

NATIONAL

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives PNO peace group leader U Aung Kham Hti

PAGE-3

NATIONAL

Myanmar hands over ACWO Presidency to Singapore

PAGE-3

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. V, No. 227, 7th Waning of Tazaungmone 1380 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Thursday, 29 November 2018

Union Chief Justice attends BIMSTEC round table, returns from India



Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo, (fifth from right) and heads of judiciary of BIMSTEC countries pose for photo. **PHOTO: MNA**

CHIEF Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo attended the 'First Round Table of the Head of Judiciary of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Eco-

conomic Cooperation) Countries' and India's 'Constitution Day Celebrations' in New Delhi, India, on 25 and 26 November respectively. He returned to Yangon on 27 November.

At the BIMSTEC round table, the Union Chief Justice exchanged experiences on 'Access to Justice through Technology, Scrutinizing Violent Crimes, Transnational Crimes,

Drugs Trafficking, and Human Trafficking' with chief justices, deputy chief justices and judges from BIMSTEC countries namely Bangladesh, Thailand, Nepal, Bhutan, and host India.

The Union Chief Justice also attended the 69th Constitution Day Celebrations organized by the Supreme Court of India.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Rakhine repatriation, resettlement: Media visit Maungtaw

LOCAL and foreign media visited the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Center in Maungtaw Township yesterday to see the preparations for repatriation of displaced people from Rakhine State.

Reporters from the eight local and foreign media houses first visited the Myanmar-Bangladesh friendship bridge and the points where the returnees will be scrutinized, the points where photo records will be taken, a household list for returnees will be made, biometrics will be taken, national verification cards will be issued, medical check-ups will be provided, and aid will be given to the returnees. They also saw the houses which will be handed to the returnees for accommodation.

SEE PAGE-4

INSIDE TODAY

PARLIAMENT

Tenth regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds seventh-day meeting

PAGE-2

PARLIAMENT

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw details land grants in Rakhine, MPs discuss amendments to labour disputes law

PAGE-2

BUSINESS

Growing acreage, GAP boost black sesame seeds exports

PAGE-5



LOCAL NEWS

German specialists conduct free operations in Rakhine State

PAGE-6



Pyithu Hluttaw

Tenth regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds seventh-day meeting

THE seventh-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw was held at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. At the meeting, asterisk-marked questions were raised and answered, a motion tabled, a report read and a bill approved.

Q&A Session

U Soe San Thet Tun of Myinmu constituency raised the first question and asked if there is a plan to reconsider not to transfer the 1.283 acre land on which an old hospital was situated to construct a Myinmu town municipal market. Deputy Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Mya Lay Sein answered that the land is currently used by Maternal and Children health care division (MCHCD) to provide mother and children health care works and administering of vaccines. Township health personnel and personnel from MCHCD were also living there. However, as the town is in need of a municipal market, discussions were being held with relevant departments to obtain a replacement site for MCHCD to vacate from the present site for the market said the



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat. PHOTO : MNA

Deputy Minister.

The next question by U Tun Tun, of Pwintbyu constituency was on the arrangement and the way permission is granted by Union Government and state/region governments to sell livestock in the country or export it. Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo answered that a document certifying the livestock being free from any communicable disease (both to human beings and animal) or a sale permission document issued from relevant township development affairs committee

is required for livestock to be transported across townships.

For export, fees are collected for issuance of endorsement on vaccination and health certificate of the livestock and breeding farm license. The fees are then deposited into the state/region government funds. Animal quarantine fees and export license fees are deposited into the Union Government fund said the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo also responded to a question raised by Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin con-

stituency on the government's plan to create viable markets for agriculture products such as rice, pulses and beans. The Deputy Minister said mung bean and pigeon pea were in demand from India at the moment so the market situation has improved. Arrangements are also being made for the two governments to sign memorandum of understanding to have a firm market and price in India.

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is also educating the farmers in mung bean growing region to switch to summer rice and other appropriate crops. Similar actions were also taken in pigeon pea growing region. Good Agricultural Practices (GAP) for 15 crops is also being implemented and inspection for harmful matters like residual pesticide and alpha toxin were being conducted product wise as per the requirement of the importing countries explained the Deputy Minister. Furthermore matters like participating in local and international product exhibitions, arranging meetings with governments and businesses, acquiring of quality seeds and inputs were being conducted in

cooperation with relevant ministries and organizations added the Deputy Minister.

U Mya Sein of Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) constituency raised a question on plan to create One Stop Service groups to ease the fine payment for over speeding on the Yangon-Mandalay highway. Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin said that over speeding fine can be paid immediately at the respective court immediately and if it could not be paid immediately, driver license or vehicle registration is detained and released back when the fine is paid at a designated future date and court. At the moment One Stop Service could not be provided at the moment as this required coordinating and discussing with Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Union Attorney General Office and Union Supreme Court Office said the Deputy Minister.

Similarly, questions raised by U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency, U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara constituency and U Myint Lwin of Twantay constituency were answered by Deputy Ministers.

SEE PAGE-4

Amyotha Hluttaw

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw details land grants in Rakhine, MPs discuss amendments to labour disputes law

By Min Min Zaw

DURING its meeting yesterday, the Amyotha Hluttaw discussed land grants in Rakhine State and debated the second bill amending the Labour Disputes Settlement Law, which was sent back by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Land issue in Kyauktaw, Rakhine State

U Myint Naing of constituency 5 from Rakhine State asked the Union Government how it plans to issue land grants to residents in the Kyauktaw Township's five wards, and prepare maps for several areas in Kyauktaw Township.

The Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation, U Hla Kyaw, replied that the ministry has issued grants of 71 acres out of 186 acres designated as town area.

"If those who are living in the designated town areas apply to the ministry for land grants,



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO : MNA

the ministry will carry out the process to issue the grants in accordance with the 1989 Myanmar Town and Village Land Act and rules," he said.

The deputy minister said the ministry is preparing maps for several areas in Kyauktaw Town-

ship, and the process will depend on the budget allocation and the number of staff as the local department under the ministry is understaffed.

Registration fee, stamp tax for farmland deal

U Aung Myo of constituency

2 of Sagaing Region asked the Union Government whether it plans to set registration fees, stamp tax, and fees for agreements dealing with sales, lease, and transfer of farmland under the 2012 Farmland Act. Deputy Minister U Hlaw Kyaw replied that his ministry will coordinate with the Ministry of Planning and Finance to set the fees for registration, stamp tax, and fees for sales, transfer, exchange, and mortgage of farmland, after the bill amending the 2012 Farmland Act is approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Tun Shwe Wah Hall in Okpo, Bago Region

Dr. Win Myint of constituency 11 of Bago Region asked whether the authorities plan to hand over the Tun Shwe Wah Hall in Okpo, Bago Region, to the Ayemyatharyar Village-tract.

U Nyi Tun, Member of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, replied that there are no plans to hand over

the building to the Ayemyatharyar Village-tract and it will be kept under the management of the Okpo Township Development Affairs Committees. However, the building will be renovated, he added.

Second bill amending the Labour Disputes Settlement Law

MPs of the Amyotha Hluttaw also discussed the amendments to the second bill amending the Labour Disputes Settlement Law, sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Most MPs suggested that the Pyithu Hluttaw's amendments be rejected and the amendments by the Amyotha Hluttaw be kept. Following the discussion, the Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khaing Than, announced that the matter will be brought before the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee. The Amyotha Hluttaw will hold its eighth meeting on 30 November. (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives PNO peace group leader U Aung Kham Hti

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received U Aung Kham Hti, Patron of the militia force of the PaO National Organization, at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday and discussed regional development matters.

Also present at the meeting were Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), senior military officers while U Aung Kham Hti was accompanied by U Khun Myint Aung, member of the central committee of PNO, MPs and officials.

At the meeting, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing expressed thanks to the peace group of PaO for its efforts for peace and stability in their area, and stressed the need to establish agro-based economy and industries in their areas.



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives leader of PaO National Organization U Aung Kham Hti at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF**

The Senior General also elaborated that Myanmar is walking on the path to eternal peace which is necessary for de-

velopment of the country and all ethnic people living in the country are to cooperate each other with the spirit of union, brethren

and family.

He also expressed his hope that all ethnic people would serve in their areas of origin so

that they can take the role in all sectors including administrative sector as intellectuals and intelligentsia.

Speaking at the meeting, U Aung Kham Hti expressed thanks for the State and the Tatmadaw for support to development of PaO region, acknowledging the important spirit of unity by all ethnic people living on the same land and drinking same water.

PaO ethnic people are living together with other ethnic people living in all parts of the country with the spirit of brethren.

The two sides also discussed assistance to be given by the Tatmadaw to agriculture and livestock sector in PaO region and regional development, according to the press release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief.—MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Myanmar hands over ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations Presidency to Singapore

MYANMAR Women's Affairs Federation and ASEAN Confederation of Women's Organizations (ACWO) held a Handing Over Ceremony of 18th to 19th ACWO at the Mingalar Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, organized jointly by the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and the ACWO, Singapore was handed the 19th ACWO Presidency.

The chairman of the Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs and Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye, spoke at the ceremony.

"The Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs has been re-organized in accordance with the politics, economy, and civilization of the country, and new policies have been framed.

The Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Myanmar Women and Children Life Promotion Organization, the Myanmar Women Entrepreneur's Association, the Gender Equality Network, the Women's Organizations



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and dignitaries pose for photo at 18th ACWO Biennial General Assembly and Conference 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

Network, and the Orphans Reduction and Protection Association are making efforts towards women's development, elimination of violence, and addressing issues faced by women and young ladies," he said.

