

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 50, 12th Waxing of Nayon 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tuesday, 6 June 2017



President U Htin Kyaw addresses the audience at the World Environment Day event held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

World Environment Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw spoke at a ceremony celebrating World Environment Day yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, in which he encouraged the country to appreciate and help preserve the beauty of Myanmar, one of the most ecologically diverse countries in the region.

The President's message was in keeping with this year's

World Environment Day theme, "Connecting People to Nature".

"In Myanmar, we are fortunate to be blessed with impressive landscapes that extend from the snow-capped mountains in the north, to the southern coastal region of Tanintharyi. The possibilities to enjoy and connect with the natural world are endless and

can be found in every corner of our country", the President said.

"The variety of our ecosystems means that Myanmar is one of the most biologically diverse countries in Asia. This biodiversity is a gift that we must all cherish. Our terrains are home to over 18,000 species of plants, some 1,100 species of

birds and almost 300 species of mammals. These include 61 species of plants and 44 species of mammals that are globally classified as endangered or critically endangered species. The species of Golden Deer and six species of bird that are in the global endangered species list can only be found in Myanmar."

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Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session holds its 9th day meeting

Work-site security for health personnel, specialist physicians, and a national health insurance system were discussed at yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw session in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the 9th day meeting 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session held yesterday, eight questions were answered, a report submitted, a motion tabled and a bill discussed and approved.

U Ba Shein of Kyaukpadaung constituency raised the question of whether any plan exists to enact law that provides work-site security for health personnel, inclusive of health officers, in order to perform their works effectively. Union Minister for Health and

Sports Dr. Myint Htwe said a total of 23 laws covering the work of the ministry and eight bills were being drawn, but there is no law yet that provides work-site security for health personnel at work.

The Department of Public Health helps resolve problems that occur while basic health care personnel provide emergency medical treatment. Relevant authorities and departments concerned will coordinate to quickly enact a law that provides work-site security for health personnel including assistant health officers and midwives, said the Union Minister.

Responding to U Zon Taint of Chipwe constituency in Kachin



Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

State on appointing doctors at Kachin State Hospital who specialise in specific field of medicine, Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe said priority is given to appoint

required specialist, but there is a need to simultaneously purchase and install supporting medical equipment and personnel. The minister said this cannot be done at the moment.

Afterward, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe responded to questions on sports ground construction, upgrading of hospitals and rural health sub departments raised by U Tun Tun Win of Yamethin constituency, Dr. U Soe Moe Thu of Myaungmya constituency, U Htay Min Thein of Gyobingauk constituency, U Sai Sai Mai of Mongkai constituency, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency and U Myint Kyi of Katha constituency.

Dr. U San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency tabled a motion to set up a national health insurance system that includes effective implementation of universal health coverage, providing timely health care service to all nationals including the poor, and having sufficient funds for such services. The Hluttaw agreed to debate the motion and asked that Hluttaw Representatives who wished to participate in the debate to submit their names. In the day's meeting, Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee annual report was read and amendments, discussions and approval of the Canal Bill was made. — Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Government official says new petro import testing labs on the way

A senior official from Ministry of Electricity and Energy explained quality assurance protocols for imported fuel oil in response to a previous inquiry from a Mon State legislator at the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing said the Myanmar government is establishing a fuel laboratory that will meet international standards through a public-private partnership. The lab will test imported petroleum products that arrive at the sea port of Thilawa.

Dr. Tun Naing said that petroleum products are currently sent across Bago River to an oil refinery laboratory in Thanlyin for testing and, if they meet qual-

ity standards, are permitted to be sold for distribution. Other quality control measures for imported fuels and lubricants include mobile labs capable of conducting spot checks and responding to anonymous consumer complaints.

Official sanctions were imposed against 17 petro stations in FY 2012-2013, 32 in 2013-2014, 10 in 2014-2015 and seven in 2015-2016. Sixty-six received official warning letters, Dr. Tun Naing said, and several were prohibited from selling petroleum products.

Quality safeguards will soon include inspections of oil tankers along roads and waterways, Dr. Tun Naing said.

In another exchange at the



Deputy Minister Dr. Tun Naing. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyontha Hluttaw yesterday, Rakhine representative U Tet Tun Aung asked if the government planned to provide any new



Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut. **PHOTO: MNA**

model communities for ethnic people in Rakhine.

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj. Gen. Than Htut re-

sponded with a historical overview of the development of model villages in Maungdaw and Buthidaung townships since 1990. The general said that there were a total of 19 different resettlement projects to establish 36 Na Ta La model villages.

"742 households and 3433 family members who moved from Bangladesh are being accommodated in Na Ta La model villages and subsidized with household commodities and food for a one-year period," the general said.

The bill committee of the Amyotha Hluttaw also read out a draft of a new water resources and river conservation bill. — Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint leaves to attend 14th Asia Media Summit

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr. Pe Myint took a flight yesterday from Yangon to Qingdao, the People's Republic of China to attend the 14th Asia Media Summit from 6 to 8 June.

The Union Minister was seen off at the airport by Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) Director General U Myint Htway and other officials. Deputy Perma-



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint leaves for China to attend the 14th Asia Media Summit yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

nent Secretary of the Ministry of Information U Myint Kyaw and MRTV Broadcasting Director U

Zay Yar accompanied the Union Minister to China. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Confiscation review committee returns lands to original owners

THE Myanmar government returned 6,372 acres of land it had previously confiscated from farmers and other landholders in Yangon, said U Than Myint, secretary of a Yangon Region level review on confiscated land.

The restored lands were among 9,180 acres taken from farmers by various government agencies. The review committee investigated whether confiscated lands were virgin or vacant lands or lands allocated for housing, whether confiscated lands were in fact designated for future development projects and

what types of compensation are appropriate in each case. The Yangon review committee determined that in 1,905 cases land taken by government entities should revert back to the original owners. U Than Myint said that a certain number of incomplete cases had been sent back to the Central Committee on Confiscated Farms and Other Lands established by the Hluttaw.

Most of the confiscated lands were taken by the Ministry of Defence and Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development. — Ko Moe ■

World Environment Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

FROM PAGE-1

The President said yesterday that Myanmar is committed to preserving and protecting the environment, which includes combatting the effects of global warming. Myanmar is a signatory to the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

“Our government is working to conserve and protect our precious forest lands, natural parks and wildlife sanctuaries, including: Hkakaborazi National Park, Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park, Shwe Set Taw Wildlife Sanctuary, Lampi Marine Park and Inle Biosphere Reserve”, he said.

“But it is not just these protected sites that deserve our attention. Today, all of the earth’s ecosystems are under threat and we must work together to protect them. Myanmar’s many natural forests are being depleted at a rapid rate, meanwhile air quality and fresh water sources are being threatened by pollution. One of the greatest challenges that we face in Myanmar today is the threat of climate change. Globally we are considered to be one of the countries that are most vulnerable to climate change. In recent times, we have experienced an unprecedented increase in temperatures and



Presiden U Htin Kyaw tours World Environment Day exhibits yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

extreme weather events more than ever before”.

U Htin Kyaw pointed out the destructive effects of major storms that struck the country in 2008 and as recently as seven days ago.

“Only last week, for example, towns and villages in Rakhine State were impacted by the powerful Mora Cyclone, which also caused great devastation in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and north-east India. To this day, many

communities in Myanmar are still recovering from the impact of Cyclone Nargis, the worst natural disaster in our country’s history, which occurred less than a decade ago”, he said.

The President said the government’s ability to respond to future threats of climate change is essential to securing sustainable development and economic prosperity throughout the country.

“Our government is pleased to be working towards the adop-

tion of the Myanmar National Climate Change Policy, which was recently formulated in close collaboration with civil society, the private sector and experts from across all fields. We expect to announce the launch of this policy soon, along with the adoption of a new National Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan,” he said.

At yesterday’s event, the winners of article and essay competitions for the World Environ-

ment Day were awarded with prizes by the President, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win. At the ceremony, eight ministries, seven NGOs, six INGOs and five private organisations staged 42 booths promoting environmental conservation. In attendance with the President were two vice-presidents, union ministers, diplomats and guests.

World Environment Day is a United Nations-led annual event aimed at bringing awareness to the destructive effects of natural resource extraction pollution and the need to protect biodiversity. Yesterday’s ceremony included a video address from the UN Secretary-General Mr Antonio Guterres. World Environment Day began in 1972 and has been celebrated in Myanmar since 1994.

At the conclusion of his speech, the President reiterated his request for the country’s citizens to appreciate the natural beauty of their country.

“I would like to invite each of you here to take forward the call to Connect with Nature. However big or small your action may be, we must remember that we are privileged to live in this world full of great beauty and diversity”, he said.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor arrives in Canada

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Toronto, Canada, yesterday morning and was welcomed by Myanmar and Canadian officials.

She was greeted at Lester B. Pearson International Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Canada U Kyaw Myo Htut, and Hon. Mr Bryon Wilfert, Honorary Consul for Canada to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Myanmar nationals in Canada welcomed the State Counsellor at the Royal York Hotel, where she will stay during her visit.

The State Counsellor left Yangon for official visits to Canada and Sweden on 4 June and arrived in Seoul, Korea at 7am on 5 June.

The State Counsellor was welcomed at Seoul Incheon International Airport by Myanmar ambassador to Korea Thura Thet Oo Maung and officials.

