

NATIONAL

Gov't plans to establish movie studio, film school, entertainment centre in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-3

BUSINESS

Yangon Fishery Department to adopt Japanese technology to hatch rohu

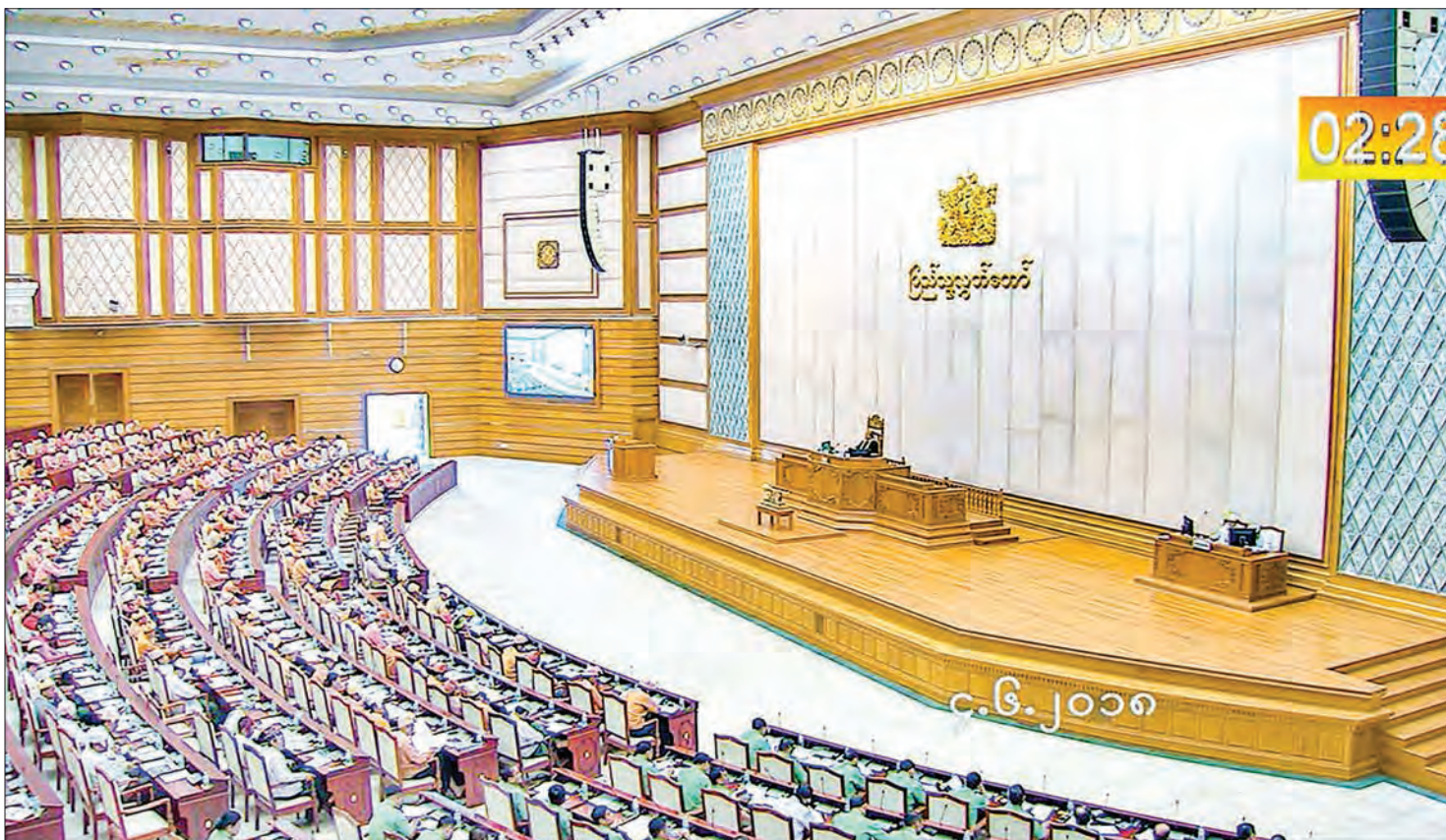
PAGE-5

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Tuesday, 5 June 2018



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw puts mobile payment motion on record

THE Pyithu Hluttaw put a motion on record urging the union government to use a mobile payment system for the transaction of cash among government departments, following a debate between lawmakers and the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday.

"Mobile banking is being used for small transactions, and the nature of mobile banking is not convenient to make large transactions," said U Soe Thein, Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar. "Much preparation must be made for transactions between government departments."

The motion was tabled by U Sai Oo Kham of Hsenwi constituency urging the union government to use the mobile payment system for the minis-

terial departments, the public, business enterprises and other relevant sectors.

The motion was discussed by lawmakers U Tun Wai of Phaungpyin constituency, Daw Zin Mar Aung of Yankin constituency, U Aung Thiike of Seikpyu constituency, U Bo Bo Oo of Sanchaung constituency and U Ohn Khin of Palaw constituency.

Lawmaker U Tun Wai of Phaungpyin Constituency said in his discussion that the mobile payment system is a basic necessity for a country, which is implementing an e-government system.

The mobile payment system can prevent waste of time and manpower in financial services, can help avoid crimes caused by using paper money and can help people in the rural areas, said U

"As the Central Bank of Myanmar can develop the mobile services by giving permission and adopting rules and regulations, the motion should be kept at a level of putting it on record only"

Deputy Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar
U Soe Thein

Tun Wai.

The Central Bank of Myanmar's Deputy Governor U Soe Thein said it is found that the

motion suggested to carry out payments between departments by the mobile system and to encourage the mobile payment by public, business enterprises and others, as it will be widely used by the public and business enterprises. The Central Bank of Myanmar has permitted two types of mobile payments. Banks were permitted to use mobile banking after announcing the mobile banking rules and regulations on 3 December 2013.

It can be said that as a system led by banks, anyone who wants to use the mobile payment system needs to have an account in a bank. On 30 March 2016, an announcement was made permitting individuals and entities to provide Mobile Financial Service (MFS).

SEE PAGE-6

Aid delivered to IDPs in Kachin State

THE MINISTRY of Border Affairs provided aid to 150 villagers yesterday who had fled their homes in the Awng Lawt area in Tanai Township, Kachin State due to armed conflicts.

At the ceremony held at the village of Lawah in Phakant Township, local authorities handed over 54 bags of rice, cooking oil, beans and salt, enough provisions for at least one month, to the displaced people.

Over 2,600 displaced people have been provided with aid, which includes food, blankets and mosquito nets by the Ministry of Border Affairs.

To provide the aid to the villagers, members of the ministry joined hands with the Tatmadaw and went to villagers in Phakant, Myitkyina townships, Mogaung, Namati, Tanai and Waingmaw townships and also provided medicine and nutrition for the children.

"Armed conflict between the Tatmadaw and the Kachin Independence Organisation (KIO) began in April, prompting residents near the conflict areas to flee their homes," said Dr. Khat Aung at the meeting the media delegation yesterday in Myitkyina. "Our government, the Red Cross and social and religious organisations have helped them as much as possible." To evacuate and assist the residents in the conflict areas, the Kachin State Government formed four working committees and sent them to four different areas to observe the situation.

There are about 100 IDP camps in the government areas and non-government areas, according to the Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw's 8th regular session holds 11th-day meeting

By Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE 11th-day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning, where asterisk-marked questions were posed and answered, a motion discussed and a bill approved.

Asterisk-marked questions

Asterisk-marked questions posed at the meeting were explained and answered by Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo.

First, U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmai constituency posed a question on what had been done for vehicles to ensure they use proper signal lights when using roads. Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo replied that the period from 16 June 2017 to 31 August 2017 was designated as the educa-

tional period when information and guidelines on the proper usage of vehicle signal lights would be conducted with the aim to start using them by 1 September 2017. Starting from 9 June 2017, through the Ministry of Information, notices and guidelines were published in state-owned and private media about this.

However, there are still some vehicles that use improper signals on roads and the Inspection and Enforcement Sub-committee of the National Road Safety Council, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw, States and Regions Road Safety Councils, Myanmar Police Force, Road Transport Administration Department and associations related to roads are providing education and information about the rules, while action according to the law, is being taken against those who are not using proper signals on roads, said the deputy minister.

Next, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing replied to a question



Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing. PHOTO: MNA

raised by U Myat Lay Oo of Htilin constituency on a plan to provide electricity to Akyiban, Aleban and Anyaban villages in Htilin Township.

The union minister said that to provide electricity to the Akyiban and Aleban villages in Htilin Township, Gangaw District, Magway Region, three 11/0.4-KV, 200 KVA transformers and 7 miles of 11-KV power line from 66/11 KV, 5 MVA Htilin sub-station is required. To provide electricity to Anyaban village via Aleban village, 5 miles



Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. PHOTO: MNA

of 11-KV power line and one 11/0.4-KV, 200 KVA transformer is required.

Depending upon the availability of the region government fund, the three 11/0.4-KV, 200 KVA transformers and 7 miles of 11-KV power line for Akyiban and Aleban villages will be constructed in the 2018-2019 (2018 October to 2019 September) fiscal year and 5 miles of 11-KV power line and one 11/0.4-KV, 200 KVA transformer for Anyaban village will be constructed in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, re-

plied the union minister.

Questions posed by U Ba Shein of Kyaukpyu constituency, U Win Win of Minbu constituency, U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency and U Nay Htat Win of Sinbaungwe constituency were also answered by Union Minister U Win Khaing and Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo.

Hluttaw approves, confirms Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council Bill

Following this, a bill committee member explained the Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council Bill, submitted by U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency, so the Hluttaw can approve and confirm the amended bill.

