State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to visit Singapore

At the invitation of Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will visit Singapore in the near future to attend the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits. — MNA

State Counsellor receives Dutch Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mrs. Sigrid Kaag, Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, at 11:00 am on 8 November 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Bilateral cooperation, democratization, peace process, repatriation discussed

During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the Netherlands, democratization and peace process in Myanmar as well as developments on repatriation of verified displaced persons from Rakhine State. — MNA
Senior General receives Dutch Foreign Trade, Dev. Coop Minister

Commander-in-chief of Defence Services, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, received the Minister for Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands, Mrs. Sigrid Kaag, at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They discussed the Tatmadaw’s participation with successive governments in achieving political transformations and its current stand on the multi-party democracy path.

They also spoke about the government and the Tatmadaw’s efforts for achieving internal peace, the status of repatriation in Rakhine State under the Myanmar-Bangladesh bilateral agreement.

The Senior General and the Dutch minister also spoke about the Tatmadaw lending its support to the Independent Commission of Enquiry, led by former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines Ambassador Mrs. Rosario Manalo.—MNA (Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Kayin State Day celebrated with traditional dance competition

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung attended the Don Dance competition (A Kayin traditional dance), held to mark the 63rd anniversary of the Kayin State Day, at Hpa-an, Thiri Field, on the evening of 7 November.

The Kayin State Day is being observed from 7 to 11 November.

Children from government and private kindergarten schools in Hpa-an, the Eindu Village women dance troupe, and cultural Don Dance group performed at the event, which started at 6pm.

The main competition began at 8:30 pm. Nine dance troupes competed in the event. Participants included dance troupes from the village, the township, the district, and the border guard force, as well as private dance troupes. Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nang Khin Htwe Myint, State Hluttaw Speaker U Saw Chit Khin, State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, state ministers, and departmental officials were also present. The dignitaries enjoyed the entertainment and competition, and then presented prizes to the competing Don Dance troupes.—Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD)

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker meets EU's MYPOL Project Consultant

U Tun Tun Hein, the Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development, met with the EU’s MYPOL Project Consultant Mr. Ian White at his office at the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, U Tun Tun Hein and Ian White discussed matters pertaining to the rule of law, democracy, and human rights issues. They also discussed MYPOL’s Project to support Myanmar Police Force reforms and strengthen the capacity of the Myanmar Police Force.—MNA (Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

Low pressure over Gulf of Thailand likely to intensify

The low pressure over the Gulf of Thailand is likely to intensify into a depression in the next 48 hours, according to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

Currently, the low pressure extends over the Gulf of Thailand and the adjoining Malay peninsula. It is forecast to move westwards, and is likely to reach the South Andaman Sea and the adjoining Southeast Bay of Bengal over the next 24 hours.

It is expected to then move west-northwest and intensify into a depression over the next 48 hours, the Meteorology and Hydrology Department said yesterday at 6:30 pm.

The weather bureau added that the sky will be slightly cloudy over the North Bay and Central Bay, and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.—GNLM

Correction

A story on Page 2 of the 8 November edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained an error. In the first paragraph of the story with the headline “High-level regional conference on precursor control held in Nay Pyi Taw”, the position of Deputy Minister for Home Affairs should read “Major-General Aung Thu”. — Ed
DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mrs. Alessandra Schiavo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Italian Republic to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at 3:30 pm on 8 November 2018 at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Bilateral relations, culture, tourism, rural development discussed
During the meeting, they cordially discussed matters pertaining to promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Italy including culture, tourism and rural development.—MNA

STATE COUNSELLOR RECEIVES ITALIAN AMBASSADOR

Agreement to develop Kyaukphyu deep sea port signed

THE framework agreement on Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Deep Sea Port Project was signed by the Kyaukphyu SEZ Management Committee and CITIC Consortium at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the ceremony, Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Body Chairman, Union Minister for Commerce Dr. Than Myint and Ambassador of People’s Republic of China to Myanmar, Mr. Hong Liang, delivered the opening speeches.

CITIC Group Chairman Mr. Chang Zhenming, and Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee Chairman and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Set Aung delivered messages of thanks.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Set Aung and Mr. Chang Zhenming signed and exchanged the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Deep Sea Port Project Framework Agreement, in the presence of Union Minister Dr. Than Myint and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang.

Deputy Minister U Set Aung (right) and Mr. Chang Zhenming (left) sign the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Deep Sea Port Project Framework Agreement. PHOTO: MNA

Thereafter, Union Ministers from Myanmar’s Special Economic Zone Central Body, Rakhine State Chief Minister, Deputy Ministers from the Central Working Body, the Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee Chairman, the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee Chairman, the Joint Chairman and other members, the CITIC Group Chairman, the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, representatives from the CITIC Group, businesspersons, representatives from Myanmar Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Holding Public Company Limited, and other officials posed for a group photo.

Later, Special Economic Zone Management Commit-tee Chairman Deputy Minister U Set Aung, CITIC Consortium representative and CITIC Group (Myanmar) Co., Ltd Managing Director Mr. Yuan Shaobin and Myanmar Trade Promotion Board Director General U Aung Soe, spoke to the media about the framework agreement.

Preliminary feasibility studies and site surveys for the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Project were conducted in 2012 and 2013. A consultant company was selected through an international tender in 2013. Investors and developers were invited and selected through an international tender in 2014.

On 30 December 2015, a consortium led by CITIC won the tender to develop the deep sea port and industrial estate projects. The framework agreement aims to implement the Kyaukphyu Deep Sea Port project, according to international norms.

The Special Economic Zone is being set up for the economic development of Rakhine State.

Kyaukphyu SEZ is being set up for the economic development of Rakhine State.
Indonesian fishing boat seized in Kawthoung

THE Myanmar Navy seized an Indonesian fishing boat for illegally entering Myanmar’s territorial waters on the Andaman Sea in Kawthoung District on 6 November.

A Navy vessel found the boat, bearing the name BIN TANG JAS, while patrolling the sea. After the Navy vessel approached them, the fishermen on the boat jumped into the sea. Officials report that one Indonesian fisherman drowned, while the remainder were saved by the Navy.

The 14 fishermen and the illegal boat were handed over to the Kawthoung Township Police Station on 7 November. Action will be taken against the fishermen, under Section 38 (A) (B) of the Fisheries Law.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) (Translated by Hay Mar)

Monywa hosts Community Forestry Development Workshop

THE Community Forestry Development Workshop, organized by the Sagaing Region Forest Department and Wildlife Conservation Society, was held yesterday at the Diamond Palace Hotel, Monywa, as an educational programme for the staff of the departments and related organizations involved in managing natural resources.

