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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 4 August 2017

## Six villagers killed, two missing in Maungtaw

THE bodies of six people near Kaigyi Village and the Mayu Mountain Range were discovered by Myanmar security forces on patrol in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. The villagers, all members of the Mro-Arakan ethnic group, had been killed with machetes and gunshots by violent attackers, according to State Counsellor's Office Information Team. Two additional villagers are missing.

The victims were identified as Kon Wai, 25, Lin Kyat, 29, U Kaing Hmwe, 25, Daw Seik Yar, 38, Daw Yi, 27, and Daw Hti Kaw, 25, from Kaigyi Village.

In October nine officers were killed at a border station in Maungtaw. The area has, since then, been the scene of a series of conflicts. After reports circulated that a group called Harakah al-Yaqin was responsible for the attack, the security forces staged area clearance operations.

The security operation has been beset by allegations of rape, torture and extrajudicial killings. The Union government has denied most of those allegations and refused access to a United Nations panel of experts, saying its mission would aggravate the situation in Rakhine.—GNLM ■



**in**  
Picture

### 3 August chosen as Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Day

Local and foreign merchants attended the Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day which was commemorated at Mani Yadanar Jade Meeting Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: HTEIN NAN NAW (NEWS ON PAGE-3)**

## One more dead from H1N1 flu

ANOTHER victim died from the H1N1 virus, also known as swine flu, on Wednesday, bringing the death toll to 14, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

With this death, the average


fatality rate for people with confirmed infections is 4.6 per cent.

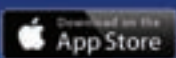
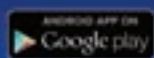
The government says that 110 patients have contracted the virus since 21st July when the first infection of the virus

announced. Of that total, 63 are receiving treatment at hospitals and 28 have already been discharged.

Emergency medical assistance from the government of

India arrived in Yangon yesterday to help the authorities in Myanmar deal with and contain the outbreak of H1N1 flu in certain parts of the country, according to a statement. **SEE PAGE-3**



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## Pyithu Hluttaw discusses public works projects in townships

Kyaw Thu Htet, Hmwe Kyu Zin  
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Pyithu Hluttaw members yesterday discussed a number of public works projects including the upgrading of roads and installation of signage along the

Mandalay-Lashio-Muse Road, Shan State.

The assembly also discussed the cost of public works at Pantaung Township, Bago Region. According to Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin the township project will be financed with Ks695 million from

the Union Finance Fund and K 2.7 billion from Region Finance Fund in FY2017-2018.

Additionally, Ks3.3 billion will be spent to upgrade offices, roads and other facilities at Oke Shit Pin Township, Bago Region, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin said. ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Mr. Eduardo E. Kapunan Jr. in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Ambassador of the Philippines

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received H.E. Mr. Eduardo E. Kapunan Jr., Ambassador of the Republic of the Philippines at 1:30 pm at the Pyithu Hluttaw's building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning

bilateral relations and promoting cooperation between the two countries.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Cancer wards provide private rooms at Myanmar hospitals; Myanmar Gemstone bill approved

Thuya Zaw & Mi Mi Phyo  
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe told the Amyotha Hluttaw that cancer departments had appropriate day care units in hospitals pro-

viding cancer treatment. In-patients were provided special private hospital rooms. The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker also announced the confirmation of 2017 Myanmar Gemstone bill. Amyotha Hluttaw education upgrading committee report was

tabled for confirmation by committee member U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1 and hluttaw also announced the confirmation of the report.

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 38th day meeting is scheduled for 4 August. ■

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Executive Director Mr. Akio Kawakami

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Executive Director Mr. Akio Kawakami, NPO Asia Environmental Technology Promotion Institute, Japan at 2:00 pm at the Amyotha Hluttaw's building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the two representatives discussed matters relating to Amyotha Hluttaw



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with Executive Director Mr. Akio Kawakami in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

representatives for attending 3rd Industrial Human Resources Development Symposium which was held in Japan organized by NPO Asia Environmental Technology Promotion Institute, promoting bilateral relations and

cooperation between Myanmar and Japan.

Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■



## Grand opening ceremony of the new chancery of Myanmar Embassy was held in Bangkok

The Grand Opening Ceremony of the new chancery of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was held on 3rd August 2017 at 3:45 pm at No. 110, Sathorn Nuea Road, Bangkok, Thailand. It was attended by U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, Directors-General and senior officials from the Government of the Kingdom of Thailand, Ambassadors and representatives from the Embassies based in Bangkok and other invited guests.

U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand, and U Myo Myint Than, Myanmar Ambassador to the

Kingdom of Thailand presided over the opening ceremony. At the ceremony, U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Mr. Virasakdi Futrakul, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Thailand delivered opening remarks. Myanmar and Thailand have established diplomatic relations on 24th August 1948 and the Embassy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in Bangkok was officially opened on the same day.

The construction of the new five-storey chancery was started on 16th October 2015 and completed on 28th March 2017. With the upgradation of its chancery, the Myanmar Embassy will be able to provide better consular services more conveniently to Myanmar Citizen and foreign visitors.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

## Union Minister for Information receives Bangladesh Ambassador

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received a delegation led by Bangladesh Ambassador Mr Mohammad Sufiur Rahman at 10:30 am in the hall of the Ministry of Information yesterday. During the meeting, they discussed matters relating



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint holds talks with Bangladesh Ambassador in the hall of the Ministry of Information. **PHOTO: MNA**

to improvements to promote understanding between the people of Myanmar and Bangladesh, exchange mutual information

for understanding different culture and exchange of goodwill visit programs.—Myanmar News Agency ■





State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Ethiopian Ambassador Mr Asfaw Dingamo Kame. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Ethiopian Ambassador

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received H.E. Mr Asfaw Dingamo Kame, who

has been newly accredited as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw at 3:00 pm.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Graduates receive postings at institutions

The Ministry of Education appointed 482 Bachelors of Education graduates as middle school teachers, and 9,953 recipients of Diplomas in Teacher Education and Pre-Service Primary Teacher Training graduates as elementary school teachers in different regions and states around the country.

The Department of Higher Education confirmed yesterday that they have also promoted B.E graduates in technological universities to lecturer positions. The department has also promoted doctoral and masters graduates at technological universities. The Ministry of Education has also placed

graduates among the faculties of the Research and Innovation Department, the Department for Planning and Practice, the Department for Vocational Education, the Department for Ethnic Languages in Myanmar and the Department for Industrial Techniques and Development. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Judiciary officials meet to discuss reforms

Judicial officials from Myanmar's Supreme Court of the Union and its states and regions high courts met yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw with Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo to discuss the role of the judiciary and legal reforms currently underway.

Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo said the court must establish judicial freedom by example and commit itself to responsibility and transparency as outlined in Myanmar's judicial ethics handbook. The chief justice said that the public trust is served when courts resolve cases according to the law without corruption.

The Supreme Court filed 754 criminal cases and decided 623 criminal cases; filed 1,183 civil cases and decided 988 civil cases; and filed 132 writs cases and decided 97, between 1 January 2017 to 30 June. States and Regions High Courts filed 2,969 criminal cases and decided 2,554 criminal cas-

es; and filed 3,046 civil cases and decided 2,482 civil cases. District courts filed 9,730 criminal cases and decided 8,320 criminal cases; and filed 6,670 civil cases and decided 5,188 civil cases. Township courts filed 179,197 criminal cases and decided 169,061 criminal cases; and decided 14,569 civil cases and filed 10,637 cases.

In other courts, juvenile

courts in Yangon and Mandalay filed 203 cases filed and 170 cases decided. Municipal Courts in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay have 11,463 cases filed and 11,429 cases decided. Traffic Courts in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay have decided 74,079 cases.

The judiciary meeting will continue today. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo addresses the 13th work coordination meeting with judicial officials from regions and states. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day observed by officials, traders

Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day was commemorated at the Mani Yadanar Jade Meeting Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Vice-President U Henry Van Thio attended yesterday's commemoration of Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day at Mani Yadanar Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ceremony was attended by several Union Ministers, parliamentarians and businesspeople.

"Myanmar is a country rich in gems and jewels such as jade, ruby and sapphire," said Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Entrepreneurs' Association Vice-Chairman U Myint Han.

In a speech at the event, the vice chairman said that 3 August was chosen as Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day to commemorate the day the Myanmar Gems and Jewelry

Entrepreneurs' Association was founded.

U Ohn Win, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation made an opening address. U Yone Mu offered honorary certificates to Ruby Dragon and Gems Company, which donated a 3,000-ton jade stone to the State, to Kyaukseintaung Gems Company, which donated Uru Yadanar Kyaukseintaung Bridge and to Amyotha Kyipwar Toetetyay Company which donated a 99 kilogram amber stone to the State.

