are trying to bring about uniform development in the economic sector and ensure the people receive the benefits of development and higher living standards.

Q: Please tell us about the memoranda of understanding and agreements Myanmar has successfully negotiated into fruition.

A: There's the ASEAN-Hong Kong free trade agreement, ASEAN-Hong Kong investment agreement, the first protocol to amend the ASEAN Free Trade Area, the protocol to implement the tenth package of commitments of the

tors. Or to put it another way, we are trying to increase the ease of doing business in Myanmar.

We have launched the online system MyCO to make company registration easier. We are working to have the registration completed within the hour after registering from the online platform and we are working on similar changes. We are also working on legal and administrative changes as well.

Q: Can you tell us some of the tasks the ministry has been doing to secure foreign investment?

A: We have been sending delegations abroad to spread the genuine situation of Myanmar and its good attributes to the international community. We have been to our neighbouring countries of Singapore, Thailand and China, and Hong Kong, Macao, South Korea and Japan to discuss

When Myanmar actively participates in the affairs and issues of ASEAN and the international community, we do so with the intention of bringing benefits to all parties concerned.

ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services, the ASEAN Agreement on E-Commerce, and the first protocol to amend the ASEAN-Japan Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement.

Q: What tasks is the Union Government pursuing with the partner countries and organizations in development and what policies has it laid down?

A: Let me illustrate the nature of investment with an allegory. A flock of storks will rest near calm waters so it follows that investors and companies will choose to invest where there are good opportunities for them. They will also choose to invest if the processes involved in making investments is comprehensive and simple. That is why we are working hard to create this type of environment and attract inves-

the truth of our situation. We have seen investments come in from these discussions.

For example, Chinese companies entered Myanmar's textile industry as well as companies from Thailand, Singapore and others. There seems to be increased interest in Myanmar along with more businesses.

Q: Is there anything else you would like tell the people of Myanmar?

A: I want everyone to know that our country has opportunities to provide benefits to both the investors and ourselves because of our geography and population, compared to other countries. This is why I envision more investments to follow than before.

(Translated by Pen Dali)



Union Minister U Thaung Tun holds meeting with Mrs. Toshiko Abe, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.

The Central Bank of Myanmar is focusing on development of banks in Myanmar since 2013

To achieve our Targeted Reserve Money amount, we are applying the monetary policy instruments such as interest rates, minimum reserve requirements for banks and an open market operations.

CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung



Central Bank of Myanmar's Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung.

By: KK
Photo: Aye Than

The Central Bank of Myanmar's Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung talked about the progress of the Central Bank of Myanmar in the third year of the incumbent government.

Q: Can you tell us about Central Bank of Myanmar's progress during this past year?

A: The Central Bank of Myanmar became a separate entity under the new constitution in 2013. Our main goal are for Myanmar to achieve Monetary Stability, Financial System Stability and Payment and Settlement System Development.

Q: What are some steps the Central Bank of Myanmar has taken towards foreign exchange stability?

A: There are 3 national banks, 19 private banks and 13 foreign banks and their branches that are authorized to sell/buy foreign currency. You can open accounts in

Dollars, Euro, Singapore Dollars as well as a Letter of Credit. Two more currencies (Japanese Yen and Chinese Yuan) are available for Letter of Credit as well. In Money Exchange Counters, you can exchange Thai Baht and Malaysian Ringgit in addition to USD, SGD, EUR.

Q: What were some reasons for mandating purchases to only be in MMK?

A: This is to help stabilize our Kyat. There has been illegal trading of foreign currency which often drives the prices of the USD up. We are also trying to draft a new Foreign Currency Management Law where Monetary and Local Gold is clearly defined. The Central Bank also collaborates with the

relevant ministries to make sure that export proceeds come back into Myanmar.

Q: What about the current situation with the development of the financial system in Myanmar?

A: The Central Bank of Myanmar is focusing on development of banks in Myanmar since 2013. Currently, there are 27 private banks with 1800 branches, 13 foreign bank branches with 44 representative offices. The Central Bank is also considering subsidiaries to be

able to operate in Myanmar. The biggest accomplishment so far has been regarding financial technology as Internet Banking, Mobile Banking and Mobile Financial Services have improved. For areas that are hard to reach for physical banks, the Financial Technical Services Providers are providing Mobile Banking Services so people in rural areas can have access to a financial service. For Non-Bank Financial Intermediaries, Money Changers and

Mobile Network Operators, it is crucial for them to follow the necessary procedures and reporting deadlines to the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Can you tell us about development of monetary organizations in Myanmar?

