

NATIONAL

Government spokesperson holds bi-weekly press conference in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-7

NATIONAL

Union Minister U Soe Win visits Customs Department, MAD Bank in Yangon

PAGE-3

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Saturday, 24 November 2018



President U Win Myint greets MPC Chairman U Ohn Kyaing at the swearing-in ceremony of Myanmar Press Council (MPC) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

President U Win Myint delivers speech at swearing-in ceremony of MPC

Respect the role of news media sector which serves as the eyes and ears of the people: President

PRESIDENT U Win Myint attended and addressed the Myanmar Press Council (MPC) members at the swearing-in ceremony held at the Presidential Palace Thabin Hall yesterday afternoon.

The ceremony was attended by Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo, Union Ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Chairman, Deputy

Ministers, departmental officials, MPC Chairman and members.

The MPC Chairman and members were first sworn-in in front of the President and then the President delivered a speech.

(The President's speech is covered on Page-2)

After the ceremony the President took a commemorative group photo with MPC Chairman and members and cordially greeted them. —MNA ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the speech at the dinner hosted in honor of Myanmar Press Council (MPC) members in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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 Press Council (MPC) members at the Thinhaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The dinner was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Union Auditor-General U Maw Than, Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun, Anti-Corruption Commission member U Han Nyunt,

MPC Chairman, members and departmental officials.

At the event, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint first delivered messages of greetings followed by MPC Chairman Hanthawady U Ohn Kyaing who delivered a message of thanks.

The State Counsellor then took a commemorative group photo together with the attendees, cordially greeted the MPC members and had dinner together. — MNA ■

INSIDE TODAY

NATIONAL
Shaw Brothers Pictures to film movie in Myanmar
PAGE-6



BUSINESS
Tiddim takes steps to farm silkworms, to produce silk
PAGE-5



NATIONAL
Madauk celebrates light festival on river
PAGE-6



MPC must strive toward speedily reaching the goals of the democratic transition and establishing a Democratic Federal Union as desired by the people

President U Win Myint's speech delivered at the swearing-in ceremony of Myanmar Press Council

GREETINGS and wishes of auspiciousness to Union Chief Justice, Union Ministers, Union Government members, heads of Union level organizations, Deputy Ministers and MPC members led by the Chairman who are attending the swearing-in ceremony of MPC.

Today's event is the swearing-in according to the News Media Rule section 14 of MPC members elected according to News Media Law Chapter 3.

I would like to say first that MPC members are trusted and expected to perform their duties and responsibilities according to the aims and stipulations of the News Media Law as well as for the development of the Myanmar journalism sector with their best efforts and endeavors.

At the swearing-in ceremony held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30 March 2018 I urged to respect the role of the news media sector which serves as the eyes and ears of the people. In my following speeches and meetings, I spoke whenever appropriate about the news media sector.

For a successful and smooth transition to democracy, set thoughts and views, rigid and established practices are to be changed and transformed, the skewed judicial sector is to be straightened, human rights violations are to be protected, public funds are not to be wasted, drug and corruption to be eradicated and purged. The requirement for a correct cooperation on these matters among not only government organizations and relevant union level organizations but also with private media and civil society organizations were advocated.

When I took up my duty as President I spoke of striving towards the Union Government's priority goals of

- (1) Rule of law and raising the socio-economic lives of the people
- (2) National reconciliation and internal peace
- (3) Establishing a basic foundation of a Democratic Federal Union which is amending the Constitution

with the collective strength of the legislative, administrative, judicial sectors, news media, civil society organizations and the people transparently, responsibly and dutifully.

Therefore news media personnel and journalists, who are playing an important role in the establishment of a Democratic Federal Union yearned for by the people, are especially required to follow and stand on the aims, rights, duties, and ethics prescribed in the news media law.

Because the media had actively participated and worked together with the people to achieve the democratic rights of freedom, equality and justice, today our country is starting to walk down the road of democracy. We are doing this in a balanced, mindful and restrained way based on the method of "make reforms happen without affecting stability." The government is doing this with care without jeopardizing the democratic transition.



President U Win Myint delivers the address at the swearing-in ceremony of Myanmar Press Council in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MNA

News media presenting news more openly and fearlessly than in the past is to be welcomed, but we also noticed cases where laws had been broken.

Laws are to be obeyed and rules and regulations are to be followed if democracy is to thrive. That is why MPC members are to perform the duties and responsibilities of the council according to the enacted news media law. Rights of the news media personnel are to be obtained while news media personnel are trained to conduct their duties, responsibilities and follow the ethics in a balanced way so that on the other hand the rights of the people to know is fulfilled. We also understand the nature of newly established democratic countries wanting to practice media freedom in the same way as in countries where democracy had been established for hundreds of years. It is to be noted that practicing of media freedom comes together with being responsible.

During the time when the government is striving towards the aim of establishing a Federal Democratic Union, MPC is to lead in setting down do's and don'ts for media personnel regarding spreading of hatred, and creating/increasing conflicts between ethnic nationals. Media personnel are to be managed and trained by MPC on reporting delicate and sensitive matters regarding race and religion, to follow the laws, rules, procedures and regulations. Guidance must be given so that there is no deviation from the path of the democratic transition. Frankly speaking MPC is to follow the news media law and rules and conduct matters without bias and favoritism. MPC must strive toward speedily reaching the goals of the democratic transition and establishing a Democratic Federal Union as desired by the people.

For the sake of democracy, our government understands the importance of media freedom that is in accordance with the law. We believe that the role of MPC is very important for a society to become democratic. In the 21st century there are many things that the people want to know and media personnel need to be sure that the facts are right, information is correct, peace and stability is not affected and the security of the country is protected.

I understand that news media is a soft power that is slow and fast. Literature, cultures and arts are slow media. Knowledge and skills are mainly emphasized. The effect is slow. Radio, movie, video, social media are fast media. It spreads among the people quickly within a short time regardless of borders and boundaries. There is an effect in a short time. In the age of information technology, politics is more connected with this soft power. Use this soft power for news and information related to our country, create a good image of the country and use it effectively in the public relations sector.

We accept that without discussions, debates, criticism with good facts and reason, there wouldn't be democracy. Criticism must be made in a positive way for internal peace, arriving at the goal of democracy, and establishment of a Democratic Federal Union. It is to be noted that a well-intentioned criticism, if not conducted properly, could cause more harm, misunderstanding and damage. Our country is just starting to change from an old era and system to a new one. When breaking out from the old path to a new one, there are unavoidable difficulties and problems. In this situation we need to ensure the survival of the young democracy sapling that

Criticism must be made in a positive way for internal peace, arriving at the goal of democracy, and establishment of a Democratic Federal Union. It is to be noted that a well-intentioned criticism, if not conducted properly, could cause more harm, misunderstanding and damage.

was obtained with high cost. If we are unable to conduct the democratic transition successfully with all of our collective strengths, we would have failed in our duty and responsibility towards our future generation. With a belief and acceptance that the democratic transition will be successful, our government will work in unity with the people to achieve the goal of democracy.

At a time when we are facing difficulties and obstacles in establishing a Democratic Federal Union, transformation and reforms were conducted in many sectors while facing challenges, may the MPC members who are leading the important Myanmar media sector:

- (1) Implement the aims of Myanmar News Media Law
- (2) Achieve the rights and freedom of news media personnel according to the law
- (3) Lead news media personnel to conduct their works according to ethic and rules
- (4) Satisfy the rights of the people to know
- (5) Raise the image of the country in which we were born, bring forth pride and dignity to its people through the power of news media

Thank you.

(Translated by Zaw Min)

News media presenting news more openly and fearlessly than in the past is to be welcomed, but we also noticed cases where laws had been broken.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a commemorative group photo with the attendees at the dinner hosted in honor of Myanmar Press Council members in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

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

The Myanmar Press Council was established on 11 November 2015, in accordance with Section 13 of the News Media Law and with presidential notification No. 68/2015. The council elected new members on 8 September and formed the council for the second three-year term on 30 October, 2018, based upon Presidential notification 82/2018.



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Myanmar Press Council members and attendees at the dinner hosted in honor of Myanmar Press Council members in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister U Soe Win visits Customs Department, Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (head office)

UNION MINISTER for Planning and Finance U Soe Win visited the Customs Department's headquarters on Strand Road in Yangon yesterday morning and met with officials.

At the meeting, the Director General of the Customs Department, U Kyaw Htin, detailed the implementation of the Customs Reform and Modernization Strategies and Action Plan (CRMSAP) 2017-

2021. He also outlined the adoption of international procedures, international assistance, carrying out ASEAN affairs, utilization of Myanmar's Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) and its benefits, and ongoing works.

Union Minister U Soe Win said the Customs Department operates with some restrictions as it has to work with other organizations while implementing tasks. The de-

partment's staff need to do high-quality work, perform tasks dutifully and without corruption, he said.

The Customs Department was in needs of expanding its high-performance workforce, and staff must make efforts to keep up with international affairs while combating illegal trade, in line with a grand strategy, he added.

Customs employees must strive to meet the tax appropriation limit set by

the State Government, the union minister said.

Afterwards, the Union Minister headed to the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank's head office on Pansodan Road in Yangon, and met with the staff there. During the meeting, the bank's Managing Director U Min Thu told the minister that while the bank provided only agricultural loans earlier, it has been providing JICA two-step loans from 2017.

It has also introduced Myanmar Economic Bank two-step loans from 2018, he said, the MADB plans to provide Ks2018 billion in loans in the 2018-2019 Fiscal Year.

"The bank has raised the agricultural loan amount from Ks50,000 to Ks100,000. It has arranged to disburse JICA two-step loans of Ks45.017 billion to 1193 cultivators from 129 townships of different states and regions. It will

disburse Ks2.603 billion in Myanmar Economic Bank two-step loans to 242 farmers from 52 townships across the country," he said.

Union Minister U Soe Win asked about reforms at the bank and urged bank employees to work together to transform MADB into a reliable bank for farmers. — MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

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French delegation to promote trade with Shan State gov't

TRADE mission led by the French Ambassador Mr. Christian Lechervy will visit Shan State on 26 and 27 November in a bid to promote trade and commercial relations between France and Shan State,

This year, 17 French companies joined trade delegation which is twice of last year. This Trade Mission brings together French global leaders with expertise in hospitality (Accor Hotels), healthcare (Bioderma), engineering and consulting services (Artelia, Berim, Suez, Tractebel), aerospace and security services (ATR, Thales), construction (Archetype, BYMA, Freyssinet, Razel- Bec) and energy (EDF, Hydroquest, Voltalia,

Schneider Electric, Total).