The State Counsellor and party then departed for Canada



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed by Myanmar nationals at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto, Canada yesterday, where she will be staying during her visit to the Quebec city. **PHOTO: MNA**

on a Korea Airlines flight at 9:30 am local standard time.

During the official visits, the State Counsellor will discuss with officials from both Canada and Sweden about the two countries’ transitions to a

federal democratic system.

The State Counsellor holds honorary citizenship to Canada, which was presented to her in 2012 by John Baird, the Conservative foreign minister at the time, during a visit to Myanmar.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is scheduled to visit Canada from 5 June to 9 June, travelling to Toronto and Ottawa. She and her entourage will then depart for Sweden.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon to ban smoking in 20 places, in 20 years

YANGON is on a slow path toward quitting smoking according to U Than Sein, chair of the Public Health Foundation.

The city is embarking on a 20-year plan to implement 20 smoke-free areas in Yangon, according to the Control of Smoking and Consumption of Tobacco Product Law.

Restricted areas will include sports arenas and stadiums, public parks, playgrounds, schools, universities, bus stops, cinemas, markets and other public spaces.

More than six million people in the world are diagnosed with lung or mouth cancer each year. Ninety per cent of those cases are caused by first-hand or second-hand tobacco smoke.—200 ■

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

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Teen-aged suspect died from disease while in police custody

A teen-aged boy arrested on suspicion of taking part in a 12 November 2016 machete attack against security forces near GwaSone village in Maungtaw township died in the custody of border security officials on 2 February, according to statement released yesterday by the State Counsellor’s office Information Committee.

Government security forces apprehended six boys aged 12 to 16 years old on suspicion of attacking border police while on patrol and detained them by the order of a Maungtaw township judge at No. 3 border police force camp. One of the boys, Mummad Rawphi, be-

No.	Name	Age	Village	Section	Remark
1.	Mummad Rawphi, son of Mummad Tarlaung	between 13 and 15	Zinpaingnya Village	302/333/307/34 19 (a) 17 (1)/17 (2)	died from disease
2.	Nosi Mullah, son of Bawli Mullah	between 12 and 13	Kyakhauung Taung Village	302/34/ 19 (a) 17 (1)/17(2)	
3.	Annawah, son of Adusalin	between 12 and 13	Yaykhatchaung, Gwason Village	302/34/ 19(a) 17 (1)/17(2)	
4.	Yarsein, son of Shaungshu Ahlaung	between 12 and 13	Yaykhatchaung, Gwason Village	302/34/ 19(a) 17 (1)/17(2)	
5.	Phal Tu, son of Sweyaw Tumein	between 13 and 14	Yaykhatchaung, Gwason Village	302/34/ 19(a) 17 (1)/17(2)	
6.	Zarphal Arlaung, son of Shawphi Yamauk	between 14 and 15	Yaykhatchaung, Gwason Village	302/34/ 19 (a) 17 (1)/17(2)	

lieved to be less than 15 years old, died while in border police custody.

He had been hospitalised twice in January at Buthidaung Hospital for stomach

inflammation — for two days on 18 January again on 30 January, according to the statement. A medical report determined that the boy died on 2 February while receiving

treatment at the hospital, according to the statement. The remaining five boys are being tried in a juvenile court overseen by Judge U Ba Thauung.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Yangon extends use of stoplights, traffic sensors

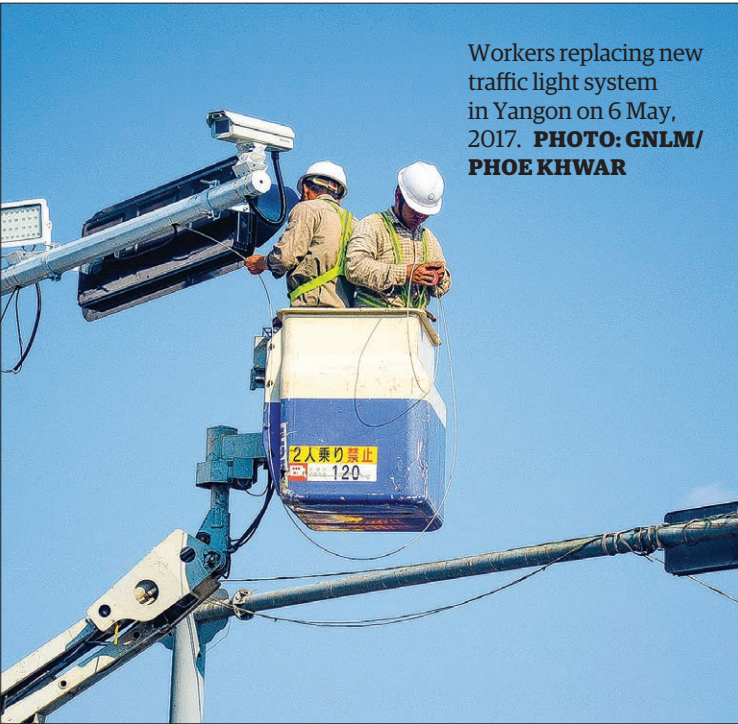
YANGON will install 154 new responsive traffic stoplights and use a number of the old traffic lights at intersections in outlying areas, according to an announcement issued on 1 June by the No. 8 branch Yangon traffic police station.

“We will replace the old traffic lights and install them in towns which need traffic lights,” said police Major Myo Aung Myint of No.8 branch traffic police station in Yangon’s southern district.

New traffic lights have been installed in Hline, Ka-

mayut, Kyimyindine and Ma-yangon townships to reduce traffic congestion and ensure safety. The new lights have sensors to detect oncoming traffic and are linked to a central traffic control system.

Traffic police are currently conducting surveys to determine how many vehicles are on the road at certain intersections. Once traffic flows and distributions are determined, the central traffic control system will adjust stoplight durations accordingly.—Min Thwe ■



Workers replacing new traffic light system in Yangon on 6 May, 2017. **PHOTO: GNLM/ PHOE KHWAR**

Fingerlings to be distributed to Sagaing Region breeders

Over 20 million fingerlings will be distributed in FY 2017-2018 by YeU fish breeding centre, Shwebo fish breeding centre and Inngyingone fish breeding centre, according to a Myawady Daily report on the Sagaing Region fisheries department.

The three government-run fish breeding centres seek to assist local fish farms and increase fish stocks during the rainy season, primarily in Shwebo district. Targeted breeds include shwewah carp, labeorohita, Hamilton carp

and barbus. The government will restock the Chindwin River, Ayeyawady River, Mu River in addition to private fisheries.

Fish breeding is conducted mainly during fish mating seasons. Shwewah carp breed in January, February

and March. Other fish are bred in June, July, August and September.

Officials from Fishery Department said that they do not use hormonal injections, but rather produce fish eggs using natural means.—200 ■

North Dagon apartment complex starts 2nd round of property sales

A new affordable housing complex in North Dagon Township announced its second round of apartment sales in May. The Bo Ba Htoo complex adds 864 apartments in 27 eight-storey buildings to Yangon’s overburdened housing stocks.

The apartments come in

four floor plans: there will be 570 927-square feet apartments being sold for Ks37.7 million each, 38 877-square feet apartments for Ks35.9 million each, 240 614-square feet apartments for Ks28.5 million each and 16 565-square feet apartments for Ks26.7 million each.

The homes can be purchased by government employees and private sector workers. Government workers are required to have at least 20 years of civil service and approval of government authorities. Private sector applicants must hold a national identity card, earn at

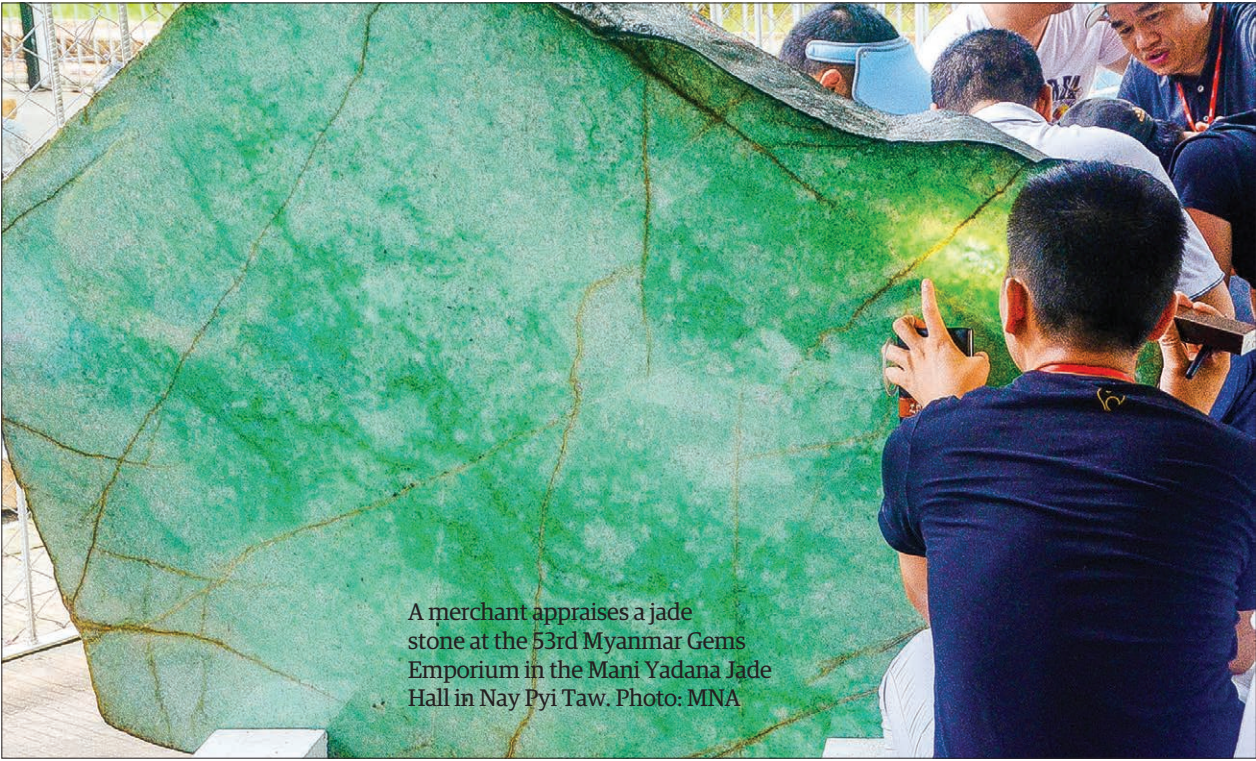
least 3 lakhs per month and be head of their household.