Prizes were also given to the winners of various contests and exhibitions sponsored by the Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day committee, including companies that sold the most of jade and precious minerals and the highest taxpaying companies.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Henry Van Thio looks at jade statue displayed at Mani Yadanar Jade Hall as he visits the first Myanmar Gems and Jewelry Day. **PHOTO: MNA**

## One more dead from H1N1 flu

### FROM PAGE-1

The assistance includes vaccine doses, diagnostic kits, Tamiflu syrup and tablets and specialized face masks and they were handed over immediately to the Myanmar health authorities, said the Indian embassy in Yangon in its statement.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Health held a meeting focusing on giving treatment to patients

at hospitals for infectious diseases, providing sufficient medical professionals to hospitals, using Tamiflu, vaccinating health staff and preventive measures against the virus which was also found in Myanmar during the 2009-2010 outbreak.

The ministry has planned for formation of rapid respond teams to control the spread of the virus.—GNLM ■



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

# Sule Port premier port of Myanmar

Sule Port, the nation's busiest sea port for rice, handles an average of 1.3 million metric tons of imports and 600,000 metric tons of export, annually.

A total of 49,801 metric tons of rice were exported to foreign countries via Sule Port in current financial year.

Sule is a major transit point for cement, timber and steel.

Seventy per cent of rice exports over sea routes are destined for African markets.

Sule Port was established in 1913 and has seven piers, each of which is 1,040 meters long. Sule Ports can handle



Vessels being loaded rice for export at Sule Port in Yangon on 29 July 2017. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

seven ships simultaneously. The port also includes seven warehouses with a capacity of 96,110 metric tons.

The port is capable of ac-

commodating vessels of 190 meter length overall, a draft of 8.6 meters and a capacity of 50,000 tons.

A total of 10 ships above

LOA 167 meter, including a ship carrying steel, and nine ships loaded with rice have already been docked at Sule Port. —Transport Ministry ■

## Demand from China and Pakistan drives tamarind prices higher

THE price of seedless tamarind is increasing in Mandalay Region because of high demand from China and Pakistan, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

In 2016, the price of tamarind without seed was Ks1,600 per viss (approximately 1.6 kilograms) at Mandalay retail mar-

ket. But the price of tamarind has increased up to Ks 3,800 per viss in July this fiscal year.

"Prices of tamarinds and plums have increased for two consecutive years," said U Soe Win Myint, the owner of the Soe Win Myint brokerage. "This is not tamarind season. But the brokers stored tamarind before

this season and are now selling it at a high price, taking advantage of high demand." Tamarind with seeds are selling for Ks1,900 per viss now, compared to Ks1,200 per viss in May, he said. "Tamarind is very useful for making traditional medicines as well as for cooking," said Ma Lin Khine, a tamarind seller in Myo Thit

market. "Tamarind is selling well this year because the number of restaurants and barbecue shops has risen in Mandalay. We are selling the tamarind for Ks2,000 per viss."

Tamarind from Pakokku, Kyaukpadaung and Yamethin Townships are marketed mainly in Mandalay.— City News ■



Police officers and firefighters rescue diesel barrels from the cargo vessel sinking off at Kani Port. **PHOTO: THAN HTAY AUNG (KANI)**

## Cargo vessel capsizes and sinks at Kani port

A cargo vessel carrying 170 diesel barrels capsized and sank at Kani port, causing property damage but no injuries, on 3 August, according to a report from Myanmar Alin Daily Today.

According to police, a cargo vessel called Thein Htaik Aung was operated by U Hla Min Aung, 29, with five passen-

gers on board. Authorities suspect the cause of the accident was that the 78-foot-long, five-foot-long ship was overloaded with cargo. Kani Myoma police station and fire services personnel rescued the passengers and collected toppled diesel barrels. Police have charged U Hla Min Aung.—Than Htay Aung (Kani)■

## Chin Hill apple market struggling this year

CHIN State apples had a poor yield this season due to inadequate planting practices, according to a report from Myanmar Alin Daily today.

"In Chin State, we cultivated ten species of apples," said U Doh Za Nang, an apple orchard owner in Tiddim Township. "Previously, local people cultivated the green apples mostly. Now, we found other varieties of apples in the market. The high quality apples which are cultivated in Chin State are Aik Wah apples and Ruby apples."

Apples are cultivated mostly in Tiddim Township, Chin State.

Chin's mountains make its orchards relatively inaccessible and make technical assistance programs difficult to implement. Chin growers



say they also need access to more up-to-date, more popular apples.

Apples are cultivated mostly in Haka, Falam and Tiddim townships. Apples from Tiddim township are shipped over the Indian border to Mizoram State. Apples are also transported to communities in Myanmar along the Chindwin River.—ZoeHayZar ■





The solar plant will distribute solar energy for about Ks200 per unit between 6 am and 4 pm, and charge Ks300 during the remaining night hours.—GNLM ■

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

**တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပို(၈)**  
**မျက်နှာပါစင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar**  
**နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖုန်းနံပါတ်ဖြင့်**

**နေပြည်တော်**  
 မြန်မာ့သမ္မတမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်(၇) နေပြည်တော် သတင်းနှင့်တရားရုံးချုပ်(၇) (မိုးမုံမြင်)  
 စီမံခန့်ခွဲမှုဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၇ ၄၀၂၁၀၈

**နေပြည်တော်**  
 နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တင်ကုန်း)  
 ဓမ္မာဝါဒီမြို့နယ်၊ ဓမ္မာဝါဒီလမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊  
 ဖုန်း - ၀၈၇ ၃၈၀၈၊ ၀၈၇ ၃၈၁၂

**ရန်ကုန်**  
 The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊  
 မိမိတပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ တန်းကြီးလမ်း၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့  
 ဖုန်း - ၀၉ ၀၈၀၅၅၂၊ ၀၉ ၂၇၄၂၄၀၄

**မန္တလေး**  
 လမ်း (၂၁ - ၂) ကြား (၈၂ - ၈၃) လမ်းကြားမှ ပုလဲခွေ  
 မောင်းရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၂၂၊ ၀၂၃၂၅၀

**တောင်ကြီး**  
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**မကွေး**  
 မုတ်မဟက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်စော အနီး  
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**ကချင်တိုက်**  
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**ကလေး**  
 အောင်မေလှိုင်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အထကတောင်အနီး  
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**ပြင်ဦးလွင်**  
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 မိမိတပ်ကြီးအနီး၊ မိမိတပ်ကြီးရပ်ကွက်၊ မင်္ဂလာမြို့  
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**လားရှိုး**  
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**ဦး**  
 မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းမောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလေးမကွေးလမ်း  
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**မော်ဟမြိုင်**  
 ကြားအင်းမကွေးလမ်း၊ မော်ဟမြိုင်မြို့  
 ဖုန်း - ၀၉၇၂၂၅၂၊ ၀၉၇၂၂၅၂၆

**ငါး**  
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## Australia's spy agency downgrades aviation threat after bomb plot arrests



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull reacts during a media conference in Sydney, Australia, on 30 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Thursday the country's intelligence agency had downgraded the threat level to aviation after an alleged "Islamic-inspired" plot to bring down a plane was uncovered and disrupted.

Four men were arrested in raids in several suburbs in Sydney, Australia's largest city, at the weekend and held without charge under special terror-related powers. One man has since been released.

Increased airport security measures introduced after the

arrests have caused delays for some air transport operators. It is unclear whether the security measures were designed to impede other known threats.

The Australian Security Intelligence Organisation raised the threat level to aviation to "probable" as a result of the plot, Turnbull told reporters in the city of Perth on Thursday. He said it had now been downgraded to "possible". "That is because the plot has been disrupted and has been contained," said Turnbull, adding charges would be laid in due course, without elaborating.

The country's two biggest domestic airlines, Qantas Airways and Virgin Australia, did not immediately respond to questions concerning the changed threat level. Police have not released details of the plot, other than it was to include an "improvised device". A US official familiar with the arrests told Reuters that the target appeared to have been a commercial flight from Sydney to the Gulf. Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways said on Tuesday it was assisting the Australian Federal Police in the investigation. —Reuters ■

## Indonesian volcano erupts, shoots ash as high as 4.2 km

JAKARTA — A highly active volcano on the Indonesian island of Sumatra erupted again on Wednesday morning, spewing ash as high as 4.2 kilometres in the sky, the country's disaster agency said.

Mt. Sinabung, located in North Sumatra province, also sent hot ash clouds down its slopes as far as 4.5 km, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency said on its website.

The agency said there were no reported casualties from the eruption that happened at around 10 a.m.

It said that affected villagers urgently need face masks and water to clean the environment.

The 2,460-meter volcano erupted in August 2010, its first eruption in more than 400 years.

After three years of inactivity, it erupted again in September 2013 and since then has remained

highly active. In February 2014, 16 people were killed by a major eruption just after evacuated residents had been allowed to return home, while another seven people died in another eruption in May last year.

Villages located within the mountain's red zone, which covers a radius of 7 km from the dome, have been evacuated.

All activities within 3 km of the dome have been prohibited since authorities raised the alert status of the volcano to the highest level in 2015. Residents, however, had ignored the warning and returned to their villages to work at plantations.