Almost 90 notifications for the Central Bank were announced from 2013 to date in order to improve our systems up to international standards.

SEE PAGE-11



The building of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The biggest accomplishment so far has been regarding financial technology as Internet Banking, Mobile Banking and Mobile Financial Services have improved.

— CBM Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung



Staff of the Central Bank of Myanmar at work.

FROM PAGE-10

The foreign banks and its branches do follow these rules and procedures. We also released 5 directives for bank executives and auditors on 25th March 2019: Directive on Fit and Proper Criteria, Directive on Directors of Bank, Directive on External Auditors of Banks, Relative Parties Directive and Directive on Acquisition of Substantial Interest. Our on-site examinations, off-site examinations and risk-based supervision are also practiced as per international standards.

Q: What about other banking systems and accountability of those?

A: The National Payment and Settlement Gov-

erning Committee was formed 3 Jan 2019. We are also teaming up with JICA to establish the Central Bank of Myanmar Financial Network System (CENTRAL BANK OF MYANMAR - Net). Credit cards, debit card and prepaid cards are widely used here as well. Additionally, we are standardizing QR codes and is conducting a three-month pilot project through WeChat in Mandalay International Airport. The Quarterly Financial Statistics Bulletin is published every 3 months by the Central Bank of Myanmar along with the Monetary Policy Report. These reports can be viewed on the public website of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

Q: Any other collaborations with other international institutions?

A: The Central Bank of Myanmar is collaborating with IMF, ADB and World Bank as well as the regional South East Asian Central Banks (SEACEN) Research and Training Centre. We receive technical as well as organizational structure consultation from them. There are IMF representatives along with internal auditors, bank supervisors and IMF long term advisors that provides feedback, expertise, training and other discussions for the banks here as well. The Central Bank of Myanmar is also part of the regional network with Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Singapore and Vietnam

in sharing expertise and technology for development of our banks.

Q: For the last question, can you explain to us about the Monetary policy of Myanmar?

A: The institution has adopted the Reserve Money Targeting Monetary Policy Framework to establish a certain amount of reserve money according to our economy. To achieve our Targeted Reserve Money amount, we are applying the monetary policy instruments such as interest rates, minimum reserve requirements for banks and an open market operations. These have been implemented with the help of IMF as well.

(Translated by Myat Thu)



Foreign currency on display at the Central Bank of Myanmar.



ASEAN currency on display at the Central Bank of Myanmar.



Early age currency of Myanmar on display at the Central Bank of Myanmar.

CBM sells new quality tical gold coin

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has been issuing quality tical, half-tical, and quarter-tical gold coins since 1991. It has also introduced a new quarter-tical quality gold coin in 2018.

A single star is depicted in the centre of the tical gold coin. Images of a plowing farmer and an elephant hauling a log are depicted on the half- and quarter-tical gold



coins, and image of Bogyoke is depicted at the centre of the new quarter-tical quality gold coin.

The new tical gold coin (one tical equal to 16.329 gm) which is on high demand will have been issued. The new quality tical gold coin has a diameter of 26.0 millimetres (mm) and a thickness of 2.0 mm.

At the centre of the face of the new gold coin is a portrait of Bogyoke Aung San with the words "Aung San" written at the bottom. Along the circumference of the coin, "Central Bank of Myanmar", and "16.329 gm 999.9 Fine Gold" will be etched in

the English language, while the opposite face will have "Central Bank of Myanmar 2018, a tical, 999.9 Fine Gold" embossed in the Myanmar language.

When a quality tical gold coin is bought, the CBM Governor and the gold coin casting department head will provide a certificate of authenticity.

The new gold coins can be bought at sale centres of Myanma Gem Enterprise in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay at the prevailing gold rate of the day, along with a payment of the casting fee of K38,950, according to the CBM.



Climate change protesters halt London street blockade

LONDON —Some of London's busiest streets re-opened Monday for the first time in a week as climate change protesters regrouped and plotted a new course after police made over 1,000 arrests.

The so-called Extinction Rebellion took over the heart of the UK capital in a bid to focus global attention on rising temperatures and sea levels caused by greenhouse gas emissions.

The grassroots group was established last year in Britain by academics and has used social media to become one of the fastest-growing environmental movements in the world.

But it abandoned four of the five main protests sites over the weekend in response to a more forceful police approach and an outcry from local businesses that claimed a heavy loss in sales.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan also warned Sunday that protests were starting to overstretch the police and limiting their ability to respond to daily crime.

"It simply isn't right to put Londoners' safety at risk like this," Khan said.