"Draft laws on Prevention and Protection of Violence against Women and on Prostitution have been drawn up by the head of the Myanmar National Committee for

Women's Affairs. We have reviewed the implementation of the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-2022) by the ministries. We reviewed and imposed guidelines for the collaboration of development partnership organizations, and the support of civil society for the needs of the people. Myanmar is also actively implementing ASEAN Committee on Women and ASEAN Commission on

the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children's Work Plan (2016-2020)," he added.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief, and Resettlement, U Soe Aung, representatives from the Myanmar Women's Affairs, and ASEAN partnership women's organizations attended the ceremony. —MNA

(Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Myanmar, India hold meeting on road, bridge projects

THE 5th coordination meeting on road and bridge projects between Myanmar and India was held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Construction in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 November.

The meeting will discuss the progress of the Paletwa-Zorampu road project, the Tamu-Kyigon-Kalewa road project, including 69 bridges along the proposed road, the Kalewa-Yargyi road project, the Reed-Tiddim road project, the Shwebo-Putao road, and the Kanyintan-Aletankyaw-Angumaw road project, said the Union Minister for Construction, U Han Zaw.

At the meeting, he also expressed gratitude to the Indian government for its assistance in these projects. Afterwards, Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri said the countries will discuss the status of the projects and collaborate on dealing with challenges faced in the projects, as the projects are important for the region's development.

The Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin, relevant ministry officials, the Indian Ambassador, and officials from construction companies took part in the discussions. —MNA (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Senior General receives Mytel CEO

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the Chief Executive Officer of Telecom International Myanmar Co. Ltd (Mytel), Mr. Nguyen Thanh Nam, at the Bayinnaung Guest Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed work procedures and

improvements, providing communication services to the public, installing Internet lines in schools, and working to extend services to rural areas, according to the news release of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

—MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discusses with the Chief Executive Officer of Telecom International Myanmar Co. Ltd (Mytel), Mr. Nguyen Thanh Nam in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: C-IN-C OF DEFENCE SERVICES OFFICE**

Rakhine repatriation, resettlement: Media visit Maungtau, Rakhine State

FROM PAGE-1

Afterwards, mediapersons interviewed Deputy Director U Soe Tun, in-charge of the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Center, and the Deputy Director of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, and Population U Thant Sin.

They asked about the steps that will be taken by the ministry for the repatriation and preparations for resettlement.

Later, the media went to the boundary line and met with displaced people and interviewed them. They asked them about their situation, aid, their opinions on NV cards, and reasons why they did not return to Myanmar.

The mediapersons also visited Mingyi Village and took a tour of newly constructed houses for villagers. During the visit, they interviewed the head of the village about the livelihood of the villagers and the aid they received, their



Journalists meeting with displaced people living at the border. **PHOTO: MNA**

population, and requirements for development.

The media group left for Yangon from Sittway by air last night. Local and foreign media agencies have been

sent to Rakhine State to gather news 29 times so far; one in 2016, eight in 2017, six in 2018 up to February, 2018, and 14 times on the advice of the Committee for Implemen-

tation of Recommendations on Rakhine State, which recommended two media trips a month to Rakhine State.

—MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)



Foreign journalists interview a man at Mingyi Village in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**



Foreign and local media visit the Myanmar-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Tenth regular session of Second Pyithu Hluttaw holds...

FROM PAGE-2

Motion urging government to conduct construction works using modern technologies

Following the question and answer session Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency tabled a motion urging the Union Government to conduct construction works through modern pre-cast and other appropriate technologies and explained the reason behind it. The motion was supported by U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of Hline constituency. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced the agreement of the Hluttaw to accept and discuss the motion after the Hluttaw's decision was obtained. Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also announced for Hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the motion to register their names. Next, Pyithu Hluttaw Farmers and Workers Affairs Committee member U Thein Tun read the committee's report and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker announced for Hluttaw representative who want to discuss the report to register their names.

Bill on Children's Right approved

Afterwards Bill Committee Secretary U Kyaw Soe Linn responded and explained to discussions and amendment motion tabled by four Hluttaw representatives on Bill on Children's Right submitted by Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat then announced that the bill is approved by the Hluttaw and will follow up accordingly.

The eighth-day meeting of the tenth regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 30 November it is learnt.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Muse gate sees drastic fall in trade in current FY

Ministers from the Magway Region government, staff from the Magway Region Agriculture Department, merchants from Yangon, Mandalay, and Mag-



(Translated by
Ei Myat Mon)

A photograph showing two cows in a traditional wooden structure. On the left, a large white cow with a red collar stands facing right. On the right, a smaller brown and black cow stands facing left. The structure has a thatched roof and wooden pillars. The ground is dirt and covered with some debris.

(Translated by
Ei Myat Mon)

China has set import quotas on some agro products, including rice. Tax is exorbitantly high for merchants when

Myanmar conducts trade with the world's most populous country, China, through Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw, and Kengtung border points. In the current FY, the value of trade stood at \$16.25 million at Lwejel, \$69.76 million at Chinshwehaw, \$7.25 million at Kanpikete, and \$0.37 million at Kengtung, respectively. — Mon Mon

(Translated by
Ei Myat Mon

NOW!

Available

NO DIFFERENTIATION IN HUMAN RIGHTS
PAGE 8 (OPENING)

UP U Myint Swe addresses 2nd coord meeting for holding 19th ASEAN University Games

PAGE 1

Myanmar, ROK sign MoU for cultural development

PAGE 6

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

No. 1 VOLUME 1 Spring of Myanmar 1988 www.theglobalnewlightofmyanmar.com Number 2 Summer 2018

State Counsellor, Vice Chairman of NDRC of China, discuss implementation of projects

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her entourage pose for a commemorative photo with Vice Chairman Mr. Ning Jizhen from China's National Development and Reform Commission at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, welcomed the delegation led by the Vice Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) of the People's Republic of China, at the Independence Boulevard press-

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on bilateral cooperation in various ways plan for the improvement of their economic relations for the benefit of both peoples in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding for Jointly Building

the Myanmar-China Economic Corridor which was signed between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China in Beijing on 5 September 2014.

The State Counsellor emphasized that implementation of these projects needs to be in conformity with the pre-agreement and the principle of

ing were Dr. Than Minde, the Minister for Commerce, U Kyau We, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Khin Maung, Vice Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Relations, and General

ing were Dr. Than Minde, the Minister for Commerce, U Kyau We, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Khin Maung, Vice Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Relations, and General

ing were Dr. Than Minde, the Minister for Commerce, U Kyau We, Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Khin Maung, Vice Minister for International Cooperation and Economic Relations, and General

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends dinner hosted in honor of MPC members

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a dinner hosted in honor of the Myanmar Peace Council (MPC) members at the State Counsellor's Office in Nay Pyi Taw.

MPC Chairman, members and guests attended the dinner. During the event, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Union Minister for Planning and Finance, U Khin Maung, gave speeches.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi expressed her appreciation for the MPC's efforts in promoting peace and reconciliation in Myanmar.

BUY NOW

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်
ဝယ်ယူပတ်ချက်ရှိပါသည်။

- Market Place (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place (Damasidi Road)
- Market Place (Junction City)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Mayay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- City Mart (Junction 8)
- City Mart (St. John)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegoneline

Ocean
SUPER CENTER

City Mart
Supermarket

marketplace

by City Mart

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

DEPUTY CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSZaw Min
Zaw Htet Oo
Win Ko Ko Aung**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
Hay Mar Tin Win,
Ei Myat Mon
Kyaw Zin Lin
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**May Thet Hnin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
mayreporter.mm@gmail.com
Nyein Nyein Ei,**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Thein Htwe**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax – (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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.gnldaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/TheGNLMTHE GLOBAL
NEW LIGHT OF
MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Write for usWe appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

German specialists conduct free operations in Rakhine State

GERMAN specialists are offering free surgeries in Rakhine State from 26 November to 5 December, under the 8th free operations program. The program has been organized by the Myanmar Chefs Association and the Rakhine State Government, under the guidance of the Alodawpyae Sayadaw. Specialists from Germany and the Sittway Hospital performed surgeries on over 20 patients suffering from goiter, cleft lip and palate, skin burns, and tumors at the hospital yesterday.

Sayadaw U Pannya Jota of Alodawpyae Monastery, the Secretary of the Rakhine State Government, U Nyi Nyi Min, and Mr. Oliva from the Myanmar Chefs Association gave words of encouragement to the medical staff and patients.—
Tin Tun (IPRD)

(Translated by JT)



German specialists conducting free surgeries in Rakhine State from 26th November to 5th December, under the 8th free operations program. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

4,000 patients get free eye treatment in Bago

THE Bago Region Public Health Department's free eye treatment under the 'Trachoma Control and Prevention of Blindness Program' has covered about 4,000 patients, with over 900 people undergoing free eye surgeries since March this year.

The program is being conducted in collaboration with the Ginbawdi Philanthropical Group. Between 26 and 28 November, a group of eye specialists led by Dr. Ko Oo from the Trachoma Control and Prevention of Blindness Program 4 toured villages under

the Pha-Aungwe Village health care centre in DaikU Township, offering free eye treatment.

The specialists examined 179 eye patients, and found 47 of them needed to wear glasses. They also identified 53 patients who needed cataract surgery. Those patients have been brought to Bago Region's Trachoma Control Division and will undergo free surgery between 6 and 11 December. During their tour, the group of specialists also raised awareness on tobacco products and eye health.—Tin Soe (Bago) /
(Translated by Ei Myat Mon)



An eye specialist provides medical check up to a woman in Bago. **PHOTO: TIN SOE (BAGO)**

Illegal timber seized in Pale Township

ILLEGAL consignments of timber were seized on 26 November from Pale Township as part of a crackdown on illegal logging. A team from the township Forest Department confiscated 112 logs during search operations in the area.

