PRESIDENT U Win Myint who is in Nepal met with Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, President of the Federal Democratic Republic at the Presidential Palace in Kathmandu, Nepal, at 8pm local time yesterday.

During the meeting they discussed the history of the friendly relations between the two countries, increasing mutually beneficial bilateral relations and the Nepali President visiting Myanmar at a convenient time.

Present together with President U Win Myint were Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nyo Lin and officials.

Next, President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho attended a dinner hosted by President Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

President U Win Myint also signed the guest book at the Presidential Palace. Earlier at 5pm local time, President U Win Myint received Nepali Prime Minister Mr.Khadga Prasad Oli at Soaltee Crown Plaza Hotel in Kathmandu.

At this meeting the Prime Minister explained about Nepal’s efforts towards achieving internal peace and transition to a democratic system.

The Government of Myanmar announced the establishment of the Independent Commission of Enquiry on 30 July 2018 as part of the Government’s initiative to address reconciliation, peace, stability and development in Rakhine State. The Commission is composed of four members: two international and two national members.

The chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry, former Deputy Foreign Minister of the Philippines and former chair and current representative of the Philippines to CEDAW arrived Myanmar on 28 August afternoon.

—Myanmar News Agency

PRESIDENT U Win Myint meets Nepal President, Prime Minister separately

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Ambassador Rosario Manalo, Chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry and its members U Mya Thein, Ambassador Kenzo Oshima and Prof. Dr. Aung Tun Thet at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday at 11:00 hrs.

Also present at the meeting were Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Myint Thu and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The chairperson of the Independent Commission of Enquiry, former Depute Foreign Minister of the Philippines and former chair and current representative of the Philippines to CEDAW arrived Myanmar on 28 August afternoon.

—Myanmar News Agency

State Counsellor receives Independent Commission of Enquiry

SECTION TODAY

NATIONAL

Vice President U Myint Swe attends fourth coord meeting on establishing satellite system

PARLIAMENT

Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session holds 15th-day meeting

NATIONAL

Vessel SAM Ratulangi PD found stranded in Bay of Mottama
Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session holds 15th-day meeting

THE 15th-day meeting of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s ninth regular session was held at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting hall yesterday morning, where Hluttaw put on record the renaming, reforming and abolishing of towns, village tracts, villages and wards in Ayeyawady Region; a union level official responded to the Hluttaw representatives’ discussions on Myanmar Investment Commission report and Hluttaw put the report on record; decision of the Hluttaw obtained on a bill; Hluttaw explained about two foreign loans and union level officials explained about a report.

Renaming, reforming and abolishing of towns, village tracts, villages and wards in Ayeyawady Region

At first, Hluttaw announced to put on record the renaming, reforming and abolishing of towns, village tracts, villages and wards in Ayeyawady Region sent by the President Office.

Union level official responds to discussions on Myanmar Investment Commission report

Next, a union level official responded to Hluttaw representatives, Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) Chairman U Thaung Tun said the reason foreign investment amount declined to US$900 million in fiscal year 2017-2018 was that no new foreign investments entered into the oil & gas sector and construction sector. Although the investment value declined, there were increases in the number of countries making foreign investment in more sectors as well as in the numbers of investments made.

According to figures published by ASEAN secretariat, in 2017, Myanmar’s foreign investment to GDP ratio is 7 per cent, taking up the fourth position among the ten ASEAN countries. Myanmar was also presented the Star Reformer Award in 2017 by the World Bank group for amending and reforming the Myanmar Investment Law and investment frames in a short period, explained the MIC Chairman.

Hluttaw then announced putting the report on record.

Forest Bill discussed and decided

Next, Forest Bill disagreed by the two Hluttaws were discussed by U Myo Zaw Oo Of Lewe constituency and Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency 11. Paragraph by paragraph decision of the Hluttaw was then obtained.

Explanation on foreign loans

Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win then explained to the Hluttaw about the matter of obtaining US$8.984 million loan from International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

In his explanation, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw said the loan was targeted toward small and medium enterprises related to agriculture, livestock breeding and landless people in southern Chin State’s Mindat and Kankpetlet townships and northern Magway Region’s Paung and Myangin townships where poverty is high and development is the least. It is expected that about 0.43 million people from more than 90,000 households in the four townships will benefit from the project. The project will be implemented for six years starting from the date the agreement is signed. The aim of the project is to increase family income, provide food sufficiency and adequate nourishment, increase work opportunities, respond to climate change and socio-economic development. Townships for the project were selected on high poverty rate and for being geographically connected, explained the Deputy Minister.

An announcement was made for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the loan to register their names.

Following this, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained to the Hluttaw about US$61.816 million Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) loan from EXIM Bank of Korea to conduct project works of Ministry of Construction.

In his explanation, Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw explained that the loan is for Korea Myanmar Industrial Complex project on 558 acres of Naungnapin training school land in Hlegu Township, Yangon Region that is jointly conducted by the governments of the two countries. Works include construction of water supply pipelines, electrical power line and upgrading of a 9.45 km 4 lane road. Basic infrastructure construction works will be conducted from 2018 to 2021 under a tender system in accordance with international practice. The loan period is 40 years with 15-year grace period and 25-year repayment period and the loan interest is 0.01 per cent, explained the Deputy Minister.

An announcement was also made for Hluttaw representatives who wanted to discuss the loan to enroll their names.

Union level officials respond to discussions on Joint Public Accounts Committee Report


Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environment U Ohn Win explained about the ministry’s actions towards companies that were lagging behind in making pure gold production share payment for gold mining extraction agreements, plans to collect late payments of mine mouth tax for jade mines, ministry no longer issuing new gem mining lots, preparation made towards amending laws and rules in the Hluttaw to increase pearl production, arrangement made for systematically selling off state-owned timber mills.

Deputy Minister for Information U Aung Hla Tun explained about DVB-T2 and FM transmission stations in Mawchi, late payment of Forever Group Co., Ltd. to Myanmar Radio and Television, amending the joint venture land lease agreement between Global Direct Link Co., Ltd. and Information Ministry’s News and Periodical Enterprise to reflect the reduction in paid-up share from the Global Direct Link Co., Ltd.

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo explained about waterway improvement and bank erosion preventive works conducted with special funds in fiscal year 2016-2017.


The 16th-day meeting of the ninth regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is planned to be held on 3 September, it is learnt.—Myo Myint, Han Lin Naing (MNA)
President U Win Myint attends 4th BIMSTEC Summit

President U Win Myint, who is on a state visit to the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, attended the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held in Kathmandu.

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho arrived at the Presidential Residence at 11:30am.