Phase Two

Extinction Rebellion organis-



Police officers arrest and carry away a climate change activist from a demonstration blocking Waterloo Bridge in London on 21 April 2019, on the seventh day of an environmental protest by the Extinction Rebellion group. Climate change activists continued their demonstration into a seventh day in London with protest camps at iconic locations despite over 700 arrests. **PHOTO: AFP**

ers retreated by Monday to Marble Arch -- a monument on the edge of Hyde Park that allows limited protests to continue without disrupting traffic.

The site has been sanctioned by the police.

"After leaving four of five locations in good order, rebels will

meet at Marble Arch on Monday to decide where they go next," the group said in a statement.

It added that its seven-day campaign has helped it raise nearly £300,000 (\$390,000, 345,000 euros) and gain 30,000 new members.

The police said they had

made 1,065 arrests and charged 53 people since the first protests took over a bridge and renowned London intersections such as Piccadilly and Oxford Circus.

"We remain in frequent contact with the organisers to ensure that the serious disruption to Londoners is brought to

a close as soon as possible and that only lawful and peaceful protests continue," the police said in a statement.

The London campaign has no formal leaders and its immediate plan of action remains unclear.

Some of the organisers said Sunday they wanted formal talks with the London mayor and the UK government.

The group's list of demands includes a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions to a net level of zero by 2025 and a halt to biodiversity loss.

The group has previously said that it wants the UK government to "create and be led by the decisions of a Citizens' Assembly on climate and ecological justice".

But it said Monday that its strategy was still under discussion — and that it may yet decide to resume the street blockades.

"A proposal has been circulated for entering a 'negotiations' phase," it said in a statement.

"Despite being presented otherwise in the media, this idea remains only a proposal," it added.

"Where we go with Phase Two is up to us."—AFP ■

Trump to sanction allies over Iran oil, causing new friction

WASHINGTON— The United States said Monday it would start imposing sanctions on friends such as India that buy Iranian oil, in its latest aggressive step to counter Tehran that could jeopardize US relationships.

One targeted country, Turkey, vowed to defy the US demands which sent global crude prices spiraling higher, although President Donald Trump tweeted that his close ally Saudi Arabia would "more than make up" for decreases in Iranian oil.

In seeking to reduce Iran's oil exports to zero, the Trump administration is targeting the country's top revenue maker in its latest no-holds-barred move to crush the economy and scale back the clerical regime's influence.

"The Trump administration and our allies are determined to sustain and expand the maximum economic pressure campaign against Iran to end the regime's destabilizing activity threatening the United States, our partners and allies and security in the Middle East," the White House said

in announcing its move. Eight governments were initially given six-month reprieves from the unilateral sanctions on Iranian oil imposed last year by the United States. They include India, which has warm ties with Washington but disagrees on the US insistence that Iran is a threat. New Delhi has been working with Iran on a seaport in hopes of circumventing Pakistan, home to virulently anti-Indian militants.

Other countries that will be affected include China and Turkey, opening up new friction in contentious relationships if the United States goes ahead with sanctions over buying Iranian oil.

"We do not accept unilateral sanctions and impositions on the issue of how we will establish relations with our neighbors," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in response to the announcement, which he said "will not serve regional peace and stability." Secretary of State Mike Pompeo insisted that the United States would punish countries

that buy Iranian oil after May 2, without spelling out the scope of the sanctions. "We've made clear -- if you don't abide by this, there will be sanctions," Pompeo told reporters. "We intend to enforce the sanctions." The others — Greece, Italy, Japan, South Korea and Taiwan — have already heavily reduced their purchases from Iran.

South Korea's foreign ministry said in a statement it was consulting with the United States and would do its "utmost" until next week's deadline.

Trump last year withdrew the United States from an accord negotiated by his predecessor, Barack Obama, under which Iran drastically reduced its nuclear program in return for promises of sanctions relief.

Pompeo said the United States would keep raising pressure until Iranian leaders come back to the table, although he appeared little concerned with wooing them, saying he was making his demands to "the ayatollah and his cronies."—AFP ■

Japan, Russia to step up talks on economic activity on disputed isles

TOKYO —Japan and Russia agreed Monday to start new working-level talks regarding joint economic activity on four islands at the center of a long-standing territorial dispute, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials said.

The director-level task force will be launched separately from an existing working-level dialogue involving higher levels to step up coordination on the issue ahead of a meeting between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin. The meeting is planned in Japan in June on the fringes of the Group of 20 summit.

The move comes as a major breakthrough on the territorial row appears unlikely during the summit, with Russia having shown no signs of budging on Japan's proposal for the two smallest of the four disputed islands off Hokkaido to be handed over.

