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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets performers at the ceremony to mark 70 years of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and India. **PHOTO: MNA**

## State Counsellor meets with heads of privately owned banks

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with chairmen of Myanmar private banks at the meeting hall of the Office of State Counsellor in Nay Pyi Taw at 2pm yesterday.

In the meeting, the State Counsellor replied to the discussions of those present at the ceremony regarding the development of services private banks and economic establishments could offer, and explaining situations when the State could provide support and assistance. The meeting came to a close at 4:15 pm.

Present at the ceremony were Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe and Dr Aung Thu, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Deputy Governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar, U Soe Min and U Bo Bo Nge, and the chairmen of 22 private banks.—Myanmar News Agency ■

# Myanmar, India celebrate 70 years of diplomatic ties

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a ceremony yesterday evening in the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw celebrating 70 years

of Myanmar-India diplomatic relations and the 70th anniversary of India's Independence Day.

She expressed congratu-

lations on behalf of Myanmar for India's longstanding independence and commended India on achieving democracy in the face of difficulties and

that "unity can be wielded out of a glorious diversity of races, religions and languages."

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## Seven new cases of H1N1

MEDICAL examinations for 19 patients were carried out on 14 and 15 August, and seven new cases of H1N1 were confirmed, the Ministry of Health and Sports announced yesterday.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

# New TV broadcast centre discussed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Myo Myint, Aye Aye Thant  
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Central Bank of Myanmar board members, the Christian Marriage Act and the building of a new broadcast media centre were among the issues discussed yesterday at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

The appointment of members of the board of directors for the Central Bank of Myanmar sent from the President was put on record, followed by the announcement that Hluttaw representatives who would like to discuss the bill on the amendment of the Christian Marriage Act that was sent back from the President with conclusion notes attached should submit their names. U Kyaw Soe Lin, the joint secretary, read out the report of the findings and conclusions of the bill committee. Dr Pe Myint, Union Minister for Information, spoke on the construction of a new broadcast media centre that would transmit programming from state-owned television stations.

"The project to transfer the Yay Ku Broadcasting Station was attributed to population density in the surrounding area of the existing station and the potential health risks due to frequency radiation, which is emitted from the medium wave and short wave transmissions at high power, causing a hindrance to broadcast coverage due to the buildings in modern urbanisation. So a project was drawn up to build a bigger and better broadcasting enterprise, with the assumption that it should be moved to a broader and open location. According to the suggestions of international professionals, the existing Yay Ku Broadcasting Station must be moved in order to have technical equipment installed for the people from the whole country to



Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing. **PHOTO: MNA**

clearly watch TVs.

"After transferring the Yay Ku broadcasting station, the Yay Ku region is targeted to be developed as a media zone. It is designed for new and modern equipment including transmitting machines and antennas, (the current versions of which) are out of date, to extend the areas which all MRTV programmes cover, to change the design of antennas and machines which can receive images in various regions, to prepare for a digital broadcasting system, to build up a media zone that will include studios, a media training school, a public recreation centre, a playground and to acquire infrastructure needed for the future development of MRTV. Tender bids were invited in the State-owned newspapers, in accord with the procedures, after drawing up tender restrictions consisting of 17 facts. At the deadline, there were only six companies which submitted tender forms. The project is so important that the tender deadline set previously was extended for another one-month period so that companies can take time to compile the necessary documents for the tender bidding." Dr Pe Myint said bids received were incomplete. "Shwe Than Lwin Company and Myanmar Media United



Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho. **PHOTO: MNA**

bid tender proposals. According to preliminary assessments to the two tender bids, the tenders were not successful as the two did not comply with fundamental necessities designated by the Ministry of Information, so tender invitations were suspended through announcements in State-owned newspapers. If the project can be successfully implemented, the development of the media sector can be implemented in the country. Moreover, in places of economical housing estates there can be a media zone with media-related businesses in which public places will emerge. Tender winners will have no rights to sell the land or its premises. The Yay Ku Broadcasting Station compound is located in an area that borders three townships — South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa and Dagon Myothit (North), on a plot of land measuring 90 acres. So, it should be maintained as the area to implement profitable projects for the long-lasting interest of the nation and the people."

In other issues discussed yesterday, Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho said the No. 1 Steel Factory (Myingyan) is producing steel billets that are not of finished product quality and thus losses are being incurred. As steel usage in



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar is increasing, the management system of No. 1 Steel Factory (Myingyan) should be changed in order for its production to become economical. The No. 1 Steel Factory (Myingyan) extension project is implemented by loans and the project should be completed within the five-year grace period of the loan. Of the loan amount, 39.551 million euros are still left to be used.

The project is currently suspended for review and planning and coordination is underway to restart and implement it for the best benefit of the country. As there are market opportunities, there is a requirement to implement the steel project quickly. A combined group will transparently manage it to prevent losses to the country's finances.

Additionally, a caustic soda factory is now being converted into an industrial zone (Tha-ton), where a garment factory and solar, tidal and small-scale hydroelectric plants were started. When the Kyangin Cement Factory operation was suspended, there was an order from the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department and Department of Hydropower for 50,000 tons of cement that is now being planned to be produced under a Public Private Partner-

ship (PPP) programme. Detailed discussions were conducted with private companies and a study group was being formed to restart production in the factory as a priority. For private sector development, the Ministry of Industry is working together with private garment companies in 20 State-owned enterprise (SOE) factories and 13 were already operating and exporting garments, the Union Minister said.

Union Minister for Construction U Win Khaing then said Built Operate Transfer (B.O.T.) road sections issues raised and discussed by Pyithu Hluttaw representative from Pale constituency is noted and will conduct future works as suggested. A task force had been formed to inspect and control all B.O.T. groups. The Union Minister added that there were companies who conducted works according to agreement while actions were taken against companies who didn't.

Similarly, explanations were provided by Union Ministers, the Union Auditor General, Deputy Ministers and Nay Pyi Taw Council member from Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and Union Auditor General's office.

The Joint Public Accounts Committee then tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to agree and accept the report and the hluttaw decided to approve and put it on record. ■

## Speaker U Win Myint receives UN Under-Secretary-General and Nepal Ambassador separately

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), at 11:00 am and H.E. Mr. Bhim K. Udas, Nepal Ambassador to Myanmar at 2:00 pm at the Hluttaw Building Hall, Nay Pyi

Taw, yesterday.

In his meeting with Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Speaker U Win Myint discussed matters concerning cooperation between ESCAP and Myanmar parliament, successful implementation of United Nations' 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, technical and Myanmar's economic and socio-economic

development.

In the Speaker's separate meeting with Nepal Ambassador, the two officials discussed bilateral relations and democratic transition. Also present at the meetings were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint holds talks with Ambassador of Nepal Mr. Bhim K. Udas in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



## Seven new cases of H1N1

### FROM PAGE-1

This brings the total number of H1N1 cases since 21 July to 242. The death toll from this year's outbreak of the H1N1 virus has reached 25.

There are also 18 cases where patients with other illnesses have died because of contracting H1N1 that lowered their immune system.

As of yesterday, there were six inpatients at Wabargi Specialist Hospital and 51 inpatients in hospitals in various regions and states receiving treatment for H1N1, according to the ministry. In a statement, the ministry said the majority of the patients are doing well.

The ministry said the number of patients coming to hospitals to receive treatment for respiratory infections has dropped a bit.

So far, there has been no infection to health staff or officials who are treating the H1N1 patients.

The ministry urged the elderly, children, pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses and low immune systems to follow the ministry's guidelines to protect against the seasonal influenza and to receive medical examinations at the nearest health department if they experience any of the virus' symptoms.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Union ministers attend a dinner to mark 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic ties between India and Myanmar and 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence Day of India in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Myanmar, India celebrate 70 years of diplomatic ties

### FROM PAGE-1

She said cooperation between India and Myanmar has resulted in the formation of a Joint Consultative Commission, a Joint Trade Committee, and national-level meetings. India has also supported Myanmar in capacity building, the democratic transition and other development efforts.