Later, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat took the decision of the Hluttaw on the amended sections and sub-sections of the entire bill and announced the Hluttaw's agreement and approval.

The 12th-day meeting of the second Pyithu Hluttaw's eighth regular session is scheduled for 6 June. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw to discuss rules of Condominium Law

By Aung Ye Thwin

Amyotha Hluttaw will discuss the rules of the Condominium Law, approved with amendment by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than yesterday requested the Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the matter to enrol their names.

During the 11th-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session held at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered and the Condominium Rule, approved with amendment by the Pyithu Hluttaw, was received.

Asterisk-marked questions

Replying to a question by U Shar Aww of Chin State constituency (2) on a plan to upgrade Surkhua-Dumva-Fahua inter-village connecting road



Amyotha Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

in Haka Township, Chin State, Union Minister for Construction U Han Zaw said the subject road was 18 miles from Surkhua to the road junction, some 6 miles from the road junction to Dumva and some 4 miles from the road junction to Fahua, making up a total length of 28 miles. According to land demarcation, the road is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

As per the request of Chin State government to upgrade

the road, the Ministry of Construction had drawn up work plans for the Chin State government to include in the state fund to upgrade the road into a 24-foot-wide earth road for 14 miles in the 2021-2022 fiscal year, and the remaining 14 miles in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. The Chin State government will coordinate to upgrade the road if the state government can allocate the funds earlier than the stated time frame, said the

union minister.

Next, U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State constituency (11) asked if there was any plan (to relocate or remove) for some 40 shops that are illegally constructed on Sein Pan Road near the township Department of Development Affairs office and the main road in Gangaw Ward, Kyaikto Town, and a plan for a marketplace in Kyaikto Town.

Nay Pyi Taw Council mem-

ber U Aung Myin Tun replied that the old Myoma market in Kyaikto Town will be upgraded and reconstructed in the 2018-2019 fiscal year and a budget of Ks500 million had been allocated for it.

A shed for the shops on Gangaw Ward, Sein Pan Road, is included in this market, and once the construction and upgrade of the market is completed, the shops on these road will be removed and allocated into the new market, said U Aung Myin Tun.

Questions raised by U Sai San Aung of Shan State Constituency (12), Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11), U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State constituency (1) and U Hla Oo of Sagaing Region constituency (4) were also answered by the union minister and the Nay Pyi Taw Council member.

The 12th-day meeting of the second Amyotha Hluttaw's eighth regular session meeting is scheduled for 6 June. ■

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)

Collective strength is vital to build peace and stability which we need. We need to have mutual understanding and mutual respect as the basic foundation to bring to an end the armed conflicts which have existed for many years among the ethnic nationalities. We can make this foundation strong with our collective strength.

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

Gov't plans to establish movie studio, film school, entertainment centre in Nay Pyi Taw

A COORDINATION meeting was held at the Ministry of Information yesterday on establishing a park for a movie studio and film schools, and a cinema-based entertainment city in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said arrangements are being made to establish a modern movie park in Nay Pyi Taw with the aim of developing the Myanmar motion picture sector, to promote the country's image in film making and to develop Nay Pyi Taw. The move is aimed at presenting the traditions and culture of Myanmar in a more interesting way through the art of motion pictures, enabling the people of Myanmar to know more about their country and to take pride in their nation and



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivers the speech at the coordination meeting for movie studio, entertainment city in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

their people.

"Dubbed in English, these movies will allow the world to learn about Myanmar and at the same time, the Myanmar motion

picture sector, the image of the country and the national brand will develop", said Dr. Pe Myint.

The Union Minister also urged the participants of the

meeting to openly discuss what role the government is to play in implementing the task.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun suggest-

ed that the work should ensure transparency, as movies are one of the media platforms that promote culture and entertainment and support the livelihood of the artistes.

Myanmar Investment Commission Secretary U Aung Naing Oo, Nay Pyi Taw development committee member U Min Thu, Union Attorney General Office Deputy Director Daw Kathy Aye, Department of Building director (architect) Daw L Nan Ein, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism director U Khin Maung Soe and Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary then discussed and explained their respective sectors.

The meeting came to a close with concluding remarks by Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint. — Myanmar News Agency ■

New GrabThoneBane service introduced in Mandalay region

The New GrabThoneBane service was introduced in the Mandalay region. This service will offer a more reliable and safe mode of transport for commuters in Myanmar.

The GrabThoneBane services were started on 14 May 2018 for a trial period. Recently, Grab is working with a group of GrabThoneBane drivers. Grab will improve its services, based on driver and passenger feedback during the trial period.

The Grab company has implemented the GrabThoneBane services with the aim of serving daily commuters by providing them a convenient mode of transport.

Moreover, the current three-wheel vehicle drivers in Manda-

lay can register to partner with Grab to get more passengers and improve their livelihoods, said Alvin Loh, acting country head, Grab Myanmar.

Three-wheel vehicle drivers who are interested in joining Grab can register at Hotel Marvel, which is located at 30 Street, between 78 & 79 Street, Chan Aye Tharzan Township, Mandalay.

But the taxi drivers must have their own licenced vehicle, which meets the government's transport standards. They must also show NRC, owner book, bank details, household registration and police recommendation.

Passengers can download the application for free from the Google Play and Apple App stores.—GNLM ■

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment

The Union Supreme Court sat at Union Supreme Court room number 1, along with Chief Jus-

tice of Union Supreme Court U Htun Htun Oo and all Union Supreme Court judges, to hear

five special criminal appeal cases yesterday morning. — Myanmar News Agency ■

CCPPC 13th Economic Sub-committee Chairman arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

ON the invitation of Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Financial Development Committee Chairman U Khin Aye, the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CCPPC) 13th Economic Sub-committee Chairman Mr. Shang Fulin and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw by air yesterday afternoon.

The visiting party was wel-



Chairman Mr. Shang Fulin (Left) is welcomed by Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Financial Development Committee Chairman U Khin Aye (Right) in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

comed at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Pyithu Hluttaw Economic and Financial Development Committee Chairman

U Khin Aye, secretary U Khin Maung Soe and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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MOEE invites open tender for sale of urea fertilisers

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy invited an open tender for the sale of urea fertilisers yesterday.

The urea is produced by fertiliser plants operating under the Myanmar Petrochem-

ical Enterprise (MPE): 5,000 tonnes from No. 4 Fertiliser Plant (Myaungdagar) and 5,000 tonnes from No. 5 Fertiliser Plant (Kangyidaunt).

The tender submission deadline is 12 p.m. on 29

June 2018, and the tender opening date is 2 p.m. on 29 June 2018.

The tender form and regulations can be viewed on the official website www.moee.gov.mm.

Interested parties can obtain further information by calling 067-3411082/3411093, during the office hours of the Production Department, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise.—GNLM ■

Bean merchants selling old stocks in Yangon market

AFTER India lifted the ban on pulses importation, local pulses and bean merchants are selling their old stocks in Yangon market. A total of 200,000 tonnes of pulses were traded in the past two weeks, said bean merchants.

The news of imminent purchase by India has stimulated the market. The pulses market has recovered from a steep drop in price. Between 200 and 300 tonnes of pigeon peas are sold every day, said U Ye Myint Win, depot owner in Bayintnaung market.

The Indian government called for its pulses importers to submit the proposal regard-

ing the import volume of mung beans, pigeon peas and green grams not later than 25 May.

In early May, India's government released official news that allows for the import quota of 150,000 tonnes of mung bean and green gram each and 200,000 tonnes of pigeon peas. Indian merchants will import the pulses soon, prompting the other buyer countries to increase their demand.

During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, over 1.2 million tonnes of various pulses were exported to 64 countries, including India, according to a recent report in Myanmar Alinn. —Myat Thu (AMIA)■



Beans. Photo: Supplied

Muse trade up by \$113 million in past two months

TRADE through the Muse border gate, which sees the largest border trade among Myanmar's border gates, reached US\$764 million from 1 April to 25 May during the transition period (from April to September) for the next 2018-2019 fiscal year, according to statistics of the commerce ministry.

Exports via Muse surpassed imports, with the estimated export value being \$500.8 million and the import value being \$263.4 million.

The Sino-Myanmar border trade value through Muse, Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Kanpikete and Kengtung gates amounted to \$907.7 million, increasing from \$121 million in the same period in the last 2017-2018 FY.

Of the five checkpoints between Myanmar and China, only Kengtung showed a small decrease in trade against last FY.

The trade values were \$36.5 million at Lwejel and \$48 million at Chinshwehaw, \$58 at Kanpikete and \$0.39 million at Kengtung. Myanmar's exports to China surpassed imports. Rice, various types of peas, sesame seeds, corn, vegetables and fruits, dried tea leaves, fishery products, rubber, minerals and animal products are exported to China, whereas machinery, plastic raw materials, consumer goods, and electronic tools flow into Myanmar. —Mon Mon ■

Myanmar traders plans to export rice to Indonesia

MYANMAR traders plans to sell rice to Indonesia after that country recently announced an auction to import an additional 500,000 tonnes.

Indonesia is planning to import 500,000 tonnes of rice from Asian countries, including Myanmar, this year, which will help Myanmar reach its rice export target, according to local rice traders.

Indonesia's State Logistics Agency is in charge of the rice imports. The rice will be imported from several countries such as Viet Nam, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, India and Pakistan. The local rice traders said that the agency wanted to control the high price in the local rice market.

"We are trying to export rice to surpass last year's export target. We will also sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with China to export 100,000 tonnes of rice.

Currently, rice is being bought though there is no government-to-government (G2G) contract. G2G contract means the government will lead the export process. However, the sale is being conducted by local traders (business-to-business)," said U Thaung Win, vice chairman of Myanmar Rice

Federation.