More than 7,000 villagers affected by previous eruptions are still unable to return home. About 2,800 of them are staying at eight refugee shelters in nearby villages outside the danger zones.—Kyodo News ■

## Bangladesh signs deal to buy 1 mln tons of rice from Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday to purchase 1 million tons of milled rice from Cambodia within five years from 2017 to 2022.

The deal was inked in Phnom Penh between Cambodian Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak and Bangladeshi Food Minister Qamrul Islam.

Bangladesh, the world's fourth-largest rice producer, has become a major importer of the grain this year after flash

floods hit rice paddy output this year, said Qamrul Islam.

"We want to purchase immediately 200,000 tons of white rice and 50,000 tons of parboiled rice from Cambodia," he told reporters after the signing ceremony.

Sorasak said in the first phase, the Cambodian government's rice exporter Green Trade will deliver 250,000 tons of rice to the Bangladesh's Directorate General of Food by October, and the remaining 750,000 tons will be delivered in phases

until 2022.

"This is one of the biggest rice deals Cambodia has signed with friendly countries," he said.

Cambodia produced about 9.3 million tons of paddy rice a year. With this amount, it has more than 3 million tons of milled rice left over for annual export.

According to government figures, Cambodia exported a total of 542,000 tons of milled rice to 56 countries and regions in 2016, up 0.7 per cent year-on-year.—Xinhua ■

## South Korea, US discuss additional THAAD interceptor deployment

SEOUL — South Korea has begun negotiations with the United States on further deployment of an advanced US missile defence system, a Defence Ministry spokesman said Thursday.

Two of six Terminal High Altitude Area Defense interceptor launchers brought from the United States have been installed and are operational in Seongju, southeast of Seoul, while four others remain in storage at a

US military base. In the face of opposition domestically, as well as from China, to the THAAD deployment, President Moon Jae In ordered a procedural review and suspended full deployment for an environmental assessment.

But the president shifted his stance to allow for setting up the remaining launchers after North Korea's latest test-launch of an intercontinental missile last Friday.—Kyodo News ■



Bangladeshi Food Minister Qamrul Islam (front L) shakes hands with Cambodian Minister of Commerce Pan Sorasak (front R) during a signing ceremony in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 2 August, 2017. Bangladesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Wednesday to purchase 1 million tons of milled rice from Cambodia within five years from 2017 to 2022. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



## Hong Kong-ASEAN FTA mutually beneficial: chief executive

SINGAPORE — Visiting Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam said on Wednesday that a HK-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement (FTA), which is likely to be inked by the end of this year, is mutually beneficial for both the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China and ASEAN member countries. Hong Kong’s active role in the Belt and Road Initiative added to the justification of the view, she said while meeting the press after launching a photo exhibition. On her first official visit abroad since taking office on 1 July, the chief executive is on a tour which will also take her to Thailand. “Singapore and Thailand are Hong Kong’s largest and second-largest trading partners in ASEAN, and I want to thank the governments of the two

countries for their support in facilitating an anticipated free trade agreement between Hong Kong and ASEAN, which would hopefully be signed by the end of this year after a three-year discussion,” she said. Lam said that she advocated more pragmatic fiscal policies and more investments on education and infrastructure. The chief executive would meet Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and other Singaporean government officials during her two-day visit to the city state. On Wednesday afternoon, Lam attended the opening ceremony of a photo show together with Singapore’s Senior Minister of State for Culture, Community and Youth Sim Ann and Chinese Ambassador to Singapore Chen Xiaodong, which was held at the Arts House.—Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 3 August 2017, from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the entrance to a tunnel at Shin Tomei Expressway in the central Japan city of Shimada. Two multiple-vehicle collisions occurred in the tunnel, leaving more than 10 people injured in total. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## 12 injured in expressway tunnel pileups in central Japan

SHIZUOKA — Twelve people were injured in a pair of multiple-vehicle collisions Thursday in an expressway tunnel in central Japan, police said. Six vehicles collided in the 2.6 kilometre tunnel on

the Shin Tomei Expressway in Shimada, Shizuoka Prefecture, around 10:10 am, injuring nine people. Another crash involving three vehicles occurred several hundred meters from the site of the first

accident, leaving three injured. A woman on a motorcycle was in a critical condition, they said. The police arrested Yu Daibo, a 52-year-old truck driver from Hiroshima Prefecture, at the site of the first

pileup on suspicion of professional negligence resulting in injury. According to the police, the driver told them that he caused the accident as he was looking at his smartphone while driving.—Kyodo News ■

## China urges all parties not to heighten tension on Korean peninsula

BEIJING — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged all parties on Thursday not to heighten tensions on the Korean peninsula and said China had already clearly condemned North Korea’s latest missile test. “Regarding North Korea’s recent missile launch, once again in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, China has already clearly expressed our opposition,” Wang told a news conference in Beijing. “At the same time, we also call on all parties not to take any actions that will lead to an escalation in tensions,” Wang said ahead of regional meetings in Manila this week. On Saturday, Pyongyang said it had conducted another successful test of an intercontinental ballis-

tic missile that proved its ability to strike the United States. US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who will also attend the ASEAN Regional Forum in Manila, is expected to press China and other regional nations to take tougher action against North Korea. On Tuesday, Tillerson reiterated that Washington had sought to persuade North Korea to give up its missile and nuclear weapons programmes through peaceful pressure, and that it did not seek a collapse of Kim Jong Un’s regime. Asked about those comments, Wang said China attached importance to Tillerson’s remarks about the Korean peninsula and hoped the United States could implement them successfully.—Reuters ■

### “Invitation for Bid”

Date: 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2017  
IFB No: IFB-MR/YCR/UG/CP201 (T) 2017-18, and MR/YCR/UG/CP202 (T) 2017-18

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the Yangon Circular Railway Line Upgrading Project. The Bids are invited by Myanmar Railways as follows:

Contract No.	Closing Date/Time for Submission of Bid	Non-refundable Document Fee
MR/YCR/UG/CP201(Signaling works)	31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2017/10:00 a.m.	MMK 1,350,000 or USD 1,000
MR/YCR/UG/CP202(Rolling Stocks Procurement Works)	31 <sup>st</sup> October, 2017/2:00p.m.	MMK 1,350,000 or USD 1,000

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source of countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidders shall be Japan in the case of the prime contractor. In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partner is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the Joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.

3. The Myanmar Railways now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the design, execution and completion of the Signaling Works and Rolling Stock Procurement Works as described below (“the Works”). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA’s Single-Stage Bidding Procedure.

IFB-MR/YCR/UG/CP201 (T) 2017-18 Signaling Works	IFB-MR/YCR/UG/CP202 (T) 2017-18 Rolling Stock Procurement Works
Installation of all brand new electronic - interlocking and relay-interlocking systems, automatic block signal (ABS) system, multiple aspects color variations light signals, electric points machines, safety equipment at level-crossings, automatic train protection (ATP), signal cablings for signaling system, electric power supply works for signaling system, replacement the insulated rail joints and signal bonding wires, installation of turnouts, etc.	<b>Type of Train:</b> Brand new Diesel Electric Multiple Units (DEMU’s). <b>Total number of cars:</b> 66 cars (6 cars/train x 11 train-sets), which shall be delivered to the INSEIN Depot.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain documents on the submission of a written application to the Tender Office in the Head office of Myanmar Railways at Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar during the office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on business days.

5. Bids must be delivered to the address above mentioned on or before the closing date and time.

6. Technical Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend at 10:10 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. respectively on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2017 at the Tender Office as stated above.

Managing Director, Myanmar Railway, Ministry of Transport and Communications,  
Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar  
Telephone: +95-67 77024, Facsimile number: +95-67-677164  
Email address: [dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm](mailto:dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm) / [dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com](mailto:dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com) (not for submission but for clarification)



## Decide Daringly After Assessing Right!

By Khin Maung Oo

On 27 July, that is, on the anniversary ceremony of the Ministry of the Office of the State Counselor the above-said wording was addressed by the State Counselor as the working guidelines to abide by in serving the interest of the country and its people. In the 2015 multi-party democratic general election, the ruling party that gained the landslide victory contested for parliamentary seats by claiming, “Now is time to change.” It was said “Time to change,” was meant for “Time to change mindsets.” Quite right in saying so! Without changing evil mindsets, any effective changes cannot be achieved.

The State Counselor did stress the need for the government itself to commence to change its mindsets if

we wanted to have people’s attitudes and mindsets changed. A government consist people-elected leaders and governmental personnel. And, a government is the one who serves for a short term whereas governmental personnel are those who are deep-rooted ones for years. As they remain unchanged in their stationary positions without changing ways of thinking, modus operandi and attitudes, they are required to change their mindsets, as a priority.

People’s government must be able to confront any criticisms of the people with solemn courage, being the government consisting of all the governmental service-men, always taking people’s suppositions into consideration. For the betterment of the nation it must exert its efforts, working hand in hand with the people. With a view to developing the nation, governmental personnel must

apply their calibers to the best for the nation, regardless of advantages and disadvantages, cultivating good habits.

