

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivers the opening speech at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

## WATER FOR DEVELOPMENT

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit opens in Yangon

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit opened in Yangon yesterday, with the opening speech delivered by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The two-day Summit, which is hosted by the Ministry

of Transport and Communications, will explore the theme “Water Security for Sustainable Development”.

Speaking at the opening, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spoke of Myanmar’s water problems, which

she said are caused by climate change.

“Myanmar has abundant water resources and our hydropower potential is considerable. However, that abundance does not mean that we have no water scarcities,” said the State

Counsellor.

Myanmar has a dry zone, a semi-arid region, in the centre of the country, adding to the diversity of climate conditions in Myanmar, and also to its assorted water problems.

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**BEST BANK IN MYANMAR**

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## Outcomes of 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Summit will pave way to achieve national goals and Sustainable Development Goals: VP U Henry Van Thio

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, in his capacity as chairman of the National Water Resources Committee-NWRC, delivered the opening remarks at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia Pacific Water Summit yesterday in Yangon, highlighting the importance of integrated water resources management throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

In his speech, he also urged all key water-related ministries to manage water resources effectively, and develop a collective decision-making framework for the effective and efficient utilization of the national water budget among Ministerial Level Water Users.

Myanmar has frequently suffered from destructive earthquakes and water-related extreme events, such as cyclones, periodic flooding, as well as droughts, including landslides, which resulted in the loss of many lives and damages, with major challenges in terms of water quality control and wastewater management.

“Our common water challenges in the Asia-Pacific region

reflect the ten session themes of the third Asia-Pacific Water Summit. Among others, the Role of Women and Youth in IWRM will contribute to prepare nations to carry forward the important task of water management, development and peace to build a better future,” said the Vice President.

By 2030, the world is expected to have 40% more demand than supply for water. By 2050, it will see 55% more demand. As for developing countries, water demand will increase by 80%.

“Myanmar is one of them and we have to prepare for 65% increased demand in 2030, and an 80% increase in 2050. To achieve “Water Security”, the agriculture sector is a good place to boost water efficiency,” said U Henry Van Thio.

He further called for ensuring the passing of water leadership to the next generation, together with improved water resources. Capacity Building is essential to overcome such challenges comfortably, and building strategic alliances to improve the water sector



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

nationally and regionally. In Myanmar, the Young Water Professionals (YWP) training programme of the NWRC, as a part of our water future.

“I believe that the outcomes of the third Asia-Pacific Water Summit will pave the way to

achieve our national goals and the Sustainable Development Goals through fulfilling water security in the region,” he added.

Also delivering speeches were Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste Senior Minister and National Security Advisor,

Former President H.E. Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta, Cambodia Minister of Water Resources and Meteorology H.E. Mr. Lim Kean Hor, Japan Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism H.E. Mr. Keiichi Ishii, Lao Minister of Natural Resources and Environment H.E. Mr. Sommad Pholsena, India Minister of State and Housing and Urban Affairs H.E. Hardeep Singh Puri, Malaysia Minister of Energy Green Technology and Water H.E. Dr. Maximus Johnity Ongkili, Thailand Minister of Natural Resources and Environment H.E. General Surasak Karnjanarat and Brunei Darussalam Acting Minister of Development H.E. Mr. Suhaimi Gafar.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit will conclude tomorrow in a Yangon Declaration, uniting government leaders and water experts in a shared vision for achieving water security in the region.—MNA

(The full text of the speech of Vice President U Henry Van Thio is available at [www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](http://www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com))



Vice President U Henry Van Thio holds talks with Japanese Minister Mr. Keiichi Ishii at Sedona Hotel in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

## Vice President U Henry Van Thio receives Japanese Minister and party

Vice President U Henry Van Thio received Japan’s Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism H.E. Mr. Keiichi Ishii and his party yesterday at the Sedona Hotel

in Yangon.

The Minister was in Yangon to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (3<sup>rd</sup> APWS).

During the meeting, discussions focusing on cooperation

in the development of special economic zones, the travel sector, Yangon urban development projects and increasing bilateral relation were held. — Myanmar News Agency

## Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in Nepal

TATMADAW Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his party, who were in the Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, viewed the Himalaya Mountain range yesterday morning onboard Nepal Army special helicopters.

The Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party left Nepal Army Mid Air Base in Kathmandu by helicopter and arrived at the Hotel Everest View, listed as the highest hotel in the world by

the Guinness Book of World Records, where they viewed the Everest Mountain top and the Himalayan Mountain range. Next, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief arrived at the Birendra Peace Operation Training Center, where the group was welcomed by Col. Yog Raj Sharma and officials. Later in the day, the Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief and party were hosted at a dinner by Chief of Army Staff of the Nepali Army Gen. Rajendra Chhetri.—MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing gives a souvenir to Army staff of the Nepali Army. **PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY**

# State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives visiting ministers attending 3<sup>rd</sup> APWS

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, yesterday morning, separately received ministers from the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, Japan and India in Ahlon Hall, at the Sedona Hotel in Yangon. The ministers were in Yangon to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit (3<sup>rd</sup> APWS).

First, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Timor-Leste's Senior Minister and National Security Advisor, Former President H.E. Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta, at 10:30 a.m. at the Sedona Hotel.

Next, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Japan Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism H.E. Mr. Keiichi Ishii at 11 a.m., followed by India Minister of State and Housing and Urban Affairs H.E. Hardeep Singh Puri at 11:25 a.m. .

Present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Kyaw Tin, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Win Myat Aye, U Ohn Maung, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, ambassadors and embassy staff from the respective countries.—Myanmar News Agency



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi greets Japan Minister of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Mr. Keiichi Ishii. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with India Minister of State and Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri in Yangon on 11 December 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Timor-Leste's Senior Minister and National Security Advisor, Former President Mr. Jose Ramos-Horta in Yangon on 11 December 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Dr Pe Myint meets election commission members of Myanmar Music Council

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint met yesterday afternoon with election commission members from the Myanmar Music Asiayone Central Committee executive committee, at the meeting hall of MRTV on Pyay Road in Yangon.

At the meeting, U Kyi Min Thein, Chairman of the Election Commission of the EC Members, Myanmar Music Asiayone, explained, "The Election Commis-

sion was formed on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017, comprising 17 representatives from six layers of music associations. On December 19, 20, 21 and 22 members of different layers can cast votes at the Central Committee Office from 9 am to 5 pm.

The list of newly elected executive committee members will be released just after the deadline for the voting comes to a close.

The hand-over ceremony will be held on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2018."

The Union Minister offered advice concerning the systematic formation of the music association, and recommended having adequate staff working at the committee, keeping proper financial records and cooperating in some cases, followed by suggestions from those present at the meeting. —MNA ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint meets election commission members from the Myanmar Music Asiayone Central Committee executive committee, at the meeting hall of MRTV on Pyay Road in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**



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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.

## New ships delivered for Yangon Water Bus Service

NEW ships for the Yangon Water Bus service have arrived in Yangon, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

"For the extension of the Yangon water bus service, the company is constructing new ships in the country, and importing speed boats and ships," said an official from Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies.

The arrival of the new ships includes three speed boats and two ships. Currently, the Department of Inland Water Transport is reviewing the safety of the vessels and ships.

The company will announce new schedules after



A Yangon water bus is moving along Yangon River in Yangon. Because of the arrival of the new Yangon Water Buses, the transportation system to ease traffic problem. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

the inspection process.

The company is now operating the Insein-Botahtaung

schedule from 7 am to 9 pm using eight ships.

The company plans to ex-

tend services, since the number of passengers has increased.—GNLM ■

## Official dispatch of domestic workers under discussion

THE government will allow overseas employment agencies to officially send domestic workers to other countries only when there is a guarantee for workers, said U Myo Aung, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Currently, the ministry is discussing official permission to allow domestic workers to work in some countries. But no exact

time to allow the dispatch of workers is known yet. Myanmar people are currently working in Singapore, Thailand, China and Macao as illegal domestic workers, according to a report of the Myawady Daily on Friday.

