Tiger house gets blue plaque

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
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 Agreement 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)

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)

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)

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)

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)

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.

SEE PAGE-3
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 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 Nhindin 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 government office and also met with Commander of the Union Peace and Development Council (UPDC) in Nhindin Village, Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State.

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

This meeting was brought about by the Third Panglong conference where 19 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 UPDC 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 complications 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.
More agricultural farms applying GAP system

By May Thet Hnin

AGRICULTURAL farms applying Good Agricultural Practic- es (GAP) have significantly increased year by year. Currently, there are 111 agricultural farms which are holding a GAP cer- tificate as of September 2018, said Dr. Wunna Tun, head of Agricultural Department branch office.

Good Agricultural Practic- es (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. Wunna Tun.

“ Agricultural products which were grown with GAP system are more marketable and get good price. Later on, lo- cal farmers became aware that growing with GAP system can be more market-accepted. Most of the local farmers followed using GAP system because consum- ers prefer products grown under GAP system,” he added.

GAP is an agricultural prac- tice reducing environmental im- pact and producing good qual- ity 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. Agri- cultural farm owners need to apply for GAP certificate every season, said Dr. Wunna Tun.

Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producers and Ex- porters Association vice chair- man Dr. Myint Sein explained, “If we want to approach the in- ternational market, we need to have GAP. Good Manufacture Practices (GMP), and Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP). Myanmar should also practice green economy as China’s Kunning does. Pesti- cides spread around the world. Therefore, our association pro- vides 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 expira- tion 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 north- west of Bamank Township in Katha District, Sagaing Re- gion, 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 indus- try by extending new tourism destinations with proper servic- es, its official said. The 600-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 Bamank. 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 of- fer better services to visitors in this pilgrimage season, including accommodation, transportation, catering and other necessities.— Lu Aung (Katha)

Interview with responsible persons from Ethnic ...
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 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 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 $38.9 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 cashews, mungo, rice, beans and pulses, and other miscellaneous products to South Korea. Cosmetics, footwear, 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 $786.4 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 $682 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 $75.09 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 gate estimated US$3.39 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 Myanmar, 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 $29.4 million. Bilateral trade with Cambodia reached $4.94 million, while Laos and Brunei’s trade with Myanmar was worth less than $1 million.

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$61.4 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 $18.804 million, covering $30.194 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 $1.024 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, $996 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

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 reinforcement, 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 power lines 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, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Region, about 500 miles north of Yangon.—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 (5) sub-border guard police force of No 1 area in Maungtaw Township and troops led by AD. Jamal Uddin of Jarulajhira 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 Police Ltc Kyaw Zaw Oo of Taungbyo (Letyar) police station of No 1 sub-border guard police force of No 3 area in Maungtaw Township and troops led by Naib Subedar Md. Shariul Islam of Taungbyu 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

Myanmar, Thailand press councils discuss collaboration

A DELEGATION led by Union Minister for Home Affairs Li-Gen Kyaw Swe, together with Minister Counsellor Mr. Thanwa Phudphong from Embassy of Thailand, departed for Thailand to meet with Mr. Chavarong Limpat of Thailand National Press Council.

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

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

A DELEGATION led by chairperson of the National Press Council of Thailand Chawarong Limpattamapaneet met with a delegation led by vice chairpersons of Myanmar Press Council U Ohn Kyaw and Dr. Myo Than Tin at the Myanmar Press Council office in Yangon yesterday. During the meeting, agendas to collaborate, plans to organize ASEAN Press Council and current conditions about the two countries’ media were cordially discussed.

The two press councils have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for collaboration since 25 August, 2016, it is learnt.—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 to form 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. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Thanwa Phudphong from Embassy of Thailand.”—Police Information

PHOTO: MNA

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

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

A meeting to discuss electrification was held in Tagaung, Mandalay Region, yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
NUSA DUA (Indonesia) — Ris- ing 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 “unprece- dented” combination of threats, the International Monetary Fund cautioned at an annual meeting with the World Bank in Bali this week.

Among them is growing pro- tectionism 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, In- donesian President Joko Widodo compared the dispute between the world’s two biggest economies to the hit television series “Game of Thrones”.

“Great houses, great fam- ilies, battle each other fiercely to seize control over the Iron Throne,” he said.

But “confrontation and col- lision 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 as the IMF projects an expected 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 Ste- ve Mnuchin described “produc- tive” talks with the Chinese on the yuan, which Washington has accused Beijing of keeping artificially low to boost exports.

