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Activists march in Yangon on September 21 to mark the International Day of Peace. More images of the event on pages 12 and 17. Pic: Ko Taik

## Peace marchers face charges

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin and Htoo Aung

HUNDREDS of people calling for an end to the conflict in Kachin State and elsewhere in Myanmar marched peacefully through Yangon on September 21 as part of events held throughout the country to mark the International Day of Peace.

The Yangon peace march, from Sule Pagoda to the bank of Inya Lake on Pyay Road, was organised by 19 civil society groups.

Other events throughout the country included prayers for peace held at Manwungyee in Kachin

State and in front of Mahamuni Pagoda in Mandalay. In the Kayin State capital, Hpa-an, writers, artists and others spoke at a peace event organised by the Kayin Women's Action Group.

The Yangon Region Police Office said charges would be brought against those who organised the march because it took place without official permission.

An estimated 250 people, many wearing blue T-shirts and blue headbands emblazoned with the slogan "Stop Civil War" took part in the march.

Waving posters and singing songs, the group left Sule Pagoda at about 9:30am and marched via Botahtaung Pagoda, Theinbyu and Banyardala roads, Shwegondine intersection, and Bagaryar and

Kan Lan roads before crossing Pyay Road, to the bank of Inya Lake, near Inya Road.

The circuitous route through 10 townships was necessary because the authorities had banned the group from marching on Pyay Road.

After gathering on the bank of the lake at about 3:30pm, the marchers displayed banners calling for peace before standing at 4pm to offer five minutes of silent prayer for those from both sides who have died in conflicts and for those living in refugee camps.

A monument for peace was erected on the lake's bank and

balloons with the slogan "May the entire nation enjoy genuine peace" were released.

The marchers also distributed a five-point statement calling for an immediate halt to conflict throughout the nation, practical steps by President U Thein Sein to stop the conflicts, the release of a statement by the hluttaws calling for an end to civil war, a judicial committee to enforce the rule of law in war zones, and for all citizens to participate in the effort to achieve peace.

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## From Kate to the Quran in one move



ASIA FOCUS  
INSIDE COVER  
with Roger Mitton

SEX, lies and videotape. It was once a famous movie, but over the past week it has turned into real life.

An anti-Islamic video called the *Innocence of Muslims*, which makes Pussy Riot's gig in the cathedral seem like a children's prank, has ignited riots around the world.

The crass 14-minute video, replete with lies about Islam and the Prophet Muhammad, veers from ridicule into gratuitous malice. Those responsible obviously sought to provoke outrage and must have known it could precipitate clashes that would lead to the loss of innocent lives, which it has already done.

Thankfully, the protests have been largely peaceful in this region, although Western embassies in Indonesia and Malaysia remain heavily guarded in case matters escalate and turn as violent as in the Middle East. It is a sombre situation, and without intending to be unduly frivolous, we must be grateful to Catherine Mountbatten-Windsor's breasts for bringing some relief to an otherwise profoundly depressing week for humanity.

It seems doubly ironic, given that Kate and Wills were visiting Malaysia when the protests erupted, that sex, lies and photography reared its impish head once again. Knowing our innate voyeuristic instincts, probably more people checked out Kate's boobs than viewed the inflammatory anti-Muslim video. As Julia Roberts said in *Notting Hill* when puzzling over the male obsession with breasts: "They're odd looking, they're for milk, your mother has them, you've seen a thousand of them. What's all the fuss about?"

Well, tell that to Kate, or the more firmly endowed Thai artist, Duangjai Jansaunoi, who went topless

on a TV show in June and used her knockers to execute a painting – and shocked the nation.

For Thailand, despite misperceptions in the West, is among the most conservative societies on the planet.

Not a nipple, or bare bottom, or any other naughty bits ever appear on Thai television or in the press. Sometimes one wonders how Thais learn how to reproduce.

And that aptly brings us to Singapore and Lee Kuan Yew. There is plenty of sex in Singapore, but as far as Lee is concerned far too much of it is done for fleeting pleasure, not procreation. During last month's national day celebration, he lamented that if his young compatriots did not smarten up, Singapore as we know it today would vanish due to the pathetically small birth rate.

But Lee himself is to blame for this. Early in his premiership in the 1960s, he developed an irrational fear that over-population might wreck his dream of a super-efficient, squeaky-clean, short-haired island.

Imbued with eugenic notions he imposed harsh anti-breeding provisions on his people. Women were urged to get sterilised, while recalcitrant breeders were instructed to "Stop At Two" or face stiff financial penalties.

Of course, his son's government now seeks desperately to boost the birth rate with lavish benefits, dating services and risqué adverts. But too late the phalarope, for Singaporeans have become staunchly material boys and girls, and have evolved into a community of childless nesters.

One is tempted to suggest that they, and perhaps all of us, should rent a few videos that are provocative in a healthy sexual way, and then should emulate Kate's cavorting behaviour on the French balcony. If nothing else, it would take our minds off the religious holocaust that the anti-Islamic video now threatens us with.

## The Rohingya conundrum

By Nehginpao Kipgen

SINCE May this year, Myanmar has witnessed an escalation in the simmering tension between two groups of people in Rakhine State. The violence between the Rakhine (also known as Arakan) and Rohingya (also known as Bengali) has led to the death of at least 88 people and displacement of thousands of others. Unofficial reports, however, put the number of deaths in the hundreds.

The immediate cause of the violence was the rape and murder of a Rakhine Buddhist woman on May 28 by three male Rohingya. This was followed by a retaliatory killing of 10 Muslims by a mob of Rakhine on June 3. It should be noted that tension between these two groups has existed for several decades.

Several questions are being routinely asked: Why has little apparently been done to resolve the conflict? Is there a possibility of reaching a permanent solution to this protracted problem? Much blame has also been directed at both the Myanmar government and the opposition, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

As members of the international community are trying to promote their own national interests in newly democratic Myanmar, sectarian violence such as we have seen in Rakhine State has not been paid serious attention, especially by Western powers.

While Human Rights Watch has criticised the Myanmar government for failing to prevent the initial unrest, majority Muslim nations, such as Indonesia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Malaysia have criticised what they allege is discrimination against the Rohingya based on their religious beliefs.

The sensitivity of the issue has silenced many from discussing it publicly. Even the internationally acclaimed human rights champion and leader of the democratic opposition, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, has made only brief comments about the conflict, emphasising the need to establish an adequate citizenship law.

The root of the problem begins with the nomenclature itself. Although many of the Muslims in Rakhine State call themselves Rohingya, the Myanmar government and many of the country's citizens call them illegal Bengali migrants from neighbouring Bangladesh.

Since the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh have refused to accept them as their citizens, the Rohingya have automatically become stateless under international law. Under such circumstances, are there any possible



Rohingya sit in a tractor loaded with bags of donated rice outside a temporary relief camp on the outskirts of Sittwe in June. Pic: AFP

solutions to the problem?

President U Thein Sein suggested that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) should consider resettling the Rohingya in other countries. Although such proposal may sound ideal to many, there would definitely be challenges in terms of implementation.

For example, will there be a nation or nations willing to welcome and embrace the million or so Rohingya people? Moreover, UNHCR chief Antonio Guterres has rejected the idea of resettlement. Even if the agency reconsidered its position, would the UNHCR offices in Myanmar and Bangladesh have adequate resources to process such a large number of people?

One possible solution is for the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh to reach an amicable arrangement to integrate the Rohingya population into their respective societies. There are about 800,000 Rohingya inside Myanmar and another 300,000 in Bangladesh.

This proposition also has its own challenges. Chiefly, will the indigenous Rakhine accept Rohingya as their fellow citizens and live peacefully with them? On the other hand, will the Bangladesh government change its policy and offer citizenship to the Rohingya?

Another possible solution is that Myanmar can amend its 1982 citizenship law to pave the way for the Rohingya to apply for citizenship. As Minister for Immigration and

Population U Khin Yi told *Radio Free Asia* recently, under the existing law foreigners can apply for citizenship only if they are born in Myanmar, their parents and grandparents have lived and died in Myanmar, they are literate in Burmese and meet some additional criteria.

Finally, to prevent a further escalation in tensions, the governments of Myanmar and Bangladesh need to secure their porous international borders to prevent illegal movements.

None of the above suggested policies are simple and easy to achieve. Despite the challenges and difficulties, the Rohingya issue cannot be ignored for too long. Without addressing the crux of the problem, the May incident and the violence it sparked could recur, with even more tragic consequences.

Until a solution is achieved, international institutions, such as the United Nations and Association of Southeast Asian Nations, should pressure the Myanmar government to take steps to resolve the problem of Rohingya statelessness in a holistic manner, rather than inciting, or allowing others to incite, hatred along religious or racial lines.

(Nehginpao Kipgen is general secretary of the United States-based Kuki International Forum. His research interests include political transition, democratisation, human rights, ethnic conflict and identity politics and he has written numerous peer-reviewed and non-academic articles on the politics of Myanmar and Asia.)

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## 'The Voice' defendants plead not guilty to defamation

By Sandar Lwin

THE editor-in-chief and publisher of *The Voice* pleaded not guilty to defamation charges last week, after a Yangon court found the publication might have committed an offence against the Ministry of Mines.

The Dagon Township Court judge, Daw Khin Thant Zin, decided on September 20 that there were grounds for considering that a report in the weekly publication had defamed the ministry and asked the editor-in-chief and publisher if they would admit their guilt.

They pleaded not guilty and will defend themselves against the charges.

The case stems from a March 12 report in the weekly publication that quoted unnamed members of parliament as saying that misappropriation of funds and graft had been uncovered by the Office of the Auditor General at six government ministries, including the Ministry of Mines. Shortly afterwards, the ministry announced it would apply to file defamation charges against the publication.

U Kyaw Min Swe, editor-in-chief of *The Voice*, said outside the court he did not believe that publications should be charged for reports that are in the public interest.

U Kyaw Min Swe was earlier last week appointed secretary of the re-formed interim press council and he said the body will ensure a "public interest" defence is included in the new press law.

U Zaw Ko Ko, director of state-owned Myanma Mining Enterprise, said the court case was about "telling the public that the ministry is clean".

"The court had decided that the accusation is valid but I don't want the defendants to face any punishment," he said.

The ministry initially sought to charge the reporter, editor-in-chief and publisher but the court dismissed the suit against the reporter because he or she could not be identified by the ministry.

"We won't try again to have the reporter's name disclosed because the editor-in-chief said he will take responsibility for it," U Zaw Ko Ko said.

He said the ministry would have preferred to resolve the issue outside the legal system but had no "other alternative procedures to show our ministry is clean".

"If there had been a press council or something like that we would have chosen [to resolve it] that way instead of filing a lawsuit."

# US fetes Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

WASHINGTON—The United States lifted sanctions on President U Thein Sein and Thura U Shwe Mann as the Congress hailed Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as a hero of democracy in a lavish ceremony unthinkable only months ago.

The move to end the sanctions on the president and Pyithu Hluttaw speaker on September 19 came just hours after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had called for the remaining US sanctions on Myanmar to be lifted.

She also met fellow Nobel Peace laureate President Barack Obama for the first time, after being presented with the Congressional Gold Medal in the imposing surroundings of the historical Rotunda on Capitol Hill.

The White House said President Obama reaffirmed US support for political and economic reforms in Myanmar, and full protection of human rights, in order to shape "a more peaceful, free and prosperous future" for the country.

"From the depths of my heart I thank you, the people of America ... for keeping us in your hearts and minds during the dark years when freedom and justice seemed beyond our reach," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said, as she was handed the award.

"We believe that we can go forward in unity and in peace," she said.

"There will be difficulties in the way ahead, but I'm confident that we shall be able to overcome all obstacles with the help and support of

our friends."

The US Treasury later dropped both U Thein Sein and Thura U Shwe Mann from its list of "Specially Designated Nationals", those individuals and companies sanctioned for links to terrorism, narcotics or other crimes.

The two men "have taken concrete steps to promote political reforms and human rights, and to move Burma away from repression and dictatorship toward democracy and freedom", the Treasury said in a statement.

They had been placed on the list in 2007 as the United States stepped up pressure on the then-ruling military government, in which U Thein Sein served as first secretary and Thura U Shwe Mann was joint chief of staff of the armed forces.

Freed in 2010 after a total of 15 years under house arrest, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a rapturous welcome on her first visit to Washington since her release.

"It's almost too delicious to believe, my friend, that you are here in the rotunda of our great Capitol, the centrepiece of our democracy, as an elected member of your parliament," Secretary of State Hillary Clinton said.

But Ms Clinton said a different phase of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's work was just beginning as she helps build democracy in Myanmar.

"The United States will stand with her, with the president of Burma and



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks at American University in Washington on September 20. Pic: AFP

those who are reformers ... as they fan the flickers of democratic progress and press forward with reform," the top US diplomat vowed.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was also praised by veteran Republican Senator John McCain who, in a moving speech, called her "my personal hero."

"I want to thank you ... for teaching me, at my age, a thing or two about courage," said Mr McCain, 76, who spent more than five years in the notorious "Hanoi Hilton" as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam conflict.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's own remarks, from a podium flanked by six US flags and white marble statues of

Abraham Lincoln and US civil war general Ulysses S Grant, were bookended by standing ovations.

"This is one of the most moving days in my life," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who modestly described herself as "a stranger from a distant land".

The Obama administration has taken pains to ensure the celebration around her visit does not detract from a simultaneous trip to the United States by U Thein Sein, who ushered in the reforms to global surprise.

US officials say U Thein Sein - who will take part in the UN General Assembly this week - deserves to be recognised for pushing

through such speedy changes.

The United States began rolling back its economic embargo in July, opening Myanmar up to US investment despite Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's earlier unease about US firms doing business with the state-owned Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise.

"There are very many other ways in which the United States can help us to achieve our democratic ends and help us to build up the kind of democratic institutions that we are in such need of," Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said on September 18. "Sanctions are not the only way." - AFP

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**Performance artist stopped during MDY show****By Phyo Wai Kyaw  
and Sithu Lwin**

PERFORMANCE artist Suu Myint Thein was briefly detained by police following a street performance in Mandalay on September 20.

The 42-year-old performer, who wrapped himself in blue tape and carried a packet of paddy and a soft pen, began his performance on the corner of 69<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> streets and headed towards the clocktower. During the performance he handed out paddy to people on the street and wrote the letter "p", to represent peace, on their palms.However, he was stopped by police near Zegyo, the city's main market, he told *The Myanmar Times* the following day.

"They told me that my performance creates misunderstandings, disturbances and fear. They told me to inform them first to get permission before making a performance in future and then they released me. I felt sorry that I couldn't complete my performance and expect there to be more freedom for the arts in the future. I want to perform freely as an artist, I want all restrictions on artistic expression lifted," Suu Myint Thein said.



A police officer stops Suu Myint Thein in Mandalay on September 20. Pic: Supplied

"The blue tape represented peace and the act of wrapping symbolised suffering and restrictions. People around the world are suffering from wars. I just wanted to do a performance that could remind people about

the importance of peace," he said.

Suu Myint Thein held his first solo and group shows in 2000 and has since done about 20 others. Most recently, in May 2012, he was arrested along with two

performers from Thailand for a show beside Mandalay moat.

Photographer and street performer Maung Ni Oo said it was "sad" that some people seemed to assume that all street performances were protests.

**Nay Pyi Taw farmers face new forestry law charges****By Soe Than Lynn**

FARMERS from Dekkhinathiri township in Nay Pyi Taw are again facing charges under forestry laws, after an earlier case against them was thrown out because the plaintiff failed to attend court.

The case has been filed at the behest of a number of companies, including Yuzana and Dagon, that confiscated the land from the farmers in Kuhnlonese village earlier this year in murky circumstances.

Virtually all residents in the village, except for those under 18, have been charged under section 40(a) of the Forestry Law for illegally residing in forest areas.

If found guilty they face a prison term, a fine or both.

"This is the second time [we've been charged]. In June, we had to come to the Zabuthiri Township Court because we were summoned. At that time there were 63 defendants but the plaintiff from the Forestry Department didn't come regularly so the judge, Daw Cho Cho Win, threw out the case. When we were charged again with the same section but instead of only 63 people all those over 18 years were included," Ko Zaw Linn Aung told *The Myanmar Times* in front of the Zabuthiri Township Court on September 13.

U Khin Maung Zaw, the lawyer acting for the 125 villagers, said the plaintiff from the Department of Forestry, U Soe Win, told the court during a hearing last week that "some of the land involved in the case does not belong to forest department but to the [Ministry of Agriculture]".

"Some other land is in an agriculture and livestock breeding zone project area. So the situation right now is a little confusing," U Khin Maung Zaw said.

He said that after three days of hearing ended on September 19, staff from the Forestry Department went to the village and took photos of the homes of the defendants.

"Forestry Department officials asked some of the defendants to come to the department on September 21 so they may negotiate something with them," he said.

The farmers said their families had been cultivating the land in question for generations until, in early 2011, about 700 acres were acquired by Yuzana, Dagon International, Win and KMT companies on the pretext of growing plantation crops.

Fields were levelled with bulldozers and surrounded by tall fences, inside which sugarcane, seintalone mango and dragon fruit were grown. The villagers were allowed to remain in the area and continue to cultivate land away from the plantations but in June the Forestry Department filed charges at the behest of the companies, the farmers said.

"When they arrived ... the workers who operated the bulldozers and the company employees accompanying them told us we would be given replacement land or compensation. They said it was an official project but there were no signs showing it had anything to do with the government. Just a sign that read, 'No admittance'," said Ko Min Tun, one of the defendants.

"They haven't yet asked us to

leave or move ... and we dared not say anything against [the companies]," he said.

Ko Zaw Linn Aung said the residents of Kuhnlonese village had "tried to stop them" but the workers from the companies threatened to bulldoze their homes along with the farmland.

"When we asked whether it was a government project or for the company, they said we would get compensation either way. Now not only did we get no compensation but we have also been charged twice," Ko Zaw Linn Aung said.

"What we would like to happen is for the companies to make clear when the land was confiscated and for which state project, and what kind of compensation we will receive, either in land or otherwise," he said.

In some cases the farmers received compensation, however, with Yuzana in April paying K350,000 for each acre of paddy taken and K250,000 for each acre of other farmland. The farmers said they accepted because they didn't realise how far below the market rate it was - paddy field sells for K3 million an acre in the area, while other farmland fetches K1.5 million an acre. When Dagon International and Win Company offered the same amount of compensation to farmers early this month, the farmers rejected it, they said.

"We didn't reach an agreement and the companies said we should obey what the government decides. After that, we were charged," said one of the villagers who attended court.

The filing of the charges coincides with the recent submission of a motion to

standardise farmland in forest areas so that it can be officially cultivated. Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Gangaw, U Aung Myint, sponsored the motion on September 5 - the second last day of the fourth Pyithu Hluttaw session - and MPs agreed to discuss it.

But before it could be discussed, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann ordered the ministries of forestry and agriculture and irrigation to negotiate with the parliamentary committee on agriculture and land ownership issues to resolve the problem.

The speaker said farmers often lost their land because the reality on the ground - the way land is being used - is different from that registered on government ownership maps.

He said in cases where land is incorrectly classified as vacant or forest land and awarded to private firms negotiations should take place to ensure farmers are not left without compensation or employment.

"Many problems are arising in our country because the people concerned just look at the maps but don't check the fields to see whether the maps are correct. ... These cases need to be solved by assessing the real situation on the ground and negotiating with the relevant stakeholders," the speaker said.

"What we would like to happen is the lawsuit to be withdrawn and for us to be employed by the companies to work on their land and, whether it is a government project or not, for a reasonable amount of compensation to be given to those who lost their land," said one of the defendants.

- Translated by Thit Lwin



## Rakhine parties discuss possible merger

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin

TWO Rakhine political parties are in discussions over a potential merger, the heads of both parties said last week.

Arakan League for Democracy (ALD) chairman U Aye Thar Aung invited officials from the Rakhine Nationalities Development Party (RNDP) to hold talks over the possible union.

The RNDP was formed in 2010 and won 35 seats in the 2010 election, while the ALD contested the 1990 election, boycotted the 2010 poll but reregistered earlier this year.

"We invited the RNDP to cooperate," U Aye Thar Aung said. "We want to do our activities in unison for the development of Rakhine State. The fact Rakhine people want to see our parties unite was also a factor."

RNDP chairman Dr Aye Maung said there were several issues that needed to be resolved before a merger could take place, including the new party's name and policies.

"ALD invited us to cooperate before they registered but we asked them to wait to start our cooperation until after they were registered. Now we have accepted their invite and we think that we should cooperate," Dr Aye Maung said.

"However, we need to take our time because each party has its own political stance and policies. We need to negotiate in detail."

The two parties have formed negotiation teams of five members to discuss the merger.



Former prisoners of conscience pose for a photo at the National League for Democracy headquarters in Yangon following their release from prison in Yangon on September 17. Pic: AFP

## Almost 100 prisoners of conscience freed: activists

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin

ALMOST 100 prisoners of conscience were freed as part of an amnesty for 514 prisoners last week but at least 200 remain behind bars, the Former Political Prisoners Group said.

President U Thein Sein ordered the amnesty on September 17 under section 204(a) of the constitution and section 401(i) of the Code of Criminal Procedure "for establishing stability of the state and eternal peace, on humanitarian grounds, for turning [prisoners] into citizens who do their bits in nation building tasks realising sympathy and goodwill of the state and for prolonging friendship with neighbouring countries".

The Former Political Prisoners Group said that as of September 19 it had confirmed 93 prisoners of conscience had been freed from eight prisons on September 17 and 18. The group is providing the released prisoners of conscience with support, including medical checkups.

"Most [political] prisoners were released from Mandalay Prison;

46 prisoners according to our list. The special point of this amnesty is that it included prisoners who were convicted under the Explosive Substances Act," said U Thet Oo, a spokesperson for the group's News and Information Committee.

"There were 303 political prisoners in prisons around the country [before the amnesty] according to our figures ... we plan to push for their release as well. We are going to send an appeal letter to the president to release these people," he said.

U Nyan Win, spokesperson for the National League for Democracy, said some NLD members had been included in the amnesty but he was unsure of the exact figure.

"It's a good sign because there shouldn't be political prisoners in our country because we are now marching towards a democratic state. We are also pushing officials to release more political prisoners," he said.

Among those released from Mandalay Prison on September 17 was U Kaylartha, a monk sentenced to 16 years jail following the 2007

protests.

"[The government] treats us according to their mindset - not the rule of law," he told *The Myanmar Times*.

In Myingyan, Laphai Zau Seng was released after 27 years in prison. He received a life sentence for his role in assassinating Brigadier General L-Kun H pang, the head of the Northern Region military command, and his son, the singer L-Khun Yi, in 1985. He was 22 when he carried out the operation on behalf of the Kachin Independence Army.

"Three members of our team escaped but I was arrested and released after 27 years in Myingyan Prison, Mandalay Region. I came to Yangon first to meet with my colleagues and friends," Laphai Zau Seng told *The Myanmar Times* last week.

He said he was pleased to have the chance to see his family and had been "emotional" when told he would be released as part of the amnesty. He was also forced to sign a pledge to work for peace and the development of the country.

## HRW calls for prisoner monitoring mechanism

By Thomas Kean

HUMAN RIGHTS Watch has called for the formation of a monitoring mechanism to identify prisoners of conscience in Myanmar's prisons, following the release of more than 500 prisoners in an amnesty last week.

The proposed body could be made up of representatives from United Nations agencies, government ministries, local and foreign non-government organisations, the national parliament as well as former prisoners of conscience, Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch said in a statement on September 19.

The proposal comes after the government released 514 prisoners on September 17, of which 88 are believed to be prisoners of conscience, Human Rights Watch said, adding that the amnesty "falls short of meeting its commitment to release all political prisoners".

It was the fourth amnesty in the past year, during which nearly 500 prisoners of conscience have been freed.

"All political prisoner releases are good news, but until there is independent monitoring of Burma's prisons, it won't be known how many political prisoners still remain behind bars," Mr Robertson said. "Donor governments need to press President Thein Sein in New York to release all political prisoners and allow international monitors into the prisons."

Human Rights Watch said the body "should issue regular, public reports" and also called on the government to "allow independent international monitors unhindered access to Burma's prisons to provide an accounting of all remaining political prisoners".

The government should also end persecution of and provide support for released political prisoners, Human Rights Watch said.

"Burma's political prisoners find that when they are freed they are still not really free," Mr Robertson said.

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## Rush as deadline looms for motorbike registration in Mandalay

By Phyo Wai Kyaw

THOUSANDS of motorcycles are still operating illegally in Mandalay as the end of a four-month window for registering illegal vehicles approaches, residents said last week.

The registration window closes on October 5, and recent weeks have been marked by the sight of thousands of people queuing to register their motorcycles, with the line winding around four blocks on 29<sup>th</sup> Street.

People in the queue said they were concerned that the deadline would arrive before they had the chance to register their motorcycles. Those joining the queue at the end typically have to wait at

least three or four days, and sleep in the line overnight with their motorcycle to avoid losing their place.

"I don't think they will be able to finish all of the motorcycles here at the moment. They can register from 700 to 1000 motorcycles each day depending on the weather. It is difficult for people queuing in the line because some people come not to register their motorcycle but simply to sell their place in the line," said one person waiting to register his bike on September 18.

The Myanmar Times was quoted from K20,000 to K60,000 for a place in queue on September 17.

Officials from the Mandalay Region Road and

Transportation Department have established a temporary office on 29<sup>th</sup> Street, between 67<sup>th</sup> and 68<sup>th</sup> streets, to manage the registration process.

"There has no order for us to extend the four-month window for issuing new licences," U Thein Oo, the head of the Road and Transportation Department in Mandalay, said on September 18.

While officials have not released figures for the number of motorcycles that have come into the legal fold, it appears to be 70,000 to 80,000 based on the licence plates issued. Officials say the city, which has a population of about one million, has about 400,000 licensed bikes.

But the increasing

prevalence of motorcycles has had a significant impact on accidents in the city, with motorcycles involved in about 60 percent of the 400 reported accidents to date in 2012.

The number of deaths in the seven townships that make up Mandalay District has also increased sharply, with the 2011 death toll of 130 already eclipsed before the end of August.

"Motorcycles are so dangerous ... if you hear about an accident, it will most likely involve a motorcycle. I think there is an urgent need for more traffic policemen and better enforcement of road rules. Motorcyclists also need to be properly trained and follow the road rules like everyone else," said U



People wait in a queue on Mandalay's 29<sup>th</sup> Street last week to register illegal motorcycles. Pic: Phyo Wai Kyaw

Khin Maung Htwe, a 40-year-old private tutor from Chanayetharsan township.

Most motorcycles in Mandalay are imported

from China and cost about K600,000 new, while more expensive bikes from India and Thailand are also available.



Maung Wuntha (left), a member of the Rakhine Investigation Commission, speaks at a press conference on September 17. Pic: Ko Taik

## Rakhine investigation team discusses first visit

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin

THE head of the Rakhine Investigation Commission last week pledged his team would find a solution to the conflict in Rakhine State that is acceptable to the international community.

Dr Myo Myint, chairman of the commission and a former director general of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, made the guarantee at a press conference at Yangon's Chatrium Hotel on September 17.

The press conference was held to discuss the team's recent visit to Rakhine State, from September 7 to 14.

"We conducted our investigations in a way that was fair for both sides during this trip. We are trying to find out the truth and trying to maintain stability at the same time. We will try to find a solution that is acceptable for the international community and the majority of people in Myanmar," Dr Myo Myint said.

During the eight-day trip, the team met displaced people from both the Rakhine and Rohingya communities, as well as residents and government officials.

"We visited all places and refugee camps. We asked questions to those who

witnessed some incidents and also met residents from both sides, listened to their feelings, expectations and suggestions on the conflict," he said.

Commission secretary Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing said the discussions were free and open. "During the interviews, we asked government staff and other officials to stay outside the room so we could discuss the issues freely and openly," he said.

Writer U Soe Thein, better known as Maung Wuntha, said displaced people from both communities were "anxious" and wanted to have "sustainable peace".

But commission members denied accusations in foreign media that their investigations had been biased.

"International media said when we arrived in Maungdaw we met only Rakhine people, not Muslims. And two [Muslims] were arrested so they couldn't meet with us. We totally reject these comments 100 percent," said U Thura, also known as Zaganar.

"We went everywhere where incidents happened and met people from both sides, whether at the monastery or the mosque," he said.

They also said the press release issued by the United States embassy in Yangon had

"exaggerated" the conditions in Rakhine State.

Earlier this month, US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton dispatched a delegation to visit Myanmar and Bangladesh to learn "first hand" about the situation in Rakhine State.

