

## International News

### Karnataka speaker KR Ramesh Kumar disqualifies 14 rebel MLAs ahead of Yediyurappa govt's trust vote tomorrow

Agency  
Bangalore July 28,

Karnataka Assembly speaker K R Ramesh on Sunday disqualified 14 rebel MLAs with immediate effect till end of the term of the assembly ahead of Monday's confidence vote for chief minister B S Yediyurappa. The 14 MLAs who had resigned earlier this month include Pratapgouda Patil, BC Patil, Shivaram Hebbar, ST Somashekhar, BA Basavaraja, Anand Singh, R Roshan Baig, Munirathna, K Sudhakar, MTB Nagaraj, AH Vishwanath, K Gopalaiiah and Narayana Gowda and Shrinanth Patil. The Speaker announced the disqualification of the MLAs at a press conference in Bengaluru. Eleven of the lawmakers disqualified are from the Congress and three from the Janata Dal (S). The resignation of the MLAs which began on July 6, eventually led to the collapse of the H D Kumaraswamy government on July 23 after a trust vote.



He said that on being advised by the chief minister he had directed the secretariat to convene a session on Monday at 11 am. "Therefore I have to make my pronouncement on the remaining complaints pending before the Speaker." At present, there are 222 MLAs in the Karnataka Assembly. Three Congress MLAs R Shankar, Ramesh Jarkiholi and Mahesh Kumathalli were disqualified on Thursday. The BJP, with 105 MLAs, has an edge over the coalition, which garnered 99 votes in the floor test held on Tuesday. "The way I'm being pressured to deal with the

situation being a speaker. All these things have pushed me into a sea of depression," Ramesh said just before announcing the disqualifications. "I had 13 resignations petition left before me and 14 disqualification petitions. I have considered all the petitions before me. I had asked the members who resigned to appear before me to convince me that their resignations were voluntary and genuine. They failed to do so," he said after announcing the names of the MLAs who were disqualified. He also seemed not unduly worried about any no-trust motion being brought

against him in the assembly and said he was even ready to resign on July 23. "Let me see when no trust motion is brought against me.... I carried a resignation letter on July 23 because I wanted to resign if the matter dragged on that day because I did not want to carry that burden." The Speaker said he is yet to take a call on the fate of BSP MLA N Mahesh after the party sought his expulsion because he abstained from the trust vote on July 23. "My office is in receipt of a letter from the BSP seeking expulsion of its MLA (N Mahesh). I have not taken a call on that after the hearing," Kumar said. Congress leader and former chief minister Siddaramaiah welcomed the Speaker's decision. "I welcome the decision of speaker to disqualify 14 MLAs. This honest decision of speaker will send strong signals for all the representatives in the country who might fall for @BJP4India's trap," he tweeted.

### 'Kashmiris want development, hatred won't succeed', PM Modi in Mann ki Baat

Agency  
New Delhi July 28,

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday that people of Kashmir want to join the mainstream of development and those trying to spread hate and obstruct development works in Kashmir will never succeed. In his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' broadcast, he cited a recent government exercise - the "Back to village" programme held in June in Jammu and Kashmir that drew enthusiastic response from in remote villages in Shopian, Pulwama, Kulgam and Anantnag where government officials had gone to discuss development schemes with locals. "It shows how keen people of Kashmir are to join mainstream of development... Such programmes and people's participation in them show that people of Kashmir want good governance.... the power of development is stronger than the might of

bullets and bombs," he said in his 25-minute address. "It is clear that those who wish to spread hatred and pose hurdles will never succeed in their sinister plans," PM Modi said. He also hailed the hospitality of Kashmiris saying that over three lakh pilgrims have completed the Amarnath yatra since July 1 and hoped that tourism will get a boost in the state. Modi also congratulated the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on the successful launch of the Chandrayaan 2 lunar mission and said it will inspire the country's youth towards science and innovation. Chandrayaan 2 lifted off on July 22, a week after the original launch plan was scrapped because of a snag. "I strongly believe that you would have felt immensely proud on India's achievement beyond the skies in outer space. The successful launch by our scientists despite the early setback is

unprecedented," Modi said. He hailed the lunar space mission for its home grown capability. "Chandrayaan 2 is Indian to the core. It is purely Indian in heart and spirit. It is a totally swadeshi and home grown mission. We are now eagerly waiting for September, when Lander Vikram and Rover Pragyan will land on lunar surface.... We must have faith in our talent and capacity." "I am confident that Chandrayaan 2 will inspire our youth towards science and innovation," Modi said. The Prime Minister also mentioned floods in several parts of the state and assured those affected by floods that Centre was working with state governments to provide relief. The PM also hailed Meghalaya for becoming the first state to have formulated its own water-policy. "I congratulate Meghalaya govt. In Haryana, crops that require meagre water are being encouraged. Farmers then are saved from suffering losses, he said.

## News from South East Asia

### Myanmar delegation holds repatriation talks with Rohingya in Bangladesh

Courtesy Straittimes  
Kutupalong July 28,

A top-level Myanmar government delegation began repatriation talks with Rohingya leaders in a Bangladesh refugee camp on Saturday (July 27), an official said, with many of the Muslim minority fearing for their safety if they return home. Some 740,000 Rohingyas fled a 2017 crackdown by Myanmar's military and are living in squalid conditions in camps in Bangladesh's southeastern border district of Cox's Bazar. The two countries signed a repatriation deal in November 2017 but so far virtually no Rohingya have volunteered to go back to Myanmar, where the group has faced decades of repression. The Myanmar team, led by permanent foreign secretary U Myint Thu, arrived in Cox's Bazar on Saturday amid tightened security in the camps. The delegation visited