Indonesia suspended Myanmar's rice exports last year. Indonesia will import 500,000 tonnes of rice not later than the end of July. Myanmar has high potential to export more rice, according to the data on rice consumption, production and the rice reserves.

Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka and the Philippines offered to purchase rice from Myanmar, said U Toe Aung Myint, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce.

"Recently, we have already signed an MoU with Bangladesh to export rice. Other countries have also offered to purchase rice from Myanmar," he added.

The retail price of rice in Indonesia is 9,400 rupiah per kilo. Therefore, Indonesia is planning to import from other countries, according to local rice traders. In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, Myanmar extended its export markets and exported nearly 3.6 million tonnes of rice via the sea route and border trade camps. Myanmar is expecting to export 4 million tonnes of rice this fiscal year, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA)■



Workers harvest freshwater fish at a farm in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Yangon Fishery Department to adopt Japanese technology to hatch rohu

THE Yangon Region Fishery Department will conduct rohu hatching with the help of Japanese technology, according to a recent report in Myanma Alinn.

The species of short-headed catfish will be added into the Twantay hatchery, in cooperation with Japanese livestock experts.

We have carried out tis-

sue experiments on dead fish and live fish, with the aim to preserve Myanmar-origin fish for a long term," U Tun Win Myint, head of Yangon Region Fishery Department, told Myanma Alinn.

The fish species will be added into rivers, creeks and fish farming lakes.

The fish larvae produced in the hatcheries will be dis-

tributed to commercial and manageable-scale businessmen.

The rohu variety must be preserved, as it has already earned a share in the foreign market, said U Aung Kyaw Kyaw, a fish breeder.

There are 25 state-owned hatcheries from which fish larvae are distributed. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Border trade value rises by US\$ 196 million in this fiscal year

BETWEEN 1 April and 25 May in this fiscal year, the value of border trade reached US\$ 1.165 billion, recording an increase of \$196 million compared to the same period in the last FY, according to figures recently released by the Commerce Ministry.

The total value of border trade, as of 25 May this fiscal year, included \$727 million in exports and \$438 million in imports. Compared with the last FY, export earnings went up by over \$163 million, while the value of imports increased by \$32 million. This time last year, border trade was valued at \$969 million.

Myanmar conducts border trade with China through the Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung border points. The country has carried out border trade with Thailand through the Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese border gates. The cross-border trade camps between Myanmar and Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtaung, whereas the country trades directly with India via the Tamu and Reed border gates.

Among all gates, the Muse border gate sees the largest volume and greatest

value of total border trade, with an estimated value of over \$764 million this FY, followed by Myawady with \$132 million and Kanpikete with \$58 million.

The value of border trade at the Lwejel, Chinshwehaw, Hteekhee, Maese and Reed stations decreased this FY.

Myanmar mainly exports agricultural products, animal products, as well as forest products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products, while capital goods, raw industrial materials and consumer products are imported into the country. — GNLM ■

Myanmar-Denmark trade increases by US \$127 million in FY2017-18

THE bilateral trade between Myanmar and Denmark topped US\$127 million this fiscal year, including \$95 million in exports, which was greater than the value of imports, according to the monthly report of the Ministry of Commerce.

At the end of the 2017-18 FY, Myanmar exported a wide range of domestically produced products to Denmark, totaling \$95.07 million, including \$31.958 million in imports, which showed a significant increase in value by \$71.79 million.

Myanmar exports rice, vegetables, certain roots and tubers, clothing accessories, tex-

tile products, charcoal, pearls, wood and miscellaneous items to the European market. Its imports from the European member states include machinery, mechanical appliances, plastic products, pharmaceutical products, glassware, paper and paperboard.

According to the ministry's data, the Myanmar-Denmark trade amounted to \$58.657 million in the 2016-17 FY, \$32.416 million in the 2015-16 FY, \$15.259 million in the 2014-15 FY, \$27.15 million in the 2013-14 FY, \$4.106 million in the 2012-13 FY and \$2.869 million in the 2011-12 FY.—Swe Nyein ■

Myanmar's exports to Bangladesh exceed US\$140 million last FY

MYANMAR'S exports to Bangladesh surpassed its imports during the last 2017-2018 fiscal year. The exports were worth \$141.9 million, while the imports were valued at \$21 million.

Myanmar is conducting border trade with the neighbouring country Bangladesh through the Maungtaung and Sittway border gates.

The main export items at the gates are rice, ginger, peanuts, mung beans, dried

plums, garlic, saltwater prawns, hilsa, bamboo, blankets, candy, plum jam, footwear, ointment and other products.

The bilateral trade value with Bangladesh was worth \$43.95 million in the 2016-2017 FY, \$33.38 million in the 2015-2016 FY, \$39.23 million in the 2014-2015 FY, \$75 million in the 2013-2014 FY, \$43.2 million in the 2012-2013 FY and \$84.8 million in the 2011-2012 FY. — Ko Khant ■

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UEC, DIPD sign MoU to support multi-party system, democracy in Myanmar

A CEREMONY to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Election Commission (UEC) and Danish Institute for Parties and Democracy (DIPD) was held yesterday afternoon in UEC Office, Nay Pyi Taw.

It was attended by UEC Chairman U Hla Thein, members U Soe Rae, U Tun Khin, U Hla Tint, U Myint Naing, U Than Htay and officials from the office of the commission.

At the event, UEC Chairman said the UEC is carrying out its tasks to meet with international standard through cooperation with international organisations.

The commission had cooperated with DIPD in the past

, said U Hla Thein, saying that DIPD conducted training courses for Hluttaw representative candidates and arranged a trip to Denmark to study municipal election.

Next DIPD Chairperson of Board of Director Mr. Henrik Bach Mortensen said DIPD is jointly supported and assisted by Danish political parties.

It will support the cooperative capacity of political parties in Myanmar's march toward a democracy system and more participation of women. Afterwards, UEC Office Director General U Khin Maung Oo and DIPD Director Mr. Rasmus Helveg Petersen signed and exchanged the MoU it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein holds talks with DIPD Chairperson of Board of Director Mr. Henrik Bach Mortensen in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Central Committee for Anti Money Laundering meeting 1/2018 held in Nay Pyi Taw



Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe delivers the speech at the central committee for anti-money laundering meeting. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE for Anti Money Laundering held its Meeting No. 1/2018 yesterday at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw where the Committee Chairman Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe delivered an opening address.

Next, the joint secretary of the committee, acting chief of Anti-Financial Crime Division Police Brig-Gen Kyaw Win Thein explained about

national-level danger assessment report and Anti-Money Laundering Law jointly drawn up by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission and the law amendment committee after which meeting attendees provided additional discussions.

The meeting was attended by 15 committee members and five special invitees totaling twenty it is learnt. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw puts mobile ...

FROM PAGE-1

MFS is provided by entities other than banks, and telecom companies are the first non-bank entities to provide this service.

There are nine banks providing mobile banking, and MFS is provided by Telenor and Ooredoo. MPT and Mytel had applied to provide MFS, and OK Dollar private business is

also permitted to provide MFS.

"One of the difficulties of mobile banking is the requirement for the person making a transaction to have a bank account," said U Soe Thein.

Bank branches are not present at all places and are yet to reach all rural areas, even though branches are present in most of the urban areas, he added.

"As the Central Bank of Myanmar can develop the mobile services by giving permission and adopting rules and regulations, the motion should be kept at a level of putting it on record only," said U Soe Thein.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat announced to put the motion on record after seeking approval from the Hluttaw.—GNLM ■

Local people show interest in ancient Myanmar products

THE local people are showing much interest in traditional Myanmar products because of the emergence of an online market system, said U Tun Min, an online seller of Myanmar products in Mandalay.

"The online market system emerged last year. Previously, people opened shops near famous pagodas and sold the Myanmar products there. However, most of the Myanmar products were bought only by the foreign visitors. Local people did not even bother enquiring the price.

Now, we have posted the products on our website, together with the price, and found that local people are more interested in them than foreign visitors.

This is good for small shops. The big shops already have regular customers," he added.

"With the increase in the interest among the local people, people are producing more traditional Myanmar products in creative designs. Lacquerware, pots and cups, which are made of thin strips

from Inwa resin, are popular among the traditional Myanmar products. These products were sold through our website," he added.

The shops near pagodas sell to local pilgrims only during the tour season. However, with the online market system, they can sell traditional Myanmar products every season. The prices of traditional Myanmar products, which are sold online, are between Ks3,500 and Ks2 million.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing house) ■

Cambodian PM announces multi-mln USD pro-poor pregnant women scheme

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen on Monday announced a multimillion-US-dollars scheme to support destitute pregnant women, starting from mid-next year.

Speaking at the 11th National Veteran's Day, he said a poor mother will receive 40 US dollars during a prenatal care, 50 dollars during a birth delivery and 100 dollars during a post-natal care.

"The scheme will cost 4.95 million dollars in the first year, 7.75 million dollars in the second year, and up to 10 million dollars in the third year," Hun Sen said. "This subsidy will start to be implemented from mid-2019."

The poverty-stricken families are identified by cards that local authorities issued to them, the prime minister said, adding that it was estimated that the kingdom had some 55,000 poor pregnant women a year.

"This reflects our high attention to the pregnant women, aiming at reducing the mortality rate of mothers and children," Hun Sen said. "This is a new policy on social sector that is carried out by the Cambodian People's Party-led government."

Late last year, the prime minister also announced to provide bonuses to garment factory workers, civil servants, and armed forces when they

delivered their babies, starting from January, 2018.