The French Ambassador will also be accompanied by Mrs. Marie-Cécile Thirion, Head of the French Development Agency's Office in Myanmar, Mr. Philippe Battle (Chairman of the Committee of French Foreign Trade Advisors for Myanmar) and Mrs. Sarah Lubeigt, President of the France-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

On 26 and 27 November, the delegation will meet with Dr. Linn Htut, Chief Minister of Shan State, representatives of the Taunggyi office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration and the Chin State Chambers of Commerce and personnel from

related departments. The Chairman of KBZ Group U Aung Ko Win will also receive the French Delegation to strengthen business ties between local and French businessmen. The interest of French companies for the economic development of Shan State has strengthened after the 5 September notice of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy to Proceed for the construction of the Shweli 3 hydro-power dam to the consortium led by French company EDF with Marubeni from Japan and Ayeyar Hinthar from Myanmar. Alongside infrastructure projects, agriculture and hospitality are key to the development of the Shan State economy. On Fri-

day, the Ambassador of France will visit the coffee plantations of the Green Gold cooperative in Hopong along with the CEO of the French coffee producer Malongo. Green Gold delivered its first containers to Europe last October through its partnership with Malongo with the support of UNODC.

France remains strongly committed to support Myanmar's economic development in a socially- inclusive and environmentally-friendly way and to help Myanmar thrive on the road to democracy, peace and prosperity, according to the press release of French Embassy's economic section.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Ei Mon)



Myanmar authorities inspect the elephant carcass.
PHOTO: MPF

Wild elephant found dead in Ngapudaw Township

A WILD male elephant, estimated to be about 13 years old, was found dead in a paddy field in Dipalwinpyin Village, Ngapudaw Township, authorities said. The elephant was reportedly found lying on its side in a rice field belonging to U Mahn Zaw Zaw with a swollen stomach and a

four-inch deep wound on the back, initially suspected to be caused by an arrow. The elephant measured 6 ft in height and 9.5 ft in girth, and had a 4 ft long trunk. A combined team comprising officials from the Wild Elephant Protection Base Camp 1, Forest Security Police Force,

Taung Kalay police outpost, and a veterinarian inspected the carcass. They concluded that the elephant died from a stomach inflammation caused by overeating paddy and drinking excess water. The authorities plan to burn the carcass.—GNLM ■ (Translated by Thanda Aung)

Passenger ship, boats collide at Yathedaung Jetty

A passenger ship struck a pier and collided with several motorized boats while leaving the Yathedaung Jetty on 22 November.

Two motorized boats sank and two were damaged in the accident, but there were no casualties, said authorities.

There were 25 passengers and 11 crew members on board the ship when the collision happened.

The accident caused a loss of about Ks 5.6 million. Authorities have initiated action against the ship's captain, U Kyaw Win Naing, for negligence.—GNLM ■

(Translated by JT)

Ancient dugout canoe found in Myaungmya Township

AN ancient dugout canoe was discovered in the Pulu creek in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 8 November. It was delivered on 22 November to the Ayeyawady Region's government for further inspection.

The boat was found buried below a depth of 12 feet in the Pulu Creek by fishermen who informed the authorities. The

boat was excavated under the supervision of assistant director Daw Thida Win of the Ayeyawady Region's Department of Archaeology and the National Museum and township administrators. The boat was excavated intact, with only its helm sustaining minor damage.—Myaungmya District IPRD (Translated by Ei Mon)



PHOTO: MYAUNGMYA DISTRICT IPRD

Tiddim takes steps to farm silkworms

A two-day course on sericulture, which includes training on cultivation of mulberry, rearing silkworms, and production of silk, began yesterday at the office of the General Administration Department in Tiddim Town. The course is being conducted under the supervision of Chin State's Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection.

The course has been organized with the support of Mr. Anton Stortelder from PUM Netherlands Senior Experts and local civil society organizations. A total of 50 people have signed up for the course, which includes practical work and sharing sessions.

The Deputy Director of Chin State's Directorate of

Industrial Supervision and Inspection, an official from the Agriculture Department, and a township administrator delivered speeches at a ceremony held to mark the start of the course.

During a tour of development projects in Chin State in May 2018, Vice President U Henry Van Thio visited the Tonzang silkworm farm, where farm officials demonstrated the planting of Morus or mulberry plants and explained silkworm breeding.

The Vice President had pointed out that planting mulberry plants could help increase the income of local families and help replace the slash-and-burn farming system. He urged the farm owners to systematically upgrade the farm.

"Demand for silk is growing in the international market and support from the respective departments is required to gain a firm share in the market. Further research needs to be conducted to produce other highly valued products in addition to silk threads," the Vice President had said.

Myanmar has mulberry plantations in Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Shan states, and Mandalay Region, covering an area of 6,437.98 acres. In 2017-2018, there were 231 silkworm egg cards in silkworm plant research farms, while silkworm farms produced 11,868 pounds of cocoons, according to news released by the President's Office. —GNLM
(Translated by Ei Mon)



Silkworm cocoons and raw silk sheets on display at the research centre in PyinOoLwin. **FILE PHOTO: MNA**



Silkworms surrounded by mulberry leaves on display at the research centre in PyinOoLwin. **PHOTO: MNA**

Despite investor interest, no power projects yet in Chin State

By Nyein Nyein

ALTHOUGH companies have shown a keen interest in power projects in Chin State, no project has been implemented yet, said Dr. Min Zaw Oo, the director of the Chin State's Office of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

"The Chin State government is prioritizing hydropower investments. But the projects have many phases, processes, and business risks which are hindering project implementation for now," said Dr. Min Zaw Oo.

In the two years of the present term of the Chin State government, the hydropower generation sector has been ranked first by investors planning to invest in the state. At least 7 companies from China, Japan, and Norway have expressed their interest to conduct feasibility studies for power projects in the state, according to a research report on the opportunities and challenges for local business development in the state.

Potential sites for hydropower projects have been identified on the Laymyo River near Kophayshay village of Thandaung area in Paletwa Township,

with an estimated capacity of 600 megawatts, and on the Manipur River in Falam Township, with an estimated capacity of 380 megawatts. Possible sites for medium-scale electric power projects, with a capacity of 10 to 30 megawatts, and small-scale projects, with capacity below 10 megawatts, have been identified in Matupi, Mindat, Thantlang, Tiddim, and Tonzang towns.

The Chin State government is prioritizing hydropower investments.

Additionally, a possible site for a wind power project has been identified in Tiddim.

"Power supply has reached most of the big townships, but the small townships and villages still don't have access to electricity. Providing power to the entire state can result in a loss of revenue for the government and economic losses for investors. There are many potential sites for power generation in Chin State. But the sites are located near small villages with 100-200 households. Due to this, the return of capital

can pose an impediment to investors. It is hard for them to take that risk. Also, the government cannot hike electricity prices for power produced in the state," said Dr. Min Zaw Oo.

According to the research report on opportunities and challenges for regional business development, electricity is priced low and so it takes a long time for investors to get returns on capital. There are a slew of challenges and risks to investments in the state. There is no power generation department in the regions and states, including Chin State. Therefore, the regions and states cannot implement projects on their own without approval of the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

According to the Electricity Law 2014, regions and states can allow 30 megawatt projects, but the projects must not be connected with the national grid. As investors have to seek approval from the state government and the Ministry of Electricity and Energy to set up power projects which transmit power to the national grid, investments for such projects get hindered.

(Translated by Ei Mon)

Myanmar-US trade exceeds \$455 million in mini-budget period

MYANMAR'S trade with the United States in the mini-budget period (April to September this year) totalled US\$455.7 million, with exports valued at \$293 million and imports pegged at \$162.58 million, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar shipped rice, several types of pulses, forest products, fish, prawns, apparel, garments produced on a cut-make-pack basis, and other finished industrial goods to the US this year. It mainly imported personal goods, capital goods, and industrial raw

materials from the US.

After more than two decades of economic sanctions against Myanmar, the US reinstated Myanmar's eligibility for a generalised system of preferences during the Barack Obama administration.

During the mini-budget period, one US-listed enterprise was permitted to invest \$55.9 million into the country, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.—GNLM

(Translated by Ei Mon)

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Shaw Brothers Pictures to film movie in Myanmar



Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint and U Ohn Maung meet with Mr. Ray Pang, Line Producer from Hong Kong-based Shaw Brothers Pictures International Ltd., yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung met a delegation led by Mr. Ray Pang, Line Producer from Hong Kong-based Shaw Brothers Pictures International

Ltd., at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed the arrangement for their filmmaking trip to Myanmar, the lists of the film's crew

and equipment, the films they plan to produce, and fees for filming and other services. Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials were also present at the meeting. —MNA ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Myanmar police land two top ten ranks at world pistol shooting contest in China

A TEAM of police officers from Myanmar participated in the 2nd USIP World Police Service Pistol Shooting Championship 2018 held in Guangzhou, China, from 14 to 19 November.

Vice Chief (1) of Myanmar Police Force, Police Major General Myo Swe Win, led the police team which left for Guangzhou, Guangdong Province, China, from the Yangon International Airport on 12 November. The championship began on 14 November in Guangzhou, with the Chinese Deputy Minister of Public Security, Mr. Wang Xiaohong, opening the ceremony. A total of 250 police officers from 42 member countries and 27 non-member; invited counties participated in the championship. Participants



Myanmar police officers participate in the 2nd USIP World Police Service Pistol Shooting Championship 2018 in Guangzhou, China. **PHOTO: MNA**

competed in 10 categories. Myanmar placed 6th in the non-member countries' double shooting

competition and 9th in the single shooting competition. —MNA ■ (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Myanmar medicine importers, Chinese trade delegation hold talks

A Chinese delegation of medicine and medical equipment producers met with importers from Myanmar in Yangon yesterday. The meeting was aimed at upgrading medicines and equipment for hospitals to meet international standards and provide interna-

tional-level medical services to the people. The Chinese delegation comprised of representatives from companies producing medicines and medical equipment in Zibo City in Shandong Province of China. Before the meeting, Zibo Economy and Trade Branch Of-

fice was opened. At the meeting, the leader of the Shandong delegation, Mr. Mao Zhong Qiang, explained the investment process, while Myanmar businessman U Myo Aung spoke about economic and its related matters. —MNA ■ (Translated by JT)

Myanmar Gazette

Heads of Service Organizations confirmed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on the expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(1) U San Myint	Director-General National Archives Department Ministry of Planning and Finance
(2) Daw Si Si Pyone	Director-General Treasury Department Ministry of Planning and Finance
(3) U Zaw Naing	Director-General Financial Regulatory Department Ministry of Planning and Finance
(4) U Myint Oo	Director-General Revenue Appellate Tribunal Ministry of Planning and Finance

Myanmar Police band plays in World Police Band Concert in Thailand

A 43-member police band led by Police Lt-Col Swan Zarni left Yangon International Airport for Bangkok, Thailand, yesterday morning to participate in the 23rd World Police Band Concert.