Eligible applicants will be required to make a down payment of 30 per cent of the cost of the apartment within three months. Buyers must also agree not to sell their properties within five years of purchase.—200 ■

54th Myanmar Gems Emporium planned in August

MYANMAR will hold its 54th annual Gems Emporium from 2-11 August at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. Gem dealers must submit jade lots they intend to trade to the jade enterprise committee between 6-15 June.

Those lots will be inspected between 22 June and 17 July, after which the committee will set floor prices. All licensed and authorized buyers are entitled to participate. The upcoming emporium follows an earlier expo held in March for lower quality grade C and D jade.—Ko Htet ■



A merchant appraises a jade stone at the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

YSX stock trading stable in early June



Visitors seen at Yangon Stock Exchange in downtown Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/ PHOE KHWAH

Trading on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) was stable during the past three days. YSX started last year and lists First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB). FMI traded shares priced at Ks 15,500 between 2-5 June, having declined from 16,000 on 1 June. MTSH traded at Ks 3,750, MCB at Ks 9,100

and FPB at Ks 27,000 during the same period. On 5th June, a total volume of 9,168 shares traded on YSX, compared to 12,490 and 10,036 shares on 1 and 2 June, respectively. Total stock values reached Ks 1.5 billion in May, a slight increase over record low YSX stock value in April, according to YSX data. In 2016, the first year of the stock exchange, FMI – then the only com-

pany listed on the YSX – traded shares worth Ks 24 billion in March and Ks 5.8 billion in April. MTSH was listed on the YSX on 20 May and combined value of the two listed companies traded shares worth Ks 16 billion. Total YSX trades dropped to a value of Ks6.8 billion in June and to Ks3.7 billion in July. MCB was listed in August, during which time total YSX trades were valued at Ks 2.9 bil-

lion. In September YSX trading values were Ks 2.4 billion, in October they were Ks4 billion, in November they were Ks 2.2 billion and in December they were Ks 1.5 billion. FPB drove stock trades beyond Ks 6 billion in January and February. Trade values on YSX dropped to Ks 3.3 billion in March and again to Ks 1.2 billion in April, according to YSX data.—GNLM ■

Tourist visits to Inle increased in 2017

INLE saw 30,000 more tourists in the first four months of 2017 compared to 103,000 during the same period last year, according to an announcement by the Shan state Hotels and Tourism Department. Along with Bagan, Inle is among Myanmar's

most popular tourist destinations. Local businesses have responded to increasing numbers of travelers by recently starting up a night bazaar as well as creating community based tourism models, which emphasize local in-

volvement in the tourism sector – for example communal planning of tourism projects and sharing of tourism proceeds. Inle has more than three thousand rooms at 99 hotels licensed by Myanmar's Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.—Min Thu ■

Chinese import restrictions hurt rice prices

MYANMAR rice merchants are complaining that Chinese rice import restrictions at Muse border gate on low quality grains are suppressing prices of the staple crop. China is imposing restrictions on so-called "broken rice" during Myanmar's summer

paddy season, when crops are abundant. The restrictions were imposed after the Thingyan holiday, when Chinese demand was relatively high. Low grade rice prices at the Muse border gate dropped Ks 2,500-3,800 per bag from last week's prices of Ks 16,100 to Ks

20,500 per bag. Muse trade comprises 80 per cent Myanmar's 700,000 tonnes per annum rice export, which has struggled to compete and achieve international quality standards due to poor quality milling equipment.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

CARD Myanmar Company Limited, registered and incorporated as a company on December 4, 2013 under Myanmar Companies Act through the Directorate of Investment Company Administration (DICA). It aims to help in eradicating poverty by giving assistance to low income individuals to increase their income and to exercise free control over productive resources through the provision of appropriate and best practice microfinance services in Myanmar. It was granted to provide three (3) major services: 1) Microfinance, 2) Capacity Building and 3) Technical Assistance. Its microfinance operation through the Microfinance Supervisory Committee Temporary License was issued on August 8, 2014 and after one year and three months a Permanent License was issued on November 5, 2015. As of May 31, 2017 CARD Myanmar Company Limited has established seven branches namely Thingangyun, North Okkalapa, Bago 1, Bago 2, Waw, Thanatpin and Pha Yar Gi with 7,900 clients and 34 locally hired employees. CARD Myanmar Company Limited announces its new set of Board of Directors and Officers for Fiscal Year 2017:

Name of the Board of Directors	Position
Ms. Jean Pauline Belarmino Landicho	Chairman
Mr. Josef Marvida Leron	Member/ Managing Director
Ms. Marjorie Artillaga Marasigan	Member
Mr. Edzel Almaza Ramos	Member
Ms. Marilyn Magampon Manila	Member

Cambodia's Hun Sen says he's confident of keeping power after local vote

PHNOM PENH— Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, whose critics accuse him of undermining democracy, on Monday hailed the results of local elections as a sign he would win next year's general election to extend more than three decades in power.

But although the main opposition party fell short of its hopes in Sunday's ballot, it increased its share of the vote and promised a hard-fought contest in 2018.

The Southeast Asian country has grown increasingly tense in the run-up to the elections and Hun Sen's opponents complained of having to counter threats, court cases and the detention of politicians and activists.

The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) won about 46 per cent of votes in Sunday's vote compared with more than 51 per cent for Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP), according to unofficial results from both parties.

It was a big gain for the opposition over its showing in the last local elections, but it had hoped for 60 per cent in the ballot for 1,600 communes.

"It is already clear the ruling party will remain a majority party in the National Assembly and continue to lead the government



Cambodia's Prime Minister and president of Cambodian People's Party (CPP) Hun Sen. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ahead," Hun Sen wrote in a post on social media site Facebook, beside pictures of himself playing golf and posing in sunglasses.

Hun Sen, 64, one of Asia's longest serving rulers, has been prime minister for 32 years. His growing friendship with Beijing has brought infrastructure loans

that have made Cambodia less reliant on Western donors who express concerns about democracy. The prime minister has repeatedly warned of violence if his party does not keep power, raising deep concerns in a country where about 1.8 million people died of starvation, violence,

exhaustion or disease under the communist Khmer Rouge regime in the 1970s.

Voting went smoothly on Sunday and observers recorded little malpractice or intimidation.

The opposition said it was still pleased with its results. The ruling party won control of

97 percent of Cambodia's communes in the 2012 election, when opposition parties were divided.

"These results are the basis that may prove that we will win the general 2018 election," said CNRP leader Kem Sokha, whose exiled predecessor resigned in February, saying he feared the party would be banned if he did not.

The opposition did much better than expected in the last general election in 2013, leaving the ruling party with only a small majority in parliament.

"The momentum has always been on the opposition side," said Ou Virak of the Future Forum think-tank.

"Given that the 2018 election is the most important election, I think the opposition will be stronger and that makes the outcome of the next election pretty unpredictable."

The National Election Committee is due to publish official results on 25 June.

Sunday's voting was orderly and peaceful, the US embassy said, but added that it expected the election body to "investigate fully the concerns expressed by opposition parties and civil society organizations before and during the campaign".—Reuters ■

India rejects Trump charge that it linked Paris climate accord for aid

NEW DELHI — India on Monday rejected US President Donald Trump's comments that it had linked its accession to the Paris climate control accord to receiving foreign aid and said it was committed to protecting the environment on its own.

Trump withdrew the United States from the 2015 agreement to cut emissions saying it undermined the US economy, cost US jobs, and put it at a disadvantage to other nations. He also complained that China and India were getting favourable terms under the accord, saying New Delhi had made its participation contingent on receiving "billions and billions

and billions of dollars in foreign aid" from developed nations.

But Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj said India was not in the Paris accord for money or because it had faced pressure from other countries. "Anyone who says we have signed Paris because of the lure of money, I reject that as baseless. This is not the reality," she told reporters. "Our signature is not out of greed or fear." India is the world's third-biggest emitter of greenhouse gases that cause global warming. It has said it remained committed to carrying out its obligations under the accord despite the US pullout. Developing nations agreed the

2015 Paris deal after the rich set a goal of raising climate finance from \$100 billion a year from 2020 to help the poor limit greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to more heat waves, floods, storms and rising seas.