The delegation, led by deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asia and the Pacific Joseph Yun and US ambassador to Myanmar Derek Mitchell, visited Rakhine State from September 7 to 10. Following the trip, the embassy released a statement saying that "broad swathes of both communities have been affected, and the humanitarian situation remains of great concern. Going forward it will be important address the urgent needs, while also laying the groundwork for long term, sustainable and just solution."

Zaganar said the team had visited the same areas as the US delegation but did not agree with its assessment.

"Some residents said they felt sorry because they said [the US delegation] listened only to one side. I don't know what [the press release said] but we did our duty properly," he said.

"It's true, there are issues in the camps for displaced people ... it is a challenging situation in terms of health, food and

shelter but these issues are not particularly unusual."

The commission acquired detailed testimonies and documentary evidence about the conflict but members said they didn't want to comment on their findings.

"It is only a pre-survey visit and we have organised a research team to get more comprehensive evidence to inform our recommendations. It's too early to give comments. Please wait for when our report comes out," Dr Myo Myint said.

The Investigation Commission was formed on August 17 to find the "real cause" of the violence and criminal activities in Rakhine State in May and June and to give suggestions on steps that could help to resolve the animosity between the Rakhine and Rohingya communities.

The commission has to submit its report to the president by November 16 but Dr Myo Myint said it might need more time.

"I can't say the report will definitely be finished on November 16. We will take more time if we need to. It's a complicated issue with a lot of history. On the other hand, many people are watching our activities closely so we will try to make our report as complete as possible."

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# ABSDF survivors, relatives prepare petition and lawsuit

By Khin Su Wai

SURVIVORS of a massacre of All Burma Students' Democratic Front members in Kachin State in 1992 have launched a petition calling for the perpetrators of the killings to be brought to justice.

Petition organisers are seeking 10,000 signatures from upper Myanmar residents, which they will then send to President U Thein Sein, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Thura U Shwe Mann by the end of October, Ko Nyi Nyi said at a press conference at Dakinayama Monastery, near Mandalay's Mahamuni Pagoda on September 9.

They are calling on the government to establish a team to investigate the incident.

More than 100 members of the ABSBF (Northern Burma) were arrested and accused of spying for Military Intelligence. Fifteen were executed on Union Day in 1992, while at least 19 more died as a result of being tortured. The rest managed to escape from the ABSDF's Northern Burma camp, in Kachin State near the Chinese border.

Meanwhile, organisers of the campaign said at the press conference they will also try to collectively press charges against those they believe should be held responsible for the deaths. However, they said they were not necessarily seeking jail terms or compensation but wanted to see justice done and the truth about the massacre widely known.

Ko Nyi Nyi said that the family of Tun Aung Kyaw, a former ABSDF (Northern Burma) leader who was executed in 1992, had already tried to press charges against senior ABSDF officials over the massacre but was told that Dr Naing Aung, a former leader of the front's central branch, could not be included in the suit.

"But the lawsuit filed by Daw Sein Sein Thu, daughter of U Sein, who died while being tortured, was accepted. We don't want the legal process to take a long time because we are filing cases separately. We are working to get all the plaintiffs together," Ko Nyi Nyi said.

About 30 survivors live in Mandalay, while up to 20 families of those killed in Kachin State or survivors who have since died could also join the lawsuit as plaintiffs.

He said the suit would include Ronald Aung Naing, Than Zaw, who was the head of intelligence at the ABSDF (Northern Burma), and Dr Aung Naing, who Nyi Nyi



Sayar Thike Tun Thet (left), editor-in-chief of 'Shwe Mandalay' news journal, asks a question at the event in Mandalay on September 9. Pic: Khin Su Wai

said "arrived at the camp and inspected when the executions happened".

Lawyer Ko Aung Htoo, along with other central committee members of the southern branch, would also be included in the suit because he signed a statement confirming that the ABSDF's Northern Burma branch came under their jurisdiction, Ko Nyi Nyi said.

The press conference attracted about 100 journalists as well as other interested people and the survivors responded to many questions from the audience, mostly about Military Intelligence and whether at least some of the accused could have been spies.

On September 16, another press conference, arranged by former ABSDF chairman Htun Aung Kyaw - not related to the Tun Aung Kyaw executed in 1992 - was held at Dakinayama monastery. At the event, Htun Aung Kyaw said he should not be held responsible for the deaths in the Northern Burma camp because he was absent at the time.

The executions and torture at the camp in 1992 were largely hushed up, with survivors unwilling to discuss their experiences for fear of giving the military government ammunition to discredit the exiled opposition movement. However, the silence was broken in late 2011, and a number of separate accounts have since emerged. Earlier this year, U Maung Maung, brother of Nyi Nyi, published a book, *Kudaw Thithaw Khit Thit*

*Hnin Thar Ko Thaung Ponepin*, about the executions and his attempts to retrieve his brother from the Northern Burma camp, located near the Chinese border in Kachin State.

"I went to the ABSDF (NB) camp two times for my brother, Nyi Nyi, who was accused of being a Military Intelligence spy," U Maung Maung said at the September 9 press conference.

"The members who escaped from there was silent on any reasons. But my book helped these students who were arrested and tortured end their silence and speak out. I hope the authorities will solve these problems but until now they are avoiding the issue," he said.

The ABSDF is a student army established in Myanmar's border regions after the 1988 protests. Some of its prominent former members - including several that the Northern Burma survivors allege were at least partly responsible for the 1992 executions - recently returned to Myanmar for the first time in two decades after being removed from a government blacklist.

However, there are also questions over the extent of knowledge and responsibility among senior officials in the ABSDF's southern branch, which was based in Kayin State.

## MMA to launch ambulance service in Oct

THE Myanmar Medical Association will launch a non-profit foundation to provide 24-hour pre-hospital care and ambulance services in the Yangon area on October 1, the group's president said last week.

The Emergency Ambulance Foundation will be formed to reduce unnecessary deaths that result from poor management of emergency health transport services, foundation president Dr Kyaw Myint Naing said at a launch ceremony at Sedona Hotel on September 15.

He said the foundation's 12 ambulances will be equipped with the latest medical equipment. Donors have provided not only the ambulances but also K1 billion to cover operating expenses, he said.

"We will make sure the foundation has doctors, paramedics and ambulance drivers who are well trained and know exactly what to do in emergency situations," he said.

The foundation plans to expand its coverage to Mandalay and eventually to other regions of the country.

"The services in Yangon will be like a pilot project. We aim to expand our coverage across the country," Dr Kyaw Myint Naing said.

The foundation's services will be free of charge for emergency patients, while contributions will be encouraged from those who receive transportation in non-emergency situations.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin said the foundation will help meet the need for emergency services and conceded that there are still "difficulties in providing effective ambulance services to refer patients who are in emergency situations to the nearest hospitals in time".

Dr Kyaw Myint Naing said there are weaknesses in both government and private pre-hospital care services and many ambulances are not properly equipped.

"While there are ambulance services in Myanmar most of them are just transportation services and cannot provide proper pre-hospital care," he said.

According to MMA statistics, there are 40 private hospitals in the Yangon area and 20 ambulances, most of which are not properly equipped for emergencies.

The foundation will be based at the association's head office in Mingalar Taung Nyunt township and can be contacted on 09-42106-0999 and 09-42106-3999.

- Yamon Phu Thit

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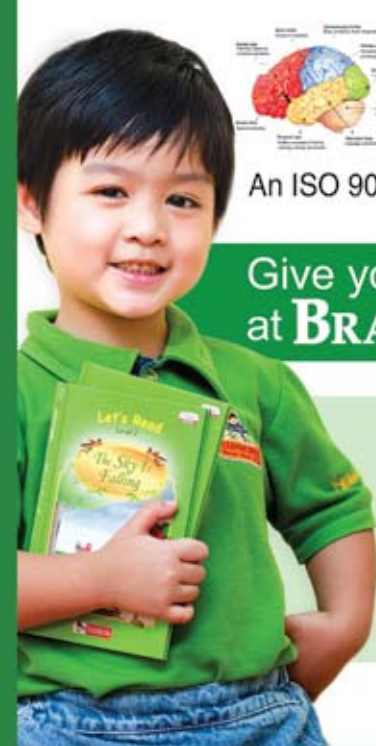
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## UN special adviser ends latest visit

COOPERATION with the United Nations and the situation in Rakhine State were among the topics discussed when the UN Secretary General's special adviser on Myanmar, Vijay Nambiar, met President U Thein Sein in Nay Pyi Taw earlier this month.

The meeting, on September 13, came a day after Mr Nambiar arrived in Myanmar for a five-day visit.

Other topics discussed at the meeting included the government's efforts to meet the Millennium Development Goals of the UN, government assistance to Rakhine State in cooperation with UN agencies, arrangements made for observer groups from Turkey, Indonesia and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference to visit Rakhine State, UN plans for the further development of Myanmar and President U Thein Sein's planned attendance at the United Nations General Assembly later this month.

During his previous visit to Myanmar in June, Mr Nambiar visited the Rakhine State town of Maungdaw where he called for a full, impartial and credible investigation into the outbreak of sectarian unrest in the state.

In a statement issued on August 14, Mr Nambiar welcomed fact-finding visits to Rakhine State by the Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr Ahmet Davutoglu, and the Organisation of the Islamic Conference. "Such positive steps will help support Myanmar's ongoing process of democratisation and reform," the statement said.

Referring to the visit of the Turkish delegation to camps housing Buddhists and Muslims displaced by the violence and the distribution of humanitarian aid provided by Turkey, Mr Nambiar said: "This has demonstrated the willingness of the Myanmar government to cooperate with the international community to alleviate the suffering of its people. - May Sandy



An MCDC official oversees the demolition of a house built illegally on government land in Chanmyatharsi township's Myayinandar ward on September 17. Pic: Phyo Wai Kyaw

# Thousands of illegal homes demolished in Mandalay

By Phyo Wai Kyaw and Sithu Lwin

MANDALAY City Development Committee began clearing more than 1000 homes built illegally on state-owned land in Chanmyatharsi, Pyigyitagon and Amarapura townships last week as part of a campaign against fraudulent property transactions.

An MCDC official said the first homes were destroyed in Myayinandar ward in Chanmyatharsi on September 17, one day after a deadline for squatters to leave the areas that was announced in state-run *Mandalay* newspaper on September 11.

By September 20 they had moved on to Kan Gyi Kone village in Pyigyitagon township, after dismantling 490 houses and reclaiming 160 empty plots that had been fenced off in

Myayinandar ward.

Mandalay Mayor U Aung Mone said in the daily newspaper on September 15 that there were about 1180 huts and houses, and about 2220 vacant plots with fences in Myayinandar and Kan Gyi Kone, as well as Zeoke and Ywarthit Kalay villages in Pyigyitagon township and Nat Yekan village in Amarapura township.

"We already informed the trespassers to leave no later than September 16. Some had already demolished their houses [by September 17] but some had not so we started to clear the rest of the houses. We have to remove more than 1000 houses," said U Tin Htut Kyaw, head of the land ownership department in MCDC.

About 200 officials from MCDC, the police force and general administrative offices took part in the demolition of homes on September 17.

The Mandalay mayor met squatters in Pyigyitagon and Amarapura townships on September 14 and informed them that the government had already paid compensation for the land in 1991, giving K4000 an acre and another 2400-square-foot plot for those who owned up to 3 acres and two plots of 2400 square feet for those who owned more than 3 acres.

But at least some of the owners said they had been "tricked" into buying the land.

"I bought a 4800-square-foot empty plot for K8.5 million from a farmer without any ownership documents, just a sales contract signed by each of us," said Ko Pauk, 38, from Myayinandar ward.

"But now my land has been taken back and I want the authorities to take action against those who cheated people like me," he said.

But another resident from

Myayinandar said many of those evicted were "rich people who knew the land was illegally sold but they took a risk and bought it at a cheap price, hoping to make a profit".

U Khin Aung Soe of Htet Myat real estate agency said the evictions would send a strong signal to those considering buying illegal property on the cheap. "Some bought those illegal plots expecting to make a profit through compensation, either financial or land. Some farmers sold the land at a cheap price but without ownership documents," he said.

"Some want to buy plots on the city's outskirts but don't dare as they have heard that some of them are really owned by the government. Now they can see clearly what steps MCDC will take and I hope it will make the market more stable from now on."

## Condor schedules first Euro flight for November

By Zaw Win Than

GERMAN leisure carrier Condor will start its weekly direct service from Frankfurt to Yangon on November 6 the airline announced last week.

"We got approval from the Department of Civil Aviation and the first flight is going to arrive as scheduled on November 7. It is going to be only a weekly flight, leaving Germany on Tuesday and arriving Yangon on Wednesday. In return it will fly to Frankfurt via Phuket, Thailand," Mr Christian Mosebach, the airline's country manager for Myanmar and Cambodia, said in Yangon on September 17.

The inaugural flight will depart Frankfurt at 12:40pm on November 6 and arrive in Yangon at 5:35am the next day. The flight will be operated with a 268-seat Boeing 767 with economy, premium economy and comfort classes.

"We are hoping that next year, in the 2013-14 winter schedule, we will be able to increase the [flight] frequency.

"Maybe we will be introducing more non-stop flights between the two countries," he said.

Mr Mosebach said Condor had operated charter flights to Myanmar in 1995 and 1996 but had not sold tickets in Yangon.

"But this time we would like to [target] the local market as they also travel abroad a lot. And obviously the Myanmar tourism industry has been developing a lot in the past few years and Myanmar has great potential for foreign visitors," he said.

He said the service would look to cater to not only tourists but also business travellers and delegations.

"Accessibility to Myanmar from Europe is still quite limited [with] no other non-stop flight so we just would like to [make it] more convenient for people travel to Myanmar, to make it more affordable and quicker to get here and to get back home.

He said a shortage of technicians at Yangon International Airport is the main reason why the return flight will stop in Phuket.

"For technical reason we will fly via Phuket, there is no mechanic available in Yangon for our flight. ... In Phuket we have four flights so we can change the crews and catering services and so on. In Yangon, catering service for one flight a week is not possible," he said.

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## Briefs

## Saudi Arabia to grant 5000 Hajj visas

THE Saudi Arabian Ministry of Hajj has granted 5000 visas for Myanmar citizens to go on the Hajj pilgrimage this year, the Saudi embassy in Yangon said last week.

The quota has been granted to 43 travel agents, instead of 24 from last year, in an effort to avoid the mis-distribution and abuse of the Hajj quota that has occurred in previous years.

The embassy is requesting travel agents to present a list of all Hajj participants with a signed statement acknowledging that the participant has not paid any extra fee for their Hajj visa.

The embassy also said in the September 13 statement that any disputes between travel agents and Hajj participants would be handled by the relevant authorities in Myanmar. — *May Sandy*

## Free hotel booking at Yangon airport

VISITORS to Myanmar can now book hotel rooms in Yangon upon arrival at Yangon International Airport, said a spokesperson at the airport's information counter.

"Starting this month, new arrivals can visit the airport's information counter, where staff members will arrange hotel reservations for anyone who has not already booked rooms in Yangon," the spokesperson said.

"Visitors can ask at the counter about bookings as well as updated room rates, and they don't need to pay a commission for hotel reservations," she said, adding: "We can also try booking rooms in Mandalay and Bagan at the traveller's request."

Staff at the information counter will make reservations by calling hotels directly, and payment will be made directly to the hotel by the traveller. — *Yu Yu Maw*

## 88 group leaders finally get passports

EIGHTEEN members of the 88 Generation student group received passports last week after a wait of six months, but not before leader Min Ko Naing boycotted a planned trip to the United States over the issue.

Twenty members of the group applied for passports in March and April and Min Ko Naing and Ko Mya Aye received theirs in August and July respectively.

Min Ko Naing was scheduled to travel to the US last week to receive a National Endowment for Democracy award on September 20 but stayed in Myanmar because his colleagues had been unable to get passports.

"The main reason why he didn't go there was because not all of us got passports at the same time," Ko Mya Aye said.

The other 18 members received their passports on September 19, Ko Pyone Cho said. — *Naw Say Phaw Waa*

## Charges filed against 17 miners

More unrest at Yamethin's Moehti Moemi area over National Prosperity mining concession

By Naw Say Phaw Waa

SEVENTEEN workers from a restive gold mining region in Mandalay's Yamethin township have been charged with committing an obscene act and criminal intimidation following an altercation earlier this month with security staff from Myanmar National Prosperity Public Company.

Ko Yae Yet Htun and 16 other miners operating independently in the Moehti Moemi area were charged under sections 294 and 506 of the Penal Code following the September 2 incident, said Ko Han Win Aung of the Political Prisoners' Families Beneficial Network, who is helping the workers.

The workers were formally notified of the charges on September 4 and met police on September 6 and 14. On September 17 they lodged an application to the township police station to protest on September 24 and 25 over working conditions and the company's treatment of miners in the area, Ko Han

Win Aung said.

He said the quarrel occurred when security staff from Myanmar National Prosperity Public Company, which recently won a tender for the Moehti Moemi mines, entered one of the 12 mining "zones" in the area with shield, sticks and handcuffs.

The workers told representatives from the company to work with police rather than private security and a quarrel broke out. U Myint Thein, officer in charge of security, filed the charges on September 2, Ko Han Win Aung said. It is not clear why the security officials were in the area, but workers said they regularly visit to check whether anything has been stolen.

Myanmar National Prosperity spokesperson Daw Na Di Lwin told *The Myanmar Times* that the company charged the 17 workers because they had tried to incite other workers and made them "obstreperous".

"They tried to incite the



Miners protest in Moehti Moemi gold mining area in June. Pic: Soe Than Lynn

other workers [to protest]. They are not our workers — they are just outsiders who lead the workers. We charged them because they acted without discipline. They didn't work and were just aggressive," she said. However, one of the charged workers, Ko Youte Kyi, said that while they did not work for Myanmar National Prosperity, the group had been working their own mines in the Moehti Moemi region before the company won the tender in late 2011.

Ko Youte Kyi said the road had become blocked because the workers were curious why officials from the company had entered the area with shields and sticks.

"The road was blocked because workers from the Moehti Moemi gold mines came out to see the company's security staff. Then the tension between the security and the workers boiled over because company officials said they don't need permission to go anywhere

at Moehti Moemi because they won tender."

In June, workers from the hundreds of small mines in the Moehti Moemi area began protesting after Myanmar National Prosperity reneged on an earlier verbal agreement to split all gold found in the area 50-50, *The Irrawaddy* reported on June 8.

The Chiang Mai-based news organisation reported Myanmar National Prosperity had made the promise to the small mining companies and individual miners in December 2011, saying they could excavate gold from the area for the duration of its five-year contract with the government.

When the protesting workers failed to reach an agreement with the company, they started marching on Nay Pyi Taw. The company then relented and agreed to allow small operators to continue mining at Moehti Moemi for another year, *Democratic Voice of Burma* reported on June 15.

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Briefs

Partners invited for Mandalay airport

THE Ministry of Transport is inviting private investors to help it turn Mandalay International Airport into a major regional logistics hub.

"We are conducting a valuation of the Mandalay International Airport ahead of private sector involvement," Department of Civil Aviation director general U Tin Naing Htun said at a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw on September 11.

He said the investment process would include six steps, such as seeking suggestions from the President's Office, writing a master plan, inviting investors, selecting investors and submitting them to the president for approval, requesting approval from the Union Government and forming public companies.

IWT seeks some private investment

COMPANIES can invest in four areas in cooperation with state-run Inland Water Transportation, an official said last week.

U Myint Swe, head of the Maritime Department at IWT, said investment was possible in building new IWT vessels, repairing old vessels and building warehouses and ports on IWT land.

Speaking at the Investment Opportunities for Development of Aviation and Maritime Sector workshop held at the Ministry of Transport in Nay Pyi Taw on September 11, U Myint Swe said IWT had been changing its operations to reduce operating losses.

However, he said the service remained popular and in terms of fuel usage was more than twice as efficient as rail and almost 10 times more efficient than road transport.

Hluttaw speaker promises independence for judiciary

By Sandar Lwin

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann has called on members of the judiciary to "bravely" carry out their responsibilities, pledging that they will not be dismissed for implementing laws properly.

Speaking at a meeting between the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law, Stability and Peace Committee and legal experts in Yangon on September 8, Thura U Shwe Mann also encouraged judges to speak up if they faced interference in their work.

"Today, no authorities can come and tell [judges] what to do, what not to do. If they do, you can disclose that, that this person or that person came and interfered [with your duties] ... you have to have this kind of attitude and bravery," he said.

"Concerning the hluttaw ... you can come and tell the hluttaw, 'Don't enact this, do that instead.' You need to be brave like this. If not, the change [will slow down], it won't go back but it will stop at the current stage and finally we won't see much improvement ... the words that we are saying about changing the system, changing the era, will prove to just be hot air."

He said rule of law concerned not only judges but also the government and parliament, as fewer than one in five laws are directly related to the judiciary.

"It is not enough to consider the judiciary alone when it comes to the rule of law. We have 396 active laws and of them only 55 concern the judiciary. Of the remaining 341 laws, some are from the Office of the Attorney General, some are related to the hluttaws, but some are the laws practised by individual ministries. That's why the rule of law is not just about the courts," Thura U Shwe Mann said.

He said that judges needed to be brave in asserting their independence.

"It is often said that there is nothing superior to the judiciary, that there is no one who is above the law ... Since [the judge] can make the decision on his own, freely, what does he have to be afraid of? Who can dismiss him? If you make an unjust decision, you could be dismissed. But otherwise, who can dismiss you? You need to have bravery and have this kind of mindset," he said.

About 50 parliamentarians and



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends a meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law, Stability and Peace Committee in Yangon on September 8. Pic: AFP

legal experts attended the September 8 meeting, which emphasised the primacy of the Supreme Court over all courts, other than martial and constitutional tribunals.

Retired director of the Supreme Court U Myo Nyunt said improving the judiciary would require changes to be made to the education system.

"To have judges [that are educated and committed], education system is the root. Only if the education system of the country is changed can we produce well-learned legal experts," he said.

Supreme Court lawyer U Tin Myint said enforcement of existing laws should be prioritised over enacting new laws.

"About 80 percent of existing laws are up to date, while the remaining 20pc should be amended. In abiding by existing laws, the relevant bodies are administering according to their own style and lawyers do not have any chance to suggest changes. As a result, people prioritised fulfilling their own needs as quickly and easily as possible, even if it means neglecting the laws, by-laws and so on," he said.

"So before enacting new laws, if the Rule of Law, Stability and Peace Committee can help enforce existing laws I believe that about 80pc of the problems concerning the lack of rule of law will be solved," U Tin Myint said.

Head of the committee, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, said judicial independence

related to the political system.

"To have independence of judiciary and courts that can judge freely is largely related to the system of government, the political system. Having a clean judiciary is related to the education system, economic conditions and the attitude [of its members]," the National League for Democracy leader said.

One senior advocate from Yangon who chaired the meeting said the point of enacting laws was to establish rule of law.

"One thing that is always together with the rule of law is the independence of judiciary. These are twin concepts," said U Kyi Win.

As an example of judicial independence, he cited the situation in 1950 when the then-capital Yangon was surrounded by insurgent troops but the judiciary could order the release of an insurgent officer because he had been detained illegally.

The then-chief of police detained the officer, Bo Yan Naing, with two affidavits, rather than one as required by the law.

"The then-chief justice ruled that Bo Yan Naing must be released. Even in a situation where the government could control only the capital, an insurgent army officer [could be set free]. That is what justice, judicial independence, freedom is all about ... we all can be proud of that."

Democracy day marked in capital for second year

By Soe Than Lynn

ORDERS, directives and laws that do not reflect the desires of Myanmar citizens are not compatible with democracy and could lead to dictatorship, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann warned during a ceremony to mark International Democracy Day on September 15.

"If there is the rule of law, then there is democracy. The orders, directives and laws that do not reflect people's voice are not of a democracy but a dictatorship," Thura U Shwe Mann said at the event, which was being marked in Myanmar for the second time.

"Of all the fundamental rights for citizens, freedom of speech is the one that can be most widely and frequently used - freedom to speak, freedom to discuss and freedom to gather together," he said.

"Imagination is converted into written and spoken words, which are then discussed and negotiated and, in turn, converted into policies that will lead to the rule of law provided they are strictly observed by all people."

International Democracy Day was established at the 62nd United Nations General Assembly and is held to encourage governments to promote democratic practices.

Students and members of the public presented papers at the event in Nay Pyi Taw, followed by representatives from the Union Solidarity and Development Party, National League for Democracy, National Democratic Force, New National Democracy Party, National Unity Party and parties representing the Shan, Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Mon, Rakhine, Wa, Pa-O, Palaung and Inntha minorities.

U Khin Aung Myint concluded the ceremony by saying the essence of democracy was for the legislative, executive and judicial pillars to be transparent.

He said transitions from "an old system to a new one" were not transparent "because the people concerned do not understand the new system or are not receptive to the new system".

"They tend to deny the people and people's representatives access to their activities. Opacity, which is contrary to all-inclusive discussions, hinders the democratic process. So everybody who assumes responsibilities on behalf of the public should do things transparently," U Khin Aung Myint said.

About 470 people, including 30 journalists, attended the ceremony, which was held at Thabin Hall in the hluttaw complex.

- Translated by Thit Lwin

A large advertisement for the Australian Education Expo. It features the title 'AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION EXPO' in large red letters. Below it, there are two main event locations: 'YANGON 29th Sept 12 (Sat) 9 am to 5 pm Strand Hotel, Yangon' and 'MANDALAY 1st Oct 12 (Mon) 1 pm to 5 pm Swan Hotel, Mandalay'. The ad lists various Australian universities and institutions participating, including Australian Catholic University, Murdoch University, Queensland University of Technology, Taylor's College, University of Sydney, University of Western Australia, The Kilmore International School, The University of New South Wales, The University of Newcastle, Trinity College, University of Melbourne, and University of South Australia. It also mentions 'Australia Awards' and 'AusAID' support. At the bottom, there is a call to action: 'Call Us: 09 45000 6944, 09 45000 6955' and a logo for AVSS (Australian Visa & Student Services).



# Senior bureaucrats on the move in another reshuffle

By Kyaw Hsu Mon

THE reshuffle of some top departmental officials last week is part of President U Thein Sein's efforts to improve the bureaucracy, analysts said.

State-run media carried a notice of the changes on September 18, with 13 individuals, mostly deputy directors general and directors general, taking up new posts, many in different ministries.

Two Tatmadaw officials - Colonel Hla Tun and Colonel Zaw Than Thin - were brought into the President's Office as directors general, while the two civilian directors general in the office were shifted to Basic Education Departments.

President's Office director U Aung Maw took over as managing director of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications from U Eikdi Hlaw, who was appointed director general of No 1 Basic Education Department.

Deputy director general of the Ministry of Education U Kyaw Soe was shifted to managing director of the Ministry of Information's News and Periodicals Enterprise, taking over from U Zaw Min Oo, who was made principal of the Central Institute of Transport and Communications. U San

Shwe Aung, a deputy director general in the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs was made director general of the Education and Training Department in the Ministry of Border Affairs, replacing U Myo Hlaing, who was made director general of the Sport and Physical Education Department.

Meanwhile, two deputy governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar were also shifted, with U Maung Maung Win made director general of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue's Budget Department and U Nay Aye the director general of the Environmental Conservation Department in the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry. Deputy director general of the Ministry of Information, U Tint Swe was appointed director general of the Information and Public Relations Department, a position held by U Ye Htut until he was recently promoted to deputy information minister.

The changes are part of efforts to accelerate the reform process initiated by President U Thein Sein, said presidential adviser Dr Nay Zin Latt.

"The president has made this reshuffle in order to put the most suitable official in the right position," he said.

He said that improving the

bureaucracy was a major priority for the government and the shift would help to "decrease the incidents that occur because of unnecessary and incorrect procedures".

"Reshuffles are done when the government wants to reinvigorate a particular area. The president has done this because he would like to improve services for the public and see as few mistakes made as possible," Dr Nay Zin Latt said.

"The president had carried out political reforms, which we can call Myanmar's first challenge. If he can implement reform and accomplish the second challenge - to clear out the corruption in the civil service that has occurred because of the weaknesses of the bureaucracy - it will be good for Myanmar," he said.

But U Khin Maung Swe, chair of the National Democratic Force, said he was concerned that some of those reshuffled were being put into senior positions in ministries in which they had little experience.

"It won't be difficult for ministers, directors general and managing directors if they have excellent management skills. But it will still take them some time to get used to the new environment," he said.