The event was also attended by Union Election Commission Chairman U Hla Thein, Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr Pe Myint, U Ohn Win, U Win Khaing, Dr. Myint Htwe, National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun, Joint Chief of Staff (army, navy, air) General Mya Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung of Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Office, Nay Pyi Taw Command

commander Maj-Gen Myint Maw, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Myo, India Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri, Hluttaw representatives, invited guests and officials.

The ceremony was opened by the playing of the national anthems of Myanmar and India, after which the India Am-

bassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Vikram Misri gave an opening speech. The State Counsellor then spoke about the 70 years of Myanmar-India diplomatic relations and 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Independence Day of India.

The State Counsellor and event attendees then took a commemorative group photo, after which dinner was served.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## State Counsellor receives Executive Secretary of ESCAP

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a delegation led by Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP at 10:00 am yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on promoting cooperation between Myanmar and ESCAP in the areas of sustainable development, cross border trade, development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and trade and investment.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Ms. Shamshad Akhtar, Under Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Weather bureau warns of flooding

METEOROLOGY and Hydrology Department announced yesterday afternoon that the water level has exceeded by about (½) foot at Shwegu of Ayeyawady River above its danger level, it may continue to rise about (½) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

The weather bureau advised the people who live near the river bank and low lying areas in Shwegu Township, to take precautionary measures.

According to the department's observation yesterday, the water levels of the Chind-

win River have exceeded by about (4½) feet at Hkamti and about (1½) feet at Homalin of Chindwin River above their respective danger levels. The water levels may continue to rise about (1½) feet at Hkamti during the next (1) day about (1½) feet at Homalin during the next (2) days and may remain above their respective danger levels.

The weather bureau advised the people who live near the river bank and low lying areas in Hkamti and Homalin Townships, to take precautionary measures.—GNLM ■



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## Agricultural exports down by \$32 million this FY

AGRICULTURAL exports were estimated at US\$1.1 billion in trade value between 1 April and 4 August, nearly \$32 million less than the same period last year, according to Commerce Ministry statistics issued Friday.

Agricultural exports were \$1.1 billion during the same period of last fiscal year.

Of seven export categories, only the agriculture sector decreases in trade value.

Overall, exports were estimated at \$4.5 billion, an increase of \$685 million over last year.

Myanmar commodities



Farmers harvesting rice in their paddies in Kangyidaunk, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

such as rice, beans and pulses, fruits, rubber, sesame seeds and maize are exported across land

ports of entry and sea routes.

Farmers face technology shortfalls, scarcity of labour and

lack of access to agricultural inputs including fertilizer, irrigation and pesticides.—Swe Nyein ■

## Myanmar-India border trade at Tamu decreased \$16 million this FY

MYANMAR-India trade through Tamu border point of entry was estimated to be US\$8 million in the current fiscal year, a decrease of \$16 million compared to the same period last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported.

Between 1 April and 4 Au-

gust, trade between the two neighbours was estimated to be \$8.9 million. Imported Indian commodities was \$1.7 million, while Myanmar exports into India were \$7 million.

This time last year, the value of bilateral border trade was about \$26 million, including \$18

million in exports sector and \$7.8 million in imports.

Myanmar mainly trades with India through Tamu and Reed border trade camps.

Border trade from Tamu decreased this FY, the bilateral trade from Reed border gate increased by \$4 million.

India imports ginger, saffron, turmeric, bay leaves and other kinds of fruits and vegetables, human hair, fisheries and forest products and exports medicines, oil-cake, electronic products, cotton yarn, non-alloy steel and other construction materials.—Khine Khant ■

## High-quality black sesame seeds to be exported to Japan

MAGWAY Region sesame seed growers intend to export high-quality black sesame seeds to Japan in partnership with the Network Activities Group (NAG), the Magway Region Agriculture Department and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

More than 800 farmers, growing crops on 3,094 acres in 50 villages in the townships of Minhla, Minbu, Magway and Natmauk will participate in the project. NAG is an agency for the Food Security Working Group and is financially supported by the European Com-

mission. NAG supports sustainable development in agriculture by offering training, supply chain integration, policy reform and introduction of new farming practices and technologies.

About 73 per cent of agriculture land in Magway Region is used for agriculture. Twenty nine per cent of the region's crops are used for edible oil production. Currently, Agriculture Department officials are discussing with people engaged in supply chain to produce quality sesame seeds and access to beneficial markets. —Zin Oo (Myanma Alinn) ■



Farmers harvest and then dry and thrash until all the seeds are broken free from the pods. **PHOTO: MYANMA ALINN**

## Myanmar-South Korea trade exceeds \$180 million in current FY

TRADE between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea is estimated at US\$180 million so far this fiscal year, according to the monthly trade report of the Ministry of Commerce.

In June alone, the bilateral trade was \$68 million, including over \$19 million from exports and \$49 million from

imports.

In the first three months of the current fiscal year, Myanmar's exports to South Korea topped \$57 million and imports were more than \$132 million.

Bilateral trade between the two nations was \$866 million in FY2016-17, \$657 million in FY2015-16, \$863 mil-

lion in FY2014-15, \$1.6 billion in FY2013-14, \$624 million in FY2012-13 and \$666 million in FY2011-12.

Myanmar imports cosmetic, food and electronic equipment, mobile devices and other goods from South Korea and exports agricultural products including cashew nut, mango,

rice, beans and pulses.

As of 30 June, Korea ranked as the sixth most significant source of foreign direct investment in Myanmar, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, with \$3.6 billion invested by 141 enterprises.—Shwe Khine ■





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# Crop insurance, land reform and investment are essential to Myanmar's agricultural sector

The Global New Light of Myanmar interviews Myanmar Rice Federation's Chairman Dr Soe Tun about the state of Myanmar's staple crop and its most important agricultural export commodity.

By May Thet Hnin

**Q: What is the state of the rice industry in Myanmar?**

**A:** The government relaxed its control of the rice industry in 2003. Since FY2012-2013, rice export volume has exceeded one million tons per year.

**Q: Rice from Myanmar does not meet international standards and fails to sell for good prices in the international market. How can the federation improve rice quality?**

**A:** This is mainly due to low quality seeds. There are not enough rice seed companies in Myanmar. So, farmers recycle paddies from their farms to plant rice the following year.

Also, modern processing machinery and technologies are beyond our farmers' means. There are many other obstacles, including lack of storage. Past governments have tried to improve the agricultural sector, but still this sector has not yet reached a satisfactory level.

**Q: Attracting investment is high on the government's list of priorities, but foreign direct investment in agriculture is less than one per cent of all investment. Why is this so?**

**A:** The key problem is that there are still big risks in agriculture, including the lack of a crop insurance system. Investors do not dare to make investment in the sector as the sector cannot guarantee a profit. It is possible that flooding could wipe out any profits. High real estate prices is another barrier for investors. Often there is no way to access agricultural land as it is a state-owned resource. Another problem is that it is difficult to access land records or get approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission to utilise land. Myanmar also has logistical problems, including poor infrastructure and lack of electricity in rural areas.

**Q: State-run Myanma Insurance said it is working to implement crop insurance system soon. What are the benefits of crop insurance for**

**farmers?**

**A:** The country urgently needs a crop insurance system. This plan has been developing even during previous governments. In 2012, about 400,000 acres of farmlands in Ayeyawady Region were damaged by flooding. At that time, officials from Myanma Insurance said that it would not offer crop insurance as it could not do so and be certain to remain solvent. Farmers are going into debt due to floods that come about every three years and there is no system for them to recover their losses as there is no crop insurance system.

Currently, farmers rely on

partnership agreement.

But there are legal and regulatory requirements for foreign investors seeking to establish contract farming deals in Myanmar. The Myanmar Rice Federation has submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation terms and conditions which should be included in contract farming agreements.