Some countries such as Ethiopia said Trump's decision would make things harder for the least developed nation, but there were no plans for anyone to quit the Paris pact. Swaraj said India had a long tradition of respect for the environment. "Our commitment to the environment is 5,000 years old. We are a people who worship rivers, mountains, trees." —Reuters ■

Abe pledges cooperation with ASEAN on "free and open" world order

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged Monday to cooperate with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to maintain a free and open international order in the Indo-Pacific region, in apparent reference to China's expansionary activities in the South China Sea.

During a meeting in Tokyo with Le Luong Minh, the secretary general of ASEAN, Abe also expressed Tokyo's desire to support the regional group in economic fields and to make the bonds between Japan and the bloc unshakeable through

mutual understanding driven by cultural and interpersonal exchanges, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Minh told Abe that contributions in security and political areas have been part of Japan's continued support for ASEAN in the 50 years since its establishment in 1967, the ministry said.

A number of ASEAN members are involved in territorial disputes with China in the South China Sea, where Beijing has engaged in land reclamation to buttress its claims. —Kyodo News ■

Abe offers conditional cooperation with China's Silk Road initiative

TOKYO— Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday that Japan is ready to cooperate with China's "One Belt, One Road" cross-continental infrastructure development scheme under certain conditions.

Speaking at a forum in Tokyo on Asia's future, Abe said those conditions would include "harmony with a free and fair Trans-Pacific economic zone," alluding to the terms of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact, to which Japan is a signatory but China is not.

The One Belt, One Road initiative, put forward by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013, would involve massive investment to connect up both a land-based economic belt based off the ancient Silk Road and a maritime corridor spanning from China to Southeast Asia, India, Africa and Europe.

Xi has said he wants to create a "big family of harmonious coexistence" through the project, but skeptics see it as a bid to position China as a viable alternative to US global leadership. Abe lauded the initiative's "potential to connect East and West as well as the diverse regions found in between." But he cautioned that it is "critical for infrastructure to be open to use by all, and to be developed through procurement that is transparent and fair."



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I furthermore consider it essential for projects to be economically viable and to be financed by debt that can be repaid, and not to harm the soundness of the debtor nation's finances," Abe said, adding Tokyo is "ready to extend cooperation from that perspective."

The statement may be part of efforts to foster warmer relations with China as Japan seeks to host a postponed trilateral summit with the leaders of China and South Korea by the end of the year. It also comes amid speculation that the United States could be considering joining the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, a move that would likely put pressure on Japan to follow suit.

Japan and the United States, the main backers of the decades-old Asian Development Bank, are the only members of the Group of Seven developed nations not signed up to the AIIB.

Abe said last month he could be open to considering joining the AIIB if questions surrounding projects' environmental impacts and other issues are resolved.

Toshihiro Nikai, the secretary general of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and known for his pro-China stance, attended a One Belt, One Road-themed international forum in Beijing last month and is said to support the AIIB idea.—Kyodo News ■

S Korean president orders additional probe into unreported THAAD launchers deployment

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Monday ordered an additional probe into the unreported deployment of four more mobile launchers of the US missile shield to the country.

Senior presidential press secretary Yoon Young-chan told a press briefing that President Moon ordered his senior secretary for civil affairs to look further into any suspicions over the installation of the US Terminal High Altitude Area (THAAD) missile interception system. Moon ordered an initial investigation last week into the "intentional" omission of report to the new leader about the deployment of four THAAD mobile launchers to an unidentified US military base in South Korea.

During the regular meeting earlier in the day between Moon and his senior secretaries, Moon was briefed by the civil affairs secretary on the investigation findings. The findings showed Wi Seung-ho, chief of the defence ministry's national defence policy office, ordered officials to omit the

deployment of four more THAAD launchers from a document to the presidential Blue House.

The defence ministry reported to the state affairs planning advisory panel, which acted as a transition committee, on 25 May and to the National Security Office of the Blue House the following day, but the additional installation was omitted from the documents.

In the preliminary documents, the additional deployments to the unnamed US military base in South Korea were written, but Wi instructed defense ministry officials to omit them in the final version.

The Blue House informed the US side of the investigation results earlier in the day. In response, the US side said it can understand the South Korean position.

Wi will be excluded from relevant defense affairs, while other relevant defense ministry officials will be subject to further investigations, according to the Blue House. —Xinhua ■

China upset at Mattis' "irresponsible remarks" on South China Sea

SHANGHAI — China has expressed its strong dissatisfaction with what it labelled "irresponsible remarks" on the South China Sea by US Secretary of Defence James Mattis during a security forum at the weekend.

Mattis accused China of having contempt for other nations' interests and disregarding international law.

He told the annual Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore that the construction and militarisation of artificial islands in the South China Sea undermined regional stability.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China's construction of facilities in the Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea was aimed at improving working conditions for people stationed there, maintaining sovereignty and fulfilling China's international responsibilities.

The sovereign activities undertaken by China had nothing to do with militarisation, Hua said in remarks posted on the ministry's website late on Sunday. China's claims in the South China Sea, through which about \$5

trillion in ship-borne trade passes each year, are contested by Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam. China and Japan both claim islands in the East China Sea.

Hua said countries around the South China Sea had tried to lower tensions, but others outside the region "have been bent on going against the trend, making repeated erroneous remarks, ignoring the facts and confusing black from white with entirely ulterior motives". — Reuters ■

Available @

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City SUPERCENTER **City Mart** Supermarket

It is time for YCDC to make good on its pledges

Tha Sein

The bouts of heavy rain, apparently brought by storm Mora, inundated a vast area of Yangon and overwhelmed the city drainage capacity, causing motorists to get stuck in traffic and forcing the people to wade waist-deep into the water to run their chores.

One thing leads to another, and all of a sudden a whole slew of symptoms converge into a stream of serious ailments. First, there was flooding, a common enough occurrence in the city after heavy rain. The city's ineffective drainage

system is being blamed for the floods, and the allowance of the urban landscape to grow with little regard for proper design and management of the city's drainage system a factor to blame.

The floods have also caused frequent power cuts, which leave traffic lights unpowered, playing havoc with people across the city being stuck in traffic.

The issue has now become a topic of discussion. Rapid development and population growth compounded by increasing environmental degradation and the effects of climate change made the city more vulnerable to flood than other

areas of the country.

That is because we tend to shy away from tackling problems at the root cause. We try to solve structural problems but do little to fix cultural issues having to do with people's environmental behavior and social responsibility. Crisis management is the name of the game.

A tendency of the people to leave rubbish behind, including large pieces such as disposed plastic bottles, various furniture items and assortments of other trash makes the problem worse. If they are troubled by environmental or developmental harm caused by their actions,

they will find some rationale to explain it.

Yangon is at greater risk than many other parts of the country to flood in the rainy season because of its blocked drainages. It is easy for the people to lambaste the government for the failure to deal adequately with city's drainage systems. Instead, the people should do all they can to support and encourage the government in its endeavors.

The YCDC received its fair share of criticism during the floods, and it is time to revive and then make good on its pledges to turn the city into a clean and pleasant one. ■

Myanmar drafting new development strategy for agriculture sector

By Rey Davis-Tuplano,
Editorial Manager,
Oxford Business Group

FACED with weak investment inflows and growth rates well behind that of GDP, Myanmar's agriculture industry is being targeted by the government and international agencies for an overhaul aimed at lifting productivity and returns.

In late April the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MALI) announced it was in the process of drafting a development strategy for the sector.

The main targets of the blueprint are to improve sectoral monitoring, increase production and raise the sector's competitiveness, officials said.

Authorities hope to accomplish these goals by establishing stronger links between the public and private sector via 42 programmes and 263 plans of action.

Being developed with input from the Asian Development Bank, the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation, and Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund, the MALI expects to finalise and publish the new strategy in July, with extensive consultations with stakeholders to be held both this month and next.

Cooling growth

The new strategy is being developed at a time when agriculture is failing to keep up with the rest of the economy.

The sector expanded by an estimated 4.3% in 2016, according to data issued by the World Bank in mid-April. While this represented an improvement on the 3.4% growth posted in 2015 and 2.8% a year earlier, the sector continues to lag behind the broader economy, with GDP expansion hitting 6.5% last year.

This gap is forecast to persist in the medium term, with the World Bank estimating in its "Sustaining Resilience" report published last month that Myanmar's agriculture sector will expand by



"Of the 20m ha of agricultural land available in Myanmar, only 20% is farmed using machinery."

around 5.4% every year through to 2019, compared to broader economic growth of 7%.

Easing credit drought

Even in its draft stage, the MALI strategy has identified some key areas where improvements need to be made to help bridge the growth gap. One of these involves improving access to credit among the nation's farmers – an issue cited by other observers as restricting capacity development in the sector.

An Article IV Consultation released by the IMF in early February, for example, highlighted that improved access to credit was called for in the sector given the lower than expected growth recorded last year. According to the international lender, there was scope for "carefully sequenced loosening of controls on lending interest rates, supported by appropriate supervision".

Investment shortfall

At the same time farmers have struggled to obtain appropriate financing, their industry is also having difficulty attracting significant levels of investment when compared with other leading sectors.

Although agriculture is the country's leading employer and contributor to the economy – accounting for some 24% of GDP – it has not drawn levels of investment that are commensurate with this high input.