He attended a meeting together with the President of Nepal, Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari, and heads of state of the BIMSTEC member countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand and their respective high-ranking governmental officials.

After the meeting, the President took a documentary photo with the other leaders.

President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho then attended a luncheon hosted by the President of Nepal.

Afterwards, the President and First Lady attended the opening ceremony of the 4th BIMSTEC Summit held at the Malhar Hall of the Soaltee Crowne Plaza Hotel. They were given a warm welcome by the Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli and his wife.

Attending the summit were heads of state and high-ranking government officials from BIMSTEC member countries, foreign ministers, the BIMSTEC Secretary General, ambassadors accredited to Nepal, journalists and relevant officials.

The Prime Minister of Nepal delivered the opening remarks during the ceremony.

This was followed by speeches from heads of state and high-ranking government officials from BIMSTEC member countries.

President U Win Myint delivers speech

(The following is the official transcript of the speech delivered by President U Win Myint at the opening ceremony of the 4th BIMSTEC Summit)

I would like to express our profound thanks and appreciation to the Government and the people of Nepal for the warm and generous hospitality extended to me and my delegation. It is my honor to attend this meeting for the first time and I truly believe that our meeting will provide opportunities to exchange views and explore ways and means to strengthen BIMSTEC cooperation.

At the Third BIMSTEC Summit, held in Nay Pyi Taw in 2014, we agreed to deepen cooperation within the framework of BIMSTEC and strengthen institutional mechanism. The member states also reached an agreement for the establishment of a permanent BIMSTEC Secretariat in Dhaka and appointment of the Secretary General. I would also like to congratulate the first Secretary-General Mr. Sumith Nakandala for his active and valuable contribution. Let me also take this opportunity to welcome Mr. Shahidul Islam as the second Secretary General of BIMSTEC.

I would like to congratulate the Government of India for the successful hosting of the BIMSTEC Leaders’ Retreat in October 2016. The Outcome Document and Agenda of Action of the BIMSTEC Leaders’ Retreat are indeed a practical guideline for BIMSTEC cooperation.

Agriculture is the mainstay of economy for many of us. It further contributes to the regional sustainable development in terms of food security and nutrition.

One of the daunting challenges of the world is to ensure food and nutrition security for the rapidly growing population, which is estimated to reach 9.6 billion by 2050. There is no exception for BIMSTEC region which is home to 22% of the global population.

While appreciating the excellent work done by the BIMSTEC Expert Group Meeting on Agriculture, I am pleased to inform that Myanmar, as a Lead Country of the Agriculture sector, will host the first BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture in Myanmar in 2018/2019 to address the emerging challenges and further enhancement of the cooperation.

Most of the Member States in our region are blessed with abundance of energy resources including hydro power. However, ever-increasing demand of electric power is always higher than that of our supply. This situation requires us to enhance energy cooperation and energy trade among the Member States in filling the energy gap within our region.

Connectivity plays a key role to unlock the socio-economic development and ultimately the enhancement of regional integration. I am pleased to note, with satisfaction, on the progress achieved in preparation of the draft BIMSTEC Master Plan on Transport Connectivity. At this point, I would like to express our sincere appreciation for the support of ADB in formulating the Master Plan.

Despite significant achievements of the Member States, poverty still remains a challenge for all of us.

We therefore welcome the Colombo Statement on Poverty Alleviation adopted at Third BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting on Poverty Alleviation on 20 December 2017, which reaffirms our commitment to alleviate poverty in the BIMSTEC region to ensure dignity, improve the quality of life and well-being of the peoples.

On 5th July 2016, Myanmar deposited its Instrument of Ratification of the BIMSTEC Convention on Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Illicit Drug Trafficking, which was signed in 2009.

I wish to underscore the importance of BIMSTEC National Security Chiefs Meeting as key components of the BIMSTEC’s security cooperation, which provides platforms for strategic dialogue and practical cooperation for the BIMSTEC counter terrorism sector.

Myanmar took responsibility as a lead country of BIMSTEC Sub-group on Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursor Chemicals and hosted several meetings under BIMSTEC counter-terrorism and transnational crime framework.

Myanmar has been encountering the scourge of terrorism. Therefore, Myanmar attaches great importance to the issues of terrorism and trans-national crime, and assures its continued active cooperation under the BIMSTEC framework.

Trade and Investment

Although the BIMSTEC Free Trade Area Framework Agreement has been signed in 2004, we are still under negotiation in finalizing the constituent agreements. In the meantime, we should work together to promote trade and investment through exchange of trade and business delegations and organizing investment promotion events among the Member States.

Future Direction of BIMSTEC

The BIMSTEC mechanism, comprising of different layers of meetings, plays an important role for steering BIMSTEC activities. However, I am of the view that formulation of the Rules of Procedure of BIMSTEC mechanism would be a key to effective and efficient cooperation. We welcome the idea to draft the Rules of Procedure which would be a basis for formulation of the future BIMSTEC Charter.

Simultaneous implementation of 14+2 cooperation areas will not be feasible for BIMSTEC due to financial and resources constraints. Therefore, we have to prioritize some of our projects for progressive implementation.

We understand that funding is a matter of concern for the mechanism. Therefore, we welcome the idea to explore the alternative financial resources for our cooperation. In the meantime, we should expand our engagement with the development partners for implementing our common projects.

In conclusion, I would like to reiterate our firm commitment to strengthen BIMSTEC cooperation towards “Peaceful, Prosperous and Sustainable Bay of Bengal Region”.

Later in the night, President U Win Myint and First Lady Daw Cho Cho attended a formal dinner and cultural show hosted by the Prime Minister of Nepal, together with other heads of state and high-ranking government officials from BIMSTEC member countries. —Myanmar News Agency
Vice President U Myint Swe attends fourth coord meeting on establishing satellite system

VICE President U Myint Swe, Chairman of the Leading committee on establishing satellite system attended the fourth coordination meeting of the committee at the Ministry of Transport and Communications in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

The meeting was attended by Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win, Union Minister from the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister U Tha Oo, Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretaries and officials.

In his opening address to the meeting the Vice President said this is the fourth coordination meeting of the committee and the 13-member committee led by the Vice President was setup to implement seven tasks.