The concert will be held in Thailand on 24 and 25 November. The band was seen off by

Myanmar Police Force Chief Police Lt-Gen Aung Win Oo and officials. Myanmar hosted the 22nd World Police Band Concert in 2017. This year, police bands from Thailand, Myanmar, Singapore, and Japan are participating in the concert. —MNA ■ (Translated by Thandar Aung)

Madauk celebrates light festival on river

MADAUK in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, celebrated the final day of the Tazaung-dine festival with the floating of lamps on the Sittoung River yesterday. The floating of oil lamps is an annual event in Madauk.

On the 46th floating lamp event yesterday, locals floated about 45,000 oil lamps in the water. Decorated barges car-

rying the image of Ashin Uppa Guttaw toured along the river. This year's "festival on water" also included boat rowing competitions and traditional song and dance performances. The boat racing events were held in the morning. Food donations were also organized on the morning of the final day. —Ko Ko Nay, Pein Zalok Thein Nyunt ■ (Translated by JT)



Locals release paper lanterns to float on the Shwegyin River during light festival in Shwegyin. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Government spokesperson holds bi-weekly press conference

U Zaw Htay highlights importance of verifying news sources, rationalization in dealing with drug cases

IN a regular bi-weekly press conference held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, Director-General U Zaw Htay, spokesperson from the the Office of the President, explained about the meeting between the President and the Myanmar Press Council - (MPC) held on the same day and the activities of the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department formed under the Office of the President.

Importance of verifying news and sources

U Zaw Htay said when the MPC members took their oath at the Presidential Palace, the President delivered an address that spoke on the code of conduct for media personnel and he also discussed the media's role in the democratic transition.

"The President's Office has sent a notification to MPC because in some news articles they have cited the source as 'a source close to the President's Office'. Citing unnamed sources can become problematic."

"The President discussed this issue with the MPC today. There is a code of conduct for media personnel. We asked them how many sources are needed to relay a news article. They replied that some departments cite two sources, while some departments try to verify the authenticity of the source. We discussed ways to increase verification on news sources."

"We also discussed the news source contributor's right to respond and the media's duty to include it in the news. The MPC discussed about conducting training for the rising number of citizen journalists on social media platforms and how the MPC can disseminate the code of conduct to them, in line with the News



Government spokesperson U Zaw Htay gives the bi-weekly press conference in the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Media Law."

"The first thing we told them is to verify the news source for important news such as those relating to the President and the State Counsellor. Second, we asked them to inform relevant information departments that we will answer and clarify any questions related to the President and the State Counsellor. There are registered correspondents at the Presidential Palace who can be contacted through their chat group and they will reply in a timely manner."

"Third, we told them all news related to the President and the State Counsellor and their offices have a significant political effect within the country and abroad. Hence, if false or unverified news relating to them gets published, there will be numerous complications if we cannot resolve them in time. To prevent that, we told them to inform the informational departments to contact the Presidential Palace first. Ask us to verify or explain the facts. We

requested them to be extra diligent on this matter."

Rationalization in dealing with drug cases

Next, U Zaw Htay talked about the Drug Activity Special Complaint Department and expounded on a drug report concerning Bogale Township.

"Some news and social media have shared about the drug report incident in Bogale Township. We received a report that a family of pepper sauce sellers in that township was secretly selling illegal drugs. But when police searched the house, they didn't find any drugs. Some reports said the family suffered grievances. The officials concerned said it was on orders from the Office of the President."

"We reviewed the case, which can be traced back to 2 July. We received a direct email complaint regarding the Bogale Township family and we handed it over to the Ministry of Home Affairs in the same month. They

conducted the search in November. This drug activity complaint department was opened to effectively handle largely uncontrollable drug incidents. We directly take care of handing over of cases and issuing directions so that no loss is incurred for all parties concerned." "This is personally handled by the President's senior officials and then relayed to the Ministry of Home Affairs. The main intention of the drug complaint department mechanism is to apprehend large-scale drug dealers and drug lords. The home affairs ministry also formed task forces for this endeavour."

"Taking this case as an example, there were some things that needed discussing. First, the drug complaint letters need to be based on actual facts and contain as much detail as possible. We've set guidelines to protect the anonymity and confidentiality of the letter's composer. We want people's suspicions on this to be removed. Even the home affairs ministry doesn't know who sent

the complaint. We kindly request the people to send us authentic, detailed facts as we have these security protocols in place for the complaints." "Second, we want to prioritize large-scale drug cases and cases that regional authorities are incapable or unwilling to handle. Therefore, we want to make sure there are no ownerless cases and stalled or dead-end investigations."

"Third, I want to address the fact that some said it is done on the orders of the Office of the President. The media and civil servants have a code of conduct. Armed personnel also have guidelines on interacting with regular civilians. We want care to be taken from the grassroots level so that there are no misunderstandings."

"What I want to say is, if a complaint was filed because of some form of animosity on another person, then a proper apology should be issued to the people affected. This is the right of the people. Even if it was done in accordance with the law, the relevant security forces need to communicate effectively if any misconduct had occurred. We don't want them to haughtily answer that it was all done on the orders of the Office of the President." "If they say it was done because the line of information was lost, then we have to point out that the report was handed over in July and the actual investigation was conducted in November. This is not coherent. We want to sincerely request the public to understand the situation and to provide cooperation. We request the security forces to adhere to their code of conduct as well."

Director-General U Zaw Htay then answered to questions raised by the attending journalists. —MNA ■

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence campaign to be conducted

AS part of an international campaign, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence, programs will be organised in Myanmar in collaboration with over 24 local and foreign non-government organizations.

The campaign, which runs every year from 25 November to 10 December, will involve several programs to raise awareness to end violence against women and girls this year. A film festival, Forever White Ribbon Film Festival, will

be held in the second part of the campaign. Documentary films and short videos approved by the Film and Video Censor Board will be screened at the festival.

Local and foreign non-government organizations such

as the Gender Equality Network, the Women's Organizations Network (Myanmar), the Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, the Female Pioneer Zone, Sone Cee, Yaung Chi Thit, Phan Tee Eain, FXB Myanmar, Good Shepherd My-

anmar, Pyigy Khin, Triangle Women Group, Precious Stone, Action Aid Myanmar, Kings and Queens, Legal Clinic Myanmar, DAWN, MSI, and KWPN will help organize the events this year.—MNA ■ (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Culture and discipline raise the standard of societies

AVOIDING actions that can harm others or yourself is fundamental to cultural discipline and tradition. A nation's culture and discipline usually prescribe compassion and empathy, and condemn mental and physical abuse and ill-treatment of all living beings.

At their core, religions abound with teachings on compassion and empathy. These concepts become the standards for defining a country's level of culture and civilization.

Myanmar has laid claim to a high standard of culture through successive generations because her people consider maintaining traditional discipline to be the highest virtue.

But, in recent times, it seems this claim to high cultural standards may get lost under the noisy babble of loudspeakers proliferating all across the country.

Our culture may get washed away in the spitting of betel juice on the streets. It may also lose its place when expecting mothers, the elderly, and monks are brushed aside for seating on public transport and in public areas.

Our culture is in danger just as much as the public is in danger from food and medicine containing ingredients detrimental to health.

Our culture is facing a grave threat from hate speeches spewed by ostensible messengers of peace, who further their agenda with the excuse of protecting their society from differing nationalities, beliefs, and ideologies.

Our culture is under threat in the battles being fought between our ethnic brethren and the inappropriate language being flung about on social media.

Our culture may get lost in projects orchestrated by greedy businessmen who are indifferent to the needs of the people.

Ruffians brandishing swords and weapons cause mayhem in cities, townships, towns, villages, and even in homes, demoralizing the public, and decreasing their feeling of security.

Our culture is in danger just as much as the public is in danger from food and medicine containing ingredients detrimental to health.

At the recent ASEAN Food Testing Laboratories Committee (AFTLC) meeting held at the Mercure Mandalay Hill Hotel in Mandalay, the Union Minister for Health and Sports, Dr. Myint Htwe, highlighted the importance of educating people on food safety so they can avoid eating food with adverse health risks and balance their diet to lead a healthy lifestyle.

We cannot raise Myanmar's cultural standards with words alone. It will take individual adherence and effort, community monitoring and protection, firm laws, rules and regulations, and the accountability of those in authority tasked with upholding the rule of law and culture to preserve Myanmar's cultural discipline and traditions, and to bring them to their former glory.

by EC Guru

Remembering history correctly, mobile phone access in Myanmar was at a miserable 2% until 2011. A single SIM card was being retailed at \$600.

At that time, the mobile penetration rate in Thailand was 115%. With the political will and leadership of President U Thein Sein's government, at least eight laws related to telecommunications sector were passed to liberalize the telecom sector, despite protests based on personal interests from sections within the Parliament.

Seven years later, Myanmar is one of the fastest growing market in the mobile telecommunications and in smart phones usage. Based on 2017 statistics, there were 32 million people using smart phones out of the total population of around 53 million. Many licenses have been given out; nationwide telecommunications licenses, network facilities licenses, application service licenses and network service licenses.

