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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 182, 6th Waxing of Thadingyut 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 15 October 2018

Tiger house gets blue plaque



The tiger house building was one of the first structures built within the Rangoon Zoological Gardens.
PHOTO: ZAR NI MAUNG

AN aged-old tiger house of Yangon Zoological Gardens was decorated with a blue plaque as an urban heritage of the commercial city yesterday morning.

Named “King Edward VII 1915 Carnivora House”, the tiger house was built with a surplus of the trust fund set up to erect a memorial statue of King Edward VII in 1910.

Built in 1915, the tiger house

was decorated with designs of the early 1900s, and since then the enclosure has been accommodating the world’s biggest cats throughout the successive periods. It is now the home of white tigers, which are rare to find in the world.

“I hope the Yangon Zoo will become a wildlife sanctuary, and not just an animal cage, where children can learn and gain knowledge,” said Dr Thant Myint



Tun, founder and chair of Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT).

Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein and officials of YHT and the zoo witnessed the installation of the Blue Plaque, which reads that the tiger

house was opened in 1906 as the first building of the Southeast Asia’s oldest zoo, which was once called Victoria Memorial Park and Zoological Gardens.

“Our 22nd blue plaque is installed in Yangon Zoo which has been the most visited place of the commercial city throughout the past successive years till now. It is a place where knowledge can be sought, especially by children, and where families can enjoy a

fine vacation. The designation of this important place as an urban heritage is an honour for all of us,” said director Daw Moe Moe Lwin of YHT.

The blue plaques bear witness to the historical significance of Yangon, apart from preserving and protecting ancient urban heritage as important public places where people can gain knowledge and find pleasure.
— Zar Ni Maung ■

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Chairman U Yawd Serk of the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and delegation arrive at a hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

RCSS/SSA Chairman and delegation arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

CHAIRMAN U Yawd Serk of the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) and delegation arrived in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon to attend an exclusive meeting between the Union Government, Tatmadaw and the leaders of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agree-

ment signatories (NCA-s) Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) to be held in Nay Pyi Taw.

The chairman of Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army and delegation were welcomed by officials at the hotel where they would temporarily stay. —MNA ■

Interview with responsible persons from Ethnic Armed Organizations who arrived on Oct 12, 13

THE Union Government, Tatmadaw and leaders from Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) will hold a high-level meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. Following is an interview with leaders from the EAOs who arrived on October 12 and October 13:

U Khun Myint Tun, Vice Chairman, Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO)



U Khun Myint Tun.

The main thing we are going to discuss is that there are some obstructive issues in the peace process and we have made a commitment on how to overcome these hindrances according to the pledge we have made at the third Panglong Conference. That's why we have proposed to convene three meetings, including a meeting in 2018 and another two meetings in 2019 respectively. We have pledged to strive for formulating more firm fundamental principles for establishing a democratic and federal union.

In order to carry out the fundamental rights of democratic federal system, we are going to discuss the matters regarding the implementation of the proposals and to make a decision that can solve the obstructive issues. I am sure that this discussion can bring about fruitful results for the country. Although the results have not come out yet, it will be

beneficial to join the discussions among the Union Government, Tatmadaw and leaders from the ethnic groups.

Daw Saw Mya Yazar Lin, Member, Central Executive Committee of Arakan Liberation Party (ALP)



Daw Saw Mya Yazar Lin.

The main thing we hope is that there would be solution to many obstructive issues and prospects in the future. After the obstructive issues such as disintegration of the country and getting rights for self-administration for all ethnic races, we have a desire how to build the nation. Also I wonder to what extent the government and our ethnic organization can compromise in the peace process. For our part, we want to find a solution through negotiation, and hope to get a win-win solution as well. In this regard, EAOs plays a vital role to foster the discussion, and the government warmly welcomes the proposals made by EAOs. That's why we have managed to

come here to attend the meeting. Why I have come here is to attend to the needs of the people and the interest of the country. We do not give priority to our ego and intend to share the welfare of the people.

Naing Aung Ma Ngay, Member, Central Executive Committee of New Mon State Party (NMSP)



Naing Aung Ma Nga.

Such kind of EAOs meeting had never been held before. And we are going to hold a round-table discussion aiming to produce some good results, regarding how to shape the future union. I am sure we can transform it through the building of mutual trust among the leaders. Definite results will come out after the leaders had gone through the discussions. It has been three years since the NCA was signed in our country. We have gained unprecedented opportunities during the period of three years, and hoping that the leaders will apply to it as expected. All ethnic organizations should be

included in the discussion, and arrangements have been made to contact them through possible ways and means. All the ethnic leaders will hold talks with one another regarding their desires for all-inclusiveness and other affairs. Moreover, negotiation is being carried out to arrange the detailed plans of the meeting.

Khun Okkar, Patron, Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO)



Khun Okkar (Patron).

I have full belief in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. All 10 signatories to the NCA have no misconceptions or misguided belief towards the Agreement. The issue is we need to amend weaknesses in the implementation of NCA's provisions. There is no distrust towards the NCA or any difficulties from it. The stance on the NCA is solid.

We will firmly stand by the NCA and follow its roadmap; however, there is a necessity for changes in the way it is implemented. I'm not putting a lot of

expectations in the meeting. We have been requesting this sort of meeting for a long time so the fact that it is going to be held is the first good result. Another accomplishment is the fact that some of our leaders finally agreed to a face-to-face meeting and the leaders of the Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) are of one mind. Looking at these two accomplishments we can hope that even if we don't have a great number of results, the results we have will be good.

Dr. Salai Lian Mhone Sar Gaung, Vice-Chairman, Chin National Front (CNF)



Dr. Lian Mhone Sar Gaung.

There were factors that hindered us in the last two meetings. Another meeting was held after the meeting held in May 2017 to remove all hindrances. The top leaders are invited mainly to convene to resolve these issues. If we continue as we are now, then our political dialogue policy framework will not fare very well.

Changes in legal system and government administrative machinery

- * In its nation building endeavour, the government continues to strive to amend laws that are no longer agreeable to democratic values and accepted human rights standards.
- * The Union Government aims to institute the rule of law, through the development and promulgation of laws, rules and regulations, law enforcement, and the administration of justice through the legal system to promote good governance.

(Excerpted from the report on the current work of the government, delivered at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 19 September 2018)

UNSG's Special Envoy on Myanmar observes IDP camps in Kyauktaw Tsp

A DELEGATION led by United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener who is already in Sittway, Rakhine State, observed Internally Displaced Person (IDP) camps in Nhidin Village, Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, together with Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Soe Aung and Rakhine State Minister U Aung Kyaw Zan yesterday. In the morning, the delegation met with civil societies at Sittway Hotel.

Afterwards, the delegation met with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu, Deputy Minister U Soe Aung and Rakhine

State ministers at the Rakhine State governmental office and also met with Commander of Western Command Major General Soe Tint Naing at the Regional Operation Command Headquarters in Sittway.

Afterwards, the delegation observed closed IDP camps in Nhidin Village, Kyauktaw Township, and they also met with local people in Kaung Tote Village, where both communities are living in harmony.

A total of 85 buildings were constructed for people of IDP camps in Nidhin Village, and the camp has been closed, it is learnt.— Kyaw Thu Win, Aung Ye Thwin ■



United Nations Secretary General's Special Envoy on Myanmar Ms. Christine Schraner Burgener and delegation observe the prevalence of peace in northern Rakhine State. PHOTO: AUNG KYAW OO

Interview with responsible persons from Ethnic ...

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The meeting held at the NRPC today is a preliminary one. The meeting preparatory team prepared the agenda, list of topics for discussion and the necessary arrangements. The top leaders are the ones who will make the real decisions.

It's not good to tell about the details of the arrangements for the meeting for the topmost important individuals of the nation. However, to remove the barriers to peace, which is sorely required in the country, it is not enough with just the UPDJC, working committee or secretary ranks to overcome them. The people who can definitely overcome these obstacles are the real policy-decision makers of this country. The top leaders including the State Counsellor, the Commander-in-Chief of the Tatmadaw, and the Chairmen of the EAO-s NCA are the real decision-making leaders and they need to convene. That's why we have high hopes. But we don't

want the public to think that all the problems will be solved at once because we require finesse in handling an issue that has been ongoing for 70 years. We need to accomplish one thing at a time.

We need to employ different strategies to overcome the impediments. We also need to be patient when we're actually carrying them out. We cannot pressure the top leaders and tell them do a specific action or resolve something immediately. We will do things at a gradual pace. We signed the NCA because there is no alternative path. If we choose a path other than the NCA then we may be causing more problems to the nation. It would be choosing a path that prolongs the country's internal struggles.

The NCA is to solve political issues using political methods. Military methods have been used to solve political issues for the past 70 years. No solution has appeared. After Bogyoke Aung San and the ethnic leaders

held the meeting in Panglong when we founded the country, there has never been a meeting such as this one where we meet face to face to resolve the issues and problems of the country. This is an important event. That's why the whole public needs to encourage it. We will be happy with what we can accomplish. The top leaders will be respected. I want to say that if the top leaders work with the hope to try to resolve the issues once, twice or thrice, then this endeavor will be successful.



U Myo Win.

U Myo Win, Vice Chairman, All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF)

This meeting was brought about by the Third Panglong conference where 10 EAOs and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met, and then with the Commander-in-Chief. The meeting is held since there is a need for the top leaders to meet to ensure political agreements are set and the peace process is carried out more smoothly.

The action plans, policy framework and political dialogue need to be negotiated. Basically, the action plans are talking about proposals. The proposal aims for democracy and federal basic principles to be set before 2020. Policies and considerations need to be laid down for practical implementation and to come up with policies for that. The UPDJC will then need to implement them in detail. If we look at the proposals, then they are a requirement too.

The political dialogue policy framework has some compli-

cations as well. The different models of political dialogue are determined, and we need to put in steps to make the entire process more straightforward. The leaders need to give guidance on solving the weaknesses of the policy framework garnered from the three-year implementation of the peace process. The most important points that need to be discussed are the matter of not separating with self-determination and the idea of a single army. There are preparations to discuss these matters and accept certain policies. If we can achieve this, then the path to democracy and basic federal principles we all envision will become much clearer.

The summit is prepared for both sides to discuss on their agreed points. This meeting came about after the ABSDF submitted it. It will discuss items based on the five topics that were presented in the presence of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw.

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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More agricultural farms applying GAP system

By May Thet Hnin

AGRICULTURAL farms applying Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) have significantly increased year by year. Currently, there are 111 agricultural farms which are holding a GAP certificate as of September 2018, said Dr. Wanna Tun, head of Agricultural Department branch office.

Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) are specific methods which, when applied to agriculture, create or further process food for consumers that is safe and wholesome.

Authorities have issued GAP certificates to 27 mango farms since 2016. After that, the number of agricultural farms which hold GAP certificate has significantly increased.

"Issuing GAP certificate started with mango farms. Later on, the Agricultural Department granted a certificate of GAP for tomatoes, sesame, coffee, papaya, dragon fruit and bean farms," said Dr. Wanna Tun.