Under the management of the committee, a 9-member work committee led by Union Minister for Transport and Communications was formed and was implementing six tasks. In addition to this to support the leading committee and to implement the works quickly, three sub-committees, Myanmar-owned satellite system technical sub-committee, Myanmar-owned satellite system legal affairs and rules sub-committee and Myanmar-owned satellite system transponder leasing sub-committee were formed. The leading committee has conducted three coordination meetings where sixteen decisions were made. Of the sixteen, thirteen were conducted and three are still to be done. The ongoing works are time consuming works and target time need to be established in implementing them. Implementation of establishing own satellite system is conducted in three steps. The first step is to lease other country’s satellite transponder and at the moment MyanmarSat-1 is being leased. Second step is joint ownership and to implement this step, on 1 June 2018, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Department of Information Technology and Cyber Security signed an agreement with Intelsat Global Sales & Marketing Limited. The amount required for the agreement is US$ 155.7 million and 30 percent of this is to be paid twice in the 2018 six month budget. In fiscal year 2018-2019, 50 percent will be paid in four installments and in fiscal year 2019-2020 the remaining 20 percent will be paid in two installments.

The jointly owned MyanmarSat-2 will be used with new technologies in June 2019 and is believed to provide better benefits. In this satellite, Myanmar will use six 432 MHZ C-band and six 432 MHZ Ku-band totaling 864 MHz. Relevant ministries are to draw up systematic plans to use the leased satellite channels effectively in education, health and other sectors and to consider other pros and cons when drawing up the plans.

It is understood that Migration, Plan Schedule and status of machineries and equipment were explained to relevant departments by Department of Information Technology and Cyber Security at the technical sub-committee meeting held on 25 April 2018.

The third step is to launch a wholly owned satellite. This step will be conducted when satellite channel usage increases, technological experience has been obtained and when we could control the satellite on our own. Launching a wholly owned satellite is expensive and as a first priority efforts will be made toward launching a less expensive Earth Observation Micro-Satellite. Hokkaido University, Japan has proposed to launch such a satellite it is learnt.

It is learnt that discussions had been held with relevant ministries for the specifications of the payload camera and sensors. Once this is determined, expenditures (estimate) sent by Hokkaido University, Japan will be reviewed and the required processes and best payment methods need to be selected and conducted, said the Vice President. Space Laws are to be collected and prepared to establish a Space Agency and if required sub-committees are to be formed to launch Earth Observation Micro-Satellite. Meeting attendees are urged to openly suggest and discuss toward successful implementation of partly owned MyanmarSat-2 satellite and the aim of launching a wholly owned satellite, said the Vice President.

Next, work committee chairman Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung explained about works conducted on establishing a satellite system.

 Afterwards, Union Ministers Lt-Gen Sein Win and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Deputy Minister U Tha Oo, Permanent Secretaries, sub-committee members and meeting attendees explained, discussed and suggested on sector-wise works conducted. The Vice President gave advice and instructions based on suggestions and subject matters presented at the meeting. The meeting came to a close after a concluding speech by the Vice President.—Myanmar News Agency
President U Win Myint meets Sri Lankan President

President U Win Myint met with the President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena, in the board room of the Soaltee Crown Plaza Hotel in Kathmandu, Nepal yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they openly discussed promoting bilateral relations between Myanmar and Sri Lanka, increasing trade and investment between the two countries, and closer collaboration between the two countries at both the regional and global arenas.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Myanmar Ambassador to Nepal Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Lin, and other officials.

—Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar delegation tours film, video-related venues in South Korea

The Myanmar delegation, led by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, on a study tour of film and video industry in the Republic of Korea, visited the Korea Media Rating Board, Busan Asian Film School (AFiS), Busan Cinema Studios, Busan Film Commission and the Korea Film Council (KOFIC) in Busan City yesterday.

In the morning, the delegation arrived at the Korea Media Rating Board in Busan Visual Industry Center where they were given a presentation on the organization’s formation, objectives and structure, the five film rating categories and seven criteria for placing restrictions. The union minister and delegation inquired about the cinema system for screening rated films, among other queries.

In the afternoon, the union minister and his delegation arrived at the Busan Asian Film School (AFiS) where they were given presentations on the background of the Busan Film Commission, the studios, the hotels and training schools and equipment used for filming in Busan, lodgings and travel services, AFiS’s establishment in 2016, available courses, ASEAN student application processes, and workshops related to short films aimed at youths. The union minister and delegation then asked questions to the officials and discussed with them.

In the evening, the union minister and his delegation arrived at Busan Cinema Studios where they were given a presentation on the studio’s establishment in 2002 in order to promote the film industry, mutual shares invested by the Busan government and businesses, how distractions and issues present in outdoor filming are eliminated within the studio settings as well as the need to cancel shootings or change set locations when bad weather strikes, less wastage of time, and the process of replicating sets. This was followed by a tour of a 60x30x10 meter replication being built within the studio.

The delegation then arrived at the Korean Film Commission where they were given an explanation on the development of the film industry carried with adherence to the Korea Film Council’s policies, establishing of branch offices, and the negotiation process for filming in Busan. The delegation was then given a tour of the building.

Lastly, the union minister and his delegation arrived at the Korea Film Council (KOFIC) and held a meeting with Chairman Oh Seok Geun and council members. During the meeting, they discussed the council’s formation, objectives and policies, its income, distribution and support, screening system of domestic and foreign films, and cooperation with film industries from Asian and ASEAN countries. The union minister and delegation then asked questions to the officials and discussed with them. —Myanmar News Agency
Roundtable discussion on reviewing political dialogue framework continues

A roundtable discussion on reviewing the framework for political dialogue with government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw groups was continued at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

In the discussion, Prof. Christina Murray, an international expert on federalism, shared her experiences of participating in political discussions and answered to questions asked by the attendants.

Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Mi Kun Chan of Paung constituency said, “Peace experience of South Africa, Yemen and Kenya were discussed by foreign experts. We discussed on how it could benefit our country.”

As I’m from a government organisation, in the work committee, if each group’s thoughts, weaknesses and group wise requirements were discussed and requirements fulfilled, the work process will speed up. The review is conducted to support this. As we have many ethnic nationals, our federal may not be as same as other federals. Based on this, we’ll have to negotiate our federal? Which path did they take? But we will have to decide. The way we decide may be the same but the way we work could not be the same, added Daw Mi Kun Chan.

Director-General U Aung Naing Oo from Ministry of Planning and Finance said, “The main aim of the discussion was to take lesson from the peace talk process in South Africa, Kenya and Yemen based on their strength, weaknesses, success and failures.” We obtain suggestion on what we should do based on their experiences. We got to know some matters that we didn’t know. Our country’s situation is not the same as other countries. They concluded that what we are doing here is appropriate to the situation. The discussion will support to a certain extent in reviewing the framework for political dialogue, said U Aung Naing Oo.

The workshop was continued in the afternoon where attendants reviewed the organisation and setup of political dialogue framework, discussed basic principles and reviewed national-level political dialogue matters.

U Zaw Win, a participant in the discussion said framework for political dialogue should be selected from centralization or decentralization methods. Whatever method is used, it is best to strive toward the people’s acceptance. The roundtable discussion was attended by UPDJC secretariat members, joint committee members, work committee members from government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw group.