Japan hopes the implementation of economic activities on

the Russian-controlled islands will lead to an eventual settlement of the territorial row that has prevented Tokyo and Moscow from signing a postwar peace treaty.

Japanese Senior Deputy Foreign Minister Takeo Mori told reporters Monday that he had "in-depth" discussions with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov on the establishment of a framework to allow people to travel to the islands without undermining their countries' positions.

Mori said the discussions included visa-free travel between Hokkaido and Sakhalin in the Russian Far East, which covers the disputed islands.

The islands, called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia, were seized by the Soviet Union following Japan's surrender in 1945. Tokyo asserts the seizure was illegal while Moscow maintains it was a legitimate outcome of the war.—Kyodo News ■

New air-a: Canny Japanese shops sell tins of Heisei air

TOKYO — With just days until Japan ushers in a new era with the crowning of a new emperor, one entrepreneurial company is cashing in by selling cans containing “the air of the outgoing era” — a breeze at \$10.

The can filled with “the air of Heisei” — the 30-year reign of current Emperor Akihito — hit the shelves on Monday at the ambitious price of 1,080 yen (\$9.60), with producers hoping to sell as many as 1,000 units.

“Air is free of charge but we hope people will enjoy breathing the fresh air of Heisei after the new era comes, or just keep it as a memento,” company president Minoru In-

amoto told AFP.

The cans have been produced in the central Japanese village of Henari, which is written using the same characters as those used for “Heisei”, he said, adding that the cans can be snapped up at a roadside station in the village and online.

They contain nothing but “the air of the current era” and a five-yen coin, often considered a lucky charm.

Firms around Japan are scrambling to produce memorabilia from the outgoing era before the country enters the “Reiwa” era on May 1 when new emperor Naruhito ascends

the Chrysanthemum Throne.

Oval gold coins engraved with Heisei are selling like hot cakes at Tokyo department stores, while confectionery makers are bringing back blockbuster sweets popular during the Heisei era.

Henari is seeing an influx of visitors and merchants there are selling everything from chocolate to polo shirts and alcohol bearing the name.

Businesses targeting the new era are also picking up, launching Reiwa-labelled goods such as stickers, smartphone covers, t-shirts, pins and commemorative bottles of the Japanese tipple sake.—AFP



This handout photograph taken on 22 April 2019 and released by Heso Production Company shows the company's production, a can containing the air of Japan's outgoing Heisei era, in Seki city, Gifu prefecture. With just days until Japan ushers in a new era with the crowning of a new emperor, one entrepreneurial company is cashing in by selling cans containing “the air of the outgoing era” — a breeze at 10 USD. **PHOTO: AFP**

Samsung delays launch of folding Galaxy smartphone

SAN FRANCISCO, (United States) — Samsung on Monday said it is delaying the launch of its folding smartphone after trouble with handsets sent to reviewers.

Some reviewers who got their hands on the Galaxy Fold early reported problems with screens breaking.

Samsung said it decided to put off this week's planned release of the Fold after some reviews “showed us how the device needs further improvements.”

The South Korean consumer electronics giant planned to announce a new release date for the Galaxy Fold in the coming weeks.

Initial analysis of reported problems with Galaxy Fold screens showed they could be “associated with impact on the top and bottom exposed areas of the hinge,” Samsung said.

There was also an instance where unspecified “substances” were found inside a Galaxy Fold smartphone with a troubled display, according to the company.

“We will take measures to strengthen the display protection,” Samsung said.

“We will also enhance the guidance on care and use of the display including the protective layer.”

A handful of US-based reporters were given the flagship Galaxy Fold phones, priced at \$1,980, ahead of the model's official release, and they reported screen issues within days of using the devices.

“The screen on my Galaxy

Fold review unit is completely broken and unusable just two days in,” Bloomberg's Mark Gunman tweeted.

And Dieter Bohn of The Verge said: “Something happened to my Galaxy Fold screen and caused a bulge... It's broken.”

Samsung spent nearly eight years developing the Galaxy Fold, which is part of the leading smartphone maker's strategy to propel growth with groundbreaking gadgets.

The firm had earlier suggested some reviewers encountered screen failures because a protective layer intended to remain in place on the display was accidentally removed by reviewers.

Adding to Samsung woes

Samsung is the world's big-

gest smartphone maker, and earlier this month launched the 5G version of its top-end Galaxy S10 device.

But despite the recent announcements about its new high-end devices, Samsung has warned of a more than 60 percent plunge in first-quarter operating profit in the face of weakening markets.

The firm is also no stranger to device issues.