Based on internet world statistics, we can compare Myanmar with our neighboring developing country Bangladesh as follows:

End 2017	Bangladesh	Myanmar
Population	167 million	54 million
Internet users	80 million	18 million
Internet Penetration	48%	33%
FB Users	28 million	16 million
FB Penetration	17%	30%

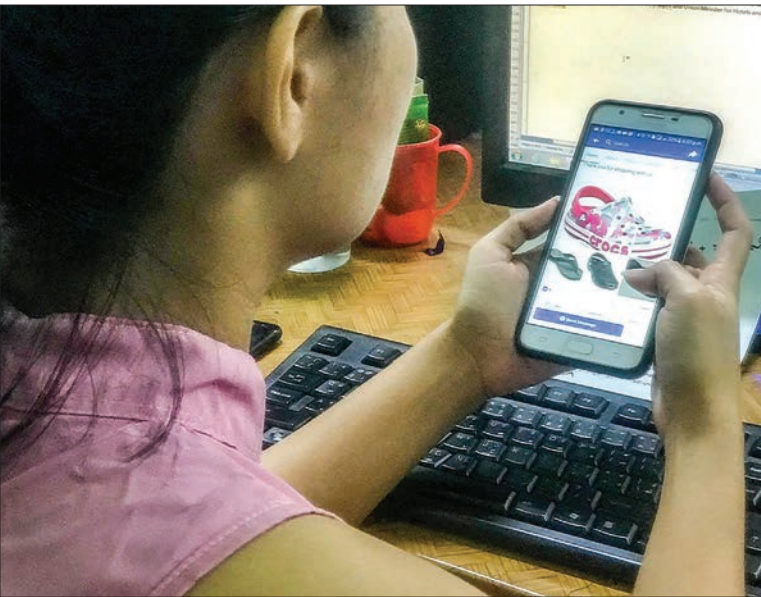
If we remove the elderly and young children from the above, nearly everyone in the whole of Myanmar is now with internet and FB access.

THE FUTURE OF RETAIL

Digital technology is affecting all aspects of our lives, but the retail sector throughout the developed world is experiencing particularly severe turbulence at the moment. There are regular news stories about store closures and job losses on the high street, and the underlying dynamic is not hard to identify: an accelerating shift away from in-store shopping towards e-commerce, particularly via mobile devices (a.k.a. m-commerce), with Amazon and Alibaba taking the lead.

This trend does not necessarily mean that the department stores and supermarkets are heading the way of the dinosaurs. However, the retail market is changing, and those that fail to adapt certainly face decline and even extinction. Myanmar will not be an exception to this trend.

Today you can research a product, compare prices, order and pay for it, and often have it delivered to your door the same or next day — all from a smartphone. All traditional retail businesses based on brick-and-mortar stores urgently need to update their business models for the age of everyone going online.



The Future of Myanmar E-Commerce



There's a wealth of analysis and survey material available online (again!) to elucidate these trends, with suggestions as to how retailers should adapt to them. The bottom line here is retailers in Myanmar have to either use it or lose it.

E-COMMERCE PLAYERS

Myanmar e-commerce market is very much spread out, starting with individuals who sell the wares they no longer need online to large online shops, where one can buy almost everything on their online platforms.

Myanmar online shopping is led by two players namely shop.com.

With government just starting out Myanmar Consumer Union (MCU) for consumer protection, it may be a while before regulations are in place to prevent fraudulent sellers from exploiting consumers in e-commerce space.

mm and rgo47. The former is a 100% foreign-owned entity, previously started by Germany's Rocket Internet. Rocket Internet founded Daraz in 2012 and it operates in Pakistan as well as Bangladesh, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Nepal. Alibaba has acquired the entire Daraz business in first half of 2018. Rumor had it that Myanmar's operations were given away as part of the package deal i.e., Alibaba does not attach any valuation to the Myanmar entity.

The emerging local startup rgo47 has come along way since its early days in 2013, where it started selling clothes through FB promotions. You always associate rgo47 with the reflective stickers at the back of most cars throughout Myanmar. Now standing toe to toe with the global giant, rgo47 may not be able to rely only on its famed customer service to compete. It needs every help it can get not only from investors but also from ardent local shoppers and Myanmar government. Even with distributors in ten regions and more than a thousand smile centers, it can never compete with Alibaba on

the funding front. Offering credit to shoppers through tying up with Mother's Finance and other Microfinance companies may spur its sales, yet it needs an environment to compete on a level playing field.

Many retailers may be tempted to enter into this e-commerce world on their own. It is certainly one of the options. It means setting up a website, an app, hiring programmers and back end support personnel, putting up ads on FB page. This requires money and lots of money, especially to continuously do marketing and promotions to compete. Selling through an already established e-commerce company is way more effective.

CONSUMER PROTECTION

With government just starting out Myanmar Consumer Union (MCU) for consumer protection, it may be a while before regulations are in place to prevent fraudulent sellers from exploiting consumers in e-commerce space.

Prices are marked up much before sales, to make the discount percentage seems higher. The so-called prices of goods on offer are in fact higher than those of what consumers can buy in offline shops. Similar complaints were seen in the comments by consumers on the shop.com.mm FB page. Shop.com.mm is also probably the only size-able online shop that does not open up its customers' review section to public.

The MCU seriously needs to start looking into these practices sooner or later, for protect Myanmar consumers from unscrupulous online (andforeign) shops.

SIZE OF MYANMAR E-COMMERCE MARKET

Even if we take a very conservative estimate of 1% of internet users making online purchases, there are 180,000 active online buyers at present. Based on a recent Myanmar Insider's survey, with an average online transaction value of \$20, even if one user only buy a single time throughout the year, it's \$3.6million market at the very minimum at the moment.

Right now we are on the verge of experiencing an exponential growth in the e-commerce in Myanmar. Currently the market is still less than 0.01% of Myanmar's GDP. In a developed market like the US, e-commerce market represents approximately 2% of the nation's GDP. Even if Myanmar's GDP does not grow (unlikely), e-commerce sector will continue to grow as it is where the future of retail lies. If e-commerce market reaches just 0.1% of the GDP, it will easily capture \$68million sales in 2-3 years time.

This is the future of e-commerce!



Myanmar Daily Weather Report

(Issued on Friday 23 November 2018)

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs M.S.T: During the past (24) hours, rain or thundershowers has been isolated in Kayin State, scattered in Mon State and fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region. Weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Saging Region, Kachin, (Northern and Southern) Shan and Chin states and generally fair in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were about November average temperature in Taninthayi Region, (2°C) above November average temperatures in Chin, Kayin and Mon states, (5°C) below November average temperature in Yangon Region, (3°C) to (4°C) below November average temperatures in Lower Sagaing Region and Northern Shan State and (2°C) below November average temperatures in the remaining regions and states. The significant night temperatures were (1°C) in Haka, (3°C) each in Heho and Ramthlo, (6°C) each in Hsipaw and Tiddim, (7°C) each in Pinlaung and Loiin. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Launglon (2.64) inches, Dawei (2.33)inches, Yay (1.02)inches, Myeik (0.79)inch, Chaungzon (0.59)inch, Paung (0.51) inch and Kyeikmayaw (0.16)inch.

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair over the East Central Bay and a few cloud to partly cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL AFTERNOON OF 24 November, 2018: Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Taninthayi Region and isolated in Kachin, Kayin and Mon states. Degree of certainty is (80%). Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions 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 in off and along Myanmar Coasts.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of likelihood of rain or thundershowers in Taninthayi Region.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24 November 2018: Generally fair weather.

WEATHER OUTLOOK FOR WEEKEND: Weather will be generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Region, partly cloudy in Yangon Region.

Invitation to young writers for Sunday Special

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

Card. Charles Bo to head Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences



CARDINAL Charles Bo, the Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Yangon, has been elected as the next president of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences (FABC) and will assume office on 1 January, 2019.

The decision to appoint him was made at the FABC's central committee meeting in Bangkok on 16 November.

Cardinal Charles Bo said when he assumes office as the

FABC President, he will facilitate discussions for the unemployed, the poor, and people of different faiths in Myanmar's peace process.

Cardinal Charles Bo will take over as FABC president from Indian Cardinal Oswald Gracias.

Father Morris Nyunt Wai, executive secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of Yangon, said it is an honor to see the cardinal elected as

FABC President, and remarked that he would have to shoulder greater responsibilities.

Father Dominic, secretary to Cardinal Charles Bo, said the cardinal's assuming office as FABC President will involve increased duties. He said it will involve facilitating the unity of catholic dioceses throughout Asia and elevating living standards of the people.

Card. Charles Bo was made the first cardinal of Myanmar in

January 2015. There are over 1.3 billion Roman Catholics and 200 cardinals around the world.

Pope Francis, the current pope and head of the Vatican City State, made his first visit to Myanmar in November 2017. He met with Catholic followers in Myanmar and celebrated the nation's first-ever papal mass.

—Nandar Win ■

(Translated by
Zaw Htet Oo)

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs inspects border area development in Danu Self-Administered Zone

DEPUTY Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut inspected the completion status of constructing Shawpin-Linleinn-Melneltaung road (2/3) mile gravel road constructed with first six months fund from the fiscal year 2018-2019, the constructions undergoing at Ywangan-Mhyar Kalay (1/0) mile gravel road, Yanel-Taungoo-Satchan (1/0) mile gravel road, Phaungpyar-Myaynigone-Taung Chun-War Pyar road (1/0) mile gravel road and Shwepah-toe-Pansit-Kyankhinmyaung

(2/0) mile earth road on 22 November.

The Deputy Minister and party inspected the completion status of constructing water supply service in Thayetkone (North) Village, Pindaya Township constructed with first six months fund from fiscal year 2018-2019, work programme of access to electricity in Thayetkone (South) Village, Mine Inn (Nepal) Village School, water gallons 600 sized dispenser and gallons 5000 sized dispenser and 450 ft water pipeline for the village.

The access to water will benefit 30 houses, 30 households, and 164 people. The Deputy Minister and party met and encouraged teachers, staffs, and students from Border Nationalities Development Training School in Pindaya Township and gave financial aid. They then inspected the construction processes of school, hostels for students, kitchen, dining room and planting seasonal fruits and ordered the necessities. —MNA ■

(Translated by
Myat Thandar Aung)



Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut inspects the completed section of the Shawpin-Linleinn-Melneltaung gravel road in Danu Self-Administered Zone. **PHOTO: MNA**

Writers Pho Kyawt, U Tun Ye (Archaeology) win 2017 Lifelong National Literary Awards

As a gesture of acknowledging the dedication of lifelong promoters of literature in the country, the National Literary Award Selection Committee of the Ministry of Information announced that Sayagyi Pho Kyawt and Writer U Tun Ye (Archaeology) have been honoured with the Lifelong National Literary Awards for 2017.

Based on a proposed list submitted by the 18 sub-committees, the winners were chosen in an open and transparent way in the presence of the literati who are responsible for approving the winners of the National Literary Awards.