Sagaying Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing, regional ministers, Hlutaw representatives, personnel from townships, districts and the region, civil society organizations and members of community forests and Forest Department staff were present at the workshop.

Sagaying Region Chief Minister Dr. Myint Naing stated, during his opening remarks, that forest resources are crucial to the development of the regions, as well as the minimizing of poverty. Over 10 million acres are covered by forests throughout the region. The region has 161 reserved forests, 89 protected public forests and five environmental conservation areas. Rural residents make up 83 per cent of Sagaying Region’s population, and are highly reliant upon forests to make their livings. Additionally, 82 per cent of households are also relying on forests for energy and building materials. This being so, in order to fulfill the forest resource requirements for future generations, forests need to be systematically governed. Moreover, the forest department is carrying out community forest activities with the support of NGOs and INGOs working in environmental conservation.

The Sagaying Region created the community forest in 1995. The region has established nearly 100,000 acres for the community forest business with 1,355 groups, including 15,280 members.

Further, he encouraged the public’s participation in the effort of community forest development. The community forest is open to legal logging conducted by the public. He also urged the participants of the workshop to discuss a series of constructive suggestions.

The chief minister, personnel and participants later took commemorative photos. The two-day workshop is taking place 8 and 9 November. — Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin) (Translated by El Mon)

Over 1,700 hotels receive licences thru October

A TOTAL of 1,704 licensed hotels, motels, guesthouses and inns are operating in Myanmar; as of the end of October, providing 68,167 rooms, according to statistics from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The ministry has issued 4,407 tour guide licences, 3,811 regional tour guide licences and 2,552 transport licences, as of October.

Further, 2,712 travel agencies were issued permits by the ministry, including one foreign company, 41 joint ventures and 2,670 domestic companies.

Well-known tourism attractions in Myanmar are the cities of Mandalay, Yangon, Bagan, Inle, Kayin and Mon states, Myeik Archipelago, Chin Hills and beaches, such as Chaungtha, Ngwehsaung and Ngapali.

Additionally, tourists enjoy exploring cultural zones, such as the sites in Bagan-NayangU, the Inwa cultural site and Pyin Oo Lwin.

The Hotels and Tourism Ministry has created eco-tourism sites and community-based tourism (CBT) spots, establishing Thandaunggyi in Kayin State, Pa-O community-involved tourism in Shan State, the Kayah Cultural Community Tour, CBT with dolphins along the Ayeyawady River, the Phoe Kyar elephant camp, Popa Mountain National Park, and Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary, among others.

Tourists arrive in Myanmar at the country’s three international airports, as well as at border checkpoints, while travelling on bicycles and in vehicles. Tourists are also flocking to Myanmar via luxury cruise liners. — GNLM (Translated by El Mon)
**Myanmar, 10 countries agree to protect investments**

By Nyein Nyein

MYANMAR has signed agreements for the promotion and protection of investments with 10 countries, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Countries with which agreements have been signed are the Philippines, Viet Nam, China, Thailand, India, Kuwait, Japan, Israel, and the Republic of Korea, the MIC reported.

Of these, the bilateral agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Republic of Korea for the Promotion and Protection of Investments came into force from 31 October.

Myanmar earlier had a bilateral treaty with South Korea for the promotion of investment, which ended on 5 June 2014. In accordance with Article 16, the new agreement between Myanmar and South Korea began 31 October 2018.

“The investment agreement between South Korea and Myanmar came into effect from the end of October. Myanmar has similar agreements with several countries. Negotiations are also under way with other countries. We are almost at the stage of signing investment agreements with them, though some countries have failed to sign,” said U Aung Naing OO, secretary of the MIC.

“Negotiations between Myanmar and Hong Kong on the agreement on promotion and protection of investments have been completed. They need only to sign the agreement”, U Aung Naing Oo said.

“We have finished negotiations and are waiting to have the agreement with Hong Kong signed,” he said. Negotiations with Bangladesh, Mongolia, Russia, and Serbia are continuing for similar agreements.

Although the Myanmar Investment Law provides tax incentives and business opportunities, bilateral agreements for promotion and protection of investments include comprehensive provisions.

“Although the investment law has provisions to protect investors, they gain fuller protection under bilateral agreements. This helps avoid obstacles and losses in doing business, provides more rights to investors, and ensures smooth and safe operations, with provisions to cope with any loss,” U Aung Naing Oo said.

A bilateral agreement for promotion and protection of investments can strengthen trust among investors and promote business expansion, noted officials.

(Translated by Ei Mon)

**Border trade with ITCs reaches Ks 4.4 billion**

THE value of border trade through the use of Individual Trading Cards (ITCs) has exceeded Ks 4.4 billion in the current FY. Of this, the value of exports stands at Ks 846 million and the value of imports stands at Ks 3.5 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

At Myanmar’s border gates, the Myawady and the Mawtaung checkpoints, saw the largest volume of trade, estimated at Ks 1.93 billion and Ks 1.51 billion, respectively, with ITCs.

The trade value via ITCs at border points stood at Ks 13 million at the Tamu border camp, Ks 50 million at the Muse border gate, Ks 5 million at the Tachileik trade camp, Ks 90 million at Kanpyitee, Ks 328 million at Kawthoung border town, Ks 20 million at the Reed border trade camp, and Ks 27 million at the Kengtung border trade camp.

The total trade value with ITCs was Ks 2.5 billion between 1 April and 30 September, during the six-month interim period prior to the next 2018-2019 financial year. The Ministry of Commerce had issued 292 ITCs in the 2012-2013 FY, 261 cards in the 2013-2014 FY, 317 cards in the 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in the 2015-2016 FY, 248 cards in the 2016-2017 FY, 168 cards in the 2017-2018 FY, 92 cards in the interim period prior to the next 2018-2019 FY, and 15 cards as of 26 October in the 2018-2019 FY.

Since their introduction, the ministry has issued a total of 1,069 ITCs.— Zwe

(Translated by Hay Mar)
Deputy Minister for Commerce attends China Expo in Shanghai

Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo is attending the China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai, China, from 5 to 10 November.

A delegation led by the Deputy Minister attended a dinner hosted by China’s President Xi Jinping on 4 November.

They also attended the CIIE, along with representatives from over 120 member countries and international organisations, at the National Exhibition and Convention Centre (Shanghai) on 5 November.

On 6 November, the Myanmar delegation visited the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization’s national gallery display at the expo. They toured the precious gems exhibit, the food products exhibit and the travel companies’ exhibit, set up by Myanmar at the expo.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Minister delivered a speech at the Conference for Sustainability of China-South Asia Trade Exhibitions organized by the Regional Government of Yunnan Province.