In 2013, the ministry started allowing the sending of domestic workers to Singapore and China. In 2014, the ministry suspended the action due to widespread criticism.

But official permission for Myanmar workers to accept employment in other countries is likely due to revenue benefits and other advantages.

"Due to a mass migration of illegal domestic workers, the country suffers tax revenue losses. In addition, illegal workers find it difficult to solve problems. The country should send workers officially", said an official from an overseas em-

ployment agency.

Action is being taken against overseas employment agencies that illegally sent Myanmar workers to foreign countries in accordance with four sections of the Law Relating to Overseas Employment, according to a police officer.

Concerted efforts are now being made by the government to officially send workers to other countries.—GNLM ■

## One dead after youths scuffle in Taunggyi

A scuffle among youths in Taunggyi resulted in one dying of knife wounds, it has been reported. At about 10:30 p.m. on 10 December, Nay Zin Htat Naing (a) Tha O (19 years), Lin Lin (26 years), Kyaw Lin Htway (a) Eco (22 years), Phyo Wei Win (23 years) and Lin Lin (22 years) of Sein Pan Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State, were sitting on a platform along Zawtika Road, Thittaw Ward, at the northern entrance of Bogyoke Park when a person walking from west to east tripped over Nay Zin Htat Naing (a) Tha O. Lin Lin (a) Malik and Kyaw Lin Htway (a) Eco followed and then punched the person. Later, some 7-8 persons with knives arrived, and one of the newcomers attacked the group with a guitar and knife. Both Nay Zin Htat Naing



Sithu Maung, Sai Naung Naung Myat Tun, D Ye Aung, Sai Bo Bo, Pho Thingyan, Nyein Chan Aung and Hein Htet Aung. **PHOTO: MNA**

(a) Tha O and Kyaw Lin Htway (a) Eco suffered knife wounds, and Lin Lin died from his wounds.

A combined team of township police apprehended Sithu Maung (a) ET (23 years) of Chantha Ward, Sai Naung Naung Myat Tun (a) A Shay Gyi (a) Tha Nge (27 years), D Ye Aung (17 years) and Sai Bo Bo (16 years) of

Kyaunggyisu Ward, Pho Thingyan (a) Win Thiha (16 years), Nyein Chan Aung (a) Chet Phaung (17 years) of Yayayekwin Ward and Hein Htet Aung (17 years) of Thittaw Ward, along with confiscating a 12 inch knife. A case was to be opened as the investigation is continuing.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Project to prevent river bank erosion to begin in January

The Mandalay Region Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has planned a project, to begin in January, to prevent river bank erosion in Lat Hsaung Yu and Ponnarchan villages in Tada-U Township, Mandalay.

"To implement the project in both villages, the department will spend Ks 15,000 million from the Union government emergency fund. River bank erosion occurs in both villages annually. Therefore, we will implement this project as soon as possible", said U Toe Aung Lin, director of the Mandalay Region Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River System.

"We have already invited tenders to start the project. Currently, we are calculating the estimated cost of the project," said U Kyaw Myint Than, assistant director of the Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems Department.—Min Htet Aung (Sub-printing house) ■

## Gold transactions drop by half over previous years

May Thet Hnin

Gold transactions this year plunged by half, compared to previous years, according to U Ohn Myaing, secretary of the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

“The gold transaction circle was weak, compared to trading in 2015 and 2016. This year’s gold trade is down by 40 per cent over previous years. The market seemed to have raised its head a bit at the end of the year”, he added.

Since April, the gold market has been on a bumpy ride. The pure gold price reached above Ks900,000 per tical (0.578 ounce) in July, and the gold price was on the rise in early September. In mid September, it reached its all-time highest price of over Ks957,000 per tical. But shortly thereafter, the domestic gold

price gradually fell when global gold prices caused the market to fluctuate.

The gold price was on a downward trend in November and early December, falling below Ks930,000. The prevailing price of pure gold is hovering around Ks915,000 per tical.

“The unstable global gold price leads to a fluctuating price in the domestic market, depending on the political climate. Buyers are observing the market, as the price is on the rise. There has been demand only from those who like to collect gold accessories”, said U Kyaw Win.

The main reason for the increasing price in the domestic gold market has contributed to the high global price, along with the high dollar exchange rate. After North Korea fired a missile over Japan last month,

New York gold prices soared. Terrorist attacks in Europe, simmering conflicts between Qatar, Iran and their Gulf neighbors, and perceptions among American policy movers under U.S President Donald Trump caused high prices in the global market.

“This year’s gold transactions are down by half. Moreover, Myanmar’s economy is not performing well. We can say that this year reached a record low in gold trading”, noted U Aye Cho, in charge of public relations for the Yangon Region Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The gold market is likely to remain cool this month, as it is a holiday season.

The gap between the global gold price and the domestic gold price is Ks5,000 to Ks10,000 this year. ■

## Vehicle import policy changes decrease import values of vehicles, auto parts

VEHICLE import policy changes have scaled down the import value of vehicles and auto parts to US\$239 million less than during the similar period of the last FY, according to news released by the Commerce Ministry.

This decrease in value shook the auto market, with vehicle prices soaring to Ks2-3 million. Also, it increased slip prices.

This policy changes have reportedly attracted Chinese auto manufacturers seeking to invest in Myanmar, as they are planning to set up automobile factories in the country. Additionally, new show rooms are likely to benefit from these policy changes. Vehicles, such as Suzuki and Nissan, which are locally installed and manufactured, will see more benefits coming from the policy changes. According to the new vehicle import policy, model year 2014 would be the oldest cars allowed for import in 2018. Also,

only vehicles with left-hand drive are to be allowed to be imported under the new policy.

The new vehicle import policy affects cars imported with slips, as a return of deregistration of old vehicles, cars imported under the consignment system, individually imported cars, private use cars, vehicles for religious use, mini-buses, passenger buses, vehicles donated from abroad, fire trucks, ambulances, hearses, and state-owned vehicles, along with machinery which cannot be driven on public roads, such as excavators, bulldozers, tower cranes, and pilling machines.

Vehicles with left-hand are considered safer than those with right-hand drive, since Myanmar is a right-driving country.

As the import model year limit is 2014, latest model vehicles will be increasingly seen on Myanmar’s road, said car owners. —Ko Htet ■

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MYANMAR GAZETTE

Heads of service organizations transferred, confirmed and appointed

1. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each of their names on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Kyaw Kyaw Han Director-General Political and Security Department Ministry of President's Office	Director-General Research, Information and Complaints Department Ministry of President's Office
(2) Daw Than Than Swe Director-General Accounts Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Financial Institutions Supervision Department Central Bank of Myanmar
(3) Daw Myint Myint Kyi Director-General Governor Office Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Accounts Department Central Bank of Myanmar
(4) U Win Thaw Director-General Foreign Exchange Management Department Central Bank of Myanmar	Director-General Governor Office Central Bank of Myanmar

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

Name	Appointment
(1) U Ni Aung	Managing Director Myanma Port Authority Ministry of Transport and Communications
(2) Professor Dr Htin Zaw Soe	Rector University of Community Health, Magway Ministry of Health and Sports

3. The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as Heads of Service Organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(1) U Naing Swe Oo Deputy Director-General Ministry of President's Office	Director-General Political and Security Department Ministry of President's Office
(2) U Khin Maung Win Deputy Director-General Ministry of President's Office	Director-General Socio-Cultural Department Ministry of President's Office
(3) U Maung Maung Ohn Deputy Director-General Ministry of President's Office	Director-General Executive Department of the President Ministry of President's Office
(4) U Win Naing Tun Deputy Director-General Ministry of President's Office	Director-General Department of the Chief Security Officer Ministry of President's Office