- Translated by Thiri Min Htun

# Tatmadaw also needs to reform: ASEAN

By Nan Tin Htwe

THE Tatmadaw cannot be left out of the reform process in Myanmar as the armed forces will continue to play a "very significant role" in the country's future, a senior officer from the ASEAN Secretariat said on September 14.

Mr Danny Chian Siong Lee, director of the secretariat's Community Affairs Development Directorate, said that ASEAN shared the United States' goal of encouraging the Tatmadaw to reform and open up along with other institutions in Myanmar.

"[The] military plays a very significant role. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi also acknowledged that Myanmar's reforms need military reform. That was a very wise move," Mr Lee told journalists taking part in a Reporting on Integration in Southeast Asia: History, Institutions, and Policies of ASEAN workshop in Jakarta, Indonesia, last week.

"Myanmar can learn lessons from other ASEAN countries which

successfully went through the transition process with military, such as Thailand and Indonesia", he said.

Mr Lees' comments come after the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies issued a report on September 10 in which it recommend that the US engage with Myanmar's military to encourage reform.

Suggestions include providing training to a new generation of military officers in areas like civilian-military relations, rules of war and transparency.

It also said that the US should use forums such as ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus and Shangri-la Dialogue to further dialogue with the Tatmadaw.

The report offered 20 recommendations and perspectives related to US policy on Myanmar.

"Real change is underway but it is not irreversible," the report said.

It follows a visit by a CSIS team led by Ernest Bower, director and senior adviser of the institute's Southeast Asia program.

# SNLD leader to attend UN General Assembly

SHAN Nationalities League for Democracy leader U Khun Htun Oo will attend the United Nations General Assembly in New York later this month as part of President U Thein Sein's delegation, the party announced last week.

U Khun Htun Oo, who received a prison term of more than 100 years in 2005 but was released in an amnesty in January, is in Washington to accept an award from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).

The SNLD said on September 16 that U Khun Htun Oo has been invited to join President U Thein Sein's delegation and he had accepted the invitation to acknowledge the president's reform efforts. U Khun Htun Oo told Voice of America the same day that the President's Office had contacted him to discuss the proposal.

"The SNLD is ready to cooperate with [President U Thein Sein] for positive reforms," he said.

It is thought to be the first time that an ethnic minority leader has been included in the government's General Assembly delegation.

U Khun Htun Oo said he believed he had been invited because the president wanted to show the international community that the reform process is "all inclusive".

- Kyaw Hsu Mon

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# New round of Kachin peace talks stalled by disagreement on venue

By Soe Than Lynn

NEGOTIATIONS for a new round peace talks between the government and Kachin Independence Army have stalled, with both sides unable to agree on a venue, Kachin political leaders familiar with the talks said last week.

“Both sides have agreed to meet. But the KIA has offered to meet at Ruili or Majjaryang, while the Myanmar military prefers to meet in Nay Pyi Taw, Muse or Myitkyina. Both sides don’t want to go to the place where the other is in control,” U Khet Htein Nan, an Amyotha Hluttaw representative from Kachin State and former member of the government negotiating team, told *The Myanmar Times* on September 15.

He said the negotiations had

been difficult to arrange because military officials from both sides are likely to take part but added that their participation was essential for the talks to be a success.

“Soldiers from both sides are too close to each other and so there are clashes whenever one of the groups moves from one place to another. This leads to more and more people being displaced by

Gun Maw, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the KIA, are expected to take part in the talks. General Soe Win is also deputy head of the Union Peace Making Committee.

“Previously, [Minister for the President’s Office] U Aung Min and party were going to travel to the place the KIA suggested. Now it seems that they are placing a higher priority on security because the deputy commander-in-chief

However, fighting has continued unabated and Kachin politicians said the Tatmadaw should withdraw some troops from the front lines to show its sincerity and give impetus to the talks.

“Armies of both sides should retreat to their former positions,” said Pyithu Hluttaw MP from Injyangyang in Kachin State, Daw Dwe Bu. “It is an issue beyond the president’s control ... so it is necessary for [military leaders] to meet as soon as possible.

“Local people can’t do anything and they are scared. Most are not

well educated; they are not military experts or politicians. Because they don’t understand the political situation they fear [they will be targeted] when new [Tatmadaw] troops come into the region. If [the government] cannot earn the trust of the local people, it will be hard to bring about peace,” she said.

— Translated by *Thit Lwin*

**‘Armies of both sides should retreat to their former positions.’**

the fighting,” he said.

“To bring about truce, the peace-making team alone is not enough. We have met nine or 10 times already ... peace is possible only if decision makers from the military are involved as well.”

General Soe Win, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, and General

is to take part. They might think that a neighbouring country, or the border area with China, is not appropriate,” U Khet Htein Nan said.

After several rounds of talks, President U Thein Sein instructed the Tatmadaw in December not to attack KIA positions or strengthen its divisions in Kachin State.

From page 1

## Peace march

Among those in attendance was L Khun Dway, a member of the Kachin Peace Network, who lamented that there were still “civil wars” in Myanmar.

“We really want to get peace, so we express our desire on this day through peaceful means,” she said.

The decision to take legal action against march organisers under section 18 of the Peaceful Protests Law was announced by Yangon Police Region’s Major Myint Htwe at a news conference in the Yangon Region Hluttaw region later on September 21.

“We are going to sue these people in 10 township police stations because they broke the law,” Major Myint Htwe said.

“We did not grant permission for those activities because they involved a lot of people who created disturbances and caused traffic jams.

“Everybody in the world loves peace and the government also loves peace. Our police force has to perform its duty under the law; we are not taking action against them because they are peace activists but because they

broke the rules.”

Major Myint Htwe said the march organisers could have appealed against the decision to refuse permission for the event “but they went ahead with their plans regardless”.

“We are ready if they take action against us,” said Ko Bo Bo, a member of Aphyu Yong Twe Latt Myar, one of the groups which helped to organise the march in Yangon and which arranged the prayer meeting in Manwungyee.

“We celebrated this day to raise public awareness about peace. The president has also spoken of the need for the people to participate in the peace process,” he said in Yangon.

The decision to bring charges against the organisers was also criticised by Khin Sandar Nyunt, a member of the Peace Network.

“International Peace Day is celebrated around the world; they shouldn’t be taking action like this,” she told *The Myanmar Times* on September 22.

An attempt by a group of activists to travel by bus from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw to mark International Peace Day there was blocked by police.



Demonstrators walk through downtown Yangon as part of a peace rally on September 21. Pic: AFP

# Mekong murder suspects plead guilty: Xinhua

BEIJING – A gang leader accused of masterminding the murder of 13 Chinese sailors on the Mekong River last year has pleaded guilty at a trial in southwest China, state media said on September 22.

The trial of Naw Kham, leader of a gang based in Myanmar’s northern Shan state, and five of its other members, ended on September 21 at a court in Kunming, the state-run *Xinhua* news agency said.

The sailors were killed last October in a raid on two Chinese cargo boats on the Mekong, an attack thought to have been carried out by a notorious gang in the “Golden Triangle”, an area known for drug production and smuggling.

Chinese prosecutors had accused the six suspects of intentional homicide, drug trafficking, kidnapping and hijacking, *Xinhua*

said. The suspects, all foreign nationals, were taken to China in May this year.

All six pleaded guilty, although the gang leader originally claimed he was innocent at the start of the trial, which began on September 20, *Xinhua* said. The court will announce sentences at a later date.

The Kunming Intermediate People’s Court, where the trial took place, could not be reached for comment on September 22.

Last year’s incident sparked an angry reaction from China, which summoned diplomatic envoys from Thailand, Laos and Myanmar and asked authorities to speed up investigations into the incident.

The report quoted Nie Tao, a Chinese police officer investigating the murders, as saying nine soldiers from Thailand were

involved in the case and Thai police were now investigating. It did not say how they were involved.

Chinese state media has said that the gang had more than 100 members and was suspected of kidnap, murder, looting and other crimes along the Mekong River, as well as drug smuggling.

After the killings China and its Southeast Asian neighbours started armed patrols to protect ships navigating the Mekong River, a key waterway that flows through Yunnan province in China’s southwest and into Southeast Asia.

China, Laos, Myanmar and Thailand on September 21 launched their sixth round of patrols since December last year, the *China Daily* newspaper said on September 22. — AFP

# Call issued for history curriculum changes

By Yhoon Hnin Phyu

THE curricula for history courses at state-run schools and universities in Myanmar must be updated to more accurately reflect the country’s past and present, participants in an education seminar said on September 8.

The seminar, held at the House of Media and Entertainment (HOME) in Yangon, was organised by *Mauk Kha* magazine and a research group, the Institute of Alternative History and Popular Culture, and attracted about 80 people.

Three panellists led the discussion: U Thein Naing and U Tin Nyunt from *Mauk Kha*, and Ko Phyo Win Latt from the Institute of Alternative History and Popular Culture.

Ko Phyo Win Latt said children need to be taught about the “true events” of the country’s past.

“The history curricula have not been modified since 1986, and they were designed from the point of view of Bamar citizens rather than from the inclusive perspective of all ethnic groups living in Myanmar,” he said.

“Incorporating the viewpoints of all ethnic groups in the history curricula would also play a key role in advancing the cause of national reconciliation. Subjects related to peace need to be included as well.”

He also said that, in general, the culture of the classroom needs to be changed to reinforce positive lessons and reduce negative impacts.

“For example, teachers need to eliminate the culture of students giving nicknames to one another [based on ethnicity], and instead cultivate a culture of respectful relationships among the children,” he said. “Classroom culture also needs to be based on respectful relationships among the different ethnic groups. Students should learn to value the country’s diversity.”

He added that ethnic languages should also be taught in state-run schools as this would give students the chance to learn about different cultures and contribute to the peace-building process.

In his presentation, U Tin Nyunt said Myanmar’s education system was extremely weak in exposing students to modern technologies, such as computers.

“One state-run school with 2000 students has just four computers, and the students are trying to learn by rote rather than using creativity,” he said.

“My niece is learning about computers by memorising computer terminology instead of spending time in front of a real computer. Lessons are being taught from books rather than through practical, hands-on experience.

“Thailand even tried implementing a ‘one laptop per child’ program, but in our country we have fake multimedia rooms that are only opened when a minister comes to visit the school.”



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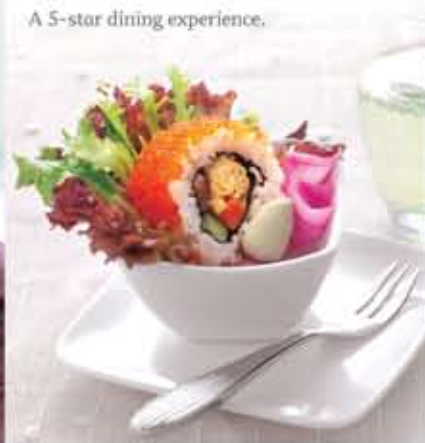
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## Press body re-formed following complaints

A RECENTLY formed interim press council has been reorganised to alleviate journalists' concerns that it was neither transparent nor representative, deputy chairman U Soe Thein, better known as Maung Wuntha, said last week.

The Myanmar Core Press Council was established on August 9 with 15 members but was suspended almost immediately following an industry backlash. Journalists said the press council's powers and responsibilities were too far reaching and some members were close to government officials.

The council was reorganised with 29 members on September 17, following the appointment of U Aung Kyi to Minister for Information late last month. Ten members were nominated by the information ministry, while 20 others were nominated by the industry and include members of the Myanmar Journalists Association, Myanmar Authors Association, Myanmar Journalists Union, Myanmar Journalists Network and Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association. Daw Aye Aye Win, the correspondent for *Associated Press*, was nominated but later pulled out for personal reasons.

Maung Wuntha, who was among a handful of journalists on the original Core Press Council who threatened to boycott unless changes were made, said that while the enlarging of the council was a good step, the rules and regulations of the body also need to be changed "so they are acceptable to people in the media industry".

U Khin Maung Aye, a former chief justice, remains the chairman, while Maung Wuntha has been appointed vice chairman and U Kyaw Min Swe, chief editor of *The Voice*, is the general secretary.

The 29 members chose the three office bearers through a show of hands.

"[Press council members] could vote freely. I can say there was transparency in the voting system - we were selected through majority vote," said U Kyaw Min Swe.

He said press council members' main responsibility would be helping to draw up the press law. - *Kyaw Hsu Mon*



The Canter light truck hangs off the edge of Mahabandoola Bridge in Dawbon township on September 15. Pic: Boothee

## Narrow escape for driver

By Htoo Aung

THE driver of a Canter light truck had a lucky escape on September 15 when his vehicle almost careered off the side of Mahabandoola Bridge following an accident involving three vehicles.

Police said the driver of the truck was speeding and attempted to overtake another car before losing control at about 3:50pm.

"Because of the weight of the earth and debris in the back of the truck, it didn't fall off the bridge. It was lucky that no one was

injured or worse," said an official from the Yangon Region Traffic Police Force.

Meanwhile, three people were injured in a car accident in Mingalar Taung Nyunt township on September 20 when the brakes failed on a Honda Fit, which then knocked a trishaw and trolley into a light truck.

The accident occurred in Thar Yar Gone ward at about 3:15pm, according to police. The two vehicles and the trolley were destroyed in the crash, and two trishaw passengers and the person pushing the trolley were transferred to Yangon General Hospital for treatment.

# Hpakant IDPs denied access to assistance

By Bill O'Toole

ESCALATING conflict in Kachin State's Hpakant township has left thousands of people displaced and with little assistance, several sources said last week.

Because of the instability in the region the government has not allowed United Nations agencies and international non-government groups to access the estimated 9000 civilians displaced by the conflict.

Bloody clashes between the Tatmadaw and Kachin Independence Army broke out in August, sparking a massive exodus from the region.

Local aid workers in the region told *The Myanmar Times* last week that more soldiers were arriving in the area each day and as a result more citizens were seeking refuge in relief camps.

The United Nations said last week it was still seeking access to the area to help victims of the conflict.

"We would like to be able to access all the people and needs," said Mr Hans ten Feld, representative for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Myanmar. "We want to go there as soon as we can ... that's something we constantly raise with the government."

Of the estimated 9000 displaced people, 6000 are spread across 27 relief camps, while the rest have sought refuge in the homes of friends or family. Almost all local industries, most notably Hpakant's jadeite mines, have ground to a halt, adding further strain to the already beleaguered region.

"All [sectors] in Kachin [State] like health, education, and business are declining," said U Khet Htein Nan, an Amyotha

Hluttaw representative from Kachin State. "This is the time to make the nation developed and peaceful but these situations have stopped our progress."

Aid workers say the situation in the relief camps is increasingly desperate. A lack of medical supplies and clean water coupled with an unusually heavy rainy season has led to outbreaks of malaria in some of the camps, Hpakant resident and activist U Cho said last week.

Clean water has become difficult to find. Workers from the Kachin Baptist Convention, which operates four camps for displaced people in Hpakant, said residents are relying on water for cooking and drinking from streams that have been contaminated by jade mining operations.

There is also a pressing need for food. "Food is the most difficult problem to solve," said U Khet Htein Nan. "The 9000 people are relying on donated food ... and I'm not sure there's enough."

There are also problems with the food that makes it the region. The World Food Program has been sending monthly shipments of rice and cooking oil to the camps but a senior Kachin Baptist Convention official, who asked not to be named, said the rice is normally of very low quality.

"They eat it only for energy," he said. "Not for any [nutrition]."

Similar problems have occurred with the cooking oil distributed to camps and the Kachin Baptist Convention official said he had contacted the World Food Program about the problem and was told that the UN agency could only provide the funds to buy the food and had no control over the quality.

## Community groups to lobby for better aged care this week

By Aye Sapay Phyu

COMMUNITY-BASED aged care groups plan to use the International Day of Older Persons on October 1 to encourage the president to guarantee aged rights, representatives of the groups said last week.

About 40 members of aged care groups from Kayin State and Ayeyarwady, Mandalay and Sagaing regions will use the occasion to push for nine demands to meet the social, health and income needs of aged

people, including providing an adequate pension, free healthcare and an exemption on transportation fares.

"Our objective is for aged people in Myanmar to have the same rights as older persons in neighbouring countries. People who are 60 years old and above suffer from poorer health and often don't have much income. It will be much better if the government can support them with an aged pension, arrange convenient transportation for older people and don't charge them for healthcare," said U Tin Win of

aged care group Myitta Yaung Chi Oo, which is from Htin Khwin village in Kyaiklatt township, Ayeyarwady Region.

Group leaders said there are about 115 community-based aged care groups nationally but this is nowhere near enough to meet the needs of the country's older people.

"Our community-based groups help older people in our respective geographical areas by ... providing as much health and social support as we can. We believe that there are many aged people who need physical

and emotional help in many areas of the country and I want to see more groups established," said U Maung Pu, president of Moe Thauk Pan Age care group from Baw village in Pyin Oo Lwin township, Mandalay Region.

U Paik Tin of Arr Yone Oo aged care group from Yangon's East Dagon township said greater state support for aged care activities would result in fewer elderly beggars on the streets.

"Parents hate to ask for assistance from their children. There were some cases in our area

where old people are begging for money from strangers instead of asking for support from their children. I think these problems will disappear if aged care systems are improved and it will also promote our country's dignity," he said.

Mr Tatan, country director of HelpAge International (Myanmar), said that as of May 2012 government and non-government aged care organisations could support only about 30,000, or 0.6 percent, of the estimated 5.5 million older people aged 60 or over.



## New party sets target of putting farmers in hluttaw

By Win Ko Ko Latt

PUTTING "real" farmers in the hluttaw: that's the aim of the Myanmar Farmers Development Party, which is in the process of being registered and plans to contest the 2015 general election.

Founder U Kyaw Swar Soe, who will also chair the party when it officially gets the green light to register from the Union Election Commission, said Myanmar Farmers Development Party aims to improve the living standards of the two-thirds of Myanmar's population who earn a living off the land.

"The farmer class - those who work the hardest - are the poorest," said U Kyaw Swar Soe, a former secretary of the National Political Alliances League who stood for election in rural Magwe Region in the 2010 election and 2012 by-elections.

"I want the real farmers to get into the hluttaw. I want them to be involved in the hluttaw like intellectuals and experts already are," he said.

Eighteen founders applied for permission to form the party on August 22 and U Kyaw Swar Soe said they expected to complete the registration process around September 22.

"After that I plan to hold a press conference," he said.

He also claimed that more than 100,000 people, mostly farmers from Ayeyarwaddy, Magwe and Yangon regions, have already applied to join the party, which he hopes will be able to contest seats across the country in 2015. - Translated by Zar Zar Soe

# MPs upbeat as fourth session ends

By Soe Than Lynn

HLUTTAW representatives have given a mostly positive assessment of the fourth session of parliament but expressed regret that a dispute over the status of parliamentary committees ended with the Constitutional Tribunal's impeachment.

The fourth session of parliament ended on September 7, after 13 sitting days for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and 40 days each for the Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

"On the whole the fourth session was a success. The impeachment of the Constitutional Tribunal was carried out according to the law, even if it was not a great development for the hluttaw. It was done according to parliamentary procedures but all MPs felt sorry about the result," said U Aye Mauk, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Ma-laing and a member of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP).

"The main objective of this fourth session was to appoint a new vice president. We also managed to approve foreign investment law [amendments] that are really needed for the country and we also approved the cabinet reshuffle and adjusted the number of ministries. The hluttaw encouraged the president's reforms by approving the new ministers he selected," he said.

About 10 ministers were shuffled in late August and early September, while a large number of new deputy ministers were appointed, including three drawn from the hluttaw.

U Aye Mauk said representatives had also worked "quickly" to approve some US\$500 million in loans from the Japanese government, which he said would allow the ministries of construction, electric power, and agriculture and irrigation to bring forward infrastructure development projects.

A new feature in the fourth session was the presence of representatives

from the National League for Democracy, including party leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, who was appointed chair of the Rule of Law, Stability and Peace Committee in August.

How the NLD representatives would operate in an environment dominated by USDP and military representatives was one of the major questions ahead of the opening of the hluttaw session on July 4. However, there were only a few brief moments of confrontation between representatives during the session and some said the convergence of politicians from different backgrounds helped down any negative perceptions they might have had about each other.

"The NLD representatives cooperated in the parliament without bias towards any person or party, as the Pyithu Hluttaw speaker encourages everyone to do. So that was another unexpected but positive feature of the fourth session," U Aye Mauk said.

But U Win Htein, the NLD representative for Meiktila, said he was only 50 percent satisfied with the parliament's activities over the past three months, as he had wanted the Constitutional Tribunal dispute to be resolved through dialogue rather than impeachment. The dispute, which saw hluttaw representatives remove the tribunal's nine members on September 6, was widely interpreted as the parliament asserting its independence from the government.

"We followed the law in the case of the tribunal but I think it was more appropriate to resolve it with dignity, as our leader, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, had recommended. I am not happy that we argued on whether [committees] are union-level bodies or not," U Win Htein told *The Myanmar Times*.

"NLD representatives only entered the hluttaw at the end of the third session so had few chances to submit proposals and questions. But I was happy to be able to get involved in the discussion on foreign investment law



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann attends the opening of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on July 4. Pic: AFP

amendments."

One of the parliament's more active representatives, U Thein Nyunt, said he was "completely" satisfied with how the fourth session had played out.

The Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Thingangyun said seven of the 10 questions he submitted had been answered in the hluttaw, while he received a written response to one other. "I was also able to put up an anti-bribery and corruption bill and proposed to abolish the Contempt of Court Law and Emergency Provisions Act," said U Thein Nyunt, who is also chairman of the New National Democracy Party.

"I feel I made appropriate proposals and questions too and fulfilled some of the promises I made to my constituents before the [November 2010] election," he said.

But U Khat Htein Nan, the Amyotha Hluttaw representative for Kachin State's constituency 1, said he had hoped for a greater focus on issues related to the peace process.

"The fourth session was unable to move the peace process forward. I put forward two proposals concerning internal peace but neither were concluded during this session," said U Khat Htein Nan.

"However, I am satisfied

with the hluttaw's overall performance, including passing the foreign investment law amendments and debating some other issues, such as registration for NGOs and investigating land confiscations," he said.

"But the [impeachment of the Constitutional Tribunal] was a very wearisome issue and I felt sorry about it because it took up a large amount of our time."

U Khine Maung Yee, the National Democratic Force Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Ahlone,

agreed the tribunal issue had dominated the hluttaw's activities.

"We all had to deal with it even though we felt sorry and had to take a long time. Eventually we resolved it, even if the result was not the one we wanted," U Khine Maung Yee said.

"I believe we will be better able to fulfill our task of acting as a check and balance on the government by using the lessons we got during this session - and with our full authority." - Translated by Zar Zar Soe

## VOA travellers holding up immigration queues

By Yu Yu Maw

VISA on arrival queues at Yangon International Airport are being held up by passengers with incomplete documentation, an immigration department official said last week.

Some 80 percent of business visa on arrival applicants fail to produce a copy of the registration certificate of the company that invited them to visit Myanmar, Department of Immigration assistant director U Aung Thiha said on September 19.

"The main problem we face when implementing the visa on arrival system is

that most travellers have not been bringing their company registration documents. They definitely need to show it at the immigration counter - if they can't show it, they can't pass through the gate. We can't approve passengers who don't have completed documents," he said.

However, officials try to be "flexible", he said, and normally call the company that invited the person to confirm the details.

"Some people said that it takes too long to get a visa on arrival but it is only for passengers with incomplete documents. For the rest it takes only about one minute to check their documents and this month

we also added three more immigration counters to speed up the process," U Aung Thiha said, adding that there are now 21 counters altogether.

The limited visa on arrival system was introduced for nationals from 27 countries on June 1, and later extended to include two more countries, in an effort to encourage business travellers.

Applicants need to show a letter of invitation and a copy of the registration of the company that invited them, which U Aung Thiha said was needed to check whether the person was on a blacklist or not.

He said that immigration

officials had caught some people holding fraudulent travel documents since the system was introduced.

"We try and be very flexible for travellers but there's no way we can forgive passengers who use fake documents. For those with incomplete documents, we call their company to tell them to come and give us their company registration immediately. That's all we can do," he said.

In the first three months of the introduction of visa on arrival, 4543 passengers used the service. The largest national group was Singapore with 692, followed by India, Japan, South Korea and the United States.

**IMG - International Management Group** is seeking: (a) **ICT Expert in the field of Document Management and Systems Analysis/Communication.** The candidate must fulfill the following minimum requirements; At least five years' experience in the field of development cooperation, public administration at national/ international level; Relevant experience in the operational management of donor-funded programmes in an international aid context. Strong experience in IT system analysis and processes re-engineering to improve system efficiency; Strong knowledge of IT sector market in Myanmar; Proven expertise in database development; Proven expertise in web applications development using content management systems; Expertise in Web 2.0 concepts and development guidelines. Ability to understand business requirements to validate RDBMS product capabilities; Excellent knowledge in SQL; Proven Database administration experience; Comprehensive knowledge of Enterprise and application architecture, Modular programming techniques, Relational databases, Web development techniques and tools.

(b) **Procurement and Logistics Officer** for EU-funded capacity building project. The position requires at least 3 years' experience in procurement and logistics. Fluent spoken and written English. Computer skills (Microsoft Office, Excel, Windows, internet and email). A Procurement and Logistics officer is required in the IMG office in Yangon to perform the following tasks: To procure items for the IMG office and project partners in Myanmar and where necessary internationally, and in line with IMG and EU rules and regulations; To communicate and liaise with vendors and service providers in Myanmar and internationally on the procurement of items and services, and to obtain quotes from these vendors and companies for scrutiny by IMG administrative staff; To produce documentation with IMG and IMG partner staff on required specs for items and services; To produce documentation on procurement and payment in line with IMG and EU procedures and rules, and to obtain payment following IMG administrative requirements; To schedule necessary trips internationally and internally in Myanmar on advice from senior project staff; To organise and design banners, signs and other items required for IMG and EU and other donor visibility; To organise workshop, training and event stationary and equipment (purchase and hire) for IMG events.

(c) **National Senior Advisor on Economic Reform**, for EU-funded capacity building project. The position requires at least 5 years' experience in public administration in economic areas. Fluent spoken and written English. Computer skills (Microsoft Office, Excel, Windows, internet and email).

(d) **Secretary/Assistant**, for EU-funded capacity building project. The position requires at least 3 years' professional in similar position. Experience in arranging workshops, missions and administration essential. Proficiency in spoken and written English is required as well as excellent computer skills (Microsoft Package, internet and email).

The complete Terms of Reference for the position can be obtained at the IMG website: [www.img-int.org](http://www.img-int.org). Please send application and CV with cover letter to the IMG Office at: Room 506, 5th Floor, Royal Yaw Min Gyi Condominium, No.52, Yaw Min Gyi Road, Dagon, Yangon, via email to: [chocho.san@img-int.org](mailto:chocho.san@img-int.org) before closing date **September 30th 2012**.



# A cola war brews in Myanmar



**IN DEPTH**  
with  
Tim McLaughlin

TRAVELLERS arriving at Yangon International Airport find themselves on the frontlines of a curious war being fought out between two of America's cultural icons: Pepsi and Coca-Cola.

The first indications of battle are the huge and recently erected billboards that vie for attention on the road leading into Yangon city.

In this battle it was Pepsi that fired the first shot, announcing in August 9 its official re-entry into the Myanmar market by signing a distribution agreement with Diamond Star Co, a subsidiary of Capital Diamond Star Group. Indra Nooyi, PepsiCo chief executive officer, referred to Myanmar as "a market with great potential".

What Mr Nooyi did not say was that it's also a market without Pepsi's biggest competitor - Coca-Cola.

PepsiCo entered Myanmar in 1991 in partnership with Myanmar Golden Star Co (MGS) but left the country in 1997 amid mounting pressure from human rights groups and international sanctions as the country's military regime cracked down on pro democracy groups.

And although Pepsi's stint in the country was short-lived, MGS president U Thein Tun is still frequently referred to as Pepsi Thein Tun for his role in bringing the company to Myanmar.

Coca-Cola returned fire in September, when its entrance into the market garnered significant media attention. Coca-Cola chief executive officer Muhtar Kent made an appearance in Yangon, posing for photos as he symbolically passed a case of Coke to a *thanakha*-painted shopkeeper.

Speculation on Coca-Cola's arrival had been ongoing for months before the announced partnership with Pinya Manufacturing. Like the PepsiCo deal, the agreement concerns the distribution of Coca-Cola, with no reference as yet to a manufacturing deal.

Though no numbers on the scale of their operation are yet available, a Coca-Cola spokesperson said, "Our intent is to invest significant capital over the coming years, generating thousands of jobs".

Coca-Cola's partner, Pinya, produces the popular Max brand soft-drinks but company officials refused to comment on its agreement.