The International Import Expo aims to balance trade imbalances between China and the rest of the world, and to accelerate business cooperation.

Over 3,500 regional and international companies, and 26 companies from Myanmar, are participating in the expo. —MNA (Translated by Myat Thandar Aung)

Comparison of tourists and business foreigners arrive at airports and border check-points

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<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>International airports and Border entry/exit</th>
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<th>2018 October</th>
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<td>business</td>
<td>tourist</td>
<td>business</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>46,093</td>
<td>21,253</td>
<td>52,647</td>
<td>21,005</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Turtle conservation training conducted in Ngapudaw

A three-day sea turtle conservation training is being conducted by the Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation in collaboration with Food and Flora International (FFI) (Myanmar Programme) at Thamee Hla Beach, Ngapudaw, Ayeyawady Region, from 8 November.

Foreign experts, including FFI Manager Mr. Robert Paul Howard, Mr. David William Owens, Ms. Manjula Tiwari and Ms. Sue Andray, are conducting the training workshop at the camp. The workshop has 19 participants, including representatives from the Fisheries Department, representatives from water resource conservation groups, students from Pathein University, NGOs and teachers from Yangon University and Sittway University.

The camp will end on 10 November. Participants will learn about sea turtle conservation, in theory and practice at the camp. The theory sessions will be held in the evening. The practice sessions will take place on the Thamee Hla Beach, said U Phone Maw. —Kyaw Thu Hein (Hainggyikyun) (Translated by Hay Mar)
Build up a civil service all our people can be truly proud of.

Myanmar is ranked 73 in the process of Ease of Doing Business Index in 2018– Daw Hlaing Maw Oo, Secretary, Yangon City Development Committee

Dialogue titled ‘Nation Building through ease of Doing Business’

SUMMARY OF OBSERVATIONS RECORDED AT 09:30 hrs MRT: During the past 12 hours, rain or thunderstorms have been isolated in Taninthayi Region. Weather has been generally in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Ayeyawady regions, Rakhine State and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states. Night temperatures were 0°C below November average temperature and 2°C below November average temperature in Ayeyawady Region, Shan, Bahnike and Kayah states and above November average temperature in the rest of the regions. The significant night temperatures were 1°C in Haka, 0°C in Hakho and Lahit. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall is as follows:

R AY INFERE NC E :
Weather is a cold front over the North Bay and Central Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy over the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

ForeCAST READY: NORTHERN MORNING OF 8 November 2018: Rain or thunderstorms will be fairly widespread in Taninthayi Region, scattered in Kayin and Mon states and isolated in Bugyi, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions. Chir State. Degree of certainty is 98%. Weather will be generally in Nay Pyi Taw, Lower Sagining, Mandalay and Magway regions and partly cloudy in the remaining regions and states.

STATE OF THE SEA: Slight to moderate rough seas will likely be at times Gulf of Mottama, off and along Taninthayi Coast. Sandy to rough seas will equal mark in Meiktila (Meiktila). Slight to moderate rough seas will be probable elsewhere in Myanmar. Water height will be about 0-6 feet in Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Tanyin-Coast and about 1-6 feet in Dビル and off along Bang-Conav-Coast.

THE incumbent government, since taking office, has been making efforts to accomplish distinct victories in its democratic reforms, including the public services, as also in the process to preserve the trust of the people in their public servants, is a sine qua non. A capable and committed civil service, founded on the principles of honesty, integrity, accountability, and commitment to democratic governance. 

Hence, it is high time for the government to address the administrative inefficiency, which has been a major reason for the slow pace of democracy: government on behalf of the people.

To work in the interest of the people, and to provide services to them in accordance with the law, government entities are obligated to try to understand the difficulties the people are facing.

The nationwide One Stop Shops are playing an important role in providing basic services to the people. Moreover, corruption places the interests of the few above the interests of the many, and thus undermines the central principle of democracy—government on behalf of the people.

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UNION Minister for Ethnic Affairs Nai Thet Lwin received Deputy Minister, State Ethnic Affairs Commission (SEAC) of the People’s Republic of China (PRC), Mr. Li Chingping, at his office in the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

They spoke about matters relating to ethnic affairs, work conducted by their ministries, PRC’s support to the peace process, and the establishment of a federal union and its continuance. They also discussed ways to encourage and persuade ethnic nationals living in the border regions to resolve their grievances by participating in the peace dialogue, instead of taking up arms.

They additionally spoke about assistance and support to ethnic nationals for their socio-economic development and continued bilateral cooperation.

After the meeting, Mr. Li Chingping and officials accompanying him visited an exhibition on the ethnic nationals’ culture and dress at the Ethnic Affairs Ministry. From there, they proceeded to the National Museum (Nay Pyi Taw) in the afternoon, where the museum’s Deputy Director, Daw Aye Mi Sein, explained the exhibits. Mr. Li Chingping met with the Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs U Hla Maw Oo. They discussed bilateral cooperation and the status of work undertaken in the area of ethnic affairs, sharing experiences and information, exchanging visits, holding discussions, and implementing programmes together for the development of ethnic affairs.

The ministers talked about sending personnel from the two countries for training courses, so they can exchange experiences. They further spoke about arranging scholarships for personnel from the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs for training courses in universities under the SEAC.

The two ministers also discussed conducting cultural festivals jointly, to encourage cooperation from ethnic nationals living in border areas. Later in the evening, the Union Minister hosted a dinner for SEAC, which included the PRC Deputy Minister and his delegation. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Min)

Union Minister Nai Thet Lwin meets China’s Deputy Minister for SEAC

THE National Annual TB Evaluation Meeting (2017) was held at the Max Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe delivered a speech at the opening ceremony.

The Union Minister said it is important for people to be able to spot early symptoms, report them to the nearest health department, and to take prescribed medications. He noted that five digital mobile X-ray Rom vehicles will be used to speed up identification of TB. While both TB and HIV treatments have been made available in all townships across the country since 2016, the country still needs to reach the 90 per cent mark in administering HIV scans for TB patients and ART (antiretroviral therapy) coverage.

During the 3rd Drug Resistance Survey conducted in 2012–2013, Multi Drug Resistant TB (MDRTB) was found in 5% of new TB patients, and in 27% of recurring TB patients, said the Union Minister. He added that the treatment deficit for MDRTB was 43% in 2012, but significantly reduced to 17% by 2017.

He also said that, currently, there are three BSL-3 TB labs in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi that can scan for MDRTB. There are also 86 Gene-Xpert module machines available for rapid diagnostic testing for MDRTB across the country. The Union Minister congratulated officials, medical staff and associated organizations, for their contribution towards eradicating TB.