Domestic investors directed MMK13.19trn (\$9.7bn) into more than 1240 registered enterprises in the 12 months ending March 31, with the agriculture and livestock segment only drawing 0.38% of the total. Even with the fisheries segment factored in, this only rose to 0.91%.

By contrast, the real estate sector attracted MMK2.76trn (\$2bn) of domestic investments, just under 21% of the total, according to data issued by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration in April, with manufacturing and transport drawing MMK2.4trn (\$1.7bn) and MMK2.3trn (\$1.6bn), respectively.

Furthermore, of the 20m ha of agricultural land available in Myanmar, only 20% is farmed using machinery. This has contributed to the slow growth, with the government pushing for the sector's restructuring and mechanisation as a result.

"The country is not able to fully

leverage its capacity because it does not have the best machinery, nor the best quality seeds, and undertakes limited research and development." Sunil Seth, president of the Overseas Agro Traders Association of Myanmar and TATA group head in Myanmar, told OBG.

If not tackled fast, Myanmar could lose ground to competitors in African markets, such as Mozambique, Sudan and Tanzania, which can produce the same crops at a lower cost than Myanmar, according to Seth.

U Aung Zaw Oo, chairman of agricultural group Aung Naing Thitsar, also spoke of shortcomings that limited forward momentum in the industry. "There is no proper infrastructure in rural areas, whether that be storage facilities or transportation," he told OBG.

New law lifts investment potential

To help tackle these challenges, agriculture has been identified by the Myanmar Investment Commission as one of 20 key sectors for investment prioritisation, with a new investment law introduced in April aimed at easing the route to investment for overseas companies.

Unlike previous investment acts, the new legislation covers both overseas and domestic firms. Along with income tax exemptions for investors buying into targeted sectors such as agriculture and agribusiness, there is also support for firms operating out of special economic zones being established by the state.

The fact that the new law has reduced the corporate income tax exemption from five to three years in major cities and increased it to seven years in less-well-developed areas could also help attract investors into the agriculture sector, which is largely based in rural regions. ■

This Myanmar economic update was produced by Oxford Business Group.

Rakhine Advisory Commission meets civil society organisations in Sittway

Ms. Laetitia van den Assum and party of Rakhine Advisory Commission arrived in Sittway by Myanmar National airline flight on the afternoon of 4 June.

Yesterday morning, the commission members met with 10 farmers from villages in Sittway township led by farmer U Tin Myint and 10 youths from Rakhine Youth Group led by Zaw Zaw Tun at Sittway Hotel.

In the afternoon, the commission members met with 10 representatives of civil society organisations led by U Khaing Kaung Zan of Wun Let Foundation and Hindus led by U Maung Tha Aung of Hindu faith at Sittway hotel and discussed matters relating to socio-economic development of Rakhine State.

On 6 June, the commission will meet with Rakhine people



Ms. Laetitia van den Assum and party of Rakhine Advisory Commission meet civil society organizations in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

in Mrauk U, civil society organisations from two communities in Kyauktaw and on 7 June, will meet with top departmental officials in Thandwe Township to discuss matters relating to travel and fish breeding sector.

The commission members include Ms. Laetitia van den Assum, U Win Mya, U Khin Maung Lay, Dr. Thar Hla Shwe, Dr. Mya Thida and Daw Saw Khin Tint.—Tin Tun (Information/Relations) ■

Villager killed by unidentified men in Maungtaw

A villager from Ywathitkay Village, Gawdutharya Village-tract, Maungtaw Township, was killed by a group of unidentified men on Sunday.

Nu Armein, the head of the 100-households of the village, was abducted by about 15 men armed with machetes at his home about 3 am and his brother was beaten

by them. Nu Armein was found dead with cuts about 11.45 am near a prawn farm south of Ywathitkay Village.—Myanmar News Agency ■

KBZ awarded Business Initiative Directions' International Quality Summit Award 2017

Kanbawza Bank Limited won the International Quality Summit Award (Diamond Category) for 2017 for the third year in a row. The award is sponsored by Business Initiative Directions (BID) of Spain to organisations for excellence, leadership and innovation.

This year's BID International Quality Summit Convention was held in the Marriott Marquis Hotel in New York City from 28 to 29 May. Senior General-Manager of KBZ Bank Limited U Soe Tin Maung Zaw and Deputy Manager U Aung Phyto Htay received the award on behalf of KBZ Bank Limited.

U Nyo Myint, Senior Executive Director of KBZ Group of Companies, said KBZ is Myanmar best bank. U Nyo Myint also touted KBZ's position as a leading corporate taxpayer in Myanmar for the past five years,



U Nyo Myint, Senior Executive Director of KBZ Group of Companies, Senior General-Manager of KBZ Bank Limited U Soe Tin Maung Zaw and Deputy Manager U Aung Phyto Htay accept the International Quality Summit Award (Diamond Category) from Spain-based Business Initiative Directions, for the third year in a row. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

a practice that contributes to the nation's development goals.

KBZ Group of Companies won the International Star Award for Quality (Gold Category) in 2015, the World Quality Commitment Award (Platinum

Category) in 2016 and is now awarded the International Quality Summit Award (Diamond Category) for sustained excellence. BID called KBZ a role model for management.—Thura Lwin-Eco ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 10/2017

11th Waxing of Nayon, 1379 ME
5 June, 2017

Deputy Minister approved

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 234 (a) (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 16 (b) Sub-section (9) of Union Government Law, U Kyaw Lin, has been appointed as Deputy Minister for Construction.

Sd/Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 11/2017

11th Waxing of Nayon, 1379 ME
5 June, 2017

Appointment of Ayeyawady Region Minister

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, U Htay Win, has been appointed as Ayeyawady Region Minister for Planning and Finance.

Sd/Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Man missing in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State

A villager from Kyikanpyin Ale Village in Maungtaw Township has been missing since 27 May, according to local police.

Mamauk Tarhar left his home about 6 pm on 27th

May and still has not arrived back his home, said his mother to the police. She opened a file for missing of her son at Pyinbyu Police Station.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports and Mr. Staffan Herrstrom, Ambassador of Sweden delivers welcoming speeches at the ceremony to mark Swedish National Day in Yadanar Room, Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

After London attack, May faces election heat over police cuts

LONDON — Britain's election campaign resumed in earnest on Monday with Prime Minister Theresa May's opinion poll lead narrowing and the focus firmly on her security record after an attack by marauding jihadis killed seven people in the heart of London.

In Britain's third Islamist attack in as many months, three men rammed a van into pedestrians on London Bridge on Saturday night before running into the busy Borough Market area where they slit people's throats and stabbed them indiscriminately.

All three attackers were shot dead by police, who have since made at least a dozen arrests in east London and were carrying out further raids on Monday morning. The attackers' identities have not been disclosed.

A parliamentary election takes place on Thursday and May's spokeswoman said the government was working closely with police on security for the vote.

With the London attack dominating attention, a reduction in the number of police officers in England and Wales by almost 20,000 during May's six years as interior minister from 2010 to 2016 shot to the top of the election agenda.

The Conservative Party leader did not answer repeated questions on the cutbacks but said counter-terrorism budgets had been protected and police had the powers they needed.

Her main opponent, Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn, backed calls for her resignation over the police cuts.

He said many people were "very worried that she was at the Home Office for all this time, presided over these cuts in police numbers, and now is saying that we have a problem".

The Conservatives' lead over Labour has narrowed markedly from 20 points or more when she called the election in April to a range between one and 12 points now, although they are still widely expected to win a majority.

The pound rose on curren-



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May delivers a campaign speech in central London, Britain, on 5 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

cy markets, which favour May over Corbyn, after the latest ICM poll, taken between 2 and 4 June and published on Monday, suggested the Conservatives were ahead by 11 points.

After chairing a meeting of the government's crisis response committee on Monday morning, May said the official threat level remained at "severe", meaning an attack was highly likely, and additional security measures were in place.

"This was an attack on London and the United Kingdom, but it was also an attack on the free world," she said.

A Canadian and a French national are known to have died and 48 people were injured, 21 of them critically.

The rampage came less than two weeks after a suicide bomber killed 22 children and adults at a pop concert in Manchester. In March, five people died after a man drove a van into pedestrians on London's Westminster Bridge and stabbed a policeman.

The Islamic State militant

group, which is losing territory in Syria and Iraq to an offensive backed by a US-led coalition, claimed responsibility for the London Bridge attack, though it is unclear whether the attackers had links to the group.

London police chief Cressida Dick said that, while some of the recent attacks in Britain had international dimensions, they had a largely domestic "centre of gravity". Both the Westminster and Manchester attackers were British-born.

With the issue of security now dominating the election agenda, May responded to the latest violence by saying Britain should be tougher in stamping out Islamist extremism.

The police response to the rampage, which saw officers shoot dead the attackers within eight minutes of police receiving the first call, has been widely praised. But that did not stop the questions to May about police numbers during her time as interior minister. According to official data, officer numbers decreased every year that she was in the post, from 2010 to

2016. The number of authorised firearms officers in England and Wales fell to just under 5,700 in 2016 from nearly 7,000 in 2010. Asked whether she regretted presiding over the cuts, May did not answer the question, saying London's Metropolitan Police was well resourced and had powerful counter-terrorism capabilities. "We have protected counter-terrorism policing budgets, we have also provided funding for an increase in the number of armed police officers," she said.