MYANMAR GAZETTE

Appointment of Permanent Secretary

The Union Government has appointed Director-General U Khin Latt, the Ministry of President's Office, as Permanent Secretary of the same ministry. ■

Discussion on increasing Myanmar-UNIDO cooperation



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin meets UNIDO Director Mr. Stein R. Hansen during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit. PHOTO: MNA

U Kyaw Tin, Union Minister for International Cooperation of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr. Stein R. Hansen, Director of the United Nations Industrial Development Organization Regional Office at Sedona Hotel at 12 hrs on 11 December 2017 during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit. During the meeting, they discussed the enhancement of cooperation between Myanmar and UNIDO and prospects for provision of assistance in the development projects in Myanmar such as agriculture, aquaculture and food security, etc.—Myanmar News Agency

Union Supreme Court sits to pass judgment on special criminal appeal cases and hear special civil appeal cases

The Union Supreme Court convened at Union Supreme Court room number 1 yesterday morning with Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and Union Supreme Court judges passing judgments on six special criminal appeal cases, along with hearing five special civil appeal cases. —Myanmar News Agency

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Villagers in Maungtaw accept aid from the Indian Government. PHOTO: MNA

## Relief from Indian Government distributed to locals in Maungtaw

Officials of the ministry for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement met with the local residents in Maungtaw yesterday, and distributed aid from the Indian Government to those in

relief camps.

Dr. Aung Thurain, director of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Ministry, noted, "We carried foodstuff, clothing, medicines, instant noodles, rice pack-

ages, biscuits, mosquito nets, rice, powdered milk, and soap powder to the camps, which were in need of food." He added that they have also supplied those items to villages.—MNA

## Programme outlined for monetary assistance to expectant mothers and infants under two

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will provide monetary assistance to expectant mothers and infants under two, starting in FY 2017-2018 in the Naga-self administered Zone in Sagaing Region and Rakhine State.

For launching the programme in Rakhine State, township-level discussions were held at 9 am yesterday at the meeting hall of Taungup township General Administration Department. During the meeting, U Aung Kyaw Moe, deputy director-general of the social welfare department, explained, "The Program is

designed to provide nutrition for infants from birth to 1000 days. For successful implementation of the programme, discussions need to be held with township-level officials, town elders and responsible officials. Based on the results from discussions, better arrangements are to be carried out."

Under the programme, the Provision of Monetary Aids to Expectant Mothers and Infants under two will begin in January 2018, with K 15000 for every mother and infant as a first payment, followed by the paying of K 45000 every three months.—Win Min Soe [IPRD]



Township-level discussion held on providing monetary assistance to expectant mothers and infants under two held in Rakhine State. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

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Establishment of strengthened entrepreneurship needs good environments

ENTREPRENEUR means a person who makes money by starting or running businesses, especially when this involves taking financial risks. It is translated into Myanmar as စွန့်စားထိုက်သူ၊ စွန့်စားထိုက်ဦးစီးသူ။ An Austrian economist named "Joseph A Schumpeter said, "Entrepreneurs play an important role for the economic development of a nation. A nation's economic development is evolutionarily achieved, but it tends to dynamically jump to a stage of development and such a change is created by entrepreneurs."

According to him, a nation lagging in economic development usually cannot get out of the circle of underdevelopment. Under these circumstances, entrepreneurs can get out

"Youths are national resources for the future of Myanmar. To stand with dignity and strength among the world, Myanmar needs a strong economy, and we must develop the country by combining the power of youths and economic power."

of this downward spiral by creating new economic conditions through their new and modern ideas and innovations. Inventions of entrepreneurs are profitable innovations.

It is also said that strengthening entrepreneurship is actually a needed stage for economic development of developing countries.

In fact, invention and love of adventure are characteristics of youths. At the Myanmar Entrepreneurship Summit 2017 held on 9th December, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor addressed, "Youths are national resources for the future of Myanmar. To stand with dignity and strength among the world, Myanmar needs a strong economy, and we must develop the country by combining the power

of youths and economic power." And, the State Counsellor has also urged regional governments to support entrepreneurs in their regions and states as the Union Government has been encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises as part of its efforts for establishing the culture of entrepreneurship in the country.

The necessary conditions needed for the emergence of entrepreneurs are spiritual freedom, a practical mind-set, the need for individuals to understand that changes and developments are happening in human society, strengthening rule of law, solid guarantees for citizenship rights, intellectual property rights and ensuring that economic enterprises controlled a little as possible by the Union government, as unanimously voiced by researchers.

To sum it up, we hope that favorable conditions for the emergence of youth entrepreneurs will be created as soon as possible. ■

# Myanmar Overwhelmed With Holiness and Poured with Holy Water

By Ko Yin Aw

WORLD-FAMOUS Pacifist—the Pontiff's friendly visit to Myanmar, in which deterrent principles of shame and fear which guard the world from falling into chaos are developing, is hoped to send a message on peace. All the Myanmar citizens like myself living together peacefully throughout the history sharing happiness and woes, regardless of race, religions or color welcomed the Papal Peace Visit wholeheartedly.

To my great astonishment, we heard some global media writing that many people were unsatisfied with the Papal failure to publicize about the people claiming they belong to which race, during the peace journey, feeling ridiculous in my mind as if their minds are too immature to be well convinced of actualities.

Here, I would like the global community to consider Myanmar's affair rightfully and impartially. On seeing some global media writing that human right activists were unsatisfied with the Pontiff's failure to speak out a word they eagerly aspired during the papal visit to Myanmar as a Peace Prophet, an itching desire to write down the article occurred to me. If it goes uncaired complexities will appear, I think so.

"A common rest place is present with various kinds of men, resulting in a variety of gossip," as the Myanmar saying goes. Media ethics include impartiality, but religious and racial bias is being found today. Accordingly, it is necessary for news media to be free from prejudices based on desire, anger, fear or ignorance.

Mass exodus of people from the western gate was actually attributed to long-lasting tortures of the people who claim themselves as which kind of race. The actual event was falsely fabricated by some media that Myanmar Tatmadaw had committed ethnic cleansing. These false allegations made me know that there are still media like the horse with no one pulling its rein.

Some media are shaping that there are events of committing genocides in Myanmar, like 1994 Rwandan genocide. That is why



Pope Francis waves to Catholic Christians as he arrives to lead a mass at Kyite Ka San Stadium in Yangon on 29, November 2017. PHOTO REUTERS

Myanmar's image, whose populace greatly values the four cardinal virtues—loving kindness, sympathy, kindness and forgiveness, was besmirched.

Here I firmly believe that the Vatican would have been well convinced of Rakhine State affair as a very sensitive issue. As far as I know some media expressed hint of dissatisfactions over the Pope's reticence on the people who they are. Simultaneously, I noticed that these media were exaggerating the statements of those peoples.

Due to similar presentations of global media belonging to the same origin, I tried myself to hear Mr. Greg Burke, the spoke-person to the Pontiff's Myanmar Visit.

### A very sensitive term

On 29<sup>th</sup> November, Mr. Greg Burke, a spoke-person to the Pope Francis and a veteran US journalist said at a news conference held at the Shangri-La Hotel, concerning failure to use the very sensitive word. Asked for a reaction to international human rights groups that have expressed disappointment, Burke said, "Everyone's entitled to their own opinion."

"I find it hard to believe [the pope] has lost any moral authority on this," Burke said. "People are not expected to solve impossible problems."

"I'm very happy that people think the pope is all-powerful, but he's not," Burke said, saying

Francis can't "parachute" into places such as Myanmar or the Middle East and make problems disappear.

"Nobody ever said Vatican diplomacy's infallible," Burke added, though insisting that in this case there are no second thoughts.

Father Mariano Soe Naing, a spokesman for the Myanmar Catholic bishops' conference, said nation's struggle for democracy, he argued, "cannot be ignored." Thousands died for it, Soe Naing told reporters, and he described standing strongly behind Suu Kyi as the best way to guarantee it remains standing.