Next, Dr. Thandar Lwin, Deputy Director-General from the ministry explained about Myanmar’s status on TB, future plans, requirements, and necessary support.

This was followed by doctors presenting TB reviews and plans from their respective state or region. A TB official from WHO also gave a presentation about the disease. —MNA

(Translated by Zaw Htet Oo)

Union Minister Dr. Myint Htwe inaugurates annual TB meeting

NATIONAL
9 NOVEMBER 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

THEPyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee held a meeting over the Bill Amending the Sea Customs Act (2018) sent by the Union Government, at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Building D yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Joint Bill Committee Chairman U Tun Aung (a) U Tun Tun Hein, the deputy chairmen, secretaries, joint secretaries and committee members from the Joint Bill Committee and Joint Public Accounts Committee, members from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, officials from Ministry of Commerce, the Ministry of Finance and Planning, Union Attorney General Office, and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office. —MNA

(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein addresses the meeting on the Bill Amending the Sea Customs Act. PHOTO: MNA

KBZ Bank’s Deputy CEO, Daw Nang Lang Kham, received the Eminent Business Alumni Award 2018 from the National University of Singapore – (NUS), during a ceremony held by the university at the Conrad Centennial Singapore in Singapore on 7 November.

The awards recognize the university’s graduates who have attained a high level of achievement in their fields of business and altruism in the public or private sectors. Also present at the ceremony were Singapore’s Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Dean and Faculty Board members of NUS, Singaporean businessmen and other invited guests.

At the event, a video of the recipients of the Eminent Business Alumni Award was shown, followed by separate opening speeches from DBS Group and DBS Bank Chairman Mr. Peter Seah, and Singapore’s Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan. —GNLM

(Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung)

NUS confers Alumni Award on Deputy CEO of KBZ

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein gives a presentation about the Bill Amending the Sea Customs Act. PHOTO: MNA

KBZ Bank's Deputy CEO, Daw Nang Lang Kham, accepts the Eminent Business Alumni Award 2018 from National University of Singapore. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein addresses the meeting on the Bill Amending the Sea Customs Act. PHOTO: MNA

KBZ Comm discusses Sea Customs Act

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(Translated by Kyaw Zin Lin)
Fears for Russia probe as Trump fires Jeff Sessions

WASHINGTON (United States) — US Attorney General Jeff Sessions was fired by Donald Trump Wednesday, casting a cloud over the Russia investigation that has dogged the White House, a day after Republicans lost control over the lower house of Congress.

The move capped more than a year of bitter criticism by the president over his legal advisor’s decision to recuse himself from the probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election, paving the way for the appointment of Special Counsel Robert Mueller.

In announcing the resignation in a tweet that thanked the former Alabama senator “for his service” — Trump right away named as acting attorney general Sessions’ chief of staff Matthew Whitaker.

That set off immediate alarm bells: Whitaker has been overtly critical of the broad scope granted to Mueller’s team to probe beyond allegations Trump’s campaign colluded with Russia in 2016, into other ties between Trump, his family and aides, and Russia — an investigation the president calls a “witch hunt.”

In an op-ed in August last year he publicly urged Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein — who oversees the probe — to “limit the scope of his investigation to the four corners of the order appointing him special counsel.”

As acting attorney general, Whitaker now has the power to wrest oversight away from Rosenstein, and take charge himself.

Democratic Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer immediately called on Whitaker to recuse himself from the probe as his predecessor had, “given his previous comments advocating defanging and imposing limitations” on it.

First casualty after midterm

Schumer and other leading Democrats were joined in their call for an unhampered probe by Republican Mitt Romney, a former presidential candidate and frequent Trump critic who won a US Senate seat in Tuesday’s midterm.

Thanking Sessions for his service, Romney said that it was “imperative that the important work of the Justice Department continues, and that the Mueller investigation proceeds to its conclusion unimpeded.”

Whitaker himself meanwhile offered little clue about his intentions in a bland statement to reporters thanking Trump for his appointment, praising his former boss as a “dedicated public servant” and adding he would work to lead a department that conformed to the “highest ethical standards.”

Sessions was the first casualty of a cabinet shakeup that had been expected from Trump following the midterm elections.

But his departure was anticipated since early this year, after he endured withering and repeated criticism from the president over the legally troubled ban on Muslim travelers Trump sought when he came into office, and over the Mueller probe.

“Your request, I am submitting my resignation,” Sessions said in the first line of a letter addressed to Trump, released by the Department of Justice.

Trump’s first backer

Sessions was the first US senator to back Trump’s presidential run in 2016, giving the New York real estate billionaire credibility against a broad field of Republican stalwarts.

The two were reportedly brought together by a shared wish to crack down on immigration. After taking office in January 2017, the former prosecutor launched tough law-and-order policies and a broad ban on Muslim travelers promised by Trump during the campaign.

He was in the vanguard of administration pushes to expand the ranks of federal law enforcement, fill courts with conservative judges, and crack down on Central American gangs such as MS-13. But the president was infuriated when in March 2017 Sessions recused himself from the nascent Russia investigation, because of his own Russian contacts during the 2016 campaign. Instead, he gave Rosenstein that authority.

When Trump weeks later fired FBI director James Comey in anger at the Russia investigation, Rosenstein stunned the administration by naming Mueller, a former FBI chief, to lead the probe as an independent prosecutor. That structure, with Sessions recused and Rosenstein supervising Mueller, has insulated the investigation from outside interference.

Still, Trump has repeatedly accused Mueller of running an illegal investigation staffed by Democrats and threatened to shut it down.

Indictments looming

Matters though were clearly coming to a head after Mueller racked up indictments against 34 people and three companies, in direct and spinoff cases. Eight guilty pleas have resulted, and one jury trial conviction.

Most notably, several top Trump aides have agreed to cooperate: former national security advisor Michael Flynn; former campaign chair Paul Manafort; former vice chair Richard Gates; and former Trump Organization vice president Michael Cohen, long Trump’s personal fixer.

Mueller was expected to unveil in the coming weeks new indictments, possibly against 2016 campaign consultant Roger Stone and Trump’s son Donald Jr. Moreover, Mueller’s team and the White House have been haggling for months over whether the president himself would answer questions.

Mueller is known to be examining whether Trump obstructed justice in firing Comey — and other acts.