Its reputation suffered a major blow after a damaging worldwide recall of its Galaxy Note 7 devices over exploding batteries in 2016, which cost the firm billions of dollars and shattered its global brand image.

Samsung originally planned to release the Galaxy Fold as scheduled on April 26.—AFP



In this file photo taken on 20 February 2019, Samsung senior vice president of product marketing Justin Denison speaks on stage about the new foldable phone during the Samsung Unpacked product launch event in San Francisco, California. Samsung on Monday, 22 April 2019 said it is delaying the launch of its folding smartphone after trouble with handsets sent to reviewers. **PHOTO: AFP**

US judge refuses to free WikiLeaks leaker Manning

WASHINGTON — A US judge kept Chelsea Manning locked up Monday for refusing to testify in the secret grand jury investigation of WikiLeaks, despite its founder Julian Assange having already been charged in the case.

A panel of judges rejected Manning's appeal against her March 8 jailing for contempt after she refused to give testimony in the case, on the grounds that she believes the grand jury system is unfair and used to persecute activists.

Manning “failed to properly address the issue of grand jury abuse” and other issues she raised in her appeal, the judges said in a statement.

The court ruling means Manning will remain locked up in a detention center until she agrees to testify or the grand jury investigation ends.

The ruling came 11 days after the federal court in Alexandria, Virginia unsealed charges against Assange related to his publishing in

2010 hundreds of thousands of secret US war and diplomacy documents and communications that were stolen by Manning.

At the time, she was a US Army intelligence official going by the name Bradley Manning, before she underwent gender reassignment treatment and took the name Chelsea.

In 2013, Manning was sentenced to 35 years in prison, but her sentence was commuted in 2017 by president Barack Obama.

In the past two years, the US government has sought to build a case against Assange over his publication of a series of leaks of highly sensitive US intelligence, military and diplomatic materials.

The unsealing of the indictment against him — originally set more than one year ago — had suggested that the secret grand jury had completed its work, but Manning's continued incarceration indicates that it is still working.—AFP ■

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Five dead as buildings collapse in Philippine quake: official

MANILA — Five people were killed when at least two buildings collapsed near Manila after a powerful earthquake set skyscrapers swaying and drove terrified locals into the street.

Three bodies have been pulled out of a four-storey building in the town of Porac, while a woman and her grandchild were crushed to death in the town of Lubao, Lilia Pineda, governor of Pampanga province told ABS-CBN television.

"We believe there are still people trapped in the four-storey building," Pineda said, adding 20 people have so far been rescued and taken to hospital as night fell.

"It's difficult because there is no power, so we're still trying to get hold of a generator to be able to rescue the people inside," she added.

A strong quake with a magnitude of 6.3 struck the region at 5:11 pm (0911 GMT) according to the US Geological Survey.

The quake that rumbled across the northern Philippines

caused skyscrapers to sway, as they are designed to do, in Manila.

It also caused serious damage to the capital's secondary Clark Airport, which is located on the site of the former US military installation that lies about an hour's drive north of the capital.

Damage was still being assessed, but residents posted photos on social media showing cracked walls and light fixtures swinging in the moments after the quake.

Office workers piled out onto the streets as emergency alarms blared, AFP reporters saw.

Feliza Villanueva, 21, a business process outsourcing employee told AFP she and four colleagues were at work when the quake struck.

"This was the second strongest quake I've felt in my entire life," she told AFP as she joined hundreds of others in the courtyard of an office building, waiting for the all clear.

"We were worried but we did not panic," she said.

"We planned how to evacuate the building. There were too many people going down the stairs, so we waited for our turn. People looked in shock, but no one was shouting or anything like that," she said.

The quake was centred on the town of Castillejos, about 100 kilometres (62 miles) northwest of Manila, local geologists said.

Scientists from the US Geological Survey logged its magnitude at 6.3, and said its epicentre was 40 kilometres (25 miles) below the Earth's surface.

Dani Justo, a martial arts instructor, told AFP she was at her Manila home when the quake struck.

"The clothes hanging on our line were really swaying. My shih tzu (dog) dropped flat on the ground," she added.

The Philippines is part of the Pacific "Ring of Fire", an arc of intense seismic activity that stretches from quake-prone Japan through Southeast Asia and across the Pacific basin.—AFP ■



Rescue workers carry victim from a collapsed Chuzon Super Market in Porac, Pampanga, after a powerful earthquake hit northern Philippines on 22 April 2019. At least five people were killed when buildings collapsed near Manila after a powerful earthquake set skyscrapers swaying and drove terrified locals into the street. **PHOTO: AFP**

Britain announces cash boost on Earth Day to help fight illegal wildlife trade

LONDON — The British government marked the Earth Day Monday by announcing 6 million US dollars of fund for 14 schemes to combat illegal wildlife trade.