Acting on a tip, the Forest Department team launched a search near the Kyauk Oo creek in Watkya Village, Pale Township, on Monday and seized 23 logs of different types. Upon further search, they found three pyingadog logs, weighing 0.3662

tons, and eight Ingyin timber (Shorea Robusta) logs, weighing 0.8002 tons, near the village. The seized logs were taken to the 59 mile forest camp in Pale Township.

In a separate operation, officials from the forest department seized 64 logs of different varieties near Jat Village around 4:30 pm on Monday. Another search yielded 14 logs of illegal timber, according to the Township Management Committee office.— Township IPRD (Translated by Hay Mar)



PHOTO: TOWNSHIP (IPRD)

German Unity Day celebrated in Nay Pyi Taw

THE German Embassy in Myanmar celebrated the German Unity Day at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 November.

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung and his wife, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin and his wife, Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for Investment and Foreign Economic Relations U Thaung Tun, Deputy Ministers U Aung Hla Tun, Dr. Ye Myint Swe, U Aung Htoo, and U Kyaw Lin, the German Ambassador to Myanmar, Mrs. Dorothee Janetzke-Wenzel, Hluttaw representatives, officials from foreign embassies, and invited guests attended the celebrations.



Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung delivers the speech at the ceremony to celebrate the German Unity Day organized by the German Embassy on 27 November, 2018. **PHOTO: MNA**

The ceremony commenced with the playing of the national anthems of Germany and the Re-

public of the Union of Myanmar. Afterwards, the German Ambassador to Myanmar and

Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung delivered welcoming messages. Later, the Ambassa-

dor hosted a dinner for guests. —MNA (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

UPDJC political parties group, local people hold talks on peace, building federal union in Sittway

Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee's political parties group held a peace talks titled "From Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong to the peoples-presenting and discussing peace making processes and talks on internal peace and building a federal Union" in Sittway Township yesterday.

Speaking at the opening session of the talks, U Thu Wai, Vice Chairman of the UPDJC said the talks between the political parties group and the peoples in Rakhine State is aimed at achieving peace, stressing the need to building a federal democratic nation through dialogues and cooperation among the peoples.

The people of Myanmar had lived under the one party system and under the rule by a group of people for many years. Since 2010, Myanmar has practiced the



Talks on peace and building a federal union in progress in Sittway Township on 27 November, 2018. **PHOTO: TIN TUN-IPRD**

democratic system, he said.

The new system is better than the old one, and those who would lead the new system need to build themselves to be qualified

and need to help the people to have enough knowledge to elect good leaders, he said.

"Peace and national reconciliation processes are being jointly

carried out by the government and armed groups through dialogues over drafting rules, means and ways. Both are committed to peace through the ways they writ-

ten and the prospects for peace is good," said U Thu Wai.

He also suggested the people not getting stuck in the past and to work together for the future.

Afterwards, U Min Zeyar Oo, secretariat member of the UPDJC, discussed the peace making processes with the attendees. U Naing Ngan Lin, secretariat member of the UPDJC and Yangon Region Minister for Social Affairs, discussed civil society-CSOs forums.

In the afternoon session, U Hla Maung Shwe, Secretariat member of the UPDJC, authors U Maung Maung Soe, Dr. Sai Khaing Myo Tun of the International Relations Department of the Yangon University, U Oo Hla Saw of Arakan National Party, took part in the discussion. —Tin Tun-IPRD ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

40th ASEAN Railways CEOs Conference held in Nay Pyi Taw

THE 40th ASEAN Railways CEOs Conference was inaugurated at the Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 27 November.

The Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications, U Kyaw Myo, directors general and managing directors from departments under the Ministry of Transport and Communications, Directors-General, chief

executive officers, and delegations, from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand, and Viet Nam, which are ASEAN Railways members, and invited guests attended the opening ceremony. At the ceremony, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo said, "Myanmar has been continuously implementing short-term and long-term projects with its own

funds, technical aid from local and foreign development organizations, and loans, to develop the railway transportation sector. But some projects are still facing difficulties. Our rail transport lags other countries. So, we will have to learn the strong points, good experiences, opportunities, and challenges of our friends." U Thurein Win, Managing Director

of Myanma Railways, delivered the welcoming speech. A cultural troupe from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed Myanmar's traditional U Shwe Yoe and Daw Moe dance. The 40th ASEAN Railways CEOs Conference is being held from 27 to 29 November. Seven member countries of ASEAN Railways will hold separate meetings, and tech-

nical working group and marketing, and operating meetings, simultaneously, at the conference. During the meetings, members will read papers to exchange experiences related to railways, and information on engineering, train operation, earning, improvements for passenger and cargo, and services. —MNA (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Providing better services through E-Governance

COUNTRIES around the world are now pushing for national development driven by technological advances. Competitive efforts can be seen in many sectors including political, economic, administrative, and social. E-Government plays a vital role in increasing access to and delivery of government services to benefit citizens, business partners, and employees.

E-government (short for electronic government) is the use of electronic communications devices, computers, and the Internet to provide public services to citizens and other persons in a country or region. The term covers digital interactions between citizens and their government (C2G), between governments and other government agencies (G2G), between government and citizens (G2C), between government and employees (G2E), and between government and businesses (G2B). By utilizing Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) and other web-based telecommunications technologies, E-Government can improve and increase the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in the public sector.

Myanmar has been trying to adopt e-government services within the current decade, but there has not been widespread coverage so far. At the first E-Government Steering Committee meeting, the State Counsellor, who is also the patron of the committee, said that for E-Government to be implemented speedily and to achieve progress, there are three requirements: skills, investment, and cooperation.

Myanmar ranked 169 out of 193 countries on the E-Government Development Index in 2016, and has climbed to the 157th spot in 2018.

157th spot in 2018. At the E-Government Conference and ICT Exhibition 2018 in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 November, Vice President U Myint Swe, in his role as Chairman of the E-Government Steering Committee, said there were five requirements for establishing a successful E-Government system. He said first, there must be an open government; second, the government must be competent; third, it must allow sharing and using news and information; fourth, it must be a service-oriented government; and fifth, it must develop the nation's ICT Industry sector.

Through the implementation of the State Counsellor's advice on the three requirements for an E-Government, we can see vast improvements in the government and private sectors as well as in the public. For investments, important communication networks have been established or expanded and arrangements were being made for the establishment of a government data centre.

In terms of cooperation, everyone must invest their attention and efforts into developing the nation and people's livelihoods. Our combined efforts and active participation will ensure the success of the E-Government system which, in turn, will raise Myanmar's ranking on the online services index, the telecommunications index, and the human resource development index.

Setting up an E-Government system is an objective included in the Union Government's 12-Point Economic Policy. The government has promised to successfully implement this system and is speeding up processes related to it. E-Government is one measure of the level of development of a nation and hence, we must follow the guidelines set by the State Counsellor to effectively implement it.

Myanmar ranked 169 out of 193 countries on the E-Government Development Index in 2016, and has climbed to the

Large and Medium Taxpayers have been able to pay their taxes online since 13 February 2018 – Director Daw Thidar Myint

Dialogue titled “Is Doing Business in Myanmar Easy?”

MRTV presents the dialogue titled “Is Doing Business in Myanmar Easy?” in which Director General U Aung Soe of Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Director-General U Aung Naing Oo of Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration, Director Daw Thidar Myint of Internal Revenue Department and Secretary Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe of Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association are participating.

By Kyaw Thu Htet &
Myo Thu Hein
Photo by Aye Than

(Continued from 27-11-2018)

It took several months to establish a business company in Myanmar in the past. There is another regulation which sets minimum capital to establish a company. If you don't have at least 5 million kyats, don't think of establishing a company. These are some examples of restrictions and there are many steps to be taken to establish a company.

There are three indicators to measure the startup. The first indicator is how many steps are to be taken to establish a company. Secondly, how much time it takes for the process from the commencing of registration to getting a registration certificate. Third, how much it cost a company to get registered.

Generally speaking, a report in 2014 shows that Myanmar is a country where steps are to be taken most in company registration process. Moreover, the process took too much time and was the most expensive in the world. We had to start from such situation.

From then on, we took measures step by step as reform processes were underway. Some are long term process and some have to be carried out immediately. We have started from the rank of 189 and in 2015 it jumped to 170. In 2016, we were at 146, jumping 24 steps within the stack. Thus World Bank acknowledged Myanmar as the fastest growing economy that year.

Regarding startup, Myanmar won the best result in reform process according to 2016 report. But the situation was up and down because Doing Business is not for a country alone. Every country participates in it. Every country tries their best to increase the score. Therefore, Myanmar dropped slightly to the rank of 155 last year. We have a belief that the previous assessments were made based on old Company Act and old rules and regulations. The new law was enacted in 2017. According to this

law, it is easier to run a business because many unnecessary regulations were omitted.

Under the incumbent government a new measure was taken. That is registration fee was reduced from 1 million kyats to 500,000 kyats. In 2017, the fee was just 250,000 kyats. Some procedures needed to be taken for establishing company were also abolished. According to report, there were 13 steps. But now, registration can be made online and as a result there left only three steps. And the duration has been also shortened. Previously it took at least three days, but now it can be completed within hours. If you have a mobile phone, you can register within hours.

I can say that much more reforms could be made. Last year, we won a prize from World Bank. The prize is to acknowledge Myanmar's efforts for reform. Because of enacting the new investment law in 2016, easing many procedures and significant changes in investment World Bank handed out the Star Reformers Award to us. This is one of the results we have achieved in reform process.