There are numerous forms of contract farming. They range from formal to informal agreements. With informal contract farming agreements, investors provide cash and fertilizer to farmers in advance and then take the yield. This method has

Myanmar needs to establish stronger policies, laws and regulations to build in checks and balances between companies and farmers.

loans. But a loan system coupled with crop insurance would provide more benefits to farmers. In my opinion, I think it is difficult for farmers to pay full premiums for crop insurance. The solution is probably some kind of government subsidy for crop insurance.

It is also necessary to raise public awareness about insurance in areas at higher risk for natural disasters. Similar programmes have been implemented in neighbouring Thailand and India. I would like to urge responsible bodies in our country to follow their example.

**Q: What are the risks of contract farming arrangements between farmers and agribusinesses?**

**A:** Contract farming is an appropriate partnership for growth. Farmers have access to land and labour, but no capital. Companies have access to capital and to markets, as well as to technology. This is a good system for companies and farmers. Under this system, both share profits according to their part-

been practiced in the country for a long time. In 2009, specialized agribusiness companies emerged to do contract farming at a commercial scale in anticipation of healthy exports. However, they sustained losses due to management challenges and climate change.

At that time, some farmers faced further difficulties because they still had to pay full settlements to their contract farming partners, even as companies lost billions of kyats within three or four years. The weak point of this system was poor implementation. Myanmar needs to establish stronger policies, laws and regulations to build in checks and balances between companies and farmers.

**Q: Please describe the proposed national agriculture service centre project promoted by MRF, MAPCO and CITIC (China) Company last month?**

**A:** Agribusiness service centres will be constructed in 33 places in different states and regions, except Kachin, Chin and

Kayah states, and Taninthayi Region. The estimated cost of the whole project is US\$400 million. We are planning to provide services to farmers including the sale of pedigree seeds, fertilizer and machinery for land restoration, crop drying and storage services, processing facilities and contract farming services.

MRF and MAPCO signed an MoU with CITIC and we tried to obtain a \$400 million loan from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. But it is not certain that we would be granted the loan. Therefore, we tried to seek a development loan from the Chinese government. CIT-



Myanmar Rice Federation's Chairman Dr. Soe Tun.

IC is a privately owned Chinese company with shares owned by the Chinese government. Currently, we are planning to write a proposal for the project. If we receive the loan, we will implement the project as soon as possible.

**Q: What are the latest developments in Myanmar's rice export sector?**

**A:** Myanmar exported 1.7 million tons of rice last year. But this year, we intend to export two million tons. We have already exported 860,000 tons since April. Currently, 60 per cent of our rice exports goes to China. We also export Myanmar rice to African, Asian and European countries, including Spain, Germany, Japan, Malaysia, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Singapore and Bangladesh.

**Q: Lately, China has complained about illegal rice exports from Myanmar. How are their concerns being addressed?**

**A:** China is our prime agricultural market. We export not

only rice but also corn, watermelon, cucumber, mango and sugar. Although Myanmar exporters pay an official two per cent tax for agricultural products, our export trade is often regarded as illegal by the Chinese, who sometimes seize our goods and find fault with our products. The main problem is if China does not purchase our products, we experience big losses. Sometimes, China closes the market for 10 days to protect their farmers. China imposes 180 per cent tax on agricultural products exported. We would prefer to sell our products to China on a government-to-government basis, but even under such a system, we will find it difficult to sell our products legally if they impose high taxes.

The previous government signed an agreement to export over 100,000 tons of rice to China in 2015 but since then, we have exported only about 80,000 tons of rice under this agreement. Recently, we have not exported yet any products to China during the current government.

**Q: What is the situation of the domestic rice market?**

**A:** Recently, global rice prices have increased, so domestic prices have also increased because of high demand from abroad. Annually, rice prices increase in August and September. Rice prices will continue to increase until October and November.

**Q: How can MRF stabilize rice prices?**

**A:** Around the years 2012, 2013 and 2014, the former government purchased and stockpiled rice reserves at a cost of Ks14.5 billion, comprised of Ks10 billion in government loans and Ks4.5 billion in private sector funds. The rice reserve was usually bought at the floor price when the global rice price decreased during the harvest. Then, the government resold rice reserves at more competitive prices when prices increased locally. Additionally, the government also provided stockpiled rice to regions struck by natural disasters. ■





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# Grand Opening

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## YBS, YRTA and a new initiative to be accepted by the people

Khin Maung Oo

With the number of Yangon city-dwellers increasing by leaps and bounds, transportation became a problem for Yangon city commuters. It has been a big problem for many years. Due to poor management of the authorities concerned, the bus lines in Yangon had been a nuisance for commuters in the city. They had to always travel in anxiety due to careless and undisciplined drivers and rude bus-conductors. The problem was left to the new government as an evil legacy which could harm the image of the new government if it could not solve it in a speedy manner. Yet, the Yangon Region Cabinet managed to deal with it under the well intentioned plans by launching YBS (Yangon Bus Service)

and forming YRTA (Yangon Region Transport Authority). As usual, the new system had to suffer a great deal of criticism and blame from those who do not wish to accept change.

Most people welcome the new plan, accepting that a project would take time to be implemented successfully. Now achievements have been made to a considerable extent. We need no longer face bad-mannered bus conductors, who were eager to push new passengers onto the bus. However, as soon as the passengers reached their destination, these very same rude bus conductors would hastily push the passengers off the bus, most of the time giving very little time for the poor passengers to get off the bus. Thus they had to suffer these indignities day in and day out. The passen-

gers had to travel in fear and anxiety. Now at last, passengers could breathe a sigh of relief knowing that their days of fear and anxiety were now over once and for all. People began to abide by rules to systematically get on and off buses, before they knew it. However, the people are still facing one problem. They are facing difficulties when they pay the bus fare. As there are no bus conductors on the bus, passengers who do not have a 200-kyat-note find it difficult to pay. Thus it was very kind of the authorities concerned to make arrangements for solving this problem.

It has been learnt that the Yangon Region Cabinet has invited private companies to submit tenders for the introduction of a bus-fare payment system through the use of cards. According to Dr Maung Aung, Secre-

tary of the Yangon Region Transport Authority, tender proposals for the first phase will be accepted starting from August 25 and the deadline has been set as September 16. As it is, the current problem will be completely over in the near future. What a big relief it would be for the passengers. Holding old and torn currency notes is unhygienic from the health point of view. And, it will be beneficial for the State, YRTA, bus owners, car drivers and all the commuters. Malpractices will disappear automatically. As the government would gain more revenue, it would be able to implement more beneficial projects for the people provided that the card payment system can be introduced in all places. To sum it up, we all accept the new initiative wholeheartedly. ■

## Myanmar mangrove reforestation receives a boost from drones

The replanting of mangrove trees along Myanmar's Irrawaddy River is set to receive a boost next month with the help of drones developed by UK firm BioCarbon Engineering.

Christine Lariviere/ Daily Planet

THE drones are ten times faster at planting trees than humans are, and due to this efficiency, can cut costs in half. The aim is to restore degraded mangroves, which, due to excessive wood cutting for fuel, agricultural expansion and the construction of fish and shrimp ponds, are disappearing three times faster than rainforests. Only 16 per cent of the original cover left in the vulnerable Delta Region of Myanmar.

Mangroves play a vital role in the fight against climate change. They help mitigate carbon emissions, as well as protect vulnerable coastal communities from extreme weather, while strengthening seafood stocks up to 50 per cent.



Supporting the mangrove restoration in Myanmar. In partnership with Worldview International Foundation

### A forest from above

Over the last five years, villagers in the delta of Myanmar's Irrawaddy River have worked with Worldview International Foundation to replant 2.7 million mangrove trees, covering 750 hectares of land. The BioCarbon Engineering drones are poised to cover an additional 250 hectares.

The technology works in stages. First, drones survey the land, gathering information about the topography

and soil quality. Next, the data is analysed to determine which species of tree to plant and where. Drones then fire the relevant nutrient-filled "seed pods" with enough force to penetrate the soil within centimetres of its target—an innovation that's much more accurate than aerial spreading.

In UK-based test plots run by BioCarbon Engineering, trees planted by drones are experiencing strong survival rates, and in some species, they're comparable to hand planting.