Seo Naing argued said that international criticism of Suu Kyi is putting democracy at risk, because it could lead the military to say "you trusted democracy, it's no guarantee to protect your country, to make your life better," and the generals would take back power and say, "We'll beat this crisis."

"I think it is right for the Catholic Church to come in a very strong stance for her," Seo Naing said. "Two years ago, we couldn't have done this [press conference], we would not have been here, if it were not for the bloodshed in the streets. We need to go on with the democratic reform of this nation."

### Ideology and practical

Though it is theologically said that news and information are strictly to be written free from

any errors, according to the media standards, biased writings are being found practically concerning the actual world events.

I think that it is necessary for a journalist who must act as a jury not to think oneself as an advocate. Provided that a media man would always plead as an advocate by claiming to make the pressed people's voices aloud, it will be tantamount to going astray from other ethics.

Here, a saying on journalism came into my mind, "Good journalism, of course, does not advocate. It tells the truth, regardless of who looks good and who looks bad."

Hence, we humbly would like some global media to perform the following points:

- [A] to write or post standardized writings,
- [B] to study historically remarkable Rakhine History [Myanmar History],
- [C] to write present situation just after considering in every corner, in accord with Conflict Journalism,
- [D] to rightfully apply Investigative Journalism,
- [E] to be well convinced that spirits and culture of Buddhist Myanmar people is based on deep and sober religion,

- [F] to work with good intentions for every citizen to have Right to Information,
- [G] to write differences on national reconciliation in accord with the principles of reunification in peace and unity,
- [H] to organize people to become helpful friends so that nascent blooming flowers could not wither,
- [I] to make gradual march of Myanmar into the democratic nation without racial and religious segregation known to the world,
- [J] to present the natural character of living in peace of all the citizens in Myanmar with freedom of religion to the world,
- [K] to make living habits of Myanmar people in accord with the spirit of abiding by rule of law known to the world,
- [L] to brighten up the Myanmar's spirit of keeping human rights,
- [M] to deeply study the nature of Myanmar and write based on determination by reason rather than emotion.

Translated by Khin Maung Oo



လွတ်လပ်သော စာပေ လွတ်လပ်သော အသံ

## စာပေညှိလာခံ့ ဂါဝာ

ညောင် စာပေဟောင်းကြီးများ အားလုံးကို ပြန်လည်ထုတ်ဝေခြင်း စီမံကိန်း

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MCC မှ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ခံရပြီး စီမံကိန်း ၁၂ - ၁၅ - ၁၆ နှစ်

လွတ်လပ်သော စာပေ လွတ်လပ်သော အသံ

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MCC မှ ဖိတ်ခေါ်ခံရပြီး စီမံကိန်း ၁၂ - ၁၅ - ၁၆ နှစ်

## Structural Reforms and Enhanced Regional Financial Safety Net Needed for Asia to Adapt to a Changing World

THE ASEAN+3 Financial Forum (ATFF) 2017 with the theme "Adapting to a Changing World" was held back to back with the ASEAN+3 Finance and Central Bank Deputies' Meeting in Asahikawa, Japan, on Monday.

Hosted by the ASEAN+3 Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), the half-day program focused on the regional outlook and policy responses to address structural challenges, and developments in the international monetary system and the role of the Chiang Mai Initiative Multilateralisation (CMIM).

"Protectionism, rapid ageing in Asia, and the new technological revolution sweeping the global economy have posed new challenges to the region," said AMRO Director Dr Junhong Chang in her opening remarks.

The panelists noted that the conventional export-led growth strategy has enabled many Asian countries to move up the income ladder rapidly. This strategy allows a developing economy to take advantage of its abundant labor to attract foreign direct investment (FDI) to produce goods for exports to global markets, and absorb technology transfers. However, slow growth in global trade following the Global Financial Crisis and the threat of protectionism have raised concerns about solely relying on an export-led growth strategy, and provided impetus for diversification of export markets and rebalancing to domestic demand.

To address these challenges, the panelists highlighted that ASEAN+3 members would need to implement and follow through on structural reforms to set their economies on a solid foundation for continued robust growth. Enhanced economic and financial cooperation among the regional economies would make the best of each economy's comparative advantage while safeguarding regional financial stability.

"Asia has tried to self-insure against future crises by building up foreign-exchange reserves amid increasingly large and volatile capital flows," said Mr Yasuto Watanabe, AMRO Deputy Director in his presentation.

Against this backdrop, panelists discussed how the CMIM could be further developed to complement the existing layers of the GFSN, taking into account lessons learned from the GFC and European Sovereign Debt Crisis as well as recent reforms by the International Monetary Fund to its lending facilities.

The discussion also focused on how to strengthen the CMIM's role in the region to meet the challenges ahead. Possible enhancements to the CMIM through liquidity assistance in local currencies were also discussed.—AMRO ■

# 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit opens in Yangon

## FROM PAGE-1

“To put it simply, we do not get enough water when, and where, we need it. This is mainly due to the uneven distribution of rainfall, changing patterns of hydrological conditions, and climate change,” said the State Counsellor.

Water demand in Myanmar’s cities has increased as population and urbanization increased, while water demands in rural areas have also increased, due to expanding cultivation and other rural-based economic activities, she said.

Moreover, new water demands for the Special Economic Zones and industrial estates have added to the pressure on the country’s natural water resources.

“We need energy to get water and water to produce energy. Food security is based on water and the availability of energy. Thus, we need to ensure the smooth functioning of our hydrological cycle, the water-energy-food-ecosystem nexus, which has been discussed at various forums here in Myanmar,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Myanmar is drafting the overarching Myanmar National Water Law with



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the 3<sup>rd</sup> Asia-Pacific Water Summit in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

the assistance of the World Bank, and this will enter the public consultation process soon.

She also expressed the government’s commitment to promoting the Government, Corporate, Society (GCS) partnership, which offers considerable opportunities for water-based enterprises within the framework of Integrated Water Resources Management in Myanmar.

The Union Government continues to provide better security, and to de-

velop the necessary policy and legal framework for water-related investments to flourish in this country.

She has invited potential investors, both domestic and international, to engage with the country’s National Water Resource Committee and the NDMC, to determine how best they might participate in, and benefit from, the water sector enterprises of Myanmar.

Asia is home to half of the world’s poorest people. Water for agriculture

continues to consume 80% of water resources – and even more in Myanmar, where about 91% of water resources is consumed by the agriculture sector. Today, worldwide, a staggering 1.7 billion people lack access to basic sanitation. With a predicted population of 5.2 billion by 2050, and 22 megacities by 2030, the region’s finite water resources will come under enormous pressure—especially because of increasing variable climates. Recent estimates

indicate that as many as 3.4 billion people could be living in water-stressed areas of Asia by 2050.

The Asia-Pacific Region is the most water-related, disaster prone region in the world. The rising frequency of water-related disasters in the region has forced the Union Government to respond with unity and resilience, but there is a wide variety in the degree and quality of response of individual nations.

The State Counsellor

urged all governments in the region to do more to cope with the growing disaster threat caused by climate change, pointing out, quoting an ADB report that only a number of countries have been investing wisely in disaster risk reduction projects and programmes.

“Collaboration between the countries in the region will enable all to combat water-related disasters more effectively,” said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The opening ceremony for the summit was attended by Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee, leaders from 48 countries in Asia-Pacific region, Union ministers Lt-Gen Ye Aung, U Kyaw Tin, Dr. Pe Myint, U Thant Sin Maung, U Kyaw Win, U Win Naing, Dr. Win Myat Aye, U Ohn Maung, Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Phyo Min Thein, deputy ministers, along with experts and diplomats.—Myanmar News Agency

(Full text of the speech of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is available at [www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](http://www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com)) ■

## More insect infestations caused by planting only one type of timber tree

Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Union Minister U Ohn Win inspected the timber plantation, on December 10, owned by Kyauk Sein King and Queen Jade & Gems Company near Thae Phyu village, Taikkyi Township, in Yangon.