May tried to deflect the pressure onto Corbyn, a pacifist who has opposed some security legislation in parliament and expressed reservations in the past about police responding to armed attackers with "shoot-to-kill" tactics.

He sought to end that earlier controversy on Sunday by stating that he backed the "full authority for the police to use whatever force is necessary to protect and save life as they did (at Borough Market), as they did in Westminster in March". —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Kremlin wants stability and peace in the Gulf despite Qatar diplomatic row

MOSCOW — It is in Russia's interest to have a "stable and peaceful" situation in the Gulf, the Kremlin said on Monday, commenting on the decision by a number of Arab nations to sever diplomatic relations with Qatar.

Moscow also hopes that the current diplomatic row in the Gulf will not affect "the common determination and resolve" in the joint fight against "international terrorism", Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a conference call with reporters. —Reuters ■

Multiple fatalities in Florida workplace shooting — sheriff

ORLANDO — Multiple people were killed in a workplace shooting in Orlando, Florida, on Monday morning, the Orange County Sheriff's Office said, adding that the situation had stabilized.

"OCSO working shooting scene that has stabilized. Multiple fatalities," the sheriff's office posted on Twitter. The incident occurred in an industrial area on Forsyth Road, the sheriff's office said. —Reuters ■

US top court rules against SEC over recovery of ill-gotten gains

WASHINGTON — The US Supreme Court on Monday scaled back the Securities and Exchange Commission's power to recover ill-gotten profits from defendants' misconduct, handing Wall Street firms a victory and dealing another blow to the regulator's enforcement powers. In a 9-0 ruling, the Supreme Court found that the SEC's recovery remedy known as "disgorgement" is subject to a five-year statute of limitations. The justices sided with New Mexico-based investment adviser Charles Kokesch, who previously was ordered by a judge to pay \$2.4 million in penalties plus \$34.9 million in disgorgement of illegal profits after the SEC sued him. —Reuters ■

Saudi, Egypt lead Arab states cutting Qatar ties, Iran blames Trump

DUBAI — Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain severed their ties with Qatar on Monday, accusing it of supporting terrorism and opening up the worst rift in years among some of the most powerful states in the Arab world.

Iran — long at odds with Saudi Arabia and a behind-the-scenes target of the move — immediately blamed US President Donald Trump for setting the stage during his recent trip to Riyadh.

Gulf Arab states and Egypt have already long resented Qatar's support for Islamists, especially the Muslim Brotherhood which they regard as a dangerous political enemy.

The coordinated move, with Yemen and Libya's eastern-based government joining in later, created a dramatic rift among the Arab nations, many of which are in OPEC.

Announcing the closure of transport ties with Qatar, the three Gulf states gave Qatari visitors and residents two weeks to leave. Qatar was also expelled from the Saudi-led coalition fighting in Yemen.

Oil giant Saudi Arabia accused Qatar of backing militant groups — some backed by regional arch-rival Iran — and broadcasting their ideology, an apparent reference to Qatar's influential state-owned satellite

channel al Jazeera. "(Qatar) embraces multiple terrorist and sectarian groups aimed at disturbing stability in the region, including the Muslim Brotherhood, ISIS (Islamic State) and al-Qaeda, and promotes the message and schemes of these groups through their media constantly," Saudi state news agency SPA said. It accused Qatar of supporting what it described as Iranian-backed militants in its restive and largely Shi'ite Muslim-populated Eastern region of Qatif and in Bahrain.

Qatar said it was facing a campaign aimed at weakening it, denying it was interfering in the affairs of other countries.

"The campaign of incitement is based on lies that had reached the level of complete fabrications," the Qatari foreign ministry said in a statement.

Iran saw America pulling the strings. "What is happening is the preliminary result of the sword dance," Hamid Aboutalebi, deputy chief of staff of Iran's President Hassan Rouhani, tweeted in a reference to Trump's recent visit to Saudi Arabia.

Trump and other US officials participated in a traditional sword dance during the trip in which he called on Muslim countries to stand united against Islamist extremists and singled out Iran as a key source of funding and support for militant groups.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told reporters in Sydney on Monday that the spat would not effect the fight against Islamist militants and that Washington has encouraged its Gulf allies to resolve their differences.

A split between Doha and its closest allies can have repercussions around the Middle East, where Gulf states have used their financial and political power to influence events in Libya, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. The economic fallout loomed immediately, as Abu Dhabi's state-owned Etihad Airways, Dubai's Emirates Airline and budget carrier Flydubai said they would suspend all flights to and from Doha from Tuesday morning until further notice.

Qatar Airways said on its official website it had suspended all flights to Saudi Arabia.

Qatar's stock market index sank 7.5 per cent with some of the market's top blue chips hardest hit. The measures are more severe than during a previous eight-month rift in 2014, when Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE withdrew their ambassadors from Doha, again alleging Qatari support for militant groups. At that time, travel links were maintained and Qataris were not expelled.

The diplomatic broadside threatens the international pres-



A map of Qatar is seen in this picture illustration on 5 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

tige of Qatar, which hosts a large US military base and is set to host the 2022 World Cup. It has for years presented itself as a mediator and power broker for the region's many disputes.

Kristian Ulrichsen, a Gulf expert at the US-based Baker Institute, said if Qatar's land borders and air space were closed for any length of time "it would wreak havoc on the timeline and delivery" of the World Cup.

"It seems that the Saudis and Emiratis feel emboldened by the alignment of their regional interests — toward Iran and Islamism — with the Trump administration," Ulrichsen said. "(They) have decided to deal with Qatar's alternative approach on the assumption that they will have the (Trump) administration's backing."

Qatar used its media and political clout to support long-repressed Islamists during the 2011 pro-democracy "Arab Spring" uprisings in several Arab countries.

Muslim Brotherhood groups allied to Doha are now mostly on the backfoot in the region, especially after a 2013 military takeover in Egypt ousted the elected Islamist president.

The former army chief and now president, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, along with the new government's allies in Saudi Arabia and the UAE, blacklist the Brotherhood as a terrorist organisation.

Egypt, the Arab world's most populous nation, said on its state news agency that Qatar's policy "threatens Arab national security and sows the seeds of strife and division within Arab societies according to a deliberate plan aimed at the unity and interests of the Arab nation."

Oil prices rose after the moves against Qatar, which is the biggest supplier of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and a major seller of condensate - a low-density liquid fuel and refining product derived from natural gas. —Reuters ■

Tillerson says break with Qatar by Saudi Arabia, others won't affect counter-terrorism

SYDNEY — US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he does not expect a decision by Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain to sever ties with Qatar on Monday to have a significant effect on the fight against Islamic State.

"I do not expect that this will have any significant impact, if any impact at all, on the unified - the unified — fight against terrorism in the region or globally," Tillerson told reporters in Sydney after meetings between Australian and US foreign and defence ministers.

Tillerson urged the Gulf Cooperation Council nations to instead sort out their dif-



US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson speaks at a press conference at the Australia-United States Ministerial Consultations (AUSMIN) at Government House in Sydney, Australia on 5 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ferences.

The coordinated move dramatically escalates a dispute over Qatar's support for the Muslim Brotherhood, the

world's oldest Islamist movement, and adds accusations that Doha even backs the agenda of regional arch-rival Iran.—Reuters ■

Irish police say one London attacker had Irish ID — RTE TV

DUBLIN — One of three attackers shot dead during an attack near London Bridge on Saturday evening had an Irish identification card, the Irish state broadcaster RTE reported on Monday, citing Irish police sources.

The Irish police declined to comment on the report.

"The British police discovered the Irish identity card on the body of one of the three London attackers after he was shot dead," RTE security correspondent Paul Reynolds said in a report. "Gardai (Irish police) were contacted and have established that he lived in Dublin for some time."

The man is believed to have been of Moroccan origin and is married to a Scottish woman,"

he said. The man had not come to the attention of the Gardai in relation to any crime or security issues, the report said.

The head of the Irish police force was due to hold a special meeting of security and intelligence officers in Dublin on Monday morning in relation to the attack, RTE reported. At least seven people were killed when the three men rammed a van into pedestrians on London Bridge and then stabbed revellers in nearby bars, British police said.

An Irish police spokesman said the force was providing assistance to colleagues in the British police and would answer any enquiries from them in relation to the identity of any individuals. —Reuters ■

Trump urges tougher US travel ban, expedited court review

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump urged his administration to seek a tougher version of his controversial travel ban proposal on Monday following a weekend attack in London, and pressed for an expedited judicial review by the nation's top court.

"The Justice Department should have stayed with the original travel ban, not the watered down, politically correct version they submitted to SC," Trump, referring to the US Supreme Court, wrote in a series of early morning tweets on the issue. "The Justice Department should ask for an expedited hearing of the watered down travel ban before the Supreme Court — & seek much tougher version!" tweeted Trump, who as president oversees the department.

Last week, Trump's



US President Donald Trump makes concluding remarks as first lady Melania Trump listens at the Ford's Theatre Gala, an annual charity event to honor the legacy of President Abraham Lincoln, in Washington, US on 4 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

legal team asked the nation's top court to allow his controversial 6 March executive order, which blocks citizens of six predominantly Muslim countries from entering the United States,

to take effect immediately despite being blocked by lower courts. The Supreme Court rarely grants emergency requests. Trump has said his proposed ban, a centerpiece of his 2016

presidential campaign, is necessary to protect Americans from terrorist attacks. Critics have assailed the ban as discriminatory and that his reasoning for it is flawed. US Senator Ben

Cardin, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee who opposes the ban, said on Monday Trump's tweets on the issue "clearly shows his intent" and his disdain for

the judicial branch.