It would take six drones working simultaneously to reach the targeted 100,000 plantings in a day in Myanmar. Additionally, the technology will be adjusted to suit local conditions. Mangrove trees grow in water, so the drones must be able to shoot the seed pods in such a way that they travel underwater and reach the soil.

Villagers in the area will be employed to collect seeds, load the seed pods for planting, as well as manage and monitor the trees as they grow. ■

Only 16 per cent of the original cover left in the vulnerable Delta Region of Myanmar.



## Union Ministers on Rakhine State stability, security, development



Union Ministers and Rakhine State Chief Minister hold a discussion on stability, security, development in Yathedaung, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MYO THU HEIN**

UNION Ministers Lt-Gen. Ye Aung, U Thein Swe, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Win Myat Aye toured Buthidaung, Rakhine State, yesterday accompanied by the Rakhine State Chief Minister and Rakhine State government officials to discuss security, stability and development.

During their trip to Buthidaung, they visited patients who were being treated in the township hospital and gave words of encouragement.

After leaving Buthidaung, the Union Ministers proceeded to Yathedaung and met with Hluttaw representatives, town elders, departmental officials, and the local populace in the Township General Administration Department meeting hall, where each ministry spoke about stability, security and development works being conducted in Rakhine State. The local populace raised matters relating to security, welfare, rule of law, exposing and ap-

prehending suspects, repairing and constructing schools, and opening a vocational training school for young women. The Union Ministers said they would coordinate on requests that could be fulfilled.

After the meeting, the Union Ministers and party visited Maha Muni Pagoda in Kyauktaw, Chit Thoung Pagoda, Htukkanthein Pagoda and Yadana Mahn Aung Pagoda in MraukU.

Later in the afternoon, the Union Ministers spoke to the local populace about education, social, relief and support works conducted by ministries for development of Rakhine State at a meeting held in MraukU District General Administration Department office. Local people attending the meeting expressed their difficulties, commented and advised on security, livelihood, training on agriculture methods, instructing proper reporting procedures when faced with emergency situations for people of Buthidaung and Maung-taw.—A One Soe, ■

## Thura U Shwe Mann receives Nepal Ambassador



Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Mr. Bhim K. Udas, Nepal Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

THURA U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw received H.E. Mr. Bhim K. Udas, Nepal Ambassador

to Myanmar, at the Hluttaw Building Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

The two officials discussed bilateral issues. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## More pieces from missing Y8 plane found

LOCAL fishermen discovered more wreckage from a Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane that crashed into the Adaman Sea on 7 June.

Tatmadaw navy ships and local fishermen continue to trawl the area where the plane crashed. —Myanmar News Agency ■



More wreckage of Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane discovered. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Traditional medicine registration can be applied direct to Region/State Supervisory Committees

Traditional medicine manufacturers seeking to extend their registration are now required to apply directly to Traditional Medicine Supervisory Committees in their home states or regions, according to

a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Previously, traditional medicine manufacturers sought extensions from the Traditional Medicine Licence Inspection Board.

The government allows extensions of up to two years with a fine.

The traditional medicine market in Myanmar is governed by the Ministry of Health and Sports. —GNLM ■

## Mya Sein Yaung village projects being implemented in 72 villages in Wakema Township

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is establishing Mya Sein Yaung, or “Emerald Green,” village projects to improve rural agriculture and fisheries facilities, electrical infrastructure and vocational training in Wakema Township, Myaungmya District, Ayeyawady

Region.

The projects will be implemented in 72 villages in Wakema Township in agricultural, livestock breeding and fisheries, manufacturing, electricity installing, trade and vocational training sectors.

Officials visited Kyon Tone Village in Kyar Phyu

village tract to inspect Mya Sein Yaung project activities, yesterday. During the official tour, U Kyaw Myo Aung, a staff officer from Township Rural Area Development Department met with Mya Sein Yaung committee members from various villages. —Township IPRD ■

## Stimulant tablets worth Ks900 million seized

SECURITY forces discovered Ks900 million worth of stimulant tablets on 14 August near the Buthidaung-Maungtaung Road.

The pills were in three sacks next to a drain. The owner of the pills is unknown.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Ks900 million worth of stimulant tablets seized. **PHOTO: MNA**

## 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



WORLD  
BRIEFS

Joint Chiefs Chairman General Joseph Dunford and Chief of the General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army General Fang Fenghui shake hands after signing an agreement to strengthen communication between the two militaries amid tensions concerning North Korea at the Bayi Building in Beijing, China on 15 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Top US general says committed to working through difficulties with China

**BEIJING** — There are many difficult issues between the United States and China but both share a commitment to work through them, the United States' top general said on Tuesday during a visit to Beijing amid tensions over nuclear-armed North Korea.

"I think we have to be honest. We have many, many difficult issues where we don't necessarily share the same perspective," Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, told Fang Fenghui, chief of the Joint Staff Department of the People's

Liberation Army. "We share a commitment to work through these difficult issues," he added, without elaborating.

Fang said China attached great importance to his visit and had arranged a visit for him to view a military exercise.

There was no mention of specific issues in comments made in front of reporters.

The United States has called on China to do more to rein in its isolated neighbour North Korea, while China has said it is Washington that needs to be making more efforts to

lessen tensions and speak directly to Pyongyang.

North Korea's leader has delayed a decision on firing missiles towards Guam while he watches US actions a little longer, the North's state media said on Tuesday, as South Korea's president said Seoul would seek to prevent war by all means.

China and the United States, the world's two largest economies, say they are committed to having a stable military-to-military relationship, but there are deep fault lines.

China has been angered by US freedom of navigation patrols near Chinese-controlled islands in the disputed South China Sea and continued US arms sales and support for self-ruled Taiwan, which China claims as a wayward province.

The United States has expressed concern about what it calls unsafe intercepts of US aircraft by the Chinese air force and a lack of transparency in China's military spending, China being in the midst of an ambitious military modernisation programme. —Reuters ■

### UK's post-Brexit customs proposals are "a fantasy" — EU's Verhofstadt

**LONDON** — Britain's proposals for its future customs relationship with the European Union are "a fantasy", the European Parliament's Brexit coordinator Guy Verhofstadt said on Tuesday.

Britain said it wants an interim customs agreement with the EU after Brexit to allow the freest possible trade of goods, but that it will also seek the right to negotiate other trade deals. Prime Minister Theresa May is seeking to move Brexit negotiations on to the issue of Britain's future EU relationship, but the bloc has said it must first resolve divorce issues, including citizens rights and the exit bill. "To be in and out of the Customs Union & "invisible borders" is a fantasy. First need to secure citizens rights & a financial settlement," Verhofstadt said on Twitter. —Reuters ■

### Zimbabwe's Grace Mugabe to be charged with assault in S Africa-minister

**JOHANNESBURG** — Zimbabwe's first lady, Grace Mugabe, will be charged over allegations she assaulted a woman in Johannesburg over the weekend, South African police minister Fikile Mbalula said on Tuesday.

Grace, a possible successor to her husband, Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe, cooperated with police and was not arrested when she handed herself in, Mbalula said. —Reuters ■

## Venezuela's Maduro calls for int'l talks to reject US military threat

**CARACAS** — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has called for international talks to resolve differences and counter the US aggression.

During a meeting Monday at the government headquarters with ambassadors from Asia, Europe and Latin America, Maduro proposed a "dialogue of civilizations" to promote respect for sovereignty in the international community.

The call came after US President Donald Trump last week said he would not rule out a "military option" to oust Maduro and his ruling United Socialist Party from power.

On the heels of what Maduro described as "Trump's threat," US Vice President Mike Pence embarked on a Latin America tour Sunday to build a regional alliance to further isolate Venezuela.

"The threat of violence can only be dispelled through dialogue," said Maduro.

He also called for an emergency summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) to discuss the possibility of a US military intervention.

Maduro asked CELAC members "to put peace, dialogue and the solution of Latin American affairs on the table,

so we can continue to be a land of peace."