Officials from the company explained about conditions within the 14,899 acre timber farms. The Union Minis-

ter said that planting only a single variety of timber tree can result in more insect infestations, which is why another variety of hard wood tree needs to be planted.

The Union Minister also said the company needs to find a market for thinning out timber that will soon be produced in the plantation. The forestry department will then grant permits to open a saw mill to produce



Union Minister U Ohn Win inspects liquid chemical fertilizers. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

semi-finished products from the timber that is thinned out.

Later, the union minister inspected those plants that are cultivated with the Hedge Garden

system, along with red sandalwood plantings.

In the afternoon, the Union minister inspected 500-acres of timber planted in 2009 and 2,000-acres of 2010 timber.

In the evening, the Union Minister met with the staff from the No.1 Mining Industry on Insein main road, No.3 ward, in Mayangone Township.—(IPRD) ■

## Workshop on Issuance of Foreign Bonds in Yangon

A Workshop on Issuance of Foreign Bonds was held at the Yangon Stock Exchange during the first week of December.

The workshop was organized by the Myanmar Bond Scrutiny Commission and Myanmar MECHA& Co Limited (Myanmar), which seeks to develop foreign currency markets and produce effective policy-makers in the business community.

At the workshop, matters relating to privileges of selling bonds, their benefits and challenges were discussed.—MNA ■

# Israel says it has destroyed Hamas attack tunnel from Gaza

JERUSALEM — Israeli forces on Sunday destroyed a “significant” cross-border attack tunnel from the Gaza Strip, which the military said was being dug by the enclave’s dominant Islamist group, Hamas.

The announcement, cleared by Israeli censors who had previously barred reports of detection work around the central Gaza frontier, followed a surge of Palestinian unrest in response to last week’s US recognition of Jerusalem as Israel’s capital.

It also came as Palestinian factions tried to meet Sunday’s deadline for an Egyptian-mediated handover of Gaza by Hamas to Western-backed President Mahmoud Abbas after a decade’s schism.

A network of Gaza tunnels allowed Hamas gunmen to blindside Israel’s superior forces during the 2014 war and the Israelis, with US help, have since stepped up work on counter-measures.

The tunnel destroyed on Sunday ran hundreds of metres into Israeli territory and, though unfinished, was a new project that showed “a significant effort by Hamas”, military spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Jonathan Conricus told reporters.

He did not elaborate on how Israel knew Hamas was responsible for the tunnel, which he said reached to within 1km (0.6 miles) of the nearest Israeli civilian community.

Hamas did not respond immediately to a request for comment.

The previous such announcement was on 30 October, when Israel blew up a tunnel dug by Islamic Jihad. In the process of that demolition, 10 gunmen from the group and another two from Hamas were killed — deaths that Israeli sources described as an unintended result of the passage’s collapse within Gazan turf.

Conricus said that “to the



A drill (C) is seen as it works on what the Israeli forces said was a “significant” cross-border attack tunnel from the Gaza Strip, which was being dug by the enclave’s dominant Islamist group, Hamas, near Israel’s border with the Gaza Strip on 10 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

best of our knowledge” there were no such casualties on Sunday, though he added that

the tunnels could be “death traps” for Gaza gunmen. “The IDF (Israel Defence Forces)

will continue to discover, expose and demolish these terror tunnels,” he said. —Reuters ■

## Saudi Arabia says cinemas will be allowed from early 2018

DUBAI— Saudi Arabia said on Monday that public cinemas would be allowed in the conservative kingdom for the first time in over 35 years, and that the first ones were likely to open next March.

Cinemas were banned in the early 1980s under pressure from Islamists as Saudi society turned towards a restrictive form of the religion that discouraged public entertainment and many forms of mixing between men and women.

Under reforms led by 32-year-old Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the government is easing many of those restrictions, and also plans to lift a ban on women driving next year. It says the economy, hit hard by low oil prices, will benefit from the growth of an entertainment industry.

“Opening cinemas will

act as a catalyst for economic growth and diversification,” said Minister of Culture and Information Awwad bin Saleh Alawwad. “By developing the broader cultural sector we will create new employment and training opportunities, as well as enriching the Kingdom’s entertainment options.”

By 2030, Saudi Arabia is expected to open over 300 cinemas with more than 2,000 screens, a government statement said, predicting the cinema industry would contribute over 90 billion riyals (\$24 billion) to the economy and create 30,000 permanent jobs by 2030. Regional cinema chain operators are already believed to be studying entry into Saudi Arabia, industry sources said.

A commission chaired by Alawwad will announce details of licencing and regulations over the next few weeks, the government said. —Reuters ■

## Syrian army and Iranian-backed militias push towards Idlib province

AMMAN— The Syrian army and Iranian-backed militias backed by Russian air power stepped up a military campaign against rebels in eastern Hama province in a push towards the rebel stronghold of Idlib province in northwestern Syria, rebels and witnesses said.

They said dozens of aerial strikes believed to be conducted mainly by Russian jets in the last 48 hours hit opposition held villages and towns in the northeastern Hama countryside and the southern part of Idlib province.

The Islamist Hayat Tahrir al Sham and some Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebel faction in control of these areas said they were sending reinforcements to seize back a string of villages in the northeastern Hama countryside, near the town of Rihjan, that the army had earlier announced were captured in heavy fighting.

The army said the villages of Um Turayka, Bilil, and Rujum al Ahmar were seized, forcing the rebels to flee to areas close to the administrative boundaries of Idlib province.

The Syrian army had lost the strategically located Idlib province to insurgents when the provincial capital fell to rebels

in 2015. It has since become the only province that is fully under opposition control.

The Syrian army’s first goal was to retake strategic Abu al Dhour military airport, one of the largest airports in the north of the country that fell to rebels in 2015. It was heavily bombed on Sunday, a rebel source said.

“The regime movements seek to besiege Idlib province with the help of Shi’ite militias fighting with them,” said Colonel Mustafa Bakour, a commander in the Jaish al Izza rebel faction.

Tahrir al Sham, which is spearheaded by the former al Qaeda branch in Syria, is the main rebel force in the province, raising fears among civilians and rebels alike that Moscow and the Syrian army and its allies would soon turn it into a major battlefield.

The strategically located province that borders Turkey is part of the Russian-led de-escalation zones that seek to shore up ceasefires in western Syria.

Idlib has been a haven for tens of thousands of rebels and civilians who were forced to abandon their homes in other parts of western Syria that the government and its foreign mil-

itary allies have recaptured from rebels.

It has already been the target of intensive strikes by the Russia and Syrian air forces in the past year that have killed thousands of civilians and destroyed hospitals and civil defense centers.

Tahrir al Sham also repelled simultaneously an offensive by Islamic State militants who have been for the last few weeks pushing into the opposition-controlled territory to extend a small enclave they have in that area, among the few they retain across Syria.

The ultra hardline militants also seized a string of villages that brought them within kilometres of Idlib province.

The Russian and Syrian army advance towards Idlib is also piling pressure on Turkey which had since October begun a major military deployment in the province it considers within its sphere of influence.

Ankara’s intervention seeks to rein in Russian strikes and prevent Idlib from facing a similar fate to Mosul or Aleppo, according to a senior rebel commander briefed on Turkish policy. —Reuters ■

## Drop in the ocean? British supermarkets look to bottle deposits to cut pollution

By Adela Suliman

A return scheme for plastic bottles could soon allow British consumers to enjoy a drink of juice or water without adding to a sea of pollution — as well as getting some of their money back.

The idea of a deposit return scheme (DRS) for bottles has won the backing of two supermarkets, Iceland and the Co-op, the first major retailers to support the policy to promote recycling and tackle ocean plastic pollution.

“Introducing a DRS may well add to our costs of doing business. However, we believe it is a small price to pay for the long term sustainability of this planet,” said Richard Walker, director for sustainability at Iceland Foods, in a statement.