The US company's 60-year absence was a popular narrative amongst members of the foreign media who used it, to the befuddlement of Myanmar residents, to illustrate Myanmar's years

of isolation. Coke's alleged absence was often used to compare Myanmar to the world's two other countries left untouched by the soft drink giant, North Korea and Cuba.

And despite the carefully crafted advertising blitzkrieg from both companies, enthusiasm on the ground for the brands' arrivals has been decidedly muted.

The lack of fanfare can be attributed in large part to the fact that both Coca-Cola and PepsiCo products have long been available in Myanmar, despite their lack of official country operations. Cans and bottles of Pepsi, Coke, Coke Zero, Sprite, 7-UP and Miranda have been streaming across the country's porous borders for years.

Yangon's upscale supermarkets offer shoppers a choice of Coke imported from Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore, all differing slightly in price and all imported illegally. Occasionally cans from as far off as Hong Kong appear on shelves.

For domestic brands this fairly quiet arrival has eased at least some apprehension. Dr Sai Sam Htun, president of the Loi Hein Group, which produces the Blue Mountain range of carbonated soft drinks along with bottled water and energy drinks, believes that PepsiCo and Coca-Cola's previous illicit presence may work in his company's favour.

"It may not be similar to the neighboring countries where they [Coca-Cola and Pepsi] have a big success story, like in Vietnam and China. It won't be the same in Myanmar that is what we think. People here are used to all this stuff," Dr Sai Sam Htun said. "When the news came that Pepsi and Coca-Cola were coming nobody got very excited," he added.

However, Dr Sai Sam Htun also knows that Coca-Cola and Pepsi are in a position to significantly reduce their prices from the regular price of K600-700 a can.

"Coca-Cola cans can be found at provision stores and supermarkets and will be priced between K400 and K500, which is comparative to other products," the Coca-Cola spokesperson said of the current pricing



Images of the cola war on Yangon's streets. Pics (clockwise from top): Boothee, Yadanar, Boothee

Dr Sai Sam Htun fears that either company could set a "killing price".

The results of such pricing could be disastrous for his company, and the rest of the domestic operators.

"They can come into our market with a killing price. Whether Coca-Cola will choose this model or not,

include strengthening its carbonated soft drink line, broadening its alcoholic beverage offerings (it currently distributes Mandalay Beer and Spy wine coolers) and continuing to develop productive relationships with local distributors.

Strengthening the

name which one.

In the alcoholic beverages market, Dr Sai Sam Htun confirmed that officials from the Danish Carlsberg Group, the world's fourth largest brewing group, had met the Loi Hein Group.

While these two efforts will take more time to implement, Loi Hein is waging a street level advance through trusted retailers and a large-scale advertising push. It has expanded its budget for advertising to US\$3 million from what Dr Sai Sam Htun describes as "as little as possible" in previous years.

"The most important thing is [that] we try to manage better than multinational corporations in relation to the outlets. We try to build up a very good team so that we develop the relationship between the company and the customer," Dr Sai Sam

Htun said.

For now the relationship in upper Myanmar, where Dr Sai Sam Htun owns the popular Yadanabon Football Club, remains strong. By his estimate 82 percent of the company's sales take place in the region, and customers have remained loyal to Blue Mountain so far.

However, in a shootout against two of the world's best recognised brands, the loyalty of Blue Mountain customers is surely going to be tested.

"The Western brands still carry lots of weight in Asia as they are well positioned, global in nature, and bring to consumers a powerful story. Coke and Pepsi are great examples of that," said Martin Roll, business and brand strategist at Martin Roll Company and author of the book *Asian Brand Strategy*.

**'They can come into our market with a killing price. Whether Coca-Cola will choose this model or not, we don't know.'**

policy.

Whether this price will hold or continue downward is Dr Sai Sam Htun's main cause for concern at the moment. Citing Coca-Cola and PepsiCo's billion dollar revenues and their ability to operate despite losses in one market, such as Myanmar,

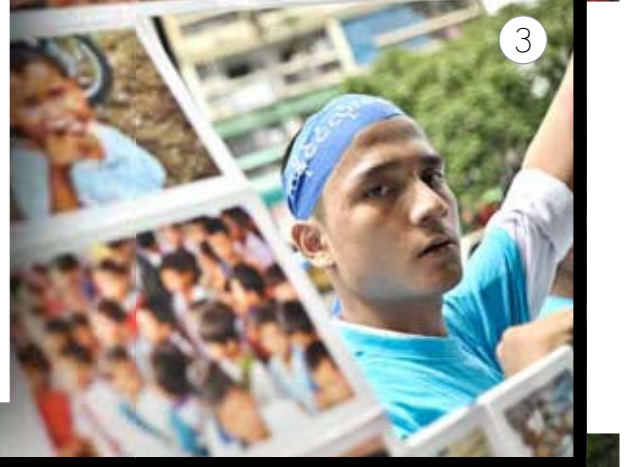
we don't know," Dr Sai Sam Htun said. "We pray and we wish they won't adopt that killing price policy."

Loi Hein Group has taken an active approach to safeguarding itself against the market's uncertain future. These steps

carbonated soft drink offerings would most likely come through a partnership with a foreign company. According to Dr Sai Sam Htun, representatives from a large multinational beverage corporation have approached the company, although he declined to



# Yangon marks International Day of Peace



Picture Credits

1,4,7 Ko Taik; 2 Nyein Maung; 3,5,6 Kaung Htet



## Free market myths

Seven to watch out for when rushing through an investment law

### Comment with Rick Rowden

THE foreign investment law amendments have dominated debate in Myanmar in recent months. But Myanmar should take all the time it needs to introduce amendments that can best serve its long-term economic development needs and should not allow itself to be rushed into sub-optimal arrangements because of its desire to distance itself from China or commercial pressure from Western investors.

When it comes to assessing its long-term developmental needs, Myanmar should not be swayed by foreign advisors advocating the laissez-faire approach to foreign direct investment (FDI) policy, but instead should beware of some of the most popular mythologies in the dominant free market school of thought in economics.

The first myth is that any FDI is good FDI. However, there are at least three main types of FDI: greenfield, brownfield and short-term speculative investment. Greenfield is the best type because it usually involves creating new businesses, building new factories and creating new jobs, and tends to be longer-term in nature.

Brownfield investment, also known as mergers and acquisitions, in which foreign investors come and buy up existing firms, can be helpful in restructuring some firms to become more efficient and expose workers to improved

management skills, but such investments can also destroy jobs, reduce the number of domestic companies, and extract quickly generated wealth from the country. Foreign investments should not act as mere substitution for domestic companies but should result in additional net capital formation.

Portfolio, short-term or speculative investment can be helpful in providing short-term capital, but such speculative investments can also be very dangerous, leading to risky asset price bubbles (such as in real estate) and destabilising rapid capital inflows and outflows.

Myanmar's amendments to its foreign investment law should recognise these differences and structure its FDI incentives and tax breaks accordingly, prioritising incentives for greenfield investments and using disincentives and effective regulation on FDI in brownfield and portfolio investments.

A second popular myth in the orthodox school of laissez-faire economics is that "a level playing field" and "national treatment" are very good and policies or rules that favour domestic firms over foreign investors are "discriminatory" and "unfair" and very bad.

The widespread popularity of these misconceptions is unfortunate because Myanmar absolutely must retain policies that treat foreign investors unfairly, that tilt the playing field in favour of its domestic

firms and that pro-actively discriminate against foreign investors. It must do so for all of the same reasons that each of the industrialised countries adopted the same policies when they were first industrialising.

Beginning with the UK in the 1500s all the way through to Korea in the 1960s, the rich countries figured out a very important lesson early on: foreign investment policies should be used primarily to support and build up the manufacturing value-added capacity of their own domestic firms; if foreign investment did not do this, it did not get in.

This important lesson has been wholly unlearned in recent decades. Today, adopting "national treatment" for multinational corporations who enter Myanmar to compete with its domestic firms is exactly like having Manchester United play a football game against an opposing team made up of schoolgirls. It might be a "level" playing field but we can easily guess what the outcome will be – and we've seen it all over sub-Saharan Africa for three decades. Today's advocates of free market capitalism and many western investors are hoping that Myanmar will be unaware of this fundamental lesson.

A third popular myth is that FDI is only attracted to countries that have low wages, weak labour laws and nonexistent environmental regulation. Such mythology is reinforced by the World Bank's annual "Doing Business" indicators. In fact, the data shows that most FDI is attracted to countries with good transportation infrastructure, and a healthy, literate and well-skilled labour force. That is why it will be important for Myanmar to scale-up its long term public investment as a percentage of gross domestic product (GDP) in the underlying public transportation, public health and public education systems and make the big, upfront investments needed to eventually realise increased worker productivity and higher GDP growth in the future.

However, in order to make such big, upfront public investments, the country will need to categorically reject the policy advice to come from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which will likely insist that Myanmar maintains a "prudent" restrictive fiscal policy in the constant short-term – to the point where the country ends up chronically underfunding its public investment as a percentage of GDP over decades.

Myanmar should invite educators and health workers from any of dozens of sub-Saharan African countries that have dilapidated and collapsing health and education infrastructures and ask them about their

experience with IMF fiscal policy restraint.

One of the troubling aspects of the recent discussions about amendments to Myanmar's foreign investment law is the backwards timing of it all. It seems almost impossible to figure out what a good foreign investment policy is for Myanmar without first having some clarity on the long-term roadmap for future national economic development. Myanmar's current 30-year Industrial Development Plan for the period 2000-2030 sets out some ambitious targets but offers very little detail on policy strategies for establishing an orderly, efficient and competitive industrial sector. The government is revising and updating the plan but such a process would ideally precede the changes in the foreign investment law.

A fourth myth of laissez-faire economics that Myanmar would do well to reject is the binary discourse that supposes a "private sector" that is good and a "public sector" that is bad. In fact, the far more important binary for Myanmar to consider is the fundamental differences between its "domestic" companies and "international" companies. It should make a long list of all the ways in which the capabilities, needs and interests of its domestic firms are different from those of foreign investors, and then adopt policies to adequately address these differences with support for their domestic firms. Making such clear distinctions is a first step in developing a new and more detailed 30-year development strategy, and should be an essential prerequisite for informing any amendments to the foreign investment law.

### 'Myanmar must retain policies that treat foreign investors unfairly.'

A fifth myth of free market economics is that FDI will always produce a happy "win-win" situation in which both foreign investors and host countries equally benefit. While it is important to incentivise the right types of FDI to achieve such win-win situations, Myanmar must acknowledge there are also other cases when benefits are too asymmetrical in favour of the investor, and indeed, when the investor's benefits are in direct opposition to the development of domestic firms and industries.

While Myanmar must have the proper incentives for attracting beneficial FDI, it must reject the happy mythology of "win-win" and also have in place policies to address the other scenarios as well. That will likely require an investment policy that clearly sets out rights and obligations for

A worksite for the Myanmar-China oil and gas pipeline in Kyaukpyu township, Rakhine State. Pic: Juliet Shwe Gaung



the country and investors that are explicitly designed to further national economic development goals – even if this means policies and regulations that treat foreign investors unfairly, tilt the playing field in favour of domestic firms and pro-actively discriminate against foreign investors.

A sixth popular myth in laissez-faire economics supports the idea that liberalising the financial sector will bring new international sources of needed finance capital. This myth is enthusiastically supported by large international banks eager to enter Myanmar. But allowing too many foreign banks to enter without adequate regulations and incentives and disincentives

on the strong advantages of mobilising domestic savings, as distinct from relying on foreign borrowing. Myanmar should also learn from countries such as Brazil, which have successfully used public development banks to channel long-term, low-interest finance capital for helping to build up their domestic industries, and take steps to strengthen and expand the Myanmar Industrial Development Bank.

A seventh myth of the free market school of thought suggests that Myanmar should just stick to producing what it is already good at, or endowed with in terms of natural resources. This is referred to as specialising in its areas of "comparative advantage". But Myanmar must distinguish between its current "static" comparative advantages and possibilities for its future "dynamic" comparative advantages in 10, 20 and 30 years from now.

For example, when South Korea decided to begin supporting the slow development of a shipbuilding industry in the 1960s, the World Bank advised the country to stick to its comparative advantage in primary agricultural commodities. Instead, South Korea "defied" its static comparative advantage at the time and used industrial policies to build the industries necessary for it to become a world class shipbuilder by the 1990s.

For Myanmar to set its sights no farther than small scale agricultural processing and light manufacturing would be to undermine its possible long-term industrialisation trajectory, and such shortsightedness should be rejected in Myanmar for the same reasons as it was in South Korea.

Myanmar should reject this mythology and instead focus



## US eases sanctions, EU mulls trade boost

By Zaw Win Than and AFP

NATIONAL League for Democracy leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called for the United States to further ease economic sanctions against Myanmar during a meeting with President Barack Obama and other White House officials on September 19.

Within hours of the meeting the White House dropped targeted sanctions on President U Thein Sein and Speaker of the Lower House Thura U Shwe Mann.

The White House said following the meeting that Obama reaffirmed US support for political and economic reforms in Myanmar, and full protection of human rights, in order to shape "a more peaceful, free and prosperous future" for the country.

However, prominent businesspeople in Yangon voiced hope that the US State Department would lift more economic sanctions on Myanmar soon, especially the ban on imports. "If they [the United States] ease the ban on imports from Myanmar it would bring huge benefits for exporters," said U Win Kyaing, the general secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation.

"In the past some Myanmar products have been exported to US through other countries, but if sanctions are eased soon we would be able to send goods directly," he added.

"The US banned Myanmar exports at a time when the volumes of some goods were quite high but several industries have stagnated since, and it will take them time to recover. The first step for us would be to undertake a market study to determine what consumers in the US would want, and then see if we could meet those needs," he said.

U Myint Soe, the chairman of Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association, said: "The US is a very big market for garments. When we were exported to US in the past about 85 percent of all exports were garments, and maybe the remaining 15pc were seafood and timber products. If the US lifts the



A textile worker watches a threading machine at a factory in Yangon in August, 2007. Pic: Myanmar Times Archive/Hein Latt Aung

import ban on Myanmar it would encourage business development in Myanmar," he told *The Myanmar Times*.

Meanwhile, the European Commission on September 17 proposed to reinstate trade preferences with Myanmar to help support the country's political reforms.

The proposal would give Myanmar duty-free and quota-free access to the European market for all products except arms and ammunition, a commission statement said.

"Since Myanmar started to open up earlier this year I saw the need to underpin such deep and important changes with real economic support once key improvements for the workforce had been met," said EU Trade Commissioner Karel De Gucht.

"Trade is fundamental to supporting political stability and the EU's trade preferences mean we will give this reform-minded country priority access to the world's largest market," he added in a statement.

"That said, we will continue to engage with Myanmar to encourage continued progress on all fronts."

Under the proposal, Myanmar would be brought back under the so-called "Everything But Arms" preferential trade regime.

"The Commission believes that, despite the many structural constraints the country continues to face, Myanmar should see an increase in exports to the EU market under the 'Everything

But Arms' preferential trade regime."

Myanmar was suspended from the regime in 1997 due to its serious and systematic violations of international conventions on forced labour.

But in June, the International Labour Organisation concluded that significant progress had been achieved although some problems with forced labour persisted.

The September 17 proposal will be submitted to EU member states and the European Parliament for agreement.

U Myat Thinn Aung, the chairman of AA Group of Companies, said if the European Union reinstated trade preferences for Myanmar as part of the Global System of Preferences in place for Least Developed Countries (LDCs), it would make Myanmar's exports highly competitive in European markets.

"The EU normally charges zero tax from imports from LDCs such as Myanmar," he said. "For example, Bangladeshi exports to the EU are not taxed, which makes those goods much cheaper and attractive in those markets."

"Bangladesh mostly exports garments and textiles. If we look at Myanmar, we could export many products, such as wood-based goods, fisheries products, garments, minerals and agricultural products. That would lead to job creation here," said U Myat Thinn Aung.



This myth is related to another misconception in free market orthodoxy that says economic activities do not matter, but rather efficiency, competitiveness and the unhindered realm of market exchange are the only things to focus on. By this logic, it is perfectly acceptable for Myanmar to specialise in agriculture and gems forever, rather than moving on to producing automobiles or airplanes, as long as it does so more efficiently than its market competitors. This myth papers over previously long understood important distinctions between economic activities that provide diminishing and increasing returns over time and, if adopted, would lock-in Myanmar to dead-end, low-productivity activities.

Instead, Myanmar should exploit its static comparative advantages as short-term steps but it should also be just as vigorous in defying them with industrial policy strategies to build future comparative advantages in manufacturing, with clear strategies to increase the manufacturing value added in its exports over time.

Rather than buying into this mythology, the rich countries figured out a long time ago about the importance of manufacturing to wealth creation, and the importance of public investment in research and development, technology and innovation policies to further advance the manufacturing capacities

**'Amendments to the foreign investment law should prioritise incentives for greenfield investments.'**

of their domestic firms.

This gets back to why a clear national development strategy should be formulated before Myanmar engages in amendments to its foreign investment law. If Myanmar carefully assessed its domestic manufacturers and observed where they are currently on the "ladder" of higher

value-added production, and what skills and technology they need to get onto the next few rungs of the ladder, this could go much farther than free market mythology in informing how best to incentivise the most helpful types of greenfield FDI in manufacturing.

At the end of the day FDI is like trade in that it is only a tool: it can either be wasted or used strategically to support national economic development. As to whether Myanmar looks more like South Korea or Nigeria in 30 years from now, the answer will be determined by the people of Myanmar, not foreign investors.

*(Rick Rowden is a development consultant and doctoral candidate in economic studies and planning at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi who recently visited Myanmar. Previously he worked as an inter-regional advisor for the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva and a senior policy analyst for non-government organisation ActionAid.)*

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A bank employee demonstrates the use of a new debit card at a cash machine during a launch ceremony in Yangon on September 14. Pic: AFP

## A healthy Myanmar Economy c

THE opening of the Myanmar economy is seen by many as a "game changer" in the region. With its large domestic economy, rich endowment of resources and dynamic workforce, Myanmar stands a good chance of realising its full economic potential and joining the ranks of other dynamic and high income Asian economies within a relatively short period of time. A strong and prosperous Myanmar will in turn bring huge benefits to its neighbours.

In the short and medium term, however, Myanmar faces various challenges in implementing policies needed for sustained economic growth and development. Lack of institutional capacity poses a severe constraint to policy makers. The absence of an efficient banking sector that could help channel savings from households and foreign capital into productive investments could be particularly straining to the growth process. As the old saying goes, if the economy is likened to the

human body, the banking system would be the heart and bank credit the blood that circulates through the organs. Without a strong heart and smooth blood circulation, it would be difficult for the body to stay healthy, let alone grow.

The banking sector in Myanmar remains in a rudimentary stage. Presently, there are 19 commercial and state-owned banks with a combined paid up capital of less than US\$300 million. These banks have about 330 branches implying that on average, each bank branch serves about 180,000 people. In contrast, there are about 6300 bank branches in Thailand (from 19 commercial banks), meaning each bank serves about 11,000 people. The Asian Development Bank estimates that Myanmar's total private credit (lending to firms and households) amounts to only about 25 percent of its gross domestic product in 2010, which pales in comparison with the ratios of 120pc and 135pc in Vietnam and Malaysia





## requires a reformed banking system that works for all people can be 'game changer' for region

Professors Lau Sim Yee and Tan Kim Song are directors at Myanmar Economic Resources International (MERI), a private think tank based in Yangon. Supported by Maybank from Malaysia, MERI has in recent months undertaken a number of capacity building projects aimed at facilitating exchange of experiences between banks and regulators in Myanmar and their East Asian counterparts. In this article they explore reform of the banking sector in Myanmar

Maybank



respectively. The heart of the Myanmar economy – the banking system – is simply not pumping sufficient blood into the body.

Myanmar would urgently need to put in place a modern and efficient banking system to help mobilise savings, evaluate investment risks and allocate capital efficiently. This requires, at the broad policy level, the presence of a sturdy central bank with a strong regulatory and supervisory framework. Furthermore, there is a need to strengthen and consolidate the existing commercial banks to allow them to perform their intermediation role

more effectively. Capacity building for a wide range of technical, organisational and management skills is urgently needed too.

Another major challenge facing the banking industry is the lack of confidence that depositors have in the system. The memory of the banking crisis in 2003, which was triggered by the failure of the informal financial institutions, and the losses that depositors suffered as a result is still fresh in the minds of many. Measures are needed to help restore the confidence of depositors quickly so that the banks can have a steady source of funds to carry out the basic banking function of

maturity transformation.

Like its neighbouring countries and other successful emerging market economies before it, Myanmar could tap the expertise of foreign banks and financial institutions to help accelerate the pace of banking sector development. Indeed, Myanmar could draw many useful lessons from the vast experiences of other East Asian economies that have experienced both the joys of rapid economic growth and the pains of financial instability in the past few decades. The banking sectors of these East Asian countries have gone through many reforms following

various crises – reforms that have helped contribute to their resilience during the recent global financial crisis. The governments of these countries understand the importance of having a stable and efficient banking system as a precondition for sustained economic growth. They also understand how an unsound or a mismanaged banking system could wreak havoc in an economy and derail the whole economic growth process.

The East Asian experiences could also serve a guide for Myanmar as it navigates through the process of opening the banking sector to foreign banks and financial institutions. The East Asian countries provide a wide array of models on balancing the need to protect the interests of the local banks on the one hand, and the need to accelerate the upgrading of the whole banking sector on the other. Whichever approach is adopted – whether it entails joint ventures between foreign and domestic banks

or a segmentation of the domestic market based on product lines or other modalities – the outcome must be win-win for both local and foreign banks. Most importantly, it must benefit the economy as a whole.

While the modalities and the speed at which they opened their banking sectors to foreign institutions varied widely among the East Asian economies, there is little doubt that the presence of foreign banks helped to significantly improve the financial intermediation and resource allocation process in these economies. The foreign players contributed strongly to the robust economic growth within East Asian nations in the past few decades. Having foreign banks participate in the banking system is like adding dietary supplements to the body: they help to strengthen the heart and improve blood circulation. However, having a balanced diet is crucial: Picking the wrong nutrients and taking too much of any one vitamin, or choosing the

wrong supplement, could cause an imbalance that in extreme cases could lead to a heart attack.

Ultimately, Myanmar's approach to banking sector liberalisation will be determined by its own political and economic objectives. At the operational level, the ASEAN countries as well as China are converging towards international best practices such as those advocated by the Bank for International Settlements. Myanmar banks would have to calibrate and pace their moves towards such best practices. Too rapid a change could weaken local banks unnecessarily and lead to some instability in the system. Too slow a change could delay much-needed economic growth and development. In this regard, the banking sector liberalisation process should be guided by a well thought-out strategy and roadmap, with guide-posts at various stages of the process for review and perform mid-course corrections as needed.



## Government plans six new ports on Chindwin, Ayeyarwady

By Thiha Toe

MYANMAR is embarking on a plan to facilitate speedier transport of commodities and people along the Ayeyarwady and Chindwin rivers by building six new ports, officials said recently.

U Ko Ko Oo, a deputy director general of the Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems, under the Ministry of Transport, said at a recent workshop in Nay Pyi Taw that the government hoped that domestic and international investors would provide funding to build the new ports.

"The Ayeyarwady and Chindwin rivers are national waterways that cross the country and flow out to sea," he said.

He added that four ports are planned along the Ayeyarwady River at Sin Khan and Mandalay in Mandalay Region, as well as at Pakokku and Magwe in Magwe Region.

The department also plans to build to ports on the Chindwin River in Sagaing Region, at Monywa and Kalewa, he said.

The Sin Khan site is intended to facilitate faster transport between China's Yunnan Province and Myanmar via the Ayeyarwady River.

The new port at Mandalay is intended to handle containers trucked in via the Mandalay-Monywa-Tamu and Mandalay-Lashio-Shweli highways, while the Pakokku port is intended to accept goods from upper Myanmar and help to distribute them to the west of the Chindwin River.

When the Kyaukpyu-Magwe-Mandalay-Shweli highway is finished, the port planned at Magwe is intended to aid the faster flow of goods from Myanmar's southwest to upper Myanmar and China.

The proposed ports at Monywa and Kalewa are intended to facilitate trade with India through Tamu and Kalay.

## Honey producers look to value adding in search of higher profits

By Myat Nyein Aye

MYANMAR'S honey producers need to find a way to add value to their products to earn higher profits, industry insiders said last week.

Exporters send only raw honey abroad and miss out on the possible profits from adding value, which would also create jobs. Instead, foreign companies reap these benefits, said U Htun Wai, chairman of Mandalay Shweyi Company.

"Myanmar's honey is excellent but it needs to be better processed - foreign buyers don't like that our honey is so dark," he said.

"We need to lighten [the colour of] our honey if we want to earn more from exports. We've tried to import cheaper honey from China to dilute the honey farmed here as a form of value adding. And we will export blended honey in the hope that we'll get a higher price," he added.

Honey farmed in Myanmar sells for about \$1100 a tonne internationally, said Dr Kyi Lwin Oo, a member of the Myanmar Apiculture Association (MAA). However, it sells for about K1400 a viss (1.6 kilograms or 3.6 pounds) domestically, he said.

Japan is the biggest



Apiarists are searching for ways to boost the quality of their products.  
Pic: Ko Taik

buyer of Myanmar honey, purchasing more than 2000 tonnes a year. Japanese buyers choose Myanmar honey because of its high quality and the absence of antibiotics or other chemicals, which are commonly found in Chinese honey.

In the 2011-12 financial year, honey exports of more than 2130 tonnes earned \$2.13 million.

Japanese companies also value-add honey from Myanmar before selling it domestically, he said.

"We have been exporting honey to Japan since 2007 and I think our company is the largest single supplier to that market," U Htun

Wai said.

However, he said Japan is a tough market with strict import controls - if inspectors find even a trace of antibiotics in a sample they reject the entire shipment.

Dr Kyi Lwin Oo, who is also general manager of Welcome General Trading Company, said Myanmar lacks the technology to attractively package exports.

"One method of value-adding that we practice is packing our honey into tins but there are no really attractive and high quality tins available in Myanmar," he said.

"Another problem is that we don't produce enough

honey to make buying large packaging machinery economically viable," he added.

U Htun Wai said domestic honey consumption averages 300 tonnes a year, with most used in traditional medicines.

"In Myanmar, there are two kinds of honey: One type is harvested from farms; and the other is gathered from hives scattered in the wild. Myanmar consumers like naturally gathered honey because they believe it's healthy," he added.

There are from 40,000-50,000 beehives countrywide, with honey gathered from late October through to May.

## IBPC signs MOU with Singapore biz body

By Myat May Zin

INTERNATIONAL Business Promotion Centre has signed an agreement with the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry to cooperate in infrastructure development and service sectors.

The memorandum of agreement between IBPC and SCCC members are small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and Myanmar is welcoming investment in SMEs," said Valery Lam, assistant manager of SCCC's commerce and industry development wing.

"On this trip, we've just brought our businesspeople to meet and network with Myanmar entrepreneurs," Mr Lam said.

U Aik Htun, IBPC chairman and chairman of Shwe Taung Development Company, said: "The SCCC delegation included representatives of companies in telecommunications, financial services, shipping, infrastructure, tourism and manufacturing. SCCC would like to operate shipping, offices,

hotel on September 20.

hotel service, manufacturing, printing and infrastructure. We discussed cooperation in those businesses in Myanmar."

Myanmar has a long economic relationship with Singapore, especially in finance and shipping.

Mr Teo Siong Seng, president of SCCC and managing director of PIL shipping company, said: "My company has been working in Myanmar for 40 years. Our SCCC delegation came to Myanmar to find local business partners."

"Myanmar's new foreign investment law says companies can form 50-50 joint ventures, which is not relevant for technological investment but is a good first step to protect local SMEs," he said.

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Advertising billboards at a busy junction in downtown Yangon last week. Pic: Yadanar

# Advertising agencies reject YCDC billboard standardisation push

By Noe Noe Aung

ADVERTISING companies have criticised Yangon City Development Committee for banning billboards that do not fall within three "standard" sizes.

The regulations came into effect on September 1 and aim to improve the city's aesthetics, said a spokesperson from YCDC's Roads and Bridge Department.

The spokesperson told *The Myanmar Times* that the minimum size permitted is 180 square feet and the maximum is 675. The other option is 429 square feet.

The manager of the Than Htut advertising company, U Aung Ko Lay, said on September 5: "Business is down by 75 percent and we've had to lay off staff as a result. Small businesses can't afford to pay for large billboards."

"Almost every small billboard fixed to light posts has been removed. Our first priority was the intersections in Hledan, Mayangone, Tarmwe and

Yankin townships, Bogyoke Road and Maha Bandoola Road," the YCDC spokesperson said.