Kutupalong - the world's largest refugee settlement - where they discussed repatriation with Rohingya community leaders over several hours, said Bangladesh refugee commissioner Mohammad Abul Kalam. "Both parties seemed positive about it and the discussion will continue tomorrow (Sunday)," he told AFP. One of the Rohingya leaders who joined the talks, Dil Mohammad, said they "went well" as he reiterated demands

for Myanmar to recognise Rohingyas as an ethnic group. "We hope this discussion will be fruitful. We told them that we won't return unless we are recognised as Rohingyas in Myanmar," he said. Myanmar denies the minority citizenship and refers to them as "Bengalis" - inferring that the Rohingyas are illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. It is the second time in less than a year that Myanmar officials were trying to convince Rohingya refugees

to return to their homeland in violence-wracked Rakhine state, after a repatriation offer was rejected by Rohingya leaders in October. The massive camps have sparked tensions between the neighbouring nations with Bangladesh blaming Myanmar for delays in repatriating the refugees. Dhaka has said it will not force any Rohingyas to leave, while Myanmar has faced international pressure to allow the Rohingyas to return to Rakhine and grant them citizenship rights. The UN has complained that progress to address the refugee crisis has been far too slow. The new visit comes in the wake of talks between Bangladesh's Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing. China is a key ally of Myanmar, and Hasina said that Beijing would "do whatever is required" to help resolve the Rohingya crisis.

### At least 13 killed in Myanmar jade mine landslide

Courtesy Straittimes  
Yangon (AFP) July 28,

At least 13 jade mine workers and security guards in northern Myanmar were killed in a landslide on Sunday (July 28), authorities said, as rescuers frantically searched for more victims. Dozens die each year in landslides caused by jade mining, a dangerous and poorly regulated industry in Kachin state between the country's borders with China and India. Myanmar's fire services department said in a

Facebook post the accident happened in the early morning in Hpakant township. "We have sent two injured men and the dead bodies of 13 men" to a local hospital, the department said. A police officer on the scene told AFP that the upper part of a mine collapsed and fell around 200m onto those sleeping below. Though new regulations suspend mining during the wet season peak from July through September, some workers stay on site. Heavy rains pounded the

area over the last week, workers is also a major problem in Hpakant, which has been turned into a vast moonscape-like terrain by years of mining. Watchdog Global Witness estimated that the industry was worth some \$31 billion in 2014. But corruption means very little reaches state coffers. Jade and other abundant natural resources in northern Myanmar including timber, gold and amber have helped finance both sides of a decades-long civil war between ethnic Kachin insurgents and the military.

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### Health Minister Urges people of the state to inculcate Work Culture

DIPR  
Imphal, July 28,

Health Minister L. Jayantakumar Singh urged the people of Manipur to inculcate work culture to help boost economy of the households in the State. There are various avenues for earning money if we abstain from the habit of sitting idle at home. The Government will extend all possible help to boost family income of households provided individuals are ready to take up any innovative work in coordination with the government, he added. Minister Jayantakumar was speaking as Chief Guest at the "Launching of Nation Wide Campaign on Tinospora Cordifolia" at Indian Medical Association (IMA) House, Lamphelpat organised by the State Medicinal Plant Board (SMPB), Manipur, under the Directorate of Ayush. Minister Jayantakumar further said that Manipur is a resource rich State. The flora, fauna and rhizome found in the state have many medicinal values. Farmers can reap economic benefits by growing and cultivating medicinal plants of rare species variety which are grown naturally in the State. It is also our responsibility to showcase and highlight that the state is rich of natural resources, he added. Speaking about Tinospora Cordifolia which is locally known as Ningthoukhongli, Minister Jayantakumar maintained that Ningthoukhongli has a very rich medicinal value. Its shoot and fruit helps to fight against diseases like diabetes, liver illness, arthritis, asthma, indigestion, cancer, fever etc. The state government has already initiated to sign MoU with the Central Government to expand the plantation of Ningthoukhongli and also the



production of ayurvedic medicines made from Ningthoukhongli. He continued that the saplings of Ningthoukhongli plants will be made available free of cost to all the interested farmers. There is plan to open farmers' units in all districts of the State. Related departments like horticulture, forest, Agriculture, Ayush, ICAR, CAU etc. will also be tied up in order to make the mission more successful, he added. He appealed to the people to cooperate with the initiatives of the government so that the economic situation of the

farmers is increased to some extent. During the function, Minister Jayantakumar also launched the first ever Digital LED Board of Manipur Medicinal Plant Board. A brochure of MSMPB was also released by the Chief Guest. The launching function was also attended by Prof. M. Premjit Singh, Vice Chancellor, Central Agricultural University and Rang Patel, Joint Secy. Health and Family Welfare, Government of Manipur as Guest of Honour and President respectively. Farmers from different districts also attended the function.

### Assam Rifles Commemorates Kargil Vijay Diwas

IGAR (South)  
Imphal July 28,

As part of the weeklong commemoration of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, many Battalions and Sectors under command IGAR (South) organized various events across Manipur. The major activities of the celebrations included Kargil Victory Run, weapon and equipment display for the youth, band display, graffiti boards to convey message for martyrs, motivational lectures along with paying homage to the martyrs of the Kargil War. Keithelambi Battalion of 9 Sector Assam Rifles organized

a wreath laying ceremony at Keithelambi garrison on Yesterday. The solemn ceremony commenced with wreath laying by Brig Amit Kabthiyal, SM, Commander 9 Sector Assam Rifles and paying a homage to the brave hearts who made the supreme sacrifice during Operation Vijay. The weeklong activities concluded with a Kargil Victory Run on 27 July 2019 in which all ranks, families and children of the Keithelambi garrison participated with full enthusiasm. Prizes were distributed to winners in various categories to motivate and encourage them.