For garment factory workers, he said mothers giving birth to one child will receive 100 dollars, while mothers of twins will receive 200 dollars and triplet mothers will get 300 dollars.

And for civil servants and armed forces, they will receive 200 dollars for giving birth to a child, 400 dollars for twins, and 600 dollars for triplets. —Xinhua ■

Indonesia set to bring poverty rate under 10 pct this year

JAKARTA — Indonesia has set target to reduce poverty rate to below 10 per cent this year, lower than 10.12 per cent recorded in September last year as efforts to address poverty issue were underway, a minister said here on Monday.

Speaking in a hearing session with lawmakers in the parliament, Development Planning Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro said that as of September last year some 26.58 million people were still living under poverty line, of which 9.78 million were in very poor condition.

Apart from that, the minister added that 69 million others were living in a situation prone to slipping into poverty.

"We are now prioritizing efforts to save those 9.78 million ones in dire poverty as well as taking precautions to prevent those 69 million ones from slipped into poverty line," the minister said. Through coordinated efforts with related ministries and agencies, the nation's poverty rate is expected to decrease between 8.5 per cent and 9 per cent next year, he added. Among the efforts to reduce poverty rate, the government would strictly control prices of staple food consumed by poor people in the identified areas.

"The efforts to strictly control the prices of meat, sugar and eggs would be focused in rural areas which have higher risk from plunged deeper in poverty," the minister said. —Xinhua ■

Two US Ospreys make emergency landings on southwestern Japan island

KAGOSHIMA (Japan) — Two US Air Force Osprey aircraft made emergency landings at an airport on a southwestern Japan island Monday afternoon after one of the crews was alerted to a possible problem by a warning system, the US military said.

The two aircraft landed at Amami Airport in Kagoshima Prefecture, causing no injuries, and are believed to be among five CV-22 Ospreys that arrived at Yokota Air Base in suburban Tokyo in April ahead of their

formal deployment there this summer.

All five Ospreys left Yokota on Monday morning, according to Japanese Defence Ministry sources and the Kagoshima prefectural government.

The two Ospreys made the emergency landings at the airport on Amami-Oshima Island at around 3 pm and one departed around 5:40 pm after no problems were detected.

It joined the other three at Kadena base in Okinawa Pre-

fecture.

According to the public affairs office of the US forces in Japan, the two CV-22s are assigned to the Kadena-based 353rd Special Operations Group.

"The pilots followed standard procedure and landed the aircraft safely at the nearest facility," the office said.

Civilian aircraft were not affected by the unscheduled landings, according to the Japanese Defence Ministry.

The latest incident is likely

to add to safety concerns in Japan over the Osprey.

The aircraft, which take off and land like a helicopter but cruise like a plane, have a record of accidents and mishaps inside and outside the country.

While a US Marine Corps variant of the Osprey, known as MV-22, is already stationed in Okinawa, the deployment of the CV-22 at the Yokota air base will be the first time the aircraft is assigned to a base on mainland Japan. —Kyodo News ■



Photo shows two CV-22 transport aircraft of the US Air Force at Amami airport in Kagoshima, southwestern Japan, on 4 June, 2018 after they made an emergency landing at the airport. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Iran's top leader orders start of uranium enrichment up to 190,000 SWU

TEHRAN—Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Monday ordered the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran to start enrichment of uranium up to a level of 190,000 SWU without any delay. "It seems ... that some European governments expect the Iranian nation to both put up with sanctions and give up its nuclear activities," said Khamenei.

"I tell those (European) governments that this bad dream will never come true," he said. —Xinhua ■

Keep a close watch on weather updates and warnings in rainy season

THE pre-monsoon rain by 3 June saw some floods and destruction on the roads. The monsoon has not even started, but a number of flash floods were seen in several areas due to the torrential rainfall.

In 2015, heavy rains caused floods and landslides in several parts of Myanmar after June, which is the beginning of the rainy season. On 30 July, Cyclone Komen made a landfall in Bangladesh, bringing strong winds and additional heavy rain showers to the country, which resulted in widespread flooding across 12 of the country's 14 states and regions (Ayeyarwady, Bago, Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Magway, Mandalay, Mon, Rakhine, Sagaing, Shan, Yangon).

This is a reminder to all as well that the rainy season is approaching, and we should be expecting more rain, heavy rainfall, lightning strikes, flash floods, as well as landslides, which are not new to our country.

sequences of climate change and the destructive powers of natural disasters can cause physical and mental damage.

The recent floods in central Myanmar underscore that the local people and authorities must be alert to disasters during the rainy season.

This is a reminder to all as well that the rainy season is approaching, and we should be expecting more rain, heavy rainfall, lightning strikes, flash floods, as well as landslides, which are not new to our country.

Let us make sure that these inconveniences do not become disasters. Preparedness remains the best weapon against the worsening climate conditions.

Those living in flood-prone areas must be quick to vacate their homes when the need arises and should by now be well acquainted with the flood drill. It's the season. Keep a close watch on weather updates and warnings during the rainy season. It pays to be prepared all the time. ■

By Dr. Win Win Mar

WORLD Environment Day (WED) is a global event and occurs on 5th June every year, encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the protection of our environment. WED has been raising awareness, supporting action, and driving change in environmental challenges. The Day was rooted from the United Nations Stockholm Conference on human environment which was held from 5-16 June in 1972. The United Nations General Assembly designated June 5, the opening day of this conference as World Environment Day. The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) was also established. Two years later after WED had been established, the first World Environmental Day was hosted by Spokane, United States in 1974 under the theme "Only One Earth". Initially, it has been a flagship campaign to raise awareness on emerging environmental issues from marine pollution, global warming, and human overpopulation to wildlife crime. Nowadays, WED has become a global platform where NGOs, communities, governments, major corporations, and celebrities from over 197 countries annually participate in it. Myanmar has been celebrating the World Environment Day since 1994.

World Environment Day (WED) is hosted every year by a different city with a different theme. "Connecting People to Nature" was the theme for 2017 WED which was held in Ottawa, Canada. On 19 February 2018, the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced that the theme for the 2018 World Environment Day will be "Beat Plastic Pollution". The global host of 2018 World Environment Day (WED) is India. The country also hosted the 2011 WED as its first time global event. The 2018 WED worldwide event will be celebrated in New Delhi, India with the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution". The theme aims at the world to come together to combat single-use plastic pollution. It urges governments, industry, communities and individuals to explore sustainable alternatives and to ur-

gently reduce the production and excessive use of single-use plastic polluting oceans, damaging marine life and threatening health. These actions will particularly support progress not only on the Sustainable Development Goal target SDG 14.1 and also SDG 12.4. SDG14.1 aims to prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, including marine debris and nutrient pollution through land-based activities. SDG12.4 targets focused on reducing waste generation and encouraging sustainable practices.

The world plastic production is increasing and 10% of all of the waste we generate is coming from plastic. One third of all plastic waste ends up in soils or freshwater. 50% of the plastic is single-use or disposable in which plastic water bottles and plastic bag are quite common. Worldwide annual use of plastic bags is 500 billion and at least 8 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans which is equivalent of a full garbage truck every minutes. It is also destroying our beaches and oceans. Weathering degradation of plastics on the beaches results in their surface embrittlement and microcracking, yielding microplastics (size of smaller than 5 mm in diameter) and these break down further into nanoparticles (less than 0.1 µm in diameter size). These very fine particles are dispersed into water by wind or wave action. Since the mass production of plastics began in the 1940s, microplastic contamination of the marine environment has been a growing problem. Unlike inorganic fines present in sea water, micro- and nano- plastics particularly absorb and concentrate persistent organic pollutants (POPs) by partition. The POPs-laden particles are potentially ingestible by marine organisms. It is important to better understand the impact of microplastics in the ocean food chain.

Very little of the plastic we discard every day is recycled or incinerated in waste-to-energy facilities. Much of it ends up in landfills, where it may take up to 1,000 years to decompose, leaching potentially toxic substances into the soil and water. The impact of terrestrial microplastic pollution in soils, sediments and



Plastic clogs up a waterway in Yangon, Myanmar.

freshwater could have a long-term negative effect on such ecosystems. Sewage sludge disposal to the fields as fertilizers affects the health and functions of soil. Chlorinated plastic can release harmful chemicals into the surrounding soil, which can then seep into ground water or surrounding water sources, and also the ecosystem. Consequently, this can cause a range of potentially toxic effects on the species that drink water. According to the research, the terrestrial microplastic pollution is about four to 23 times higher than marine microplastic pollution, depending on the environment.



Rivers may be a major source of ocean plastic pollution (Credit: Alamy)

According to UNEP, the UK, Israel, India and some other countries have taken initiatives to reduce plastic pollution. The UK launched its action with 5 steps to tackle plastic pollution. The UK's recent actions include banning on plastic beads, phasing out the use of non-biodegradable drinking plastic straws in several chain restaurants, banning on straws and on the sale and manufacture of plastic cotton buds, eliminating plastic packaging in several supermarket chains and finally, phasing out the use of disposable plastic at royal estates and introducing biodegradable takeaway containers in Buckingham Palace.

As Israel has introduced a law that requires supermarkets to charge customers a minimum of USD 0.03 per plastic bag, it achieved to reduce the use of plastic bags by 80% in less than one year. Israel's supermarkets require to display the cost of the bags on the customers' bills. The funds generated from bags sales use to support air pollution reduction projects, support manufacturers to adjust their operations and comply with legislation, and raise awareness about the law. India has also planned to implement a ban on non-reusable plastics, including single-use plastic bags, disposable containers and utensils, banners and flex bags.