The Lifelong National Literary Awards were given out since 2001. Recipients of the award include Sithu U Hla Kyaing (Paragu) (deceased), Sithu U Htin Phat (Maung Htin) (deceased), Sithu U Htay Maung (Htay Maung), Sithu U Lay Myaing (Lay Myaing), Sithu Daw Yin Yin (Saw Mon Nyin) (deceased), Sithu Daw Kyan (Ma Kyan), Sithu U Kyi Aye (Sin Phyu Kyun Aung Thein), Sithu

Dr. Kyaw Sein (deceased), Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Sithu Dr. Thaw Kaung, U Win Maung (Min Yu Wai), Daw Khin Swe Oo (Khin Swe Oo), U Aung Thin (Aung Thin) (deceased), U Tin Maung (Theikpan Hmu Tin) (deceased), Dr. Khin Aye (Maung Khin Min – Danubyu), Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Lae Twin Thar Saw Chit), U Myint Kyi (Teikkatho Myat Soe), U Win Pe (Mya Zin), U Khin Maung Soe (Maung Paw Tun), U Ko Lay (Ko Lay Inn Wa Gone Yi), U Aung Khant (Teikkatho Win Mon) (deceased), U Tin Kha (Teikkatho Tin Kha), U Tha Noe (Maung Tha Noe), U Than Tun (Thein Than Tun) and U Kyaw Win (Nyo Win).

The prize money for the Lifelong National Literary Awards were initially Ks 600,000, and has gradually increased to Ks 5 million as of this year. The awarding ceremony of the Lifelong National Literary Award will be held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon on 8 December 2018. —MNA

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Winners of Sarpay Beikman Manuscript awards announced

THE Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Selection Committee announced the winners of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Awards for 2017.

The Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for novel genre went to Ko Sat Pe while the second award of the same genre went to Ko Lwin Bo (anaesthetic) and the third to Kyaw Khant.

Kyaw Lwin (Sathmu), Min Htet Myaing and A-kariz won the first, second and third awards for the collected short stories genre

respectively for 2017.

In the collected poems genre, Hsan Lwin (Myanmarsar), San Myintmoh and Maung Kyi Nwe (Pinlebu) won the first, second and third awards respectively.

The first and second award of the art genre went to Lwin Myanmar (Mann Takkatho) and Zaw Lwin Oo (Hinthada) respectively.

The first, second and third awards of the science and applied science genre went to Pantanaw

Khin Maung Myint, Maung Aung (Vet) and U Soe Han respectively.

The committee selected Thaug Nyunt Thit for the second award winner of the article genre and Maung Thar Lin for the third award winner.

In the Myanmar culture and art literature genre, Aung Pan Wai (LLB) won the second award and Shwenyarthar Myat Min the third.

In the child literature genre, Kanbalu Khin Maung Swe won the first award while Nandar

Moe Kyal and Naing Myint won the second and third awards respectively.

In the youth literature genre, Kaytu Maung Nyo Lin won the second award and Maung Nay Chi (Pyi) the third.

In the play genre, Maung Lwe Eik won the third award.

The first award of the translation literature genre went to Di Pan Lin.

The first prize winners in each category will receive K 1 million, the first runners up, K

700,000 and the second runners up will receive K 500,000. The winners were selected from the 316 manuscripts submitted to the committee.

The winners are urged to send two passport photos and curriculum vitae to the committee and to contact the management and supporting committee for presentation of the Sarpay-beikman Ph: 01-381449. The awarding ceremony will be held on 8-12-2018 (Saturday) at the National Theatre in Yangon.—MNA

NATIONAL

Winners of 2017 National Literature Awards announced

THE National Literature Awards Selection Committee announced the winners of the National Literature Award for 2017.

The National Literature Award for novel genre went to Lu Kar. Tint Zaw won collected short stories genre award, Ma Nitar won collected poems genre award. Tin Nyunt won the article collections genre award, Sabel Phyu Nu won award for children's literature genre. Lin

Htet Swe won translated literature genre award, Su Twin Tint Zaw won translated fiction genre award, and Sin Phyu Kyun Than Tun fiction collection (weikza) genre award. Maung Maung Soe won the political literature genre award, Dr. Khin Let Yar won English literature genre award, and Maung Yint Mar won collection of fiction papers genre award.

The National Literature Award initially conferred Ks

300,000 as the cash prize but has gradually increased it to Ks 500,000 in 2011, Ks 1 million in 2012, Ks 1.5 million in 2013 and to Ks 2.5 million this year.

The National Literature Awards Selection Committee is comprised of 65 members who are experts and professionals in their respective fields in the printing and publishing field.

The National Literature Awards winners are requested to contact the Literature

Award Management and Support Committee by phone (01-381449) or at their address at No. 529-531 in Sarpay Beikman building, Merchant Road, Yangon, as soon as possible. Winners are urged to send two 5x7 color photos, two passport size color photos and a brief biography of themselves within one week starting from the announcement date. —MNA ■ (Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

NEWS IN BRIEF

6 killed, 20 injured in blast in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least 6 people were killed and 20 others injured when a bomb went off in Pakistan's northwest tribal region of Orakzai Agency on Friday, local media reported.

According to reports, the blast happened at the main gate of a seminary in the lower part of Orakzai Agency, one of Pakistan's seven mountainous tribal regions located near the Pakistan-Afghan border. Following the explosion, rescue teams along with security forces have rushed to the blast site and the injured people have been shifted to the nearest hospital. Several among the injured people were in critical condition, said the hospital sources. —Xinhua ■

S Korea's trade terms worsen for 11 months on expensive crude oil

SEOUL — South Korea's terms of trade worsened for the 11th consecutive month on an expensive crude oil, central bank data showed Friday.

The net terms-of-trade index for goods stood at 92.78 in October, down 8.8 per cent from a year earlier, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). The index refers to the amount of imports that can be bought with the unit-export proceeds. The figure kept falling since December last year amid the higher global crude oil price, marking the lowest in almost four years. —Xinhua ■

18 die in Nepal after bus plunges into gorge

KATHMANDU — A passenger bus carrying villagers returning from a local fair skidded off a mountain road and fell into a gorge in western Nepal on Thursday night leaving 18 dead and injuring 23, police said Friday.

The accident happened in mountainous Dadeldhura district, some 500 kilometers northwest of capital Kathmandu. "The bus was trapped in a gorge 300 meters down the road," the district's police chief Dambar Chhetri told Kyodo News by phone. "Ten people died on the spot. Eight more died in the course of treatment," he added. Among the fatalities are 13 men and five women. —Kyodo News ■

Migrants defy Trump at Mexico border as US forces flex muscle

TIJUANA (Mexico) — Hundreds of Central American migrants staged a boisterous demonstration on the US Mexico border Thursday, screaming for President Donald Trump to let them in as US soldiers and riot police put on a menacing show of force.

The increased tension over the presence of a thousands-strong migrant caravan came as Trump marked Thanksgiving Day by threatening to close the border if he thinks Mexico has lost control of it.

Vehicle and pedestrian traffic at the busy San Ysidro crossing came to a halt for 40 minutes as dozens of US police wearing helmets and holding rifles formed a line facing the Mexican side of the frontier. Separately, riot police rehearsed deployment movements. US Customs and Border Protection called all of this a "large-scale readiness exercise."

American soldiers in khaki-colored uniforms set off rockets that exploded with a pungent-smelling white smoke. Helicopters hovered overhead.

Trump has already deployed nearly 6,000 troops along the border and on Thursday he threatened to go even further.

"If we find that it gets to a level where we are going to lose control or where people are going to start getting hurt, we will close entry into the country for a period of time until we can get it under control," Trump told reporters, before firing a warning to Mexico.

"The whole border. I mean the whole border," he said, adding that "Mexico will not be able to sell their cars into the United



US border control agents stand in formation during a show of force as Central American migrants mass on the other side of the frontier. PHOTO: AFP

States."

At almost the same time as the police and troop exercise, at another nearby border crossing called El Chaparral, Central American migrants from the caravan emptying into Tijuana defied the president with a loud rally.

"Open the gates, Trump! We are not looking for war, but work," shouted Alberto Ruiz, a 22-year-old Honduran.

After a trek of more than a month from Honduras, nearly 5,000 migrants have been living in a makeshift shelter fashioned from an open air sports arena. It rained Wednesday night, drenching their mattresses and other belongings.

"Let's go to the border! There we can pressure Trump. We are only wasting time and strength at the shelter," Car-

los Rodriguez, also Honduran, yelled into a bullhorn.

'A special day'

"Today is a special day. It is Thanksgiving in the United States. They are not going to lynch us," he said as a crowd applauded and screamed in support.

As the chill of night set in, dozens of migrants lugged their wet belongings from the shelter and set up a new camp right in the middle of a street near the El Chaparral crossing.

Authorities in Tijuana have set up a job fair in an attempt to recruit skilled workers from among the migrants for the benefit of local companies, while Mexico's migration agency has offered them temporary residency papers.

Some have taken advan-

tage of the offers but others are simply determined to reach the US.

Since setting out more than a month ago, mostly from Honduras, thousands of migrants -- including many women and children -- have covered about 4,400 kilometers (2,700 miles), either walking or hitchhiking, before the first groups began reaching Tijuana at the end of last week.

But there have been tensions since they started arriving at the border town, with some locals fearing crime and violence.

The migrants are mostly fleeing poverty and unrest in Central America's "Northern Triangle" — El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras, where gang violence has fuelled some of the highest murder rates in the world. — AFP ■

Four killed as gunmen attack Chinese consulate in Karachi

KARACHI (Pakistan) — Four people were killed on Friday when gunmen armed with hand grenades and a suicide vest stormed the Chinese consulate in the Pakistani city of Karachi, officials said, with the attack claimed by a separatist group which branded Beijing “an oppressor”.

Pakistani authorities said that security forces had secured the area after the attack, the latest assault on Chinese nationals in the country, where Beijing has poured billions of dollars into one of the largest projects in its massive Belt and Road programme.

China “strongly condemned” the attack and asked Pakistan to take measures to ensure the safety of Chinese citizens and institutions in the country, as well as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) mega-project.

Three gunmen tried to enter the consulate in the southern port city, but were intercepted by guards at a checkpoint, Karachi police chief Ameer Sheikh told AFP. “They were holding Kalashnikovs. First, they hurled a small (grenade) and then started firing,” said Allah Bakhsh, a guard at a nearby house who witnessed the attack.

Police officials said two of their personnel were killed, along with a father and son from Quetta, the capital of Balochistan, who were seeking Chinese visas and were caught in the crossfire.