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 employ- ment.

That has squeezed emerg- ing markets, which are seeing capital flee towards the US en- ticed by higher returns, and also threatens developing countries that have large debt burdens de- nominated in dollars.

“The global economy con- tinues to grow but the outlook is no longer challenging especially for emerging markets due to the normal- isation of the US monetary policy,” Brazilian central bank governor Ilan Goldfajn warned Monday.

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 In- drawati added, in an interview with Bloomberg TV.— AFP

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

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

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

NUSA DUA (Indonesia) — China’s central bank gover- nor 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” situa- tion.

“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 un- certainties ahead of us.

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

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

## World experts upbeat about stability, resilience of Chinese economy

BEIJING — Amid complicat- ed international landscape and new changes in China’s domes- tic economy, experts around the world believe that the Chinese government has sufficient poli- cy tools to tap its inherent dyna- mism so as to secure robust and resilient economic growth.

These remarks came follow- ing the Chinese government’s recent proposal of a target to “sta- bilize 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 cer- tain 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 expecta- tions, 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 depart- ment told Xinhua that the slow- down in China’s economic growth is a result of the government’s initiative to deleverage and regu- late the economy, which is in fact a “high quality” slowdown. Rhee expressed confidence that the Chinese government has suf- ficient policy tools to stabilize eco- nomic growth and offset negative impacts from the economic and trade frictions with the United States, but meanwhile, deleverag- ing should forge ahead to ensure more stable and resilient growth in the medium term.—Xinhua

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

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

PHOTO: AFP

World experts upbeat about stability, resilience of Chinese economy

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

NUSA DUA (Indonesia) — China’s central bank gover- nor 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.

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

PHOTO: AFP
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 union under the leadership of the and the steps formulated by the heads of State.

Unity, cooperation needed for national development

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The invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Japan on 3 and 5 October, 2018 with the Japan Summit and bilateral talks. Also, the President of the Union of Myanmar attended the ASEAN Leader’s Gathering in Bali, Indonesia on 11 October and discussed matters relating to state development and cooperation with ASEAN member countries. State Counsellor is in international summits is expected to effectuate the equitable prosperity and sustainable development in the region. The leaders need to unite and collaborate to bring better prospects to the country. They themselves have to heighten their cooperation among themselves and make collaborative efforts to bring prosperity to the country. The immediate causes of being a democratic transition, citizens should work in cooperation to bring about unity, cooperation and understanding and realization of the endeavours by the heads of [54x29]National partner organisations, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank (WB). Thanks to the State leaders’ unity, cooperation and better transportation in Rakhine State. for a democratic transition, citizens should work in unison for emerging reforms for a democratic transition, citizens should work in unison for emerging

Fear to Review

By Htun Tin Htun

For a bar who has violated the one law (of truthfulness), who holds in scorn the hereafter, then it will be said that he cannot do.

PEAK to do evil (Ottadukkha) in Pali) and “Shame to do evil (Pali) are two cardinal principles guarding the Universe and guiding the mankind; that’s why it is called “Guardians of the World”.

The Dictionary of Buddhist Terms (Ministry of Religious Affairs, Yangon, Myanmar, 2016) defined that “shame and moral dread are the immediate causes of being a democratic transition, citizens should work in cooperation to bring about unity, cooperation and understanding and realization of the endeavours by the heads of State and the leaders need to unite and collaborate to bring better prospects to the country. They themselves have to heighten their cooperation among themselves and make collaborative efforts to bring prosperity to the country. The immediate causes of being a democratic transition, citizens should work in cooperation to bring about unity, cooperation and understanding and realization of the endeavours by the heads of State.

Unity, cooperation needed for national development

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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 protesters 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 balloons (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 Mahmoud 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 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 defeated 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 Sinwar 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.

With border open, Ethiopia and Eritrea are back in business

MICHAEL TWELEDE — For two decades, little besides soldiers, refugees and rebels moved across Ethiopia and Eritrea’s closed border, but today the once-barren 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.

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

Phrases used in this article:
- 17 killed in Saudi-led airstrike in Yemen’s Hodeidah
- Suspended Gaza fuel deal shreds tough diplomatic efforts
- With border open, Ethiopia and Eritrea are back in business

Languages used in this article:
- English
Hurricane Michael death toll hits 17, officials say it could rise

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

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 knelted 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.

“Thank you for your support, Mr. President,” 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.