The State Counselor disclosed frankly, “Just at the time it became a ruling party after giving various promises in the election campaign, negligence of people’s desires is not the deed of a good government. In making the road map of the country known to the public, it is impossible to indulge in the people’s needs blindfold. Instead, the government itself must be able to assess in a right way and to decide daringly, as to whether their demands are really right or not. In claiming “Now is time to change,” government staff must be able to build up people’s trust by changing their mindsets as pioneers. Provided that the government will gain people’s trust, the national image will become the grandeur and virtue for the nation as well

as for its people. Though democracy is a system in which the majority’s likes and desires are to be followed by all, the people must make efforts to be well convinced that the majority’s likes and desires are reasonable or not. Democracy—a system in which the majority’s likes and desires are to be followed by all, ipso facto, cannot become a perfect one if people lack the wisdom to decide which are right and which are wrong.

At the present time we are building up a federal democratic union, we are experiencing many challenges. Meanwhile, whenever we meet public affairs we must make efforts to move on a right way by deciding daringly after assessing right. To sum it up, we must exert our efforts to be well-equipped with abilities of good judgment and tolerance towards criticism in serving the interest of the nation and its people. ■



## Myanmar steps up reforms to entice investors

By Oxford Business Group

**A combination of market reform and a rebound in foreign investment is expected to underpin stronger growth in Myanmar’s economy this year and into 2018.**

The process of opening up the economy to private sector and overseas involvement took a key step forward in mid-June, with the Ministry of Commerce announcing further liberalisation of trade and import regulations.

Under the new rules issued in mid-June, foreign companies are now permitted to trade and import fertilisers, seeds, pesticides, hospital equipment and construction materials, in accordance with the Myanmar Harmonised System commodity code. Trade of these products was formerly limited to domestic firms, or those working in partnership with overseas companies.

The easing of these restrictions should help clear supply bottlenecks in the agricultural, health care and construction industries, with knock-on benefits expected for broader economic growth.

### Setting the stage for investment

The new Myanmar Investment Law, which came into force in April, should also play a major role in supporting renewed FDI inflows, having levelled the playing field by bringing

two distinct pieces of legislation for foreign and domestic investment under the same regulatory framework.

The business community is also expecting the adoption of the Companies Act, which will help to regulate the local operating environment. Authorities are currently working to prepare the legislation for ratification before the end of the year.

In addition to making the Companies Act conform to the new Myanmar Investment Law, the proposed amendments are seen as vastly different from the old act, and should both make it easier to set-up companies and register them electronically.

Other reforms bode well for the opening up of the retail sector to 100% foreign-owned companies. The way forward was paved by the Myanmar Investment Commission’s Notification 15/2017, dated April 10, 2017. The notification allows foreigners to participate in retailing and wholesale services, subject to the approval of the Ministry of Commerce. Judging by the Ministry of Commerce’s actions last June, it will only be a matter of time before there is further liberalisation of

trade and import regulations.

Both the Asian Development Bank and the IMF expect foreign investment to accelerate, and early signs look positive: \$1.85bn worth of foreign direct investment (FDI) was approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission in the first quarter of FY 2017/18, with June alone seeing \$713.4m in ratified investment from 22 overseas companies.

In FY 2016/17 Myanmar attracted more than \$6.87bn in FDI, according to data issued by the Myanmar Investment Commission. While this figure was above the \$6bn target set later in the financial year, it fell below the \$8bn bar set by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, and was short of the \$9.5bn FDI posted in FY 2015/16.

### Work in progress

Widely recognised impediments to attracting higher levels of foreign investment in Myanmar are related to infrastructure; in particular, a lack of electricity access and underdeveloped transport networks.

**SEE PAGE-9**



## Leading monks in demonstration camps requested to leave

BUDDHIST monks who have been staging anti-government protests at Yangon's Shwedagon Pagoda and Mandalay's Maha Myat Muni Pagoda have been asked by Sangha Maha Nayaka committees in both cities to leave the religious sites.

The Sangha Maha Nayaka committees serve as the governing bodies of Myanmar's monks. The Bahan Township Sang-

ha Maha Committee ordered 10 monks and 35 other people to vacate the Mahazeya Atula Marazane Bronze Buddha Image compound and to leave the area.

Similarly, the Chanmyathazi Township Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee requested a group 15 monks and 50 other people led by U Aggadaza of Taungthalay Sayadaw, Aung Thar Monas-

tery, Meiktila and U Sandathiri of Dhammarakita Monastery, Patheingyi Township to cease their demonstration and leave their protest camp.

In both requests, senior monks of the committees said the camping at religious sites was inappropriate.

The groups set up their protest camps on 2nd August. —Myanmar News Agency

## Five cattle smuggling suspects arrested in Yathedaung Township

A government security patrol yesterday stopped five men on a boat headed for the Bay of Bengal along Htun Ya Wai Creek near Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State and found 18 cows aboard.

The patrol arrested the men on suspicion that they were trying to smuggle the cattle out of the country. Authorities are conducting further investigations into the men. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Appointment of Ambassador of Spain agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kingdom of Spain to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Bangkok.

Mr. Emilio De Miguel Cal-

abia was born on 23 November 1965 in Madrid, Spain. He obtained a bachelor's degree in law, and joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain in 1990.

He has served under various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain, Spanish Embassies

in Cameroon, Bolivia, Thailand and Singapore as well as at Spanish Consulate General in the Philippines. Mr. Emilio De Miguel Calabia is currently serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Kingdom of Spain to the Kingdom of Thailand. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Mobile medical team visits Maungtaw, Rakhine State

THE Ministry of Health and Sports sent a mobile medical team to villages in northern Maungtaw District, Rakhine State yesterday to assist far-flung residents. The mobile medical team was led by Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein of Maungtaw Hospital and treated 283 patients in Phar Wutt Chaung Village and 237 patients in Ngan Chaung Village.

"We are trying to close the gap between healthcare available in urban and in rural areas," said

Dr. Kyaw Maung Maung Thein.

Last week, the same mobile medical team visited King Chaung and Kyaung Taung villages in southern Maungtaw. "I came to buy medicine to treat bruises on my son's leg," said U Eie Nhit a villager of Ngan Chaung. "I came to buy medicine as my legs and body are aching," said Daw Oo Thandar, 75, of Phar Wutt Chaung Village. "I am very grateful to see free medical treatment." —Aone-Soe/ Myo Thu Hein ■

## Three suspects arrested in Maungtaw in connection with mine explosion

LAW enforcement officials arrested three men on 1 August on suspicion of being involved in a mine explosion at Pan Taw Pyin Village, Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State. Investigators named two of the suspects: Ma Su Phee Yar and Zar Baw Tar Mauk. Police conducting further investigations of the three men. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Registration of media personnel and observers attending Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition

A forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition will be held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre 2 (MICC-2) Nay Pyi Taw from August 11 to 13, 2017.

Observers, national and international media personnel who wish to attend the forum must contact the Information and Public Relations Department, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw at phone 067-412002, 412187, email iprd.md@gmail.com

and News and Periodical Enterprise phone 067-412125, 412126, email myogyi.npe@gmail.com. Registration deadline is 4 p.m., 8 August. One-hundred observers will be allowed to attend and those who are authorized will be listed on the MOI's website and on Facebook.

Entrance cards will be issued from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on 9 August at Ministry of Information, Office No. 7, Nay Pyi Taw. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Myanmar steps up reforms to entice investors

### FROM PAGE-8

To finance these development needs, the government will need to look to the private sector, according to U Win Khaing, minister of construction.

"We are working to expand electricity access and increase road connectivity. However, given our budgetary limitations, these projects can only be undertaken in partnership with international investors and

financial institutions, preferably under public-private partnership models," he told OBG.

"We must also look to increase interaction with local and international stakeholders to align the construction industry with international standards and good governance practices," he added.

### Regaining momentum

During FY 2016/17, which

ended on March 1, GDP growth slowed from 7.4% to 6.4%. Much of this cooling has been attributed to external factors, such as the continued impact of flooding between July and September 2015, and declines in global commodities prices.

However, some of the root causes have been internal, including weaker construction activity in Yangon due to regulatory compliance, according to

the IMF's most recent Article IV consultation.

The transition of power following the election of the National League for Democracy at the end of January 2016 has also slowed the pace of reform, as the new government gets to grips with the task of reshaping the economic focus to consolidate growth and stability.

However, as legislative changes enacted over the past

year begin to take effect and global market conditions pick up, the country's economy should gain momentum both this year and next.

GDP is forecast to expand by 7.7% in FY 2017/18 and by 8% in FY 2018/19, according to the latest projections from the ADB.

(This Myanmar economic update was produced by Oxford Business Group and Kelvin Chia Yangon.)