The roundtable discussion will be continued today. — Zaw Zin (Photo Aye Than)

Vessel SAM Ratulangi PD found stranded in Bay of Mottama

A VESSEL with the flag of Indonesia was found stranded in the Bay of Mottama on 28 August.

Local fishermen found the SAM Ratulangi PD in the sea near the Thamaseikta Village in Thongwa Township, Yangon Southern District.

Police from the Thongwa Township and navy officers from No. 1 Major War Vessel Group inspected the vessel.

The vessel is 177.35 metres long, 27.91 metres wide, weighing 26510 tons.

There was no sailors nor goods on the vessel with the Indonesian flag. Smith Salvage Company initially informed the Myanmar Port Authority of the Ministry of Transport and Communications that the vessel was not destined for Myanmar and it was being towed to Bangladesh.—Myanmar News Agency

Daw Kay Thi Soe, Director-General of the Strategic Studies and Training Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, signs the book of condolence at the American Center in Yangon in memory of Former United States Senator Mr. John McCain who has passed away.—Myanmar News Agency

SAM Ratulangi PD stranded in the sea near the Thamaseikta Village in Thongwa Township. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY
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31 AUGUST 2018
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Lack of skilled workers should not be one of the most troubling concerns of Myanmar

The government is also striving to produce ASEAN level skilled workers. We are allowing the private sector to cooperate with the Union Government to produce more skilled workers.

The government has said that economic growth is on the rise, but some have argued that the situation of Myanmar’s economy is shrinking. In fact, the economy in Myanmar has been steadily increasing since 2014. In order to materialize a market-oriented economic situation, cooperation plays a vital role in the economic growth and overall development of a nation. With an aim for the emergence of a market-oriented economy and enhancing socio-economic life of the people, a round-table discussion on economic development is being held at MRTV in Nay Pyi Taw on August 9. Following are comments made by U Aung Hto, Deputy Minister for Commerce, and U Aung Soe, Director General for Myanmar’s Trade Promotion Organization.

Q: Well, as far as I heard, the Central Committee for Myanmar Special Economic Zones (SEZs) held a coordination meeting recently. As the Director General for Myanmar’s Trade Promotion Organization, could you share with us your views on the latest development of the Kyaukpyu Special Economic Zone?

A: U Aung Soe: In Myanmar, we have enacted the Special Economic Zone Law and the ministry has re-promulgated the Myanmar Special Zone Law, 2014. In order to implement the Special Economic Zones in accordance with policies laid down in the Special Economic Zones Management committee has been formed, chaired by Vice President U Myint Swe.

We have identified three Special Economic Zones, namely, the Thilawa SEZ in Yangon Region, Dawei SEZ in Tanintharyi Region and Kyaukpyu SEZ in Rakhine State, respectively. The Thilawa SEZ has exited the ‘run’ phase, and the other Dawei and Kyaukpyu SEZs are in the stages of implementation.

We have received many contracts for the Dawei SEZ. There are plans are under way to initiate road painting from Dawei to the Thai border in Boe Kae. I am sure that both the Dawei SEZ and Taninthary Region will enjoy regional development upon completion of the road construction project.

In our country, many special economic zones are being implemented aiming to boost the productivity and to promote industrial products that can contribute to the export-led growth of the economy. The Kyaukpyu SEZ is accessible to China, India and ASEAN corridors, and it has promising opportunities for the people and the region. We are making necessary arrangements and coordinating with local and international tender-winning companies to carry out the projects. As part of our efforts, a SEZ management committee has been formed with Deputy Minister U Set Aung as chair and Dr Dae Win as joint chair. Cooperation is being made to proceed accordingly to the framework agreement of the Kyaukpyu SEZ, with the aim of providing job opportunities for local nationals and conduct- ing work systematically. Time is to be valued and progress is needed to achieve success in the shortest possible time.

The Kyaukpyu SEZ consists of an industrial park and a deep-sea port. The framework agreement of the deep-sea port is nearly completed, and it is very crucial for the regional development process and creating employment opportunities for the people and the state. The Kyaukpyu SEZ has linked with One Belt, One Road and is expected to become a major economic center of the region.

The progress of economic zones is of great importance in achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. Job opportunities can be created in areas where the zones are set up. Hence, we need to ensure our projects are successful and enjoy a good socio-economic life. While setting up special economic zones in the countries concerned were raised by the Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport and over Myanmar being at risk of walking into a debt trap as a result of the seaport, included in the Kyaukpyu SEZ in Rakhine State. We are fully aware of the concerns expressed by observers and academics related to the ‘debtor trap’. Myanmar is not walking into a debt trap. There are reasons for implementing it. This project is based on demand for the development of the Kyaukpyu SEZ. This project is aiming to boost the economy in Myanmar has been steadily increasing. According to the forecasts of the Asia Development Bank (ADB), Myanmar’s GDP is expected to grow by 6.8% in 2018 and by 7.2% in 2019. All these expectations are based on Capital Output Ratio and total investment volume in a year. Thus, this specification is not different between the ADB and IMF, as far as I see it. Another intriguing point is that the Gross Domestic Product per capita in Myanmar is recorded at US$1,460. We are in need of domestic and foreign direct investment flows, besides the ODA loans.

During the tenure of the incumbent government, more emphasis is being placed on macroeconomic stability. The government has been making relentless efforts to improve basic infrastructure services — clean water, sewage, roads, electricity, telecommunications, etc. This is the basic livelihood of citizens. In this regard, we hope that the investments should be made in the market to boost the production and sales of local rice and other care sectors, so that the citizens can benefit from the new projects. In this context, more opportunities and higher socio-economic lives for our citizens.

By Khin Yadana

Round-table discussion on economic development

And the size of the project (Kyaukpyu Deep Seaport) will be tailored according to Myanmar’s needs. That’s why the government will not borrow any funds and will not relinquish any of its sovereignty.
Yangon-Bagan railway resumes service

FOLLOWING continuous heavy rain, some sections of Yangon-Bagan railway was inundated on 29 August and railway service was suspended. Myanmar Railways (MR) announced yesterday that Yangon-Bagan railway has resumed again after a one-day disruption.

Swa dam’s spillway, located in Thaingwa village tract, Vodashe Township, Bago Region, broke on 29 August morning and water from the dam flooded over train tracks between Gnegyi and Swa railway stations on Yangon-Mandalay road. The rail tracks were inundated between mileposts 190/18 and 190/24.