"Agricultural products which were grown with GAP system are more marketable and get good price. Later on, local farmers became aware that growing with GAP system can be more market-accepted. Most of



A thriving sesame plantation in Myittha Township, Mandalay Region. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN

the local farmers followed using GAP system because consumers prefer products grown under GAP system," he added.

GAP is an agricultural practice reducing environmental impact and producing good quality products. Myanmar's GAP is based on ASEAN and Global GAP. Myanmar needs to practice GAP system for fruits not only for sale in the local market but also for export to ASEAN region and international countries.

GAP certificate is issued for only one fruit per season. Agricultural farm owners need to

apply for GAP certificate every season, said Dr. Wanna Tun.

Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Exporters Association vice chairman Dr. Myint Sein explained, "If we want to approach the international market, we need to have GAP, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP). Myanmar should also practice green economy as China's Kunming does. Pesticides spread around the world. Therefore, our association provides awareness knowledge to

local farmers about the danger of pesticides."

Agricultural Department is urging local farmers to cultivate using GAP system. In Myanmar, only a few local farmers understand the accurate ratio of using fertilizers and pesticides.

There are many cases of illegal pesticides. Some of the pesticides, distributed in the local market, are close to expiration date, illegally imported, and of lower quality. Additionally, there are disposal problems for pesticide parcel boxes and packages. ■

Zalon Mountain area to be upgraded as ecotourism site

LOCATED 12 miles northwest of Banmawk Township in Katha District, Sagaing Region, the Zalon Mountain in the area of forest reserve is planned to be upgraded as an ecotourism site in anticipation of attracting more international visitors. This is part of efforts of the Forest Department to boost

the country's smokeless industry by extending new tourism destinations with proper services, its official said. The 660-foot tall Zalon Mountain is situated 3,090 feet above the sea level. The surrounding mountains are over 2,000-3,000 feet high. The granite mountain morphology, which looks like an elephant, is

very fantastical and attractive to visitors. Additionally, the Zalon Mountain Pagoda is one of the well-known Buddhist pilgrimage sites in Banmawk. This is why the area has become a tourist attraction as well as a popular pilgrimage site. Visitor arrivals to the mountain are increasing year after year. According to the

official data, between 200,000 and 300,000 holidaymakers visited the mountain area last peak season. Tourism authorities are making preparations to offer better services to visitors in this pilgrimage season, including accommodation, transportation, catering and other necessities.— Lu Aung (Katha) ■

Interview with responsible persons from Ethnic ...

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I want it to be a bit different because this summit is not like the peace conference where we decide on basic principles. This meeting will come up with guidelines to set policies. After the guidelines have been set, the UPDJC will have to clearly implement them, such as how many detailed basic principles, federal principles or democratic principles. The President will also be discussing the various levels of the policy framework.

The summit will not be negotiating the policies in detail but will be giving clear guidelines to negotiate them.

If we look at the three years of the NCA, there have been continuous political dialogues. The results from that 37 points were signed as Part I of the Pyidaungsu Accord and 14 points were later signed as Part II of the Pyidaungsu Accord; a total of 51 points so far. Personally, I am not satisfied with myself with just these results. There is still

much to be done. However, we have created a situation where political issues can be resolved through politics. Armed conflicts between the NCA signatories have been reduced by 90 per cent. This has reduced conflicts from fighting, too. This is dependent on the signing of the NCA. We have opened the door to political dialogue through the NCA so that all and everyone who should be included can participate. This means that before, in the past, there were topics

that couldn't be discussed or you could face punishment if you discussed them, but now if we look at the entire country, it is federal, it is a situation with federalism.

Another thing is security. Discussions are being held concerning the entire nation's security, matters relating to federalism, and political dialogues are being arranged. It is not easy to bring about a political landscape like this. You can say this is the result of the NCA. — Han Hmway Thant/ Photos: Htan Phone

Over 1.12 million tons of rice exported during past mini-budget period

By May Thet Hnin

THE volume of rice and broken rice export from April to September of the past mini-budget period is estimated at 1.12 million metric tons, earning over US\$390 million, according to an announcement of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

In the past six months, Myanmar's rice worth US\$322.67 million was shipped to 43 countries, with export volume of over 900,289 metric tons. Meanwhile, over 226,968 metric tons of broken rice were exported to 18 countries, earning \$68.2 million.

Border trade surpassed sea trade in rice and broken rice export, accounting for 56.63 per cent of the total export. Rice and broken rice export through border checkpoints earned an estimated \$226.9 million, whereas the sea trade saw an income of \$163.9 million.

In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, 3.6 million tons of rice and

broken rice were exported to foreign countries. In the past six months, only 1.12 million tons were shipped.

"We cannot meet export volume of last FY even if we add the volume of the coming six months," said U Nay Lin Zin, joint secretary-general of MRF.

"This year, we have a slew of challenges to export even 2.5 tons of rice and broken rice", he added.

Tightened security on border trade by Chinese authorities brought down, export volume in Sino-China trade route, whereas normal trade saw a steady export volume.

At present, China is tightening security on their side near Muse town, and importation of rice, corn and sugar to China has suspended.

This being so, Muse depot sees daily inflow of only 1,000 tons in recent days. Previously, 2,000 to 7,000 tons of rice were



A machine harvesting paddy at a paddy farm in Kangyidaunt Township, Ayeyawady Region.

PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

supplied to Muse market, said U Chan Thar Oo, vice chair of Muse commodity depot.

Again, MRF has called for

the government's regulation on illegal paddy export.

Local consumption of rice accounts for 8 million tons,

nearly 2 million tons of which are for livestock feed processing and production of alcoholic beverages. ■

Myanmar-ROK trade slightly increases from April to August

OVERSEAS trade with the Republic of Korea (ROK) within the five months of 2018 reached almost US\$347 million, which showed a slight increase in value by \$5.7 million from this time last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

This year, Myanmar's exports outdid its imports in bilateral trade with South Korea. Between April and August this year, Myanmar's export to South Korea was worth \$184.14 million, whereas its import from ROK was \$162 million in total.

This year saw an increase in export value between the two countries by \$58.9 million in comparison with the same period in the last year, when the bilateral trade was \$125 million. Despite an increase in value of bilateral exports this year, the bilateral imports decreased by over \$50 million than that of last year.

At this time last year, Myanmar-ROK trade was valued at \$341 million, including \$125 million in exports and \$216 million in imports.

Myanmar exports agricultural products, including cashew nuts, mangoes, rice, beans and pulses, and other miscellaneous products to South Korea. Cosmetics, foodstuff, electronic equipment, mobile devices and other commodities are imported from South Korea.

According to the ministry's yearly trade statistics, trade between the two countries in the last fiscal year 2017-2018 totalled \$798.4 million, decreasing by \$76 million against the previous 2016-2017 FY's total of \$866 million.

Trade between the two countries reached its peak of \$1.57 billion in the 2013-2014 FY. It decreased to \$862 million in the 2014-2015 FY and \$656 million in 2015-2016 FY.

According to a report of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, South Korea's investments in Myanmar this year reached \$75.009 million from 11 projects. Last fiscal year, its investment in Myanmar was worth \$253.9 million. — Shwe Khine ■

Regional trade with ASEAN valued at \$5.39 billion from April to July

THE value of Myanmar's regional trade with ASEAN countries through sea route and border gates estimated US\$5.39 billion in the five months of the past mini-budget period, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Imports in regional trade surpassed exports, with exports worth over \$1.69 billion and imports valued \$3.68 billion.

Since April, Thailand was ranked first among ASEAN countries for its largest trade value of \$2.39 billion with My-

anmar, followed by Singapore in second place with \$1.6 billion. Malaysia was listed third with a trade value of \$550 million, while Indonesia stood fourth with an estimated value of \$424 million. Myanmar's trade with Viet Nam reached \$362 million.

The value of bilateral trade with the Philippines was \$26.4 million. Bilateral trade with Cambodia reached \$4.94 million, while Laos and Brunei's trade with Myanmar was worth less than \$1 million.

The country's main export items are agricultural and fishery products, and minerals, while imports include food and beverages, electronic tools, motor vehicles, and consumer goods. Apart from its main trade partner China, Myanmar's external trade was carried out mostly with its regional partners. Trade with countries in the European Union, however, remained uncompetitive compared with regional trade partners. — GNLM ■

Mineral exports decrease by almost \$4 million in first week of present FY

MYANMAR'S exports of mineral products in the first week of the present financial year exceeded US\$14 million, down by nearly \$4 million compared with the same period last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Between 1 and 5 October this year, the private sector exported \$14.056 million worth of mineral products while the country saw no export of the same by the public sector.

At this time last year, the

country's exports of minerals totalled \$18.004 million, covering \$10.194 million by the public sector and \$7.81 million by the private exporters. Myanmar has a large mineral resources of gold, silver, copper, tin, tungsten, lead, zinc and nickel. Precious stones including jade, ruby and sapphire are some of its export items.

During the six-month mini budget period from April to September this year, the country earned \$1.034 billion from the

exports of mineral products, with \$403 million by the public sector and \$631 million by the private sector.

According to the ministry's annual trade figures, the value of mineral exports was \$897 million in the 2011-2012 FY, \$399 million in the 2012-2013 FY, \$1.339 billion in the 2013-2014 FY, \$1.498 billion in the 2014-2015 FY, \$968 million in the 2015-2016 FY, and \$1.010 billion in the 2016-2017 FY. — Khine Khant ■

Donation ceremony for novices, nuns held in Yangon

THE 7th donation ceremony for 1800 apprentice novices and 600 nuns was held at Zhinamaraung Pagoda in Thaketa Township, Yangon yesterday afternoon.

Venerable Sayadaws led by State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Bamaw Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabivamsa attended the ceremony.

First, people received five moral precepts from Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabivamsa. Then, people listened to sermons, delivered by the Sayadaws, followed by offertories donated to the Sayadaws and venerable monks.

Afterwards, people shared the merits.—MNA ■



People listening to a sermon delivered by Sayadaws at the 7th donation ceremony for 1800 apprentice novices and 600 nuns in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe (center) and officials pose for a documentary photo before leaving for Thailand. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Home Affairs leaves for Thailand

A DELEGATION led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, together with Minister Counsellor Mr. Thanwa Phudphong from Embassy of Thailand, departed for Thailand from Yangon International Airport yesterday morning.

The delegation was seen off by responsible officials at the airport. During their visit, the delegation will meet with H.E

Air Chief Marshal Prajin Juntong, Deputy Prime Minister cum Minister of Justice of Thailand, and will discuss ways to improve friendship between the two countries, combating drugs in the ways of collaboration, rule of law, exchanging information, arranging observation trips, and to get smoother communication between the border communication offices.—MNA ■

Myanmar-Bangladesh conduct border patrols under bilateral coordination

TROOPS led by Police Lt Zaw Lin Aung of Aung Thabyae region office of No (5) sub-border guard police force of No 1 area in Maungtaung Township and troops led by AD. Jamal Uddin of Jaruliachari post, No. 11 BGB battalion of Bangladesh, patrolled along the border fence inside their respective territories from border post 46 to 47 from 10.25 am to 12.50 pm on 13 October, under the bilateral coordination between the two countries.