Facilitator: While consumer and gold prices and the exchange rates are skyrocketing there are doubts whether there is an economic development. There has been a misunderstanding about indicators. High prices are due to economic downturn, they think. But, here, you try your best for international or domestic investors. You are here to explain the people that running a business here is easier than ever. But some express negative attitude on social media.

U Aung Naing Oo: That's right. There are various opinions on this. Private businesses are facing difficulties. Economic downturn can also be seen in some parts. This is their opinion. For the government, it will do what is good for the nation. The main objective is to improve scores, to ease doing business and to get better condition. In our opinion, no matter how much scores we get. There is a high score, but not



in good condition, it is useless. We aimed at easing in doing business with convenience. We need to ease restrictions as much as possible. We will do all we can to expedite the procedure. Complex procedures are made clear. We focus on these matters.

Facilitator: Please explain indicator in paying tax included in Ease of Doing Business Index.

Daw Thidar Myint: Ease of Doing Business Index is an index showing which country is convenient for doing business, how can the procedures for running a business be reduced, how much time can be saved, and how much cost can be cut. Looking at the index, investor countries are interested in a country with good ranking as they believe such a country is convenient for doing business. Paying tax indicator is an indicator on which the investors put their focus most.

It is unavoidable to pay tax if you start a business. The indicator becomes important in paying tax. In 2017, Myanmar was ranked 119 in paying tax indicator. This year the rank dropped to 125. According to their norm, scores are given by index. Our score went up, but the rank down. Internal Revenue Department plays a vital role in paying tax indicator. Based on taxes levied by departments including Development Committee and other taxes, the index shows how much time it takes or what reforms are made.

One of the reforms IRD has

introduced is online tax payment system. Entrepreneurs who pay their tax online well understand it. Commercial tax shall be paid 12 times a year. So World Bank marks 12 times in the indicator. If it can be paid online, it will be marked just one time. Then, our rank will jump. Large and Medium Taxpayers have been able to pay their taxes online since 13 February 2018. This tax can be paid at Myanmar Economic Bank linking with CBM.net in any township where Internet access is available. But tax payers are not in a position to join in the process. Government has provided the facility. Tax payers need to use it. If tax payers apply this online system, the rank will improve.

If the rank is up in paying tax indicator, the ranks in other 10 indicators will also improve. If the indicators improve, investors will see that Myanmar is a country where doing business is easy and as a result more investments will come. We focus for our citizens' convenience. All the departments open service centers. As regards paying tax, we are available at any time to answer questions and one can contact us through phones to ask questions. We also upload the procedures on the website.

Here, I'd like to urge businessmen to reply the questions of World Bank only after asking the said service center to be able to give thorough answers. We have arranged online payment system not only in our department but also in the Social Security Board and

Development Committee.

Facilitator: Please identify the point of view of the private sector on Doing Business.

Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe: Reforms are being made by the ministry for users' convenience. The index is a method to check whether the results of reform processes are enjoyed or not. It is also to check whether the private sector have easy access to the process or not. Just having access to the process is not enough. They ask that is it really beneficial for us. For this question, we need some connections. We know that the ministry is trying its best. It is needed to enact laws for some indicators and to amend the laws for the others. If there emerged a law the score will improve. When reforms are implemented in practice, the private sector also raises queries. Some sectors do not know what the question is meant. Therefore, scores and indicators should be higher than the present situation.

The ministry has its own system. There are scores for each point in the ten indicators. As for me, I'm getting credit. If there is a credit bureau, a data collection agency that gathers account information from various creditors and provides that information to a consumer reporting agency, the score becomes high. But just having a bureau is not enough. There is a rule that if there is a bureau this bureau must be used by 5 percent of adult population. But we

are in just at the starting point we do not have that 5 percent. Due to this we cannot get the score. So, if both the government and private sectors commit to do reform, we need to discuss more on it. We need to know how much is it beneficial to the private sector, and the private sector needs to know in depth the process.

Reform processes presented by some departments are not for giving score. Although there are some points to give score, departments concerned do not mention the points and thus we cannot get score. Sometimes the private sector has no idea how reform process are made. If a private sector which receives a query and it replies “I have no idea” it loses the chance to get a score. If some measures will be taken for reform process in government or private sectors, it is important to consider first how much it will benefit for users or is it an effective reform. Then this should be revealed to the public for their knowledge. I believe this will help increase the score.

U Aung Naing Oo: Right! World Bank sends queries to businessmen in Yangon. Some queries go to law firms and some to entrepreneurs. They have no idea what the government side is doing for reform. As they have no knowledge on this, they give the same answers as they have given previously. Although the government has taken measures to do reform, their answers do not reflect real situation. For example, there was a question last year, asking when the company registration certificate was issued. To this question the businessman replied that the company registration certificate was issued only after opening bank account with the name of the company. In reality, this procedure was extinct.

This procedure has been abolished since 2014. Close cooperation between the government and the private sectors, in other words, cooperation between service providers and users is a must.

(To be continued)
(Translated by Wallace)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President
Order 41/2018

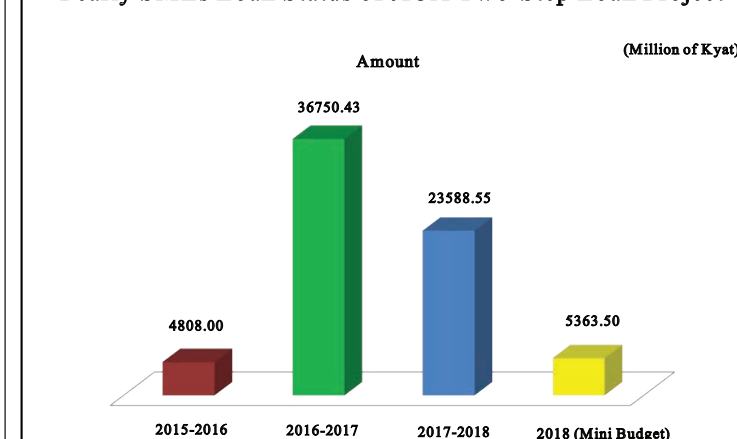
6th Waning of Tazaungmone, 1380 ME
28 November 2018

Appointment of Security and Border Affairs Minister

IN accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (a) (2), (b) (e) (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a) Sub-section (2) (b) (f) (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Colonel Thura Myo Tin, Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister, has been returned to unit to perform the original military duties and replaced with Colonel Nay Lin Tun, from the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), who has been appointed as Kachin State Security and Border Affairs Minister of the Kachin State Government.

Sd/ Win Myint
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Yearly SMEs Loan Status of JICA Two-Step Loan Project



Source : Myanmar Economic Bank
Information Unit : Central Statistical Organization

Myanmar Daily Weather Report (Issued on Wednesday 28 November 2018)

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy over the Southwest Bay and a few cloud over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 29 November 2018: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region. Degree of certainty is (60%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago and Yangon regions, Kachin, Kayah, Kayin and Mon states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Sea will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters. Wave height will be about (3-5) feet off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight decrease of night temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Chin states.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 29 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A moderate earthquake of magnitude (5.6) Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about (36) miles west of Puta-O), latitude 27.26°N, longitude 96.85°E, depth (43) kilometers, about (126) miles northwest of Myitkina seismological observatory was recorded at (16)hr (47)min (11)sec M.S.T on 28th November, 2018.



US Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats (C) will meet NATO defense and intelligence officials in Brussels to discuss President Donald Trump's decision in October to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF). **PHOTO:AFP**

US intel chief to brief NATO on US withdrawal from INF treaty

WASHINGTON (United States)—US Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats said Tuesday that he is heading to Europe to explain to allies Washington's decision to pull out of a major nuclear weapons treaty because of Russian violations. Coats told reporters that he will meet NATO defense and intelligence officials in Brussels this week to discuss President Donald Trump's decision in October to withdraw from the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF), a move that has fueled fears of a dangerous arms race.

"The intelligence community assesses Russia has flight-tested, produced, and deployed cruise missiles with a range capability that are prohibited by the treaty," Coats said. "Russia has shown no sign that it is willing to acknowledge its violation, let alone

return to full and verifiable compliance." Coats said he would explain the threat to Europe from Russia's furtive development of its new 9M729 ground-based missile system, which Washington says has a reach that exceeds the INF limit of 500 kilometers (300 miles). "Russia continues to press forward and as of late 2018 has fielded multiple battalions of 9M729 missiles, which pose a direct conventional and nuclear threat against most of Europe and parts of Asia," Coats said. The Trump administration has yet to pinpoint a date for its official withdrawal from the treaty, leaving room for a possible fix that would likely also have to involve China, which was not a party to the INF.

"Number one, they would have to admit that they cheated," Coats said of Russia.—AFP ■

Winter risks 'dire' for 1 mln children in MENA region: UNICEF

AMMAN (Jordan)—The UN children's fund warned Tuesday that a funding gap and the start of winter could leave nearly one million children "out in the cold" in the Middle East and North Africa. "Years of conflict, displacement and unemployment have reduced families' financial resources to almost nothing. Staying warm has simply become unaffordable," said Geert Cappelaere, UNICEF regional director for the Middle East and North Africa.

The UN agency said it was facing a \$33-million funding gap — two thirds of its total allocation — for assistance to children across the region this winter.

Cold and rainy weather would hit those living in extremely basic conditions, especially camps or crowded shelters with little protection. "With cold and rainy weather sweeping across the Middle East and North Africa, nearly one million children affected by crises in the region risk being left out in the cold," Cappelaere said in a statement.