Following heavy rains, the rail tracks on Yangon-Bagan railway between milepost 217/16 and 217/20 were covered with silts and sand. Therefore the authorities temporarily suspended the railway service along Yangon-Bagan railway and passengers who bought tickets for 29 August were refunded. Similarly, a spillway collapsed in Swa Dam on the morning of August 29 and water poured out from the dam covering the rail tracks. Some railway trips were temporarily suspended for that day and MR has also refunded the ticket fees to passengers who bought tickets for the 29 August trip.

MR authorities are also temporarily suspending train services departing from Mandalay, Nay Pyi Taw and Thazi stations. Authorities under the supervision of Union Minister for Transport and Communications and Myanmar Railways senior officials are working towards resuming the railway services as soon as possible. According to MR, timely announcements will be made to passengers on the resumption of the services. —Pwint Thit Sar

Okpó Township flooded due to torrential rains

TORRENTIAL rains have caused flooding in Okpó Township, Tharyawady District in Bago Region on 29 August. Water was about one-foot deep between mileposts 112/4 and 112/5, 6-foot deep between mileposts 113/1 and 113/2, mileposts 113/3 and 113/8, and 5-foot deep between mileposts 114/1 and 114/2 on Yangon-Pyay Road on 27 August because of heavy rains. Therefore, authorities from township administration, police, fire services brigade, related departments and other social organizations conducted relief activities for safety of travellers. Additionally, authorities closed temporarily some of the schools in those flooded areas for the safety of children. Authorities will make arrangements to replace the teaching time on holidays as soon as water level in the river fall. —Aung Thu

Price of rice increased by Ks100 in Mawlamyinegyun

THE price of rice has increased by Ks 100 per pyi (8 cups) in the local retail market in Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyarwady Region in August beginning from July. Previously, the price of Powsan rice was Ks 2,100 per pyi in Mawlamyinegyun retail market as 29 August while Khon Nima was Ks 2,000 per pyi and Higvi rice was Ks 1,600 per pyi.

The price of Huan Kar rice was Ks 1,200 per pyi. The price of rice has increased by 100 beginning from July to as of August in Mawlamyinegyun Township. —Mawlamyinegyun Township —Mawlamyinegyun Township —Mawlamyinegyun Township. —Aung Myint Aung

TRADEMARK CAUTION

Logitech International S.A., a company incorporated in Switzerland and having its registered office at Les Châtaignis, CH-1143 Apples, Switzerland is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark.

LOGI

Reg. No. 4/39/43/2015 (26.3.2015)

In respect of “Computer and electronic equipment, namely, computer hardware; computer hardware for use with mobile phone and computer tablet applications; computer peripherals, namely, keyboards, mice, trackballs and wireless electronic controllers all for use with consumer electronic equipment; decoding boxes; set-top boxes; computer software for classifying, transmitting, receiving, processing, reading and watching, and controlling applications, texts, electronic data, images, audio and video files; computer software for reproducing, processing and streaming audio, video and multimedia content and for audio calling, video calling and remote collaborating; computer software for controlling the operation of audio and video apparatus and for viewing, searching and/or reading sound, video, television, films, photographs and other digital images and other multimedia content; computer game programs; computer software for multimedia sharing, media-share computer software for computers; digital electronic apparatus for recording, classifying, transmitting, receiving, processing, reading and viewing, and examining texts, data, images, audio and video files, namely, computer software and computer hardware; video game control devices, namely, remote controls, joysticks, video game steering wheels, headsets, keyboards and mice all for use with computer and computer game console platforms; computer peripherals, namely, controllers and gamepads for mobile gaming; wireless mice, keyboards, and remote controls for use with televisions, computers, and set-top boxes; computer cursor control devices, namely, digitizer tablets, light pens, and trackballs; touch pads; electronic drawing and sketching boards; Whiteboards; computer keyboard controllers; video devices, namely, software for audio and video enhancement sold as an integral part of web cameras and video cameras; digital cameras and web cameras; wearable cameras, mobile cameras, security cameras; audio and sound system devices, namely, audio speakers, mobile speakers, wireless speakers, headsets, headphones, earbuds and microphones; audio conduit, amplification and monitoring units; acoustic separation units; audio mixers; telephony equipment, namely, headsets, headsets, earbuds and microphones for use with computers and telephones, telephones, mobile phones, videophones; video-conferencing equipment, namely, video-conferencing cameras, speakers, computer monitors, televisions, and other audio-visual components; digital writing systems for computers and mobile phones primarily composed of digital light pen and computer software; remote controls for controlling TVs, video players, video recorders, stereo, speakers, amplifiers, entertainment systems, home lighting systems, personal computers; protective cases for computer peripherals; protective cases for mobile phones, battery charging cases for mobile phones, car dashboard mounts for mobile phones; mobile phone accessories; keyboards for mobile phones; mobile keyboards and control devices for mobile platforms; protective cases for tablet computers; keyboards for tablets for mobile gaming; computer peripherals for accessing and transmitting data and content among consumer electronics devices, televisions, and displays; computer peripherals for digital watches; computer software and computer programs for use in connection with providing an interface between a computer and a peripheral device; computer software and computer programs for handling and character recognition; computer software and computer programs for use in connection with electronic transmission of video, audio and data across local area, wide area and global computer networks; remote control devices for home automation and control of sensors, locks, switches, lights, radios, televisions, stereo, audio-visual equipment, household appliances, window coverings, climate control, and other home electronics; download software for programming a remote control for sensors, locks, switches, radios, televisions, stereo, audio-visual equipment, household appliances, window coverings, climate control, lighting and other home electronics; computer monitors; audio, video and radio transmitters; audio, video and radio receivers; stereo tuners and radio signal tuners; audio and video recorders; audio and video players, namely, CD, DVD and Mp3 players; radios; microphones; wireless presenters in the nature of wireless remote controls; remote keypads, namely, computer stands, notebook computer docking stations, terminal docking stations; number keypads, namely, computer stands, notebook computer docking stations, terminal docking stations; number keypads; batteries; battery packs; electric and electronic cables; wearable electronics to measure fitness, self-improvement and data-gathering; electronic temperature sensors; lighting control systems comprised of motion-sensitive security lights and computer hardware and software for use in activating and deactivating electrical lights; and instruction manuals sold as a unit with the aforementioned goods” included in International Class 09.

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

Dated 31 August 2018

Daw Htoo Htoo, H.G.P

For Logitech International S.A., C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd., Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

hh@kcyangon.com
Awareness workshop on ADSP Marlae-Nattaung irrigation system held

THE AGRICULTURAL Development Support Project (ADSP) Marlae-Nattaung irrigation system awareness workshop was held at Letpanha agricultural training camp, Singu Township on 30 August. The ADSP was implemented with the loan from World Bank.