"The courts have ruled, and the courts said this abused the executive powers. His lawyers tried to justify it by saying it wasn't a travel ban, that it was just extreme vetting," Cardin told CNN. "The president's made that very clear: it is a travel ban."

Trump also tweeted on Monday that even as legal wrangling over the ban continues, his administration was implementing tougher vetting of would-be visitors to the United States, adding: "The courts are slow and political!"

Last week, his administration rolled out new policies for those seeking a US visa, asking for the social media handles they have used over the last five years and biographical information going back 15 years.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ACACIA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ACACIA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW(5) 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
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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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

MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T 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

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

US army Pacific chief in Bangkok amid regional security concerns

BANGKOK — The head of the US Army Pacific met his Thai counterpart in Bangkok on Monday, a rare top-level meeting between the old allies' militaries since the United States criticised a Thai military coup in 2014.

The visit to Thailand by General Robert B Brown, who is also director of the US Missile Defence Agency in Seoul, comes as the United States looks to reassure allies about its commitment to the region.

Brown met General Chalermschai Sittisart, commander of the Royal Thai Army, at the army's headquarters in Bangkok.

"The United States and Thailand have had a relationship since 1833 ... We have exchanged ideas, cooperated militarily," the Thai army said in a statement. Neither of the two generals spoke to media following a military parade to welcome Brown.

Thailand is Washington's oldest ally in the region, but ties were strained by the 2014 military coup led by then-army chief Prayuth Chan-ocha that ousted an elected civilian government.



The chief commander of the US Army Pacific, General Robert B Brown reviews the honour guard with his Thai counterpart, General Chalermschai Sittisart (not in pictured) during his visit to Thailand at the Royal Thai Army headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand on 5 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The United States scaled back some military exchanges with Thailand and Thailand responded by forging closer ties with Asian giant China.

But the United States and Thailand have continued to hold joint military exercises including the annual Cobra Gold exercises, Asia's largest multinational drill.

US Defence Secretary Jim Mattis told a regional security conference in Singapore on the weekend that United

States remained committed to its Asia-Pacific allies. US President Donald Trump's "America First" rhetoric and expectations that he would concentrate on a domestic agenda has stoked fears of a retreat from a traditional US security role that has underpinned the region for decades.

Now the United States was reacting to China's growing ties with countries like Thailand and its neighbour, Cambodia, an analyst said.

"The Trump administration would like to re-balance military power in Asia, which has increasingly moved toward China, in an effort to reassert Washington's security influence," Paul Chambers from the College of ASEAN Community Studies at Naresuan University told Reuters.

Last month, Trump invited former army chief Prayuth, who now heads the military government as prime minister, to visit Washington.—Reuters ■

"TPP 11" should unite behind pact, Abe tells Vietnamese PM

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told his Vietnamese counterpart Nguyen Xuan Phuc on Monday that the remaining signatories of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal should come together to bring it into force following the United States' withdrawal.

"The 'TPP 11', the eleven (signatories) to the TPP, will unite to realize (it)," Abe said in Tokyo at a conference on investment in Vietnam attended by Phuc.

Since US President Donald Trump announced the withdrawal of the world's biggest economy from the TPP soon after taking office in January, the 11 remaining signatories have differed

over whether to bring the pact into force without Washington.

Japan, along with Australia and New Zealand, advocates quick implementation of the deal without the United States, but Vietnam and Malaysia have been reluctant as they had hoped to take advantage of increased trade with the United States under the TPP in order to expand their economies.

Abe is scheduled to hold talks later this week with Phuc, who is on an official visit to Japan from Sunday to Thursday.

Abe said the "world is watching Vietnam" because of its pursuit of multilateral agreements like the TPP in tandem

with domestic economic reforms and "this movement must not be stopped."

"With or without a TPP, we will go forward with economic reform, domestic economic reconstruction and pass on a model for economic development," Phuc said at the conference before Abe arrived.

"From here on, Vietnam wants to coordinate with (the other signatories), have an open discussion with Japan and reach a logical conclusion. We want to do our best for our common goal," Phuc said.

At a business conference in the capital earlier on Monday, Phuc said his country is discussing the

"best options" for the TPP.

"We are discussing with other members to assess the best options on a mutually beneficial basis...when there's no United States in the TPP," he said.

The chief negotiators of the 11 remaining TPP countries plan to meet in Japan next month to discuss the future of the free trade deal without the United States.

The planned meeting, to be hosted by Tokyo for the first time, follows an agreement by the trade ministers of the 11 TPP members on 21 May in Hanoi to complete preparatory work by November to swiftly bring the deal into force.—Reuters ■

Eight dead, nine injured in petrochemical plant explosion

JINAN — Rescuers have retrieved a further seven bodies following an explosion at a petrochemical company in eastern China's Shandong Province Monday morning, bringing the death toll to eight.

As of 4 pm, the fire in Linyi city had been put out with secondary disasters unlikely, according to the emergency rescue headquarters.

Nine others were injured after a liquefied gas tanker exploded around 1 am Monday, causing the

fire in the loading area of Linyi Jinyu Petrochemical Company, in the city's Lingang Economic Development Area.

The injured were not in critical condition, according to the rescuers.

Police have detained the owner of the company.

More than 900 firefighters and over 170 fire engines were mobilized to extinguish the flames, with people in nearby villages and plants evacuated.

An investigation is underway.—Xinhua ■

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For **KT & G Corporation**,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 6th June 2017 lm@kcyangon.com

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO ()

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Top Drama Desk awards for 'Oslo,' 'Come From Away' and Bette Midler in 'Hello, Dolly!'

NEW YORK — The musical "Come From Away," the play "Oslo," and Bette Midler in a hit revival of "Hello, Dolly!" were among the top winners at Sunday's Drama Desk Awards, one of a series of theater honours leading up to Broadway's top honours, the Tony Awards.

"Come From Away," set in Gander, Newfoundland where dozens of jetliners were forced to land, stranding passengers after the 11 September attacks, was named best musical, while Midler won best actress in a musical for her star turn in "Hello, Dolly!" which also took the best musical revival prize.

"Oslo," JT Rogers' play

about the behind-the-scenes negotiations in Norway that led to the historic 1993 peace accord between Israel and the PLO, won best play, while August Wilson's "Jitney" was named best play revival. Other big winners included best actor in a play Kevin Kline in Noel Coward's "Present Laughter" and Laura Linney, who took best actress in a play for "The Little Foxes." Cynthia Nixon in "The Little Foxes" and Danny DeVito in "The Price" took honours for featured performances in a play. Almost all the winners are seen as frontrunners for the Tony Awards, which will be handed out on 11 June at a gala ceremony hosted by Kevin Spacey

at Radio City Music Hall, though Linney faces stiff competition from favorite Laurie Metcalf in "A Doll's House, Part 2." Best actor in a musical went to Andy Karl for "Groundhog Day," an adaptation of the popular Bill Murray film. "Dear Evan Hansen," the favorite for the best musical Tony, was not eligible for this year's Drama Desks, having played off-Broadway last year.

The Drama Desk awards are chosen by theater critics and writers to honor Broadway, off-Broadway and off-off-Broadway productions, unlike the Tonys, which are limited to Broadway shows.—Reuters ■



Actress Salma Hayek . PHOTO: REUTERS

Salma Hayek, husband bonded over science and sports

LONDON — Actress Salma Hayek and her husband Francois-Henri Pinault fell in love with each other because of their shared passion for sports and science.

The 50-year-old actress met Pinault 11 years ago and she was blown away by their exchange, which she said was not a "typical conversation" to

spark romance, reported Hello magazine. "It was so silly. We started talking about football — we're crazy about soccer — then science because we love space and physics.

"He was so smart, charming and funny. At first I stereotyped him as not my kind of guy at all, and then I realised he was my perfect match," Hayek said.—PTI ■



Justin Bieber gets emotional during UK benefit concert

LONDON — Pop star Justin Bieber had tears in his eyes as he delivered an emotional speech at the One Love concert in Manchester on Sunday.

The Canadian singer performed the acoustic versions of "Love yourself" and "Cold water" to pay tribute to the victims of the terror attack at Ariana Grande's 22 May gig in the British city that claimed 22 lives, reported Us weekly. "I'm not going to let go of hope. I'm not going to let go of love. I'm not going to let go of God... Put your hand up if you're not going to let go," Bieber, 23, told the crowd at the Old Trafford Stadium. The "Purpose" hitmaker's voice choked with emotion as he continued, "God is good in the midst of the darkness, God is good in the midst of the evil, God is in the midst no matter what's happening in the world. God is

in the midst and he loves you and he's here for you." Besides Bieber, the three hour-long concert, organised and headlined by Grande, also saw artistes such as Coldplay, Take That, Robbie Williams, Pharrell, Miley Cyrus, Niall Horan, The Black Eyed Peas, Imogen Heap, Katy Perry performing on their hits. Grande also got emotional while recalling her meeting with the mother of 15-year-old victim, Olivia Campbell, who died in the terrorist attack at her concert last month.