"With little nutritious food and healthcare, children have grown weak, becoming prone to hypothermia and dangerous respiratory diseases," he said.

UNICEF said it aims this winter to reach 1.3 million children in Syria, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Turkey and Egypt, providing them with warm clothes, thermal blankets, clean water and other hygiene support.—AFP ■

Court orders captured Ukrainian sailors held for two months

SIMFEROPOL (Undefined) —A court in Crimea on Tuesday ordered two months of detention for Ukrainian sailors captured in a confrontation at sea with Russia, in a move sure to further stoke tensions between Moscow and Kiev.

The 24 sailors have been held by Moscow since Sunday, after Russian forces seized three of Kiev's ships off the coast of Crimea, sparking the most dangerous crisis between the ex-Soviet neighbours in years. Russia has resisted calls to let them go, accusing the sailors of crossing illegally into Russian waters and of ignoring warnings from its border guards. On Tuesday, a court in Simferopol, the main city in Russian-annexed Crimea, ordered nine of the sailors to be held in pre-trial detention for two months. More are to appear before the court on Wednesday. The detentions are certain to anger Kiev, which has demanded the release of the sailors and urged Western allies to impose further sanctions on Moscow.

Putin warns of 'reckless acts'

The incident was the first major confrontation at sea in the long-running conflict pitting Ukraine against Moscow and Russian-backed separatists in the country's east. It has raised fears of a wider escalation—in a conflict that has killed more than 10,000 people since 2014—and prompted international calls for restraint. President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday warned Ukraine against any "reckless acts" after Kiev declared martial law in response to Moscow's seizure of the three navy vessels.

The Ukrainian parliament late on Monday voted in favour



A court in Simferopol, the main city in Russian-annexed Crimea, ordered nine of the sailors to be held in pre-trial detention for two months. More are to appear before the court on Wednesday. **PHOTO:AFP**

of President Petro Poroshenko's request for the introduction of martial law in border areas for 30 days. This gives Ukrainian authorities the power to mobilise citizens with military experience, regulate the media and restrict public rallies in affected areas.

In a phone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel Tuesday, Putin expressed "serious concern" over its introduction. He said he hoped Berlin could intervene with Ukrainian authorities "to dissuade them from further reckless acts". Moscow has accused Kiev of planning Sunday's confrontation as a provocation aimed at drumming up support for Poroshenko ahead of elections next year and convincing Western governments to impose further sanctions on Russia.

Putin said Kiev's actions were "clearly taken in view of the election campaign in Ukraine".

Sunday's incident has been playing out on Russian and Ukrainian television screens, with dramatic footage of Russian ships chasing down a Ukrainian tugboat that was trying to pass through the Kerch Strait from the Black Sea into the Sea of Azov.

Sailors on Russian TV

Russian state television late on Monday aired footage of some of the captured sailors being questioned by Moscow's security services. One of them is heard saying "the actions of the Ukrainian armed vessels in the Kerch Strait had a provocative character" — parroting the version of events put forward by Russian authorities. Ukraine's naval commander, Igor Voronchenko, said the sailors were pressured into giving false evidence. "I know these sailors, they were always professional. What they are saying now is not

true," he told Ukrainian media. "They (the Russians) could even say that we came from the sky on a spaceship."

Western governments have rallied behind Kiev in the dispute, accusing Russia of illegally blocking access to the Sea of Azov and of taking military action without justification. The European Union, Britain, Canada, France, Germany and others expressed support for Kiev on Monday, in statements pro-Kremlin newspaper Izvestia denounced as "predictably anti-Russian". The foreign minister of Austria, which holds the rotating EU presidency, said Tuesday that the bloc will next month consider further sanctions against Moscow over the flare-up.

"Everything depends on the accounts of events and the actions of both sides. But it will need to be reviewed," Karin Kneissl told reporters.—AFP ■

Stuck at US border, caravan migrants losing hope

TIJUANA (MEXICO) — Still stinging from the tear gas that beat back their attempt to breach the US-Mexican border, members of the Central American migrant caravan are starting to lose hope, and in some cases are turning back.

The migrants have played all their cards in recent days, after more than a month's trek across Central America and Mexico — but with little success.

Their surprise bid to rush the border en masse on Sunday ended as abruptly as it began, when US Border Patrol agents fired tear gas and rubber bullets to force them back.

And attempts to sneak across the border alone or in small groups appear to be largely failing.

That leaves the roughly 5,000 migrants in the caravan with a handful of options, equally unappealing to most: wait the months or years it could take to request asylum in the United States; settle in Mexico; or give up and go home.

Their desperation is palpable at the improvised shelter where they are staying in Tijuana, across the border from San Diego.

Living in crowded conditions, with limited toilets, disease outbreaks and two rations of food a day, many are still shell-shocked from the failed attempt by about 500 migrants to get over the chain-link border fence topped with barbed wire on Sunday.

"We thought they were going to kill us. It's going to be hard to get to the other side," said Brayan Casas, a 28-year-old from Honduras, showing the bruises he got when he, his wife and his son joined Sunday's stampede.

Long wait

"They learned their lesson," an employee of Mexico's National Migration Institute told AFP at the shelter, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"They've seen they won't be able to cross easily. They're a lot less rebellious today."

The migrants are mostly fleeing poverty and violence in Central America's "Northern Triangle" — El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras.

US President Donald Trump has however warned of an "invasion" by a group full of "hardened criminals."

Some migrants have tried to sneak into the United States alone, without much success.

"I've tried five times already," said Danilo Mejia, 26, a skinny Honduran man in an oversized leather jacket, who says the US Border Patrol sent him back to Mexico each time.

"I thought if it was dark they wouldn't see me, but they're real watchdogs."

He says he does not have the \$10,000 or so he would have to pay a human trafficker, or "coyote," to bring him into the United States.

But sneaking in through the desert alone is a perilous strategy. Hundreds of migrants die trying every year, of dehydration, hypothermia or snake bites. Seeking asylum in the United States is not much easier.



Migrants have played all their cards in recent days, after more than a month's trek across Central America and Mexico — but with little success. PHOTO: AFP

In Tijuana, the waiting list to enter the US at an official border crossing and apply for asylum currently has more than 5,000 names on it, including caravan members and other migrants who were already in line.

And the US is backlogged with asylum cases: requests increased by

2,000 per cent in the past five years, and there are currently 700,000 pending.

'Like animals'

Arlin Gutierrez, 40, traveled here from Honduras with her three young children, and is unsure what to do next.

"We'd have to wait more than three months to be called (from the asylum wait-list), and who knows how much longer for our case to be resolved," she said, shaking out her baby's disposable diaper to

use it again.

"We can't wait for so long, living here like animals."

Trump issued an executive order earlier this month barring migrants who sneak across the border from filing asylum

claims. That policy has been temporarily blocked by a federal judge.

Undaunted, Trump tweeted Saturday that migrants seeking asylum will have to remain in Mexico while their claims are processed — though Mexico has not publicly agreed to such a plan.

Facing a hostile welcome and little hope, a growing number of migrants have decided to turn back.

"We're going home defeated, but alive," said Yaison Roca, 29, a Honduran man traveling with his wife and three children who took part in Sunday's border stampede and says the crackdown left his family traumatized.

— AFP ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

ROCKWOOL International A/S, a company registered under the laws of Denmark, which is located at Hovedgaden 584, DK-2640 Hedehusene, Denmark, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:



Reg. No. 10709/2018

In respect of **Class 6**: Building materials of metal, namely, grids of metal; ceiling systems of metal for attaching ceiling panels.

In respect of **Class 17**: Insulating materials of mineral wool; packing, stopping and insulating materials; insulants in the form of strips, felt, mats, boards, slatted mats, shaped parts for insulation and sealing against heat, cold, fire, sound, vibrations, air, light and humidity/moisture/damp/vapour, including sound absorbing materials for acoustic regulation; acoustic and thermal insulation articles and materials; insulation and vapour barrier articles and materials; insulation in the form of floor, wall and roof coverings; ceiling panels of mineral fibres; mineral wool fibres in the form of matting for insulation; mineral wool/fibres [insulators]; processed mineral fibres for use in the manufacture of seals, sealants, fillers and gaskets; boards of extruded mineral wool, shells of mineral wool, blankets of mineral wool, mineral wool stucco and mineral wool felt, loose or semi-finished granulated mineral wool and loose or semi-finished mineral wool fibres for manufacture of reinforcing and/or filling materials for insulation; insulating mineral wool fibres for use in sealing and gasketing applications in the automotive and building industry; electrical insulating boards; friction materials; mineral wool boards for ventilated constructions, for facade cladding, roof detailing, soffits and fascias.

In respect of **Class 19**: Insulating building materials of mineral wool; wall, floor and ceiling panels, all made of mineral wool and fibres; building materials for road and track constructions and for fencing; processed mineral fibres for use in the manufacture of cements and plaster for building purposes; processed mineral fibres for use in the manufacture of asphalt sealants and of sealants for driveways and roofing.

ROCKWOOL International A/S claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. **ROCKWOOL International A/S** reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., DIPL. (H.G.P.)