Similarly, troops led by Po-

lice Lt Kyaw Zaw Oo of Taungbyo (Letyar) police station of No 1 sub-border guard police force of No 3 area in Maungtaung Township and troops led by Naib Subedar Md. Shariful Islam of Tuingajhira post, No. 34 BGB battalion of Bangladesh, patrolled along the border fence inside their respective territories from border post 38 to 39 from 11 am to 12.40 pm on 13 October, under the bilateral coordination between the two countries.—Police Information ■

Ancient Pyu city gets power

“WITH an annual increase in electricity consumption rate between 15% and 19%, the country’s demand for power will reach 4,531 megawatts in 2020-2021, up from 3483 megawatts at present,” said Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing in Mandalay Region yesterday.

He was speaking at the electrifying of Tagaung, the principal administrative centre of Pyu city-state, said to be the place where Myanmar civilization began over 2000 years ago.

“The history of Tagaung has reached a new chapter as the archaeological site of Mandalay Region now gets 24-hour electricity,” the Union Minister declared, adding, “diesel generators could supply power to the old town only two or three hours a day in the past.”

As the natural gas supply for domestic consumption would decline in 2021, after the conclusion of the Plateau Period of Yadana Gas project, the government would build LNG-fired power stations as a reinforce-

ment, he assured.

“Gas will be explored at offshore plots, while extending the search for onshore oil to fill the gap,” he promised.

Currently, A-6 offshore gas field in Ayeyawady Region was showing promising results, while plans were underway to install 500-Kv powerlines running in all four directions and 230-Kv and 132-Kv cables and transformers, he said.

“A sub-power station in Tagaung has started electrifying 18 nearby villages, in addition to the ancient town in

Mandalay Region, where over half of the population have electricity,” he said. Deputy Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw Dr Khin Maung Htay, Mr Kojun Nakashima of Japan International Cooperation Agency and others also gave speeches.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr Tun Naing and officials formally opened the station.

Today, Tagaung is located in Thabeikkyin Township, Pyin Oo Lwin District, Mandalay Region, about 500 miles north of Yangon.—MNA ■



A meeting to discuss electrification was held in Tagaung, Mandalay Region, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar, Thailand press councils discuss collaboration

A DELEGATION led by chairperson of the National Press Council of Thailand Chavarong Limpattamapane met with a delegation led by vice chairpersons of Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Kyaing and Dr. Myo Thant Tin at the Myanmar Press Council office in Yangon yesterday. During the meeting, agendas to collaboration, plans to organize ASEAN Press Council and current conditions about the two countries’ media were cordially discussed. The two press councils have



A Myanmar veteran journalist (right) presenting a souvenir to an official from Thailand National Press Council. **PHOTO: MNA**

signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration since 25 August, 2016, it is learnt.—MNA ■

Seeds of next global financial crisis being sown, top officials warn

NUSA DUA (Indonesia) — Rising US interest rates, tanking emerging market currencies and a bitter US-China trade spat could push the world towards its next financial crisis but there is still time to avert disaster, global finance chiefs have said.

The world economy is still growing but faces an “unprecedented” combination of threats, the International Monetary Fund cautioned at an annual meeting with the World Bank in Bali this week.

Among them is growing protectionism championed by the Trump administration and the intensifying trade-and-currency battle between Washington and Beijing, which have imposed tit-for-tat tariffs on billions of dollars worth of goods.

Opening the Bali talks, Indonesian President Joko Widodo compared the dispute between the world’s two biggest economies to the hit television series “Game of Thrones”.

“Great houses, great families, battle each other fiercely to seize control over the Iron



The global economy faces an ‘unprecedented’ combination of threats, the IMF has warned. PHOTO: AFP

Throne,” he said.

But “confrontation and collision impose a tragic price not only on those who are defeated but also on the winners”.

And IMF chief Christine Lagarde warned of a “degree of uncertainty that we have not seen before” in international trade.

‘Constructive solutions’
Disaster can still be averted,

officials said at the Bali meet, with reassuring talk from the global financial elite that growth remains strong — the IMF projects 3.7 percent for this year and the next — and could yet withstand the risks gathering on the horizon.

And despite tensions, US and Chinese officials in Bali also sounded conciliatory tones.

US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin described “produc-

tive” talks with the Chinese on the yuan, which Washington has accused Beijing of keeping artificially low to boost exports.

And China’s central bank governor Yi Gang called for “constructive solutions” to the damaging tiff, but insisted that Beijing was not devaluing its currency to gain trade advantages — a practice the IMF this week called on members to avoid.

But there are also other brewing concerns, including the US Federal Reserve’s decision to raise interest rates.

This year has already seen three hikes, which experts largely agree are necessary to avoid overheating an economy with strong growth and low employment.

That has squeezed emerging markets, which are seeing capital flee towards the US enticed by higher returns, and also threatens developing countries that have large debt burdens denominated in dollars.

“The global economy continues to grow but the outlook is now challenging especially for emerging markets due to the normalisation of the US monetary policy,” Brazilian central bank governor Ilan Goldfajn warned Sunday.

The US “needs to be very mindful that spillover from the effect of their policies is very real for many countries,” Indonesia’s Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati added, in an interview with Bloomberg TV.—AFP ■

US trade spat needs ‘constructive solutions’: China central bank

NUSA DUA (Indonesia) — China’s central bank governor Sunday sought to cool the temperature on a brewing trade-and-currency war with the United States, calling for “constructive solutions” as the spat threatens to knock the world economy.

Speaking on the last day of the IMF-World Bank annual meetings in Bali, Yi Gang warned that the stakes could hardly be higher and cautioned that a clash between the world’s two biggest economies was a “lose-lose” situation.

“Trade tensions...cause negative expectations, negative uncertainties,” the People’s Bank of China head told a seminar with other top central bankers on the Indonesian holiday island.

“There are tremendous uncertainties ahead of us.

“The whole world should work together to seek constructive solutions,” he added.

Yi said he had spoken to central bank governors and other top officials from a string of nations amid a tit-for-tat US-China tariff



Tensions have soared recently with President Donald Trump’s administration rolling out billions of dollars in tariffs against China. PHOTO: AFP

battle and Washington’s accusations that China was unfairly pushing the value of its yuan currency to boost exports.

China’s top central banker vowed Beijing would do its part by getting tougher on domestic copyright violators and opening up the financial services sector.

His comments come a day after the IMF warned that the “window of opportunity” to keep global growth on track was nar-

rowing as the US-China spat threatens to boil over and emerging markets feel the pinch from higher US interest rates.

Tensions have soared recently with President Donald Trump’s administration rolling out billions of dollars in tariffs against China in a bid to tackle its trade deficit and rein in what Washington considers unacceptable Chinese trade practices.—AFP ■

World experts upbeat about stability, resilience of Chinese economy

BEIJING — Amid complicated international landscape and new changes in China’s domestic economy, experts around the world believe that the Chinese government has sufficient policy tools to tap its inherent dynamism so as to secure robust and resilient economic growth.

These remarks came following the Chinese government’s recent proposal of a target to “stabilize the employment, finance, foreign trade, foreign investment, investment and expectations”, collectively known as the “six stabilities”.

Since the beginning of this year, despite fluctuations of certain economic indicators, the Chinese economy has registered stable growth, with the four major macroeconomic indicators of economic growth, employment, CPI and international balance of payments basically meeting expectations.

In its latest World Economic Outlook report released on Oct. 8, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has kept China’s economic

growth forecast unchanged at 6.6 percent. IMF Chief Economist Maurice Obstfeld recently said that the Chinese economy saw robust performance in the first half of this year, and that the recent figures which might not be so ideal are still in line with expectations, considering that measures such as strengthening financial supervision and preventing risks would drag down the economic growth by a certain degree.

Changyong Rhee, director of IMF’s Asia and Pacific department told Xinhua that the slowdown in China’s economic growth is a result of the government’s initiative to deleverage and regulate the economy, which is in fact a “high quality” slowdown. Rhee expressed confidence that the Chinese government has sufficient policy tools to stabilize economic growth and offset negative impacts from the economic and trade frictions with the United States, but meanwhile, deleveraging should forge ahead to ensure more stable and resilient growth in the medium term.—Xinhua ■

Unity, cooperation needed for national development

At the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid a working visit to Japan on 8 and 9 October to attend the 10th Mekong-Japan Summit and hold bilateral talks.

Also, the President of the Union of Myanmar attended the ASEAN Leaders' Gathering in Bali, Indonesia, on 11 October and discussed matters relating to state development and cooperation with ASEAN member countries. The participation of the President and the State Counsellor in international summits is expected to effectualise the equitable prosperity and sustainable development in the region.

Citizens need to realise the government's efforts and its attempts to bring better prospects to the country. They themselves have to heighten their cooperation among themselves and make collaborative efforts for the state development, depending on emerging opportunities. In making reforms for a democratic transition, citizens should work in unison under the leadership of and the steps formulated by the heads of State.

At the meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister, the State Counsellor discussed Myanmar's democracy transition, Japan's continued assistance in the peace-building and national reconciliation ef-

“Citizens need to ... make collaborative efforts for the state development, depending on emerging opportunities. In making reforms for a democratic transition, citizens should work in unison under the leadership of and the steps formulated by the heads of State.

as well as creating better transportation in Rakhine State.

It is necessary to recognise the collective efforts of not only the partner countries and all ASEAN member states, but also international partner organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). Thanks to the State leaders' endeavours and assistance provided by development partners, one could have faith in Myanmar becoming a peaceful, prosperous and democratic nation.

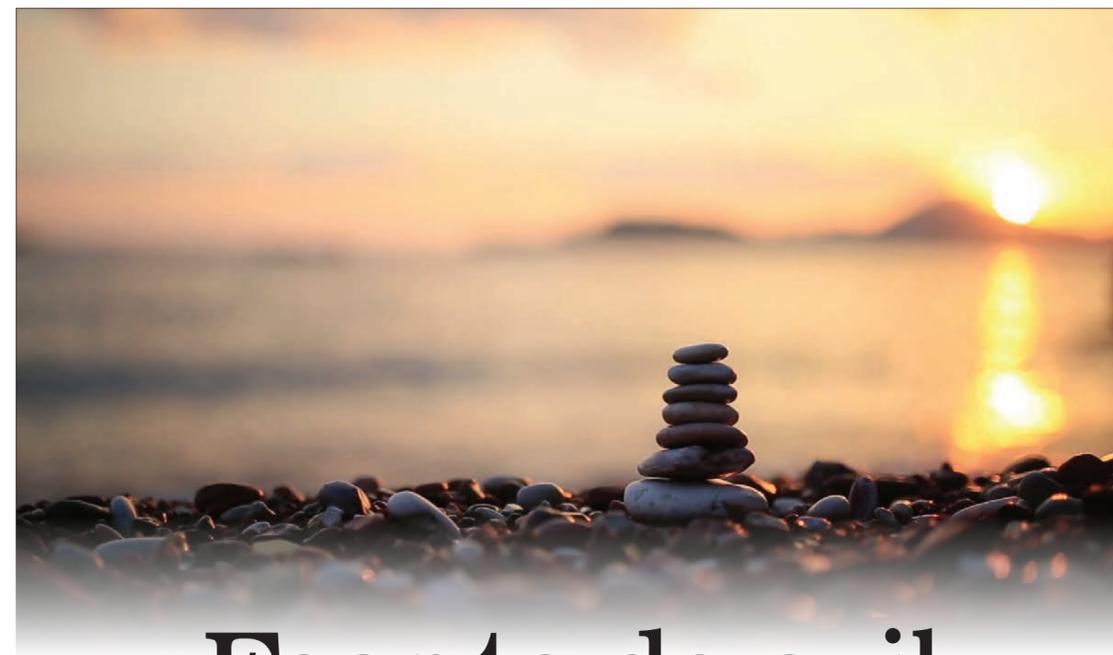
Each one of us is required to extend a helping hand to the country's future tasks in unison, so that we can overcome challenges and difficulties that the country is facing at present, through a thorough understanding and realization of the endeavours by the heads of State and assistance provided by our development partner countries and organizations.