—PTI ■



Ariana Grande performs during the One Love Manchester benefit concert for the victims of the Manchester Arena terror attack at Emirates Old Trafford, Greater Manchester, Britain on 4 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Priyanka Chopra's 'twinning' moment with Nicole Kidman



Actress Priyanka Chopra. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — Actress Priyanka Chopra spent an afternoon with Hollywood star Nicole Kidman, wearing almost similar looking dresses.

The 34-year-old actress took to Twitter to post a picture with the "Lion" star where both of them can be seen donning white outfits with black polka dots.

"We got the memo... Lol @nicolekidman #twinning," wrote Priyanka.

The "Quantico" actress, who just finished the world tour promoting her Hollywood debut "Baywatch", also shared a photograph with actresses Kate Mara, Keri Russell and supermodel Kendall Jenner.

"A perfect New York afternoon with these lovely ladies @NicoleKidman @katemara @KendallJenner #kerirussell," wrote Priyanka, alongside their photograph together. Priyanka and the other celebrities were attending the polo event organised to support Alicia Keys' Keep a Child Alive charity, which helps aid and support children and families dealing with HIV issues.—PTI ■

Japan NPO screens films for children in developing countries

KANAZAWA, Japan — A nonprofit organization in Japan is aiming to give children in developing countries a chance to enjoy films by hosting screenings in places where seeing them is a rare opportunity.

The Tokyo-based organization, World Theater Project, started showing films at schools in Cambodia in 2012 hoping children will expand their horizons by viewing them.

Tatsuki Kimbara, a 29-year-old company em-

ployee, joined the group's Osaka branch office in 2016 and has held events to raise donations for the project.

The NPO has hosted about 320 screenings across Cambodia by bringing its own equipment such as generators and projectors, Kimbara said, adding it hopes to host such screenings also in Myanmar and other developing countries.

When the crew visited a farming village about five hours by car from Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh,

they showed an animation by the late cartoonist Takashi Yanase about a boy raised in a forest who becomes a musician.

Children who gathered in a classroom leaned forward to concentrate on the film dubbed in Khmer. One of them was quoted as saying, "I want to be like the main character (of the film)."

The NPO currently has the rights to screen four films, including an animation with the main

character modeled after Japanese soccer player Yuto Nagatomo.

Increasing the number of films for showing requires the purchase of screening rights from distributing agencies and creating a dubbed version of each film.

In addition to the expenses in Cambodia, the cost of one screening exceeds 100,000 yen (\$900), Kimbara said, adding that all the costs are covered by donations by members and

companies who support the cause. Kimbara, who traveled to Cambodia when he was a student at Kanazawa University, opened a branch of the organization in Kanazawa on the Sea of Japan coast after he recently switched jobs and moved to Ishikawa Prefecture.

To cover the costs of the project, Kimbara is set to host events such as re-creating and tasting meals that come up in the animated film "Castle in the Sky" and other works

by Studio Ghibli Inc. He is also considering having talk shows by people in the film industry.

"I want to bring smiles to children in developing nations through our support from the Hokuriku (Sea of Japan coast) region," Kimbara said.

Individual donations start as small as 300 yen a month. "I'd like people to know they can treat a child to a movie with just a 100 yen donation," he said.

— Kyodo News ■

World Environment Day marked in Thailand



A desk made from recycled beverage packages is displayed at the "Eco Wanderlust" pop-up market in Bangkok, Thailand, on 5 June, 2017. Some 20 enterprises from the cultural and creative industries launched a pop-up market named "Eco Wanderlust" Monday in Bangkok to mark World Environment Day 2017. By selling eco-friendly daily life products made from recycled materials, the market organizers hope that their action could raise environmental awareness among the public. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Trash-picking event held to promote eco-friendly 2020 Olympics

TOKYO — Olympic race walk bronze medalist Hirooki Arai led the way around the main competition area for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics on Monday in a trash-picking event aimed at increasing environmental awareness in the buildup to the games.

Athletes, representatives from business partners for the games and those from the Brazilian Embassy in Tokyo were among the roughly 100 people who took part in the competition-style event, which coincided with World Environment Day.

The participants were divided into more than 20 teams and competed in the amount and type of trash they picked up in one hour on the streets near National Stadium, which is under construction, and Prince Chichibu Memorial Rugby Ground.

"There will be many people visiting Tokyo from foreign countries and I want them to think Tokyo is a clean place," said Arai, the bronze

medalist in the men's 50-kilometre walk at last year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

"I'd like to help elevate Japan's reputation through not only my results in races but community services like this," he added after the event sponsored by the organizing committee of the 2020 Games.

More than 76 kilograms of garbage were picked up in total, including cigarette butts and broken umbrellas. The trash that the first place team picked up exceeded 10 kg, according to the organizers.

"It was a great way to raise awareness about the environment and motivating people to find improvements," said Ana Paula Kobe, a diplomat at the Brazilian Embassy in Tokyo.

"Sustainability was important in the Rio Olympics, so this event connected Rio and Tokyo and passed down the initiative," said Pedro Brancante, another diplomat at the embassy.

— Kyodo News ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(6-6-2017 07:00am ~ 7-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	The World's Largest Book
07:49	Am	Artistic Erosion on Steel: Kyi Wynn
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments - Myanma Harp (Episode-1)
08:51	Am	Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw
09:44	Am	Today Myanmar: Union Peace Conference - 21 st Century Panglong (Second Session)
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)

10:40	Am	Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana
10:58	Am	Waso or the Buddhist Lent

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time		
07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:53	Pm	The Pride of Myanmar Traditional Handicraft
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes "MUUN (Episode-II)"
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Leading Lady: Naw Susanna Hla Hla Soe

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Myanmar hero vs Moscow mauler for MMA championship in Yangon

In a much-anticipated rematch, Aung La N Sang, also known as the Burmese Python, and Russian fighter Vitaly Bigdash will fight for the second time for the world mixed martial arts championship at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon on 30 June.

Aung La N Sang is ranked as one of the best middleweight MMA fighters, winning all three of his fights held in Yangon, but at the ONE Middleweight World Championship held in Jakarta, Indonesia last January, he lost his fight against Bigdash, the reigning champion. Aung La N Sang got his nickname because of his style of winding his body around his opponent and crushing his rival. "I could not fight him well in the previous fight, as I knew (about the matchup) only when the fight was very near. But (for this fight) I had time enough for preparation and I got full training. I pledge that I will try my best to the best of my ability", Aung La N Sang said.

He was defeated in their first matchup in part because he received only two weeks notice

before the fight was held, so was unable to train properly and attain his best style of fighting, he said. But this time, he has properly trained and will have the support of his countrymen at Thuwunna Indoor Stadium.

"I am very proud to compete with my opponent before my audience. I solemnly pledge to bring back the championship belt for Myanmar. The present fight will be the fiercest one, and the better man will triumph," he said.

Aung La N Sang's record is 19 wins, 10 defeats, and one draw. Bigdash is undefeated, with 9 wins and no losses. The defending champion said he is not concerned about facing off against a hometown favourite.

"Aung La N Sang was the best among those with whom I fought. I am also to be proud to come for the title to his native land. I never think that he will be in favour because the fight will be held in his land, because a real champion can vie for the title anywhere", Bigdash said.

"I am excited to be in the boxing ring again. I hope the present



Aung La N Sang fights against Vitaly Bigdash in boxing match at ONE Middleweight World Championship.

PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

match will be the grand event in Myanmar. I respect Aung La's style of fighting, but I will go back home with success, and I believe that the championship belt will be on my shoulder."

An announcement concerning the other matches to be held

on 30 June will be announced soon, said Daw Aye Thidar Oo (Vickie), in charge of media for the ONE Championship.

Aung La N Sang was a Kachin national born in Myikyina. Since his rise in the MMA rankings while representing Myan-

mar, he has become a superstar in his home country. The ONE Championship has been broadcast globally on TV networks such as FOX Sports, Setanta, MNC, Astro, Thairath TV, ABS-CBN, TV 5, MYTV, HTV & OSN. — Ye Khaung Nyunt ■



Two top judo coaches poses for a photo before departure for Japan. **PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN**

MJA Coaches leave for Japan to attend Judo Coach's Rules Seminar

Two top judo coaches flew from Yangon to Japan to attend a referee and coaching seminar in preparation for the 2017 South-east Asian Games.

Chief Coach U Zaw Lwin

and Coach U Nyan Soe of the Myanmar Judo Association (MJA) were invited to attend the meeting by Mr. Fujita Shiro of Kodokan University of Japan. Mr. Shiro provided a one-week judo

workshop to Myanmar Judo athletes in May. The coaches were seen off at Yangon International Airport by MJA Vice Chairman U Aye Kyi and other officials. —Saw Thein Win ■

Myanmar to host Asia U-16 championship selection match's group-H

Myanmar will host the 2018 Asia U-16 championship selection group (H) matches from 20th to 24th September.

Asian Football Confederation is holding the selection matches in 10 groups and a country from each group is selected to host the matches. Myanmar team is in the same group with South Korea and China together with Philippines.

The matches will be held at Thuwunna Stadium, Yangon, and two matches will be held each day. 10 teams that come in first in the groups will be joined by five second-best teams in the groups to compete in the Asia U-16 championship match. Myanmar is in a tough group and faces a big challenge to succeed. Chief coach U Nyi Nyi Latt is handling the Myanmar team consisting



PHOTO - PHO THAW ZIN

of 24 players and is training in a camp in Yangon while playing test matches with local youth teams. —Ye Yint Shine ■