At least one of the attackers



Two policemen along with a father and son from Quetta who were seeking Chinese visas were killed in the attack. **PHOTO: AFP**

was wearing a suicide vest which did not detonate, another senior police official said.

Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi told reporters in Islamabad that “all the terrorists have been eliminated”, and that all 21 staff at the consulate during the attack had been taken to a safe location. “Situation under control,” the military’s media wing added in a statement.

China is an ‘oppressor’

The attack was claimed by a separatist militant group from Pakistan’s southwestern province of Balochistan, which is at the centre of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, the major Chinese project in the country.

“We have been seeing the Chinese as an oppressor, along with Pakistani forces,” the spokesman for the Balochistan

Liberation Army (BLA), Geand Baloch, told AFP by telephone from an undisclosed location, adding they were “destroying the future of Balochistan”.

The BLA later emailed a statement to media in which it said the attack was “aimed at making it clear that China’s military expansionism on Baloch soil will not be tolerated”.

It warned the Chinese to leave or “be prepared for continued attacks”. The group is just one of the militant outfits operating in Balochistan, Pakistan’s largest and poorest province, which is rife with ethnic, sectarian and separatist insurgencies. Residents of the resource-rich province, which borders Iran and Afghanistan, have long complained that it does not receive a fair share of the profits made from its mineral wealth.

Prime Minister Imran Khan said Friday’s attack would not undermine the Pakistan-China relationship, which he described in a statement as “mightier than Himalayas and deeper than Arabian Sea”. Also on Friday a bomb hidden in a carton of vegetables killed at least 20 people at a marketplace in Pakistan’s northwestern tribal region. Dozens more people were wounded, with fears the toll could rise.

Chinese investment

China, one of Pakistan’s closest allies, has poured billions into the South Asian country in recent years as part of CPEC, a massive infrastructure project that seeks to connect its western province Xinjiang with the Arabian Sea port of Gwadar in Balochistan.

The project is one of the largest in Beijing’s “One Belt One

Road” initiative, comprising a network of roads and sea routes involving 65 countries.

Pakistan sees the project as a “gamechanger”, but it presents an enormous challenge in a country plagued by weak institutions, endemic corruption and a range of insurgencies in areas slated to host the corridor.

The subject of economic dividends from CPEC is extremely sensitive in some of those areas — particularly in Balochistan.

Since the beginning of the project militants have repeatedly attacked construction sites, blowing up numerous gas pipelines and trains, and targeted Chinese workers. In August this year three Chinese nationals were among six wounded in a suicide attack on a bus transporting Chinese engineers working in Balochistan, in an attack that was also claimed by the BLA.

The Pakistani military has been targeting insurgencies in the province since 2004, and has been repeatedly accused by international rights groups of abuses there.

Islamabad regularly accuses its eastern neighbour India of funding and arming Baloch separatists, and of targeting development projects in the province, particularly CPEC.

India’s foreign ministry swiftly condemned Friday’s attack in a statement, saying: “There can be no justification whatsoever for any act of terrorism”. —AFP ■

Escaping death and rebirth on Varanasi’s sacred riverbanks

VARANASI (India) — Boats loaded with wood arrive almost constantly at the ghats of Varanasi for around 200 cremations per day on the banks of India’s holy Ganges river. Each pyre needs between 200 and 400 kilogrammes (440 and 880 pounds) of wood, meaning the sacred city in northern India burns through as much as 80 tonnes every day.

To reduce the volume used, as well as air and water pollution, authorities have tried to push the use of alternative burning materials such as cow-dung.

But without much success.

“People have to be sensitised about the emissions caused by wood burning. Only then can this issue be tackled,” said Vivek Chattopadhyay, pollution expert at the Centre for Science and En-



Boats loaded with wood arrive almost constantly at the famous ghats of Varanasi for around 200 cremations per day. **PHOTO: AFP**

vironment.

For centuries Hindus have visited Varanasi to cremate their dead so that they can achieve “moksha”, the release from the cycle of death and rebirth.

As the bodies wrapped in white shroud and marigold flow-

ers turn to ash, the remains are collected and sprinkled in the river. At the ghats, the Doms — caretakers of the cremation grounds — pass flaming torches to the families of the deceased, who ignite the wooden pyres dotting the riverside. —AFP ■

South Korea closes biggest dog slaughterhouse complex

SEOUL (South Korea) — South Korean officials on Thursday began to dismantle the country’s largest canine slaughterhouse complex, as animal rights activists push to end the custom of eating dog meat.

About one million dogs are eaten a year in South Korea, often as a summertime delicacy with the greasy red meat — invariably boiled for tenderness — believed to increase energy.

But the tradition has earned criticism abroad and has declined as the nation increasingly embraces the idea of dogs as pets instead of livestock, with eating them now something of a taboo among young South Koreans.

The Taepyeong-dong complex in Seongnam city, south of Seoul, housed at least six dog

slaughterhouses that could hold several hundred animals at a time, and was a major source for dog meat restaurants across the country.

It will be cleared over two days and transformed into a public park, Seongnam city officials said.

Slaughterhouse operators reportedly used the site for decades without proper authorisations, and after a years-long legal battle a Seoul court ruled the city council could force out the businesses.

Animal rights campaigners slammed the operators for mistreating dogs and killing them cruelly — including electrocuting them before butchering them in the sight of other caged dogs. —AFP ■

Greenhouse gas levels in atmosphere hit new high: UN

LONDON — The levels of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the main driver of climate change, have hit a new record high, the UN said Thursday, warning that the time to act was running out.

Ahead of the COP 24 climate summit in Poland next month, top United Nations officials are again trying to raise the pressure on governments to meet the pledge of limiting warming to the less than two degrees Celsius, enshrined in the 2015 Paris accord.

“Without rapid cuts in CO₂ and other greenhouse gases, climate change will have increasingly destructive and irreversible impacts on life on Earth,” the head of the World Meteorological Organization Petteri Taalas said in a statement.

“The window of opportunity for action is almost closed.”

The Greenhouse Gas Bulletin, the UN weather agency’s annual flagship report, tracks the content of dangerous gases in the atmosphere since 1750.

This year’s report, which covers data for 2017, puts the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere at 405.5 parts per million (ppm). That is up from 403.3 ppm in 2016 and 400.1 ppm in 2015.

“The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of



‘The last time the Earth experienced a comparable concentration of CO₂ was 3-5 million years ago,’ World Meteorological Organization chief Petteri Taalas said. **PHOTO: AFP**

CO₂ was 3-5 million years ago, when the temperature was 2-3°C warmer,” Taalas said. Researchers have reliable estimates of CO₂ concentrations rates going back 800,000 years using air bubbles preserved in ice in Greenland and Antarctica.

But by studying fossilised material the WMO also has rough CO₂ estimates going back up to five million years.

In addition to CO₂, the UN agency also highlighted rising levels of methane, nitrous oxide and another powerful ozone depleting gas known as CFC-11.

‘No magic wand’

Emissions are the main factor that deter-

mines the amount of greenhouse gas levels, but concentration rates are a measure of what remains after a series of complex interactions between atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, cryosphere and the oceans.

Roughly 25 per cent of all emissions are currently absorbed by the oceans and biosphere — a term that accounts for all ecosystems on Earth.

The UN’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has said that in order to keep warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius, net CO₂ emissions must be at net zero, meaning the amount being pumped into the atmosphere must equal the amount being

removed, either through natural absorption or technological innovation.

WMO’s deputy chief, Elena Manaenkova, noted that CO₂ remains in the atmosphere and oceans for hundreds of years.

“There is currently no magic wand to remove all the excess CO₂ from the atmosphere,” she said.

“Every fraction of a degree of global warming matters, and so does every part per million of greenhouse gases,” she said.

According to the UN, 17 of the 18 hottest years on record have occurred since 2001, while the cost of climate-related disasters in 2017 topped \$500 billion (439 billion euros). —AFP ■

No room for climate delay, UN chief tells online summit

MAJURO (Marshall Islands) — The world is not moving fast enough to curb global warming and needs immediate action to address the issue, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told an online climate change conference Thursday.

Guterres issued the call to arms ahead of next month’s COP24 climate talks in the southern Polish city of Katowice, which will attempt to revive a global climate deal reached in Paris in 2015.

Addressing the Virtual Climate Summit, Guterres urged world leaders to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial levels.

He praised the online summit, which has been organised by the Marshall Islands using online technology to remain carbon neutral, as an example of the innovative thinking needed to combat climate change.

“We need more such creativity to transform our economy and limit global warming to as close to 1.5°C as possible,” he said.

“Climate change is moving faster than we are and we cannot afford any more delays.

The world counts on all nations to ensure that next month’s climate conference in Poland is a success.”

Former US vice president Al Gore said the way humanity was treating the planet was “unimaginable”.

“We’re still pouring 110 million tonnes of global warming pollution into the atmosphere around our planet like it’s an open sewer,” the Nobel laureate said.

“All of the extra energy trapped by man-made global warming pollution... is now equal to the amount of heat energy that would be released from 500,000 Hiroshima-class atomic bombs exploding on Earth every single day.”

UN General Assembly president Maria Fernanda Espinosa had her own bleak statistics, telling the online gathering that carbon dioxide levels were now the highest in 800,000 years.

She also pointed out that 17 of the 18 hottest years on record had occurred since 2001 and that the cost of climate-related disasters in 2017 topped \$500 billion.

Yet Espinosa said it was not too late to act.

“When numbers such as these cause us to panic, there are other reasons to be encouraged,” she said.

“My message today is not one of dismay but one of hope — that we can come together as a global community and work as one to protect and heal our planet and preserve it for future generations.” —AFP ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1094 S/N)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NINOS VOY. NO. (1094 S/N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (1837/1838)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SAN GIORGIO VOY. NO. (1837/1838) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V AS FIONA VOY. NO. (002 W/E)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V AS FIONA VOY. NO. (002 W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Back stage, Paris Opera keeps venerable crafts alive

PARIS — At the Paris Opera, people often say that for the curtain to rise on its stars, the talents of 100 different trades are needed behind the scenes.

Thanks to an academy, founded in 2015, to preserve some of those specialised crafts, Brazilian Tulio Morais will finally realise his dream of learning to make ballet tutus.

Every year, around 40 students like Morais train in skills such as costume making, wig design and tapestry, as well as lyrical singing and music, at the heart of the opera company, which celebrates its 350th anniversary next year.