The workshop was attended by Township Administrator U Soe Naing and departmental officials, Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department staff officer U Tin Myint Aung and project officers, Marlae-Nattaung dam in charge U Chit Tun Myaing and local farmers from the dam area.

At the workshop, Irrigation and Water Utilization Management Department staff officer U Tin Myint Aung delivered an opening speech.

Then, Operations Analyst Daw Nay Nwe Lin Maung explained the objectives and process of the World Bank while Project Manager U Min Zaw Oo explained about Agricultural Development Support Project and accounting officer U Khin Yin explained about financial management. M&E officer Daw Moe Moe Lwin also explained about the observation and review system of the ADSP while environmental protection specialist U Min Min explained about the environmental conservation project.

Following this, social protection specialist Daw Sandar Tin Shwe explained the social protection project by Power Point. After that questions from the attendees were presented and discussed.

The ADSP's eight irrigation system projects were implemented with the loan from World Bank in Bago, Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay and Sagaing regions. The projects are based on 86,450 acres of agricultural land and it will benefit 120,000 family members of 25,000 local farmer households.

By Nyein Nyein

Over US$1.48 billion of foreign direct investments were brought into the country from April to August. The Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) targeted US$3 billion during the six months (April to September) interim period and it is facing difficulties to meet the target with the current inflow of foreign investments.

"FDI can reach around $2 billion during the interim period, with increased investments and more foreign investment inflow in September," said U Thant Aung Kyaw, Deputy Director-General for the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

A total of 65 foreign enterprises received permits and endorsements, bringing in a capital of $770.5 million, as of August in the current six-month interim period (April to September) prior to next fiscal year 2018-2019. Overall foreign direct investments of $1.48 billion flowed into the country so far, including increased investments and investments of over $171 million in Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

Four domestic foreign investment projects received permits and endorsements at the MIC meeting (13/2018) held on 25 August.

Those foreign enterprises were approved permits and endorsements by MIC and Ayeyawady Region Investment Committee, bringing in a capital of US$192.4 million. They are to be engaged in manufacturing, real estate and other sectors, creating 2,985 local employment opportunities.

In the same period, four domestic enterprises with a capital of approximately Ks22.7 billion were approved by MIC and the respective investment committees of Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions. They will be executing in real estate, manufacturing and other sectors, creating 350 job opportunities for local residents. A total of 73 domestic enterprises made investments of $176.57 million (Ks863 billion) in the past five months. Total domestic investment flow exceeded $177.7 million (Ks893 billion).

At present, 60 per cent of foreign investments were brought into Yangon Region. Mandalay attracts 30 per cent of investments. Other regions and states attain only small portion of investments, according to the statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Over $1.48 billion FDI brought into country in five months

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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Myanmar Reg. No. 4/8586/2018 Myanmar Reg. No. 4/8586/2018

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Advertising; business management; business administration; office functions. (Int' Class 35);

Telecommunications (Int' Class 38) and;

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U Thant Aung H.G.P. For MARGA GLOBAL TELECOM LIMITED C/o Polaris Partners Myanmar Co. Ltd., Unit 19-10, Sule Square Office Tower, Sule Pagoda Road, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar polarspartners@polarspartners.com.mm

Dated 31 August 2018

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V GIETTIE V-(GRL-043/2018-F-1952) VOY.

No. (–)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V GIETTIE V. (–) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of ALP-T-2 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.

UUNION OF MYANMAR

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S SAL HEAVY LIFT GmbH

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V UNI ANGEL VOY. NO. (0256-479W/E)

No. (–) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31-8-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of the Port of Yangon.

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

UUNION OF MYANMAR

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185
Rice, broken rice export volume reaches 909,000 metric tons in past four and half months

THE volume of rice and broken rice export is estimated at 909,376 metric tons from 1 April to 17 August 2018, earning US$315 million, according to an announcement by the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Myanmar’s rice export volume reached 909,000 metric tons through sea trade, with 15 countries, earning $1.13 billion, whereas the sea trade saw an income of $1.13 billion which were exported to foreign countries.

Meanwhile, over 196,271 metric tons of broken rice were exported to 15 countries, earning $58 million. Border trade supplied 40 countries, with export volume over 713,104 metric tons.

Rice export through border checkpoints earned an estimated $183.9 million, whereas the sea trade saw an income of $131 million.

Rice is the chief export among the country’s agriculture products. 75 per cent of the production is for domestic consumption and the remainder is exported. In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice worth $1.13 billion were exported. In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice worth $1.13 billion were exported. In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, 3.6 million tons of rice and broken rice worth $1.13 billion were exported. In the last 2017-2018 fiscal year, 3.6 million of rice and broken rice worth $1.13 billion were exported.

Over 100 new companies daily register on MyCO

By Nyein Nyein

OVER 100 new companies are daily registering on MyCO electronic registry system, said U Myo Min, Director of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

According to Myanmar Companies Law 2017, re-registration and re-registration of companies through MyCO website commenced on 1 August. This month, over 1,500 new companies and 5,500 old companies have completed registration and re-registration through MyCO system.

“Every country monitors the start-up. Decreasing number of startups is somehow related to poor business performance of the country. Over 100 new companies daily register on MyCO”, said U Than Aung Kyaw, Deputy Director-General of the DICA.

There are over 60,000 registered companies, according to data from the DICA. All the companies are required to re-register electronically online through Myanmar Companies Online (MyCO) system or in person at the offices of the DICA, using the prescribed forms for re-registration by 31 January 2019.

Inevitably those companies which fail to re-register within the set period will be cancelled from the list.

Re-registration process will be smoothly finished within the set six-month period. It is regarded as sufficient time for registration", U Than Aung Kyaw continued. According to Myanmar Companies Law 2017, there is no separation for local and foreign companies. Additionally, detailed business plan is not required to be submitted to the DICA.

When they submit annual returns to DICA after one year, the companies can be clearly specified, U Myo Min said. “Under new registry system, the companies can be identified as local or foreign ones. We see some foreign entities which make registration. The detailed business plans are not revealed. Companies are not required to submit an annual return to DICA during the re-registration period, but they have to submit it every year,” U Myo Min maintained.

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

MENDOZA, Wendell, G., a Filipino national with an address at 66 United Street, Mandaluyong City, Philippines 1550, SANTOS, Rita, Josefinna, M., a Filipino national with an address at 5 Andres Malong, Project 4, Quezon City, Philippines 1109, and DEE, Kennie, U., a Filipino national with an address at 59 D 12th Street Corner Gilmore Avenue, New Manila, Quezon City, Philippines 1102, are the joint-owners and joint-inventors of the following patent entitled:

“High Dose Extended-Release Potassium Citrate Wax Matrix Tablet”

International Patent Application No. PCT/PH2013/000007

Myanmar Reg. No. 11454/2015

The aforementioned individuals claim the patent rights and other relevant intellectual property rights for the patent as mentioned above.