“I urge all other retailers to do the right thing

and follow suit.” A deposit return scheme involves consumers paying a small deposit that is refunded when they return empty plastic bottles and is common in many parts of the world including Denmark, Germany and Australia.

From fishing lines to flip flops, there are more than 5 trillion pieces of plastic floating in the world’s oceans, according to a 2014 study. As concern grows about vast floating fields of plastic debris, environmental groups are lobbying the government and retailers to take action to catch up with other countries on cutting plastic littering and marine pollution.

“We hope that other supermarkets will see the way the wind is blowing on this issue ... and follow Iceland and the Co-op in recognising that our oceans should not be our rubbish

bin,” said Tisha Brown of Greenpeace UK.

In London, consumers expressed support for a bottle deposit scheme.

“Not only would I benefit financially, albeit minutely, it would make the process of recycling simpler and easier,” said 30-year-old train driver Ahmed said on WhatsApp.

Such a move would follow Britain’s decision in 2015 to charge 5 pence for plastic carrier bags, legislation that slashed usage and has taken about 9 billion plastic bags out of circulation. “I think (a deposit scheme) would be a good incentive,” said Sahar El-jack, 26, adding that small local shops not just large supermarket chains should take part.

### NEXT MOVE

Britain recycled just over half of the bottles that

were sold in 2016, well behind the rates achieved in Denmark and South Australia where deposit return schemes boosted rates to as high as 90 percent.

France has banned plastic shopping bags, adding disposable plastic cups and plates from 2020 while Kenya will soon bring in a ban on household and commercial plastic packaging after a successful grassroots social media campaign. Scotland has already committed to introducing a deposit return scheme. “We’re pleased to learn that Iceland and the Co-op recognize the big part that a deposit return scheme could play in reducing litter on our high streets, in the countryside and in our seas,” a spokeswoman for Zero Waste Scotland charged with designing Scotland’s deposit scheme, told the Thomson

Reuters Foundation.

The rest of the UK has yet to commit to such a scheme although in April the government established a working group to formulate a national litter strategy and look at different voluntary and regulatory options to improve recycling. “We recognise there is more to do in this area, and we will be working with industry to explore how we can reduce the amount of single-use plastic waste as part of our resource and waste strategy,” a spokesman for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. Britain’s environment minister Michael Gove tweeted last month that he was “haunted” by British naturalist David Attenborough’s “Blue Planet II” TV series that highlighted plastic waste in

oceans and said he would take action. And finance minister Philip Hammond said the government will look into ways to reduce plastic waste through the tax system and charges on single-use plastic items during his budget speech to parliament in November.

But such moves may face resistance from the plastic industry. The British Plastics Federation said deposit schemes may not be popular with consumers and could “undermine the existing kerbside system” whereby waste bins are regularly collected from streets outside homes and businesses. But Iceland, a frozen food chain, said there is no time to lose and has offered to trial “reverse vending machines” in British stores to make returning bottles easier for customers.—Thomson Reuters Foundation ■

## Trials of Russia’s 5th-generation fighter jet with 2nd-stage engine to last several years

MOSCOW — The trials of Russia’s fifth-generation fighter jet Su-57 (PAK FA, the Perspective Aviation Complex of Frontline Aviation) will last several years, President of Russia’s United Aircraft Corporation Yuri Slyusar told TASS on 7 Thursday.

“They [the trials] have just begun. They will, of course, last several years,” he said.

The Russian fifth-generation Perspective Avia-

tion Complex of Frontline Aviation (PAK FA, also known as the T-50) fighter jet took to the skies for the first time in 2010. As was reported earlier, the cutting-edge fighter performed its first flight with a new engine on 5 December.

Currently, the so-called first stage engine 117S is mounted on the Russian fighter. A new engine has not yet received its name and is conventionally designated as the second

stage engine. It was reported in August that Russia’s T-50 (PAK FA) fifth-generation fighter jet had received the serial index of Su-57. The experimental design work on the most advanced fighter jet should be completed in 2019 and its deliveries to the troops should begin at that time. As United Aircraft Corporation CEO Slyusar said, the pre-production batch will consist of 12 such planes.—Tass ■



Su-57 fighter jets. PHOTO: TASS

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV KORALIA VOY. NO (7784)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KORALIA VOY. NO (7784) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-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 MERIDIAN SHIPPING  
AGENCIES PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.12.2017 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SEA PEARL VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEA PEARL VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.12.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 ARINMA SHIPPING PTE  
LTD

Phone No: 2301185

# Lavrov says Russian-Chinese ties have huge impact on international agenda

NEW DELHI — Close cooperation between the Russian and Chinese Foreign Ministries has influenced the international agenda to a large extent, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Monday in his opening remarks at the talks with China's top diplomat Wang Yi.

"The outgoing year — we will sum up its results today — was rich in events in terms of foreign policy," the minister noted. "Five top-level meetings, includ-

ing the Chinese president's official visit to Russia, have been held."

"Our ministries have cooperated closely, coordinated their actions, which has influenced the international agenda to a large extent," Lavrov stressed. "I expect to consider what steps we can take next year to promote the Russian-Chinese strategic partnership and cooperation."

For his part, Wang Yi noted the importance of

contacts between Russia, India and China. "We are one of the world's largest countries, and we should intensify strategic contacts between the three countries," he explained. "Undoubtedly, Russia will play a substantial role in this process."

Sergey Lavrov is currently in India, where he will take part in the 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the foreign ministers of Russia, India and China (the RIC format).

—Tass ■



Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. PHOTO: TASS

# Indonesia detains 18 in pre-emptive bid to boost Christmas security

JAKARTA — Indonesian anti-terrorism police have detained 18 people with links to militant groups in a bid to cut the risk of attacks during Christmas and the New Year in the world's biggest Muslim-majority country, police said on Monday.

Near-simultaneous attacks on churches in the capital, Jakarta, and elsewhere on Christmas Eve in 2000, killed nearly 20 people. Ever since, authorities have stepped up security at churches and tourist spots for the holiday.

Police Chief Tito Karnavian said while there was no evidence of a specific plot, the detentions

were made in a bid to head off trouble.

"We're doing a pre-emptive strike," Karnavian told reporters. "The majority of them have links to previous incidents (and people) who we had arrested earlier," he said.

Police said that 12 people had been detained in South Sumatra, four in West Kalimantan, one in Malang in East Java and one in Surabaya in the same province.

Under Indonesia's anti-terrorism laws, investigators can hold people for seven days before determining whether they will be designated suspects or released, said police

spokesman Setyo Wasisto.

Indonesia has seen its share of militant attacks over the years aimed at foreign, Christian and government targets including blasts on the tourist island of Bali in 2002 that killed 202 people.

Since then, police have managed to stamp out or weaken many militant networks although there has been a resurgence in radicalism in recent years, inspired largely by Islamic State.

A series of small-scale attacks since early 2016 has been linked to Islamic State, which is believed to have thousands of sympathizers in Indonesia.—Reuters ■

# Indian police arrests French journalist after filming in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India — Indian police arrested a freelance French journalist in Kashmir for violating visa regulations, the city police chief said, after he was found filming for a documentary without permission.

Comiti Paul Edward was arrested late Sunday in the Kothibagh area of Srinagar, the summer capital of Kashmir, Senior Superintendent of Police Imtiyaz Ismael Parray told Reuters.

Edward holds an Indian business visa valid until next December, but the visa does not permit him to make a documentary on political or security related issues, the officer said.

A case has been

registered under the Passport Act and the French embassy has been informed about the arrest, Parray said.

Edward was shooting a documentary on Kashmir and had met separatist leader Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, pellet gun victims and captured stone pelting incidents in Srinagar, said a senior police official, who did not wish to be named.

More than 3,800 people have been wounded and one killed by shotgun pellets since protests against Indian rule erupted in the disputed territory last year, with more than 100 left partially or fully blinded, official figures show.