While other opera houses have workshops in singing and sewing, Paris Opera, the largest in Europe, is the “only one in the world that teaches such a large number of arts”, Myriam Mazouzi, the academy director, told AFP.

The concept is to pass on the knowledge of these crafts at risk of disappearing to already experienced professionals who can safeguard the know-how.

“In some sectors it was a real

struggle to recruit people,” the director said. In the female costume department at the opera’s historic Palais Garnier site in central Paris, tutor and workshop head Anne-Marie Legrand promises Morais that he will soon put together his first tutu for “Swan Lake” in January.

She runs him through the process, from costume design to fitting and adjusting the volumes.

“I always dreamed of making timeless clothes,” says Morais, who is discovering new stitching and finishing techniques.

With ready-to-wear collections, “it lasts six months, a costume on stage, it’s for life”.

Bygone hairstyles

Nearby, dozens of white tutus are hanging up in a historic room known as “central”.

“There are very few people in the world who know” how to make this emblematic ballet skirt, which was first created at Paris Opera in the 19th century, Legrand said. “There is no real school for this,” she added.

According to the director,



Every year, around 40 students train in skills such as costume making, wig design and tapestry, as well as lyrical singing and music, at the Paris Opera. **PHOTO: AFP**

fashion designer Christian Lacroix said that the Paris Opera was the only place in the world that really knows how to work with tulle fabric.

Legrand said that when she joined the Paris Opera 36 years ago, tutu making was a jealously guarded secret, transmitted from seamstress to seamstress.

“Someone needs to guide you” in gathering the pleats and layers of the tutu, she said.

In another workshop, a tutor runs through the intricacies of wig making and student Camille Laurent learns to distinguish styles from 1830 and 1850.

“When I tell people I am a

wig maker, they say to me: ‘You’re a what?’” she laughs.

Her teacher, Clothilde Loosveldt, shows how to implant hair, strand by strand, with a hook and create the long wigs of rigid tight curls popular among men in the 18th century.

One wig can take 10 days to make. “If the volume is not good, if the bun is not the right height, then we can easily slip from one era to another,” said the wigmaker who has worked at the Paris Opera for 20 years.

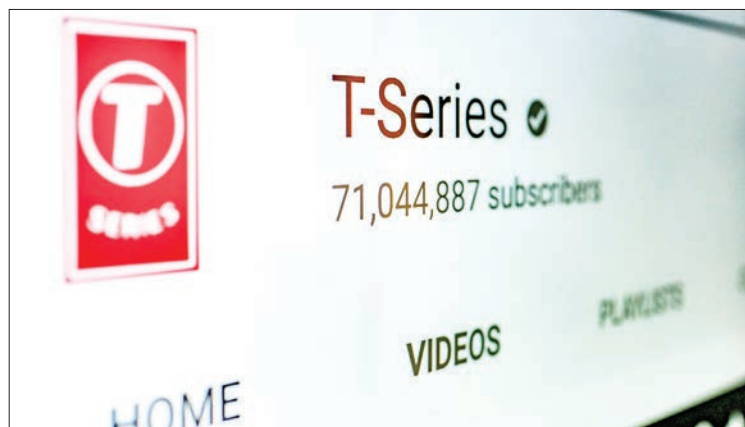
‘Codes and habits’

At the Paris Opera’s Bastille site, violinist Marin Lamacque,

24, rehearses a difficult score of music from Verdi’s opera “Simon Boccanegra”. His tutor Thibault Vieux urges him to play with more emphasis. As well as working directly on a production, the school also “passes on the codes, the habits” that belong just to the Paris Opera, Vieux said.

“We play Tosca like this, and Carmen like that,” he said. “Often the teachers of our teachers worked together with the composers.” As an example, he quoted the three-act opera “Dialogues des Carmelites” (Dialogues of the Carmelites) created at the Paris Opera by Francis Poulenc in 1956. —AFP ■

Bollywood music giant T-Series to take YouTube top-spot from PewDiePie



T-Series is edging closer to overtaking vlogger PewDiePie for channel subscribers on YouTube. **PHOTO: AFP**

MUMBAI — A Bollywood music giant is on course to overtake controversial Swedish vlogger PewDiePie at the top of the YouTube channel subscribers chart in the coming days in a new landmark for India’s digital rise.

T-Series will become the first non-English-language channel to hold top spot on the world’s most popular video platform as smartphone ownership soars in the country of 1.25 billion people.

“We’re very excited, for the organisation and for India. An Indian channel becoming number one is a big compliment for the

entire country,” T-Series chairman Bhushan Kumar told AFP.

Few outside the Indian diaspora will know T-Series’ typically upbeat song and dance videos, but they are already the most-watched on YouTube. They have been seen more than 53 billion times, again beating PewDiePie — whose videos have notched just over 19 billion views — as well as Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift.

The Swede, whose real name is Felix Kjellberg, has had the highest number of subscribers for five years during which he has regularly been in hot water

over his videos. In September last year he apologised after he was heard using a racial slur in an expletive-laden rant against an opponent while playing a live-streamed computer game.

Earlier in 2017 he lost contracts with YouTube and Disney over anti-Semitic comments. He was temporarily blocked from Twitter in 2016 after joking he had joined the Islamic State group.

‘World recognition’

With T-Series rapidly closing in, fans of the Swedish gamer have rallied to push up his subscriber numbers in recent days but that will likely only delay the inevitable. On Thursday both had over 71 million subscribers. PewDiePie was ahead by around 150,000 with T-Series expected to overtake it in coming days.

“It will give us recognition all over the globe,” chairman Kumar said. The company, one of India’s biggest record labels, operates 29 channels in Hindi, Tamil, Punjabi and other languages. It also airs health fitness videos and children’s cartoons. —AFP ■

7.5-km-long art project welcomes Christmas on UK railways

LONDON — An art project 7.5 kilometers long will this year mark the run-up to Christmas on Britain’s railways, and help tackle the problem of suicide.

Well-known lines from one of the most famous of all Christmas movies will be painted on the platforms at more than a dozen of the large stations in Britain.

The lines are from the American movie “It’s a Wonderful Life”, which was made in 1946 and starred Jimmy Stewart as a disillusioned small-town estate agent who tries to commit suicide on Christmas Eve, because he believes his business is a failure.

He is stopped from drowning by the intervention of a charming but incompetent angel called Clarence, who reveals to him the positive effect he has had on his community by showing him what would have happened to it had he not been there.

If the lines were all written out in one line they would stretch for 7.5 kilometers, and the project has been organized by rail firm

Virgin Trains and mental health charity Rethink Mental Illness.

James Fletcher, head of corporate partnerships at Rethink Mental Illness said: “It is vital at this time of year to let people know that help is available if they need it — this campaign highlights the need for this support at a time of the year which can be difficult for some of us, and we are proud to be part of it.”

The lines from the film will be painted on the platform edges to remind people that there is hope, and to make them think again if they are contemplating suicide.

The lines will be painted at major stations connecting England to Scotland starting on Thursday at the major London terminal Euston.

Lines will be added between now and Christmas at major stations including Birmingham New Street, Crewe, Liverpool Lime Street, Manchester Piccadilly, Preston, Carlisle and Glasgow. —Xinhua ■

First human remains found in El Salvador's 'Mayan Pompeii'

SAN SALVADOR (El Salvador) — Human remains have been discovered for the first time in El Salvador's Joya de Ceren, a city buried by a volcanic eruption more than 1,400 years ago and sometimes dubbed the "Mayan Pompeii," the ministry of culture said Thursday.

A skeleton, which was in poor condition, was discovered at the beginning of November, buried with an obsidian knife at the UNESCO World Heritage archaeological site located about 20 miles (35 kilometers) north of the capital San Salvador.

The person "probably lived in the city but was not killed by the eruption" of the Loma Caldera volcano, archaeologist Michelle Toledo said.

Toledo added that researchers believed the remains date to

the Late Classic period of Mesoamerica because of the presence of fine white tephra, known as "Tierra Blanca Joven" (young white earth) resulting from the volcanic eruption around 535 AD.

The cataclysmic eruption of the Loma Caldera volcano destroyed numerous Mayan sites and was responsible for the formation of Lake Ilopango, with an area of 27.8 square miles (72 square kilometers).

The remains are the first to be discovered in more than 40 years of excavations.

Like Pompeii and Herculaneum in Italy, the remains of Joya de Ceren were discovered in exceptional condition, providing a rare insight into the Mayan way of life including rituals, agriculture, trade, governance and eating habits. —AFP ■



Like Pompeii and Herculaneum in Italy, the remains of Joya de Ceren were discovered in exceptional condition, providing a rare insight into the Mayan way of life including rituals, agriculture, trade, governance and eating habits. PHOTO: AFP

New edible cricket species discovered in Kenya

SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt) — Researchers said on Wednesday that they have discovered a new edible cricket with great promise for human consumption with mass production. This new edible cricket can be an alternative protein ingredient, said Tanga Mbi, a scientist of the International Center of Insect Physiology and Ecology (ICIPE) during the 14th meeting of Convention on Biological Diversity held in Egypt.

"There is no available scientific information of this new species now, because it is erroneously recognized as *Acheta domesticus*, a different cricket species," Mbi explained to Xinhua, adding that they are actually named "*Scapsipedus icipe*" in farms across Kenya. He said

that their study focuses on the species' habitat, molecular and morphological characterization, and acoustic behavior including male's call and courtship song, current distribution in Kenya and nutritional profile.

Mbi said that the discovery is important as it will enable the development of rearing techniques and ultimately the effective incorporation of the species as a component in food and feed. He revealed that *Scapsipedus icipe*, which is commonly found around the buildings and fields, is characterized by a distinctive yellow band between the eyes. This is different from other species within the genus *Scapsipedus* by a characteristic call and territorial nature of its males. —Xinhua ■

NASA counts down to landing of Martian quake-sensor, InSight

TAMPA (United States) — NASA is counting down to a nail-biting touchdown Monday of the \$993 million Mars InSight, the first spacecraft to listen for quakes and study the inner workings of another rocky planet.

No one is on board the spacecraft, which launched nearly seven months ago and has traveled some 300 million miles (482 million kilometers).

But part of its mission is to inform efforts to one day send human explorers to the Red Planet, which NASA hopes to do by the 2030s.

The lander is the first to reach Mars since 2012, when NASA's Curiosity rover touched down to scour the surface and analyze rocks for signs that life forms may once have inhabited Earth's neighbor, now a frigid and dry planet.