In addition, the White House has shown concern that Mueller is investigating the finances of the Trump Organization, and links to Russia. — AFP

Anger grows after deadly French building collapse

Marseille (France) — A sixth body was found Wednesday in the rubble of two dilapidated buildings that collapsed in the French city of Marseille, where various residents have accused authorities of ignoring warnings about the state of housing for the poorest. As many as eight people are feared to have been killed when the buildings crumbled in a matter of seconds on Monday morning in Noailles, a working-class district in the heart of the Mediterranean port city. Several other buildings in the narrow street have been evacuated amid fears of further collapse as “all the buildings lean against each other” on the sloping street, a firefighter involved in the search for survivors said.

Marseille prosecutor Xavier Tarabeux told a news conference Wednesday that a person living in one of the collapsed buildings phoned firefighters the night before the cave-in to say “that one of the cracks in her flat had widened.”

She later called back to say “there wasn’t any need to come round,” he added. It was too early to say what caused the collapse, Tarabeux said. Firefighters had ordered 105 residents to leave the building, and on Wednesday escorted small groups back inside to fetch some of their belongings.

“It brings back my memories of the war, when I was a child,” said Yoanna, a 27-year-old Lebanese woman. “I’ve never had to leave an apartment so quickly.”

After searching the rubble for a second night, rescuers had retrieved the bodies of four men and two women, Tarabeux told AFP earlier. “We’re working hard, so there’s still hope,” a rescue worker told AFP at dawn on Wednesday as his team continued to search the wreckage with sniffer dogs. But Interior Minister Christophe Castaner had already warned on Monday evening that there was “little chance of finding air pockets” in the rubble.

In a separate incident, a building with three apartments also collapsed in the centre of Charleville-Mezieres in northeast France, with firefighters reporting no victims for the moment, the local Union newspaper said.

One woman was rescued and around 50 more evacuated from neighbouring buildings, it said.

‘People died for nothing’

The difficult rescue operation — and the fragility of the buildings — became clear when a third adjoining block partially collapsed on Monday evening.

Google Maps images taken in recent months showed large cracks in the facades of the buildings, only one of which was occupied. Those on either side were in such a poor state that they had been declared off limits and boarded up for a number of years.

City officials said building experts inspected the occupied building on 18 October and shaving up work was then carried out before residents were allowed back in. — AFP
Asian markets rally as investors see positive in US gridlock

HONG KONG (China) — Asian markets climbed Thursday, building on a global rally as investors bet that gridlock in Washington will clip Donald Trump’s wings, preventing him from driving through measures that would likely push up US interest rates. Attention now turns to the end of the Federal Reserve’s policy meeting later in the day, with its plans for hiking borrowing costs closely watched.

Bets the central bank would lift rates again next month and continue to do so through 2019 have been a major cause of worry on trading this year but with the chances of more Trump tax cuts greatly reduced, expectations have been tempered.

However, analysts do not expect the Fed to alter its most recent outlook for the economy, with Ian Shepherdson of Pantheon Macroeconomics, saying: “The economic picture hasn’t changed meaningfully since the September meeting, despite the gyrations in the stock market.”

But with Democrats now controlling the House and ready to hold the president to account, observers expect them to push back against a number of his measures, though work with him on others such as infrastructure spending leading into the 2020 vote.

“With trade tensions to the fore over recent months and risk currencies in the spotlight, the US midterms were being seen through the prism of whether the outcome might embolden the president to go harder on trade or in effect if the elections would clip his wings,” said National Australia Bank economist David de Garis.

“With the Democrats gaining control over the House, the latter scenario now might be a little more likely.” However, Stephen Innes, head of Asia-Pacific trading at OANDA added the result “has left analysts debating what this will mean for policy going forward”.

All three main Wall Street indexes ended more than two per cent higher. And the positive mood was reflected in Asia, where Tokyo went into the break almost two percent up.

Hong Kong added 0.8 per cent, Shanghai gained 0.4 per cent and Seoul jumped 1.4 per cent, while Sydney rose 0.5 per cent. Wellington and Chinese Taipei put on 0.4 per cent each and Jakarta edged up 0.2 per cent.

Seoul earmarks more than $260 mn for rail, roads in North

SEOUL—South Korea has earmarked more than $260 million to build new railways and roads in the North, an official said Thursday, as Seoul pushes the North, an official said Thursday, as Seoul pushes.

The figure comes as Seoul and Washington follow increasingly divergent approaches to Pyongyang, with the South pursuing engagement while the US insists pressure on it should be maintained until it demobilises. South Korean President Moon Jae-in offered to help upgrade the North’s outdated rail and road infrastructure and connect it with the South’s in meetings this year with the North’s leader Kim Jong Un. Seoul plans to spend about 255.1 billion won ($264 million) on the schemes next year, an official at Seoul’s unification ministry told reporters, with most of it — 108.7 billion won — given freely and 108.7 billion won in loans.

“It is an estimate for now... we will continue efforts, including policy coordination with the US, to carry out the projects agreed between the two Koreas without a hitch,” said the official who declined to be named. Security allies Seoul and Washington agreed last week to set up a new working group to co-ordinate policy amid growing concerns in the US over Moon’s approach.

—AFP

Dollar edges back

Eyes will be on developments in Washington after Trump fired Attorney General Jeff Sessions, who had come under fire from the president over his decision to step aside from a probe into Russian interference in the 2016 election.

He was replaced by a loyalist, casting into doubt the ability of Special Counsel Robert Mueller—who had until now been insulated from White House interference—to complete the investigation.

The dollar clawed back slightly after Wednesday’s sell-off, which came on the back of lower expectations of more tax cuts. The greenback edged up against its major peers, with the pound continuing to gain support from hopes London and Brussels can hammer out a post-Brexit agreement as a deadline looms.

Oil prices remained subdued after data showing a surge in US stockpiles but they have been given support from reports OPEC will reduce output again next year. The cartel had started opening the taps again this year after a long-running cap agreement with Russia, which had boosted prices, ended.

But with production now rising globally again — and the Iran sanctions seemingly having little impact owing to US waivers — Bloomberg News said ministers meeting in Abu Dhabi this weekend were considering the reduction.

“Saudi Arabia and Russia have increased production, and prices have come down $15 a barrel,” Hossein Kazempour Ardehili, Iran’s representative to OPEC, said. “They have oversupplied the market” and have no choice but to cut about 1 million barrels a day. —AFP

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
China-aided Pilot Project of Poverty Reduction Cooperation in Myanmar

VEHICLE FOR JOINT PROJECT MANAGEMENT OFFICE (JPMO)

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation as implementation agency (IA) of Myanmar, is jointly implementing the China-aided Pilot Project of Poverty Reduction Cooperation in Myanmar with the grant provided by the Chinese Government.