The money will be spent on schemes to combat poaching and protect species like marine turtles in Nicaragua and the Zoological Society of Lon-

don's work to disrupt the illegal wildlife trade in grey parrots in Cameroon.

New education resources for school children around the world have also been launched on Earth Day. The online packs, in multiple languages, aims to teach the next generation about the dangers of fueling the illegal wildlife trade.

Calling the illegal wildlife trade "an international tragedy," Britain's Environment Minister Therese Coffey warned: "Serious organized criminal networks do more than just damage wildlife. Corruption and illegal activities undermine sustainable development and the rule of law, bringing misery to local communities."—Xinhua ■



Ukrainian comedian and presidential candidate Volodymyr Zelensky reacts after the announcement of the first exit poll results in the second round of Ukraine's presidential election at his campaign headquarters in Kiev on 21 April 2019. **PHOTO: AFP**

Ukraine vaults into unknown after comic elected president

KIEV (Ukraine) — Ukraine took a leap into the unknown Monday as comedian Volodymyr Zelensky was elected president on promises of change but just a vague blueprint of what he might do as leader.

Zelensky, whose only previous political role was playing the president in a TV show, trounced incumbent Petro Poroshenko in Sunday's election in a stinging rebuke to the establishment fuelled by anger over war and social injustice.

Ukrainians looked to the future with hope and anxiety after the performer took 73 per cent of the vote, according to nearly complete official results.

The star of the sitcom "Servant of the People", now in its third season, has vowed to stick to the pro-European course set out by his predecessor.

But he has also said he will try to improve ties with arch-enemy Russia. On the streets of Kiev, many praised honest elections and a peaceful transfer of power after popular uprisings of 2004 and 2014. "People showed that they want change," 28-year-old Karina told AFP.

"We had the most honest polls in the history of Ukraine," she added, praising Poroshenko for conceding defeat soon after exit polls were published.

Zelensky — who at 41 will be Ukraine's youngest ever president — presented a vague manifesto and one of his campaign slogans was, "No promises. No apologies".

He shunned traditional campaign rallies, instead performing comedy gigs, and implied he would use the same unorthodox style to run the country of 45 mil-

lion dependent on international aid. It remained unclear Monday who would fill top positions, including the role of prime minister.

Russia sees 'chance'

US President Donald Trump and French leader Emmanuel Macron called the political novice to congratulate him on his landslide win.

"Allow us to express our appreciation for the strong attachment to democracy and the rule of law that the people of Ukraine have demonstrated," EU Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission head Jean-Claude Juncker said in a joint letter to Zelensky.

Outgoing Poroshenko said he stood ready to help his successor, despite a bitter campaign.

Russia — which Kiev and the West accuse of fuelling a smouldering separatist conflict in Ukraine's industrial east — said it saw an opportunity with the new leader. Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said there was "a chance" to improve ties. "What's needed for this? Honesty. And a pragmatic and responsible approach," Medvedev wrote on Facebook.

There was no immediate comment from President Vladimir Putin. Ties between Ukraine and Russia were shredded after a bloody uprising ousted a Kremlin-backed regime in 2014, prompting Russia to annex Crimea and support insurgents in a conflict that has claimed around 13,000 lives. Zelensky has said that among his top priorities are winning the release of Ukrainians being held by Russia and rebooting Western-brokered peace talks.—AFP ■

Cambodia, Thailand reopen railway link suspended for decades

POIPET (Cambodia) — Cambodia and Thailand on Monday reopened a cross-border rail link, which had been suspended for decades due to civil war in Cambodia that destroyed the country's railway infrastructure.

Speaking at a ceremony at the border, Cambodi-

an Prime Minister Hun Sen called the restoration of the rail link, which was cut off in 1973, both historical and strategic.

"The restoration of the rail link brings a new opportunity for railway services that will help contribute to economic development of the two

countries and also helps contribute to ASEAN integration and development of Greater Mekong Sub-region," Hun Sen said.

At the same ceremony, Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said the train link between Klong Luek station in Thailand and Poipet station in Cam-

bodia will help boost transportation, border trade, tourism, and business and investment opportunities.

Symbolizing the official opening of railway connection, Hun Sen and Prayut made a joint ride together on the four-wagon train from Klong Luek to Poipet.—Kyodo News ■



Cambodia and Thailand reopen a cross-border rail link on 22 April 2019 after suspension for decades due to civil war in Cambodia that destroyed the country's railway infrastructure. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

State of emergency declared in blasts-hit Sri Lanka as death toll surges to 290

COLOMBO—Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena's office said on Monday that a conditional state of emergency would be declared in the island country from midnight Monday following the deadly blasts on Easter Sunday.