U Aung Ko Lay said that the cheapest billboard previously cost K150,000 a year, while the price of YCDC's stipulated minimum is about K6 million. Depending on the location, the fee can reach up to K50 million.

"Not everyone can afford

billboards will make the city appear neat and tidy. However I feel this is a lesser priority. Roads in Yangon aren't maintained properly and many buildings are in poor shape," U Aung Ko Lay said.

U Aung Kyaw Oo, the managing director of IDEA signboard company, said that reducing the number of opportunities to advertise products and

of consistency in advertising regulations and the frequent changes are also having an adverse impact on the industry," U Aung Kyaw Oo said.

In 2008, the committee auctioned 100 sites to be used as space for temporary advertising and introduced a ban on advertising alcohol and tobacco.

"Policies have been enacted time and time again during the past 20 years, though few benefitted the public. Authorities should rethink this latest change," added U Aung Kyaw Oo.

He said that YCDC should set up a registration process for advertising companies to protect business owners from fraud.

"Authorities should consider printing the advertiser's contact details on billboards so that it's easier for potential advertisers to make inquiries, along with boosting transparency in the industry," he said.

U Aung Kyaw Oo anticipates the new regulations will cause a 20pc decrease in IDEA's profits.

**"I agree that small billboards do nothing for the character of a large city."**

this," he said.

U Aung Ko Lay said the most expensive area to advertise is along Inya Road. A billboard at Hantharwaddy roundabout costs between K10 million and K25 million a year.

YCDC also announced that temporary signboards need to be removed by advertising companies, state media reported.

"YCDC officials claim that introducing standard-sized

services on billboards will lead to an increase in dishonest dealings.

YCDC advertising laws state that potential advertisers must submit information about product and design to a committee, however copyright infringement continues to be an issue.

"I agree that small billboards do nothing for the character of a large city. But it will hit small businesses hard. The lack

## Myanmar the country of honour at CAEXPO

MYANMAR is the Country of Honour at the 9<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Expo (CAEXPO) that kicked off in Nanning, China on September 21.

President U Thein Sein headed a joint government and business delegation to the five-day event, which concludes on September 25.

Myanmar's duties as the country of honour require that its official host programs as diverse as a roundtable talk between U Thein Sein and Chinese businesspeople, watch over a signing ceremony for Myanmar-China projects, hosting a national promotional conference and related summit on its gem and jewellery industries.

U Tin Thwin, deputy director general of

the Ministry of Commerce, said Myanmar is now making immense efforts to open up its domestic market to foreign businesses, and will use the 9<sup>th</sup> CAEXPO as platform to elaborate its new investment policies and relevant laws and regulations to investors and entrepreneurs.

Myanmar will also bring more of its distinctive and competitive products to the CAEXPO for exhibition, where it has chartered a hall for its commodity pavilion to display jewellery and jade, agro-based products and foodstuffs, handicrafts and furniture, all of which are quite popular in the Chinese and global markets.

Myanmar has also nominated Yadanabon

cyber city, near Pyn Oo Lwin in Mandalay Region, as its City of Charm for the 9<sup>th</sup> CAEXPO to coincide with the expo's theme "cooperation in science and technology".

The city is home to a number of government-funded projects, some of which are expecting to have investment from Chinese companies as well as other ASEAN member states.

The CAEXPO Secretariat sent a working team to visit Myanmar in March, and signed with the Department of Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce, a Framework Agreement on Cooperation in Organising the 9<sup>th</sup> CAEXPO.

- ADVERTORIAL



# Strong kyat hurts fisheries exporters: MFF

By Soe Sandar Oo

FISHERIES exporters say they are concerned by the weak exchange value of the US dollar and export credits.

Exporters made the comments during the weekly Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) meeting on September 18.

"We have been hoping that the export earning rate will increase to between K900-950 to the dollar as a result of government efforts to reform the economy," said Daw Toe Nandar Tin, chairman of the Myanmar Fisheries Exporters and Processors Association. "But we've come to realise that the changes have

focused on political issues, not the economic problems," she said.

"The failure to control the exchange rate is a shame," she added.

Export credits were trading for about K589-860 on September 10, slightly below the K860-862 that Foreign Exchange Certificates (FEC) were fetching. By September 15, FEC1 was buying K858-859 but export credits had slipped to K850-852, she said.

By September 18, FEC1 had slipped to about K852 while exchange credits were trading for about K844.

Daw Toe Nandar Tin said export credits, which are also called export earnings,



A worker throws fish into a truck at a fish market in Yangon in June. Pic: Boothee

are normally worth more than FEC.

"We are facing a lot of

difficulties at the moment because fish prices have increased in past months,"

said a spokesperson for Annawardaywee Fisheries Products Company in Yangon's Dawbon township.

She said most fisheries exporters had ceased their operations and planned to invest in other sectors, such as gold mining.

U Win Kyaing, MFF general secretary, said he hoped the weak exchange rate would only be a short-term problem because fisheries companies could not survive for much longer.

He added that fish prices have increased by between K50-200 a viss (1 viss weighs 1.6 kilograms or 3.6 pounds) since early September.

"It's not a good situation

for us when fish prices are increasing but the value of export credits is falling," U Win Kyaing said.

U Hnin Oo, chairman of the Myanmar Shrimp Entrepreneurs Association, said he does not expect the value of export credits to increase in the short-term because foreign investors are tipped to enter Myanmar in force, and the resulting influx of foreign capital would strengthen the kyat.

"Only the government can solve this problem, people in the industry can do nothing," he said.

"All we can do is wait and hope that the government and the parliament will push through economic reforms."

## Ministry to sell off loss-making units

By Soe Sandar Oo

THE Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries will privatise 23 of its loss-making enterprises as well as three Department of Fisheries units, and restructure some of them as public companies.

The decisions were announced by Minister U Ohn Myint at a meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on September 9.

"To develop the sector and encourage foreign investment, a certain number of livestock and fisheries businesses will be able to put out tenders or invitations to lease part of the company, as well as entering into negotiations with foreign firms," said U Ohn Myint.

He urged investors and other businesspeople to begin taking advantage of the new opportunities and to keep the ministry informed of

progress.

"Myanmar Livestock and Fisheries Development Bank is also undergoing change - we're trying to reshape it into a public bank and its first priority is to provide loans to those in the fisheries and livestock sectors," he said.

General secretary of Myanmar Fisheries Federation, U Win Kyaing, said 10 of the enterprises will enter lease agreements, 10 will be made available to form joint ventures with foreign investors and six, including the three managed by the Department of Fisheries, will be floated as public companies.

"The majority of the businesses are from Shan, Chin and Rakhine states, and Bago, Mandalay and Ayeyarwady regions. Enterprises include feed storage, cold storage, fish farms, chicken farms, fish ponds and breeding services," he said.

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## Heineken to take over 90pc of APB

THE HAGUE – Dutch beer giant Heineken said on September 19 it was buying a further 8.6 percent of top Asian brewer APB, meaning it will soon own over 90 percent of the company and gain a critical edge in Asia.

“Heineken has entered into an agreement with Kindest Place Groups Limited to acquire KPG’s 22,207,130 shares in Asia Pacific Breweries Limited, representing 8.6pc of the total issued share capital of APB,” a statement said.

The deal, to be completed not later than October 1, is worth about 740 million euros (US\$962 million).

The announcement came after Thai rival Thai Beverage (ThaiBev) and TCC Assets, both controlled by tycoon Charoen Sirivadhanabhakdi, agreed to support Heineken’s bid to gain control of Asia-Pacific Breweries.

Heineken in turn promised not to make a counter-offer for APB’s parent company Fraser and Neave (F&N), which the Thais want to take over.

Heineken already owns 42pc of Singapore-based APB and offered S\$5.6 billion (\$4.6 billion) for the 40pc stake held by F&N.

This has to be ratified at an extraordinary general meeting of F&N shareholders on September 28.

Until the September 19 compromise was announced, Heineken’s bid was in doubt after ThaiBev and TCC Assets, which jointly own 30pc of F&N, a fortnight earlier offered other owners S\$8.7 billion to take over the group.

In a joint statement to the Singapore Exchange, the Thais promised to vote in favour of Heineken’s offer while the Dutch brewer said it “irrevocably undertakes not to make a general offer” for F&N.

Heineken had been forced to raise its original offer price of S\$50 a share for APB shares to fend off the Thai billionaire and parties linked to him which were building up stakes in the Singapore

brewer.

Shares of APB reached a morning high of S\$53.05 in Singapore after the September 19 joint announcement.

APB, the crown jewel of F&N, makes Tiger Beer and other popular brands in Asia, where beer consumption is rapidly growing as sales taper off in mature markets like Europe, Heineken’s traditional base.

ThaiBev makes Chang Beer and is also involved in food and non-alcoholic drinks.

According to *Forbes* business magazine, Charoen is the third richest person in Thailand with an estimated fortune of \$6.2 billion as of August, with most of his money coming from his beverage business.

By agreeing to vote in favour of selling F&N’s stake in APB, the Thais will gain a payout that will help finance their takeover of F&N, which is also involved in property, soft drinks and publishing, another analyst said.

“Price inflation may have been so rapid that it may be better to sell the [APB] stake and grab the non-beer business of F&N,” said Xavier Jean, associate director of corporate ratings with credit ratings firm Standard and Poor’s.

“It’s not as profitable as beer and the growth potential is not as high, but it sits very nicely in terms of product diversification into non-alcoholic beverages and geographic diversification outside of Thailand.”

APB, which has breweries in 14 countries including China, reported in August that its revenues for the third quarter to June rose almost 10pc to S\$781.33 million from a year ago.

A Heineken takeover of APB would give it an edge over other rivals in Southeast Asia as well as China.

Beer consumption in nine of the 10 Southeast Asian countries totalled 6.84 billion litres in 2011, up more than 6pc from 2010, data from research firm Euromonitor showed. – AFP



Opposition party supporters shout anti-government slogans during a nationwide strike in New Delhi on September 20. Pic: AFP

## Nationwide strikes in India over planned retail reform

By Ben Sheppard

NEW DELHI – Shopkeepers, traders and labourers in India blocked railway lines and closed markets on September 20 to protest against reforms allowing in foreign retail giants such as Walmart and Tesco.

Opposition parties and trade unions called the strike after Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced on September 14 a raft of reforms designed to revive India’s slowing economy, a move that has sparked a furious backlash.

Thousands of policemen were deployed in Kolkata in West Bengal state to prevent violence as shops, markets and offices shut down for the 24-hour strike.

“Train services have come to a halt across West Bengal as strikers squatted on railway tracks,” Samir Goswami, regional public

relations officer, told AFP by phone.

Protesters demonstrated throughout Kolkata in support of the strike, with large rallies planned later in the day in New Delhi and many other cities.

Police said that protesters also blocked some national highways.

Activists from the main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies gathered at railway stations across Bihar state in north India and forcibly stopped train services, leaving thousands of passengers stranded.

“Protesters have tried to target trains and bus stations and [we expect] they will also target shops and business establishments,” Ravinder Kumar, a senior police officer in Patna, the capital of Bihar, said.

All private schools in the state were closed because of the strike, but government

schools and offices remained open.

The Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) forecast that 50 million people would participate in the protest against retail reforms unveiled by Singh.

Many small business owners and workers fear that the arrival of large-scale foreign supermarket chains will lead to drastic job losses as India’s supply chains and shopping habits are transformed.

Singh has been buffeted by reaction to the reform package and a sharp rise in diesel prices, with a key West Bengal-based coalition party quitting the government and demanding the policies are reversed.

The arrival in India of chains such as Walmart, Tesco and Carrefour is expected to herald a consumer revolution with shoppers moving from small, neighbourhood

stores to large, out-of-town supermarkets.

The government and many industry leaders argue that a modern retail system would improve value and choice for Indian consumers, create new jobs and enable farmers to reduce wastage.

But Singh, weakened by the worst quarterly gross domestic product figures in three years and a series of corruption scandals, faces a major challenge to push through the reforms and boost the economy before elections due in 2014.

Truck and bus drivers were also expected to strike on September 20 over a 12 percent hike in subsidised diesel prices as the government tries to tackle its widening fiscal deficit.

Mumbai, the country’s financial capital, was largely unaffected by the strike as local political parties declined to support the action. – AFP

## Asia-Pacific home to most millionaires

SINGAPORE – Asia-Pacific has overtaken North America as home to the most millionaires for the first time, boosted by a rise in the number of wealthy in China and Japan, a report released on September 19 showed.

The region had 3.37 million high net worth individuals (HNWIs) in 2011 compared to North America’s 3.35 million, a study jointly published by consulting firm Caggemini and RBC Wealth Management found.

Europe had 3.17 million HNWIs, which are defined as those having investable assets of US\$1 million or more excluding their primary residence and luxury possessions including art.

“Asia-Pacific is now home to more high net worth individuals than any other region for the first time,” Barend Janssens, head of emerging markets for RBC, told a press conference in Singapore.

Asia-Pacific overtook Europe in 2010 to take second place and a strong growth in the millionaire population – particularly in Japan and China – coupled with a fall in the number of the rich in North America led to the region taking first,

Janssens said.

“The most significant finding is that Asia-Pacific’s population of high net worth individuals grew at a rate of 1.6 percent in 2011, twice the rate of the global population of 0.8pc,” he said.

“This is driven by growth in Japan of up to 4.8pc and China of up to 5.2pc.”

Japanese formed most of the HNWIs in the Asia-Pacific, constituting 54.1pc of the total regional population of the rich.

China and Australia ranked second and third at 16.7pc and 5.3pc respectively.

Together, the three countries accounted for 76.1pc of HNWIs in the region.

Despite hosting the most HNWIs, Asia-Pacific still lagged behind in terms of total investable wealth at \$10.7 trillion, compared to \$11.4 trillion for North America.

International factors such as the eurozone crisis coupled with domestic issues, including sinking property prices and inflation bit into the pockets of millionaires, said Claire Sauvanoud, vice president of Caggemini Asia-Pacific.

– AFP

Congratulations on your 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary



Wishing our beloved father Dr. Cyril Win Kyi and beloved mother Dr. Beatrice Khin Htwe Myint, a very Happy 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2012. May God continue to shower His choicest blessings upon your marriage. By the grace of God may you be able to celebrate your Ruby Anniversary and further on through the years, your Diamond Anniversary, together with your loving children and grandchildren.

Loving Children:

- Dr. Richard Win Tun Kyi and Magdalena Jangma Htu Lum
- Michael Tint Lwin Oo and Christine Khin Lay Kyi
- Susan Khin San Kyi
- Michael Tin Tun Kyi and Khin Yu Wai
- Augustine Kyi Min and Dr. Cynthia Khin Htwe Kyi

Loving Grandchildren: Felix, Rebecca, Magdalena, Sabrina, Clara, Justin, Priscilla and William





# Set Sail with Yulin



Yulin, situated in the south of Guangxi with South-west China as the hinterland, Hong Kong, Macao and Guangdong Province to the east, and Beibu Gulf in the front, is an old city with a long history of more than 2000 years. Known as Yuzhou in ancient China, the city was well-developed in industry and commerce, which enjoyed the fame as "the metropolis of South China". It was also an important part of the Maritime Silk Road in ancient times. Now the city covers an area of 12,800 km<sup>2</sup>, which has jurisdiction over 4 counties, 3 districts and 1 county-level city with a total population of over 6.8 million.

Yulin is a livable city with beautiful scenery and pleasant climate. Featured by numerous fascinating natural views and unique historical landscape, such as Zhen Wuge, one of the four famous pavilions of South Yangtze River, Gui Menguan, one of the four famous passes in China, Yunlian Folk Customs and Culture City, Darong Mountain Forest Park, Xielu Mansion, Duqiao Mountain and so on, the city is regarded as "the jade in Ling Nan and great place with wonderful scenery" and cited as the Top Tourist City of China and Guangxi Garden City. The beautiful environment makes Yulin comfortable for living and sightseeing.

Yulin is a city of wealth. It is the largest diesel engine manufacturing base in the world, known as "China's Capital of Green Power of Engine". Yulin is also China's biggest manufacturing and exporting base of ceramics for daily use, national manufacturing and exporting base of construction materials, leather-clothing manufacturing base as well as food processing base. Fumian District, Bobai county and Luchuan county are regarded respectively as the "World Capital of Pants", "China's Capital of Awn and Bamboo Weaving", and "China's Capital of Iron Pot". Yulin International Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine Expo is China's third largest traditional Chinese herbal medicine market, known as "Capital of Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine in South China". Yulin has developed large native corporations which are well-known at home and abroad, such as Yuchai Group, Sanhuan Group, Yulin Pharmaceutical Co., and Nanfang Foodstuff Group, and imported such large enterprise groups as Yangjing Beer, Conch Cement, Wantwan Food, China Resources Cement and so on. With more than 20,000 small and medium-sized enterprises, Yulin has formed such industrial clusters as machinery manufacturing, cement and ceramics, healthy food, leather clothing, electronic information, etc. With its abundant private capital and developed non-public economy, Yulin is known as "Wenzhou of Guangxi".

Yulin is a city of entrepreneurship. Being the intersection of multiple regional cooperation among China's Pan Pearl River Delta, Pan-Beibu Gulf and the Southwest economic zones, and the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, Yulin is the member city of Guangxi Beibu Gulf Economic Zone and the Xijiang Economic Belt and it is one of the nine cross-strait agricultural cooperation experimental zones, enjoying many preferential policies. At present, there are totally 3 provincial-class industrial parks and 7 Guangxi A-class parks in Yulin, wherein the Yuchai Industrial Park is the national new industrialized machinery industry model base and the national new equipment

manufacturing model base, Longtan Industrial Park is one of the key developing parks of Guangxi Beibu Gulf Economic Zone, with the renewable resources processing and non-ferrous metals industries prosperous together; Yulin Economic Development Zone is mainly about food, medicine and other health industries; Rongxian County Economic Development Zone focuses on electronic information industries; Beiliu Ceramic Industrial Park dues mainly with ceramics for daily use. All these parks, along with Yulin's Tainghua Science and Technology Park in cooperation with the Tainghua University, have become fertile land for the eastern industry transferring and investment. Since 2004, Yulin has successfully held 8 sessions of Yulin SME Expo, 4 sessions of Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine Expo, and 2 sessions of Beiliu International Ceramics Expo. Yulin Expo ranks only second to the China-ASEAN Expo as the biggest expo in Guangxi. It is one of China's Ten Brand Expos in the year 2011 to 2012, and is listed as the Top 50 Expos led by Chinese government, showing its unique charms in the regional cooperation in the Pan Pearl River Delta and Pan Beibu Gulf Area. In recent years, Yulin has regarded as one of the first "Chinese Cities of Entrepreneurship", and named as "China's Modern Logistics Model City in the Circulation Sector" by the Ministry of Commerce. Meanwhile, it gets such titles as "The Best City Absorbing Investors from Zhejiang Province", "the Best City Absorbing Investors from Guangdong Province", "China's Most Valuable Investment Cities" and so on, and it is an important member of eastern Guangxi model zone in the program of western region receiving eastern industry transfer made by the National Development and Reform Commission. Yulin is becoming an entrepreneurial livable city full of vitality.

Yulin is a city of hope. Along with the in-depth implementation of the western development strategy, Guangxi Beibu Gulf Economic Zone is speeding up its opening up and development, which brings good opportunities for Yulin's development. In the "Twelfth Five-Year Plan" period, in accordance with the development strategy of "balancing the urban and rural development and creating 'six models', to promote the new leap of enriching the people and strengthening the city", Yulin will deeply carry out urban and rural comprehensive reform, expand opening up and cooperation, and accelerate the construction of Guangxi advanced manufacturing industry base, modern logistics base, characteristic agriculture base, so as to build Yulin as a Pan Beibu Gulf famous city for small and medium-sized enterprises, and a modern regional central city for entrepreneurship and living. Also, Yulin is striving to create non-public economy model city, the eastern industry transfer model city, south China characteristic culture model city, ecological civilization model city and social management innovation model city, to fully promote the leaping development of Yulin. Striving to make stronger and better industry, Yulin deeply carries out the strategy of "strengthening Yuchai Group to upgrading Yulin city", to develop Yuchai Group as a large enterprise group with sales revenue amounting to RMB 100 billion, the machinery industry as one with over RMB 100 billion, and to lure such industries as cement and ceramics, healthy food, leather clothing, electronic information, non-ferrous metals, etc. to over RMB 10 billion industries. Besides, Yulin will fully develop modern logistics industry, promoting the construction of a number of large professional markets and logistics parks, and developing a batch of large commercial circulation enterprises, to create new advantages of "the metropolis of South China". By holding Yulin SEM Expo and Traditional Chinese Herbal Medicine Expo, Yulin is trying to build regional international brand exhibitions and to promote industrialized exhibition economy. Through the platform of the cross-strait agricultural cooperation experimental zone, Yulin accelerates its modern agriculture development, builds a batch of agricultural industries with production value exceeds five billion yuan and ten billion yuan, and speeds up the development of the agricultural products processing and circulation industries, so as to promote the leap of Yulin from a big agricultural city to the strong one.

Wealth gathers in Yulin and let's start our business here. With a more open, more confident and more civilized pose, Yulin is promoting a new leap of enriching its people and strengthening the city, and marching forward to a more beautiful tomorrow!

## Briefing of the 9<sup>th</sup> SME Expo

The Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises Exposition (Yulin China) (Yulin Expo for short) is held in Yulin in the duration of CAEXPO every year. With "Small and Medium-sized Enterprises Make up Big Economy, Yulin Expo Shows Infinite Business Opportunities" as the theme, "Cooperation for Development, Together for Future" as its aim, Yulin Expo endeavors every effort to create a platform for all entrepreneurs and investors at home and abroad to carry out commodity transaction, investment negotiation, economic and technological cooperation and cultural exchange, so as to promote the flows of goods and services in many ways. It brings huge logistics, streams of people, information flow and funds flow, along with the hidden infinite commercial opportunities, which will impetus the economy to leap a great forward development. It also promotes Yulin to melt into the construction and advancement of the China-ASEAN Free Trade Area, the Beibu Gulf Economic Zone, the Pan Pearl River Delta Economic Zone, and the Xijiang River Basin, sharing opportunities of cooperation and development.

Since 2004, Yulin Expo has been successfully held for 8 sessions, signing all together 986 investment projects, with an investment volume of RMB 183.7 billion, and a total trade contracts turnover of RMB 58.4 billion. Through the Expo, numerous prominent enterprises settle in Yulin, such as China Resources Cement Group, Yangjing Beer, Conch Cement, Wantwan Food, Hong'an Group, Hong Kong Howard Group, Hyundai Electronics, Guangxi Yinyi, etc. Yulin expo has become a regional exposition only second to CAEXPO in Guangxi, which is listed as one of the 50 Most Influential Expositions led by Chinese government, and one of China's Ten Brand Expositions in the year 2011 to 2012.

**The 9th SME Expo is to be held in Yulin International Convention and Exhibition Center, from September 23 to September 26, 2012. The contents are as follows:**

**China SME Forum (Yulin):** With "the cultivation, survival and development of small and medium-sized enterprises" as the theme, the Forum invites famous experts, scholars and entrepreneurs at home and abroad to discuss together difficulties and problems of small and medium-sized enterprises, especially small and mini-sized enterprises, to exchange experience and research measures, so as to provide better services and guidance to the concerning enterprises for their healthy development. During the Forum, the "Chinese small and medium-sized enterprises development report (2012)" will be released.

**Commodity Display:** Famous domestic and foreign enterprises are invited to participate in the 9th SME Expo to carry out project negotiation, promotion and signing contracts. 1500 booths is to be built for the expo, including 550 inside the convention and exhibition center and 950 outdoors. The inside booths, mainly displaying the applying of high-end 3D display technology, video equipments and sound photoelectric products from home and abroad, as well as products from each county (city, district) of Yulin and key enterprises in the city's development parks. While the outdoor booths, focusing on commodity exhibition, is to be decorated into different exhibition areas and halls.

**Project negotiation and Signing:** Electronic photoelectric industry promotion and special promotions with each county (city, district, industrial park) as the main bodies is to be organized to carry out the project promotion, match making, signing ceremony and other activities.

**Yulin International Tourism and Food Festival:** The 9th Yulin International Tourism and Food Festival with rich contents and distinctive characteristics is to be held to promote Yulin's tourism culture and food resources, as well as to introduce domestic and foreign well-known food and snacks.



# Welcome to the 9<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Expo

NANNING, CHINA September 21-25, 2012





## US housing market recovery picks up

By Veronica Smith

WASHINGTON – The recovery in the US housing market continues to strengthen, data released on September 19 showed, a key improvement in the struggling economy just seven weeks before the presidential election.

The National Association of Realtors said that sales of so-called “existing”, or previously occupied, homes, jumped 7.8 percent from July, the highest rise since May 2010, and were up 9.3pc from a year ago.

Prices increased the most in more than six years. The median price, the middle point between the top and bottom prices, rose to US\$187,400, up 9.5pc year-on-year.

“The US housing recovery is for real,” said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

“Great affordability, pent-up demand and strong investor interest in rental units are driving the market, and QE3 can only help by reducing mortgage

rates further.”

Signs of life are welcome in the housing sector, where millions of Americans have tied up their savings only to see them evaporate when a price bubble burst in 2006, leading the economy into the Great Recession.

They come as President Barack Obama grapples for re-election on November 6 in a tight race against Republican rival Mitt Romney, with economic issues at the top of voters’ concerns.

A separate report from the Commerce Department showed housing starts rose 2.3pc from July, and were up 29.1pc from the August 2011 rate.

Starts on single-family homes jumped 5.5pc.

New building permits, an indicator of future homebuilding, fell 1pc but were 24.5pc higher than a year ago, the department said.

Last month it reported new-home sales surged in July to their highest level since April 2010. The August numbers are due on September 26.

Homebuilders waxed optimistic. On September 18, the National Association of Home Builders said its NAHB/Wells Fargo sentiment index rose for a fifth straight month to its highest reading since June 2006.

Even so, home prices remain about 30pc below their 2006 peak and roughly 15pc below their August 2004 level. Barclays analyst Michael Gapen cautioned that the housing recovery still faced significant challenges.

“Our view is that housing is in a recovery phase, but one that will be restrained by the availability of credit, the pace of improvement in labour market conditions, and the overhang from distressed and foreclosed properties,” he said.

The US central bank rolled out its biggest stimulus in two years in early September, in part to boost home building and buying, and fight high unemployment in the aftermath of the Great Recession.

Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke said the QE3



Workers complete the final section of a roof on a townhouse under in Ashburn, Virginia on September 7. Pic: AFP

program – purchases of mortgage-backed securities at a pace of \$40 billion a month – should help lower interest rates, particularly on mortgage rates which have been hovering at historic lows.

QE3 “should provide

further support to the housing sector by encouraging home purchases and refinancing”, which in turn would help the economy grow, Bernanke said.

IHS Global Insight economists Patrick Newport and Michelle Valverde

predicted that existing-home sales would climb 7-10pc this year, but stressed that would be “from very low levels”.

“Normal conditions are still at least a couple of years away,” the analysts said. – AFP

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A gardener mows the lawn in front of the vertical garden on a shopping mall facade in the town of Rozzano, near Milan in Italy, on September 18. Pic: AFP

## Italian architect designs world’s biggest vertical garden

MILAN – A shopping centre near Milan is claiming an unusual record – the biggest vertical garden in the world, covering a surface of 1263 square metres (13,600 square feet) with a total of 44,000 plants.

The huge garden, which was inaugurated in 2010 but only certified as a record this week, was designed by architect Francesco Bollani who headed up a creative team that included an architecture studio from Montpellier in France.

“It took us a year to grow the plants in a greenhouse and 90 days to build the facade,” Bollani said. “It was like building a giant Lego.”

The previous record was held by a Madrid garden covering 844 square metres.

Shopping centre director Simone Rao said: “This is sustainable architecture,

which can combine beauty with energy saving while respecting the environment.”

The garden helps regulate the temperature in the shopping centre in Rozzano and, by reducing direct sunlight, it helps keep energy consumption low.

It also absorbs carbon dioxide and reduces ambient noise to a minimum.

French architect Le Corbusier was one of the first to conceive of a vertical garden in 1923 and the idea has become popular in architecture circles.

Bollani said that his version was easier to build and take apart because the garden is made up of small metallic containers.

This means the garden is more expensive than classical methods, with a total cost of £1 million (US\$1.3 million), he said.