“For a liar who has violated the one law (of truthfulness), who holds in scorn the hereafter, there is no evil that he cannot do.”

“FEAR to do evil (Ottapa in Pali)” and “Shame to do evil (Hiri in Pali)” are two cardinal principles guarding the Universe and guarding the mankind; that's why it is called “Guardian of the World”. The Dictionary of Buddhist Terms (Ministry of Religious Affairs, Yangon, Myanmar, 2000) defined that “moral shame and moral dread are the immediate causes of Morality (Character/Discipline) and lacking them, relationship between the sexes would go awry so much so that there cannot prevail in the human world any sense of propriety between mother and son, father and daughter or between brother and sister, and humanity would sink to the level of animals, bringing about utter chaos.”

Envy is a feeling of discontent aroused by someone else's possession of things or success and it is one of the worst evils destroying the life of the people living in this planet. (Stinginess or niggardliness is reluctance to share what one has with others and is a mental concomitant, such as stinginess regarding one's dwelling place, one's relations and disciples, one's material gains, one's own appearance and one's religious doctrine, which is also one of the worst evils to damage the life of the people dwelling in this world).

Abstention means abstaining or refraining from evil; there are three kinds: (1) abstention



Fear to do evil

By Htun Tin Htun

from evil through observance of moral precepts, (2) abstention from evil even though not under a vow to observe the moral precepts and (3) abstention from de-meritorious actions through eradication of all roots of evil by attaining Path-Knowledge.

Reflecting on the virtues of the Buddha, virtues of the Sangha, perfection of the morality, one's charitable deeds, one's virtue and thinking of celestial beings as precedents, sublime attributes of Nibbana (supreme bliss), constituent parts of the body, the nature of death and being mindful of out-breath and in-breath are ten things consisted for repeated contemplation or constant mindfulness in order to avoid all evils.

Telling lies “Falsehood” with malicious intent is “musa-

vada” and the gravity of that offence corresponds to the amount of harm done; there are four factors which make this offence complete: the statement is not true; there is the intention to lie; it is actually spoken/written/communicated; others understand what has been spoken/written/communicated. The liar will have to suffer in the four miserable realms, “apaya” at the time of his death; if he were to be reborn in the human world he will be afflicted with the following: poor enunciation; uneven teeth; foul breath (halitosis); unhealthy complexion; poor eyesight and hearing; defective personal appearance; lack of influence on others; harshness of speech and a flippant mind. Taking intoxicants and narcotic drugs such as alcohol, hashish,

cocaine, marijuana, heroin and the like result in heedlessness to do meritorious deeds and excessive use can lead to the committing of the wrongful assault, murder, lying, adultery, etc. The consequences of using intoxicants and narcotics can be fatal, cause one to be reborn in the woeful states and suffer from the following evil consequences in successive existences: being divorced from reality; laziness; torpidity and heedlessness; being ungrateful to one's benefactor; not being ashamed or afraid of being immoral; insanity; and propensity for evil.

One should do what one teaches others to do; if one would train others, one should be well controlled oneself; difficult indeed is self-control. One who destroys life, utters lies, takes what is not given, goes to another man's wife and is addicted to intoxicating drinks—such a man digs up his own root even in this very world. O good man, know this, evil things are difficult to control; let not greed and wickedness drag you to protracted misery. One is not wise because one speaks too much; he who is peaceable, friendly and fearless is called wise.

Defilement is impurity of mind and which consists of 10 kinds of mind-defiling factors such as greed, hatred, bewilderment, conceit, wrong view, doubt, mental torpor, restlessness, shamelessness (to do evil)

and not fearing (to do evil).

One truly is the protector of oneself; who else could the protector be? One with fully controlled who gains a supreme bliss (total cessation of Craving) that is hard to gain. Overcome the anger by non-anger; overcome the wicked by goodness; overcome the miser by generosity; and overcome the liar by truth. One by one, little by little, moment by moment, a wise man should remove his own impurities as a silver smith removes the dross from the silver. Of all paths, “The Noble Eightfold Path” is the best; of all truths, “The Four Noble Truths” are the best; of all things, “The Total Cessation of Craving” is the best, and of men, the Seeing One (the Buddha) is the best.

Easily seen is the fault of others but one's own is difficult to see; he who seeks another's faults, who is ever censorious—his cankers grow. Easy to do are things that are bad and harmful to oneself; but exceedingly difficult to do are things that are good and beneficial. Easy is life for the shameless one who is as impudent as a crow, is backbiting and forward, arrogant and corrupt. Education (Wisdom) is of paramount importance for all human beings in order to avoid all evils, to cultivate good and to cleanse one's mind, this is the teaching of all Buddhas so that the youth population (under 30 years of age) who makes up over 50% of total population

References:
(1) *A Dictionary of Buddhist Terms, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Yangon, Myanmar, 2000*
(2) *Dhammapada (Anthology of Verses), Acharya Buddhakkhita, Maha Bodhi Ashram, Bangalore, India, 16th October 1986*

(2014 census) of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar need to be nurtured with the teachings and ethics of the Awakened/Exalted/Blessed One (the Buddha).

Vain talk/writing is the idle talk/writing; the conversation/written communication that is not true and beneficial to oneself as well as to others and those who tale frivolously will incur the following disadvantage: lack of credibility; dislike by others; disrespect by others; poor intellect; scanty gains; lack of power and authority; and rebirth in Niraya, or as an ever hungry being.

In Buddhist ethics, certain moral obligations are incumbent on one such as: paying respects, warmly welcoming, making obeisance (homage), showing reverence and attending on one's elders who may be senior in age or in status and one has to fulfill them; such fulfillment is called virtuous conduct in addition to the precepts based on abstention (morality): constant observance of the five precepts (great charity to all living beings in this universe) which denotes being virtuous and abstaining from evil speeches (four verbal offences) and evil actions (three physical misdeeds).

Loving-kindness, compassion, appreciative (sympathetic) joy and equanimity are four universal cardinal virtues (Brahma Vihara) for all people in this planet who loves equity, justice, equality, peace and tranquility, liberty and freedom from man-made evils/disasters. Let's live to learn (lifelong learning), learn to love (loving-kindness and compassion), love to leave a good legacy for next generations (posterity). “Learn while you earn, earn while you learn.”

May you all be free from physical sufferings and mental sorrows!!! May you all be free from dangers and disasters!!! May you all be free from enmity and aversions!!! May you all be healthy, happy, wealthy, peaceful and prosperous!!! May the Buddha Dhamma be with you!!! May peace, tranquility, security, love, justice, joy and happiness be with you in the Happy, Peaceful and Prosperous year of 2018!!!

References:
(1) *A Dictionary of Buddhist Terms, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Yangon, Myanmar, 2000*
(2) *Dhammapada (Anthology of Verses), Acharya Buddhakkhita, Maha Bodhi Ashram, Bangalore, India, 16th October 1986*



Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued at 7:00 pm Sunday 14th October, 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and South Bay of Bengal and partly cloudy elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF THE 15th October, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be isolated in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyarwady Regions, Kayin and Mon States, scattered in Eastern Shan and Kayah States, fairly widespread in Naypyitaw, Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions, Southern Shan State and widespread in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of decrease of rain in Upper Myanmar areas.

FORECAST FOR NAYPYITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th October, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th October, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (80%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 15th October, 2018: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainty is (100%).

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their work to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, in person, or by email to ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Own name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— **Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar**

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Suspended Gaza fuel deal shreds tough diplomatic efforts

RAMALLAH (Palestinian territories) — By suspending badly-needed fuel deliveries to the Gaza Strip after deadly clashes, Israel has cast doubts on the viability of the hard-won measure aimed at helping the Palestinian people and easing tensions.

The deal, brokered by the United Nations and backed by the United States, Israel and others, had seen thousands of litres of Qatari-bought fuel trucked into Gaza daily to boost the impoverished territory's electricity supply.

But only days after being brought into effect, Israeli Defence Minister Avigdor Lieberman late Friday ordered the deliveries to stop after clashes on the Gaza-Israel border.

Despite hopes the fuel would help ease months of deadly violence, thousands of protestors gathered again Friday at the border fence. The Israeli army said five people were shot dead after "an organised attack" on an army post, using an explosive device which destroyed part of the fence.

The Gaza health ministry said seven Palestinians were killed. Saturday night, Lieberman said on Twitter the shipments of fuel and gas to Gaza would only resume if there was a "total cessation of violence, the launching of incendiary ballons (from Gaza towards Israel) and the use of burning tyres against Israeli towns" near the enclave.

The fuel deal had been reached without the agreement of the officially recognised Palestinian government, in what diplomats said was a first for Gaza — which is controlled by the rival Palestinian faction, Hamas.

And it had also raised questions on whether Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas is slowly being sidelined.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) headed by Abbas has semi autonomy in parts of the occupied West Bank, but lost control



A tanker delivers fuel at the Gaza power plant in Nuseirat this week in the central Gaza Strip after a UN-brokered deal. **PHOTO: AFP**

of Gaza to Hamas in a near-civil war in 2007.

But the PA has long been the only address for most international powers and a senior official declared Thursday it would no longer work with the UN envoy who brokered the deal.

'Humanitarian imperative'

The UN and other parties say they are merely seeking to improve the desperate humanitarian situation in the strip, under a crippling Israeli blockade for a decade.

More than two thirds of Gaza's two million residents rely on aid, while there are only four hours of mains electricity a day.

Great efforts were made to convince Abbas to agree to the fuel deal, UN and diplomatic sources said, with a decision ultimately made to work around him.

"The humanitarian imperative is more important than the relationship with the PA," one diplomat said.

There has been criticism of the PA that it has done little to ease the suffering of Gazans over the past decade and Abbas has even taken punitive measures against the strip to squeeze Hamas.