Washington, which backs the right-wing opposition in Venezuela, claims that Maduro has destroyed democracy by electing the National Constituent Assembly to amend the Constitution, a mechanism that Venezuela's charter provides as a means of modifying or updating laws. —Xinhua ■

### 270 bodies recovered from Sierra Leone mudslide — mayor

**FREETOWN** — Rescue workers have recovered 270 bodies so far from a mudslide in the outskirts of Sierra Leone's capital Freetown, the mayor said on Tuesday.

Rescue operations continue in the town of Regent where the mudslide happened on Monday morning, Freetown Mayor Sam Gibson told reporters. —Reuters ■



# Iran could quit nuclear deal in “hours” if new US sanctions imposed-Rouhani

DUBAI — Iran could abandon its nuclear agreement with world powers “within hours” if the United States imposes any more new sanctions, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday.

“If America wants to go back to the experience (of imposing sanctions), Iran would certainly return in a short time — not a week or a month but within hours — to conditions more advanced than before the start of negotiations,” Rouhani told a session of parliament broadcast live on state television.

Iran says new sanctions that the United States has imposed on it breach the agreement it reached in 2015 with the United

States, Russia, China and three European powers in which it agreed to curb its nuclear work in return for the lifting of most sanctions.

The US Treasury imposed sanctions on six Iranian firms in late July for their role in the development of a ballistic missile programme after Tehran launched a rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit.

In early August, US President Donald Trump signed into law new sanctions on Iran, Russia and North Korea passed by the US Congress. The sanctions in that bill also target Iran’s missile programmes as well as human rights abuses.



Iranian president Hassan Rouhani. PHOTO: REUTERS

The United States imposed unilateral sanctions after saying Iran’s ballistic missile tests violated a UN resolution, which endorsed the nuclear deal and called upon Tehran not to undertake activities related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons, including launches using such technology.

It stopped short of explicitly barring such activity.

Iran denies its missile development breaches the resolution, saying its missiles are not designed to carry nuclear weapons.

“The world has clearly seen that under Trump, America has ignored international agreements and, in addition to undermining

the (nuclear deal), has broken its word on the Paris agreement and the Cuba accord...and that the United States is not a good partner or a reliable negotiator,” Rouhani said.

Trump said last week he did not believe that Iran was living up to the spirit of the nuclear deal. — Reuters ■

## Saudi Arabia and Iraq to re-open border crossing after 27 years

RIYADH — Saudi Arabia and Iraq plan to open the Arar border crossing for trade for the first time since 1990, when it was closed after the countries cut ties following Saddam Hussein’s invasion of Kuwait, Saudi local media reported on Tuesday.

Saudi and Iraqi officials toured the site on Monday and spoke with Iraqi religious pilgrims, who for the past 27 years had access to the crossing only once annually during the haj season, the Mecca newspaper reported.

The governor of Iraq’s southwestern Anbar province, whose staff was on hand for the ceremonies, said the Iraqi government had deployed troops to protect the desert route leading to Arar and called its opening a “significant move” to boost ties.

“This is a great start for further future cooperation between Iraq and Saudi Arabia,” said Sohaib al-Rawi. The announcement follows a decision by the Saudi cabinet on Monday to establish a joint trade commission with Iraq.

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are both wooing their northern neighbour in an

effort to halt the growing regional influence of arch-foe Iran.

The Sunni-led Arab Gulf countries have hosted influential Iraqi Shi’ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr for talks with their crown princes in recent weeks, rare visits after years of troubled relations. Sadr’s office said his meeting with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman resulted in an agreement for Saudi Arabia to donate \$10 million in aid to the Iraqi government and study possible investments in Shi’ite regions of southern Iraq.

The opening of border crossings for trade was also on a list of goals for the talks published by Sadr’s office. Sadr commands a large following among the urban poor of Baghdad and southern Iraq, and is one of few Iraqi Shi’ite leaders to keep some distance from Tehran. The Saudi-Iraqi rapprochement extends back to 2015, when Saudi Arabia reopened its embassy in Baghdad following a 25-year break. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir visited Baghdad in February, and the two countries announced in June they would set up a coordination council to upgrade ties. — Reuters ■

## Iran says its drones near US vessels are safe, following rules

LONDON — Iran’s powerful Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) rejected US criticism that it flew a drone unsafely near a US aircraft carrier in the Gulf and it defended its right to carry out air patrol missions in the area.

On Monday the US Naval Forces Central Command said that an Iranian drone had come within 1,000 feet (300 metres) of a US aircraft carrier while it was in international waters in the Gulf conducting flight operations.

Spokesman Lieutenant Ian McConaughy said the Iranian drone “conducted an unsafe and unprofessional approach”

as it passed by the USS Nimitz without navigation lights late on Sunday. Iran’s IRGC said in a statement published on Tasnim news agency late on Monday that “it carries out air patrol missions in Iran’s air defence identification zone (ADIZ) every day and in accordance with current regulations”.

“The Revolutionary Guards drones are equipped with standard navigation systems and are controlled professionally,” it added. The IRGC accused the United States of not having “capable identification and reconnaissance systems”.

US officials have complained

of numerous unsafe and unprofessional interactions between the United States and Iranian maritime forces this year.

Last Tuesday, a US official said an Iranian drone had approached a US fighter jet as it prepared to land on the aircraft carrier. The official said at the time that it was the 13<sup>th</sup> such incident in 2017. The administration of President Donald Trump has recently struck a hard line on Iran, saying Tehran was violating the spirit of an accord struck by the Obama administration that lifted sanctions and sought to curb Iran’s nuclear aspirations. — Reuters ■

## Taliban urge Trump to withdraw all US troops from Afghanistan

KABUL — The United States should withdraw all its troops from Afghanistan and stop listening to “stooges” in Kabul, the Taliban warned in an open letter to US President Donald Trump on Tuesday.

The Trump administration is working to finalise a regional strategy that could include

nearly 4,000 additional US troops, part of a NATO-led coalition, that have been requested by commanders in the country.

That plan has faced scepticism in the White House, where Trump and several top aides have criticised years of American military intervention and foreign aid.

“Previous experiences have shown that sending more troops to Afghanistan will not result in anything other than further destruction of American military and economical might,” the Taliban said in the English-language letter released to media and addressed to Trump. — Reuters ■





Earlier it was reported that the first launch of the new Russian super-heavy carrier rocket was expected in 2028. PHOTO: TASS

## Russia's super-heavy carrier rocket to be ready for tests in 2027

MOSCOW — Russia's super-heavy carrier rocket should be ready for flight tests in 2027, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin wrote on his Facebook page on Tuesday.

"As for the super-heavy carrier rocket, Roscosmos [State Space Corporation] should provide for the start of its flight tests by 2027 and not by 2030," the vice-premier wrote.

A source in the rocket and space industry told TASS in June that the first launch of the new Russian super-heavy carrier rocket was expected in 2028 while the construction of

the launch pad for it at the Vostochny spaceport in the Russian Far East was planned to be finished in 2027.

Russia's Energomash research and production association subsequently confirmed in its presentation at the MAKS-2017 international airshow outside Moscow that the first launch of this rocket was planned in 2028.

Director General of the Centre for the Operation of Ground-based Space Infrastructure Rano Dzhurayeva told TASS at that time that the construction of the infrastructure for the Soyuz-5 rock-

et and the super-heavy launcher at the Vostochny cosmodrome would begin after 2025.

As a source in the rocket and space industry told TASS in early June, the new carrier rocket is codenamed in the documents as the "Super-Heavy Complex-3" or "Energia-3" where the figure indicates the number of rocket modules of the first and second stages that will actually be Soyuz-5 medium-class rockets.

Unlike the Energia-5 version capable of lifting about 100 tonnes, which can be made on the basis

of the Energia-3 launcher with the addition of the other two blocks of the first stage, its lightweight version will be capable of lifting about 68 to 72 tonnes (if the third stage is hydrogen-fueled).