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



## Trump administration willing to work with Congress on war authorisation — lawmakers

WASHINGTON — Officials from President Donald Trump's administration are willing to work with Congress as it attempts to pass a new authorisation for military operations against Islamic State, US senators said on Wednesday.

Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Secretary of Defence Jim Mattis testified at a classified Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing, as it writes an authorisation for the fight against the militant group in Syria and Iraq.

"They expressed a willingness to work on an authorisation and I take them at their word," Democratic Senator Chris Murphy told reporters.

Earlier Wednesday, State said in a letter to the committee's Republican chairman, Senator Bob Corker, that the administration is not seeking any additional authorisation or any revisions to a 2001 Authorization for the Use of Military Force (AUMF).

"The United States has sufficient legal authority to prosecute the campaign against al-



US President Donald Trump speaks as he awards the Medal of Honor to James McCloughan, who served in the US Army during the Vietnam War, during a ceremony at the White House in Washington, US, on 31 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Qa'ida and associated forces, including against the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria," wrote Charles Faulkner of the Department's Bureau of Legislative Affairs.

The 2001 AUMF, passed days after the 11 September attacks to authorise the fight against al Qaeda and affiliates, has been used by presidents since as the legal basis for a

wide range of military action.

Some members of Congress argue that it is long past time to repeal the 16-year-old authorisation, especially for the campaign against Islamic State, which did not exist in 2001 and actually fights against al Qaeda in Syria and elsewhere. The Constitution gives Congress, not the president, the right to approve such military action.

Lawmakers have been struggling with the White House for a bigger say in foreign policy. Corker said Tillerson and Mattis were open to a new AUMF "written in the appropriate way." He said, "The administration's not seeking an AUMF (but) ... I'm confident they'll work with us."

It is not clear that any new AUMF could pass the Senate and House of Representatives. Attempts in recent years have come to nothing.

There are disagreements even within the committee over how to proceed.

Republican Senator Ron Johnson said he believes the 2001 authorisation applies to the anti-IS campaign.

Democratic Senator Tim Kaine, a leading advocate for a new AUMF, said Mattis and other military leaders agreed congressional action would send a message of resolve to US adversaries and allies, and support the troops.

"They think for the mission itself, it would be good to have Congress engaged," Kaine said.—Reuters ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

### Magnitude 4.5 quake hits Tokyo area, no tsunami warning

TOKYO — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 4.5 hit the Tokyo area on Thursday but no tsunami warning was issued, Japan's Meteorological Agency said.

The quake was centred in southern Ibaraki prefecture, northeast of Tokyo, according to the agency.

Japan is one of the world's most seismically active areas, accounting for about 20 per cent of the world's earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater.

—Reuters ■

### Fire breaks out near Tsukiji fish market, no injuries reported

TOKYO — A fire broke out near the famed Tsukiji fish market in central Tokyo on Thursday, consuming around 200 square meters including four shops, but there were no immediate reports of injuries, firefighters said.

The Tokyo fire department received a call around 4:50 pm about the fire that originated in a three-story building in an area adjacent to the market.

Dozens of fire engines were mobilized to extinguish the blaze.

The Tsukiji wholesale market, a popular tourist attraction, was established in 1935. Its planned relocation to the nearby Toyosu area has been delayed by pollution concerns at the new site.—Kyodo News

### Russia announces 'de-escalation zone' north of Syria's city of Homs

MOSCOW — Russia's Defence Ministry and Syria's opposition have agreed to create a new "de-escalation" zone north of the city of Homs, the ministry spokesman, Igor Konashenkov, was shown saying on Russia's state Rossiya 24 TV channel on Thursday.

A ceasefire in this area is set to take effect at 1200 (0900 GMT) on Thursday, he said. The new de-escalation zone will include 84 settlements populated by more than 147,000 people, Konashenkov said.

—Reuters ■

## At UN, Western powers warn Iran rocket test a 'threatening step'

UNITED NATIONS — The United States, Britain, France and Germany warned the United Nations on Wednesday that Iran had taken "a threatening and provocative step" by testing a rocket capable of delivering satellites into orbit and asked the UN chief to investigate.

In a report submitted to the UN Security Council's Iran sanctions committee and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, the four countries described the 27 July launch as inconsistent with a 2015 UN Security Council resolution. They asked Guterres to report "fully and thoroughly on Iran's ballistic missile and space launch activity" to the 15-member Security Council.

Most UN sanctions were lifted 18 months ago under a

deal Iran made with key world powers to curb its nuclear programme. But Iran is still subject to an arms embargo and other restrictions, which are not technically part of the nuclear agreement.

Guterres reports every six months to the Security Council on the implementation of the remaining sanctions and restrictions.

"The technologies necessary for the conception, the fabrication and the launch of space launch vehicles are closely related to those of ballistic missiles, in particular to those of an intercontinental ballistic missile," the four powers wrote in their report, seen by Reuters.

"This launch therefore represents a threatening and provocative step by Iran," they

wrote. "Iran's longstanding programme to develop ballistic missiles continues to be inconsistent with (the UN resolution) and has a destabilising effect in the region."

US Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley submitted the report on behalf of the four countries.

Iran's foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, denied on Friday that Tehran had missiles designed to carry nuclear warheads. The four countries also planned to raise the issue of the launch during the next Security Council meeting on the implementation of the resolution so the Council can discuss possible responses. It was not clear when that meeting would be held.

However any Security

Council action would likely be difficult. Under the UN resolution, Iran is "called upon" to refrain from work on ballistic missiles designed to deliver nuclear weapons for up to eight years. Some states argue that the language of the resolution does not make it obligatory.

"We call on Iran to immediately cease all activities related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such ballistic missile technology," the United States, Germany, Britain and France wrote.

The United States imposed sanctions on six subsidiaries of a company key to Iran's ballistic missile programme, a day after Iran launched the rocket last week.—Reuters ■



# Two dead, nine hurt in Minneapolis school explosion

MINNEAPOLIS — Two people were killed and nine injured on Wednesday after a gas explosion ripped through a Christian private school in Minneapolis, starting a fire and causing a building to collapse, authorities said.

The body of a school employee was recovered at 8 pm CDT from the rubble at the Minnehaha Academy, about 10 hours after the explosion, Minneapolis Fire Chief John Fruetel told a news conference.

Fruetel declined to identify either victim pending notification of next of kin.

The Minneapolis Star-Tribune reported that the remains removed earlier in the day were those of Ruth Berg, a 47-year-old receptionist at the school who was engaged to be



Emergency personnel put water on the scene of school building explosion and collapse at Minnehaha Academy in Minneapolis, Minnesota, US, on 2 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

married.

Family members earlier told local news channel KARE that John Carlson, an 81-year-old custodian, was missing

and that no one had been able to reach him.

The nine people who were injured were taken to local hospitals, and one was in critical condition,

were pretty lucky in that sense,” he said.

Authorities said there were early indications that a ruptured gas line may have led to the explosion and that it was caused by contractors working at the school. The academy confirmed on Facebook that there had been a gas leak and explosion at its Upper School.

“This is a day of extraordinary heartbreak in Minneapolis,” Mayor Betty Hodges told the news conference.

The federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives said on Twitter its agents, fire investigators and trained canines were at the site of the explosion.

Phillip Day, 41, said he, his wife and their 17-year-old daughter, Chimali, had been meet-

ing a counsellor at the school to discuss college options when the explosion occurred.

Day said that, as they left a conference room, his daughter was blown back through the door by the force of the blast and his wife was scraped.

Tramon Van Leer, 33, was in the gym at the Minnehaha Academy playing basketball with his step-daughter and four other girls when they heard the blast.

After they ran outside to safety, Van Leer said he looked back and said: “Wow, the whole section of the school is gone.” According to its website, Minnehaha Academy was founded in 1913 and teaches more than 800 students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade on two campuses.—Reuters ■

## US says ‘grave’ consequences if Syria’s al Qaeda dominates Idlib province

AMMAN — The United States warned a takeover of rebel-held northwestern Idlib province by Syrian jihadists linked to a former al Qaeda affiliate would have grave consequences and make it difficult to dissuade Russia from renewing bombing that recently stopped. In an online letter posted late on Wednesday, the top State Department official in charge of Syria policy, Michael Ratney, said the recent offensive by Hayat Tahrir al Sham, spearheaded by former al Qaeda offshoot Nusra Front, had cemented its grip on the province and put “the future of northern Syria in big danger”.

“The north of Syria witnessed one of its biggest tragedies,” said Ratney who was behind secret talks in Amman with Moscow over the ceasefire in southwest Syria announced by US President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin in July. It was the first such US-Russian effort under the Trump administration to end Syria’s civil war. “In the event of the hegemony of Nusra Front on Idlib, it would be difficult for the United States to convince the international parties not to take the necessary military measures,” the top State Department diplomat said. Mainly Islamist rebels swept through Idlib province in 2015, inflicting a string of defeats on the Syrian army until Russia stepped in to reverse the tide of the civil war in favour of President Bashar al Assad. Idlib province, the only Syrian province that is entirely under rebel control, has been a major target of Russian and Syrian aerial strikes that caused hundreds of civilians casualties. —Reuters ■

## Refugees hold protest in Athens over slow pace of family reunifications

ATHENS — Hundreds of refugees living in reception camps, hotels and rented apartments across Greece staged a symbolic peaceful demonstration here on Wednesday against the slow pace of relocations to Germany for family reunifications. Refugees marched from Syntagma square to the German embassy and the EU’s offices in the Greek capital, requesting a swift change. Several were holding banners and placards reading “Our children wait for us,” “No separation EU” and “The right to reunite is not a crime.”