The Joint Project Management Office (JPMO) intends to apply part of the financing towards payments under the Project Guideline and now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying of MG-006: (1) ONE VEHICLE (Pick-Up) with the following minimum specifications.

Specifications for Pick-Up(Double Cab)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Specification</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Transmission</td>
<td>5-6 Speed Auto</td>
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<td>Driver &amp; Passenger</td>
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<td>TV with DVD, Audio &amp; Speaker with Bluetooth , USB and FM Radio</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Power Mirrors/ Windows</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Lamp</td>
<td>Head Lamp, Front Fog Lamp</td>
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<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Tyres size</td>
<td>17”</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Color</td>
<td>White or Aluminum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A complete set of the request for quotations and further information in English may be obtained by interested eligible bidders free of charge from the address given below during office hours from 09:30 to 16:00. The quotations must be submitted sealed envelope by person to the address below on or before Friday, 7th December 2018 at 16:00 local time. Late bids will be rejected.

Attn: U Ye Khaung, Project Deputy Director
Joint Project Management Office (JPMO), Department of Rural Development, Office No.36, Nay Pyi Taw.
Tel: (+95-67418619)
Fax: (+95-67418617)
E-mail: chinamyanmarjpmo@gmail.com
Metoo, Brexit, environment inspire new dictionary entries

LONDON — “Single-use” was named the Collins Dictionary word of the year on Wednesday, following a four-fold increase in usage since 2013 in a reflection of increased concerns about sustainability.

“It’s clear from this year’s words of the year list that changes to our language are dictated as much by public concern as they are by sport, politics, and playground fads,” said Collins.

Fancy flossing with gammon?

“MeToo”, the movement seeking to expose and eradicate sexual harassment, makes the top 10. Brexit, the 2016 word of the year, has inspired two new words on this year’s list: “backstop” and “gammon”.

“Backstop” is defined as a system that may be used if no other arrangement is made.

The derogatory use of the word “gammon” — a type of cured pork — has gained popularity as a term of abuse directed at the most reactionary pro-Brexit supporters, who are typically white, male and middle-aged.

“Whitewash” — casting a white actor as an ethnicity character — also makes the list.

“There’s a new term for manipulating others, often romantic partners, by continually feeding them false information until they doubt their sanity: ‘gaslight’.

From the World Cup, “VAR”, an abbreviation of video assistant referee, makes the list.

The final word on the list is the “floss” dance craze.

“The words in this year’s list perhaps highlight a world at extremes — at one end, serious social and political concerns, and at the other, more light-hearted activities,” said Newstead.

The list will join the online version of the dictionary and be considered for inclusion in future print editions.—AFP

**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (113 N/S)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. (113 N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.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 Calls Day.

MEMORANDUM

SCHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE**

**M.V UNI AMPL VOY. NO. (0266-464W/E)**

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPL VOY. NO. (0266-464W/E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9-11-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.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 Calls Day.

MEMORANDUM

SCHIPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANNA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: MS EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

**Ministry of Electricity and Energy**

**Electric Power Generation Enterprise**

**Invitation for Prequalification Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project**

**Date:** 6th November, 2018

**Loan Agreement No:** MY-P22 dated 25th April, 2017

**IFP No:** EPGE/HPR/Package3

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The Project intends reduce the unplanned power outage and improve the remaining life of the power plants by rehabilitating the equipment of Baluachang No.1 Hydropower Plant, Kayah State and Sedawgyi Hydropower Plant, Mandalay Region.

The works in contract packages 3 intends to rehabilitate and improve the performance of substation facilities in both plants.

It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.

2. The Electric Power Generation Enterprise intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for Rehabilitation of Relevant Substation and Transmission Line Facilities in Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project.

The subjected Substations are two stations in the two Hydropower Plants. For convenience, the facilities and functions as substation in the two power plants are defined as substations in this document as follows:

- **Power plant name:** Definition of plants in this document
- **Baluachang No.1 Substation**
- **Sedawgyi Substation**

The project comprises Package 3 and other two packages as follows:

- **Package 1**
  - Baluachang No.1 Hydropower plant
  - Generation facilities rehabilitation
- **Package 2**
  - Sedawgyi Hydropower plant
  - Generation facilities rehabilitation

3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in January 2019.

4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries.

5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents during the office hour at:

**Address:** Project Director of Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project, Renewable Energy and Hydropower Plant Department Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE), Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

**Phone:** +95-67-8104269, +95-67-8104371

**Fax:** +95-67-8104273

**E-mail:** prequal@powerbranch@gmail.com

6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) on the submission of a written Application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of 300,000 Kyats.

**Address:** Procurement Department

Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE), Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

**Phone:** +95-67-8104297

**Time:** from 10:00 to 15:30 on Wednesday to 19th (Monday) 2018 (Myanmar Standard Time)

7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the following address before 15:00hr on December 18th, 2018 (Myanmar Standard time) and be clearly marked “Application to Prequalify for Hydropower Plants Rehabilitation Project Package-3”.

**Address:** Yadanar Hall

Ministry of Electricity and Energy (MOEE) Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

**Phone:** +95-9424685463, +95-9797137280
Old Master? Cave paintings from 40,000 years ago are world’s earliest figurative art

TOKYO (Japan)—A painting of an animal in an Indonesian cave dates from at least 40,000 years ago, making it the world’s oldest piece of figurative art, a new research has shown. The painting in Borneo, possibly depicting a native type of wild cattle, is among thousands of artworks discovered decades ago in the remote region. But it was only using technology called uranium series analysis that researchers have finally been able to work out just when they were painted.

“The discovery adds to a growing body of evidence that cave painting did not emerge only in Europe, as was once thought. “We can see that figurative art developed and evolved more or less at the same time in Asia and in Europe,” researcher Maxime Aubert told AFP.

In 2014, researchers dated figurative art on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi to 35,000 years ago, but some of the paintings examined by Aubert and his team in nearby Borneo were produced at least 5,000 years earlier. Aubert, an associate professor at Australia’s Griffith University, worked with a team in remote and inaccessible caves in the East Kalimantan area of Borneo to date the paintings.

The team, whose research was published in the journal Nature on Wednesday, looked at multiple layers of artwork painted on top of each other. The bottom-most and oldest layer featured paintings of animals, mostly a local type of cattle, as well as hand stencils in a reddish colour. On top of those artworks were hand stencils in a mulberry colour grouped in patterns and embellished with lines and dots, as well as small stick-like human figures in the same colour. The final layer featured people, boats and geometric designs.