But the Palestinian Authority

fears the United States, which is due to announce a peace proposal, and others may seek to further split Gaza from the West Bank, dimming already slim hopes for a two-state solution between a Palestinian entity and Israel.

Western diplomats fear Abbas may now take new steps, or even cut off some ties with international powers.

"We could end up choosing between working with the PA and easing the humanitarian situation in Gaza," one diplomat in Jerusalem warned.

Abbas has not set foot in Gaza since the PA's 2007 polls defeat there, with multiple rounds of reconciliation talks failing.

The Islamist Hamas has since fought three wars with Israel and Western powers consider it a terrorist organisation. A return to power of the Abbas government in Gaza is seen as a key step to achieving an independent Palestinian state.

Ramallah 'paranoia'

But in Gaza, Hamas has organised months of often violent border protests, with at least 205 Palestinians and one Israeli killed since March 30.

In a recent rare interview Hamas's Gaza leader Yahya Sin-

war encouraged world powers to work with it to ease the suffering.

Egypt and the United Nations had sought a deal whereby Hamas ended the protests in exchange for an easing of Israel's crippling blockade. But Abbas was opposed, seeing it as tacit recognition of Hamas's control over Gaza.

Under the limited agreement which came into force on Tuesday Qatar, a longtime Hamas backer, was to pay \$60 million for fuel to be brought into Gaza over six months to fuel the strip's sole power plant.

At least six trucks have entered the Gaza Strip since Tuesday, bringing more than 200,000 litres of diesel, and there had been plans for it to reach up to 15 trucks a day. On Thursday senior Palestinian official Ahmed Majdalani said UN envoy Nickolay Mladenov, architect of the deal, was "no longer acceptable" to the PA, accusing him of exceeding his mandate. "There is a deep paranoia in Ramallah that this UN initiative is part of a broader conspiracy between Israel, the US and the UN to have a mini-state in Gaza and sideline Abbas," Hugh Lovatt of the European Council on Foreign Relations think tank told AFP. —AFP ■

17 killed in Saudi-led airstrike in Yemen's Hodeidah

SANAA — At least 17 passengers fleeing escalating war in Yemen's war-torn port city of Hodeidah were killed on Saturday when a Saudi-led coalition airstrike hit two buses near a security checkpoint, a provincial hospital official said. The airstrike hit the buses in Masbarah area at the top of Jabal Ras hill near a Houthi-manned security checkpoint south of the port city. "Most of the victims are women and children," the official told Xinhua by phone on condition of anonymity.

He said 20 others were wounded and were transported to several hospitals. The Houthi-controlled Saba news agency reported the air attack, while there was no immediate comment from the Saudi-led coalition. The Saturday attack was the latest in a series of airstrikes against the civilians since the coalition intervened in the Yemeni conflict in 2015. On Wednesday, a coalition airstrike killed five farmers near a charity drinking water pump in al-Jah district in Hodeidah, according to the local hospital officials. The war has escalated in the Red Sea port city following the collapse of peace-making efforts last month by the UN in Geneva after Houthi rebels refused to attend. The Hodeidah port is a main entry point of about 70 per cent of Yemen's food, medicines, aid and fuel.

Saudi Arabia is leading an Arab military coalition that intervened in Yemen on March 2015 to support the government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi after the Houthi rebels forced him into exile. The war has killed over 10,000 people and displaced nearly three million. —Xinhua ■

With border open, Ethiopia and Eritrea are back in business

MICHAEL TEWELDE — For two decades, little besides soldiers, refugees and rebels moved across Ethiopia and Eritrea's closed border, but today the once-barren no man's land teems with activity.

Horse-drawn carts, buses full of visitors and trucks piled high with bricks and plywood make their way across the frontier, watched by relaxed soldiers from the two nations' armies who

just months ago stared each other down from trenches carved into the rocky soil.

After 20 years of bloody conflict and grim stalemate, the Ethiopia-Eritrea border is bustling once again, revitalising frontier towns and allowing the countries' long-estranged populations to re-acquaint themselves.

"We have everything we didn't have before, from the

smallest to the biggest products," said Abraham Abadi, a merchant in the Eritrean town of Senafe whose shop is now filled with biscuits, drinks and liquor made in Ethiopia.

Yet the border's re-opening has sparked a surge in refugees and also raised concerns over the black market currency trade that some fear will destabilise the economy. —AFP ■



In the Eritrean town of Senafe traders are now doing good business. **PHOTO: AFP**

Hurricane Michael death toll hits 17, officials say it could rise

PANAMA CITY (United States) — Three days after Hurricane Michael's devastating strike, search teams in Florida pressed their hunt for victims into hard-to-reach areas Saturday, as the death toll rose to 17 and officials scrambled to deliver aid to those who lost everything.

The mammoth storm, which made landfall as a Category 4 storm on Wednesday, claimed lives in four states, but Florida suffered the worst damage by far.

Large parts of the state's panhandle were pulverized by the strong winds and rain, and eight storm-related deaths have been reported in Florida so far.

"Mexico Beach is devastated," Governor Rick Scott said of the town hardest hit by the hurricane, the most powerful to hit the United States in decades.

"It's like a war zone," he said while touring the town of 1,000 people on the Gulf of Mexico.

Rescue teams with sniffer dogs were searching for possible victims buried under the rubble in the debris-strewn community.

US media have reported one death in the town — the body of an elderly man was found hundreds of yards (meters) from his home.

Brock Long, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), warned that the



View of the damage caused by Hurricane Michael in Mexico Beach, Florida — the death toll is now at 17 and officials warn it could rise. PHOTO: AFP

death toll could yet rise.

"I hope we don't see it climb dramatically. But I have reasons to believe we still haven't got into some of the hardest-hit areas," he said.

Government and private relief centers were opening up to provide badly needed food, water and other aid to people whose lives were upended by the monster storm.

As somber residents began making it back to homes still intact, officials said it could take 10 days to compile a final damage estimate.

In Mexico Beach, dozens of structures — homes, shops and

restaurants — were lifted off their foundations by storm surge and winds of 155 miles per hour (250 kph).

Some were moved hundreds of feet inland while others were simply smashed to bits.

"Very few people live to tell what it's like to experience storm surge," Long said. "Storm surge causes the most amount of loss of life."

Building codes on Florida's Panhandle, in the state's northwest, are less rigorous than in the state's south, where severe hurricanes hit more frequently.

The devastation wrought by Michael has sparked debate

on whether an era of warming oceans and more severe storms might require tougher building standards in coastal areas.

Underlining the unpredictability of modern storms, a category one hurricane dubbed Leslie was heading Saturday on a highly unusual path toward the Iberian peninsula.

Nothing left to save

Across the storm-hit US region, relief efforts were shaping up. In Panama City, Florida, the Salvation Army and other charitable groups opened distribution points for food and supplies. A few stores were reopening, and

cars lined up at the few open gas stations.

At the city's St. Andrew Baptist Church, associate pastor Mark Bateman told AFP the church was gearing up to feed up to 500 people, with supplies — including pet food — provided by a statewide Baptist group.

"We're doing good," Bateman said, despite damage to the church's roof. "But lots of our members are not doing so well."

Back in Mexico Beach, residents were picking up the pieces.

"I spent my life savings and retirement to stay here. So I can't sell it now," retiree Bob Tenbrunson told AFP. "I can't sell it now. So I just have to be hopeful that (the city) will be rebuilt and fixed."

But some found nothing left to save. Beyond Florida, five storm-related deaths were reported in Virginia — including that of a fireman whose firetruck was struck by a semitrailer truck. One died in Georgia and three more were killed in North Carolina. Hundreds of thousands of people remain without electricity in Florida, Georgia and Virginia, and officials say that, even with line crews arriving from across the country, it could be weeks before power is fully restored. — AFP ■



Caruana Galizia's blog sought to expose scandals from petrol smuggling to money laundering, offshore bank accounts to nepotism, implicating members of the government and organised crime. PHOTO: AFP

Journalist murder a toxic mystery in Malta one year on

VALLETTA — A year after a car bomb killed Maltese anti-corruption journalist Daphne Caruana Galizia, those who ordered the murder remain free while others continuing her work in the EU's smallest state are branded traitors.

The windswept field where the mother-of-three's burnt-out car ended up on 16 October, 2017, has become a monument to her life.

Supporters of free speech

like Tania Attard come to this isolated spot to place flowers under a banner calling for justice, fluttering alongside a Maltese flag.

"If the person responsible for this is established, perhaps then we can rest and see that justice is done," Attard told AFP.

"I'm sure they never realised that it would come this far, that it would... turn into something so important and international." — AFP ■

Freed US pastor home from Turkey, meets Trump at White House

WASHINGTON — An American pastor held for two years in Turkey on terror-related charges arrived home in the United States on Saturday and sat down with US President Donald Trump, who signaled an easing in the diplomatic crisis sparked by the case.

Andrew Brunson — who has become a cause celebre for Trump's conservative Christian base — received a hero's welcome at the White House shortly after his arrival at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington.

Brunson thanked Trump and his administration, saying "you really fought for us" and later knelt to pray for the president, his hand on Trump's shoulder.

Trump repeatedly thanked Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan for his help on the case, which caused not only a serious diplomatic row between the NATO allies but led to a crash in the lira, exposing Turkey's economic fragility.

"It's not an easy situation for



Freed American pastor Andrew Brunson (l) shakes hands with US President Donald Trump at the White House. PHOTO: AFP

Turkey either. They had a lot of difficult situations going on and I do want to thank President Erdogan for making this possible," Trump said.

On Friday, a Turkish court in the western port city of Aliaga convicted Brunson on charges of espionage and aiding terror groups. It sentenced him to three years, one month and 15 days in jail — but released him based on time served and good behavior.

Erdogan has said the court's decision was "taken independently." Both Trump and Erdogan have denied reports that the two sides reached a secret deal for the 50-year-old Brunson to be released in exchange for the US easing "economic pressure" on Ankara.

"There was absolutely no deal made," Trump told reporters on Saturday. "We don't pay ransom" for hostages. — AFP ■

Search begins for nine climbers killed on Nepal peak

KATHMANDU — A rescue team was Sunday attempting to retrieve the bodies of nine climbers killed in a violent storm on Nepal's Mount Gurja, a freak accident that has left the mountaineering community reeling.

A helicopter reached a village just below the area where the South Korean climbing expedition was camped when powerful winds and snow swept through, killing the entire team and scattering their bodies as far as 500 metre (1,640 foot) away.