On October 2009, the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), Myanmar officially announced to ban businesses from manufacturing, importing, trading or distributing high-density polyethylene (HDPE) plastic bags for environmental reasons. Two years after Mandalay city's achievement to prohibit polyethylene bags, the authorities in Yangon also attempted not to allow the production, storage and sales of non-biodegradable waste such as polyethylene bags and ropes

in April 22, 2011. Due to the government's weak enforcement for sustainable banning, the plastic culture still remains and returns popularity nationwide. Therefore, Myanmar had conducted a numbers of important initiatives to raise awareness of the importance of saving the world from plastic pollution and man-made waste as one of its national environmental priorities. For instance, a community of food and beverage services in Yangon launched a campaign called "Straws Suck" aimed no longer to serve their customers single-use plastic straws, creating a great interest among others to do so. The activity has been started since 2017 and a group of restaurants and bars such as Nourish café, Gekko Restaurant, Parami Piza, 50th Street Cafe Restaurant Bar, Locale cafe, Spouts Salad, Union Bar and Grill, the Strand Hotel, Savoy Hotel, Rose Garden Hotel and etc., have been actively participating in this event. Most of them are offering reusable and biodegradable straws as alternative solutions. Currently, in order to highlight the impact of plastic waste on rivers and oceans, an art studio and gallery Wired

39 is collaborating with a group called "Beat Plastic Pollution in Myanmar" for an art installation by collecting plastic bags and bottles. This installation is intended for World Environment Day, aiming at public awareness raising about the problems with using single-use plastic products.

Myanmar has been in progress of formulating the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan (2017-2030) with "Sustainable, Green, Clean and Healthy Environment towards a Brighter Future for Myanmar" as its vision. The Environmental Conservation Department (ECD) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation (MONREC) has been conducting this formulation process in cooperation with other relevant local and international stakeholders for sustainable waste managements, including all kinds of solid and liquid wastes- hazardous waste, electronic waste, plastic waste, industrial waste, etc. From the implementation of the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan (2017-2030), the country expects to reach the following six strategic goals;

- * Goal A: Extending Sound Waste Collection and Eliminate Uncontrolled Disposal and Open Burning
- * Goal B: Extending Sustainable and Environmentally Sound Management of Industrial and Other Hazardous Waste
- * Goal C: Reduce Waste through 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle)
- * Goal D: Ensure Sustainable Finance Mechanisms
- * Goal E: Awareness Raising, Advocacy and Capacity Building
- * Goal F: Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement

Some key targets and propose activities to be implemented are specified in this the National Waste Management Strategy and Action Plan for Myanmar. People who are involving the formulation and implementation work are making strong effort to achieve the abovementioned outputs.

In order to raise awareness of people on plastic pollution and environmental conservation and

to get people more practices, the Yangon Region Government is recently taking steps to conduct waste management practices in cooperation with international organizations and stakeholders for a community awareness campaign and practices. According to the Yangon Region Chief Minister, the plastic waste management services for recycle, recovery and reuse are being implemented in Yangon city. He also mentioned the huge negative impact of plastic waste on the environment and important needs of substitute things for the people. Finally, he pointed out the sense of taking responsibilities of all citizens to keep our environment clean and green.

The plastic solid waste generated from human activities are threatening to air, soil and water quality leading to serious health problems of the public. Therefore, individuals must preserve and protect our natural environment as our national responsibility. As a saying goes "Many hands make light work", let's get together to fight against the plastic pollution and save our environment. ■

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THE 2018 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: STEPS TO "BEAT PLASTIC POLLUTION"

Britain to unveil new counter-terrorism strategy

LONDON — Britain on Monday was to unveil a new counter-terrorism strategy under which it will boost intelligence cooperation between the domestic MI5 service and police as well as the private sector.

The plan, to be dubbed Contest, will seek to ensure “that there are no safe spaces for terrorists, no safe spaces internationally, in the UK or online,” Home Secretary Sajid Javid was expected to say in a keynote speech.

“The threats are evolving. We must evolve too,” he will say to an audience of counter-terrorism experts, according to excerpts released by the Home Office.

The new strategy “incorporates the lessons learnt from the attacks in 2017 and our responses to them”.

Under the new blueprint, the security services will be alerted to suspicious purchases more swiftly.

The government want firms to raise the alarm as quickly as possible if they have evidence of unusual transactions — such



Home Secretary Sajid Javid. PHOTO: AFP

as someone stockpiling large amounts of chemicals or acting suspiciously when hiring a vehicle.

Javid will also identify “extreme right-wing terrorism” as an increasing threat and note similarities to the Islamic State group. It will be his first major

speech on security since becoming home secretary in April following the resignation of Amber Rudd over the Windrush immigration scandal.

The son of Pakistani parents who emigrated to Britain in the 1960s, he will touch on his own background to address

the issue.

“There’s one other thing that Islamists and the far right have in common,” he will say. “As a Home Secretary with a name like Sajid Javid — I’m everything they despise. “So the way I see it, I must be doing something right.”—AFP ■

Guatemala volcano death toll rises to 25: disaster agency

GUATEMALA CITY (Guatemala) — At least 25 people were killed when Guatemala’s Fuego volcano erupted Sunday, belching ash and rock and forcing the airport to close, the country’s disaster agency said.

“The toll was 25 dead as of 9:00 pm (0300 GMT),” the spokesman for the National Coordinator for Disaster Reduction (Conred) said in a WhatsApp group.

At least another 20 people have been injured in the eruption, the second major one this year from the 3,763 metre (12,346 feet) peak. Farmers covered in ash fled for their lives as civil defense staffers tried to relocate them to shelters during the event. Dense ash blasted out by the volcano shut down Guatemala City’s international airport, civil aviation said. Workers were cleaning ash off the runways to get the airport operating again. Guatemala has two other active volcanoes, Santiaguito (west) and Pacaya (just south of the capital).—AFP ■

Merkel slams far-right leader’s ‘shameful’ Nazi remark

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel on Monday condemned as “shameful” remarks by a leader of Germany’s far-right AfD party likening the Nazi era to a mere “speck of bird shit” in the country’s long history.

“It is shameful that we have to respond to such comments made by a member of the German Bundestag (lower house of parliament),” Merkel’s spokesman Steffen Seibert told reporters in Berlin.

“The government completely and unequivocally rejects any relativisation, any downplaying of the Nazi crimes,” Seibert said, describing Hitler’s regime and the Holocaust as “a singular crime against humanity”.

It was only because Germans acknowledged their “everlasting responsibility” for the “immense suffering” caused, he added, that the country has been able to once again become a “good partner to other nations”.

Seibert was reacting to comments made at the weekend by AfD co-leader Alexander

Gauland, who told members of the party’s youth wing that there was more to the country’s history than the 12 years of the Nazi regime.

“Hitler and the Nazis are just a speck of bird shit in over 1,000 years of successful German history,” Gauland said.

The comments unleashed a storm of criticism in Germany, including from President Frank-Walter Steinmeier who accused Gauland of minimising the pain of the victims and seeking to sow new hatred.

“We must all stand against this,” Steinmeier said.

Merkel’s spokesman said condemnation of Gauland’s words was shared by “the government, the chancellor and fortunately the overwhelming majority of German people”.

Set up in 2013, the anti-Islam, anti-immigrant AfD has risen to become the country’s largest opposition party after capitalising on anger over the arrival of more than a million asylum seekers since 2015.—AFP ■

Hong Kong pro-independence activists jailed for 4 weeks

HONG KONG — A Hong Kong court sentenced on Monday two disqualified pro-independence lawmakers and three of their former assistants to four weeks in prison for attempting to force their way into a legislature meeting room in 2016.

In handing down the ruling, Wong Sze-lai, acting Kowloon city principal magistrate, described the incident as violent, saying the group had deliberately attempted to enter the meeting room, damaging the integrity of the legislative council in the process.

Sixtus Leung, one of the ousted lawmakers, and former assistant Cheung Tsz-lung were each released on HK\$3,000 (US\$380) bail pending appeal, while the three others will not file appeals, according to local media reports.

Last month, Leung and Yau Wai-ching, both elected to the Hong Kong Legislative Council in 2016, were convicted

of unlawful assembly.

The court heard that the defendants jointly forced their way into the room in the legislature building on 2 November, 2016, while scuffling with security guards who were ordered to keep them away.

At least six guards were injured in the incident, according to local media.

When taking the oath of office

in October 2016, Leung and Yau pronounced “China” as “Shina,” an archaic Japanese name for China which has been regarded by many Chinese people as derogatory. Yau also inserted an expletive in her oath.

The oaths were deemed invalid and the council’s president barred them from attending any legislative meeting.—Kyodo News ■



Photo taken in Hong Kong on 6 November, 2016, shows Sixtus Leung (L) and Yau Wai-ching. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Seven killed in Kabul suicide blast near clerics' gathering

KABUL—At least seven people were killed in a suicide bombing on Monday near a gathering of top clerics in Afghanistan's capital Kabul, roughly one hour after the group proclaimed such attacks a sin, police said.

The blast in the western part of the city, near universities and a police academy, is the latest demonstration of the militants' chilling ability to carry out attacks in the heart of Kabul, which is now the deadliest place in the country for civilians.

The bomber detonated at about 11.30 am (0700 GMT) at the gates of Kabul's Polytechnic University, police and officials said. The Loya Jirga tent where thousands of clerics from across Afghanistan were meeting is on the campus.

The tent is a huge venue often used for top religious or government gatherings. "Loya Jirga" means "grand assembly"



Militants are stepping up their headline-grabbing assaults on the heavily fortified capital. PHOTO: AFP

in Pashto.

Most of the casualties were civilians.

"According to our initial information, seven people have been killed including a police-

man. Nine others have been injured, including two policemen," police spokesman Hashmat Stanikzai told media.