‘An intimate window’

Aubert and his team employed a technique called uranium series dating, which involves determining the age of a material by measuring the concentration of radioactive elements. The technique involves analyzing layers of the mineral calcite that formed on top of the painting over the years, as well as the material underneath the art. They removed samples smaller than one centimetre (half an inch) across from the artworks and found one painting of an animal had been produced at least 40,000 years ago, and possibly nearly 52,000 years ago.

“To our knowledge, the large animal painting... is the oldest figurative rock art image in the world,” the team’s study said. The painting is in fact one of the earliest-known representations of any kind of an animal, dating from a similar period to mammoth-ivory figurines found in Germany, the study added.

For many years, cave art was thought to have emerged from Europe, where famed pieces have been discovered and dated in Spain, Italy and France. But the Indonesian paintings challenge that theory.

“It now seems that two early cave art provinces arose at a similar time in remote corners of Palaeolithic Eurasia: one in Europe and one in Indonesia, at the opposite end of this ice age world,” said Adam Brum, an archeologist involved in the study, in a press release issued by Griffith University.

The second layer of artwork dates to around 20,000 years ago, and suggests an interesting evolution in the artwork of the era. “Around 20,000 years ago, painting becomes of the human world, not the animal world. We see the same thing in Europe at more or less the same time,” Aubert told AFP.

He plans to carry out further testing of other artwork in Indonesia, as well as pieces in Australia, and said he felt a personal connection to the past when examining the paintings.

“It’s amazing to see that. It’s an intimate window into the past.”—AFP

From Elizabeth to Lisbeth—Claire Foy’s transformation

LOS ANGELES (United States)—When director Fede Alvarez chose Claire Foy to star in the latest film in the “Girl with the Dragon Tattoo” series, he had no doubt the 34-year-old actress would easily transform herself into the intrepid cold-as-ice hacker Lisbeth Salander. After all, the British actress has experience playing a fearless woman with ice running through her veins when needed — Queen Elizabeth II.”I saw ‘The Crown’ one day and I was like, ‘That’s it, this is all Lisbeth,’ because as crazy as that sounds, there is so much in common with the challenges of playing someone like Lisbeth or Elizabeth,” Alvarez told AFP in a recent telephone interview from Rome. Fresh off her Emmy-winning turn as the British monarch on Netflix’s popular drama, Foy is tackling one of the heroines of modern crime fiction — Salander, a Swedish hacker — in “The Girl In The Spider’s Web.” The film, which opens Friday in US theaters, follows Salander as she is hired to hack into a defense program that can control the codes for the world’s nuclear weapons.

The role — previously played by Noomi Rapace and Rooney Mara — represents a departure for Foy, allowing the actress to showcase a different, darker side. But the Uruguayan director says her regal role prepared her well. “They are very similar characters,” Alvarez said. “The queen is never allowed to show her true emotions — she’s pushing those emotions deep inside her.”

Mixed reviews

“Spider’s Web” is based on a novel by David Lagercrantz, who was chosen to continue the so-called “Millenium” series begun by the late Stieg Larsson. The film has been met with mixed reviews, with industry magazine Variety saying fans are likely to be disappointed with the way Salander is portrayed. “The Girl in the Spider’s Web... is more vested in fiery external explosions than internal pain, reducing Salander to a quirky Batgirl-like figure, soft-pedaling her feminism, practically eliminating her queerness, and tossing in an American so the US can save the world,” it said.

—AFP
Harvard scientists say first interstellar object may be “alien probe”

LOS ANGELES—A new study of Harvard scientists suggested that “Oumuamua, the first interstellar object discovered within our solar system last year, may have been an alien probe sent to investigate Earth. ‘Oumuamua, which means “a messenger from afar arriving first” in Hawaiian, was discovered on 19 October, 2017 by astronomers at the University of Hawaii.

On 19 September, it sped past the Sun at about 315,400 kilometers per hour (kmh), fast enough to escape the Sun’s gravitational pull and break free of the solar system, never to return. A new paper by researchers at the Harvard Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics raises the possibility that the elongated dark-red object, which is 10 times as long as it is wide and traveling at speeds of 196,000 mph (315,564 kmh), might have an “artificial origin.” The paper is scheduled for publication in The Astrophysical Journal Letters on 12 November.

‘Oumuamua may be a fully operational probe sent intentionally to Earth vicinity by an alien civilization, according to the paper. Abraham Loeb, one of the co-authors and chair of the astronomy department at Harvard University, told Xinhua on Tuesday ‘Oumuamua showed unusual features since its discovery. “These features make ‘Oumuamua weird, belonging to a class of objects that we had never seen before.” ‘Oumuamua deviates from a trajectory that is solely dictated by the Sun’s gravity. This could have been the result of cometary outgassing, but there is no evidence for a cometary tail around it, he told Xinhua via email.

“The excess acceleration of ‘Oumuamua was detected at multiple times, ruling out an impulsive kick due to a break up of the object,” he said.

Scientists researched on extra-terrestrial exoplanets. "Oumuamua outgassed but it was not conclusive but interesting. I will be truly excited once we have conclusive evidence,” he told Xinhua. —Xinhua

26 pct of Cambodian Internet users experience online harassment: survey report.

PHNOM PENH—Twenty-six percent of all Cambodian Internet users, aged 15-65, experienced some forms of online harassment, said a recent survey report released here on Wednesday by regional ICT policy think-tank LIRNEasia.

Speaking during the report launching ceremony, Helani Galpaya, chief executive officer of LIRNEasia, said 2,100 individuals were surveyed from 100 villages in Cambodia’s 25 provinces.

“The report found that online harassment was higher among women, she said. “Cyberstalking was a concern among female social media users in Cambodia.”

According to the report, she said 29 per cent of women and 23 per cent of men, who used social media platforms, experienced online harassment such as calling offensive names, receiving unwanted material, and online bullying. The report indicated that 85 per cent of Cambodian mobile phone owners, aged 15-65, used some kinds of app on their mobile phone. “This was the highest app use among all Asian and African countries surveyed,” Galpaya said. “In addition, 45 per cent of social media users indicated that they always verify the truthfulness of content on social media before sharing it.” The Southeast Asian nation has the population of approximately 16 million. Cambodian Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications Secretary of State Kan Channmeta, who took part in the event, said the Internet penetration rate in the kingdom is now 75 per cent of the population and is expected to reach 96 per cent by 2020. Most of the Internet users get online via their smartphones.