According to Roscosmos, the construction of the super-heavy rocket and its infrastructure at the Vostochny Cosmodrome will cost 1.5 trillion rubles (\$25 billion). The corporation earlier stated that there was no need to hurry with the construction of the super-heavy carrier rocket as no payloads were available for it.—Tass ■

## Firefighters battle wildfires near Athens for third day

ATHENS — Firefighters battled a wildfire northeast of the Greek capital for a third day on Tuesday, trying to prevent a blaze that scorched thousands of hectares of pine forest from spreading further.

The fire near Athens started in Kalamos, a coastal holiday spot some 45 km (30 miles) northeast of the capital, and spread to three more towns, damaging dozens of homes. A state of emergency was declared in the area.

"We are trying to contain the active fronts and the main priority is the protection of human life," fire brigade spokeswoman Stavroula Maliri told a press briefing.

Three fire-fighting planes and six water-throwing helicopters operated through the morning, assisting 180 firefighters and about 100 military personnel battling the blaze on the ground near the town of Kapandriti. Rugged terrain dotted with small communities made the fire fighting difficult, with winds rekindling the blaze at many spots along the front. Thick billowing smoke rendered fire fighting from the air difficult.

Authorities ordered a precautionary evacuation of two summer camps and homes in the area and evacuated a monastery

after flames reached its fence on Monday. Hundreds of Kalamos residents fled, heading to the beach to spend the night. On Monday firefighters battled more than 90 forest fires across Greece, an outbreak fed by dry winds and hot weather that saw blazes burning near Athens, in the Peloponnese, and on the Ionian islands of Zakynthos and Kefalonia.

On Zakynthos, an island popular with foreign tourists, several fires continued to burn for a fourth day and authorities declared a state of emergency. One minister said those fires had been set deliberately.

"It's arson according to an organised plan," Justice Minister Stavros Kontonis, who is the member of parliament for Zakynthos, told state TV when asked to comment on the dozen fires burning on the island. "There is no doubt about it." Late July and August often see outbreaks of forest and brush fires in Greece, where high temperatures help create tinder-box conditions. A resident of Kalamos told Reuters TV: "It was a terrible mess ... You could see homes on fire, people running, people desperate, it was chaos and the fire was very big."—Reuters ■

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV LUCKY SOURCE VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LUCKY SOURCE VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (151)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (151) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.8.2017 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185



## Konica Minolta to build digital manufacturing cluster in Malaysia

MELAKA, Malaysia — Konica Minolta Inc will build a digital manufacturing cluster with several partners in the southern Malaysian port city of Melaka to beat rising labor costs and boost productivity through the internet of things technology. The project, called “Smart Industrial Center” with at least \$56 million in investment, is aimed at beefing up efficiency in production by sharing data from manufacturing to logistics with parts suppliers, including Chinese, Malaysian and Singaporean firms.

The digital manufacturing cluster by the Japanese maker of copiers, printers and precision equipment is the first of its kind in the Southeast Asian country, the Malaysian Investment and Development Authority says. Some of the suppliers for Konica Minolta Business Solutions (Malaysia) Sdn. Bhd. will start production in November on the project site at Bukit Rambai Industrial Park.

Konica Minolta founded the Malaysian unit in 2015 to produce toners and other consumable parts to cope with changing business climates, including rising labor costs in China, over the last 10 years. In Malaysia, the Tokyo-based firm is poised to step up its efforts to evolve production through the introduction of a more advanced information-sharing system with its parts suppliers as well as factory automation. “We will operate the system to share as much data as we can and expect to improve our production efficiency by 20 to 30 per cent,” Hideyuki Yoshida, managing director of Konica Minolta’s Malaysian arm, said during a recent ground breaking ceremony for the digital manufacturing cluster.—Kyodo News ■

## Abe, Trump vow to work to stop N Korea missile launch at Guam

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Tuesday he and US President Donald Trump have agreed on the importance of working with the international community to prevent North Korea launching ballistic missiles across Japan toward the US territory of Guam.

“We shared the awareness that the most important thing is preventing North Korea from going ahead with the launch,” Abe told reporters after holding telephone talks with Trump.

The leaders spoke following North Korea’s threat last week to simultaneously fire four missiles into waters off Guam in the western Pacific.

The flight path suggested by North Korea would take the missiles over Shimane, Hiroshima, Ehime and Kochi prefectures in western Japan.

Abe said the threat of the launch toward Guam “has raised regional tensions unlike ever before.”

He said he affirmed with Trump the importance of Japan and the United States working in close coordination with



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks to reporters at his office in Tokyo after telephone talks with US President Donald Trump on 15 August, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

each other and with South Korea, as well as in cooperation with China, Russia and the rest of the international community.

The White House subsequently said Trump reaffirmed with Abe that “the United States stands ready to defend and respond to any threat or actions taken by North Korea against the United States or its allies, South Korea and Japan.”

According to Japanese Foreign Ministry officials, Abe and Trump agreed in the roughly 30-minute talks that dialogue with North

Korea for dialogue’s sake is meaningless and that now is the time for the international community to strengthen its pressure on the country.

Trump told Abe that he made an appeal to Chinese President Xi Jinping regarding North Korea in a phone call on Saturday, and Abe voiced his appreciation of Trump’s efforts, the officials said.

The leaders also hailed the adoption of the latest UN Security Council resolution toughening sanctions on North Korea

as a highly important step forward, and affirmed the importance of implementing it stringently, according to the officials.

Abe also said he appreciated Trump’s commitment to the safety of US allies. The leaders agreed to go forward with specific measures to improve Japan-US defence capabilities, according to the Japanese officials. North Korea test-launched two intercontinental ballistic missiles in July, prompting Abe and Trump to agree in a phone call on 31 July to

take further action against Pyongyang.

Also Tuesday, the Japanese government said Japan’s foreign and defence ministers will leave for Washington the next day to attend a security meeting with their counterparts on Thursday.

North Korean issues will be high on the agenda during the “two-plus-two” meeting, the first of its kind since Trump took office in January.

Japan will be represented by Foreign Minister Taro Kono and Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera, and the United States by Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Defence Secretary Jim Mattis.

“Given the extremely tough security situation... we will seek to further strengthen the Japan-US alliance by exchanging opinions on various issues, such as North Korea and the (disputed) South and East China seas,” Onodera told reporters on Tuesday.

Onodera and Kono also plan to separately hold talks with their respective counterparts Thursday, the government said.—Kyodo News ■

## Philippines says China has agreed no new expansion in South China Sea

MANILA — China has assured the Philippines it will not occupy new features or territory in the South China Sea, under a new status quo brokered by Manila as both sides try to strengthen their relations, the Philippine defence minister said.

The minister, Delfin Lorenzana, told a congressional hearing that

the Philippines and China had reached a “modus vivendi”, or a way to get along, in the South China Sea that prohibits new occupation of islands.

“There is status quo now that is happening in the South China Sea brokered by the secretary of Foreign Affairs,” he told lawmakers late on Monday.

“According to him, the Chinese will not occupy new features in the South China Sea nor they are going to build structures in Scarborough Shoal,” he said, referring to a prime fishing ground close to the Philippines that China blockaded from 2012 to 2016. “It would be a very serious thing if China will occupy any of the islands.”

Lorenzana did not comment when lawmakers, citing reports from the military, told him five Chinese ships had showed up almost 5 km off the Philippine-held Thitu Island in the Spratly archipelago on Saturday.

Congressman Gary Alejano told Reuters that Chinese fishing boats had blocked a Philippine ma-

rine surveillance ship in the area two days ago.

Thitu Island is the largest of nine reefs and shoals the Philippines occupies in the Spratlys.