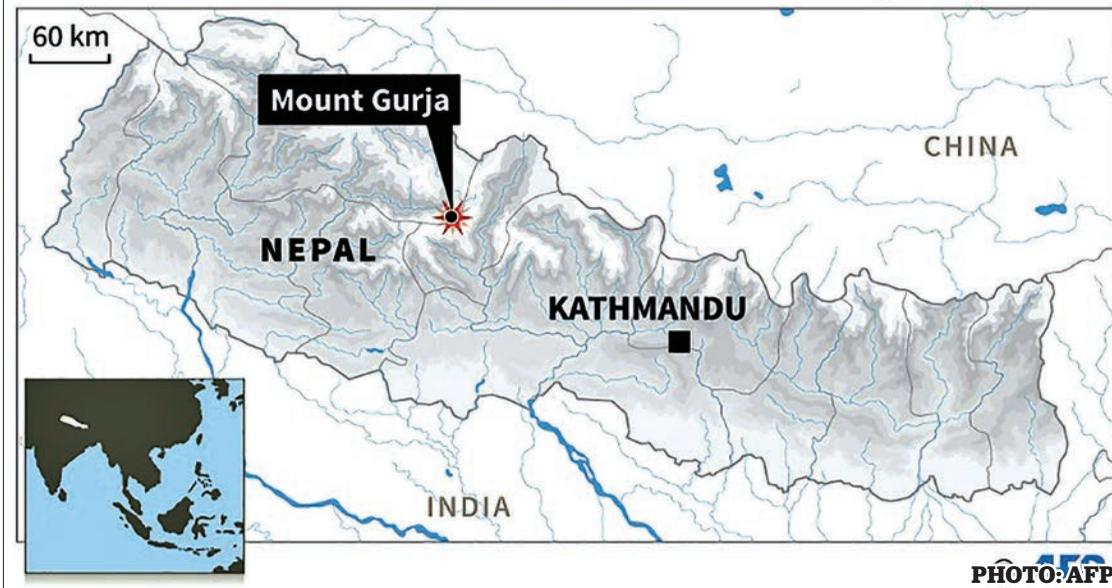
"The helicopter will drop the four guides at the site and they will collect the bodies," said Siddhartha Gurung, a chopper pilot who is coordinating the retrieval mission. Attempts to reach the remote site in the Dhaulagiri mountain range in Nepal's Annapurna region on Saturday were hampered by strong winds.

Gurung did manage to reach the area and described a scene of total destruction.

"Base camp looks like a bomb went off," said Dan Richards of Global Rescue, a US-based emergency assistance group that will be helping with the retrieval effort.

The expedition was led by experienced South Korean climber

Snowstorm kills 9 climbers on Nepal peak



Kim Chang-ho, who has climbed the world's 14 highest mountains without using supplemental oxygen.

Mountaineering experts are questioning how the experienced team was so badly hit while still at base camp at around 3,500 metres.

"At this point we don't understand how this happened. You don't usually get those sorts of extreme winds at that altitude and base camps are normally chosen because they are safe places," said Richards.

The team — five South Koreans and four Nepali guides — had been on 7,193-metre (23,599-foot) Mount Gurja since early October, hoping to scale the rarely climbed mountain via a new route.

A sixth South Korean climber was staying at a village lower in the valley when the storm hit, after being forced to a lower altitude by health problems.

The freak storm is the deadliest incident to hit Nepal's mountaineering industry since 18 people were killed at Mount Everest's base camp in 2015 in

an avalanche triggered by a powerful earthquake.

The previous year, 16 Sherpas were killed on Everest when an avalanche swept through the Khumbu Icefall during the busy spring climbing season.

Then in October that year, a blizzard killed more than 40 tourists and their guides in the Annapurna region, a disaster that was largely blamed on poor weather forecasting and lacklustre safety standards in Nepal's poorly regulated trekking industry. —AFP ■

21 killed by cyclone Titli in eastern India

NEW DELHI — As many as 21 people were killed in floods and heavy rains triggered by cyclone Titli in eastern Indian state of Odisha, officials said Saturday.

The deaths were reported from the districts of Gajapati, Nayagarh, Kandhamal, Cuttack, Keonjhar and Angul since Thursday when the severe cyclonic storm made landfall in the state.

"Gajapati was the most affected district, where 15 people lost their lives. These included 12 people who were swept away by a rockslide that hit their cave hideout," an official said.

The rockslide took place near Baraghara village in Gajapati district when a group of 22 people took shelter in the cave near a hillock to escape Titli. Four others were still missing.

"Two deaths were reported from Nayagarh and one each from Kandhamal, Cuttack, Keonjhar and Angul districts," the official added.

Cyclone Titli hit Odisha and the neighboring state of Andhra Pradesh Thursday, before it weakened into a deep depression. —Xinhua ■

China part of railway bridge to Russia completed

HARBIN — The main body of the Chinese part of the first cross-river railway bridge connecting with Russia was completed Saturday, the construction contractor said.

Chinese workers put in place the last steel beam to connect bridge pillars on Saturday morning. The bridge across the Heilongjiang River, known as the Amur River in Russia, connects the city of Tongjiang in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province with Nizhnelenskoye in Russia.

The main bridge spans 2,215 meters, with 1,886 meters of that standing in China. Beginning construction in February 2014, the bridge has a designed annual throughput capacity of 21 million tonnes. Liu Weiquan, head of China's bridge construction headquarters, said the Chinese side only has a small number of railway tracks to lay before full completion and the Russian side is also speeding up construction.

The bridge is expected to add another major transpor-

tation corridor between China and Russia and help Heilongjiang Province take advantage of the Belt and Road Initiative to boost local economy and trade.

"After the railway bridge is put into operation, we can import all through the year, and this is also expected to reduce transportation costs by 100 yuan (14.5 U.S. dollars) per cubic meter of timber," Xu Zhaojun, owner of a timber importer in Tongjiang.

Song Kui, president of the Contemporary China-Russia Regional Economy Research Institute in Heilongjiang, said the new route will boost bilateral logistics, providing a further impetus for economic cooperation between the two countries.

In the first half of this year, Heilongjiang saw trade with Russia go up 48.2 per cent year on year to 53.4 billion yuan (7.7 billion U.S. dollars). China has also become the largest trading partner and source of foreign investment for the Russian Far East. —Xinhua ■

Death toll in Afghan election rally attack rises to 22

KABUL (Afghanistan) — The death toll in a bomb attack on an Afghan election rally has risen to at least 22 people, officials said Sunday, as the country braces for more violence ahead of the October 20 poll.

Dozens of people were killed or wounded in parliamentary election-related attacks across Afghanistan on Saturday as militants step up attacks on the ballot.

A motorcycle carrying explosives detonated among supporters of Nazifa Yousefibe, a female candidate for the northeastern province of Takhar, provincial governor spokesman Mohammad Jawad Hejri told AFP.

Most of the 22 killed and 36 wounded were civilians, he said.

Provincial health director Hafizullah Safi put the death toll slightly higher at 23.

In the western province of Herat, two gunmen attacked the campaign office of a can-



Afghan volunteers transport an injured man on a stretcher to a hospital following a bomb attack in Taloqan in northeastern Takhar province on 13 October 2018. A motorcycle carrying explosives blew up among supporters of an Afghan election candidate on 13 October, killing at least 12 people, officials said, in the latest attack on a political rally. —AFP ■

didate in Injeel district, killing two people, provincial governor spokesman Jailani Farhad said.

A nine-year-old boy and a security guard died in the attack and two others were wounded.

Violence related to the

long-delayed legislative vote has killed or wounded hundreds of people in recent months.

At least nine candidates have died so far, most of them in targeted killings, according to the Independent Election Commission. —AFP ■

Boulders litter Uganda villages crushed by deadly landslide

BUDUDA (Uganda) — On a muddy outcrop on the banks of the Sume river, grief-stricken families gaze at enormous boulders that stand testimony to the force of the deluge which engulfed their homes.

Hundreds of newly-deposited rocks, each the size of a van, litter the riverbanks after Thursday's landslide which killed 42 people and swept away nearly 150 homes.

At one spur just below Wanjenwa village, two colossal boulders match the size of the houses they smashed as the torrent propelled them down the mountain, crushing everything in their path.

Evelyn Wantsema was at home in the riverbank village of Nyehe with her

ple were walking around meeting friends.

"Until this week, the Sume was like a stream — even children could play in it," said Amos Wabianga a 45-year-old farmer.

"The first sign something was wrong was soil in the water which made it dark," said Michael Namutambo, a primary school teacher.

"People didn't think it was a problem and didn't run. Then what followed was the real calamity — rocks, timber. People couldn't manage the speed of the mudslide — it was so fast," the 33-year-old said.

"Whoever took this direction survived somehow," he said gesturing to the right. "Those who took the other direction died"

preparedness to a community-based Landslide Risk Monitoring System.

But Godfrey Mujuni a government meteorologist told AFP there was no early warning system in the area, with local people confirming that other than the standard seasonal advice, they did not receive any additional warnings.

The government says families at risk of landslides across the country will be resettled elsewhere but villagers say the land offered them is unsuitable and promises remain unfulfilled.

'Where should we go?'

Nathan Tumuhanye, director of an organisation which helps communities recover from natural dis-



Huge boulders, some as large as cars or houses, litter Wajenwa village after Uganda's Sume river burst its banks. PHOTO: AFP

two boys, Muhammad, 4, and Joseph, 2, when she heard unsettling noise approaching. "I looked out and saw this catastrophe coming with a lot of rocks and trees," she said.

"There was no time. I ran with Joseph and had to leave Muhammad," sobbed this young mother of 20.

"I thought I'd lost him." As soon as the worst of the waters subsided, Wantsema rushed back to her home and found Muhammad buried in mud.

"I saw one of his hands, grabbed it and pulled him out alive."

'So fast'

Thursday was market day in Wanjenwa and although it had been raining for a couple of days, witnesses said it was not unusually heavy and peo-

The official death toll stands at 42 with 858 people displaced and an unknown number missing.

Improved monitoring

The government agency in charge of relief said a landslide in the forest high above the villages blocked the Sume river causing it to burst its banks and sending a cascade of huge rocks tumbling down the hillside.

"The Bukalasi landslide-triggered disaster is the 67th registered between May and October this year," said a statement by Martin Owor, commissioner for disaster preparedness.

He said there had been 67 landslides this year, but only this one had resulted in deaths whereas in previous years, every landslide had caused fatalities, attributing the improved

asters and conflict, told AFP that although several households had been resettled under a government programme, the scheme had largely failed.

"People were being moved from mountainous land which is so fertile you could just throw a seed in the soil and it will grow, to areas which are extremely flat and where the conditions for farming are extremely different."

Those living in vulnerable areas were hesitant to leave their ancestral homes and "felt a great psychological attachment to the mountains," he said. In March 2010, at least 100 people were killed in the same mountainous region, which lies on the border between Uganda and Kenya and is a high-risk area for landslides. —AFP ■



The recent quake-tsunami unleashed devastation on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, killing thousands. PHOTO: AFP

World Bank offers disaster-hit Indonesia \$1 bn in loans

NUSA DUA (Indonesia) — The World Bank on Sunday announced funding of up to \$1 billion for Indonesia after it was rocked by a string of recent disasters, including a deadly earthquake-tsunami that killed thousands.

CEO Kristalina Georgieva unveiled the funds at Indonesian holiday island Bali, where the Bank and the International Monetary Fund have been holding their annual meetings.