Most of the protesters were Syrians stranded in Greece after the closure of the Balkan route to central Europe in March 2016. More than 62,000 refugees and migrants have been trapped in Greece.

Despite progress made regarding living conditions in camps, the assessment of asylum bids and relocation process to other European countries still take several months. —Xinhua ■

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
( INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER )  
( 14 / 2017 )

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-045(17-18)	1 1/2" Pitch Five Layer Roller Chain and Offset Link (2) Items	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-046(17-18)	Pilot Operated Working Regulator and Pilot Spring Spares (2) Items	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-047(17-18)	ITT Barton 3 Pen Chart Recorder and Spares (7) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-048(17-18)	Rig-A Lite Lighting Accessories for EMSCO Drilling Rig (4) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-049(17-18)	2 3/8" Drill Pipe (1000) MTR	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-050(17-18)	Steel Wire Rope, Shackle & Clip (3) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-051(17-18)	Mini Shaker Screen for ZJ 70L & ZJ 50D Drilling Rigs (27) Items	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-052(17-18)	Spares for Cooper Servicing Truck(10)Items	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-053(17-18)	Spares for Perkins Engine Ex Olympian Lighting Set (30) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-054(17-18)	Spares for Caterpillar Excavator (19) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-055(17-18)	Spares for Tadano Crane (52) Items	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-056(17-18)	Spares for Volvo Tractor (20) Items	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-057(17-18)	Spares for Kobelco Excavator (10) Items	Ks
(14)	DMP/L-058(17-18)	Spares for Nat-C-245-125(FH) Torque Converter (25) Items	Ks
(15)	DMP/L-059(17-18)	Spares for CAT-D-333 C Lighting Set Engine (47) Items	Ks
(16)	DMP/L-060(17-18)	Spares for CAT-D--399 Engine Ex USS Oil Well Rig (10) Items	Ks
(17)	DMP/L-061(17-18)	Spares for Horizontal Directional Drilling Rig (40) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time- 30-8-2017, 16:30 pm

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1 August 2017 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph . +95 67 - 411206



# Germany's long goodbye to coal despite Merkel's green push

FRANKFURT — Burning coal for power looks set to remain the backbone of Germany's energy supply for decades yet, an apparent contrast to Chancellor Angela Merkel's ambitions for Europe's biggest economy to be a role model in tackling climate change.

Merkel is avoiding the sensitive subject of phasing out coal, which could hit tens of thousands of jobs, in the campaign for the 24 September election, in which she hopes to win a fourth term.

Although well over 20 billion euros are spent each year to boost Germany's green energy sector, coal still accounts for 40 per cent of energy generation, down just 10 points from 2000.

To avoid disruption in the power and manufacturing sectors, coal imports and mines must



Steam billows from the cooling towers of Vattenfall's Jaenschwalde brown coal power station behind wind turbines near Cottbus, Germany, in 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

keep running, say industry lobbies, despite the switch to fossil-free energy.

"(Coal) makes a big contribution to German and European energy supply security and this will remain the case for a long time to come," the

chairman of the coal importers' lobby VDKi, Wolfgang Cieslik told reporters last week.

He also stressed it was crucial for steel manufacturing in Germany, the seventh biggest producer in the world,

that use a quarter of the country's coal imports.

Critics point to the irony in Merkel's tacit support for coal given that she criticized US President Donald Trump for ditching the Paris climate accord after pledging to voters he

would lift environmental rules and revive coal-mining jobs.

"Merkel ... has no right to criticize the disastrous climate production policy of US President Trump ... figures in this country speak for themselves," said former Green lawmaker Franz-Josef Fell, referring to Overseas Development Institute (ODI) figures showing the extent of public money going to coal.

Utilities such as RWE, Uniper and EnBW with coal generation on their books fire back by saying their output is covered by them holding carbon emissions rights certificates, while much of their historic profitability has been eroded due to competition from renewables.

Apart from the environmentalist Greens, who want coal generation to

end by 2030, none of the main political parties have set phase-out target dates.

Huge vested interests are stifling debate, whether it is potential job losses that alarm powerful unions or the effect on industrial companies relying on a stable power supply.

Industry figures show renewables accounted for 29 per cent of power output in both 2015 and 2016, up from 7 per cent in 2000. But plants burning imported hard coal still make up 17 per cent and brown coal from domestic mines 23 per cent of power output.

Cheap coal lets them run at full tilt when necessary while the weather dictates if wind and solar produce anything at all.

Cieslik said he expected hard coal alone to retain a share of 15 per cent by 2030.—Reuters ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PIYA STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PIYA STAR VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CSL**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY. NO ( )

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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.

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

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT  
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (179)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (179) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185



## China backs ally Venezuela, says Constituent Assembly vote ‘generally smooth’

BEIJING — Venezuela’s close ally China said it believed voting in the country’s Constituent Assembly election was “generally held smoothly”, brushing off widespread condemnation from the United States, Europe and others and evidence of voting irregularities.

The US government slapped sanctions on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro earlier

on Monday in response to Sunday’s election, which it called a “sham”.

Governments from Spain to Canada to Argentina and Peru joined Washington in denouncing the vote, which was boycotted by the opposition and widely seen as an affront to democracy.

Venezuela inflated the turnout figures for its constituent assembly election by at least 1 mil-

lion votes, the company that provides the country’s voting machines said on Wednesday, an accusation the government quickly dismissed as “irresponsible.”

But in a statement late on Wednesday, China’s Foreign Ministry said it had noted that the elections were “generally held smoothly”, though it also noted “the reaction from all relevant sides”.

China does not believe in interfering in the internal affairs of other countries, it added.

“We sincerely hope that all sides in Venezuela can orderly resolve the relevant issue with peaceful dialogue within a legal framework, and protect the country’s stability and socio-economic development,” the ministry said.

“China believes that



A woman casts her vote at a polling station during the Constituent Assembly election in Caracas, Venezuela, on 30 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

the Venezuelan government and people have the ability to properly handle their internal affairs. A

stable developing Venezuela accords with all sides interests.” —Reuters ■

## Born this way? Researchers explore the science of gender identity



Dr. Ivanka Savic points to a study on the screen of her computer at her home in Los Angeles, California, US, on 30 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

NEW YORK — While President Donald Trump has thrust transgender people back into the conflict between conservative and liberal values in the United States, geneticists are quietly working on a major research effort to unlock the secrets of gender identity.

A consortium of five research institutions in Europe and the United States, including Vanderbilt University Medical Center, George Washington University and Boston Children’s Hospital, is looking to the genome, a person’s complete set of DNA, for clues about whether transgender people are born that way.

Two decades of brain research have provided hints of a biological origin to being transgender, but no irrefutable conclusions. Now scientists in the consortium have embarked on what they call the largest-ever study of its kind, searching for a genetic component to explain why people assigned one gender at birth so persistently

identify as the other, often from very early childhood.

Researchers have extracted DNA from the blood samples of 10,000 people, 3,000 of them transgender and the rest non-transgender, or cisgender. The project is awaiting grant funding to begin the next phase: testing about 3 million markers, or variations, across the genome for all of the samples. Knowing what variations transgender people have in common, and comparing those patterns to those of cisgender people in the study, may help investigators understand what role the genome plays in everyone’s gender identity.

“If the trait is strongly genetic, then people who identify as trans will share more of their genome, not because they are related in nuclear families but because they are more anciently related,” said Lea Davis, leader of the study and an assistant professor of medicine at the Vanderbilt Genetics Institute.—Reuters ■

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES – FIRMS SELECTION)

#### MYANMAR

South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project

Project ID: P160931

Assignment Title: Component 2 Preparation of Detailed Engineering Designs and Bidding Documents for Drainage Infrastructure Improvements for the 6 Downtown Townships of Yangon (Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung and Pazundaung) and Construction Management and Supervision of the Works

Reference No. C2 CS1

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has applied for financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the South East Asia Disaster Risk Management Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds to finance the Works for drainage infrastructure improvements for six townships (Lanmadaw, Latha, Pabedan, Kyauktada, Botahtaung and Pazundaung) of Yangon City and the cost of Consulting Services.