They reserve the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates their intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.


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

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 31st August 2018

CAUTIONARY NOTICE

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“Method for Producing Extended-Release Potassium Citrate Wax Matrix Tablet”

International Patent Application No. PCT/PH2012/000013

Myanmar Reg. No. 11455/2015

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Rhinos and their conservation in Kenya

PARIS — Once it roamed Asia and Africa in the tens of thousands. Today, the rhinoceros has been driven to near-extinction.

Three of the five species of rhino are listed as critically endangered — their numbers decimated by poachers who kill the giant mammal for its horn, used in traditional Chinese medicine or as a supposed aphrodisiac.

The two species found in Africa are the black rhino and larger white rhino, with genetically distinct northern and southern subspecies. Together they number between 25,000 and 30,000 in Africa. It also has only two species of rhino in Africa, after South Africa. It also has only two remaining female northern white rhinos, whose species is on the brink of extinction after the last male died in March.

In 1970, Kenya boasted 20,000 black rhinos — a number which plummeted 98 per cent to only 350 in 1983, but has steadily crept up to over 700 due to conservation efforts.

Kenya is a pioneer of the sanctuary approach, placing rhino in fenced-off areas under the close watch of armed rangers equipped with thermal imaging cameras and drones. Ironically, this success comes with its own set of problems as there is limited space for these rhinos. As a result, faced with a burgeoning human population, they cannot roam and expand their gene pool.

With black rhino populations thriving in parks in Nairobi and Nakuru, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) this year decided to move 14 rhinos to a new sanctuary in Tsavo East, in the southeastern Kenya, in an operation funded by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF).

KWS has successfully carried out numerous so-called translocations of this kind. But in this case, all 11 animals which were moved died. The three others were not transferred. The figure represents more than the nine rhino poached in the country in 2017. Despite the tragedy, officials underline the country’s success in bringing down poaching in recent years, with 59 rhino killed in 2013. South Africa, home of the largest rhino population, has lost over 1,000 of the animals annually over the past five years, according to the group Save The Rhino.

PHOTO: AFP
Renowned Austria photographer Erich Lessing dies at 95

VIENNA—Renowned Austrian photographer Erich Lessing has died at the age of 95, Austria’s Jewish community organisation, the IKG, said on Wednesday.

Lessing’s career in photojournalism saw him document many of the key moments of postwar European history, such as the Hungarian Uprising of 1956 and Charles de Gaulle’s 1958 visit to Algeria.

Lessing worked with the Associated Press and the Magnum Agency and his photos also appeared in publications such as Time, Paris Match and Fortune.

Born in 1923 in Vienna, the son of a dentist and a concert pianist, Lessing fled the Nazis to Palestine at the age of 16. His mother and grandmother were murdered in the Holocaust.

In 1947 he returned to Austria, having taken up his childhood hobby of photography as a profession, including for the British Army during the war.

From the 1960s he increasingly focused on art and historical subjects in his work.

He later taught photography at various venues and his work was published in around 60 volumes. In 2013 he donated 60,000 images to the archives of the Austrian National Library. —AFP

Star Gosling took flying lessons for new astronaut film

VENICE—Hollywood star Ryan Gosling said Wednesday that he tried to learn to fly to play astronaut Neil Armstrong in an emotional new biopic about the strong but silent space hero.

The Canadian actor renewed his Oscar-winning partnership with “La La Land” director Damien Chazelle for “First Man”, which tells how Armstrong overcame tragedy after tragedy to become the first man to walk on the moon.

Gosling revealed how he took flying lessons so he could get inside the mind of the engineer and test pilot as the film opened the Venice film festival.

“I thought what I should do was learn how to fly. Neil could fly before he could drive. But not too long in when the instructor asked me to take the plane into a controlled stall, I thought ‘this is a terrible idea’,” the actor told reporters.

“There was a reason why Neil Armstrong was destined to be one of the best pilots of all time and I’m not. There was something very different about him and a lot of other astronauts,” Gosling said.

It took a “certain breed of person to get into a plane that has never been flown before and push it to its breaking point for the sole purpose of furthering our knowledge of aeronautics”, Chazelle, who is half French and half Canadian, said the astronauts were universal heroes.

“When I first saw a Gemini I thought it was just part of the spacecraft — but it was the whole thing. I wanted to capture how terrifying it felt searching in the void of space in flying tin cans.” —AFP

Detroit readies for Aretha Franklin tribute concert

DETROIT—Aretha Franklin’s casket is to lie in repose at her father’s church on Thursday ahead of a tribute concert in her hometown Detroit and what will be a “jubilant” star-studded funeral on Friday.

Thousands of fans paid their respects at the open, gold-casketed US music icon and “Queen of Soul”, who lay in state at the Charles H. Wright Museum for African American History on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The 76-year-old singer, beloved by millions around the world, died of cancer on August 16, closing the curtain on a glittering six-decade career that made her one of America’s most celebrated artists.

On the second night of the public viewing, a huge queue of young and old, from babies in strollers to elderly women leaning on crutches and sitting in wheelchairs, snaked half a mile to file past her coffin.

An estimated 15,000 people came on Tuesday with a bigger crowd on Wednesday, one museum official told AFP. On Tuesday, she was dressed in a red dress with matching stilettos and on Wednesday in blue.

The funeral parlor has reportedly said Franklin will be dressed differently for each of the four days of celebration, which continues on Thursday with her coffin lying in repose at her father’s New Bethel Baptist Church, where she hosted dinners and recorded an album.

In the evening a free concert honoring Franklin’s life is to kick off at 6pm at the Chene Park Amphitheatre, an outdoor riverfront arena in downtown Detroit that has 5,000 seats and 1,000 lawn spaces. Headliners include Gladys Knight, The Four Tops, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Angela Davis and Angie Stone.

Louis Farrakhan, the controversial leader of the Nation of Islam, is included in the line-up.

On Friday, former president Bill Clinton and Smokey Robinson are among those due to address her six-hour, invitation-only funeral with musical tributes coming from Stevie Wonder and Ariana Grande. —AFP

I get scared easily, says Shraddha Kapoor

MUMBAI—Shraddha Kapoor may or may not be the one scaring people in “Stree” but the actor says she herself gets scared easily.

Her upcoming film, a horror comedy, is based on the urban legend of Nale Ba, about a witch who knocks on people’s doors at night.