A 7.5-magnitude quake and a resulting tsunami tore through Palu city on Sulawesi island on September 28, killing more than 2,000 people and leaving thousands more missing, presumed dead.

Rescue teams scoured the wreckage for a fortnight before calling off the search for the dead, acknowledging as many as 5,000 missing people might never be found.

Georgieva said the funds being made available by the Bank in the form of loans could be used for reconstruction but were also intended to help Indonesia build "resilience", so it would be better prepared in

the face of future disasters.

"Disasters will continue to hit and with climate change there will be more," said Georgieva, who visited Palu earlier this week.

"The best memorial we can build for the victims of disaster is to build better, so next time when a disaster hits fewer people are affected, fewer lives are lost, and there is less damage." Nearly 90,000 people were displaced by the quake in Palu, forcing them into evacuation centres across the rubble-strewn city. Officials said it could be two years before all the homeless are found permanent accommodation.

Aid groups say a dearth of clean drinking water and medical supplies remains a very real concern for 200,000 people in urgent need.

Donations have begun pouring into the coastal city of 350,000 after a slow start which saw Indonesia criticised for stalling the flow of relief supplies.

The shallow 7.5-magnitude tremor was more powerful than a series of quakes this summer that killed more than 550 people on the Indonesian island of Lombok and neighbouring Sumbawa.

Indonesia has been hit by a string of other deadly quakes, including a devastating 9.1-magnitude tremor that struck off the coast of Sumatra in December 2004, killing 220,000 throughout the region, including 168,000 in Indonesia.

Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati welcomed the pledge.—AFP ■

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouse and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 23rd OCTOBER 2018 to 25th OCTOBER 2018 (Thadinkyut Public Holiday), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Electrification Project (NEP). The IDA No of the financing agreement is No-5727MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit towards eligible payments under the Contracts for which this invitation for Quotation is issued.

DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Item No	Reference No	Description	Quantity	Units
1	C2-G.31	MIS Server (Storage, Application and Operating System)	2	Nos

Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION by e-mail. Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the deadline, after which no Quotations will be accepted. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011 (revised July 2014).

Please submit Sealed Quotations to: U Maung Win, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(36), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U KyawSwaAung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 0673418635, 0673418636/Email: drdneprocurement@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the RFQ will be sent.

Chinese action debut and South Korean family drama win at Busan

BUSAN (South Korea)—A thrill-a-minute actioner from China and a moving South Korean drama about a unique family reunion have taken the top prize at Asia's largest film festival, with judges lauding both for their "original" takes.

"Savage", from first-time Chinese director Cui Si-wei, pits a forest ranger against gold thieves in a snowy mountain range and won praise from the New Currents award jury at the Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) for being "strikingly accomplished and riveting".

South Korean production "Clean up", from debut feature director Kwon Man-ki, charts the tale of a struggling woman who is offered a salvation of sorts when she meets someone from her past. It is a film with "perfect control and masterful psychological development," the jury statement read.

BIFF's New Currents award comes with prizes of \$30,000 for the two most impressive efforts from first- or second-time Asian filmmakers and there had been a buzz around town after screenings of "Savage" in particular. The film now looks certain for wide commercial release in China



The Busan film festival wraps up Saturday evening with the premier of Yuen Woo-ping's latest martial arts actioner. **PHOTO: AFP**

and beyond.

Veteran South Korean director Kim Hong-joon, who led the New Currents jury, said the judges were unanimous in their decision to award "Savage" its prize. "[It shows] a mastery of genre cinema, with multi-dimensional characters and thrilling action sequences," said Kim.

Other highlights of this year's BIFF included a documentary section that featured films that scratched away at the region's political and social

scars.

The gripping Taiwanese effort "Opening Closing Forgetting", from director James T. Hong, looked at how Chinese farmers survived human experimentation by occupying Japanese forces during the Second World War, but have never really recovered from the horrors they were put through.

It took the BIFF Mecenat Award for best documentary winning praise from the award panel for its "profound dedica-

tion to its story" -- along with Kelvin Park's "Army", which shed light on lives led by South Korea's military conscripts.

Nod to a martial arts master

BIFF draws to a close Saturday night with the gala world premiere of martial arts master Yuen Woo-ping's "Master Z: The Ip Man Legacy", a branch off from the franchise of Hong Kong-produced box office hits which were centred around the life of the man famous for teaching Bruce Lee.—AFP ■

Beijing Music Festival opens with renowned Peking opera

BEIJING—The 21st Beijing Music Festival opened Friday, with a new version of the traditional Peking opera Ba Wang Bie Ji (Farewell My Concubine) as its opening performance.

The performance starred renowned Peking opera performers Yang Chi and Ding Xiaojun, and was conducted by Hu Bingxu, a pioneer in combining orchestras and Chinese folk music performers in Chinese drama performances.

Ba Wang Bie Ji is a romantic and tragic story based on the legend of ancient hero Xiang Yu and his beloved concubine Yu. He was defeated during his endeavors to unify China against Liu Bang, the eventual founder of the Han Dynasty over 2,200 years ago. Having lost his battle for the throne, Xiang refused to cross a river to save his life.

This version of Ba Wang Bie Ji, directed by Chinese artist Chen Shi-zheng, is a new interpretation of the classic opera that introduces digital stage effects and modern dancing into the performance of the classic drama. Instead of "innovation for innovation's sake", new features were added to better convey the spirit of the story, said Chen.—Xinhua ■

IN PICTURE

Creations of Reclothing Bank presented during Shanghai Fashion Week



Models present creations of the Reclothing Bank during the spring/summer 2019 collections of the Shanghai Fashion Week in Shanghai, east China on 12 October 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

New Angry Birds television series being hatched

CANNES (France)—Producers are laying plans for a new "Angry Birds" television series based on the cult video game, its distributors said Saturday.

The game, about a furious flock of multi-coloured birds protecting their eggs from a tribe of green pigs, has already inspired a blockbuster movie franchise, a game show and a theme park in Qatar. Now its Finnish creators Rovio are planning to expand its hit TV shorts into a full-length series based on characters from the game, which has been downloaded more than four billion times.

The series is likely to screen next year just as the second "Angry Birds" film rolls out in cinemas across the world. The first "The Angry Birds Movie" grossed more than \$350 million (302 million euros). The news of the series aimed at 6- to 12-year-olds

broke as the MIPJunior global children's entertainment market opened in Cannes, France. The British-based producers of the series, Cake, have not said how long the episodes will be.

Each episode of the existing shorts series "Angry Birds Toons", and its two spin-offs, "Angry Birds Stella" and "Piggy Tales", which star the birds' nemesis, Bad Piggies, lasts only three minutes.

"Long-form content marks the obvious next step in extending the 'Angry Birds' brand on the small screen," Cake's CEO Tom van Waveren told Variety.

Cake signed a distribution deal with Rovio in June after which its managing director Ed Galton said, "We are looking forward to catapulting these iconic characters to television audiences around the world."—AFP ■

Scientists find dying star siphoned off by its unseen companion

WASHINGTON — A study published Thursday in the journal *Science* described the death of a massive star that exploded in a surprisingly faint and rapidly fading supernova, suggesting that the star might have an unseen companion. The companion siphoned away the star's mass to leave behind a stripped star that exploded in a quick supernova, resulting in a dead neutron star orbiting around its dense and compact companion, according to the study. This is the first time that scientists have witnessed the birth of a compact neutron star binary system. Because this new neutron star and its companion are so close together, they will eventually merge in a collision similar to the 2017 event that produced both gravitational waves and electromagnetic waves, according to the study.

When a massive star, at least

eight times the mass of the sun, runs out of fuel, its core collapses inwards and then rebounds outward in a powerful explosion.

After the explosion, all of the star's outer layers would have been blasted away, leaving behind a dense neutron star. A teaspoon of a neutron star would weigh as much as a mountain. During a supernova, the dying star blasts away all of the material in its outer layers, usually a few times the mass of the sun. However, the event Mansi Kasliwal and her colleagues with California Institute of Technology observed ejected matter only one fifth of the mass of the sun. "We call this an ultra-stripped envelope supernova and it has long been predicted that they exist. This is the first time we have convincingly seen core collapse of a massive star that is so devoid of matter," said Kasliwal. —Xinhua ■



The Federatsiya spacecraft, designed by the Energia Rocket and Space Corporation, will be used to take people and cargo into the Earth's orbit and to the Moon. PHOTO: TASS

Iskra design bureau now drafting rescue system for Russia's future manned spacecraft

KHIMKI — Iskra, a design bureau designing and producing engines and other equipment for missiles and space rockets, is currently involved in a project to draft the emergency rescue system for Russia's future manned spacecraft, Federatsiya (Federation), Director General Vladimir Sorokin has told reporters.

"Blueprints are now ready, several variants are being considered. The final decision is yet to be made. Iskra has prepared its variant," he said. "The design of the emergency rescue system depends on the choice of the future launch site, on whether it is Vostochny or Baikonur."

The official added that "Roscosmos is yet to make its mind on the future launch site," expressed

hope that the decision will be made in the near future.

The Federatsiya spacecraft, designed by the Energia Rocket and Space Corporation, will be used to take people and cargo into the Earth's orbit and to the Moon. There will be up to four people in one crew. The spacecraft will be capable of staying up to 30 days in an autonomous flight mode and up to one year at the orbital station.

There are plans to use the Soyuz 5 launch vehicle to deliver the Federatsiya to orbit. The spacecraft is to make its first unmanned flight in 2022 from the Baikonur Cosmodrome. The orbital manned flight is set for 2023, and the first manned ISS mission for 2024. —Tass ■



PHOTO: XINHUA

Stanford researchers relocate genes in cell with new gene-editing tool

WASHINGTON — Researchers at Stanford University developed a new gene-editing technology to manipulate the genome in three-dimensional space, and found that genes behaved differently in different zones.

The study, published on Thursday in the journal *Cell*, showed that the new technique, dubbed CRISPR-GO, used a programmable guide RNA to ferry genetic snippets to different locations in a cell's nucleus, which was like a delivery system.

Displacing genetic elements can change how they function, according to the study.

"The question of why spatial organization in a cell matters is an important one, and it's also not one that scientists agree on," said Stanley Qi, assistant professor of bioengineering and of chemical and systems biology at Stanford.

"CRISPR-GO could provide

an opportunity to answer that question by enabling us to target, move and relocate very specific stretches of DNA, and see how their new placements in the nucleus change how they function," said Qi, the paper's senior author.

Most mammalian cells contain a nucleus that houses more than 6 feet (about 183 cm) of DNA, if stretched out in a line. DNA tends to clump in certain areas in the nucleus but how that placement affects the DNA's function is not that clear. In the new study, Qi and his colleague investigated three distinct sub-regions of the nucleus using CRISPR-GO, showing that specific compartments and some free-floating bodies of proteins in the nucleus can sway the function of repositioned DNA.