A statement released by the President's Media Division (PMD) said the decision was taken to ensure the safety of citizens and the president had also declared April 23 a National Day of Mourning.

The death toll from the multiple explosions which shook Sri Lanka on Sunday has risen to 290, while over 500 have been injured, the police said Monday.

Earlier reports put

the number of casualties at 228, with 450 wounded in the nine attacks that occurred across the country on Sunday.

The Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority said Sunday evening in a statement that 32 foreigners were among those killed.

Sri Lanka's security forces have launched massive search operations to arrest all those involved and the police said so far 24 suspects had been arrested.

Sri Lanka's Health Minister Rajitha Senaratne said a local radical group the National Towheed Jamaat was responsible for the attacks and investigations were ongoing

to find out whether they had foreign links.

"We do not believe these attacks were carried out by a group of people who were confined to this country," Senaratne added.

President Sirisena, quoted by local media, said he would seek the assistance of the international community to conduct investigations into the attacks.

Meanwhile, the police said an islandwide curfew would be re-imposed from 8:00 p.m. Monday to 4:00 a.m. local time Tuesday in order to maintain law and order.

The curfew imposed after the deadly attacks had been lifted on Monday morning.

The police have urged people to remain indoors and prevent gathering in public places.

Police Spokesperson SP Ruwan Gunasekara said 24 suspects had been arrested so far and investigations were ongoing to nab more suspects.

Two of the suspects arrested were nabbed from Dambulla in the Central Province on Monday morning, the spokesperson said.

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said all arrested were local citizens.

President Sirisena, who was abroad when the attacks happened, called a meeting of the National Security Council early on Monday.—Xinhua ■

OBITUARY (Called To Be With Him on 22nd April 2019) Daw Charity Pho Lu (a) Daw Mya Sein (77 years)

Retd Teacher, St. Mary Diocesan, St. John Convent, Retd SAT (TTC- Kamaryut)

Daughter of (Rev U Pho Lu and Rachel Daw Pu); beloved wife of U Peter Htwe Hlaing; beloved mother of U Kyaw Thura Hlaing and Daw Naw Ohnmar Kyaw, (Kyaw Nanda Hlaing), and U Kyaw Thiha Hlaing and Daw Saw Thandar Aye; beloved grandma of Naw Hpoo Yamone Hlaing and Olivia San Yati Hlaing was called to be with Him on 22-4-2019 (Monday) at 7.15 am. The remains will be cremated at Yayway cemetery on 26-4-2019 (Friday) after the funeral service being held at Saint Michael Church, No. 135, Upper Kyimyindaing Road at 2 p.m.

Bereaved family

China, Japan agree to take new action to boost financial cooperation

SHANGHAI — China and Japan agreed Monday to achieve cross-listing of investment funds traded on stock exchanges in each other's countries as soon as possible, in another move to bolster their financial cooperation amid a thaw in bilateral ties.

The agreement would facilitate more Chinese and Japanese investors purchasing exchange-traded funds listed on Tokyo and Shanghai stock exchanges, which could invigorate financial markets in both nations, analysts say.

It will be the first time for Japanese ETFs to be listed in the Chinese mainland. Chinese retail and institutional investors would be allowed to buy and sell yuan-denominated ETFs tracking Japanese equity indexes.

While major Chinese ETFs have been already traded in the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the latest agreement between the two countries would make it easier for Japanese market participants to invest in Chinese financial products.

The new framework, agreed at the first meeting of the "Japan-China Securities Market Forum" held in Shanghai on Monday, will take effect as early as in the coming months, a Japanese government source said.

ETFs, which are

traded like stocks during market hours, are mutual funds whose values fluctuate based on those of share, bond, currency, commodity or other financial product prices.

As costs to buy and sell ETFs are lower than those to trade mutual funds, Japanese and Chinese retail investors have become more interested in boosting their holdings of ETFs in recent years, an economist said.

The securities market forum took place following an agreement on financial cooperation reached when Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held talks in Beijing in October last year.

For more than five years until late 2017, Sino-Japanese relations are said to have been at their worst level in decades over a territorial row in the East China Sea.

But the situation has changed, with 2018 — the 40th anniversary of the signing and entering into force of the bilateral Treaty of Peace and Friendship — serving as an incentive to forge better ties.

Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to make his first visit to Japan since he came to power in 2013 to attend a Group of 20 summit scheduled to be held in Osaka in late June.—Kyodo News ■

Myanmar becomes champions at Hong Kong U-18 Tournament

Myanmar finished the International Youth Invitation Football Tournament 2019 in Hong Kong as champions after finishing with seven points courtesy of a victory over Singapore in the final round of fixtures.

Myanmar U-18 football team defeated Singapore 2-1 yesterday while Viet Nam's U-18 team finished second as they were held to a 1-1 draw by the host nation in the final match.

In the match with Singapore, Wai Yan Soe scored the first goal at 40 minutes and Pyai Phyo Aung the second goal at 62 minutes.

Midfielder Zaw Win Thein won the Man of the Match in the final match.

Vietnam's U18s finished



PHOTO: MFF

the tournament second with five points from three matches.

The group's third place went to host nation Hong Kong (China)

who finished with four points while Singapore were bottom

after suffering three losses. — Ye Yint Shine ■

Golden oldie Pizarro out to spoil Bayern's double dreams

BERLIN — Werder Bremen's Peruvian veteran Claudio Pizarro hopes to ruin Bayern Munich's dreams of a domestic double when he faces his old club in the German Cup semi-final this week.

Pizarro is an icon at both Bayern and Bremen, having scored over 100 goals for each club, and is chasing a record ninth appearance in the German Cup final when the two teams meet in Bremen on Wednesday.

In a Bundesliga career spanning two decades, the 40-year-old made over 300 appearances for Bayern and is in his fourth spell at Bremen.

Bayern recently offered him a job as club ambassador after his playing career, but with a place in the German Cup final at stake on Wednesday, there is no question where Pizarro's loyalties lie this week.

"If I come off the bench, it won't be easy for Bayern," said the ageing striker last week.

"I texted a few of the Bayern guys after the draw. They know it won't be easy, and I think they would have preferred different opponent."

The game is the second of two back-to-back clashes between the teams. Bremen showed how tough an opponent they can be in a hard-fought Bundesliga game in Munich on Saturday.

Ten-man Werder were eventually sunk by a late Niklas Suele goal, but Pizarro said that the cup tie in Bremen would be "a completely different story".

"We will pick ourselves up. When it is 11 against 11 in our own stadium, we will show that we are able to score goals," he said on Saturday.

Bremen will also be hoping to count on Pizarro's German Cup pedigree on Wednesday.

The Peruvian has appeared in eight German Cup finals, more than any other player in history. He has won the competition five times with Bayern and once with Bremen in 2009.

He also lost two finals with Bremen, both against Bayern, in 2000 and 2010. Pizarro admitted that he is itching to experience one more final at Berlin's Olympiastadion. "I try to tell the players who have never played in a Berlin final how amazing it is," he said last week. —AFP ■

PSG celebrate eighth Ligue one title with Mbappe's hat-trick

PARIS — Kylian Mbappe registered a hat-trick to help Paris Saint-Germain overcome Monaco 3-1 at home and secure their title in Ligue 1 on Sunday.

PSG sit 19 points clear of second-placed Lille with five rounds remaining as the gap was enough to ensure their sixth title in seven seasons and eighth overall. Mbappe's treble improved his league goal tally to 30, before Alexandr Golovin got one back for the visiting side.

After failing to claim the title on three previous occasions, the runaway leaders effectively achieved it as their closest rival Lille were held to a goalless draw at Toulouse earlier in the day.

Both sides wore special jerseys in homage to Notre Dame Cathedral which was badly damaged in a blaze earlier this week, and all PSG players sported "Notre-Dame" above their numbers.

Despite early sluggishness, PSG managed to move ahead in the 15th minute. Mbappe beat Diego Benaglio through counter-attack, just three minutes after Monaco starting goalkeeper Danijel

Subasic made way for Benaglio to injury.

Mbappe's second goal arrived in the 38th minute, as he latched onto Dani Alves' pass for a comfortable finish.

After being sidelined for almost three months, Brazilian star Neymar returned from his foot injury at the start of the second half. Mbappe cut inside before firing a shot bouncing off the post. Then Moussa Diaby had a goal dis-

allowed for offside.

20-year-old Mbappe completed his hat-trick with a tap-in on Alves' right-flank cross in the 55th minute, thus becoming the first French player to net 30 times in a single Ligue 1 season since Jean-Pierre Papin in 1989-1990. Edinson Cavani was also introduced in with 17 minutes from time.

He saw a header ruled offside late in the match. — Xinhua ■



Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe (R) shoots during the Ligue 1 match between Paris Saint Germain and AS Monaco, in Paris, France, on 21 April 2019. PSG beat AS Monaco 3-1. PHOTO: XINHUA