For **ROCKWOOL International A/S**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 29th November 2018



ROCKWOOL

Reg. No. 10710/2018

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Meranti Steel Pte. Ltd., a company incorporated in Singapore and having its registered office at Level 39 MBFC Tower 2, 10 Marine Boulevard, Singapore, 018983 is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

ALUMAXX™

Reg. No. 4/10472/2018 (26 September 2018)

In respect of "Galvanised sheet coil and strip, metallic coated metal sheet coil and strip, pre-painted metallic sheet coils and strip, Galvanised, metallic coated, and or pre-painted steel building and construction materials" included in **International Class 06**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For **Meranti Steel Pte. Ltd.**,

C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botahtaung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 29th November 2018

lmm@kcyangon.com

TRADEMARK CAUTION

JFE Meranti Myanmar Co., Ltd., a company incorporated in Myanmar and having its registered office at Lot BC1, Industrial Area Zone B, Thilawa Special Economic Zone, Yangon, Myanmar is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

JFE MERANTI™

Reg. No. 4/9641/2018 (7 September 2018)

In respect of "Galvanised sheet coil and strip, metallic coated metal sheet coil and strip, pre-painted metallic sheet coils and strip, Galvanised, metallic coated, and or pre-painted steel building and construction materials" included in **International Class 06**.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the Mark shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For **JFE Meranti Myanmar Co., Ltd.**,

C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botahtaung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 29th November 2018

lmm@kcyangon.com



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) greets Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe prior to their talks in Beijing on 26 October 2018. **PHOTO: KYODO**

Abe to meet Xi on sidelines of G-20 summit in Argentina

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is expected to hold talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Argentina later this week, the Japanese government said Wednesday.

In a sign of improving bilateral ties, Abe held a face-to-face meeting with Xi in Beijing in late October and had brief contact with the Chinese leader during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum summit in Papua New Guinea earlier this month.

During the two-day summit from Friday in

Buenos Aires, Abe will also likely have separate talks with U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin as well as a three-way meeting involving Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference.

As part of his six-day South American tour from Thursday, Abe is scheduled to stop over in Uruguay and Paraguay as the first sitting Japanese prime minister to travel to those countries, the top government spokesman said. — Kyodo News ■

Blast near chemical plant kills 22, injures 22 in north China

SHIJIAZHUANG — A blast near a chemical plant in Zhangjiakou City, north China's Hebei Province, has killed 22 and injured 22 others early Wednesday morning, local authorities said.

The blast occurred

near Hebei Shenghua Chemical Industry Co., Ltd. in Zhangjiakou at around 0:40 a.m. Fire caused by the blast has engulfed 38 trucks and 12 vehicles, according to the Zhangjiakou city government.

The injured have been

rushed to hospitals for treatment.

According to preliminary investigation, a vehicle carrying dangerous chemicals exploded when waiting to enter into the plant. The blast ignited nearby vehicles.

The Ministry of Emergency Management has sent a work team to the site to guide relief work.

Local government is verifying the identities of the victims. Rescue work and further investigation are underway. — Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 28 November 2018 shows the blast site near Shenghua chemical plant in Zhangjiakou City, north China's Hebei Province. The blast has killed 22 people and injured 22 others early Wednesday morning, local authorities said. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Goodman Fielder Pte. Ltd., a company registered under the laws of Singapore, which is located at 8 Shenton Way, #49-02, AXA Tower, Singapore 068811, is the sole owner of the following trademarks:

GOLD BULLION

Reg. No. 10535/2018

MOTHER'S CHOICE

Reg. No. 10536/2018

MEADOW FRESH

Reg. No. 10537/2018

PILOT

Reg. No. 10538/2018

In respect of **Class 29**: Milk and milk products; dairy and dairy based products; dairy substitutes; yoghurt and yoghurt based beverages; preparations made from or for making yoghurt; cheese and cheese products including cheese spreads, cottage cheese and cream cheese; cream including sour and whipped cream; eggs and egg-based foodstuffs; aerated beverages (made predominantly of milk); combined fruit and dairy products; preserved, dried, processed, canned, frozen and cooked fruits and vegetables; fruit and vegetable extracts; vegetable based meat substitutes; meat, fish, seafood, poultry and game and food products made from the foregoing; meat extracts; meat extract spreads; preserved, dried and cooked meat and seafood products; protein (foods) and protein food products; soy products including tofu, soya cream, soya yoghurt, soya bean milk, soya bean beverages and flavoured soya bean milk drinks; edible nuts and food products made from nuts; snack foods, prepared foods, semi-prepared foods, frozen foods, chilled foods, ready-to-eat meals and meal kits consisting predominantly of dairy products, vegetables, fruit, meat, nuts or seafood; soups, broths and stocks; desserts and dessert products consisting predominantly of dairy products, vegetables, fruit, meat, nuts or seafood; edible oils and fats including margarine, shortenings, butter and dairy spreads; jellies, jams, compotes; fruit and fruit based spreads including marmalade, preserves, fruit sauces and other fruit based spreadable products; dips, fillings, pastes and spreads including sandwich spreads, sweet spreads, savoury spreads and spreads consisting predominantly of dairy products, vegetables, fruit, meat, nuts or seafood; pickles; seaweed; edible gelatin; jelly crystals.

Goodman Fielder Pte. Ltd. claims the trademark rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the marks as mentioned above. Goodman Fielder Pte. Ltd. reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., DIPL. (H.G.P.)

For **Goodman Fielder Pte. Ltd.**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 29th November 2018

TRADE MARK CAUTION

BSN medical GmbH, a company incorporated in Germany and having its office at Quickbornstrasse 24, 20253 Hamburg, Germany, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:

BSN medical

Reg.No.IV/471/2001 Reg.No.IV/7116/2007
Reg.No.IV/9161/2010 Reg.No.IV/9162/2010
Reg.No.IV/11069/2013 Reg.No.IV/12504/2016
Reg.No.IV/ 10477 /2018

Used in respect of "Pharmaceutical, veterinary, sanitary and health care preparations; dietetic substances adapted for medical use; food for babies; plasters, dressing and bandaging materials; material for stopping teeth; dental wax, disinfectants; preparations for destroying vermin fungicides and herbicides; surgical, medical, dental and veterinary apparatus and instruments; artificial limbs, eyes and teeth; orthopaedic articles; surgical suture materials".

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Khine Khine U, Advocate

LL.B, D.B.L, LL.M (UK)

For **BSN medical GmbH**

#205/5, Thirimingalar Housing, Strand Rd.,

Yangon. **Dated. 29 November 2018**

Mandarin duck wows at Central Park

NEW YORK — A magnificent Mandarin duck has become a star attraction at Central Park, traveling from unknown lands to mingle with the most banal of mallards, attracting crowds and the paparazzi along the way.

The duck, whose species is native to East Asia and sees males sport a colorful plumage in purple, orange, yellow and rust tones, landed at the iconic New York park on a sunny October day. He was spotted by rare bird watcher David Barrett, who posted a video on Twitter via the handle @BirdCentralPark that went viral.

A magnificent Mandarin duck has become a star attraction at Central Park, traveling from unknown lands to mingle with the most banal of mallards, attracting crowds and the paparazzi along the way.

The duck, whose species is native to East Asia



A Mandarin duck nicknamed Mandarin Patinkin has made a big splash for bird watchers and the general public at New York's Central Park. **PHOTO: AFP**

and sees males sport a colorful plumage in purple, orange, yellow and rust tones, landed at the iconic New York park on a sunny October day. He was spotted by rare bird watcher David Barrett, who posted a video on Twitter via the handle @BirdCentralPark that went viral.

The tos and fros of this stunning member of the anatidae family are

tracked closely on Twitter, and he even got his moment of fame in *The New York Times*. It's unclear exactly how he arrived here. Some speculated at first that he had escaped from a zoo, but none of the city's reported a missing duck. Others guessed he might have been abandoned by a family that kept him as a pet. Yet more suggested he came from lands beyond

the US financial capital, where laws bar people from owning a duck.

All the speculation has only helped fuel the duck's popularity. Mystery abounds when he surreptitiously takes flight for missions that can sometimes last two weeks.

He was spotted several times in New Jersey — on the other side of the East River — with a telling band on his right leg, but it's unclear whether he swam or flew to the other side. The duck has become a star, nicknamed Mandarin Patinkin by local media as a tribute to actor Mandy Patinkin of "Princess Bride" fame.

On Tuesday, he roamed about beyond the lenses of photographers on the lake in a southeastern corner of Central Park a stone's throw from the Plaza hotel, snacking on a few breadcrumbs thrown by onlookers.—AFP ■

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouse and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 2nd DECEMBER 2018 (National Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ကြော်ငြာရင်းနှီးမြှုပ်နှံမှုနှင့် ကြော်ငြာအခွင့်အလမ်းများအဖွဲ့ကြော်ငြာ
ထည့်သွင်းလိုပါကတိုက်ရိုက်ဆက်သွယ်သွေးဆွေးနိုင်ပါသည်။

Advertise with us.

HOTLINE

09-974424848

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Six Continents Limited, a company incorporated in The United Kingdom and having its registered office at Broadwater Park, Denham, Buckinghamshire, UB9 5HR, United Kingdom is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

VOCO

Reg. No. 4/10362/2018 (24.9.2018)

VOCO

AN IHG HOTEL

Reg. No. 4/10363/2018 (24.9.2018)

All in respect of "Hotel management services for others; hotel franchising services, namely, offering business management assistance in the establishment and operation of hotels; business advisory and consultancy services relating to hotel management, operations, and franchising" in **Class 35** and "Hotel services; temporary accommodation services; bar and restaurant services; cocktail lounge services; hotel reservation services; catering services for the provision of food and drink; provision of conference, meeting, exhibition, and general purpose event facilities" in **Class 43**.

The abovementioned VOCO word mark has been filed in Jamaica as Application No. 75124 on May 31, 2018.

The abovementioned VOCO AN IHG HOTEL Logo (in black and white) has been filed in Jamaica as Application No. 75085 on May 29, 2018.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use or actual or colourable imitation of the said Marks shall be dealt with according to law.

