

Malindo Air to start Kuala Lumpur-Yangon route



PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)

MALAYSIA-based Malindo Air will begin flying from Yangon, the commercial capital of Myanmar, to Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, at the end of this month.

Malindo Air, a Malaysian budget airline, will fly between the two cities four times per week with plans to operate the new route on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Sundays.

The OD 550 flight will leave Kuala Lumpur for Yangon at 8:30 a.m. local time and arrive in Yangon at 9:50 a.m. The OD 551 flight will leave Yangon for Kuala Lumpur at 10:30 a.m. local time and arrive in Kuala Lumpur at 2.55 p.m.

Malindo Air will operate the new route with Boeing 737-800ER planes that have 12 special seats plus 150 ordinary seats.

Ticket fare for an ordinary seat is Ks123,186 and for the special seat, Ks454,441.

Since 2013, the Malaysian airline has operated domestic flights. The company continues to offer aviation services to commuters through 16 ATK 72-600 planes and 26 Boeing aircrafts in 15 countries. Myanmar is the latest country to be included in the expansion of its services.—*Myint Maung Soe*

4,000 Myanmar workers took jobs in eight foreign countries last month

MORE THAN 4,000 workers accepted overseas jobs in eight different countries last month, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population reported.

In February alone, a total of 3,614 people out of 4,184 went to neighbouring Thailand, while 240 others were legally sent to

Malaysia, followed by 218 individuals to Japan, 35 to Qatar, 42 to South Korea, 18 to Singapore, 16 to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and one to Macao.

Over 16,000 local job seekers also joined suitable jobs throughout the country last month.

The ministry has put forth concerted efforts to create more employment opportunities for domestic job hunters.

They continue to create links between employers and employees through labour offices as well as online services.—*Naing Lin Kyi*

Over 100 victims of disaster in Rakhine State need help

MORE than 100 residents are now suffering from the impact of a natural disaster after almost 30 homes were destroyed by strong wind that struck northern Rakhine State on 12 March.

About 25 houses in Yokechaung Village in MraukU Township, a fuel storage facility and a concrete lamp post near housing for veterans in Minbya Township and three homes in Hmanni Village in Yathedaung Township were damaged or de-

stroyed by high wind.

Humanitarian aid continues to be offered by state authorities, who supported Ks2.7 million to victims on that day, said U Tun Tha Sein, a state Hluttaw representative, who personally handed over Ks500,000 to victims as emergency cash assistance on behalf of the Rakhine State Hluttaw.

“The northern part of the state faced the continuous fall of heavy rains for three days start-

ing from March 10. A powerful wind blew those townships on 12 March two times,” said Daw Ma Thauang, one of victims.

In addition, 45 houses in Kyauktaw Township have been damaged during the severe wind of 6 March. However, no lives have been reported lost. Victims need bamboo, wood, household utensils and food, according to the Kyauktaw-based rescue team.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar to establish 750,000-acre community forest this year

THE FOREST Department plans to develop about 750,000 acres of community-owned forest plantations throughout the country this year, its spokesperson said.

U Bo Ni, director of the department, said that the aims of the establishment of community-managed forest plantations are to reforest and prevent desertifi-

cation, boost production of forest products for socio-economic development of residents and conserve the natural environment.

The department established more than 340,000 acres of community-owned plantations across the nation last year, mostly in Shan State.

Locals may improve their earnings from the commercial

sale of forest products manufactured from the community-managed plantations, said U Ye Khaung, from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

The forestry authorities hope to develop up to 2.27 million acres of plantations by 2030 as a part of its 30-year National Forestry Master Plan.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Fire destroys 45 shops in Kyauktaw

A FIRE broke out at an oil pump in Kyauktaw Township at about 6.30 pm yesterday, destroying 45 shops including 41 private refilling shops.

Two fire engines fought the

fire, putting it under control about two hours later. The fire started at a oil bowser while it is filling a 52-gallon tanker with the oil, according to an initial investigation.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Burmese language attracts Chinese students

THE Myanmar language course opened at the University of Foreign Languages attracts many international students as the country has good business opportunities in the Southeast Asian Region, said an official from the UFL.

The numbers of overseas students who take a Myanmar language course for the current academic year at the UFL reached about 250.

China tops the list of students studying the Myanmar language with 112 students, followed by South Korea with 73, Japan with 28, Thailand with nine, India with

eight, Viet Nam with four, Laos with three, Bangladesh and Italy with two students each, Mexico and the U.S. with one each.

According to the university's data, nearly 400 students are currently attending the Chinese language class, while 440 others have joined the English language course. Over 600 students are studying the Japanese language at the UFL.

The university also allows over 450 students to join the French language programme, 324 for the German course, 352 for the Russian course and 28 for the Italian course.—*200*

Over 160 villages in Mandalay likely to face water shortages next month

MORE THAN 160 villages in 16 townships in Mandalay Region are predicted to face an acute shortage of water in April, according to Mandalay Region Rural Development Department.

According to the department, nearly 150 villages in 15 townships — Natogyi, Kyaukpadaung, TadaU, Singaing, Myittha, Kyaukse, Taungtha, Pyawbwe, Yamethin, NyaungU, Mahlaing, Thazi, Wundwin, Ngazun and Meiktila will — still be facing water scarcity starting from the second week of this month because of high summer temperatures.

The department already

granted Ks2 million budgets his month for the water-stressed villages to solve the problem, its director U Min Han said.

In April 2015, the department and non-governmental organisations distributed a total of 461,128 gallons of water to 121 water-stressed villages in 15 townships.

The department urges its subordinate bodies to inspect water situations in villages to supply water in time.

Water scarcity is among the main problems to be faced by many societies mainly in central dry regions, especially in the hot season.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Are we prepared to meet the water shortages?

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Since then, I contemplated quite often on what he had told me and had wondered when our authorities would come up with some viable plans to make our country prosperous again. The top most item in my wish list of things I would like the authorities to address is the water shortage problem, especially in the dry zone. As I used to be from those regions, I knew full well the plights of the locals where availability of clean water is concerned. It's common knowledge that clean water is essential for the health and survival of humans and animals alike. So, easy access to clean drinking water is of utmost necessity.

During the dry spells, even those living in a large city like Yangon, let aside those in the rural areas, would be faced with water shortages. People pushing water carts or carrying buckets of water could be seen even in the down-

town areas and crowded residential areas in the Yangon municipality area. As for those in the suburban and rural areas, their woes are unthinkable.

These water shortages had been going on for decades and no significant improvements are seen. It would be needless to say that water is essential for human and animal consumptions and for agricultural purposes. Thus it's high time that priority should be given to overcome the water shortages urgently to alleviate the woes of the people. Also new cultivation methods for certain cash crops using minimal amount of water should be researched and introduced in places where fresh water is scarce. I'm sure this last piece of suggestion would enhance the productivity and increase the incomes of the rural populations and at the same time save water, which would certainly benefit both the people and the country.