The military’s public affairs chief, Colonel Edgard Arevalo, declined to comment until the armed forces had the “whole picture on the current situation”.—Reuters ■

### Objectable Declaration

It has been agreed to lease the Plot Nos. (12 Eastern ½ of 1 (Class) and (12 Western ½ of 1 (Class), Land-surveying Ward (12E<sup>3</sup>), Land-surveying Ward (12E<sup>3</sup>), Kyawktada township, Yangon Region as of the long-termness; granted legally in the name of Daw Ohnn Tin+1, 12/Ka Ta Ta (Naing) 019349 and owned. In case anyone objects it is the said leasing is to be completed, it is declaved so as to let the public know that it can be come, in person and objected, in 10 days, commencing from the date on which this advertisement is contained; with the firm Proofs, bringing the orignal ownership documents.

As assigned and instructed-

U Khin Maung Cho (Sr. 6320)  
Advocate,  
No. (1) Ward, Mayangone Township,  
Yangon City.

### Advertising can notice

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| 4. Agro feno     | 11. Hlack see      | 18. Goodshall     |
| 5. Agro breaker  | 12. Agro power two | 19. Lin yone      |
| 6. Style         | 13. Agro power one | 20. Nine plus     |
| 7. Shae lay      | 14. Agro san       | 21. Agro dizi     |
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# Downtown? Petula Clark goes Down Farm

**CROPREDY** — Grammy award-winner Petula Clark sang her global hit “Downtown” about as far from “where the neon signs are pretty” as she could at the weekend — to thousands in a field in rural England.

It was the 84-year-old’s first outdoor festival in a career spanning, well, eight decades.

“I’m always trying new things,” she told Reuters.

Clark’s set at the Fairport Cropredy Convention included some of her other ‘60s hits, including “Colour My World”, “I know a Place” and “Don’t Sleep in the Subway”, but also new songs from her latest album “From Now On”.

“This is not an old ‘60s thing by any means, I don’t do ... looking back,” she said.

Indeed, she is working on a new album of French-Canadian songs ahead of a tour next May.

As might be expected, Clark closed her Cropredy show with her biggest hit, “Downtown”, leading the crowd as they sang along with the chorus.

“Downtown” topped the US Billboard Hot 100 in 1964, reached number two in the UK



Musicians Petula Clark (R) and Tony Hatch perform during the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Songwriters Hall of Fame ceremony in New York on 13 June, 2013. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

chart, won Clark her first Grammy and was inducted into the Grammy Hall of Fame in 2003.

Clark, whose career stretches back to World War Two, when she sang on BBC radio to entertain British troops aged nine, has

never shied from breaking new ground. In the 1950s, she moved to Paris and recorded numerous songs in French, working over the years with the likes of Jacques Brel, Serge Gainsbourg and Charles Aznavour. Her web-

site lists 10 “gold record” singles that have sold a million copies, including one each in French and German. She has appeared in numerous films, including singing and dancing with Fred Astaire in 1968’s “Finian’s Rain-

bow” directed by Francis Ford Coppola.

The same year, in a US TV special, she sang a duet with African-American singer and civil rights activist Harry Belafonte. As they sang the anti-war song “On the Path of Glory” co-written by Clark, she touched his arm — to the dismay of the show’s sponsors. A white woman touching a black man on television was taboo in 1960s America.

To head off the sponsors, Clark’s team destroyed all other takes. “We were not going to be told what to do and what not to do,” she said. “Maybe I was naive. It seemed to me like a storm in a teacup but of course it was that particular time in that particular country.”

A US tour in November and December takes Clark from California to New York. Then she plays eight dates in French Canada, where she will perform in French.

So no plans to slow down?

“Not at the moment. My voice is in great shape. I don’t really do anything to help it, I just go out and do it,” she said. —Reuters ■

## Deadpool’ star Ryan Reynolds ‘heartbroken’ over stuntwoman’s death

**VANCOUVER** — “Deadpool” star Ryan Reynolds said on Monday that actors and crew were “heartbroken, shocked and devastated” at the death of a driver in a motorcycle stunt in Vancouver that went wrong.

“Today, we tragically lost a member of our crew while filming ‘Deadpool,’” Reynolds, a native of Vancouver, said in a message on his social media platforms.

Vancouver police confirmed the death on Monday of the stuntwoman on the set of 20<sup>th</sup> Century

Fox’s superhero movie “Deadpool 2” but gave no further details and did not release her name.

Local media said the woman appeared to lose control of the motorbike, which drove off the set and through the window of a building across the street.

The film is a sequel to the 2016 R-rated comedy “Deadpool,” starring Reynolds as the foul-mouthed Marvel superhero Deadpool.

Movie studio 20<sup>th</sup> Century Fox, a unit of Twenty-First Cen-

tury Fox Inc, did not say whether production had been halted. Spokesman Dan Berger said the studio was “deeply saddened by the accident.”

Reynolds said the cast and crew were “heartbroken, shocked and devastated... but recognize nothing can come close to the grief and inexplicable pain her family and loved ones must feel in this moment. My heart pours out to them — along with each and every person she touched in this world.” —Reuters ■

## Kendrick Lamar holds off Brett Eldredge for Billboard top spot



Kendrick Lamar performs at the Global Citizen Festival at Central Park in Manhattan, New York, US on 24 September, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

**LOS ANGELES** — Rapper Kendrick Lamar reclaimed the top spot of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday, fending off country music star Brett Eldredge.

Lamar’s “Damn.” climbed from No 2 to No 1 with 47,000 album units sold, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan. Streaming accounted for much of the sales activity, with more than 46 million streams in the past week.

Eldredge’s self-titled album debuted at No 2 with 45,000 album 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).

The only other new entry in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart this week was the “Now 63” compilation of current pop hits at No 5. Last week’s chart-topper, Arcade Fire’s “Everything Now,” dropped to No 38 this week. On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi’s catchy hit “Despacito,” featuring Justin Bieber, showed no signs off moving from No 1, with another 82,000 copies sold. —Reuters ■

## Grey’s Anatomy’ creator Shonda Rhimes

**NEW YORK** — “Grey’s Anatomy” creator Shonda Rhimes is taking her Shondaland production house away from Walt Disney Co’s ABC network to Netflix Inc to produce new content, the video streaming company said on Sunday.

Rhimes’s move to Netflix comes a week after Disney, the world’s largest entertainment

company, announced plans to launch its own streaming service and pull Disney and Pixar films from Netflix, starting with releases in 2019.

Rhimes is signing Shondaland to Netflix in a multi-year contract. Betsy Beers, Rhimes’s producing partner at Shondaland, is also moving to Netflix.

Netflix said “Grey’s Anat-

omy,” “Scandal” and “How to Get Away with Murder” — ABC shows created under the Shondaland banner — will continue to air in the US on ABC.

Netflix has been spending billions of dollars on content to win new subscribers in a quest to become the world’s top movie and TV streaming service. — Reuters ■



# Moscow State University enters top-100 of Academic Ranking of World Universities

MOSCOW — Lomonosov Moscow State University (MSU) has been ranked 93<sup>rd</sup> in the 2017 Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), released by the ShanghaiRanking Consultancy on Tuesday. MSU has dropped six places compared to the 2016 ranking.

As in 2016, the ranking's top-500 includes another two Russian universities – St Petersburg State University and Novosibirsk State University, that entered the 301-400 and 401-500 groups respectively. Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology has made it into the ranking's top-800, entering the 501-600 group.

The top-5 of the 2017 Academic Ranking of World Universities includes Harvard University, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of California,



The top-5 includes Harvard University, Stanford University, University of Cambridge, Massachusetts Institute of Technology and University of California, Berkeley. **PHOTO: TASS**

Berkeley.

The Academic Ranking of World Universities was first published in 2003 by the Centre for World-Class Universities (CWCU) at the Graduate School of Education of China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University.

The ranking uses "six indicators to rank world universities, including

the number of alumni and staff winning Nobel Prizes and Fields Medals, number of highly cited researchers selected by Thomson Reuters, number of articles published in journals of Nature and Science, number of articles indexed in Science Citation Index - Expanded and Social Sciences Citation Index, and per

capita performance of a university." ARWU is considered to be one of the three leading university measures, alongside the QS World University Rankings and Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The ranking particularly influences the popularity of Russian universities among Chinese applicants.—Tass ■

# Egypt carries on tradition of steam-free 'foot ironing'

ALEXANDRIA (Egypt) — In a narrow alleyway in the heart of Egypt's coastal city of Alexandria, Ebtesam Mohamed is busy working on a decades-old Egyptian tradition of ironing clothes

using her feet.