Interior ministry spokesman Najib Danish confirmed it

was a suicide attack, and said the bomber had been on foot when he detonated his explosives at the university gate.

Police spokesman Stanikzai said the blast was outside the

tent.

No group has claimed the attack, but the Taliban issued a statement on Twitter saying its fighters had "nothing to do" with the bombing.

Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group have stepped up their headline-grabbing assaults on the heavily fortified capital in recent months.

Roads around the university were quickly blocked by security officials after the blast, with heavy traffic jams building in the city as many commuters headed home due to Ramadan, the holy Islamic fasting month, during which government offices close early.

Shortly after the first blast, a second explosion was heard, but police said it was a sticky bomb in a market several kilometres away which wounded an unspecified number of civilians.—AFP ■

IAEA head calls for 'timely' cooperation from Iran

VIENNA—The head of the UN's nuclear watchdog called on Monday on Iran to ensure "timely and proactive cooperation" with inspections mandated under the 2015 deal with world powers over its nuclear programme.

Speaking at the first meeting of the IAEA's board of governors since US President Donald Trump threw the future of the deal in doubt in May with his decision to withdraw, Director General Yukiya Amano said the agency had had access to all sites in Iran that it needed to visit.

However, as in the agency's last report on Iran in May, Amano said that "timely and proactive cooperation by Iran in providing such access would facilitate implementation... and enhance confidence".

In its last report the IAEA confirmed that Iran was still implementing the accord.

A senior diplomat in Vienna, where the IAEA is based, said the call for timely cooperation did not mean that Iran had breached any of the rules of the accord but that the agency was "encouraging (Iran) to go above and beyond the requirements" of the deal.



IAEA chief Yukiya Amano says the body has had access to all nuclear sites in Iran it had needed to visit. PHOTO: AFP

Tehran could, for example, invite inspectors to sites they had not demanded access to, the diplomat said.

The other signatories to the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) have been scrambling to find ways to keep it going since Trump's announcement that he would pull out and reinstate US sanctions.

Last month, a senior Iranian official said Trump's actions

had left the landmark accord in "intensive care".

As its price for staying in the deal, Iran has demanded European powers present an "economic package" to Iran that would mitigate the effects of US sanctions.

Tehran has threatened to restart its uranium enrichment programme at an "industrial level" if the 2015 pact falls apart.—AFP ■

Palestinian shot dead trying to breach Gaza border: Israel army

JERUSALEM—A Palestinian armed with an axe was shot dead trying to breach the Gaza-Israel border on Monday, the Israeli army said.

An army statement said troops thwarted an "infiltration attempt" by "two terrorists who damaged the security fence and were armed with an axe."

Soldiers "fired towards the terrorists, killing one of them," it added, without clarifying what happened to the second suspect.

There was no immediate confirmation from the health ministry in Gaza.

The death brings to 125 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli fire in Gaza since

30 March.

The vast majority have been killed during weeks of protests along the border.

Protests peaked on 14 May when at least 61 people were killed as tens of thousands approached the heavily fortified border in a demonstration coinciding with the controversial opening of the US embassy in Jerusalem.

On Friday a 21-year-old female medic was shot dead in southern Gaza.

No Israelis have been killed.

The Jewish state accuses Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas of using the protests as an excuse to carry out attacks.—AFP ■



Israeli soldiers keep watch along the Gaza border fence on 15 May, 2018. PHOTO: AFP



Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov announced it at meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russia and China may approve 'a good package of agreements' during Putin's visit — Lavrov

PRETORIA /South Africa — Russia and China will approve “a very good package of arrangements,” during the state visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to China, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said at a meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Sunday.

“Soon there will be another meeting — a state visit of the Russian president to China on the eve

of the SCO [Shanghai Cooperation Organization] summit in Qingdao,” he said.

“In my opinion, we have a very good package of agreements, which will be approved,” Lavrov added.

The minister also noted that Moscow is counting on the development of foreign policy coordination between Russia and China. “Today we can also compare notes be-

fore tomorrow's meeting of BRICS foreign ministers,” he said adding that the importance of the bloc in global affairs is steadily increasing. Lavrov and Wang Yi arrived in Pretoria to attend a meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of BRICS, which will be held on Monday.

The SCO summit will be held on 9-10 June in the city of Qingdao (Shandong Province) in the east of China.—Tass ■

Airlines to step up fight against human trafficking

SYDNEY — Airlines are set to step up the fight against human trafficking, global industry body IATA said on Monday as it released guidelines on how crews can act as “eyes and ears” to identify and report suspected cases.

Human trafficking is the world's fastest-growing criminal industry and the second-largest after the drug trade, according to the US State Department, and there is an increasing push for the aviation industry to take action. “Many individual airlines are already involved and have launched anti-human trafficking initiatives,” IATA's assistant director for external affairs Tim Colehan told reporters at the group's annual meeting in Sydney.

“But until recently there has been no industry-wide initiative.”

Some 60 per cent of human trafficking involves crossing an international border, according to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The new guidelines will include checklists on how to identify suspected cases and handle victims

after landing.

“Cabin crew are in a unique position as they travel with passengers sometimes for many hours and are able to spot even the smallest signals and behaviours,” the IATA said. The approach also involves coordination with airports and law enforcement agencies such as border and customs agents. Colehan added that while the extent of human trafficking within the aviation sector was not known, new and emerging legislation around the world required airlines to provide specific training to cabin crew.

The clear link between human traffic and international terrorism, according to recent re-

search, meant that airlines' efforts to reduce the criminal activity could deter terrorism within the aviation industry, he said.

The International Labour Organisation estimates that almost 25 million people are victims of modern slavery.

Types of trafficking activities that the guidelines identify include prostitution, child soldiers, organ removal, forced labour, debt bondage and forced marriage.

Key transregional flows include from sub-Saharan Africa to the Middle East and western and southern Europe, and from South Asia to the Middle East and East Asia and the Pacific, according to UNODC.—AFP ■



The new guidelines will include comprehensive checklists on how to identify suspected cases and handle victims after landing. **PHOTO: AFP**

“As we walk down the aisle....Gracias”

As we become soulmates on the trip of togetherness
Thankful are we for your company and the warm wishes,
Memories that are cherished today will forever be bliss
Sure will pave in our lives that the trail of happiness.
These moments of joy and celebrations, of love and blessings,
In our sands of time they will sparkle and twinkle.
As together we face the smiles and the pains, the wins and losses,
We know we have your friendship that will not falter.
Entwined today are our hands as man and wife,
With promises to keep the vows for the life
Eager fingers wrap around each other,
Threads of your affection shall fasten them better.
Father and mother, uncles and aunts,
Brothers, sisters and friends galore.
“THANK YOU” that we say is not just a gesture,
It's the beat from our hearts that does the whisper.

**Lt Col Kyaw Zeya & Ma Ei Chit Hsu Win
with best compliments from
M P Dinesh (IATT)**

Macron's chief of staff faces corruption probe: prosecutors

PARIS—French anti-corruption prosecutors have opened an investigation into President Emmanuel Macron's chief of staff Alexis Kohler over his links to Italian shipping giant MSC, a statement said on Monday.

The probe will look into Kohler's time as a senior civil servant in France's economy ministry from 2012-2016, the latter two years of which he spent as a cabinet director to Macron who was minister at the time.

The national financial crimes' prosecutor office said it would check

whether Kohler respected conflict of interest rules for civil servants as he “could have dealt with issues of interest” to MSC.

Kohler's mother is a cousin of Rafaela Aponte, whose husband Gianluigi founded the Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) in 1970 and built it up into a global leader in container shipping and cruise holidays.

French investigative website Mediapart was the first to reveal Kohler's family ties to the firm.

The revelations form the basis of the legal com-

plaint filed by transparency campaign group Anticor last Friday.

Macron's office on Monday dismissed the allegations as “completely unfounded”.

“Alexis Kohler will willingly send to prosecutors all of the documents that prove his respect of the law during his professional life,” the presidency said in a statement.

Kohler left the economy ministry in 2016 to join Swiss-based MSC as finance director but continued to work on Macron's bid for the presidency in his spare time.—AFP ■

North Korea 'military reshuffle' raises eyebrows in Seoul

SEOUL — South Korea is monitoring developments in the North's armed forces, it said on Monday after reports Pyongyang replaced three of its top military officials ahead of a summit with the United States.

President Donald Trump is due to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on 12 June in Singapore, with Pyongyang's nuclear arsenal high on the agenda.

Reports said the reshuffle could be aimed at eliminating resistance to the peace overtures.

Pyongyang's armed forces, known as the Korean People's Army, are immensely influential in the North and a centre of power in their own right, symbolised by the way Kim is habitually flanked by generals on one side and civilians on the other when attending major ceremonial events. Late last month the North's state media revealed that Kim Su Gil had been appointed director of the military's powerful General Political Bureau (GPB), replacing Kim Jong Gak. According to Yonhap news agency, which cited intelligence sources, the chief of the general staff Ri Myong Su has also been replaced by his deputy, Ri Yong Gil.

Defence minister Pak Yong Sik has been succeeded by No Kwang Chol, previously first vice minister, it added.

The wholesale reshuffle would be unusual if con-



File photo showing North Korean soldiers paying their respects before the statues of late North Korean leaders Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il, at Mansu hill in Pyongyang on 15 April, 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

firmed, Seoul's unification ministry said.

"We will monitor related developments," ministry spokesman Baik Tae-hyun told reporters.

According to researchers at NK Leadership Watch, the change at the top of the GPB "represents a continuation of tightening Party control over the KPA".

The political bureau could be in a position to resist policy decisions by the leadership or try to profit from future South Korean economic aid, it said.