"We called him to

ask him about his activities, but he refused to present himself before the police. He was not authorized to film here because he was on a business visa.

He was finally arrested," the senior official said.

Edward had sought the defense ministry's permission for filming in Kashmir, but was denied because he was on a business visa, said the police official, who is not authorized to speak to the media.

Kashmir is claimed in full but ruled in part by India and Pakistan and has been at the heart of nearly seven decades of hostility between the neighbours.

—Reuters ■

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For Cooperation with No.16 Heavy Industry (Sinde),  
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EoI From Issued/Submitted Place : Planning Department, No.1 Heavy Industrial Enterprise, Ministry of Industry, Naypyitaw

Contact Phone No : 067-405159, 405322

# Thousands mourn rock idol Hallyday at Paris memorial

PARIS — Hundreds of thousands of people paid homage to late French rock and roll giant Johnny Hallyday at a Paris memorial service attended by French stars and politicians.

A hearse carrying Hallyday's white coffin, accompanied by 700 Harley Davidson motorcycles, drove the length of the Champs Elysees boulevard in a rare honour usually reserved for foreign statesmen on 14 July National Day.

As his band played instrumental versions of his biggest hits, the crowds belted out the words, many in leather biker jackets and carrying pictures of Harley Davidson enthusiast Hallyday, who died of lung cancer on Wednesday at the age of 74.

Largely unknown abroad, Hallyday was a household name in France, where he had tens of

millions of fans and sold more records than any other singer in a career spanning five decades.

His death nine months after announcing his illness sparked days of national mourning, with broadcasters providing wall-to-wall coverage of the rocker's life, tracing the history of a man regarded by many, non-fans included, as part of French national heritage.

In a eulogy on the stairs of the La Madeleine church, French President Emmanuel Macron said Hallyday was "more than a singer ... he was part of ourselves, part of France".

"It is a sad day today but you had to be there because Johnny was there for you from the beginning. In each of your lives, there was this moment where one of his songs translated what you



The hearse carrying the coffin of late French singer and actor Johnny Hallyday passes fans on the Champs Elysees Avenue during a 'popular tribute' to the late French singer and actor Johnny Hallyday in Paris, France, on 9 December 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

had in your heart," said Macron.

"The French Elvis," as he was known, Hallyday made his name with French versions of American rock and pop songs, including "House of the Rising Sun", which many French people only know as "Le Penitenti-

er", one of his biggest hits.

Born Jean-Philippe Leo Smet in Paris to Huguette Clerc and Belgian-born Leon Smet in 1943, Johnny spent his early years on the road in an acrobatic dance troupe, taking to the stage at 12 and singing country songs

dressed as Davy Crockett, the American folk hero.

He changed style after seeing Elvis Presley in "Loving You" and had a first hit single at age 16 with a French translation of an American country song. —Reuters ■

## Miss American Samoa crowned Miss Pacific Islands 2017

SUVA — Miss American Samoa, Matauaina Toomalatai, was crowned on Saturday night Miss Pacific Islands 2017 in Nadi, the third largest city of Fiji, which hosted the 31<sup>st</sup> beauty pageant of the South Pacific island states.

Toomalatai's victory in the beauty contest has ended American Samoa's 15 year drought in the Miss Pacific Islands Pageant. She also claimed Miss Traditional Wear, Miss Photogenic and Miss Tourism Awards.

Miss Samoa Alexandra Iakopo, who is the runner up, took the prizes for Miss Internet,

Miss Personality, Best Talent and Best Interview while Miss Papua New Guinea Niawali Anastacia Twai won the Best Sarong Award. The 2<sup>nd</sup> runner up was Miss Fiji Hally Qaqa, who is currently completing her diploma in Human Anatomy and Physiology. Fijian contestants won the title in 2009 when Mere-walesi Nailatikau was crowned and Fiji has managed to regain the title two more times with Alisi Rabukawaqa in 2011 and Anne Dunn last year. The four-day beauty contest started in Nadi on Wednesday.—Xinhua ■

## Akshay Kumar wraps up 'Gold'

MUMBAI — Actor Akshay Kumar has completed the filming of his upcoming project "Gold".

The 50-year-old actor took to social media to announce the wrap and shared a cinematic video of himself doing a stunt on the beach in 'dhoti-kurta'.

"A good beginning makes a good ending... True story. It's a wrap for GOLD, an incredible journey with a great team. See you at the movies #ItsAWrap

#Gold," the actor captioned the video. While first schedule of the film was shot in London in July, the second schedule was filmed in Patiala. The film, being produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar under their banner Excel Entertainment, will hit the theatres on August 15 next year. Directed by Reema Kagti, "Gold" also marks the feature film debut of TV actor Mouni Roy.—PTI ■

## Princes William and Harry announce sculptor for new Diana statue

LONDON — A sculptor who produced the image of Queen Elizabeth used on Britain's coins has been chosen to create a new statue of Princess Diana, the office of Princes William and Harry said on Sunday, to commemorate 20 years since her death.

Ian Rank-Broadley, whose effigy of the Queen has appeared on all UK and Commonwealth coinage since 1998, will design the statue, which now will not be unveiled until next year.

"Ian is an extremely gifted sculptor and we know that he will create a fitting and lasting tribute to our mother," Prince William and his younger brother Harry said in a statement.

In January, the brothers commissioned a statue in honour of their mother, who died in a Paris car crash 20 years ago to be erected outside their official London home Kensington Palace.

Diana, the first wife of the heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, was killed when the limousine carrying her and her



Britain's Prince William, Duke of Cambridge and Prince Harry visit the White Garden in Kensington Palace in London, Britain August 30, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

lover Dodi al-Fayed crashed in a Paris tunnel in August 1997.

William was 15 and Harry was 12 at the time. "We have been touched by the kind words and memories so many people have shared about our mother over these past few months," the brothers said. "It is clear the significance of her work is still felt by many in the UK and across the world, even twenty years after her death."

It had been hoped that

the statue would be unveiled before the end of the year to mark the anniversary, but Kensington Palace said that it was now envisaged that the statue would be unveiled in 2019.

The first permanent memorial to her, a 210-metre (689-foot) long fountain was unveiled in Hyde Park in 2004 after years of bureaucratic wrangling and squabbling over the design. —Reuters ■



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivers the speech at the Peace Music Festival dinner hosted by the Ministry of Information. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presents a certificate of honor to main sponsor of the festival. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

## Certificates of honor awarded for successful completion of Peace Music Festival

By Zaw Gyi

To support the country's peace process, the Ministry of Information hosted the Peace Music Festival 2017 song contest. A dinner was held yesterday evening in the Sky Star Hotel, Tamway Township in Yangon, following the completion of the Peace Music Festival 2017, and certificates of honor were presented to musicians, artistes and others who helped. The dinner and certificate of honor presentation was attended by Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and officials, contest judges, song writing and singing experts, con-

testants, musicians and artistes who worked together to make the festival a success, along with donors and invited guests. To begin the dinner, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint delivered a speech. Later, a certificate of honor was awarded to Myanmar Radio and Television (MRTV) Director General U Myint Htwe for leading the successful organization of the festival.

Afterwards, the Union Minister presented certificates of honor to the main sponsors of the festival, including Premier Coffee, media partner Forever Group Co., Ltd. and Shwe Than Lwin Media Company, supporting partners Shwesin Satkya

High Level Travel and Tour, Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) and officials, Royal Nay Pyi Taw Hotel, Nirvana Hotel and Taw Win Garden Hotel, who provided free board and lodging for officials on duty, as well as song writers U Shwe Gyaw Gyaw, U Nyi Nyi Thwin and R Khine, who wrote competition songs for free.