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

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 Saturday. “We don’t pay ransom” for hostages. — AFP

Journalist murder a toxic mystery in Malta one year on

VALETTA — 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 mother-of-three's burnt-out car ended up on 16 October, 2017, the United States in decades.

It’s 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 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.

“My 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, a small group of people gathered in the church entrance, including a woman holding a child who was drinking from a bottle.

“I spent my life savings and retirement to stay here. So I can’t sell it now,” retiree Bob Tenbrunsel 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 firefighter whose firetruck was struck by a semi-trailer 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

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

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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

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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
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 Sirdartha 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 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.

China part of railway bridge to Russia completed

HARBIN — The main body of the Chinese part of the first cross-river railway bridge connecting China and 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 Nizhneleninskoye 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 Weiqiu, 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 transportation 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 Rui, 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 33.4 billion yuan (0.7 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 Youssefikhe, 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 Hazizullah Safi put the death toll slightly higher at 23.

In the western province of Herat, two gunmen attacked the campaign office of a candidate in Injel district, killing two people, provincial governor spokesman J Elaine 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 mudy 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 Wanjena 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 Wamasesa was at home in the riverbank village of Nyhehe when her 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, officials said it could be two years before all the homeless are found permanent accommodation.

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 re-construction but were also intended to help Indonesia build “resilience”, so it would be better prepared in the face of future disasters.

The official death toll stands at 42 with 52 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, 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 the 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.

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.

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 8.1-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

PHOTO: AFP

China ventures into Indian Ocean

The Chinese vessel, the Chongming Island, sails in the Indian Ocean on Sunday. PHOTO: Xinhua

China has launched a trawler equipped with ice-breaking capabilities to the Indian Ocean. The vessel is the country’s first large icebreaker, which will be able to break through ice sheets up to 2.4 meters thick.

The vessel, the Chongming Island, is 146 meters long and weighs 10,000 tons. It has a cargo capacity of 12,000 tons and is equipped with advanced technologies to support scientific research and naval operations.

The vessel is expected to be used for scientific research, data collection, and search and rescue missions in the Indian Ocean. It will also be used for training purposes, including icebreaking and navigational exercises.

The launch of the Chongming Island marks a significant milestone in China’s naval expansion and demonstrates its commitment to developing a blue-water navy. This is the first time China has deployed an icebreaker to the Indian Ocean.

The Indian Ocean is a strategic waterway for China, providing access to rich underwater resources and serving as a gateway to the Red Sea and the Suez Canal. By establishing a presence in the Indian Ocean, China aims to ensure its economic interests and maritime routes are protected.

The deployment of the Chongming Island is likely to be welcomed by other countries in the region, as it could provide a counterbalance to India’s naval dominance in the area. However, it is also expected to trigger concerns among some countries, who may view it as an aggressive move by China to expand its influence in the region.

Despite these concerns, the launch of the Chongming Island represents an important development in China’s naval strategy and will likely be seen as a significant step forward in its efforts to assert itself on the global stage.

— AFP

PHOTO: Xinhua

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has recently availing 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 the Implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit toward eligible expenses 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:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Item No</th>
<th>Reference No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity Units</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>424.61</td>
<td>MEZ Solar (Changes, Application and Operating System)</td>
<td>1</td>
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Eligible suppliers expressing interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION by e-mail. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method and the Guideline for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IDB 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 Kyaw Soe, Director, Procurement and Logistics Section, Phone 0943443133 or office phone 0675416835, 0675416836/Email: mawin.ppy.gov.mm. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the RFP will be send.
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 release in China 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 issues, saying for its “profound dedication to its story” -- along with Kelvin Park’s “Army”, which shed light on lives led by South Korea’s military conscripts.

**Not 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

**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, 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, has already inspired a game show and a theme park in Qatar. Now its Finnish creators Rovio are planning to extend its hit TV shorts into a full-length series, which 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

**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 Benguo, 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 commit suicide, but chose 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
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 Kasiwai 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-striped 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 Kasiwai. —Xinhua

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. PHOTO: TASS

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 dump out in certain areas in the nucleus but how that placement affects the DNA’s function is not 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 accelerate 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

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 tournaments. 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, Ayeyawady 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 term of the AFC, Myanmar football club has automatically advanced the group starting 2017. The play-off round.—Htut Htut (Twantay)

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 advance 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 assassinations 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 feverish 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.

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

Liverpool’s German manager Jurgen Klopp. PHOTO: AFP

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