"Both of these things lend themselves to creating alternate power centres," it noted.

But new GPB director Kim Su Gil was a "highly

trusted" lieutenant of leader Kim Jong Un, it added, who appointed him to the Pyongyang party committee — once a power base for his uncle Jang Song Thaek — after having the older man executed for treason in 2013.

Hardliners vs moderates?

Reports said the wider changes could be aimed at preventing objections in the North's senior military ranks to any sudden changes in the country's nuclear policy.

The country remains technically at war after hostilities in the 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty, and Kim's father and

predecessor Kim Jong Il expounded a "Songun" or "military-first" policy that is a foundational plank of the North's ideology.

Pyongyang has long argued that it needs nuclear weapons to protect itself against a possible invasion by the US.

Yonhap cited the intelligence source as saying No Kwang Chol, the new defence minister, was known as a "moderate".

"The North appears to have brought in new figures... as the previous officials lacked flexibility in thinking," the source said.

But analysts said the personnel change was more likely a response to an internal matter.

"It's meaningless to di-

vide North Korean officials into hardliners and moderates," said Kim Dong-yub, a professor at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University.

The personnel change was probably intended to implement the new economy-centred policies, he said, and officials with a better understanding in the area had been appointed.

No had formerly overseen the military's financial issues as the chair of the Second Economy Commission, Kim said. "It looks like they needed someone who can have a firm grip on the military and dynamically push ahead with the new policies amid changes in US-North Korea relations," he added.—AFP ■

Three astronauts return from ISS after 5.5-month mission

ZHEZKAZGAN, Kazakhstan — Three crew members of the International Space Station returned to Earth on Sunday after completing a five-and-a-half month mission, the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration said.

A Soyuz spacecraft carrying Russian cosmonaut Anton Shkaplerov, Norishige Kanai of Japan and Scott Tingle of NASA landed in the Kazakhstan countryside around 6:40 pm, three-and-a-half hours after detaching from the station.

The three had been on the orbital laboratory since mid-December, with Shkaplerov, 46, serving as mission commander from February until he turned over command to American Drew Feustel on Saturday. "(The landing) was like a roller coaster. All over again I feel my body is heavy, I feel the gravity," Kanai told reporters after he was taken from the spacecraft. Kanai, a 41-year-old former Maritime Self-Defence Force doctor, had drawn international attention for claiming on Twitter to have grown 9 centimetres taller after three weeks at the space station due to the absence of gravity. — Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1815/1816)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MCC MERGUI VOY. NO. (1815/1816) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/MIP 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 MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1086 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1086 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NOTA A

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NOTA A are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4-6-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-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 WILHELMSEN SHIPS
SERVICE (S) PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

James Bond makers want Helena Bonham Carter to play villain

LONDON — James Bond producers are keen to cast actress Helena Bonham Carter in the role of an antagonist in the upcoming film.

If things work out, the actor, who has played villain in the “Harry Potter” movies and “Alice and Wonderland”, would join Daniel Craig as 007 and Ben Wishaw as Q.

Danny Boyle is directing the film.

Everyone thinks Angelina Jolie is going to get the part but bosses want Helena more. At the moment they are just finalising the cast,” a source told The Mirror.

If Jolie gets the role, it would mark her second time acting alongside Craig after 2001’s “Lara Croft: Tomb



Actress Helena Bonham Carter. PHOTO: PTI

Raider”.

The new Bond movie, the

25th in the series, is scheduled to release in 2019.—PTI ■

Julian Dennison to star in ‘Godzilla vs Kong’

LOS ANGELES — “Deadpool” actor Julian Dennison has joined the cast of “Godzilla vs Kong”.

According to the Hollywood Reporter, the film also stars Van Marten and Ziyi Zhang.

The Legendary and Warner Bros film will be directed by Adam Wingard.

The first installment for the Monsterverse was 2014’s “Godzilla,” followed by “Kong: Skull Island” (2017), which grossed more than USD 565 million worldwide.



“Deadpool” actor Julian Dennison. PHOTO: PTI

A sequel to “Godzilla”, titled “Godzilla: King of the Monsters” is currently in production.

“Godzilla vs Kong” is set to hit theaters on 22 May, 2020.—PTI ■

Social media can get dangerous: Shay Mitchell

LOS ANGELES — “Pretty Little Liars” star Shay Mitchell says social media can be ‘dangerous’ if people start believing that it is “realistic”.

The actor says for her platforms like Instagram are nothing more than a “highlight reel”.

“I think we all have to realise and recognise the fact that Instagram and social media in general is, a majority of the time, our highlight reel — it’s certainly my highlight reel. That’s not my everyday life. Now, are those real life moments? Yes, absolutely. But are

they heightened? Have those photos been taken 5,000 times to get the right angle? Do I have makeup, lighting? One hundred percent.

‘It can get really dangerous if you start to believe that social media is realistic. If you can go into it knowing there’s filters behind each and every one of those photos, or this is a photo that was professionally shot, then I feel like it allows yourself to be less harsh on your own photos. Everybody’s life in general isn’t maybe always what it seems,’ Mitchell, 31, told InStyle magazine.—PTI ■



Shay Mitchell. PHOTO: PTI



Actor Jason Bateman. PHOTO: AFP

I’d love to play a woman: Jason Bateman

LOS ANGELES — “Ozark” star Jason Bateman has revealed he wants to play a woman, but “in a very real way”.

In a Hollywood Reporter round table with Darren Criss, Jeff Daniels, Michael B Jordan, Matthew Rhys and J K Simmons, the actor said he likes playing the “normal guy,” but

would be up for performing as a female character.

“I’m really enjoying that as opposed to playing a bunch of different characters. Having said that, I’d love to play a woman.

“But in a very real way. Like a ‘Tootsie’ version of it would be pretty cool where there’s a

wink to it but then also the plane lands every once in a while and there’s some real introspection there,” Bateman said.

The actor, however, does not want to remake the 1982 Dustin Hoffman movie.

“Not to suggest that film needs to get redone,” he said, “which it should never.—PTI ■

Myanmar celebrities champion public awareness campaign on plastics

YANGON — Academy award-winner Swe Zin Htike (Auntie Grace), singer Zwe Pyae, fashion icon Ma Pont, stylist and actor Ma Gyi San, and model-turned-actress Mya Hnin Yee Lwin are the latest champions of the national campaign to raise awareness of plastic pollution in Myanmar. These celebrities star in five public education video clips produced by Thant Myanmar in partnership with the European Union in Myanmar.

The 1-min cinematic clips explain how plastics hurt the environment and people's health. Filmed at different locations in Yangon, they depict everyday situations in Myanmar where disposable or single-use plastics are used and where they end up after. The actors present terrifying statistics on plastic pollution in Myanmar to underscore the long-term impact of plastics while offering sustainable alternatives. Their message is simple: "Let's stop using plastic."

Speaking at the launch of



HE Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union to Myanmar speaking to reporters. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

the videos today at Pansuriya Gallery in Yangon, HE Kristian Schmidt, Ambassador of the European Union to Myanmar said, "You might think: 'What

can I do to change a global problem? What difference can one single person make?' It is in the hands of each and every one of us to put an end to plastic pol-

lution. If we do not change our own habits, our daily routine, our thoughtless convenience, plastic pollution will not go away and we will continue to

choke in plastic waste."

In January 2018, the European Union has announced a landmark Europe-wide strategy on plastics to protect the environment from plastic pollution.

Among the key goals of the EU Plastics Strategy are to reduce plastic bags use by 90 per cent; ensure that by 2030, plastic packaging is either reusable or recyclable; and ban 10 single use plastic items such as cotton buds, cutlery/plates/straws, balloons, food containers, cups for beverages and beverage containers, bags, cigarette buds, crisp packets and sweet wrappers and wet wipes, and replace these with more sustainable products.

The EU's support to the plastics pollution awareness campaign in Myanmar, such as the celebrity videos and the events leading up to World Environment Day, is in line with the EU Plastics Strategy that also aims at strengthening global cooperation in fighting plastic pollution.—GNLM ■

Masterpiece mauled: Tretyakov gallery head slams 'frightening' pole attack on work of art

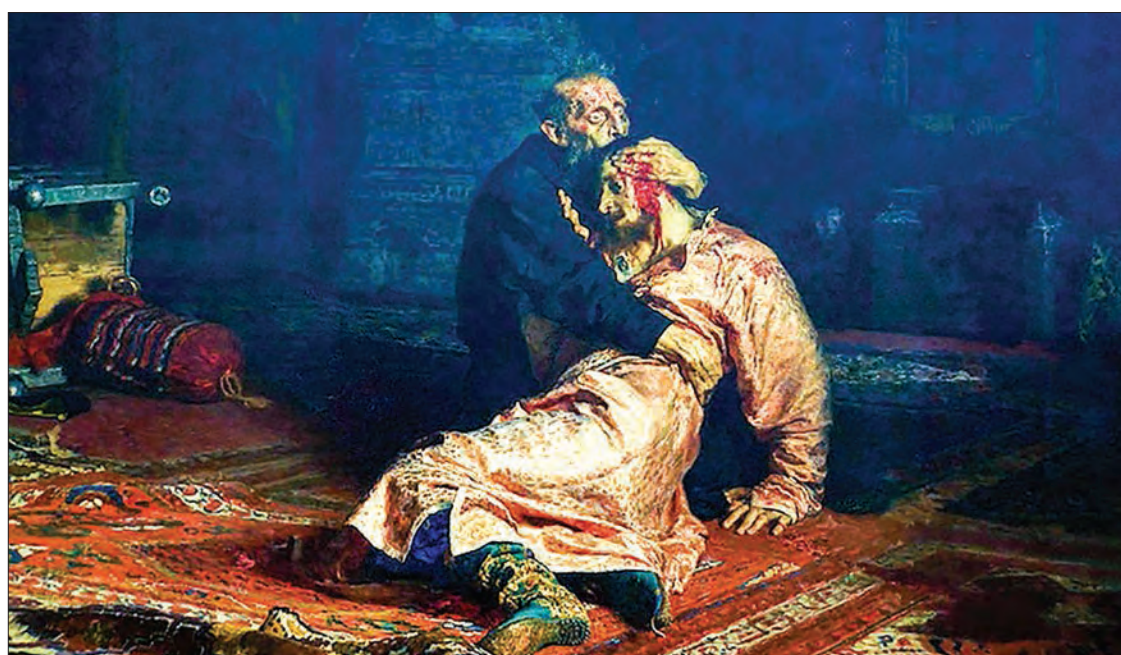
MOSCOW—An attack with a metal pole on Ilya Repin's famous painting Ivan the Terrible and His Son is "an awful and frightening incident suggesting that society is gripped by aggression," Tretyakov Gallery Director General Zelfira Tregulova told reporters on Monday.