MRTV Director General U Myint Htwe then presented certificates of honors to musicians, artistes and all who came together to participate in the Myanmar Peace Festival 2017 song contest and gave a speech of thanks. The attendees were then hosted with dinner. ■



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint presents a certificate of honor to main sponsor of the festival. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI**

## Bosnian museum of wartime childhood aims to go global, wins top prize

SARAJEVO — In just a year, a small Bosnian museum dedicated to the experience of growing up during the Balkan wars has opened its doors, won a best European museum prize and decided to go global.

The War Childhood Museum in Sarajevo, a trove of memorabilia from Bosnians whose childhood was traumatized by the 1990s war, has started collecting personal items from children affected by other wars, such

as those in Syria and Ukraine.

The idea was born out of the experience of the museum's founder, Jasminko Halilovic, and has become a long-term project to create the world's largest archive on the impact of war on children.

"Speaking about the war from a child's perspective is the most powerful anti-war message," 27-year-old Halilovic told Reuters. He said that giving away personal items also helped children cope with the trauma of war.

The Bosnian 1992-95 war was Europe's bloodiest since World War Two. The museum has collected more than 4,000 exhibits donated by children who endured it, and over 150 hours of a video archive of oral history interviews. Halilovic said the items from other conflicts could be put on display next year.—Reuters



A visitor takes pictures at the exhibition in the Bosnian War Childhood museum exhibition in Zenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 7 December, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

**MRTV**

**Programme Schedule**  
(12-12-2017, Tuesday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	1:50 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	2:35 Pm	◆ Peace Music Festival (Grand Final) (Part-2)
7:35 Am	◆ Documentary	4:35 Pm	◆ Documentary (Rakhine)
8:35 Am	◆ Law Affairs	5:05 Pm	◆ Mono Classical Songs
9:10 Am	◆ Health Magazine	5:30 Pm	◆ Money Talk in Myanmar
10:00 Am	◆ MRTV Youth Programme	6:20 Pm	◆ Football Magazine
10:30 Am	◆ Documentarey (Rakhin)	6:35 Pm	◆ Kyae Pwint Myae Yae Yin Khone Than
10:40 Am	◆ Documentarey	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
11:10 Am	◆ Documentarey	7:50 Pm	◆ CHOICE (Part-1)
11:20 Am	◆ Documentarey	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
11:30 Am	◆ MCN Debate	8:35Pm	◆ "1 Southeast Asia PRIX JEUNESSE Video Festival for Children" (Talk Show) (Part-1)
12:30 Pm	◆ Documentarey (Talk Show) (Part-2)		◆ TV Drama Series
1:30 Pm	◆ Yes or No Taslk Show		◆ Anu Pyi Nyar Khan Yeik Thar
			◆ TV Drama Series

## Mourinho unsure if United can deny City Premier League title

MANCHESTER — Jose Mourinho said he “doesn’t know” if Manchester United can pull back Manchester City’s 11-point lead at the top of the Premier League after his side’s 2-1 derby defeat on Sunday.

United’s manager also took aim at the referee Michael Oliver over what he felt was a clear penalty for his team and, after pre-match comments about City players falling over easily, he noted their ability to use up time at the end of the game.

United need to produce an exceptional second half of the season and hope that City stumble but Mourinho hardly sounded bullish about denying Guardiola his first league title in England.

“It is a significant distance,” Mourinho said of City’s lead, before being asked if his team could make it up.

“I don’t know. I know we can win next Wednesday (against Bournemouth). Win or lose or draw, I know that we can win next Wednesday,” he said.

“We can work and fight for it. That is the only thing I say. Match after match and every match we are going to give everything, with our qualities, with our problems, that is what we do all the time,” he said. But, not for the first time in his career, Mourinho focussed his attention on a refereeing decision rather than his team’s performance.

The Portuguese coach believed Oliver should have awarded a penalty in the 79<sup>th</sup> minute when Ander Herrera went down in the box under pressure from City defender Nicolas Otamendi.

The referee instead booked Herrera for diving, leaving Mourinho fuming and claiming it was a repeat of last year when he felt United should have had a penalty in the derby.

“Exactly the same, you can speak about anything you want, you can bring any football theory, you can bring the stats, the ball possession, you can bring everything you want – but like last season it is a huge penalty in a crucial moment of the game,” he said.

“But I have also to say that I feel sorry for Michael Oliver because I think he had a good game, I would say very good game, assistants the same. I think they came with the intention to make the perfect work which they almost did,” he said. Mourinho said he had not expected to lose to City without United’s rivals scoring quality goals. “I think when you see Manchester City play, you expect Manchester City to score great goals not to score two disgraceful goals,” he said. Both came from set pieces and were helped by defensive misfortune. “They are the last goals you expect to concede against a quality team like Manchester City, two very bad goals... with rebound(s). (They were) incredible lucky or unlucky, depending on (your) perspective,” he said, before noting City’s keeper Ederson had to make a double save in the late stages to secure the win.—Reuters ■



Jose Mourinho.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## World record gives Kodaira new confidence over 1,000m

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah— With less than two months until the start of the 2018 Winter Olympics, Japan’s Nao Kodaira gave another demonstration on Sunday of the form that has fueled predictions of a speed skating golden double in Pyeongchang.

Though she has been most dominant in the 500 metres, claiming 15 consecutive World Cup wins, it was in the 1,000 metres that the 31-year-old set her first world record, clocking 1 minute, 12.09 seconds at the Utah Olympic Oval.

“I thought my skating felt good and that I was more efficient than in the 500 metres,” Kodaira said following the race in which she shaved 0.09 second off the previous mark set by American Brittany Bowe in 2015.

“The energy built up inside me, and I was able to concentrate on my own thoughts. I was able to devote myself.”



Japan’s Nao Kodaira reacts after winning a World Cup women’s 1,000-meter race in a new world record of 1 minute, 12.09 seconds in Salt Lake City, Utah, on 10 December, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Having seemed virtually unbeatable over 500 metres, the sprint specialist said the world-record performance let her “confidently feel like the 1,000 meters is also my distance.”

South Korea’s two-time Olympic champion Lee Sang Hwa holds the 500 metres world record and on home soil in Pyeongchang will be looking to over-

turn recent form after finishing second to Kodaira over the distance at multiple World Cup events this season, including the latest round in Salt Lake City.

Also standing between Kodaira and the golden double is compatriot Miho Takagi, who finished runner-up in the 1,000 metres Sunday in a time of 1.12.63.

Kodaira’s best Olympic performance in individual events is fifth place — in the 1,000 and 1,500 metres (2010 Vancouver Games) and the 500 (2014 Sochi Games). She was part of the silver-winning women’s pursuit team in 2010.

Typically a stern critic of her own performances, Kodaira let the moment sink in following her record-breaking race.

“To hear heartfelt congratulations from my fellow skaters, my coach and people who came to watch made me really happy,” she said.—Kyodo News ■



Huddersfield Town’s Tom Ince shoots at goal as Brighton’s Markus Suttner attempts to block during the match of Premier League between Huddersfield Town and Brighton & Hove Albion at John Smith’s Stadium in Huddersfield, Britain on 9 December, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Chelsea wary of Huddersfield ferocity, says Ince

LONDON — Huddersfield Town’s ability to close down opposition players and smother their creativity will make champions Chelsea cautious ahead of Tuesday’s Premier League clash at John Smith’s stadium, the hosts’ winger Tom Ince has said. Third-placed Chelsea

will be eager to bounce back from their 1-0 defeat by relegation-threatened West Ham United on Saturday but face a tough test against a Huddersfield side that have won four and drawn two of their eight home league games this season.

“I don’t think Chelsea or anyone fancies coming here,” Ince told reporters. “The way we get in people’s faces, we stop people playing. We win our tackles, we win our battles, we make it dif-

ficult for teams. “Chelsea have got talent in abundance. But we feel we can cause any team problems here. We beat Man United here — we deserved to beat Man United — and we ran Man City close.” Huddersfield, who are 12th in the standings, beat second-placed Manchester United at home in October and their only two home league defeats came against leaders Manchester City and top four contenders Tottenham Hotspur.—Reuters ■