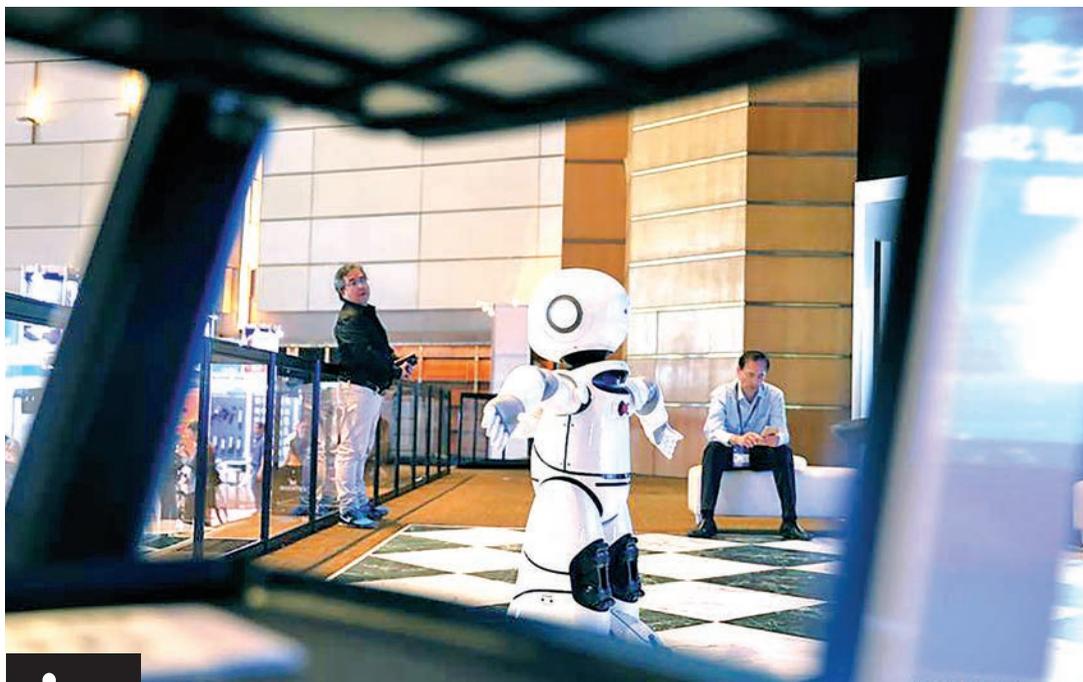
Depending on where the genetic materials are located, some nuclear regions repress gene expression and some ac-

celerate telomere growth, and subsequently cell division, according to the study. For example, the researchers observed that genes, relocated to a part of the nucleus called the Cajal body, an amorphous blob of proteins and RNA, stopped expressing proteins. "It's the first time that researchers have evidence to show the Cajal body can have a direct gene-regulation effect, in this case repressing gene expression," Qi said.

Also, they used the tool to move the DNA of telomeres, the molecular caps of chromosomes that are associated with longevity, from the middle to the edge of the nucleus. Then the telomeres stopped growing, halting the cell cycle and reducing cell viability.

However, the opposite happened when telomeres were moved closer to the Cajal body. They grew and, in doing so, increased cell viability. —Xinhua ■

38th Hong Kong Electronics Fair, 22nd electronicAsia held in Hong Kong



in
Picture

A robot gives performance during the 38th Hong Kong Electronics Fair (Autumn Edition) and the 22nd electronicAsia at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center in south China's Hong Kong, on 13 October, 2018. The two events attracted over 4,300 exhibitors from 25 countries and regions. PHOTO: XINHUA

Yangon to fight 2019 Charity Cup battle with Shan United early January

YANGON UNITED FC, the reigning champions of the MNL and General Aung San Knock-out Shield, will fight 2019 Charity Cup battle with Shan United FC, said a source close to Myanmar Football Federation.

Myanmar National League will open up the curtain of the new football season exhibiting the Charity Cup of the MNL early 2019.

The Charity Cup is initially scheduled on January 6, but the match date will be released only after the confirmation of the fixtures for Myanmar National

League.

Yangon United FC, the reigning champions of the MNL and General Aung San Knock-out Shield, will fight the Charity Cup with Shan United, the runners-up of the MNL. Both teams have secured a cup for one time each. This will be a second-time meeting.

Both teams met in 2014 and 2018 football seasons. Shan United won the cup in 2014, whereas Yangon took hold of it in 2018. Both teams have already had the opportunities for participating in Asian-level football tour-



Yangon United players have a group photo taken on the pitch. PHOTO: YUFC

naments. Myanmar National League holds the Charity Cup with the aim of raising funds

for donating proceeds to social organizations. Yangon secured Charity Cup for three times, Ay-

eyawady two times, and Shan and Magway one each.—Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

Klopp desperate to end Liverpool trophy drought

LONDON (United Kingdom)—Jurgen Klopp says he does not want to be remembered as the “fun” Liverpool manager who failed to win silverware as expectations rise that the club can break their long trophy drought.

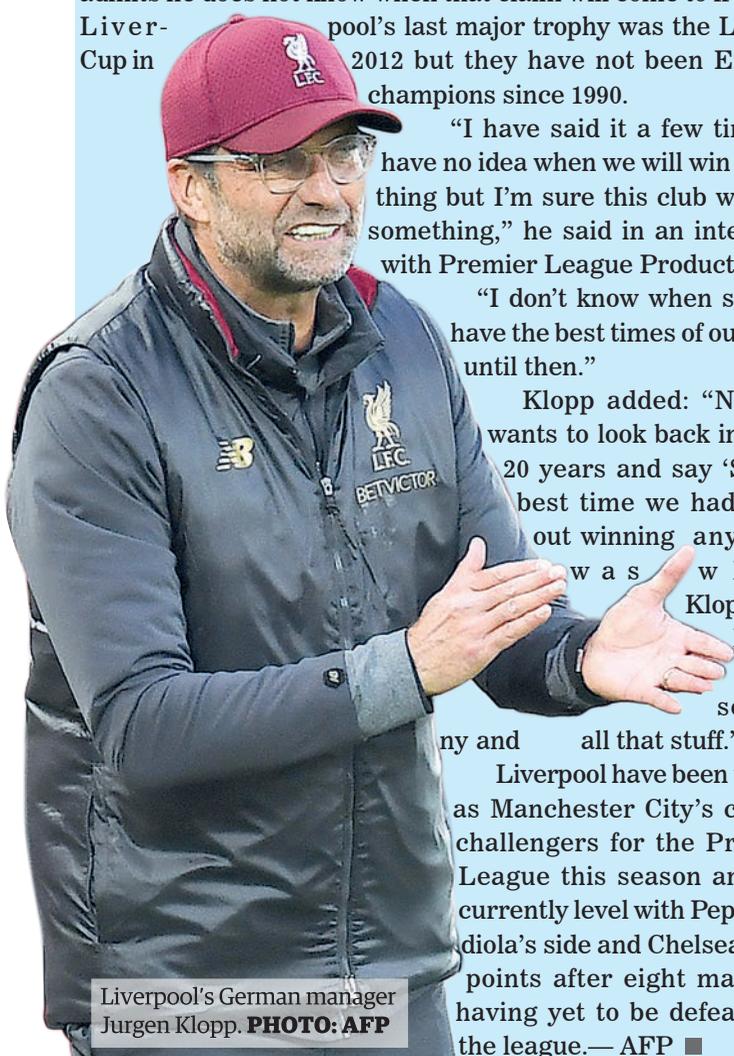
The German manager celebrated his three-year anniversary at Anfield this week but has not tasted success despite taking the club to three finals. He has lost his past six finals since winning his first with Borussia Dortmund in 2012. At his presentation as Reds boss in October 2015 he pledged to win a “title” within four years. But after three trophy near-misses, the last in May’s Champions League final against Real Madrid, he admits he does not know when that claim will come to fruition. Liverpool’s last major trophy was the League Cup in 2012 but they have not been English champions since 1990.

“I have said it a few times: I have no idea when we will win something but I’m sure this club will win something,” he said in an interview with Premier League Productions.

“I don’t know when so let’s have the best times of our lives until then.”

Klopp added: “Nobody wants to look back in 10 or 20 years and say ‘So the best time we had without winning anything was when Klopp was here. It was so funny and all that stuff.’”

Liverpool have been touted as Manchester City’s closest challengers for the Premier League this season and are currently level with Pep Guardiola’s side and Chelsea on 18 points after eight matches, having yet to be defeated in the league.—AFP ■



Liverpool’s German manager Jurgen Klopp. PHOTO: AFP

Shan United to take part in 2019 AFC Cup’s play-off

SHAN UNITED, the runners-up of Myanmar National League, is going to take part in the play-off of the 2019 AFC Cup.

Six football clubs including Shan United will participate in the play-off of the 2019 AFC Cup.

According to the seeding term of the AFC, Myanmar professional football clubs will

take part in the group level and the play-off. Yangon United, the champions of Myanmar National League, will start playing group round matches and Shan United, the play-off matches.

Indonesia, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Brunei and Timor Leste will play the play-off matches. Three winning teams will ad-

vance the last round.

A professional football club in Myanmar is allowed playing the play-off starting 2017. The Myanmar football club has automatically advanced the group stage for two seasons because the opponents’ club does not participate in the play-off round.—Htut Htut (Twantay) ■

50 years on, shockwaves of Olympic ‘Black Power’ protest still rumble

LOS ANGELES—Fifty years after raising clenched fists in protest during the 1968 Mexico City Olympics, the shockwaves unleashed by John Carlos and Tommie Smith’s salute of defiance are still rippling around the sporting world.

The image of the African-American sprinters standing on the medal podium on October 16 1968, heads bowed while each raising a solitary, leather-gloved fist into the night sky would become one of the most iconic photos of the 20th century.

The protest redefined the concept of athlete activism as the stuffy, antiquated world of the Olympic movement under then president Avery Brundage collided with the political and cultural maelstrom raging across the globe in 1968.

America had already been convulsed by the twin assassina-

tions of Dr. Martin Luther King in April and the murder of presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy in June. In between the trauma of those events, deadly rioting erupted in Chicago.

Large-scale protests against the Vietnam War gained momentum throughout a year which also saw civil unrest in France as student-led demonstrations and general strikes plunged the country into chaos.

By the time of the Olympics, the febrile mood sweeping the world had reached Mexico City.

Just days before the Games got under way, Mexican government forces crushed a protest by students and civilians.

Independent reports say between 300-500 people were killed, with thousands wounded and more than 2,000 arrested.

Bloody crackdown

That bloody crackdown set

the stage for an Olympics that will forever be associated with Smith and Carlos’s “Black Power” salute.

On the morning of October 16, Smith won the 200m in a then-world record of 19.83sec, with Carlos taking bronze behind Australia’s Peter Norman.

At the medal ceremony that evening, Smith and Carlos proceeded with their planned protest which had been hatched before the Olympics.

The two sprinters had been drawn to activism while at San Jose State University in California, where they had been members of the Olympic Project for Human Rights (OPHR) set up by sociologist Harry Edwards.

As they walked out for the ceremony, the two athletes received their medal without shoes to symbolise black poverty in the United States.—AFP ■