"The painting Ivan the Terrible and His Son is tremendously significant and extremely fragile. It has never been lent out by the gallery, and only left it during the war," Gregulova stressed.

She also stressed that vandalism against works of art was a frequent event in the 20th century.

"Here, we are reminded of the Mona Lisa and Night Watch. The Mona Lisa is hanging in a niche protected by bulletproof glass.

While, two guards protect The Night Watch," she reiterated, citing more examples.



Ivan the Terrible and His Son by Ilya Repin. **PHOTO: TASS**

"And of course, the incident in our country — an attack on a painting by Rembrandt in the Hermitage, with sulfuric acid thrown on the canvas," she added.

Assault on Tretyakov's treasure

The painting, one of Russia's most famous, depicting Ivan the Terrible, grief-stricken and cra-

dling his dying son, was damaged just before the gallery closed on 25 Friday, May. Police arriving on the scene detained the perpetrator, who had smashed the glass

protecting the painting with a metal pole, damaging the canvas. Criminal proceedings have been initiated. The culprit confessed to being intoxicated.

The gallery said the painting was badly damaged. The canvas was ripped in three places in the central section, while shards of glass that shattered in the attack damaged the frame as well. This has been the second attack on the painting.

On 16 January, 1913, Abram Balashov, a 29-year-old icon painter and Old Believer, took a knife and slashed the painting three times. Repin had to paint the faces of the tsar and his son anew. Russia's Sberbank said on Monday it would bankroll efforts to restore the painting, Deputy Chairman of the Board Stanislav Kuznetsov said. He stated that the restoration work was estimated at 5-10 million rubles (\$80,160 to \$160,320).—Tass ■

Japan hold 1st training session at pre-World Cup camp in Austria

SEEFELD, Austria — The Japan national team on Sunday held their first training session since arriving at their camp in the Austrian resort city of Innsbruck, where they are preparing for the World Cup starting from 14 June in Russia.

The entire Samurai Blue squad, including Borussia Dortmund midfielder Shinji Kagawa and Pachuca playmaker Keisuke Honda, took part in the session at a ground in Seefeld, on the outskirts of the alpine city in western Austria.

With temperatures around 20 C, they worked up a sweat performing core-strengthening, running and ball skills exercises during the roughly two-hour session, which was attended by some 200 people including pupils from Japanese schools in Vienna and Munich.

Squad members also played a mini game, lining up with the back-three formation trialed by head coach Akira Nishino in the Samurai Blue's final World Cup warmup on home soil, a 2-0 loss to Ghana at Yokohama's Nissan Stadium last Wednesday.

Nishino, who took the reins



Japan's World Cup squad members train at the team's camp in Seefeld, Austria on 3 June, 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

after the shock firing of his predecessor Vahid Halilhodzic in early April, said following the Ghana match that the back-three was just one of the formations he was considering for the World Cup.

Innsbruck, which hosted the 1964 and 1976 Winter Olympics, is a popular skiing destination near the German border.

It has been used as a training base by the Netherlands national team and European professional clubs.

The Samurai Blue players and staff are staying at a resort hotel five minutes' drive from the training ground, which is nestled among mountains.

Asked about the location of the camp, squad members

spoke highly of the quiet, picturesque surroundings.

"When I open the window in the morning, there's amazing scenery outside," Galatasaray defender Yuto Nagatomo said. "It's very relaxing."

Kagawa, who returned to the Dortmund lineup late in the Bundesliga season after missing two months with an ankle

injury, said, "Here, I can just concentrate on soccer."

The hotel has billiard and table tennis tables, as well as a gym and swimming pool, with the players being encouraged to mingle and strengthen their chemistry on and off the field ahead of the tournament.

"It's important that players make the most of the opportunity to spend time together, rather than staying in their rooms by themselves," Urawa Reds centre back Tomoaki Makino said.

Japan will play a friendly against Switzerland across the border in the Swiss city of Lugano on Friday, before facing Paraguay in their final World Cup warmup on 12 June in Innsbruck. The Samurai Blue will base their World Cup camp in the city of Kazan, roughly one and a half hours east of Moscow by air. They open their World Cup campaign against Colombia in the city of Saransk on 19 June. Japan will then face Senegal in Yekaterinburg on 24 June before playing their final group match against Poland in Volgograd on 28 June. —Kyodo News ■

Zverev wins third consecutive five-setter, Wozniacki trails at Roland Garros

PARIS — German hope Alexander Zverev experienced his third straight five-set thriller to reach his first Grand Slam quarterfinal at the 2018 French Open on Sunday.

Zverev had already seen off Dusan Lajovic and Damir Dzumhur through full sets. He and Russia's Karen Khachanov, the youngest men remaining in the men's singles last 16, combined to finish a tough battle in almost three and a half hours, where Zverev came back from 2-1 down to ultimately win 4-6, 7-6 (4), 2-6, 6-3, 6-3.

He will take on Dominic Thiem in his Grand Slam quarterfinal debut, after Thiem eliminated Japanese top-ranked Nishikori Kei 6-2, 6-0, 5-7, 6-4. Zverev earned his third career ATP Masters title after beating Thiem in Madrid in May. The German has won 34 tour-level matches this season, more than any other player in

2018 and one more than his nearest rival Thiem.

"He's an amazing player. I mean, probably now the third best after Rafa [Rafael Nadal] and Roger [Federer]. It's going to be an amazing challenge for me," Thiem said. "I'm expecting another five-set match," Zverev said with a smile. "I'll get myself ready for that."

Novak Djokovic beat Spaniard Fernando Verdasco 6-3, 6-4, 6-2. The Serbian will meet Italian underdog Marco Cecchinato as the latter shocked eighth-seeded David Goffin 7-5, 4-6, 6-0, 6-3.

Second seed Caroline Wozniacki, who captured her maiden Grand Slam title at the 2018 Australian Open, lost the opening set of her match 7-6 (5) to Russian Daria Kasatkina. The match had to be postponed until Monday due to unfavorable light conditions, when the two players were tied at 3-3 in the second set. No 10

seed Sloane Stephens awaits the winner in the quarterfinals after downing Anett Kontaveit 6-2, 6-0.

Stephens' compatriot Madison Keys beat Mihaela Buzarnescu 6-1, 6-4, and will next face Yulia Putintseva, who knocked out No 26 seed Barbora Strycova 6-4, 6-3. China's Yang Zhaoxuan continued her journey in the women's doubles as she made it into last eight with Chan Hao-Ching of Chinese Taipei, defeating Sorana Cirstea and Sara Sorribes Tormo 6-2, 6-4.

Zhang Shuai bowed out from mixed doubles in the second round with Australian John Peers following a 6-4, 3-6, 10-7 loss to Nicole Melichar and Alexander Peya.

In the junior division, second-seed Wang Xinyu and No 8 seed Wang Xiyu both moved past the girls' singles first round, while Mu Tao crashed out of the boys' singles first round.—Xinhua ■

Hataoka 10th, Jutanugarn first Thai to win US Women's Open

BIRMINGHAM, Alabama — Japan's Nasa Hataoka finished in 10th place at an even-par 288 after Sunday's fourth round of the US Women's Open, won by Thailand's Ariya Jutanugarn after besting South Korea's Kim Hyo Joo in a four-hole playoff. Hataoka cancelled out five birdies with five bogeys for an even 72 at Shoal Creek Golf and Country Club, while Jutanugarn became the first Thai player to win the tournament and earned her second LGPA major victory despite struggling on the back nine.

The 22-year-old Thai, who started the round with a four stroke lead, shot a 1-over 73 and finished at 11-under, allowing Kim to force the playoff after she tied on a 67, the day's best score. But the Thai remained focused and earned her second major crown when Kim faltered a return to No 18. "It was pretty tough for me because

I didn't finish well on the last two holes, but I wasn't nervous or excited anymore during the playoff," said Jutanugarn, who won the Women's British Open in 2016. "I feel great, and I feel really honored to join the list of winners before me." Hataoka, who narrowly missed out on her first Tour win after finishing runner-up at last month's Kingsmill Championship, said she was glad to reach the top 10 in her first US Women's Open appearance but wished for a better result. "I was able to start out aggressively with a birdie, but it's disappointing that I finished at even-par," the 19-year-old said. "It was a tough four days. The weather was pretty rough and it was hard to stay focused. But I think I'm gradually getting closer to a (LPGA Tour) victory."

Japan's Rumi Yoshiba finished 40th at 7-over, while Ayako Uehara failed to make the cut.—Kyodo News ■