– AFP





Interest in Yangon's high-end property market has vanished in the wake of the August 11 tax increase, say real estate agents. Pic: Myanmar Times Archive

## Property market 'sluggish' after tax jump

By Htar Htar Khin

THE axing of a five-year-long tax holiday related to property sales has significantly decreased activity in the real estate market, agents said last week.

On August 11, the government upped the income tax payable on property purchases to 30 percent, from 8pc, for buyers who did not disclose their incomes.

Ko Soe Wunna, the manager of Shining Star real estate agency in Ahlone township, said the buying and selling market had been cool even before news spread of the ending of the tax holiday.

"We've seen demand dropping since July, when rumours of the

impending tax increase started circulating," he said. "I don't think the tax increase has done any good for the industry – and property prices have not decreased at all," he added.

"I think at least half of the transactions we've seen in the past three months involve properties that will be used for commercial reasons," he said.

However, the tax holiday also coincided with Buddhist lent, which runs from July 3 to October 30 this year, a period when many Buddhists avoid moving house.

"Hopefully the market will recover in Thadingyut at the end of October," he said.

Ko Soe Wunna said his company's transactions between

July and mid-September this year had fallen by 70pc year-on-year with 2011.

He said demand for high-end properties – those priced above K500 million – was almost nonexistent because traders did not believe that they could make safe profits from buying and selling them.

"Potential buyers have to think very carefully about purchases now [if they cannot prove their income] because the income tax of 30pc, plus the 7pc stamp duty, is a lot of money. Since the tax holiday was ended we've only handled sales of properties worth less than K500 million," he added.

Daw Cho Cho, a freelance broker at Yankin township, described the property market as "sluggish" in

the wake of the tax increase.

"Nobody wants to pay 37pc tax when they're buying a house – this is a major cost," she said.

"Property prices are the highest I've ever seen them. And traders are no longer interested in such properties because if they are forced to pay the tax they will make no profit when they sell the property," she said.

Daw Cho Cho added that traders were also having to hold onto properties for longer periods in order to find buyers. Daw Cho Cho said she hoped to see market activity bounce back at the end of October but was not confident that it would.

"There's a good chance that demand will continue to fall in the

coming months," she said.

U Sai Khung Nong, the managing director of Sai Khung Nong Real Estate & Law Firm in Thingangyun township, said there is no interest in high-end properties.

"We're only seeing sales activity in properties that cost from K100 million to K200 million, mostly plots of land on Yangon's outskirts," he said.

"Now the foreign investment law has been passed by parliament I think some buyers are waiting to see how the government will handle the high land prices, especially for industrial land," he said.

"I think 37pc is too high for buyers and 25pc would be a lot better for the industry," he said.



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## Cambodians fight malaria with the push of a button

PAILIN, Cambodia – Cambodian villagers armed with a little medical know-how – and their mobile telephones – are the nation's new foot soldiers in the fight against drug-resistant malaria.

In the small village of Phnom Dambang near the Thai border, locals know that early detection and treatment is crucial to containing the virulent strain of the mosquito-borne disease that is blighting the region.

"The malaria here ... can kill people in a short period of time if they don't have the right treatment," said Long Vuthy, whose home doubles as a walk-in clinic. The village is dotted with bright yellow signs emblazoned with pictures of mosquitoes, warning that the disease is prevalent in the area.

Vuthy, 41, who is also the chief of the village in Pailin province – considered to be at the epicentre of drug-resistant malaria in Cambodia – is one of more than 3000 volunteer malaria workers in the country.

They diagnose the disease with a quick blood test and provide treatment, free of charge, in remote parts of the impoverished nation, where access to health services can be difficult.

Under a new pilot project, he is now also using a dedicated text message service to report new cases, allowing health experts to monitor and respond to patients' needs in real time.

"It's a very good way to help the community," said Vuthy, who was taught how to use the mobile phone service two months ago by the Malaria Consortium, a non-profit group working with the government and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to eradicate malaria from the country by 2025.

Cambodia has already had



A village malaria worker checks a blood test at his home in Cambodia's Pailin province on July 5. Pic: AFP

success tackling malaria. In 2011, it reported over 108,000 cases, of which 96 were fatal, compared to 102,473 cases and 154 deaths the year before and more than 600 deaths in 2000, according to government statistics.

But the prevalence of the drug-resistant strain has caused concern.

Malaria resistant to regular forms of treatment was confirmed in western Cambodia eight years ago, likely as a result of patients taking an incorrect or incomplete course of anti-malarial drugs.

To control the spread of this drug-tolerant form, health workers must catch cases early and ensure patients strictly follow the right treatment plan.

The alert system is simple. If Vuthy's diagnosis test shows a person has malaria, he immediately starts them on medication and composes a message with the patient's age, sex, location and the type of malaria.

Using a toll-free number, the text is sent instantly to the district health centre, provincial health officials and a national malaria database in the capital Phnom Penh – a process that used to take a month.

The information is also fed into Google Earth to create a map of reported cases and of potential hotspots of resistance.

Together, the data helps officials track each case and make sure the right treatment is available or that more medication is supplied when stocks are running low.

"I think this system is very important in eliminating malaria in Cambodia because it provides information very fast," said Pengby Ngor from the Malaria Consortium, which developed the database. "In this way there can be intervention and the patient can get treatment quickly."

Malaria killed an estimated 655,000 people worldwide in 2010, although mortality rates have fallen sharply over the past decades, according to the WHO.

Researchers attribute this decline largely to the increased use of artemisinin drugs, seen as the most effective treatment, and the widening use of insecticide-treated bed nets – which have also been distributed by the Cambodian government.

Comprehensive data on resistance in the country is unavailable, although a study

by international scientists published in The Lancet this year found that between 2007 and 2010, 42 percent of falciparum malaria cases, the most severe form of the disease, in western Cambodia were drug tolerant.

Resistance does not mean the disease will be fatal, but it typically takes longer to be cured using a combination of drugs.

Meas Tha, deputy director of the National Centre for Parasitology, Entomology and Malaria Control, said the mobile pilot scheme was a "tool that could help us to achieve our 2025 goal" to eradicate malaria, alongside other key efforts such as education on prevention and medication.

It is part of a national malaria containment project on which the Global Fund, supported by The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, has spent some US\$30 million since 2010.

The system, using SIM cards provided free by Cambodian telecommunications firm Mobitel, was launched in three other provinces last year before coming to Pailin in July.

Some 230 volunteers have used the mobile phone service so far and there are plans to eventually include all volunteers in the project.

Vuthy knows that close monitoring of severe malaria cases is essential in his part of the country.

He makes sure his patients take their pills correctly and he carries out follow-up tests to check their blood is parasite-free after three days. If not, it could be a sign of drug tolerance, requiring further treatment.

Here too the text message alert service comes in handy, sending reminders to check on patients on set days. "It makes my job easier," Vuthy said. – AFP



A South Korean model shows LG's new Optimus G smartphone during a launch ceremony in Seoul on September 18. Pic: AFP

## South Korea's LG launches new 'Optimus G' phone

SEOUL – LG Electronics launched on September 18 its new flagship smartphone that will compete against a flurry of new products from rivals Apple and Samsung who currently dominate the global market.

The South Korean electronics firm said the new phone – the Optimus G – would hit domestic stores next week before sales begin in Japan in October and other regions including North America in November.

The launch comes days after Apple unveiled the much-anticipated iPhone 5 which garnered more than two million orders in just 24 hours.

Samsung Electronics, which has sold more than 20 million of its Galaxy S III smartphones since they were launched in late May, is set to introduce the newest version of its popular oversized Galaxy Note smartphone in the market soon.

"It's inevitable for these flagship products to compete head-to-head ... but we are expecting very significant and surprising figures for this product," Park Jong-Seok, head of LG's mobile unit, told reporters.

However, he refused to divulge a sales target.

The new phone – powered by Google's Android software – is equipped with a new quad-core processor made by Qualcomm that helps run applications about 40 percent faster than existing quad-core processors.

At about 13.2 centimetres (5.2 inches) long, 6.9 centimetres wide and featuring a 4.7-inch touchscreen, Optimus G allows users to zoom in on moving video images and

takes photos by recognising voice commands such as "cheese" or "smile".

It can also simultaneously display overlapped images of two applications to allowing users to exchange chat messages or search the internet while watching a video played in the background.

"Smartphone users spend a growing amount of time watching videos, so this can be a really helpful feature," Chang Ma, vice president of marketing in LG's mobile unit, said.

The new gadget also automatically adjusts bell sounds based on noise level around users to help prevent missed calls, he added.

The world's number two flat-screen TV producer and the fifth biggest phone maker, LG has struggled for years in the rapidly-growing smartphone market.

The firm's cellphone business – a segment LG has flagged as a strong pillar of growth – bled for years as sales of its Optimus smartphone series lagged far behind Apple's iPhone or Samsung's Galaxy S phones.

LG's mobile unit once showed signs of recovery by posting profits in the fourth quarter of 2011 and the first quarter of this year but swung back to a loss in the second quarter.

The reversal was blamed on high marketing costs for promoting its new handsets and squeezed margins due to the weaker euro.

Park said the firm's earlier goal to sell 80 million mobile phones this year was still valid, with the Optimus G helping to drive sales beginning in the third quarter. – AFP

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## Western powers issue warning to Tehran

UNITED NATIONS – The United States, Britain and France warned Iran last week that time is running out for a negotiated settlement to the showdown on its nuclear program.

“Time is wasting,” US ambassador Susan Rice told a UN Security Council meeting on nuclear sanctions against Iran on September 20.

The meeting was held amid mounting speculation that Israel is planning a military strike on Iran’s nuclear facilities.

A series of reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog, have said Iran is stepping up uranium enrichment and not providing proof that its nuclear activities are peaceful.

The western powers say Iran is seeking a nuclear bomb but the Tehran government says its drive is peaceful.

Rice said the international powers – Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and United States – cannot pursue their nuclear talks

with Iran “indefinitely”.

“We will not engage in an endless process of negotiations that fail to produce any results. We must therefore remain clear and united in seeking resolution of the international community’s concerns regarding Iran’s nuclear program. Time is wasting,” the US envoy said.

Rice said “Iran’s approach reShe called on UN members to step up action to halt

### ‘The Iranian regime is at a crossroads.’

Syria’s arms shipments to President Bashar al-Assad’s forces in Syria. UN sanctions experts have uncovered evidence of shipments and diplomats said that Iran is sending some weapons by air across Iraqi territory.

Britain’s UN ambassador called the arms exports to Syria “a reminder of Iran’s hypocrisy in claiming to support freedom in the Arab world.”

“The Iranian regime is at a crossroads,” said Lyall Grant.

In a related development, US officials have warned that Egypt and Jordan could annul their peace treaties with Israel and sever all diplomatic ties if the Jewish state attacks Iran’s nuclear sites, an Israeli newspaper reported on September 20.

Quoting a high-level Israeli official, the top-selling *Yediot Aharonot* said Washington had warned that Arab leaders would not be able to control an angry public backlash if Israel was to attack on Iran.

The official, who was privy to the US warning, referred to the violent response in several Middle Eastern countries to a film insulting Islam.

“What happened with the film against Mohammed is just a preview of what will happen in case of an Israeli strike,” he said of the unrest which has swept the Muslim world, targeting US embassies and other American symbols and leaving more than 30 people dead. – AFP



Protesters march in the Chinese city of Hengyang last week to condemn Japan’s decision to buy disputed islands in the East China Sea. Thousands of protesters rallied in Chinese cities on September 18 over Tokyo’s decision to buy the islands known as Diaoyu in China and Senkaku in Japan. No big protests were reported in China on September 20, the sudden decline being attributed by analysts to the government’s need to tread carefully between harnessing nationalist zeal and allowing popular anger to spiral out of control. Pic: AFP

### Briefly

**DAMASCUS** – At least 30 civilians were reported killed on September 20 in a massive explosion at a petrol station in north-eastern Syria that activists said was caused by an air strike. • Related report, P. 34.

**WASHINGTON** – The United States has asked for more time to end the activities of USAID in Russia, after Moscow gave it less than three weeks to close down, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said on September 20. • Earlier report, P. 33.

**MIAMI** – White House Republican hopeful Mitt Romney told Hispanic voters on September 19 he would be president for “100 percent” of Americans. “People in America are going to have a better future if they elect me the next president,” he told viewers of a Spanish-language television network. • Earlier report, P. 35.

**WASHINGTON** – The White House for the first time on September 20 described the assault on the US consulate in Benghazi, which killed four Americans, as a “terrorist attack” that could have links to al-Qaeda. – AFP

## Free Pussy Riot: Suu Kyi

WASHINGTON – Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called last week during her visit to the United States for the release of jailed members of the Russian punk band, Pussy Riot.

The opposition politician, who spent 15 years under house arrest, said she “would like the whole group to be released as soon as possible,” during an event on September 20 sponsored by the rights group, Amnesty International.

A Moscow court last month sentenced three members of Pussy Riot to two years in a labour camp for hooliganism motivated by religious hatred over a performance against President Vladimir Putin in an Orthodox cathedral.

When told her comments could be seen as criticising

the Russian government, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said – to the laughter and applause of the crowd – that “governments must be prepared to take criticism.”

“It’s a different matter if you are insulting other people individually,” Suu Kyi told the audience, which included Pyotr Verzilov, the husband of one of the jailed singers.

In other remarks at Washington’s Newseum, a museum dedicated to media and journalism, Suu Kyi said the years she spent under house arrest were “worth it.”

“I never thought I was making any sort of sacrifice. I never thought I was suffering,” she said. “I never forgot that I was much more fortunate than my colleagues who were in jail.” – AFP

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# British royal couple welcomes photos ban

PARIS – Prince William and wife Catherine headed home from Tuvalu on September 19 after securing a ban on a French magazine distributing topless pictures of her and launching a criminal probe into how they were obtained.

French authorities the previous day banned *Closer* magazine from any further distribution of the paparazzi pictures of Prince William's wife Catherine sunbathing topless in the south of France earlier this month.

An injunction granted by a court at Nanterre in the Paris suburbs ordered the magazine to hand over all forms of the pictures to the British royal couple within 24 hours or face a 10,000-euro (US\$13,000) fine for every day's delay.

The injunction also bans the glossy magazine from re-using them in print or on its website and re-selling them on pain of further 10,000-euro fines for each infraction.

William and the former Kate Middleton left the relative calm of Tuvalu after a night of feasting and

dancing on September 19 for the long flight home via Brisbane, Australia.

"The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge welcome the judge's ruling," read a statement from St James's Palace in London.

The injunction will have no impact on the pictures that have already been widely circulated on the internet following publication by *Closer* as well as Ireland's *Daily Star* and Italy's *Chi* magazine.

It was granted hours after a prosecutor launched a preliminary investigation into whether the magazine and the photographer, or photographers, who took the pictures had committed a criminal act.

The terms of the injunction mean it is virtually certain to lead to a full investigation of allegations that taking and publishing the pictures violated the couple's right to privacy.

The ruling said the pictures were "by their nature, particularly intrusive" and had been taken in a place where the couple could "legitimately assume they

were safe from prying eyes".

During their day on the tiny Pacific island of Tuvalu, the royal couple wore the traditional *titi saka* or skirt as they danced with locals in the remote South Pacific island nation.

Nearly half the population of 10,500 turned out to meet them during their 19-hour stopover at the end of a nine-day tour marking the queen's Diamond Jubilee, which also included visits to Singapore, Malaysia and Solomon Islands.

It was all a far cry from the French courtroom where the couple's lawyer Aurelien Hamelle told the injunction hearing that the images of "a highly intimate moment" were particularly distressing for the couple in light of William's mother Princess Diana's death in 1997 in a car that crashed in a Paris tunnel while being pursued by paparazzi.

The identity of the photographer remains unknown and French law protecting journalistic sources means *Closer* is unlikely to be forced to divulge it. – AFP



Britain's Prince William and his wife, Catherine, enjoy participating in a *fatale*, a traditional singing and dancing performance, in the Tuvalu capital, Funafuti, on September 18. Pic: AFP

## Senior UK cop opposes arming officers

LONDON – A top British policeman warned last week against rushing into any move to routinely arm officers after two unarmed policewomen were killed in a gun and grenade attack.

Fiona Bone, 32, and Nicola Hughes, 23, died after going to investigate a reported robbery in Tameside, Greater Manchester, northwestern England, on September 18.

The killings have reopened a long-running debate about whether British police should regularly carry weapons

like their counterparts in the United States and other countries.

But Hugh Orde, the president of Britain's Association of Chief Police Officers and a former police chief in Northern Ireland, cautioned against such a move.

"Guns don't necessarily solve the problem," he told BBC radio on September 19.

"You only have to look at the American experience. Many colleagues in America are lost

without even drawing their gun at close ranges."

He said it was the "clear view of the British police service from top to bottom" that they prefer to be unarmed because members of the public dislike approaching officers carrying weapons, Orde said.

Most British police officers do not routinely carry weapons, although armed police do however protect sensitive sites and all forces have armed response units. – AFP

## Small town, big questions

CORIGLIANO D'OTRANTO, Italy – Socrates, Plato and Aristotle are the new unlikely heroes of a remote southern Italian town where local authorities are promoting philosophical thinking for a better way of life.

A philosophy trail leads past a sofa that pronounces deep thoughts when you sit on it, a park with no lights to encourage pondering and posters in the town's streets ask questions like "Why were you born?" and "What is fear?" "This is a revolutionary experiment," the mayor of Corigliano d'Otranto, Ada Fiore, a philosophy teacher, said on September 18.

Fiore said her mission was to get the town's 5800 residents to take time out to ponder existential questions.

She admitted the project which she launched in June had "objective difficulties" noting that some schoolchildren had not been receptive.

But the philosophical consultations she helped organise are proving popular, with about one in five of the town's inhabitants flocking to the 15 euro (US\$19) an hour sessions hosted by philosopher Graziella Lupo.

"People come and consult with me mainly on relationship dynamics," Lupo said.

Concetta Lucarella, a nun visiting Corigliano d'Otranto, said she was impressed by the philosophy trail through the town centre.

"I think people who do the trail reflect on what they hear. It is really a hymn to life," she said. – AFP

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## Briefs

## US lifts visits ban on New Zealand navy

AUCKLAND – The United States has lifted a ban that prevented New Zealand naval ships visiting US ports since the 1980s, Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said on September 21, hailing a “new era” in relations between the two nations.

In a joint news conference with his New Zealand counterpart Jonathan Coleman, the Pentagon chief also announced that restrictions on meetings between defence officials and military exercises also had been rescinded.

The US imposed the ban in 1986 after New Zealand barred visits by US nuclear-armed or nuclear-powered ships to its ports.

## Last surge troops leave Afghanistan

WASHINGTON – The last of the 33,000 US soldiers that President Barack Obama sent to Afghanistan nearly three years ago as part of a military surge has left the country, US defence officials said on September 20.

The withdrawal of surge troops, which began in July, follows an unprecedented number of Western soldiers being shot dead by their Afghan colleagues – 51 so far this year – and as anti-West protests sweep Muslim countries.

There are still 68,000 US military personnel in Afghanistan.

## Development goals at risk, says UN

UNITED NATIONS – A major drop in development aid has put at risk development goals set by world leaders with a 2015 deadline, the UN said on September 20.

Official development assistance for poor countries fell by almost three percent to US\$133.5 billion in 2011 after hitting a record in 2010, said a UN Millennium Development Goal task force report. The goals, set in 2000, are targets to reduce poverty, stop the spread of AIDS and improve education, gender equality, child and maternal health and environmental stability.

## Tests raise hopes in TB fight

PARIS – Test have raised hopes that a soil bacterium identified nearly 60 years ago could be a “very selective killer” of the germ that causes tuberculosis, *EMBO Molecular Medicine* journal reported on September 17.

Pyridomycin, a natural antibiotic exuded by the bacterium *Streptomyces pyridomyceticus*, shows promise as a candidate to fight a drug-resistant strain of TB, researchers in Switzerland said. – AFP

## Arctic ice melt a ‘planetary emergency’: experts

NEW YORK – Experts warned last week of a “planetary emergency” due to the unforeseen global consequences of Arctic ice melt, including methane gas released from permafrost regions currently under ice.

Columbia University and the environmental activist group Greenpeace held separate events on September 19 to discuss US government data showing that Arctic sea ice has shrunk to its smallest surface area since record-keeping began in 1979.

Satellite images show the Arctic ice cap melted to 3.4 million square kilometres (1.32 million square miles) as of September 16, the predicted lowest point for the year,

revealed the National Snow and Ice Data Center in Boulder, Colorado.

“Between 1979 and 2012, we have a decline of 13 percent per decade in the sea ice, accelerating from six percent between 1979 and 2000,” an oceanographer Wieslaw Maslowski with the US Naval Postgraduate School, said at the Greenpeace event.

“If this trend continues we will not have sea ice by the end of this decade,” said Maslowski.

While the figures are worse than earlier estimates they come as no surprise to scientists, said NASA climate expert James Hansen, who also spoke at the Greenpeace event.

“We are in a planetary emergency,” said Hansen, decrying “the gap between what is understood by scientific community and what is known by the public.”

Scientists say the earth’s climate has been warming because carbon dioxide and other human-produced gases hinder the planet’s reflection of the sun’s heat back into space, creating a greenhouse effect.

Environmentalists warn that a string of recent extreme weather events around the globe show urgent action on emission cuts is needed.

One consequence of the melt is the slow but continuous rise in the ocean level that threatens coastal areas.

Another result is the likely release of large amounts of methane – a greenhouse gas – trapped in the permafrost under Greenland’s ice cap. Methane is 25 times more efficient at trapping solar heat than carbon dioxide, and the released gases could in turn add to global warming, which in turn would free up more locked-up carbon.

Anne Siders, a postdoctoral researcher at Columbia University’s Center for Climate Change Law, warned that a consequence of global warming is that, as the oceans warm, more cold-water fish move north, “which means more fish will be taken out of their ecosystem.”

– AFP

## Moscow expels US aid agency

MOSCOW – Russia said on September 19 said it had given USAID until October 1 to halt its work as the US aid agency was meddling in domestic politics, a move that risks sparking a new diplomatic crisis with Washington.

The termination of the US Agency for International Development’s activities may also harm the operations of NGOs that rely on its funding, including the vote monitor Golos that detected irregularities in recent polls.

Washington branded the move “regrettable” and denied the allegations of interference.

Moscow’s unexpected move appears part of an increasing crackdown in Russia on civil society after President Vladimir Putin’s return to the Kremlin for a third term in May amid an outburst of street protests.

“The decision was taken mainly because the work of the agency’s

officials far from always responded to the stated goals of development and humanitarian cooperation,” the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement.

“We are talking about attempts to influence political processes – including elections at different levels – through its distribution of grants,” it added.

USAID’s activities “must be halted from October 1”, it added, giving a short deadline that had not been revealed by the Americans when the decision was first made public in Washington on September 18.

In Washington, State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said that “we completely reject the notion that our support for civil society, democracy, human rights in any way interferes with elections”.

Lilia Shibanova, the director of Golos, described the halt in USAID’s operations as a “heavy blow”. – AFP

## Court upholds CIA verdicts

ROME – Italy’s top court on September 19 confirmed guilty verdicts against 23 CIA agents for the 2003 abduction of an Egyptian imam in Milan and ordered a re-trial for two former Italian spies accused of taking part.

The 23 CIA agents were being tried in absentia in one of the world’s biggest court cases against the US “extraordinary rendition” program to interrogate alleged Islamist militants after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

The CIA agents were originally sentenced in November 2009 to five to eight years in prison and in December 2010 had their sentences increased to seven to nine years on appeal and ordered to pay damages to the imam.

Washington has refused to extradite the agents, who all remain at liberty but risk arrest if they travel to Europe.

Osama Mustafa Hassan, a radical Islamist opposition

figure better known as Abu Omar, was snatched from a street in Milan in 2003 in an operation coordinated by the CIA and the Italian military intelligence agency, SISMI.

Abu Omar, who enjoyed political asylum in Italy at the time, was then allegedly taken to the Aviano US air base in northeastern Italy, flown to a US base in Germany, and on to Cairo, where he says he was tortured.

In its ruling last week, the court also said that two former heads of SISMI should be re-tried. They were acquitted by the appeals court in 2010 in a ruling that said producing evidence against them would have violated state secrecy laws.

The “extraordinary rendition” program was launched in 2003 by then US president George W. Bush and saw scores of suspects returned to their home countries, some of which were known to use torture. – AFP



A woman gestures as she walks past an opposition activist in the Belarusian capital, Minsk, on September 17. Two of Belarusia’s biggest opposition groups are boycotting parliament elections on September 23, saying they are stacked in favour of President Alexander Lukashenko’s ruling party. Pic: AFP

## Media law under fire in Jordan

AMMAN – Jordanian journalists voiced alarm on September 19 over newly approved amendments to the press and publication law, warning that they threatened freedom of expression.

King Abdullah II issued a decree on September 17 approving the law in its new form, after parliament passed the amendments that require the country’s 220 news websites to obtain

licences from the government, which can censor content and hold journalists liable for posted comments.

The amendments also stipulate that website chief editors must be members of the Jordan Press Association.

“We reject this restrictive law that threatens press freedom and online expression,” said Mohammad Ghneim of the Centre for Defending

Freedom of Journalists.

“The government seeks to control independent media and news websites, which are widely read by Jordanians,” said Basel Akur, editor of Jo24 website.

Information Minister Samih Maayatah defended the law.

“The law protects people’s rights by ensuring that freedom of expression is practised in a responsible manner,” he said. – AFP

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## S. African press cheers as wildcat strike ends but warns of contagion

JOHANNESBURG – South African media on September 19 hailed the end to a wildcat strike at world number three platinum producer Lonmin that resulted in 45 deaths, but warned the 22-percent wage hike deal set a dangerous precedent in the sector.

“The end of the Lonmin strike is something we should all cheer, but how the dispute has been settled may provide a template for workers to use elsewhere. That’s the contagion threat,” a columnist for *Business Day* wrote, taking a bitter-sweet tone on the end of the five-week standoff.

Workers at London-listed Lonmin’s Marikana mine on September 18 agreed to return to work on September 20 after the company upped their salaries by 22 percent, with a US\$245 one-off bonus.

Mediators said it was the highest raise negotiated in the country’s labour history.

Illegal strikes spread to other platinum and gold mines in South Africa after the start of the strike at Lonmin on August 10, where police shot dead 34 people.

The business daily said other miners may not stand down until their wages are raised in a similar way.

“Workers at other mines may be encouraged to adopt the same tactics as the

Lonmin workers, especially as they managed to wrinkle out extra pay from a struggling company.”

This threatened to destabilise the entire mining industry, which accounts for a fifth of Africa’s largest economy.

*The Star* newspaper reported “this could be bad news for the biggest miners’ union in the country, the National Union of Mineworkers (NUM).”

The paper speculated that members of the affiliate of the country’s powerful union federation Cosatu – which is in alliance with the ruling African National Congress – would abandon NUM.

“There is a strong feeling that NUM members will decamp and move to join the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), the NUM’s new rival,” it reported.

AMCU has been accused of precipitating the wildcat strikes with unrealistic salary promises to prospective members.

Meanwhile online news site *theDailyMaverick* wondered over the backroom politics that produced the deal.

“Even as workers prepare to return to work, questions are now being asked about what exactly happened six weeks into the strike to facilitate the agreement.”

– AFP

# Damascus plans to deploy chemical weapons: report

LONDON – The Syrian regime plans to deploy chemical weapons against its own people “as a last resort”, the former head of Syria’s chemical arsenal told *The Times* in an interview published on September 19.

Major-General Adnan Sillu said he defected from the Syrian army three months ago after being party to top-level talks about the use of chemical weapons on both rebel fighters and civilians.

“We were in a serious discussion about the use of chemical weapons, including how we would use them and in what areas,” he told the newspaper, referring to a meeting held at Syria’s chemical weapons centre south of Damascus.