Daw La Min May, H.G.P

For Six Continents Limited,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, UFC Tower, Corner of Mahabandoola Road &

Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dated 29th November 2018

lmm@kcyangon.com

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (002 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V CHERRY VESTA VOY. NO. (002 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (231 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V ANAN BHUM VOY. NO. (231 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V THAI BINH

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V THAI BINH are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-7 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (079 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SINAR BALI VOY. NO. (079 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0096 N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HASIL VOY. NO. (KHS 0096 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Hillenburg, SpongeBob SquarePants creator, dies at 57

LOS ANGELES (United States)—Stephen Hillenburg, the biology teacher turned creative genius behind the wildly successful “SpongeBob SquarePants” children’s animation series has died, Nickelodeon announced Tuesday. He was 57. Hillenburg passed away on Monday from ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease, associates said.

He created the hit Nickelodeon series, launched in 1999, which recounted the adventures of a yellow sponge and his friends in the make-believe city of Bikini Bottom in the depths of the Pacific Ocean. Instantly appealing to young children, their families and college students, it turned into a global licensing and merchandising phenomenon, winning awards and being aired in more than 60 languages, including Azerbaijani.

“He was a beloved friend and longtime creative partner to everyone at Nickelodeon, and our hearts go out to his entire family,” the network said.

“Steve imbued SpongeBob SquarePants with a unique sense of humor and innocence that has brought joy to generations of kids and families everywhere. “His utterly orig-



In this file photo taken on 22 November 2018 SpongeBob SquarePants floats above 6th Avenue during the 92nd Annual Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York. Stephen Hillenburg, the biology teacher who created the wildly successful “SpongeBob SquarePants” children’s animation series has died, Nickelodeon announced on 27 November 2018. **PHOTO: AFP**

inal characters and the world of Bikini Bottom will long stand as a reminder of the value of optimism, friendship and the limitless power of imagination,” it added. “The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie” from 2004 went on to gross more than \$140 million worldwide with voiceovers from Scarlett Johansson and Alec Baldwin.

Bikini Bottom

Hillenburg announced last year that he had been diagnosed with ALS, a progressive neurodegenerative disease. He was nominated for nine primetime Emmys, the highest award in American television. Hillenburg was born on a US Army post in Lawton, Oklahoma to a father in the military, who went on to be-

come a draftsman and designer for aerospace companies, and a mother who taught visually impaired students.

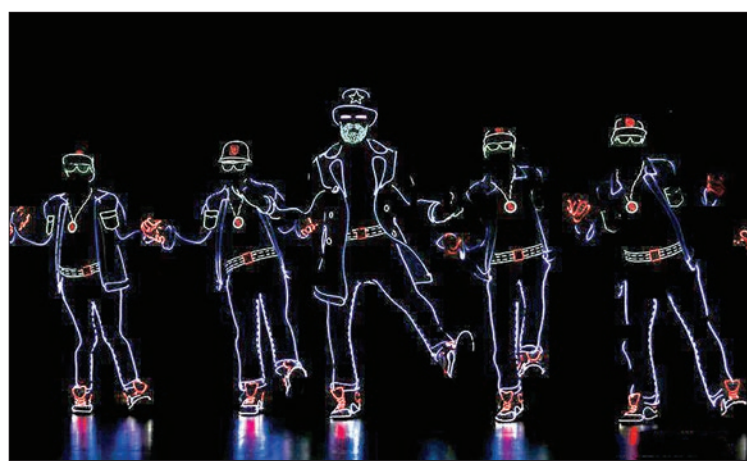
The family moved to California and Hillenburg graduated from Humboldt State University in 1984 with a degree in natural resource planning and interpretation, with an emphasis on marine resources. He began his career

as a marine biology teacher at what is today known as the Ocean Institute in Dana Point, California, offering courses to children from kindergarten to high school, and their teachers. Even in those days, he used his artistic talent and love of the ocean to write and illustrate stories to help teach his students, creating colorful characters that would later become the denizens of Bikini Bottom.

In 1987, he embarked on a degree in experimental animation at the California Institute of Arts, earning a master of fine arts in 1992, and winning an award at an Ottawa international festival for an animated short, “Wormholes.”

From 1993 to 1996, he worked as a director and writer on Nickelodeon’s “Rocko’s Modern Life” before devoting himself to writing, producing and directing what would turn into “SpongeBob SquarePants.” He also wrote, produced and directed the 2004 movie, and wrote and executive produced the 2015 sequel, “The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water.” Steve, as he was known to family and friends, is survived by his wife Karen, son Clay, mother, brother, a sister-in-law and two nieces.—AFP ■

The Illusionists returns to Broadway with new jaw-dropping magic



Members of Light Balance perform during a media event of the show The Illusionists in New York, the United States on 27 November 2018. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

NEW YORK—The blockbuster touring magic spectacular The Illusionists returned to Broadway for its fourth holiday season in New York City with entertainers that have captivated audience worldwide, according to a press conference on Tuesday.

Themed “Magic of the Holidays,” the show offers a family-friendly atmosphere with an all-new installment that features close-up magic, illusions, escapes, and technological spectacle.

The show marks the Broadway debut of Shin Lim, one of the hottest new names in the magic world and the latest winner of America’s Got Talent, a popular American televised talent competition that has run for 13 years.

The 27-year-old started learning close-up card tricks by himself 11 years ago. Tens of thousands of hours of practice and a natural gift have contributed to his incredible dexterity of hands that always leaves a

stunned crowd of audience who cannot believe their eyes.

“Sometime magic can become a little bit repetitive or easy to figure out, so I’m always trying to create something new. Everything you see in this performance is created by me,” Lim, who is also a professionally-trained pianist, said about the secret of his success. Lim has toured around China in recent years and appeared in several Chinese TV shows. “I love China. I love going back all the time and I especially love the Chinese food,” said the Canadian-American born to Chinese-Singaporean parents.

Other highlights of the show include Canadian magician Darcy Oake, who was invited to perform for Queen Elizabeth of the United Kingdom for her 90th birthday celebrations in 2016. The Illusionists had amazed New Yorkers during the Christmas season from 2014 to 2016. This year’s show will run through 30 December at Broadway’s Marquis Theatre.—Xinhua ■

Netflix to adapt Roald Dahl classics to small screen

NEW YORK—The BFG, Matilda and Willy Wonka are some of the best loved characters in children’s literature and Netflix is bringing them to life on the small screen across the world. The streaming giant and The Roald Dahl Story Company—the family firm which owns the British author’s copyright—announced Tuesday that production would begin on the first animated series in 2019. Sixteen Dahl books are covered by the agreement to get the television make-over treatment, including some of his best known—“Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” “Matilda,” “The BFG” and “The Twits.” Novels written by Dahl, who died in 1990 aged 74, have sold more than 250 million copies worldwide, been turned into a series of blockbuster films and spawned at least two musicals.

He invented hundreds of words and terms, such as

whizzpopping, Oompa-Loompas, gobblefunk, snozzcumbers and scrumdiddlyumptious. The author’s widow, Felicity Dahl, said the purpose was “for as many children as possible around the world to experience the unique magic and positive message of Roald Dahl’s stories. “This partnership with Netflix marks a significant move toward making that possible... Roald would, I know, be thrilled.” Netflix said it “intends to remain faithful to the quintessential spirit and tone of Dahl while also building out an imaginative story universe that expands far beyond the pages of the books themselves.” Melissa Cobb, vice president of kids and family content, said the goal was “to reimagine the journeys of so many treasured Dahl characters in fresh, contemporary ways with the highest quality animation and production values.” —AFP ■

Gene-edited babies and cloned monkeys: China tests bioethics

HONG KONG (China)—A Chinese scientist's claim that he created the world's first genetically-edited babies has shone a spotlight on what critics say are lax regulatory controls and ethical standards behind a series of headline-grabbing biomedical breakthroughs in China.

University professor He Jiankui on Sunday said the DNA of twin girls had been altered to prevent them from contracting HIV, but his claims prompted a fierce backlash from the scientific community who not only cast doubt over the breakthrough, but also questioned its morality. China is seeking to become a leader in the fields of genetic research and cloning, forging ahead even as others hesitate over ethical issues.

Scientists in the country were the first to carry out gene editing on human embryos in 2015, although with mixed results, the British journal *Nature* reported in 2017. And earlier this year, Chinese scientists unveiled monkeys that were cloned using the same technique that produced Dolly the Sheep two decades ago. While the procedure could boost medical research into human diseases, it also raised ethical questions about how close scientists have come to one day cloning humans.

'Head transplant'

Italian surgeon Sergio Canavero sparked controversy last year when he claimed to have conducted the world's first head transplant on a corpse at a Chinese hospital, the state-run *Global Times* reported at the time, though other scientists have called his claims overblown.

On Sunday He, who was educated at Stanford University, announced in a YouTube video he had used CRISPR, a technique which allows scientists to remove and replace a strand with pinpoint precision, to modify the twins' DNA.

The tool has not been used in human trials in the United States, though doctors in China have been applying it to treat cancer patients. Qiu Renzong, former vice president of the Chinese health ministry's ethics committee, accused He of obtaining a "fraudulent" ethics review by going to another hospital for review as opposed to obtaining approval from his own university, adding he was destroying the reputation of China's scientists. Qiu said a lack of regulation mean that scientists often face no punishments as they are only required to abide by the rules of their institutions, which may not stipulate punishments for misconduct.

"People say the ministry is



CRISPR technology has opened up enormous potential to battle genetic faults and diseases. PHOTO: AFP

without teeth, cannot bite people. So we try to provide the teeth to the ministry head, so they can bite people when people violate the regulations," he told reporters in English at a gene editing conference in Hong Kong. "The mainland is very protective of scientists, if you make some small mistake, that's the end of it, there's no punishment. I suggest that they should be punished," he added.