Unlike in regular ironing, she smoothes out creases by sliding a large hot metal slab weighing nearly 40 kilograms (88 pounds) back and forth

with her foot. There is a piece of wood between the iron and her foot to protect it from the heat. Mohamed, a 45-year-old single mother, has been doing the job for the past 35 years, inheriting

the trade from her mother and grandfather.

"I was 10 years old when I first started ironing, and I couldn't even lift the iron from the oven to the table," she said.—Reuters ■

## U Aung Shwe dies at 101

U Aung Shwe, Retired Brigadier-General, Retired Ambassador of Myanmar to Australia, Egypt and France, Former Chairman of the National League for Democracy, aged 101, passed away peacefully after an illness at the Victoria Hospital in Yangon at 9:36 pm Sunday on 13th August, 2017.

*A great man who sacrificed all for the people of Myanmar  
A gentleman for his family*

He is survived by his sons U Aung Than Shwe and U Than Pe Shwe, his daughters Daw Yuzana Shwe, Daw Myinzu Shwe, Daw Sabai Shwe and his son U Aung Myint Shwe and 6 grandchildren and 1 great grandson. His wife Daw Tin Tin Shwe has already passed away.

# US WWII veteran returns Japanese flag to owner's family

GIFU (Japan) — A US World War II veteran on Tuesday returned a Japanese flag taken on the island of Saipan in 1944 to the family of a fallen Japanese soldier in Gifu Prefecture, central Japan.

Marvin Strombo, 93, met the long-dead soldier Sadao Yasue's younger brother Tatsuya, 89, and other family members in the village of Higashishirakawa and delivered them the flag, on which Yasue's acquaintances and relatives had written their names.

"He was a reliable and kind brother. I feel like I can smell his scent because it has been kept in good condition," Tatsuya said, as the family members repeatedly pressed their cheeks against the

flag and shed tears.

Strombo told them that he believes Yasue was killed by the blast of a mortar attack as there were no noticeable wounds on his body and he had looked as if he were asleep.

He said he had promised to the dead Yasue to return the flag to his family and was glad to have kept his pledge after 73 years.

Japanese soldiers brought such flags to the battlefield as a good-luck charm, and Allied troops frequently took them from the bodies of fallen soldiers and brought them home as souvenirs of the war.

Strombo found the body of 25-year-old Yasue and the flag in Saipan while battling Japanese troops as a young Marine in July 1944.—Kyodo News ■



US World War II veteran Marvin Strombo (C) meets with Tatsuya Yasue (L) in the central Japan village of Higashishirakawa on 15 August, 2017, to hand over a Japanese flag Strombo found in a battlefield in 1944. Acquaintances and relatives of Yasue's late brother wrote their names on the flag, eventually enabling a US organization to identify its owner. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



Myanmar  
International  
Programme Schedule

(16-8-2017 07:00am -17-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1)Mingalar Byuha
07:51	Am	Philatelic Pleasure
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Amazing: May Phoo Han
08:36	Am	Gemstone Sculptor
08:48	Am	Toddy Palm Product Shop
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar
09:37	Am	Waso Charity Feast
09:55	Am	[Doctor] [Painter]
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin

10:48 Am ABU Radio Song Festival

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday 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	Travel To The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw)
07:46	Pm	A Way of Life: Karate-do
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-3) The Sphinx Of Egypt And The Manousiha Of Myanmar
08:41	Pm	A Photographer's Life at Shwedagon Pagoda
08:47	Pm	Diary of a Fisherman

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



## Thailand's women's football team defeats Myanmar at SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Tun

Myanmar women's national football team began their 2017 Southeast Asian Games with a disappointing 3-2 defeat to Thailand in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Tuesday afternoon.

The match was the ninth time the two teams have played each other at the SEA Games.

In 2007 and 2009 the rivals tied at 2-2. In 2013 SEA Game, Myanmar and Thailand played each other in the semi-final tournament in Mandalay, Myanmar and again ended regular match play at 2-2, but Myanmar was defeated 8-9 after a penalty shootout.

Myanmar will next face Malaysia on Thursday at 7:15 p.m. Myanmar Standard Time.

The Philippines women national football team also won with 2-1 against the host team Malaysia on the same day at UiTM Stadium, Shah Alam.

On 17 August, Myanmar and Malaysia teams will play at UiTM Stadium, Shah Alam and the Philippines and Viet Nam teams will play at UM Arena Stadium, Kuala Lumpur. ■



Myanmar and Thailand women footballers are playing at UM Arena Stadium, Kuala Lumpur. **PHOTO: MFF**

## Bicycle Network Myanmar organizes tour to celebrate its golden jubilee

Kyaw Zin Tun

Bicycle Network Myanmar (BNM) will hold a cycling tour from Thingangyun Township to Kayan Township, Yangon Region on Sunday, 20 August to celebrate the group's golden jubilee, according to an announcement on Facebook page.

Bicycle Network Myanmar

started in 2014 with a tour between Yangon and Twantay.

Jubilee cycling tour of Bicycle Network Myanmar will start at Si Taw Gyi Teashop on the Yadanar Road near the junction with Wai Zayan Tar, Thingangyun Township. The bike tour is opened to the public. As it is raining season, tour organizers recommend brake, light and tire

checks be conducted before participating.

Bicycle Network Myanmar will arrange for the cyclists to have a meal together. A lucky draw program for helmets and T-shirts will also be arranged for the cyclists. One GTM- Mountain Bike 26" is also included as a lucky draw program for the cyclists who are BNM members. ■

## US\$ 50,000 to Myanmar football team for opening match won



Myanmar U-22 national football team won their opening match against Singapore on Monday at 2017 Southeast Asia Game and

was awarded a total US\$ 50,000. U Aung Ko Win awarded \$30,000 and U Tay Za and U Zaw Zaw awarded \$10,000 each. — GNLM



Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Coutinho left out of Liverpool's travelling squad for Hoffenheim clash

LONDON — Liverpool attacking midfielder Philippe Coutinho was not included in the 22-man travelling squad for the first leg of their Champions League play-off against Hoffenheim, the Premier League club said on Monday.

According to reports in British media, Barcelona target Coutinho submitted a transfer request last week after Liverpool rejected a second bid worth 100 million euros (\$117.96 million) from the La liga club.

Coutinho also missed Liverpool's 3-3 draw at Watford on Saturday due to a back injury, with manager Juergen Klopp conceding he had no control

over the 25-year-old's future at the club. Under current UEFA rules, Coutinho's participation in the play-off round against Hoffenheim would not jeopardise a move in the current transfer window. The Brazil international will remain eligible to feature for another club in next month's Champions League group-stage. The Merseyside club will also be without striker Daniel Sturridge, who has failed to recover from a thigh injury sustained during the pre-season.

Hoffenheim host Liverpool at the Rhein-Neckar-Arena on Tuesday before the two sides meet again at Anfield next week. —Reuters ■

## Federer's pullout from Cincinnati hands number one spot to Nadal

MONTREAL, QUEBEC, Canada — Roger Federer has pulled out of the Cincinnati Open with a back injury, meaning Rafa Nadal will be the new world number one in next week's rankings.

Federer, who has won the Ohio warm-up tournament for the US Open on seven occasions, said he had picked up the injury in Montreal, where he lost to Germany's Alexander Zverev in the final.

"I am very sorry to pull out of the Western and Southern Open as I always enjoy playing here," Federer said in a statement issued by the tournament. "Cincinnati has some of the best fans in the world and I am sorry I will miss them. Unfortunately, I tweaked my back in Montreal and I need to rest this week." Federer's withdrawal assures that Nadal will be top of the rankings when they are issued on 21 August. The Spaniard will return to the top spot for the first time since 6 July, 2014. —Reuters ■