Caterpillar, fungus in cahoots to threaten fruit, nut crops: study

CHICAGO—Researchers at the University of Illinois (UI) have found that Aspergillus flavus, a fungus that produces carcinogenic aflatoxins that can contaminate seeds and nuts, and navel orange-worm caterpillar work in concert to overcome plant defenses and resist pesticides. The study has been newly published in the Journal of Chemical Ecology. They did tests to measure caterpillar mortality and time to pupation in a variety of conditions. The tests included a caterpillar strain that was susceptible to pyrethroid pesticides and another that was resistant. And the tests revealed that the caterpillars developed much more rapidly in the presence of the fungus, regardless of the natural or man-made toxins that were also present. Larvae exposed to the plant defensive compound xanthotoxin developed nearly twice as fast when the fungus was also present. Larvae fed a diet containing xanthotoxin or bergaptien, another phytochemical in the same class as xanthotoxin, also lived much longer in the presence of the fungus than when exposed to the chemicals alone. —Xinhua

S7 Space to modernize Sea Launch floating spaceport for reusable rocket

MOSCOW—S7 Space plans to modernize the Sea Launch Floating spaceport after switching to the launches of its reusable rocket from it, Company CEO Sergei Sopov told TASS on Wednesday.

“The spaceport will be modernized for the new carrier rocket,” he said. “Today all the equipment on the command vessel and the launching platform has become obsolete, the chief executive said.

“It was developed 20 years ago. The platform’s remaining service life is another 25 years. Within this period, the launches of Zenit rockets that have been ordered and are in the process of production and also of our new carrier can be carried out,” he said. “The later we make the new carrier, the less time will be left for its operation from the Sea Launch platform,” he pointed out.

“But, naturally, the spaceport’s service life, like the service life of any complex technical facility, can be considerably extended in case of its major repairs and modernization,” the chief executive said. S7 Space is considering several ways of recovering the first stage of its future reusable rocket after launch.

“The evidence for a cometary tail around it, he told Xinhua via email.

On the list of optional options we have a hypersonic parachute capable of withstanding reentry heat, or special wings. We will make up our mind during the design phase as a result of more accurate calculations and research,” he said. In his opinion at this point it looks like a parachute system will be less costly.

“But if this solution is chosen, landing the re-entry stage safely on a small pre-prepared site will be a great problem due to strong side winds,” Sopov said.

Non-reusable rockets have become uncompetitive and a private company has no chance to survive on the space launch market without reusable vehicles today, he said.

“Without it (the reusable carrier), we simply won’t be able to survive on the commercial market. It is not even funny to compete with reusable and cheap offers entering the market with a non-reusable carrier,” he said. In the opinion of S7 Space chief, “a non-reusable rocket is as effective as a non-reusable aircraft.”

“Creating a non-reusable carrier means not simply marking time but is a road backwards,” Sopov said. It is not a matter of the method of recovering the spent rocket stage but largely a matter of “its service life, in the first place, the cycles, the repairability and the labor intensity.”

“Today all the rocket’s assemblies and systems [in Russia] are non-reusable, i.e. unfit for their repeat use,” Sopov said.

New carrier rocket and the floating spaceport

S7 Space is developing its own reusable rocket based on the conceptual design of the Soyuz-5 carrier. PHOTO: TASS

S7 Space is developing its own reusable rocket based on the conceptual design of the Soyuz-5 carrier (being developed by Energia Space Rocket Corporation). The company has already released the new rocket “Soyuz-7” and “Soyuz-75L” (Sea Launch). The S7 Space design office for launch vehicles is headed by Igor Radugin who has recently joined the company after quitting Energia Space Rocket Corporation.

The Sea Launch is a compound comprising the sea and space rocket components, and also the ground infrastructure. The sea component includes the Odyssey floating launch platform and the assembly-command ship used for assembling rockets and exercising control of pre-launch operations. The vessels are based in the state of California, the USA. —Tass
MYANMAR women’s national football team beat Bangladesh women’s team 5-0 in an opening match of Round-1 qualifiers for Women’s Olympic Football Tournament Tokyo 2020 at Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon yesterday.


Myanmar was headed by its brilliant head coach U Win Thu Moe.

Myanmar played aggressively from the kick-off with both counter attacks and middle passes.

Myanmar gained an ice-breaker at 33 minute-mark. The opening goal was scored by Win Theingi Tun over a corner support from her team mate.

Myanmar secured their second goal at 43 minute-mark by Myanmar women football star Win Theingi Tun. The opportunity came from an error of a Bangladesh defender.

The first half was ended with 2-0 win for Myanmar. Myanmar apparently got better in the second half. Myanmar made the third goal at 60 minute and the goal was scored by its veteran player Khin Moe Wai.

By taking an opportunity over the ruin of the Bangladesh defense line, Myanmar put the fourth goal at 83 minute by young player Le Le Hlaing.

Again, just before the end of the match, Myanmar’s Yee Yee Oo quickly scored the fifth.

The match ended with 5-0 win for Myanmar as there were no consolations for Bangladesh.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Myanmar to try best in AFF Suzuki Cup

MYANMAR is preparing for the AFF Suzuki Cup 2018, where they have been placed in Group A against Viet Nam, Malaysia, Laos and Cambodia.

Myanmar needs its utmost effort in playing all the group matches as Myanmar is placed in the group together with two ASEAN stars Malaysia and Viet Nam.

The previous international match result of Myanmar was a 3-0 loss to Bolivia in a friendly that was played at the Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon – with goals from Luis Haquin in the fifth minute, Marcelo Martins at 25 minute and Henry Vaca at 68 minute respectively.

“Myanmar got a chance to play against a South American team. This is good opportunity for our team and I believe Myanmar can do all its best in upcoming AFF Suzuki Cup Tournament,” said a football fan from Myanmar.

The tournament was divided into two groups of five teams. The first leg of semifinals will be shown on 1st December and 2nd December respectively.—Lynn Thit (Tgi)

Host Myanmar stands first on 23 medals in 7th South East Asian Open Archery Championship

HOST Myanmar stood first on 10 golds, 6 silvers and 7 bronzes, bringing the total number of 23 ones in the 7th South East Asian Open Archery Championship following the last day’s events of archery on 7 November.

Myanmar hosted the 7th South East Asian Open Archery Championship in Kyaiikkans Archery Ground from 2 to 7 November, in which five countries including host Myanmar took part. The archery championship consisted of Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Thailand, Laos and host Myanmar. Myanmar won the first place on 10 golds, 6 silvers and 7 bronzes, followed by Thailand with the second place on 4 golds, 5 silvers and a bronze and Hong Kong with the third place on 3 golds, 3 silvers and 3 bronzes for the last day event of archery.

The officials concerned of the respective organizations awarded prizes to the winners and presented trophies to the winning countries.—Htut Htut (Twantay)