The Consulting Services (“the Services”) shall consist of two Stages: Stage 1 covering Detailed Design; and Stage 2 covering Contract Management and Construction Supervision. A single proposal (technical and financial) covering both stages will be requested. Separate contracts will be awarded for each stage with award of the contract for Stage 2 being conditional on satisfactory performance on Stage 1. Stage 1 shall include carrying out hydrological and hydraulic studies; hydrological modelling; preparation of Drainage Plans; Detailed Engineering Designs for storm water drains, storm water retention basin/s and other Sustainable Drainage System (SuDs) measures, river outfalls and outlet structures to incorporate screens, storm water pumps, standby generators, automatic tidal gates, a SCADA system and other related ancillary equipment; a cost benefit analysis of the drainage plans, preparation of an environmental and social impact assessment (ESIA) in conformity with an existing Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); detailed cost estimates; identification of a List of Priority Investments; proposals for procurement packaging and preparation of Bidding Documents for a number of priority bid packages using World Bank Procurement Guidelines and Standard Bidding Documents. Stage 2 shall cover Contract Management and Construction Supervision of the works including assisting YCDC with overall coordination and during the Defects Liability Period of the works.

The duration of services for Stages 1 and 2 are estimated at about eight (8) months and thirty six (36) months respectively not including Defects Liability Period. Defect Liability Period is expected to be 12 months.

The budget available for the priority drainage infrastructure improvement works is around US\$65 million.

The Yangon City Development Committee will be implementing the Project and now invites eligible consulting firms (“Consultants”) to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The short listing criteria: (1) at least 10 years working experience in storm water management including the development of urban drainage systems and plans incorporating retention basins and other Sustainable Drainage System (SuDs) methodologies to attenuate floods, and outlet structures incorporating storm water pumps and ancillary equipment, automatic tidal gates and SCADA systems in both developed and developing countries, (2) experience in the design and implementation of large scale urban storm water management systems, (3) experience in conducting hydrological studies, including hydrological modeling, topographical surveys, etc. (4) availability of experienced and qualified staff (but not individual experts’ biodata), (5) proven experience in carrying out similar assignments within the past 5 years.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank’s Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011 and revised in July 2014. (“Consultant Guidelines”), setting forth the World Bank’s policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy to enhance their qualifications. The “association” may take the form of a joint venture or a sub consultancy. In case of a joint venture (JV), all members of the JV will be evaluated jointly for the purpose of short listing and shall be jointly and severally liable for the assignment and shall sign the contract jointly in case of award is made to that JV. Interested consultants should clearly indicate the structure of their “association” and the duties of the partners and sub consultants in their application. Unclear expression of interests in terms of “in association with” and/or “in affiliation with” and etc. without indicating the status of the partnership and designation of the lead partner may not be considered for short listing.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [9.30a.m to 4.30p.m, Monday to Friday].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax, or by e-mail) by Thursday, August 17, 2017 before 3:00 pm.

EDRB in Yangon City Hall

Contact Person: U Nyan Thar  
Engineering Department (Roads & Bridges)

3th Floor, Yangon City Hall,  
Kyauktada Township, Yangon,  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Tel: ++95 1 371126

Fax No. : 951-371126, 01-371126

E-mail: ycdcedrb@gmail.com



## Lana Del Rey tops Billboard chart, Linkin Park sales climb

LOS ANGELES — Lana Del Rey landed her second chart-topping record and led a slew of new albums in the Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, while Linkin Park experienced a sales surge following the suicide of the band's frontman earlier this month.

Del Rey's "Lust for Life" sold 80,000 albums, 24,000 songs and was streamed more than 36 million times, totaling 107,000 album units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. It is her second album to debut at No. 1, following her 2014 album "Ultraviolence."

Del Rey edged out rapper Tyler, The Creator's album "Flower Boy," which debuted at No. 2 with 106,000 album units sold, while rapper Meek Mill's "Wins & Losses" landed at No.

3 with 102,000 copies sold.

California alt-rock band Linkin Park saw two of its albums re-enter the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart this week as sales surged following Chester Bennington's death on 20 July. The band's May album "One More Light" climbed from No. 17 to No. 4 with 50,000 album units, while 2000's "Hybrid Theory" rose from No. 27 to No. 8 with 41,000 units sold.

The Billboard 200 chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

It is normally revealed weekly on Mondays, but was delayed this week after a major retailer was unable to report sales figures due to a techni-



Fans gather at Revolucion monument to pay tribute to Chester Bennington, Linkin Park frontman, following the singer's death by suicide, in Mexico City, Mexico, on 23 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

cal issue, Billboard said, not naming the retailer.

Other new entries in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 album chart this week include the soundtrack of Disney Channel movie "Descendants 2" at

No. 6 and Latin pop singer Romeo Santos at No. 10 with "Golden."

Last week's chart-topper, rapper Jay-Z's "4:44," dropped to No. 7 this week.

On the Digital Songs chart,

which measures online single sales, Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi's catchy summer hit "Despacito" featuring Justin Bieber continued its hold on No. 1, with another 102,000 copies sold. —Reuters ■

## Shameful that women have to fight for equal pay: Kiran Rao

MUMBAI — Filmmaker Kiran Rao said it is sad that women have been suppressed through generations and it is "shameful" that they have to fight for equal pay even today.

The director said women have always had to struggle to fight for their rights.

"Historically, girls and women have been suppressed. It's known to all that for 1,000 years, women have been given secondary position. Not in India, but in other parts of the world women got voting rights much later. 'All over the world, women have to struggle to get their rights and recognition. If we talk about pay, the fact that women have to fight for 'equal pay for equal work' is shameful," Kiran told reporters. She was speaking at the trailer launch of her upcoming production, "Secret Superstar", last evening. "I just want to tell women that the best message through this film is that don't be scared to dream. Don't be scared to desire or want things. It's your right

to have freedom, to follow your heart and dreams," she added.

The film features Zaira Wasim, Meher Vij and Aamir Khan in lead roles. It chronicle the story of a child who aspires to be a singer. At the event, her husband actor Aamir was also present. When asked if she has acting ambitions the "Dangal" star said, "I have been requesting her to act for the longest time because she is fantastic.

"When we were working on 'Dhobi Ghat', she used to read out Yasmin's (Kriti Malhotra) role so well. I was tired of telling her that she should take up this role but she was adamant that she only wants to direct," he said. Kiran, however, said she would rather do theatre than take up acting in films.

"In college, I enjoyed acting. I learnt a lot from it and it helped me while I was directing my film. But I have no real intentions to act. I do have an interest in theatre though. I feel when I retire, I would like to do theatre." —PTI ■

## Kanye West sues tour insurers for \$10 million over canceled shows

LOS ANGELES — Rapper Kanye West has sued Lloyd's of London for nearly \$10 million in insurance payouts he claims he is owed after canceling his tour last year when he was hospitalized with a "serious, debilitating medical condition."

West's tour company, Very Good Touring Inc., filed the lawsuit claiming breach of contract in federal court in Los Angeles on Tuesday, saying that syndicates of Lloyd's of London insurance market had delayed paying the rapper's claim for his canceled shows.

The lawsuit said the Lloyd's syndicates had suggested "they may deny coverage of the claim on the unsupportable contention that use of marijuana by Kanye caused the medical condition."

West, 40, abruptly canceled his Saint Pablo tour in November 2016 with more than 20 shows left. He was hospitalized following a week of no-shows, curtailed concerts and political rants.

The lawsuit, which seeks a jury trial, says West has submitted evidence to prove his medical condition did not allow him to



Recording artist Kanye West performs during the closing ceremony for the 2015 Pan Am Games at Pan Am Ceremonies Venue in Toronto, Canada in 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

continue the tour.

It said his behavior at his 19 November concert in Sacramento, California, was "strained, confused and erratic." The next day, the rest of his tour was canceled and on 21 November, West was admitted to a Los Angeles psychiatric facility with what the lawsuit called a "serious, debilitating medical condition."

He was released on 29 November, and is still being treated, the lawsuit said. Details of his ailment have never been released.

Lloyd's is an insurance market housing more than 80 syndicates in London. Spokesman Stewart Todd said in a statement the company could not comment on the specifics of the West case. —Reuters ■



# Michelangelo's unrealised marble dream comes true in Italian quarry

QUERCETA DI SER-AVEZZA, (Italy) — In 1517, Michelangelo climbed Mount Altissimo in Tuscany and found the marble of his dreams.

It was, the Renaissance master wrote, "of compact grain, homogeneous, crystalline, reminiscent of sugar". He deemed it perhaps even more precious than that from nearby Carrara, where he had obtained marble for some of his most famous statues.

With the blessing of Pope Leo X, Michelangelo designed a path that could get blocks of the white marble down from the mountain to be transported to Florence to be used to decorate the facade of the church of San Lorenzo.

In exchange for getting a quarry operation

going, Florentine authorities granted Michelangelo the right to take as much marble as he wanted from Altissimo - which in Italian means both "most high" and "God" - for his use for the rest of his life.

"There is enough here to extract until Judgment Day," he wrote to a contemporary.

But it was never to be.

After several years of work to carve out a road, Pope Leo, who was of Florence's Medici family, relieved Michelangelo of his commission and the project was abandoned. The church of San Lorenzo still has no facade.