'Crazy' experiment

With a sceptical research community waiting for evidence of He's claims, the scientist is expected to speak at the same conference in Hong Kong on Wednesday and Thursday. He, who works from a lab in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen, faces scrutiny on the mainland too, with the National Health Commission ordering an investigation into the case.

On Tuesday, Shenzhen Har-

monicare Women and Children's Hospital said in a statement it suspected the signature on a document approving the experiment, specifically its adherence to ethical standards, was falsified and that it had asked police to investigate. A group of 122 Chinese scientists signed a joint statement calling the experiment "crazy" and said it was unfair to other scientists who stick to "the moral bottom line". The Southern University of Science and Technology, where He works, said he had been on unpaid leave since February and his research is a "serious violation of academic ethics and norms".

A notice from Shenzhen's medical ethics authority said that all medical organisations must establish an ethics review committee before undertaking biomedical research concerning humans, and the ethics board of the hospital involved had not completed

its registration as required. He defended his research in another video, saying that he is trying to help families who carry genetic diseases. "We believe ethics are on our side of history. Look back to the 1970s with Louise Brown. The same fears and criticisms then are repeated now," he said, referring to the first person to be born through in vitro fertilisation.

\$1 billion industry

China has the second-largest genomics market worldwide, according to UBS. Beijing-based CCID Consulting estimates the market's value will nearly triple from 7.2 billion yuan (\$1 billion) in 2017 to 18.3 billion yuan (\$2.6 billion) by 2022. Looser regulations have allowed China to get ahead in the biomedical field, said Michael Donovan, the founder of Veraptus, a biotech company in China.—AFP ■

Biggest coral reseedling project launches on Great Barrier Reef

SYDNEY (Australia) — Scientists have launched the largest-ever attempt to regenerate coral on the endangered Great Barrier Reef by harvesting millions of the creatures' eggs and sperm during their annual spawning. The researchers said Wednesday they plan to grow coral larvae from the harvested eggs and return these to areas of the reef which have been badly damaged by climate-related coral bleaching. "This is the first time that the entire process of large scale larval rearing and settlement will be undertaken directly on reefs on the Great Barrier Reef," said Peter Harrison of Southern Cross University, one of the project leaders.

"Our team will be restoring hundreds of square meters with the goal of getting to square kilometres in the future, a scale not attempted previously," he said in a statement. The "Larval Restoration Project" launch was timed to coincide with the annual coral spawn on the reef, which

began earlier this week and will last only about 48 to 72 hours.

Coral along large swathes of the 2,300-kilometre (1,400-mile) reef have been killed by rising sea temperatures linked to climate change, leaving behind skeletal remains in a process known as coral bleaching.

The northern reaches of the reef suffered an unprecedented two successive years of severe bleaching in 2016 and 2017, raising fears it may have suffered irreparable damage. Harrison and his colleagues are hopeful their reseedling project can help reverse the trend, but he cautioned the effort will not be enough on its own to save the reef. "Climate action is the only way to ensure coral reefs can survive into the future," he said. "Our approach to reef restoration aims to buy time for coral populations to survive and evolve until emissions are capped and our climate stabilises."—AFP ■

Amazon to launch ground stations to process satellite data on cloud service

SAN FRANCISCO—US top e-commerce leader Amazon Tuesday announced the launch of 12 satellite ground stations to retrieve and process data from satellites orbiting in the space. Amazon said its Amazon Web Services (AWS) Ground Station unit is going to build a network of 12 satellite facilities around the world by mid-2019 to process data uploading or downloading from satellites. The new service will allow its customers to get access to a ground station on short notice in order to handle special events such as severe weather, a natural disaster, or even sports games, said the company. AWS Ground Station is a fully managed service, which

will provide ground antennas through its existing available facilities or services for any users who consume satellite data to simplify the process of data-processing, Amazon noted. The data retrieved from satellites will be stored in Amazon's private cloud, and Amazon is partnering with some satellite companies including DigitalGlobe, Spire Global, HawkEye360 and BlackSky to boost the growing market of satellite-related business.

In September, Amazon announced its cooperation with Iridium Communications to build a satellite-based network for Internet of Things (IoT) applications. —Xinhua ■

Yangon holds IBSF World Snooker Championship award ceremony

THE awards ceremony of the IBSF World Snooker Championship was held at the Grand Mercure in Yangon yesterday.

In the final of the men's snooker competition, Chang Bingyu from China won the championship title by beating He Guoqiang from China with a score of 8:3.

In the final of the women's snooker competition, Waratthanun Sukritthanes from Thailand won the championship title by beating Wendy Jans from Belgium 5:2.

In the master class snooker competition, Darren from Wales won the championship title by beating Saieh Mohammad from Afghanistan by 6:0.

Chang Bingyu from China was awarded the first prize, He Guoqiang from China was given the second prize, while a player from Thailand claimed the third



An official awarding the first prize to a winner from China at the presentation ceremony of the IBSF World Snooker Championship in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: BALA SOE**

prize in the men's snooker competition.

In the women's snooker competition, Waratthanun Sukritthanes from Thailand won the first prize, Wendy Jans from Belgium secured the second prize, and Thailand and India shared the third spot.

In the master class snooker competition, Darren from Wales won the first place, while Saieh Mohammad from Afghanistan secured the second spot, and China and Thailand came in third.

The Deputy Director-General of the Sports and Physical Education Department, U Mya Than Htike, the Headmaster of the Institute of Sports and Physical Education, U Soe Aung, and the Chairperson of the Myanmar Billiards and Snooker Federation, Dr. Min Naing, presented the awards to the winners.—A Kay Lin (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Guardiola says Champions League ultimate test after Lyon draw

LYON (France)—Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola said the Champions League poses a tougher challenge than any other competition after his side salvaged a 2-2 draw at Lyon on Tuesday to qualify for the knockout phase. The Premier League leaders clinched a place in the last 16 for the sixth season in a row as headers from Aymeric Laporte and Sergio Aguero helped City twice recover after falling behind to goals from Maxwell Cornet.

City need a point from their final game at home to eliminated Hoffenheim to secure top spot in Group F, although they were fortunate to avoid a second defeat by Lyon—the only team to score more than once against them this season. “Today the Champions League showed me again that it's another different competition and especially for one reason. The players are better,” said Guardiola. “That's why every time we think about the Champions League and people say it's easy for Manchester City, they are really confused about this. Words are words.

The people who say this never saw a game of Lyon, a game of Hoffenheim, or a game of Shakhtar.”

City set a Premier League

record with 100 points as they strolled to the title last term, and are again setting the pace this season having scored 40 times in 13 matches while conceding on just five occasions. “You have time in the Premier League, you have 38 games. Here you have 90 minutes, 180 minutes—you make mistakes and they punish you,” said Guardiola. Lyon already trail Paris Saint-Germain by 15 points in Ligue 1 after just 14 matches, but Bruno Genesio's

league is so complicated, so good, so that's why I give a lot of credit for the result and the performance today,” said Guardiola. “I'm really impressed about the amount of good young talent here in France. Both (Lyon) holding midfielders (Houssem Aouar and Tanguy Ndombele) are exceptional. “They're strong and they have vision. The people in front — (Memphis) Depay, (Nabil) Fekir...it's a team that's well organised but that's typical

teams in Europe,” he added. **‘Proud’ Genesio**

Lyon need to avoid defeat at Shakhtar Donetsk in their final game to join City in the last 16 after the Ukrainians scored a stoppage-time winner to earn a 3-2 victory at Hoffenheim and keep their qualification hopes alive. “I'm proud to see how my team performed tonight. They're one of the best teams in Europe,” said Genesio. “But there's also a bit of frustration that we didn't qualify tonight. There wasn't much in it, here or in Hoffenheim.”

Lyon looked on course for another impressive win over City when Cornet scored his second goal to put Lyon 2-1 up with nine minutes to play, only for Aguero to level just two minutes later.

“The players put in a display of very high quality. When we conceded the second goal I think we were still a bit euphoric and that's what allowed them to score,” admitted Genesio.

His team will conclude their group stage against Shakhtar on December 12 in Kharkiv.

“I see it as a final for qualification, but we go into it full of confidence because we're still unbeaten despite a lot of draws.” —AFP ■



Pep Guardiola was again impressed by Lyon as Manchester City rallied for a draw in France. **PHOTO: AFP**

side once again pushed City all the way having beaten them 2-1 in the reverse fixture in September. “People say in France it's just PSG. But they don't know how tough it is in France. The

in the Champions League.”

“Now we can focus on the Premier League and other competitions and try to arrive in February with everyone fit and try to compete against the best 16

MFF U-12 Boy's States & Regions Tournament to be held on 1 Dec

WITH the aim of identifying, nurturing, and training the next generation of footballers, a football tournament for children will be held from 1 to 14 December at the National Football Academy in Yangon, said a source with the Myanmar Football Federation.

The MFF U-12 Boy's States and Regions Tournament 2018 will be supervised by the MFF. The drawing ceremony for the tournament will be held on 30 November and a total of 17 teams from different states and regions will compete in the tourney, according to the MFF.

The group matches of the football tournament will be held from 1 to 8 December. Four matches will be played every day with two matches starting at 8 a.m. and two more at 4 p.m. The quarter-finals of the tourney will begin at 4 p.m. on 12 December. The final match will be held at 4 p.m. on 14 December. The winning team will be awarded Ks1500,000, while the first runner-up will get Ks1000,000. The second runners up will get Ks500,000, while the best player and the best goalie will get Ks100,000, according to the MFF.—Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■