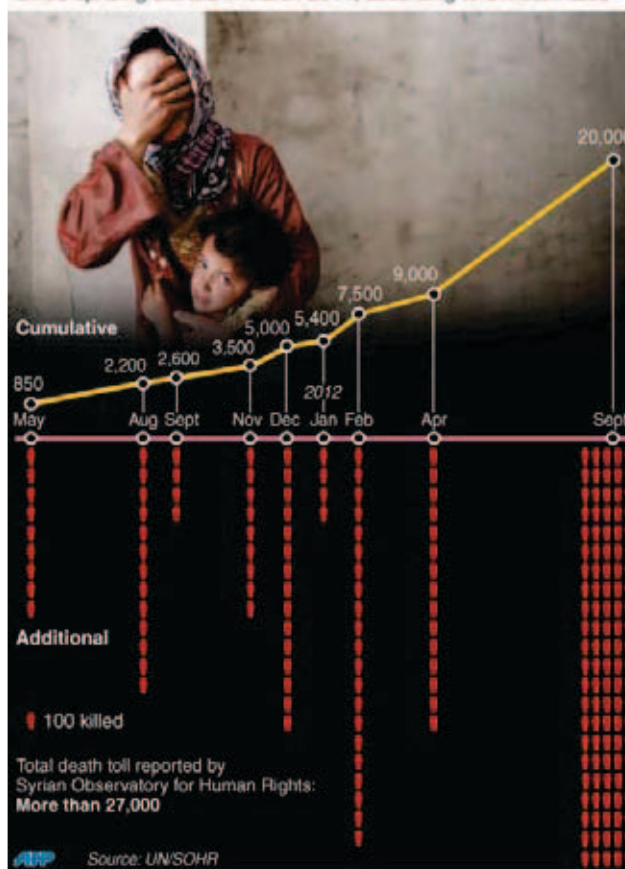
“We discussed this as a last resort – such as if the regime lost control of an important area such as Aleppo.”

Speaking from Turkey, General Sillu told *The Times* that he was certain President Bashar al-Assad’s regime would eventually use chemical weapons against civilians, adding that the discussion had been “the last straw” which triggered his defection.

His comments come after German press reported that

## Syria death toll

Since uprising started in March 2011, according to UN estimates



the Syrian army had tested a chemical weapons delivery system.

In his first interview since

his defection, General Sillu said the Syrian regime had also considered supplying chemical weapons to the

Lebanon-based militant group Hezbollah.

“They wanted to place warheads with the chemical weapons on missiles – to transfer them this way to Hezbollah. It was for use against Israel, of course,” he told *The Times*.

He suggested that the regime now had “nothing to lose” in sharing the weapons and added: “If a war starts between Hezbollah and Israel it will be only good for Syria.”

Members of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard also attended many meetings to discuss the use of chemical weapons, he said.

The German magazine *Der Spiegel*, citing “witnesses,” reported on September 17 that the Syrian army has tested a chemical weapons delivery system, firing shells at a research centre in its northwestern desert region.

“Five or six empty shells devised for delivering chemical agents were fired by tanks and aircraft, at a site called Diraiham in the desert near the village of Khanasir,” east of the city of Aleppo, *Der Spiegel* reported.

The Safira research centre in question is regarded as Syria’s largest testing site for chemical weapons.

– AFP

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## ‘Wife’ of Jesus theory generates controversy

VATICAN CITY – A US professor has caused a sensation in Rome where she spoke about an ancient papyrus fragment that refers to the “wife” of Jesus, but the theory that Christ could have been married is seen with great scepticism in the Vatican and by historians.

Professor Karen King, who teaches at Harvard Divinity School, spoke about the existence of an ancient Coptic Christian scroll from the fourth century which contains the words: “Jesus said to them, my wife.”

During a congress on Coptic studies she put forward the theory that some early Christians believed Jesus was married.

She added that this “doesn’t prove that Jesus was married” but hinted that the question was being raised at the time, even though Christian tradition assumed as a fact that Jesus was not married.

“From the very beginning, Christians disagreed about whether it was better not to marry, but it was over a century after Jesus’ death before they began appealing to Jesus’ marital status to support their positions,” she added.

The professor also cautioned that the authenticity of the document still had to be verified with tests on the ink.

Asked about the theory, Vatican spokesman Federico Lombardi refused to call into question King’s competence as a historian but said that “we do not really know where this little scrap of parchment came from.”

“This does not change anything in the position of the Church which rests on an enormous tradition, which is very clear and unanimous” that Jesus Christ was not married, he said.

A professor at the Protestant Faculty of Theology in Paris, Jacques-Noel Peres, noted that the text was from a relatively late period.

“I have never read texts from any preceding period which spoke about the veracity of Jesus being married,” Peres said.

The professor added that in the language of the time “wife does not necessarily mean spouse.”

He quoted the famous phrase from the Bible in which Jesus spoke to his mother at the marriage at Cana saying: “Woman, why turn to me?” underlining that the reference could come from this passage.

Some historians said the script could come from gnosticism – a doctrine that was popular in the second century – which was marginal and in disagreement with the Church and whose texts were exaggerated. – AFP



# Colombia says last drug lord arrested

BOGOTA – Colombia said last week that Daniel “El Loco” Barrera, alleged to be the country’s last major drug lord, had been caught in neighbouring Venezuela in an international sting led from Washington.

“The last of the great capos has fallen,” President Juan Manuel Santos announced on national television on September 18, adding that the US Central Intelligence Agency and Britain’s MI6 intelligence service had provided support.

Barrera, whose operation is estimated to have sent more than 900 tons of cocaine to the United States and Europe, was caught in the Venezuelan city of San Cristobal, said Santos, adding that the drug lord had criminal ties to FARC (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) rebels and paramilitaries.

Venezuela’s foreign ministry said Barrera was captured “after an intelligence operation carried out by Venezuelan authorities,” without mentioning any foreign involvement.

Santos said the operation “was led from Washington,” adding that the head of Colombia’s national police, General Jose Leon Riano, had helped direct it from the US capital.

Speaking from Washington, Leon Riano told the *Caracol* television network that authorities had tracked Barrera for four months before arresting him at a phone booth in San Cristobal.

In the 1980s and early 1990s Colombian cartels dominated the American drug trade, but a US-supported government crackdown has left local gangs in increasing disarray. – AFP

# Chevron fined \$17.5m over Brazilian oil spill

RIO DE JANEIRO – Brazilian authorities said last week they were imposing a \$17.5 million fine on US oil firm Chevron in connection with a major spill off Rio de Janeiro state last year.

Magda Chambriard, director general of the National Petroleum Agency (ANP), told a news conference on September 17 that the new fine covered 24 infractions.

“There is one (missing fine) related to the abandonment of the well. The maximum limit is one million reais under the law,” Chambriard said, adding that it would be imposed “in the next two months”.

Chevron could be hit with an additional fine of \$50,000 for “other

items”.

Brazil’s national oil regulator estimated that 2400 barrels of crude were spilled in the November accident.

A report by ANP released in July accused Chevron of negligence and said the company could have avoided the spill which occurred in the Frade field, 370 kilometres (230 miles) northwest of Rio.

In August, a Brazilian court ordered Chevron and its driller Transocean to stop their oil drilling and shipping activities within 30 days.

Chambriard said ANP would turn to the Supreme Court after a lower court rejected its earlier

appeal to overturn the suspension of Chevron’s operations, the state *Agencia Brasil* reported.

ANP wants the suspension lifted “so as not to hurt oil production in Brazil,” the agency noted. Brazil’s state-owned oil giant Petrobras needs Chevron’s assistance for its own operations.

Last year, the Brazilian environment institute Ibama already imposed two fines worth a total of \$33.4 million on Chevron for environmental damage and failings in its emergency plan during the accident.

Chevron has a small operation in the Frade field, producing only 60,000 barrels a day but that is

important to ensure that Brazil meet its target of a production of two million barrels a day.

The resource-rich country hopes to double output to 4.2 million barrels a day in 2020.

State prosecutors had filed legal action against Chevron and Transocean over the November incident, seeking \$11 billion for what they have called “immeasurable” environmental damage.

In March, another oil spill was detected at a depth of 1300 meters (4200 feet) in the Frade field, in which Petrobras has a 30 percent stake, not far from the site of the bigger spill in November. – AFP

# Obama seizes on Romney gaffe

WASHINGTON – Barack Obama said on September 18 that presidents must represent all of America, not just their own core voters, capitalising on Mitt Romney’s gaffe that 47 percent of his countrymen were tax-dodging “victims.”

Obama took the high road but aimed a shot at Romney, who was still trying to regroup after the release of secret videos showing him disparaging Obama voters as government dependents who cannot take responsibility for their own lives.

“One of the things I learned as president is you represent the entire country. If you want to be president, you have to work for everyone,” Obama told CBS talk show host David Letterman.

“When I won in 2008, 47 percent of the American people voted for John McCain,” Obama said, referring to his Republican opponent that year.

“They didn’t vote for me, and what I said on election night was: Even though you didn’t vote for me, I hear your voices, and I’m going to work as hard as I can to be your president.”

Romney was seen telling donors in video released on September 17 that 47 percent of US voters were

with Obama because they depended on the government for health care, food and housing, and viewed themselves as “victims.”

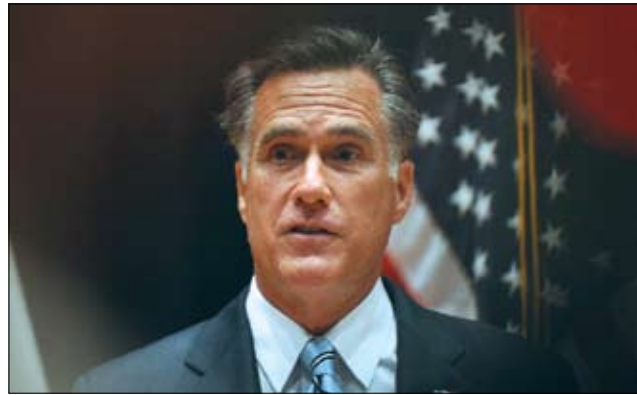
“These are people who pay no income tax ... so our message of low taxes doesn’t connect,” he said in the secretly filmed footage of an event with rich donors that was published by *Mother Jones* magazine.

“My job is not to worry about those people. I’ll never convince them they should take personal responsibility and care for their lives,” he said.

The comments bolstered an impression that Romney, a multi-millionaire former venture capitalist, has little understanding of the suffering endured by Americans stuck in the slow recovery from the deepest recession in decades.

Less than 50 days before the November 6 election, the Republican’s campaign got a moment of relief on September 18 when Gallup’s daily tracking poll found him drawing within a single percentage point of the president.

The survey suggested that Obama’s polling bounce following the Democratic National Convention two weeks earlier had subsided.



US Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney refused to apologise for his comments in a secretly-filed video. Pic: AFP

But an *NBC/Wall Street Journal* poll published later on September 18 put Obama up 50pc to 45pc among likely voters, and pegged his approval rating at the 50pc mark that incumbent presidents seek to ease their re-election hopes.

The president, however, at a gala fundraiser hosted by music stars Beyonce and Jay-Z at their New York nightclub, cautioned his supporters against thinking the race was anything other than a tough fight.

“I don’t want people to be complacent, but I also don’t want people to be discouraged,” he told about 100 guests at the 40-40 club,

who each paid \$40,000 for a ticket.

But it was the video of Romney addressing a meeting of rich donors in Florida in May that continued to dominate the campaign. The leaked footage also featured frank talk from the candidate about stalled Middle East peace talks.

“I look at the Palestinians not wanting to see peace anyway, for political purposes, committed to the destruction and elimination of Israel, and these thorny issues, and I say there’s just no way,” Romney said.

“You move things along the best way you can. You hope for some degree of stability,

but you recognise that this is going to remain an unsolved problem – and we kick the ball down the field and hope that ultimately, somehow, something will happen and resolve it.”

The White House said Romney’s remarks showed he was not fit to lead and noted that Obama’s predecessors, both Democrat Bill Clinton and Republican George W. Bush, took on the treacherous search for Middle East peace.

“It is simply the wrong approach to say we can’t do anything about it, so we’ll just kick it down the field,” said White House spokesman Jay Carney. “That’s not leadership. That’s the opposite of leadership.”

Romney refused to apologise for his comments in the video, but tried to turn the furore into a debate about the effectiveness of government.

“We all believe that when people are distressed, when they need help, we give them temporary help. We pull them back up, but we don’t believe in redistribution,” Romney told 1000 donors in Salt Lake City.

America should never be “a place where it’s easier to get a federal subsidy than it is to get a job,” he added.

# Rachel Carson’s counsel still relevant after 50 years

WASHINGTON – The property in Silver Spring, Maryland, has changed little since Rachel Carson lived there 50 years ago when she wrote *Silent Spring*, a powerful indictment of chemical pesticides that pretty much started environmentalism as we know it.

The simple ranch-style house – designed by Carson herself – is flanked by oak, maple and tulip poplar trees.

“She enjoyed bringing the outdoors in,” said Diana Post, president of the Rachel Carson Council Inc, which is headquartered in the old homestead in suburban Washington. “That’s why she had those huge windows.”

The unassuming, asymmetrical brick house became a National Historic Landmark in 1991 and, although none of the original

furnishings remain, the house is as Carson left it when she died in 1964.

Today the Rachel Carson Council is a clearing house of information on pesticides. This year it has advised a New York City animal shelter on the least-harmful pet-care products, supplied information to a Chinese journalist who did not have

access to reliable data and helped a New Mexico activist

organise talks on the hazards of roadside herbicides.

The council also defends Carson’s reputation, which critics have attacked relentlessly since before her book even saw print.

In June 1962, *The New Yorker* magazine ran the first of three installments that would comprise most

## COMMENT by Mike Di Paola

of *Silent Spring*, published in book form by Houghton Mifflin that September. By then, President John F. Kennedy had noted the importance of “Miss Carson’s book,” and appointed a Science Advisory Committee to review the issue.

This did not sit well with the multibillion-dollar industry being called out by the mild-mannered writer.

Velsicol Chemical threatened to sue Houghton Mifflin for libel, hinting at the “sinister forces” (read: Commies) that must have influenced the book. In April 1963, Carson appeared on

“CBS Reports” to make her case, prompting three sponsors to pull ads from the program.

In May, Kennedy’s committee agreed with every salient point made in *Silent Spring*. Sadly, Carson did not have long to

appreciate the vindication: she died in 1964 of breast cancer, an illness she had kept to herself.

“In her book she wrote a lot about cancer,” Post told me. “But she didn’t want to be accused of having a vendetta because of a personal problem.”

One criticism of Carson is

that she called for a ban on DDT, which led to millions of malarial deaths worldwide. In fact, all she prescribed was prudence:

“It is not my contention that chemical insecticides must never be used,” she wrote. “I do contend that we have put poisonous and biologically potent chemicals indiscriminately into the

hands of persons largely or wholly ignorant of their potentials for harm.”

To this day, DDT and other pesticides are considered only a possible human carcinogen, although there is little doubt that a correlation exists between high exposures and higher rates of cancers of all kinds.

Fifty years on, critics have

Critics have attacked her since before the book was printed.

not gone silent. Carson has been compared to Hitler and Pol Pot on the crazier fringes of public discourse.

Carson anticipated such a backlash. In a 1963 speech, she said, “Above all, we must not be deceived by the enormous stream of propaganda that is issuing from the pesticide manufacturers and from industry-related – although ostensibly independent – organisations.”

Carson also noted that “the publication of *Silent Spring* was neither the beginning nor the end” of the struggle for sane policy. Her radical suggestion for prudence is as applicable today as it was 50 years ago. – *Bloomberg News*

(Mike Di Paola writes on preservation and the environment for Muse, the arts and culture section of *Bloomberg News*).



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# Debunked device fuels fear, distrust

YALA, Thailand – Implicated by the wand of a “bogus” bomb detector, Hassan became one of hundreds detained in Thailand’s insurgency-wracked south because of equipment that experts say is useless.

A scandal over the Thai army’s use of the GT200 detectors has intensified distrust of the authorities in the Muslim-majority border region, where nearly 5300 people have died in an eight-year conflict that shows no sign of abating.

Human rights activists say more than 400 people have been locked up – some for up to two years – on the basis of spurious evidence gleaned by the device, which is at the centre of a British fraud probe.

“I was playing football at my school when someone shot at soldiers nearby,” said Hassan, who was held for 29 days without charge over the 2008 incident in Yala province – a hot-bed of violence.

“The soldiers entered the school looking for the gunman. They lined us up and used the GT200. The antenna pointed to me... and they took me away,” he added, asking for his identity to be withheld because he fears reprisals for speaking out about his detention.

Claimed to be able to detect minute traces of explosives, gun powder and even drugs, the GT200 is the army’s main detection tool.

The hand-held device, which is claimed to be powered by the user’s static electricity rather than a battery, is advertised as using a substance-detecting “sensor card” inside a plastic handle to trigger a twitch of its antenna in the direction

of explosives.

Evidence debunking the powers of the GT200 – sold by Britain-based Global Technical Ltd – has long been in circulation, with experts describing it as little more than a radio aerial stuck on a useless piece of plastic despite the company’s claims that it can detect explosives from hundreds of metres away.

In July the man behind the GT200 was charged in Britain with “dishonestly representing” the device as “capable of detecting explosives”.

A Thai government probe concluded the device works only 25 percent of the time, a success rate critics attribute to nothing more than random chance.

“Tossing a coin would be more accurate,” said Angkhana Neelapajit, of the Justice for Peace foundation, which uncovered the scandal.

“People in the south knew the GT200 was fake from the first time it was used” in 2007, she said. “But the Thai authorities refused to listen... all trust in the government and army has been lost.”

Thailand’s highest investigating agency is considering legal action against Global Technical

and its Thai distributors. But the powerful military has refused to admit it was duped over its rumoured US\$20 million acquisition, or apologise to those held in what rights groups say is a flagrant miscarriage of justice.

“I’m so angry. They took two years away from me but I am scared it can happen again,” Ayub told AFP, also asking for his identity to be protected. He said he now carries the stigma of having been accused of links to the



Pic: AFP

An official at the funeral earlier this month of a Thai Muslim soldier killed in an attack by suspected militants in Thailand’s southern Narathiwat province. Human rights activists say more than 400 people have been locked up in the troubled region on the basis of evidence from a device that experts say is useless.

Hassan said he was threatened and interrogated in detention and forced to point out friends from a school photograph.

Among them was Ayub who said he was arrested with no further evidence and held for two years before he was freed without a conviction or an apology.

militants, who are believed to want greater autonomy and kill both Buddhists and Muslims in near-daily bomb or gun attacks.

The Thai army refutes accusations of arbitrary detentions based on the faulty device.

“We found real evidence – guns, weapons, grenades

## ‘The antenna pointed to me... and they took me away.’

## Reviving history in the ‘fragrant harbour’

HONG KONG – He may not be able to resuscitate Hong Kong’s long-dead incense trade but entrepreneur Chan Koon-wing is at least hoping to save the tree that gave the city its name centuries ago.

Chan returned to the southern Chinese city from his adopted home in Northern Ireland four years ago to revive his late grandfather’s incense-tree plantation in the northern village of Shing Ping, near the border with the mainland.

“If I don’t start growing incense trees again, I fear we’ll lose the species because of exploitation by illegal loggers,” Chan told AFP, standing on the edge of his vast and faintly aromatic plantation.

Southern China’s native incense trees once provided the raw material for joss sticks that were exported from Hong Kong – the city’s name means “fragrant harbour” – to ports as far afield as the Arabian peninsula.

Experts in Hong Kong say its incense trade thrived for hundreds of years, but as the island transformed



Chan Koon-wing beside an “incense tree” in Hong Kong’s Shing Ping village. Pic: AFP

itself into a powerhouse of business and finance in the 1980s, the trees that were once a pillar of its economy were replaced by offices and apartment blocks.

Chan’s grandfather’s farm is the only plantation left in the city.

Chan’s farm produces a local species called *aquilaria sinensis*, the native Chinese member of the family commonly known as agarwood which is found throughout Asia.

Its most valuable incense and fragrant oils are produced by wounding the

trunk and exposing the wood to fungal infection, which the tree fights by producing a dark resin. Burning wood steeped in this resin produces the aroma.

Ancient Asian texts abound in references to the religious and cultural uses of agarwood, including the oldest Sanskrit literature of Hinduism dating back thousands of years.

Known in China as *chen xiang*, the sap is prized in traditional Chinese medicine as a treatment for illnesses ranging from

asthma to cancer.

The highest quality resin can fetch more than HK\$10,000, or US\$1300, a gram (HK\$285,000 or \$36,500 an ounce), leading to the indiscriminate felling of wild trees by poachers.

“Some people said incense trees are more expensive than gold because of their medicinal properties,” Conservancy Association senior campaign manager Peter Li said.

The species is listed under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), meaning its trade should be restricted.

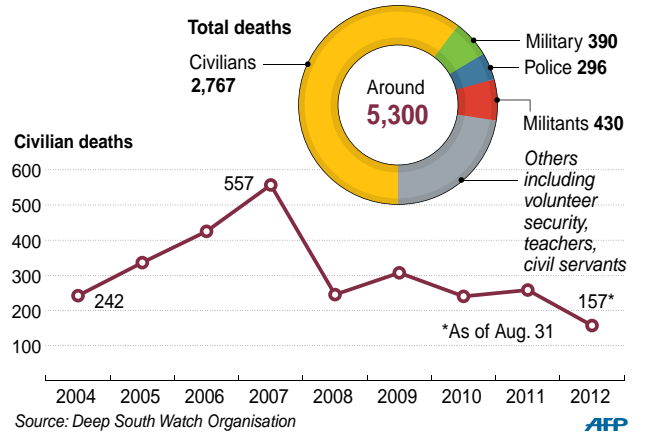
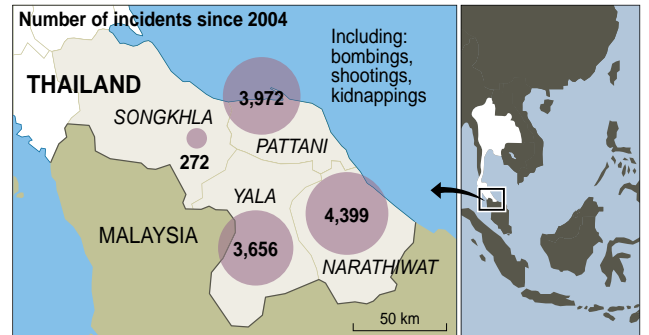
Conservationists say that Hong Kong has a better record of protecting its incense trees than mainland China, where habitat destruction and illegal logging have taken a greater toll.

Chan said he hoped more farmers would join him in reviving Hong Kong’s legal incense production.

“I hope to see more people planting the incense trees so Hong Kong can restore its reputation as a fragrant harbour,” he said. – AFP

## Thailand’s southern insurgency

Thousands dead in eight years of bloody conflict



many times. It might be a fluke or coincidence that it worked,” he said, adding that the effectiveness could be “something above science”.

Despite his endorsement, the army appears to have stopped mass round-ups of men for “wandering” by the device, which were commonplace between 2007 and 2010, said residents in Yala and Pattani provinces.

But soldiers still check cars and roadsides with the device, raising fears its continued.

“It’s a big scandal,” said Jessada Denduangboripant, a biologist at Bangkok’s Chulalongkorn University who was one of the first

Thai experts to question the device.

He is sceptical that a probe by Thailand’s top investigative body will apportion blame to the “powerful people” behind the purchase of the detector.

But as long as authorities refuse to admit fault, victims will continue to be denied justice, said Kaosar Aleemama of the Muslim Attorney Centre, which represents Hassan and Ayub.

“These people have never heard someone say ‘I am sorry’ for taking their freedom,” she added. “It is an issue of human dignity.”

– AFP

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Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012



## Filipino teenager wins \$130,000 peace prize

THE HAGUE – A young Filipino who lived off a rubbish dump and slept in an open tomb has won a prestigious children's award in the Netherlands for his work to improve the rights of his fellow street kids.

Cris "Kesz" Valdez, aged 13, was handed this year's International Children's Peace Prize at a ceremony in The Hague on September 19, where he received a 100,000 euro (\$130,000) prize.

Valdez was chosen from three finalists for the work of his "Championing Community Children" charity which raises funds to hand out gift parcels to needy children in Cavite City, about 30 kilometres (18 miles) south of the capital, Manila.

"You are wonderful," Nobel Peace laureate Desmond Tutu, who handed over this year's prize, told Valdez at a news conference after the

ceremony.

"My message to children around the world is not to lose hope" and to remember things like hygiene, said Valdez, who added that the prize would help him get an education and perhaps realise his dream of becoming a doctor.

Through his charity, Valdez has handed out more than 5000 gifts to destitute children that included everyday articles like flip-flops, toys, sweets and clothes, said the KidsRights Foundation, the prize's initiator.

In all, he has helped some 10,000 children in his area on health, hygiene and children's rights, the foundation added.

Some 246,000 street children are, like Valdez was as a young child, subjected to abuse, violence and child labour in the Philippines, it said. – AFP



US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta speaks with Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping in the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on September 19. Pic: AFP

## Panetta assures China over US role in Asia

BEIJING – US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta sought to reassure Beijing last week over Washington's strategic tilt to the Pacific, telling a military audience it was not an attempt to curb Chinese power.

President Barack Obama, concerned about China's growing military and economic might, has called for a shift in focus to the Asia-Pacific region, with the US Navy planning to station most of its ships in the area.

But China has questioned whether the American military's "pivot" to Asia is really about countering Beijing.

"Our rebalance to the Asia-Pacific region is not an attempt to contain China. It is an attempt to engage China and expand its role in the Pacific," Panetta said in the Chinese capital on September 19.

"It's about creating a new model in the relationship of our two Pacific powers," he told cadets at an armoured force engineering academy.

As the world's two largest economies, China and the US must forge stronger ties between their armies to avoid potential crises, Panetta said.

"Our goal is to make sure that no dispute or misunderstanding escalates into unwanted tensions or a conflict," Panetta said.

His remarks represent the latest effort by Washington to bolster military relations

with the People's Liberation Army, which has displayed reluctance to promote contacts with the American top brass.

The Pentagon chief also found himself in the middle of Chinese domestic politics, becoming the first foreign dignitary to meet Vice President Xi Jinping, the country's leader-in-waiting, since he re-emerged from a two week absence from public view.

Xi appeared "very healthy and very engaged," extending a scheduled 45-meeting to more than an hour, Panetta told reporters.

Xi looked relaxed as he greeted Panetta in the Great Hall of the People, despite a wave of rumours about the vice president's health and political career during the fortnight-long hiatus.

Panetta's three-day visit to Beijing – his first as Pentagon chief – coincided with mounting tensions between China and Japan over disputed islands in the East China Sea, with a wave of anti-Japan demonstrations across China on September 18.

Panetta appealed for calm on both sides and described US policy as based on "basic principles" including free commerce, the rule of law, open access to sea, air, space, and cyberspace, and resolving disputes "peacefully without coercion or the use of force". – AFP

## Briefs

### India tests missile

NEW DELHI – India successfully test-fired its second-longest-range missile on September 19, a defence official said, two days after Pakistan announced its own missile test.

The two-stage Agni-IV blasted off from the eastern state of Orissa in the third test for the missile, which was first launched in 2010 in a flight marred by technical problems. Its second test last November was declared a success.

### Trawler firm to fight

SYDNEY – A company which wants to operate a super-trawler in Australian waters vowed on September 19 to fight an environmental ban sought by the government on the giant vessel.

Parliament earlier the same day passed legislation which could prevent the 9500-tonne, 143-metre (469-foot) *Abel Tasman* from operating in Australian waters until more scientific research is completed, a process which could take up to two years.

### Tigers turn nocturnal

KATHMANDU – Tigers in southern Nepal appear to be changing their habits so they can operate under cover of darkness, scientists said on September 21.

A study in Chitwan National Park found that forest paths used by locals during the day were taken over by Bengal tigers at night.

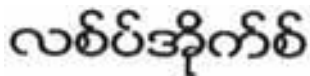
Two years of research, published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* journal, found that "tigers can adapt and thrive in a human-dominated landscape". – AFP

### TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **The Mentholatum Company**, a Corporation of the State of Delaware, United States of America and having its office at 707 Sterling Drive, Orchard Park, New York 14127, United States of America do solemnly and sincerely declare that we are the owners and sole proprietors of the following trade marks in Myanmar:



The said mark is used in respect of 'Bleaching preparations and other substances for laundry use; cleaning, polishing, scouring and abrasive preparations; skin care products, skin cleansers and scrubs, soaps for skin care, non-medicated toilet preparations and personal care products, skin creams, and skin lotions; hair lotions [class 3]; Herbal medicine; eye drops, pharmaceutical preparations for the prevention and treatment of acne, medicated skin care preparations and medicated toiletries; sanitary preparations for medical purposes; dietetic substances adapted for medical use, food for babies; plasters, materials for dressings; disinfectants; preparations for destroying vermin; fungicides, herbicides [class 5].



The said mark is used in respect of 'Bleaching preparations and other substances for laundry use; cleaning, polishing, scouring and abrasive preparations; soaps; perfumery, essential oils, cosmetics, hair lotions; dentifrices [class 3]; Herbal medicine; eye drops, pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations; sanitary preparations for medical purposes; dietetic substances adapted for medical use, food for babies; plasters, materials for dressings; material for stopping teeth, dental wax; disinfectants; preparations for destroying vermin; fungicides, herbicides' [class 5].