Today, the quarries of 1,589-metre-high (5,213-feet) Altissimo, in Italy's Apuan Alps, buzz with the kind of activity that even a genius like Michelangelo probably



The Cervaiolo marble quarry is seen on Monte Altissimo in the Apuan Alps, Tuscany, Italy, on 15 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

could not have foreseen.

Modern cutting and extraction techniques have produced a surreal landscape similar to some Cubism paintings, a dizzying array of upside down staircases and sugar-cube structures looking heavenward.

"The primitive tech-

nology consisted of human labour and beasts of burden," said Franco Pierotti, director of extractions.

"The primordial instruments such as levers, chisels and hammers later evolved with the introduction of helical wires in the 19th century and now we have diamond-tipped

wires and saws and heavy earth-moving equipment," he said.

Before the extracting begins, experts known as "tecchiaroli" hang on ropes from the sides of the mountain and pick at its sides with pointy iron bars to remove loose rock that could fall and hurt workers in subsequent phases of the extraction.

In the three centuries following Michelangelo's time, the Altissimo quarries went through cycles of abandonment and re-discovery. In 1821, Marco Borrini, a local landowner, teamed up with Frenchman Jean Baptiste Alexandre Henraux to start a new company and it has been active in the area ever since.

The venture brought new life to the economically depressed area,

employing hundreds of quarrymen, squarers, sled men, stone cutters and cart drivers, who guided oxen trains.

In the 19th century, the tsars of Russia chose Altissimo marble for the construction of St. Isaac's Cathedral in St. Petersburg and more recently, it was used in the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi, which opened in 2007.

Today, the Henraux company owns the entire mountain, employs about 140 people and extracts marble from five active quarries.

Over the years artists such as Auguste Rodin, Henry Moore, Joan Miro and Isamu Noguchi have used Altissimo marble for their sculptures.

Michelangelo would be proud.—Reuters ■



Bubbles are seen in front of the skyline of the financial Central district, during a "Bubble Up" show by Japanese artist Shinji Ohmaki, outside Harbour City mall in Hong Kong, China, on 2 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Bubbles in Hong Kong harbor are Japanese artist's thought-stirrer

HONG KONG — Millions of bubbles floated across Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour on Wednesday, the latest public art exhibition by Japanese artist Shinji Ohmaki.

His project, titled "Memorial Rebirth", uses a three-meter (10-foot) tall, six-tiered machine with 50 bubble-producing units to spew out 10,000 bubbles every minute, using up

about 35 liters of bubble mix every 15 or 20 minutes.

"I wanted to create a space made with bubbles and light for people to ponder, 'What would happen if the world disappeared

instantly like a bubble?'" said Ohmaki, 47, reflecting on the transient nature of his piece.

The exhibition runs to 20 August in Hong Kong. —Reuters ■

### mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(4-8-2017 07:00am ~ 5-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Highland with Peace and Charm
07:44	Am	The Caves
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Kyauk Gu Umin Cave Gu Pha Ya
08:42	Am	Entrepreneur - Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung
08:53	Am	My Life & My Art
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-1)
09:45	Am	Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: Nipa Plam
09:50	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	The Green Corner (Epi-15) CD Tray
10:36	Am	The Longest Living Siblings (Part-1)

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) -Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

#### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Tourism development of Bagan
07:42	Pm	Mon Traditional Wedding
07:53	Pm	Tea
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-1)
08:51	Pm	Beach Food Delivery

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule - [www.myanmaritv.com/schedule](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))



## Fixing players for Myanmar U-22 in 29<sup>th</sup> SEA Games

Shine Htet Zaw

As all the friendly matches end up, Myanmar U-22 national men's football team has reduced three players from total 26 players and started camp training in preparation for the SEA Games.

The team comprises Manager U Thann Toe Aung, Head Coach Gerd Friedrich, Assistant Coaches U Kyi Lwin, U Zaw Win Tun and U Myint Ko, Goal Coach U Aung Kyaw Kyaw and 23 players including Si Thu Aung, Aung Thu, Thann Paing and Hlaing Bo Bo.

Myanmar players Myo Ko Tun, Yan Paing Soe and Zeyya Naing have been reduced. Myo Ko Tun has been suffering from

stomach ache and the other two were due to degradation in performances.

Although Myo Ko Tun could participate in the AFC U-23 qualifier, he is not well enough until now to play further games.

The finalized 20 players will be chosen soon. Myanmar U-22 teams will be also be trained in Nay Pyi Taw for 2 days as the team is participating in the victory flag conferring ceremony for the 29<sup>th</sup> SEA Games today.

Myanmar U-22 team has been placed in the Group (A) together with host Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Brunei. Myanmar team will play with Singapore on 14 August as an opening match. ■



Myanmar U-22 and Japan's Ryutsu Keizai team playing in a friendly match. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

## Myanmar Volley Ball fixtures for 29<sup>th</sup> SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Lin

The volleyball competitions at the 2017 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Kuala Lumpur will take place at Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre in Kuala Lumpur starting from 21 August.

Both Myanmar national men's and women's volleyball team has been in Group (A) in 29th SEA Games that will be hosted in Malaysia this month.

Myanmar men's team will have to play as an opening match with Thailand on 21 August at 1:30pm, to play against host Malaysia on August 22 at 5:30pm and Cambodia team on August 25 at 3:30pm respectively.

Myanmar women's team will play as an opening match with Thailand on 24 August at 10:30 am and with Indonesia on 25 August at 10:30 am respectively.

Both men's and women's volleyball semi-final and final matches is going to be held on 26 and 27 August. ■

## Sharapova withdraws from Stanford with injury

STANFORD — Maria Sharapova has withdrawn from the Stanford Classic ahead of her second round match on Wednesday due to soreness in her left arm, the former world number one said. Sharapova, who was competing as a wildcard in her fourth tournament back after a 15-month doping ban, said she started to feel pain in her forearm late during her first-round win over American Jennifer Brady on Monday.

"After yesterday's scan, the doctor has recommended I don't risk further injury," Sharapova, who was awarded a wildcard to compete this week in California, said in a statement on the tournament's website.

"Monday night's crowd was so special and I wish I could continue playing but I have to make a preventative decision."

Sharapova, playing her first match in the United States since

2015, was made to work against world number 80 Brady, needing two hours to secure the 6-1, 4-6, 6-0 win. Her early exit means Ukrainian seventh seed Lesia Tsurenko advances to the third round by walkover. It marks the second time in three months that the five-times grand slam champion's comeback has been interrupted by injury as she also retired from her second round match at the Italian Open in mid-

May after injuring her left thigh. Sharapova, banned after testing positive for heart drug meldonium at the 2016 Australian Open, has had mixed results since re-joining the WTA Tour. The 30-year-old Russian reached the semi-finals as a wildcard in Stuttgart but fell in the second round at Madrid to Canada's Eugenie Bouchard who days earlier had labelled the Russian a "cheater." —Reuters ■

## Mourinho, Klopp split over world record Neymar transfer

LONDON — Jose Mourinho and Juergen Klopp's conflicting views on Neymar's imminent move from Barcelona to Paris St Germain offer an insight into how the 222 million euro (199 million pounds) deal has divided opinion across football.

News of a transfer that will smash the existing world record broke on Wednesday when Barcelona confirmed they had given the Brazilian forward permission to speak to the French club, who are prepared to trigger his release clause. Mourinho, who sanctioned Paul Pogba's world record 105 million euro move from Juventus to Manchester

United last year, said PSG were not paying over the odds given Neymar's quality, but he is concerned by the financial "consequences".

"When we paid that amount for Paul, I said that it was not expensive," United manager Mourinho told British media.

"Expensive are the ones who get into a certain level without a certain quality... For 200 million pounds (\$264.46 million), I don't think (Neymar) is expensive.

"I think he's expensive in the fact that now you are going to have more players at 100 million pounds, you are going have more players at 80 million and more

players at 60 million. And I think that's the problem.

"Neymar is one of the best players in the world, commercially he is very strong and for sure PSG thought about it. So I think the problem is not Neymar, I think the problem is the consequences of Neymar." Liverpool manager Klopp criticised the deal and questioned the effectiveness of UEFA's Financial Fair Play (FFP) rules, which stipulate that a club's wage bill must not exceed 70 per cent of its revenue.

"There are clubs that can pay fees like that — Manchester City and PSG. Everyone knows that," Klopp told reporters in Mu-

nich on Wednesday.

City are owned by United Arab Emirates billionaire Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan, while PSG were taken over in 2012 by Qatar Sports Investments, an arm of Qatar's sovereign wealth fund. "I thought fair play was made so that situations like that can't happen. That's more of a suggestion than a real rule. I don't understand that. I don't know how it happens," Klopp added.

UEFA told Reuters on Wednesday that no complaint had been received about PSG, adding that it would not block any potential deal in advance. —Reuters ■



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho. **PHOTO: REUTERS**