“Without throwing much light about her character, Shraddha, 31, said she is having fun with the mystery. “People don’t know whether I am ‘Stree’ or not. There has to be a sense of mystery around my character, we made sure we maintain that.”

“In horror films it is all about how well you built up the scare quotient, it is quite interesting. In real life, I get scared easily but I used to like watching Zee horror show. I also liked ‘The Exorcism of Emily Rose’ and ‘The Ring’, “ Shraddha told PTI.

The 31-year-old actor said it was great to work with performers like Rajkummar Rao and Pankaj Tripathi in the film.

“To get the opportunity to work with them was a treat. I would actually be nervous but I would end up having so much fun with them. I have learnt so much just by observing them, it is amazing how they work,” Shraddha said. —PTI

He later taught photography at various venues and his work was published in around 60 volumes. In 2013 he donated 60,000 images to the archives of the Austrian National Library. —AFP

Austrian photographer Erich Lessing, who has died aged 95, with pictures of the 1956 Hungarian uprising. PHOTO: AFP

A man paints a mural of Aretha Franklin on a wall down the street where the Rev. Jesse Jackson spoke celebrating the life of singer Aretha Franklin at her father’s church, New Bethel Baptist, during a Sunday morning service in Detroit, Michigan. PHOTO: AFP
OK computer: How AI could help forecast quake aftershocks

TOKYO—Lightning might not strike twice, but earthquakes can. And forecasting where aftershocks will hit might now be a little easier thanks to an assist from artificial intelligence.

Aftershocks can be more destructive than the quakes they follow, making it all the more important for experts to be able to predict them. But while seismologists have methods to forecast when aftershocks will hit and how strong they will be, there is more uncertainty about how to predict where they will strike.

“The previous baseline for aftershock forecasting has a precision of around three percent across the testing data set. Our neural network approach has a precision of around six percent,” said Phoebe DeVries, co-author of the study published in the journal Nature on Thursday. “This approach is more accurate because it was developed without a strongly held prior belief about where aftershocks ought to occur,” DeVries, a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard, told AFP.

The researchers used a type of artificial intelligence known as deep learning, which is loosely modelled on the way the human brain makes connections. PHOTO: AFP

Sato Kogyo opens Yangon branch

SATO KOGO CO., LTD has opened its branch at Sakura Tower in Yangon. Sato Kogyo traces its roots to one of the oldest turnkey contractors in Japan. Founded in 1862, Sato Kogyo, a “tunneling specialist” in Japan, has since evolved into an international name. It has handled a wide spectrum of building and civil engineering projects of varying nature, magnitude, and complexity.

Sato Kogyo’s operation in South East Asia was started in 1971 when joint venture companies in Singapore and Malaysia were set up. Since then, Sato Kogyo has been engaging series of works in civil engineering and building projects.

On June 22, 2018, Sato Kogyo signed a construction contract of the Project for Improvement of Magway General Hospital, under Japan’s grant program. Through the participation as a contractor in this project, Sato Kogyo wishes to contribute to the improvement of medical services in Magway region.—GNLM

Kid you not: Goats can read your face

PARIS—Goats can distinguish smiling human faces from frowning ones on photos, and actively seek out snapshots of happier individuals, a study said Wednesday.

Shown two pictures of the same person—one with a happy expression and the other angry—20 domesticated goats in an experiment were more likely to approach the smiling image and touch it with their snout, said researchers from Europe and Brazil.

“Goats looked and interacted on average 1.4 seconds with the happy faces compared to angry ones.”

The study, published in the journal Royal Society Open Science, claims to provide the first evidence of goats reading human emotional expression.

The findings suggested “livestock species have very sophisticated minds to interpret their environment,” said Nawroth, and “likely adapt their behaviour” based on human facial expressions.

Goats, unlike dogs or horses, were not domesticated because of their ability to read and respond to human moods, but to provide their milk, meat, dung, and coat.

“The study has important implications for how we interact with livestock and other species, because the abilities of animals to perceive human emotions might be widespread and not just limited to pets,” said Nawroth’s colleague Alan McElligott.

The team found goats were even more likely to approach happy pictures when they were placed to the right of the angry image, suggesting the animals use the left side of their brain to process positive emotion. — AFP

Fossil reveals mammals evolve by trading brood power for brain power

WASHINGTON—American researchers confirmed a fossil evidence that mammals, which have the biggest brains and produce some of the smallest litters of offspring. PHOTO: XINHUA

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WASHINGTON—American researchers confirmed a fossil evidence that mammals, which have the biggest brains and produce some of the smallest litters of offspring, traded brood power for brain power during their evolution.

The study published on Wednesday in the journal Nature described fossil of an extinct mammal relative and her 38 babies, a rare one because it contains the only known fossils of babies from any mammal precursor.

The presence of so many babies or more than twice the average litter size of any living mammal revealed that it reproduced in a manner akin to reptiles, probably developing inside eggs or having just recently hatched when they died, according to the researchers from the University of Texas at Austin.

The findings may help reveal how mammals evolved a different approach to reproduction than their ancestors, which produced large numbers of offspring.

“These babies are from a really important point in the evolutionary tree,” said Eva Hoffman, who led research on the fossil as a graduate student at the University of Texas’s Jackson School of Geosciences. “They had a lot of features similar to modern mammals, features that are relevant in understanding mammalian evolution,” said Hoffman, who co-authored the study with her adviser, Jackson School Professor Timothy Rowe.

The mammal relative belonged to an extinct species of beagle-size plant-eaters called Kayentatherium wellesi that lived alongside dinosaurs about 185 million years ago. Like mammals, Kayentatherium probably had hair; according to the study, a 3D visualizations analysis revealed that the skulls of the babies were like scaled-down replicas of the adult, with skulls a tenth the size but otherwise proportional.

This finding is in contrast to mammals, which have babies that are born with shortened faces and bulbous heads to account for big brains. However, the brain is an energy-intensive organ, and pregnancy is an energy-intensive process.—Xinhua
China remains top of Asiad athletics medal tally with two more golds

JAKARTA—China bagged two golds from athletics at the Asian Games here on Wednesday, remaining top of medal tally in the sport.

The golds came early from the first two events of the day. China’s Wang Kaishui, 24, came from behind to beat Japanese Toshikazu Yamanishi to win the men’s 20km race walk in his Asian Games debut.

Wang, 24, came from behind to beat Japanese Toshikazu Yamanishi to win the men’s 20km race walk in his Asian Games debut. After the match, an award ceremony was held with some entertainment programs. The champion Myawady team was awarded Ks 15 million, the first runner-up Thitsar Arman Ks 10 million, while the second runner-up Sports and Education FC received Ks 5 million. —Lynn Thit (Tgi)