InSight must survive tense entry into Mars' atmosphere, traveling at a speed of 12,300 miles (19,800 kilometers) per hour and swiftly slowing to just five mph (eight kph).

This entry, descent and landing phase begins at 11:47 am in California (1947 GMT) — and is only half-jokingly referred to at NASA as "Six and a Half Minutes of Terror."

Of 43 missions launched toward Mars, only 18 have made it intact — a success rate of around 40 per cent. All those that made it came from the United States.

"Going to Mars is really, really hard," said Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for the NASA science mission directorate.

"The exciting part is we are building on the success of the best team that has ever landed on this planet, which is the NASA team with its contractors and its collaborators."

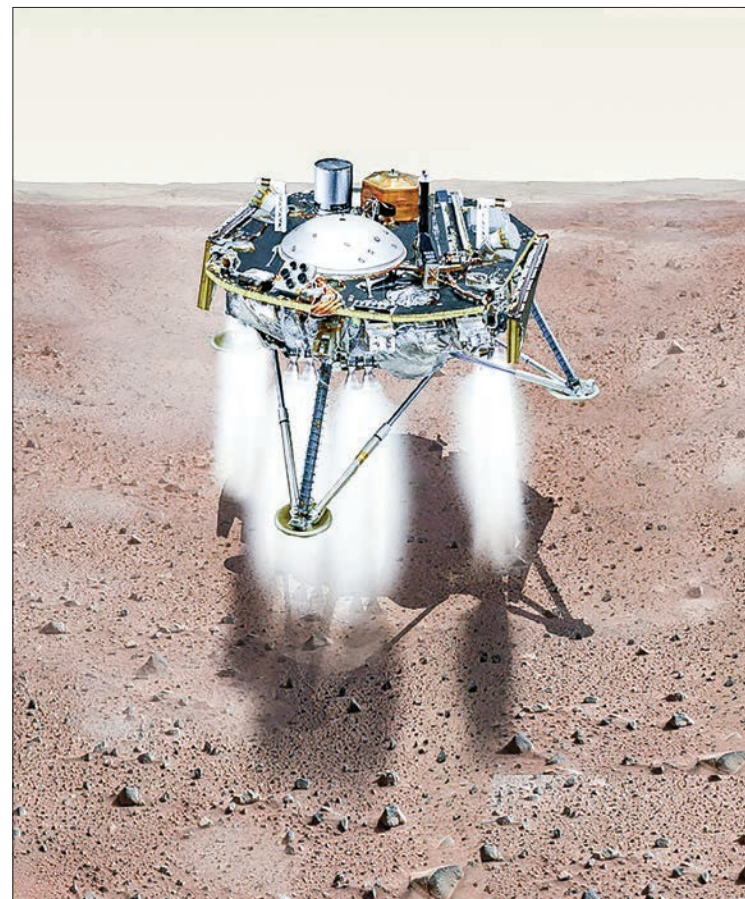
French seismometer

The name InSight is derived from "Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport."

The spacecraft itself stands about waist high, at 3.5 feet (one meter), and once its solar arrays are deployed they will span 20 feet.

Fully fueled, InSight weighs more than 800 pounds (360 kg), about the same as a Harley Davidson motorcycle.

Its central instrument is



The spacecraft stands about waist high, at 3.5 feet (one meter), and once its solar arrays are deployed they will span 20 feet. PHOTO: AFP

a quake-sensing seismometer that was made by the French Space Agency (CNES).

"This is the only NASA mission until now which is conceived around a foreign-made instrument," Jean-Yves Le Gall, president of CNES, told AFP.

"So it's a mission that is fundamentally for the United States, for France and for improving our understanding of Mars."

The six quake sensors on board are so sensitive they should reveal the smallest tremors on Mars, such as the faint pull of its moon Phobos, impacts from meteors, and possibly evidence of volcanic activity.

Seismology has taught humanity much about the formation of Earth some 4.5 billion years ago, but much of the Earth-based evidence has been lost to the recycling of the crust, driven by plate tectonics. This process doesn't exist on Mars.

The spacecraft also has a self-hammering probe that can burrow as deep as 10-16 feet (3-5 meters), offering the first precise measurement of below-ground temperatures on Mars and how much heat escapes from its interior.

Landing conditions

InSight was built by Lockheed Martin, and is modeled

after the Phoenix spacecraft that landed near the Martian north pole in 2008.

Like Phoenix, InSight's arrival will be aided by a parachute. Its heat shield will help slow down the spacecraft and protect against the hot friction of entering Mars' atmosphere.

Its landing site is flat area called Elysium Planitia, which NASA has called "the biggest parking lot on Mars."

The lander must set itself down upright. And then, another critical step is for the solar arrays to deploy, since the lander's one-year mission will be fully solar-powered.

NASA should know within minutes if the landing went well or not, but will have to wait more than five hours for confirmation of the solar array deployment, due to the orbit pattern of the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and Mars Odyssey which can communicate InSight's status back to Earth.

That first confirming ping at 2004 GMT Monday is eagerly awaited by the crew at mission control at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California.

"I do have a lot of blood sweat and tears invested in this, and I am looking forward to a nice, safe touchdown on Monday," said Stu Spath, InSight program manager at Lockheed Martin. —AFP ■

Jones wants 'sharp and smart' England against Australia

LONDON — England coach Eddie Jones has warned his side to stay “sharp and smart” when they bring down the curtain on their 2018 against his native Australia at Twickenham on Saturday.

Jones's men have won just five of 11 Tests in 2018 and Australia four of 12 heading into this weekend's match — concerning figures with less than a year to go until the World Cup in Japan.

It was all a far cry from Jones's stunning start as England boss — an appointment made after Australia knocked the hosts out of the 2015 World Cup — which saw just two defeats in his first 26 Tests in charge of the Red Rose.

But victory on Saturday

would be a sixth in a row for England against Australia under Jones.

More importantly, it would also mean they had won three of their four Twickenham encounters this month, with the only reverse an encouraging if agonising 16-15 defeat by world champions New Zealand.

England, however, were sluggish at the start of last week's eventual 35-15 win over Japan and found themselves five points down at half-time.

But Jones has reverted to something near his strongest available side with Owen Farrell, whose entry off the bench for the second half turned the tide against Japan, starting at fly-half. —AFP ■

AFF Suzuki Cup: Team Myanmar confident ahead of match against Malaysia



Myanmar head coach Antoine Hey (right) and Malaysian head coach Tan Chen Hoe (left) together with footballers seen at the press conference in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday. **PHOTO:MFF**

MYANMAR'S national football team will play Malaysia tonight at the Bukit Jalil Stadium in Kuala Lumpur in a decisive group stage match for the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018. Both teams are eager to enter the semifinals of the tournament.

Coach Antoine Hey said that team Myanmar is confident ahead of the game. “We want the stadium to be as full as possible. The more people in the stadium, the better it is for everyone,” he said.

“I rested enough players to make sure we have

everyone available for this game because we knew this would be the most important game. We have a full squad. My players are highly motivated. It will be very interesting because of the situation in the table,” he added.

Malaysian head coach Tan Chen Hoe said Myanmar is among the best teams in ASEAN and is still leading the table. Myanmar can counter attack fast, and the match will be worth watching, he said.—Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

Ronaldo gets back to business for Juventus

ROME — Cristiano Ronaldo gets back to business for Italian champions Juventus against SPAL on Saturday after missing Portugal's qualification for the Nations League semi-finals amid reports he has been snubbed

f o r

the final three in the Ballon d'Or award.

The 33-year-old Ronaldo has won the prestigious Ballon d'Or five times but could be excluded from the top three, with the winner to be revealed in Paris on December 3.

Ronaldo was rested from Portugal's last four internationals as they be-

tional break Ronaldo took a short break in London, amid reports he had got engaged to his Spanish girlfriend Georgina Rodriguez, before returning to train in Turin.

“All I can tell you is that when I got back I saw Cristiano training the way he does every day, as a professional and giving his all,” Juventus teammate Mattia De Sciglio told Sky Sports Italia.

“I can't tell you because I don't know anything about this,” the Italian defender added of the Ballon d'Or.

“That's all I can say, and what will be, will be.”

Juventus host SPAL — four points above the drop zone — looking to maintain their six-point lead over Napoli, who host bottom club Chievo.

The Turin giants then host Valencia in a crucial Champions League match on Tuesday after a dramatic loss to Manchester United.

Massimiliano Allegri can count on Paulo Dybala, back after scoring his first goal for Argentina, Portuguese defender Joao Cancelo and Polish goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny.

Cristiano Ronaldo has scored eight goals in 12 league games for Juventus. **PHOTO:AFP**

But German midfielder Emre Can is still on the mend after returning to Turin following thyroid surgery.

“Matches straight after the international break are always trickier,” said defender De Sciglio.

“SPAL play good football and have caused problems for the big teams they've faced so far.”

SPAL were riding high after three wins in their first four games this season, but have won just one game since, shocking Roma 2-0 at the Stadio Olimpico.

'Decisive moment'

Napoli host Chievo, as injury-hit Inter Milan, a further three points back in third, host second-from-bottom Frosinone looking to keep pace with the top two. “It's a decisive moment for the season,” said Napoli coach Carlo Ancelotti, whose side host Red Star Belgrade on Wednesday.

“So far, things have gone well, but we need a further effort, we must be ready.

“It's going to be a fundamental run of games coming up, as we must be ready in Serie A and the Champions League. Getting through that group would be really satisfying.

“The Scudetto is a dream for us and it is not a utopia. Utopias are impossible, dreams can be realised.”

Napoli last won the Italian league title in 1990.

Inter's seven-match winning run ended with a heavy 4-1 defeat at Atalanta last time out.

And Luciano Spalletti's side need to secure maximum points with upcoming matches against Roma and Juventus.

But they have injury problems in defence with Brazilian Dalbert and Croatian Sime Vrsaljko sidelined.

“The loss again Atalanta was a heavy slap for us,” said Ghanaian defender Kwadwo Asamoah.

“We have to learn from it and give an important signal before the (Champions League) match against Tottenham.”

Lazio, in fourth, host AC Milan, just one point behind and playing without suspended Argentine forward Gonzalo Higuain, with sixth-placed Roma travelling to Udinese before their Champions League game against holders Real Madrid.

Genoa and Sampdoria go head to head on Sunday night in the city's first derby since the bridge disaster last August that killed 43 people. —AFP ■