The said trade marks are the subject of Declarations of Ownership recorded with the Registrar of Deeds and Assurances, Yangon, Myanmar, in Book under Nos. IV/2818/2012 & IV/2817/2012 Dated 16th March, 2012.

Any infringement or colourable imitation thereof or other infringement of the rights of the said corporation will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates  
for **The Mentholatum Company**  
Remfry & Sagar  
by its Attorneys-at-Law  
INDIA  
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.  
Phone: 372416 Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2012

### TRADE MARK CAUTION

**SCG Trading Company Limited**, a company incorporated in Thailand, of 1 Siam Cement Road, Bangsue Sub-district, Bangsue District, Bangkok, Thailand, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 5003/2012

in respect of "Class 01: Organic Fertilizer. Class 07: Farming Equipment, namely; Disc plow & Structure, Sprayer, Water Pump, Rice Mill Machine".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for **SCG Trading Company Limited**  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm  
Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012

### TRADE MARK CAUTION

**KAMEI PROACT CORPORATION**, of 18-19, Toranomom 3-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-



Reg. No. 3504/1994

in respect of "Int'l Class 22: Ropes, string, nets, tents, awnings, tarpaulins, sails, sacks and bags; padding and stuffing materials (except of rubber or plastics); raw fibrous textile materials. Int'l Class 25: Clothing included boots, shoes and slippers, in particular sports clothes, track suits, jerseys, sports shoes, training shoes. Int'l Class 28: Games and playthings; gymnastic and sporting articles; decorations for Christmas trees; balloons".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for **KAMEI PROACT CORPORATION**  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm  
Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012



## **TRADE MARK CAUTION**

**NIKON CORPORATION**, of 12-1 Yurakucho 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademark:-

# **Nikon**

**Reg. No. 12009/2011**

in respect of:-

“**Class 7:** Machines and machine tools; motors and engines (except for land vehicles); machine coupling and transmission components (except for land vehicles); agricultural implements other than hand-operated; incubators for eggs, semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems, semiconductor exposure apparatus, liquid crystal manufacturing machines and systems, liquid crystal exposure apparatus, semiconductor testing apparatus, liquid crystal testing apparatus, polishing machines and apparatus for wafer, Parts and accessories for semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems, Parts and accessories for liquid crystal manufacturing machines and systems, Parts and accessories for semiconductor exposure apparatus, Parts and accessories for liquid crystal exposure apparatus, Parts and accessories for semiconductor testing apparatus, Parts and accessories for liquid crystal testing apparatus, Parts and accessories for polishing machines and apparatus for wafer.

**Class 9:** Scientific, nautical, surveying, photographic, cinematographic, optical, weighing, measuring, signalling, checking, (supervision), life-saving and teaching apparatus and instruments; apparatus and instruments for conducting, switching, transforming, accumulating, regulating or controlling electricity; apparatus for recording, transmission or reproduction of sound or images; magnetic data carriers, recording discs; automatic vending machines and mechanisms for coin-operated apparatus; cash registers, calculating machines, data processing equipment and computers; fire-extinguishing apparatus, photographic equipment and parts and accessories therefor, cameras and parts and accessories therefor, digital cameras and parts and accessories therefor, camera lenses, batteries and battery chargers for cameras and digital cameras, remote controls for cameras and digital cameras, cases for cameras and digital cameras, straps for cameras and digital cameras, binoculars, telescopes, range finders, computer software for editing and managing of photographs and movies, Electronic publications, non-contact measuring machines and instruments, computer software, liquid crystal projector, cameras with liquid crystal projector; digital cameras with liquid crystal projector, microscopes, Electron microscopes, Biological microscopes, X-ray electron microscopes, rifle scope; telescopic sights, monacles, spectacles; eyeglasses; glasses; eyewear, ophthalmic lense; optical lense; lenses for spectacles; lenses for eyeglasses; lenses for glasses; lenses for eyewear, Eyeglass frames, solid state memory card; flash memory card, cell culture and observation system, Magnifying glasses, crossbow scope, digital photo frame, telescope for firearm; sighting telescopes for firearms, semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems, liquid crystal manufacturing machines and systems, semiconductor exposure apparatus, liquid crystal exposure apparatus, semiconductor testing apparatus, liquid crystal testing apparatus, polishing machines and apparatus for wafer, Parts and accessories for semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems, Parts and accessories for liquid crystal manufacturing machines and systems, Parts and accessories for semiconductor exposure apparatus, Parts and accessories for liquid crystal exposure apparatus, Parts and accessories for semiconductor testing apparatus, Parts and accessories for liquid

crystal testing apparatus, Parts and accessories for polishing machines and apparatus for wafer, Cases especially made for photographic apparatus and instruments, Filters for ultraviolet rays for cameras and digital cameras, Filters for cameras and digital cameras, Flash-bulbs for cameras and digital cameras, Flashlights for cameras and digital cameras, Shutter releases for cameras and digital cameras, Shutters for cameras and digital cameras, Slides [photography], Spools for cameras and digital cameras, Stands for photographic apparatus, Transparencies [photography], Viewfinders for cameras and digital cameras, Tripods for cameras and digital cameras, Epidiascopes, Mobile phones; Cellular phones, Smartphones, Handheld terminal devices, Scanners [data processing equipment], CCD (charge-coupled device) cameras, decoration sticker for cameras, SD memory cards; Flash memory cards, USB hubs, Flash card readers, Video game software.

**Class 14:** Precious metals and their alloys and goods in precious metals or coated therewith, not included in other classes; jewellery, precious stones; horological and chronometric instruments, Pin badge, Key rings of precious metals.

**Class 16:** Paper, cardboard and goods made from these materials, not included in other classes; printed matter; bookbinding material; photographs; stationery; adhesives for stationery or household purposes; artists' materials; paint brushes; typewriters and office requisites (except furniture); instructional and teaching material (except apparatus); plastic materials for packaging (not included in other classes); printers' type; printing blocks, photograph stands, calendars, albums, magazines [periodicals], books, newspapers, Stickers [stationery], Trading cards.

**Class 18:** Leather and imitations of leather, and goods made of these materials and not included in other classes; animal skins, hides; trunks and travelling bags; umbrellas, parasols and walking sticks; whips, harness and saddlery, drawstring bag, quilting pouch, card cases [notecases], business card cases, key cases, shopping bags, backpacks; rucksacks, handbags.

**Class 21:** Household or kitchen utensils and containers; combs and sponges; brushes (except paint brushes); brush-making materials; articles for cleaning purposes; steelwool; unworked or semi-worked glass (except glass used in building); glassware, porcelain and earthenware not included in other classes, Tumbler, Mugs, Drinking flasks, Water bottle, Vacuum bottles, Drinking glasses, Drinking vessels, Lunch boxes.

**Class 25:** Clothing, footwear, headgear, vests; waistcoats, jackets [clothing], raincoats, caps; hats; headgear for wear, wristbands, sports overuniforms, aprons [clothing], T-shirts.

**Class 37:** Building construction; repair; installation services, semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems installation, liquid crystal manufacturing machines and systems installation, repair or maintenance of liquid crystal manufacturing machines and system, repair or maintenance of semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems, repair or maintenance of photographic equipment, repair or maintenance of cameras, repair or maintenance of digital cameras, repair or maintenance of camera lenses, repair or maintenance of optical apparatus and instruments, repair or maintenance of microscopes, repair or maintenance of binoculars, repair or maintenance of telescopes, repair or maintenance of range finders, semiconductor testing apparatus installation, liquid crystal testing apparatus installation, repair or maintenance of semiconductor testing apparatus, repair or maintenance of liquid crystal testing apparatus, repair of spectacles, repair or maintenance of measuring or testing machines and instruments, repair or maintenance of telecommunication devices and apparatus, repair or maintenance of electronic machines and apparatus, repair or maintenance of

hearing aids, repair or maintenance of medical apparatus and instruments.

**Class 41:** Education; providing of training; entertainment; sporting and cultural activities, photography and providing information on photography, arranging, conducting and organization of seminars for photograph and providing information on photograph, arranging, conducting and organization of photography classes and providing information on photography classes, arranging, conducting and organization of photography events and providing information on photography events; arranging, conducting and organization of photography contests and providing information on photography contests, rental of cameras and parts and accessories therefor, arranging, conducting and organization of photo exhibitions and providing information on photo exhibitions, providing photo exhibition facilities and providing information on photo exhibition facilities, digital imaging services, providing on-line digital imaging services, Photography, educational and instruction services relating to photography, educational and instruction services relating to maintenance, repair and operation of photographic equipment and their parts and fittings, educational and instruction services relating to maintenance, repair and operation of measuring or testing machines and instruments and their parts and fittings, educational and instruction services relating to maintenance, repair and operation of optical machines and instruments and their parts and fittings, educational and instruction services relating to maintenance, repair and operation of semiconductor manufacturing machines and systems (including semiconductor testing apparatus and other peripheral equipments) and their parts and fittings, educational and instruction services relating to maintenance, repair and operation of liquid crystal manufacturing machines and systems (including liquid crystal testing apparatus and other peripheral equipments) and their parts and fittings, educational and instruction services relating to maintenance, repair and operation of telecommunication devices and apparatus and their parts and fittings, educational and instruction services relating to maintenance, repair and operation of electronic machines and apparatus and their parts and fittings, educational and instruction services relating to maintenance, repair and operation of eyeglasses (spectacles) manufacturing machines and apparatus and their parts and fittings, providing on-line electronic publications [not downloadable], arranging, conducting and organization of seminars, providing information thereof, Provision of image files and video files [not downloadable] via the Internet, rental of optical machines and instruments, rental of measuring or testing machines and instruments, planning, editing and production of publications.

**Class 42:** Scientific and technological services and research and design relating thereto; industrial analysis and research services; design and development of computer hardware and software, rental of web servers, rental of data storage area of servers on the Internet, providing software for editing and managing of photographs and movies via Internet [not downloadable], Rental of web servers for Internet chat.”

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark will be dealt with according to law.

**U Nyunt Tin Associates International Co., Ltd.**

Intellectual Property Department

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For **NIKON CORPORATION**

Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.



# Shun politics, Thaksin told

BANGKOK – A Thai reconciliation panel last week urged former leader Thaksin Shinawatra and the army that ousted him to stay out of the country's turbulent politics, in a key report on deadly 2010 protests.

In its final findings on the worst political violence in decades, the independent Truth for Reconciliation Commission of Thailand issued a series of sweeping recommendations aimed at mending bitter divides in the kingdom.

"For the country to be peaceful, as a chairman of TRCT, I believe that this is up to... Thaksin Shinawatra's sacrifice in stopping every political role," said the panel's chief Kanit Nanakorn in an English-language statement released with the report on September 17.

More than 90 people died in clashes between troops and pro-Thaksin "Red Shirts" during huge Bangkok rallies against the then-government, which last year lost power to the deposed

leader's sister, Yingluck Shinawatra.

Thaksin was ousted by royalist generals in 2006, igniting a cycle of mass protests by both the Reds and their establishment-backed rivals, the Yellow Shirts.

Though living in exile to avoid corruption charges, the telecoms billionaire remains an influential but deeply divisive figure in Thailand.

The report said: The TRCT believes that Thai society as a whole should step back and remind itself of the damage this social rift has caused over the years, and violent incidents in the past should be seen as a lesson – a reminder of what we have lost, what we need to do to stop history from repeating itself."

It also made a number of broad recommendations, including that the Thai military and its leaders "must be neutral and not become involved in politics, not carry out coups".

There have been 18 actual or

attempted coups since Thailand became a constitutional monarchy in 1932, including the one that ousted Thaksin.

The panel also called on politicians not to "use political arena to exacerbate the conflict for their own immediate advantage", calling on all sides to help implement the findings without cherry-picking recommendations that fit their own agendas.

The panel also renewed calls for reform of the country's extremely sensitive royal insult laws.

New York-based Human Rights Watch has accused the army of using "excessive and unnecessary lethal force" in 2010 to put down the demonstrations.

There have been no prosecutions over the killings, although an inquest found on September 17 that the army was behind the death of a taxi driver during the protests, in the first ruling on the deaths. – AFP

# Pakistan backs down in graft claim dispute

ISLAMABAD – The Pakistani government on September 18 backed down in a long-running legal wrangle over corruption allegations against President Asif Ali Zardari that has already cost one prime minister his job.

Ministers have spent more than two years resisting court orders to ask the Swiss authorities to reopen multimillion dollar graft investigations into Zardari, arguing that as head of state he enjoys immunity from prosecution.

But on September 18 Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf told the Supreme Court he had instructed the law minister to write to Switzerland to withdraw a letter sent in 2007 by the then attorney general which asked it to halt probes into Zardari.

Judge Asif Saeed Khosa said the prime minister had made "serious efforts" to resolve the standoff but the court wanted to see the letter before it was sent to the Swiss to check if it fulfilled the order dating to December 2009.

The judge adjourned the case to September 25 and instructed ministers to have the draft letter ready by then.



Pakistani Prime Minister Raja Pervez Ashraf.

The allegations against Zardari date to the 1990s, when he and his late wife, former premier Benazir Bhutto, are suspected of laundering US\$12 million allegedly paid in bribes by companies seeking customs inspection contracts.

Former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani was thrown out of office in June after being convicted of contempt of court for refusing to write to the Swiss, and it seemed his successor Ashraf could suffer the same fate.

The row had threatened to bring down the coalition government led by the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), which is on course to become the first elected administration in the country's history to complete a full five-year term. – AFP

## TRADE MARK CAUTION

**SHANGRI-LA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL MANAGEMENT LIMITED**, a company incorporated under the laws of the British Virgin Islands and having its registered office at Trident Chambers, P.O. Box 146, Road Town, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademarks:-

**CHI**

Reg. Nos. 3924/2009, 2769/2012



Reg. Nos. 3925/2009, 5604/2012

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Reg. Nos. 6806/2009, 2770/2012

in respect of:-

"Class 35: Business management of hotels, motels, apartment and condominium services, guest house/accommodation, spa, beauty services, bar, cafe, cafeteria, coffee shop, catering, restaurants, club, wine club, cocktail lounge services and snack-bar for others; provision of business services and business information; promotional material and advertising services; advertising agency services; outdoor advertising, demonstration of goods, dissemination of advertising matter, distribution of samples, shop window dressing; updating of advertising material; rental of advertising space; services of publicity; organisation of exhibitions for commercial or advertising purposes; organization of trade fairs for commercial or advertising purposes; professional business consultancy; business organisation consultancy; business research;

economic forecasting; business management assistance for the sale of goods, business management consultancy for the sale of goods, commercial management assistance for the sale of goods; sales promotion; retail store services relating to souvenirs in hotels and guesthouse, food and beverages, goods for spa, beauty services; direct selling services by home party, wholesaling services; provision of information, management, consultancy and advisory services for the aforesaid services.

**Class 43:** Hotels and motels, apartment and condominium services, guest house services; hotel accommodation reservation; bar, cafe, cafeteria, snack bar, coffee-shop, restaurant and catering services; hotel lounge services; providing facilities for conferences and exhibitions; booking agency services for hotel accommodation, letting and /or reservation of tourist accommodation, tourist office and travel agency services for booking accommodation; provision of food and beverages services, preparation of food and drink, self-service and/or fast food restaurant; providing information relating to hotel services on-line from a computer database or via the Internet or extranets; providing information relating to preparation of foods and beverages and catering services on-line from a computer database or via the Internet or extranets; providing information relating to restaurants and bars services on-line from a computer database or via the Internet or extranets; provision of information, management, consultancy and advisory services for the aforesaid services.

**Class 44:** Resort and spa services; florist and flower arranging services; provision of sauna, solarium and sun deck facilities; beauty salon services, skin care beauty treatment services, hairdressing services, massage services, physical fitness services, weight losing and/or gaining and/or controlling services; pedicure and manicure services, provision of information and advisory relating to the use of skin, beauty treatment and cosmetic products, health care services; providing information relating to beauty and hair salon services on-line from a computer database or via the Internet or extranets; providing information relating to medical services on-line from a computer database or via the Internet or extranets; provision of information, management, consultancy and advisory services for the aforesaid services."

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**U Nyunt Tin Associates International Co., Ltd.**  
Intellectual Property Department  
Tel: 951 375754, Fax: 951 254321,  
Email: info@untlaw.com  
For **SHANGRI-LA INTERNATIONAL HOTEL MANAGEMENT LIMITED**  
Dated: 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2012.

## TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Jotun A/S**, a joint stock company duly organised under the laws of Norway of Hystadveien 167, 3209 Sandefjord, Norway, do solemnly and sincerely declare that we are the owners and sole proprietors of the following trade mark in Myanmar:



The said mark is used in respect of 'Chemical products for use in industry; artificial and synthetic resins; plastics in the form of powders, pastes, liquids, dispersions, emulsions, or granulates, for use in manufacture; adhesive substances for use in industry; chemical products for industrial purposes in the form of heat-curing powder on the basis of polyester, epoxy, polymere, fluorpolymere, or polyurethane for protective and decorative surface treatment of metal products, plastic products, MDF-products (medium density fibreboard-products), and wood-products; Class 2: Paints, varnishes, lacquers; anti-fouling paint for boats, ships, oil-rigs; antirust products and wood preservatives; coatings (in the nature of paint) for boats, ships and oilrigs; powder varnishes; powder varnishes for protective and decorative surface treatment of metal-products, plastic-products, MDF-products (medium density fibreboard-products) or wood-products (Classes 1 and 2)'.  
The said trade mark is the subject of Declarations of Ownership recorded with the Registrar of Deeds and Assurances, Yangon, Myanmar, in Book under No. IV/2821/2012 Dated 16th March, 2012.

Any infringement or colourable imitation thereof or other infringement of the rights of the said corporation will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates  
for **Jotun A/S**,  
Remfry & Sagar  
by its Attorneys-at-Law  
INDIA  
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.  
Phone: 372416 Dated : 24<sup>th</sup> September, 2012



## Writers examine uncertainty of truth

By Zon Pann Pwint

WRITER and poet Thit Sar Ni, who has published several well-known novels that he describes as "postmodernist", says that one of his main creative influences is American poet Ezra Pound's famous exhortation to "make it new" and forge a self-conscious break from the obsolete traditions of the past.

Never mind that Pound's maxim is seen by scholars as typifying not postmodernism but its precursor, the modernist movement of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century; postmodernism is generally said to have emerged after World War II as a severe reaction against modernism's exaltation of rational, Enlightenment thought as well as its indulgence in utopian cravings.

But writers in Myanmar – and anywhere else for that matter – can be forgiven for using the term loosely when describing their own works: The concept of "postmodernism" has long been the bane of literature students around the world, the cause of countless sleepless nights

for young scholars who, as the deadline for their term paper looms, find themselves yanking out handfuls of their own hair as they wrestle with ambiguous, mind-bending concepts such as maximalism, poioumena, pastiche, intertextuality and hyperreality.

In fact, Thit Sar Ni – whose novels include *Sakku Paw Ka Thit Pin* (Tree on the Paper) and *Sat Hnit Myat Yay* (Machine and Tear) – is well aware of the "defining features" of these literary movements, but says he is not bound by them, nor does he set out to write in any particular style or genre before he sets pen to paper.

"Authors write about whatever is in their minds, and their stories might drift into modernism or postmodernism. I don't fix any boundaries between modernism or postmodernism before I write a story," he said.

"I just write what I feel, and after writing I often notice that the style of my stories bear some resemblance to the concepts and theories of postmodernism."

Thit Sar Ni also stressed



Thit Sar Ni. Pic: Ko Taik

that there was no agreed, universal definition of postmodernism.

"But general characteristics of postmodernism include the absence of a centre and the uncertainty of truth, because what might be the truth for today might be untruth for tomorrow. I am very attracted to these ideas," he said.

He added that he was also interested in exploring the concept of the infinite, which also fits in with the nature of postmodernism even as it coincides with the teachings of the Buddha.

Thit Sar Ni started his career as a writer in 1965, at a time of growing popularity for *Khit San Sar Pae*, a type of experimental literature pioneered by Yangon

University students during the 1930s that marked a renaissance of Myanmar literature.

"I lost interest in the type of literature that became monotonous. I prefer change and innovation," Thit Sar Ni said.

He said he was inspired by the Modern European Poets series published by United Kingdom-based Penguin books, and started composing modern poems and stories in the 1970s that departed from realism.

"The technique of realism was insufficient to portray the indefinite reality of the current situation. Writers began to invent new ways of writing, and modern literature was born out of boredom with realism," he said.

"In this era of globalisation, we should free ourselves from the embrace of dogmatism. We need to be more flexible and imaginative in our approach. And the literary sensibilities of readers also change as time passes.

"This is why postmodernist writers break the rules that limit our creativity. I write poems without rhyme and start novels from the middle or the end as my mind

desires, because art is free and new," he said.

Thit Sar Ni said he enjoys the work of challenging authors, including Colombian writer Gabriel García Márquez, particularly his 1967 novel *Cien años de soledad* (One Hundred Years of Solitude); Portuguese novelist Paulo Coelho; and Haruki Murakami of Japan.

"Some people say they can't understand stories that don't have a plot, but they can understand realist stories that are based around a plot, so all they understand is the plot. But other readers are meaning hunters. They make a practice of looking for the meaning of the story rather than merely enjoying the plot," he said.

Another writer, Min Khite Soe San, who wrote the novels *The Last Testament of the Ghost* and *Kyat Tu Yway Parsat* (Parrot's Mouth), agreed that many authors do not impose genre limits on themselves before they start writing.

"Most writers are more heavily influenced by their feeling of solitude while they are working on their stories," he said.

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## Euro Film Festival returns to Yangon

By Lwin Mar Htun

THE 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the European Film Festival will be held at Nay Pyi Taw Cinema in downtown Yangon from October 4 to 14.

For the first time, this year's festival will include films from countries that do not yet have embassies in Myanmar, including Finland and Norway, said Ms Katrin Feruhinsfeld, second secretary at the German embassy in Yangon.

Returning countries include Germany, France and Great Britain.

**'Tickets are available for everyone. We won't give special invitations this year.'**

This year's festival will feature 10 films from a variety of genres, showing a blend of humour, romance and some tough moral and social choices to Myanmar audiences, Ms Feruhinsfeld said at a press conference held at the French Institute in Yangon on September 20 to announce the festival.

"I'm very glad that Norway can participate in this festival," Mr Rue Jan Flolo, the head of mission from Norway, said at the press

conference.

"Actually, I have not seen the film *The Kautokeino Rebellion* from our country. This will be my first time, so we can see it together. I'm sure it's a good film."

Another movie that will be included in the festival is *The Iron Lady* (2011), for which Meryl Streep won the Best Actress Oscar for her portrayal of former British prime minister Margaret Thatcher.

Other films are *Mother of Mine* (Finland), *Almanya: Willkommen in Deutschland* (Germany), *Das System* (Germany), *Joueuse* (France), *Une Vie de Chat* (France), *Wuthering Heights* (Great Britain), *Vitus* (Switzerland) and *Die Herbstzeitlosen* (Switzerland).

In past editions of the European Film Festival, tickets had to be picked up at participating embassies. This year the free tickets will be available at Nay Pyi Taw Cinema until 15 minutes before the screenings, on a first-come, first-served basis.

"Tickets are available for everyone. We won't give any special invitations this year because some people who picked up tickets in advance never came to the cinema, while those who came to the cinema but didn't have tickets were unable to see the films," Ms Feruhinsfeld said.

The films shown at the festival will be subtitled in English. Screenings will occur on each day at 3:30pm and 6:30pm.



## Former prisoner honoured for writing under oppression

By Zon Pann Pwint

FORMER political prisoner Zaw Thet Htwe, whose first novel *Kyan Tan Thaw Sit Pwe Hnit Nu Nyat Thaw Hnalone Thar* (Fierce Battle and Tender Heart) is set to be released next month, has been named winner of a Hellman-Hammett Grant Award for 2012.

"I am proud to receive the award because it is conferred on struggling writers who have been harassed," Zaw Thet Htwe said, adding that he was informed about the award on September 13.

The Hellman-Hammett Awards were established in 1989 by American playwright Lillian Hellman and her husband, Nobel laureate Dashiell Hammett, for writers in oppressive regions around the world. New York-based Human Rights Watch was entrusted to select the winners.

"The organisers asked whether I could attend a ceremony to receive the award. I have applied for a passport but have not received it, so I told the organisers that I couldn't come," Zaw Thet Htwe said.



Zaw Thet Htwe. Pic: Supplied

He said Zaganar was given a Hellman-Hammett Award in 1992, and now, 20 years later, he has become the second person from Myanmar to receive the honour.

"Winning the award is a reward for long-term work in the field of literature under persecution. I have chosen writing as my professional work. Whenever I'm released from jail, I return to

journalism work," he said.

"I don't regard the award as being intended for me alone. It represents the efforts of all writers and journalists who have been persecuted in this country."

Zaw Thet Htwe started working as an editor at *First Eleven Sports News* journal in 2000 and was imprisoned in July 2003 for publishing articles critical of the

military government.

He was imprisoned three times from 1988 to 2012, spending a total of 11 years in jail.

Zaw Thet Htwe's writing career has spanned 24 years, during which he has focused on short stories and sport articles.

The Hellman-Hammett Grand Award includes a cash prize of US\$6000.

## Battered by piracy, musician opens silk shop

By Pinky

RETIRED electronic musician Thxa Soe launched his new career as a businessman on September 17, with the opening of Shwe Poe Nan Taw silk shop in Lanmadaw township in Yangon.

"I've always liked Myanmar traditional design, so I chose to start this business for my family," Thxa Soe, who is also a member of the Myanmar Music Association's executive committee, told *The Myanmar Times* on September 20.

Thxa Soe started his career as a musician in 2006, and gained a huge following for recording electronic

remixes of traditional Myanmar songs.

Despite his fame, he found the music industry to be less than lucrative.

"During my six or seven years as a musician I couldn't even buy an apartment. I lost so much money because of music piracy," he said.

As an example, he said his last album, 2010's *Yaw Tel Mhway Tel* (Mix and Stir), sold only two copies in Mandalay.

"There are 60 million people in Myanmar, but I sold only 1000 copies of the CD. And yet almost everyone around the country knows my songs. There's no way to make money or survive like this. That's why I took a break from my singing career and started my own business," he said.

He complained that the unfortunate situation in the music industry was created by the lack of copyright protection for creative people in Myanmar.

At the opening ceremony for Shwe Poe Nan Taw on September 17, Thxa Soe spoke little about his music career and instead focused on his new business, including promotions and discounts that will be available to customers until the end of this month.

"My shop's slogan is 'Buy more, get more'," he said.

The opening ceremony also included a fashion show featuring actors, actresses and models wearing traditional silk designs.

## New book disputes 'River of Lost Footsteps'

By Zon Pann Pwint

A NEW Myanmar-language book published on September 8 purports to rectify factual errors in Dr Thant Myint-U's book *The River of Lost Footsteps*.

The book, titled *Errors in 'Personal History of Burma'*, contains six articles written by Maung Thwe Chun, an editor at *Nabayan* magazine, who uses local sources that differ from those in Dr Thant Myint-U's book, which was originally published in English in 2008.

A Myanmar-language version of *The River of Lost Footsteps*, translated by Mra Hninsi, was published earlier this year.

"I bought a copy of Mra Hninsi's translation of *The River of Lost Footsteps*

because it is an acclaimed history book, and the writer is the grandson of U Thant, whom I respect. I had high hopes for the book before I read it," Maung Thwe Chun said.

"I couldn't put it down until the last page because it was so interesting, but I found many factual errors regarding Myanmar history."

Fearing that readers would "commit these historical accounts to memory", Maung Thwe Chun said he started writing articles that pointed out factual errors and translation mistakes.

"My intention was to rectify the errors, otherwise the readers will keep them in their minds," Maung Thwe Chun said.

One of Maung Thwe Chun's sources for "historical facts" used to dispute Dr Thant

Myint-U is the *Glass Palace Chronicle of the Kings of Burma*, compiled in 1829 by a committee of scholars appointed by King Bagyidaw. The chronicle consists of a mix of mythology, folklore and history.

Other sources include *Bayintnaung Min Taya Gyi* (King Bayintnaung, 2010) written by historian Dr Toe Hla, the seventh edition of *Konbaung Shapontaw* (In Search of the Konbaung Model, 2003) by U Nyo Mya, *Breeze Over Taungthaman Lake* (1999) by Mya Than Tint, and a history journal published in 2009 by the Department of Historical Research.

The six articles in the book were previously published in August in *Mandalay Alin* and *Morning Post* journal.

Dr Thant Myint-U told *The Myanmar Times* in an email

that he has not read Maung Thwe Chun's book and has not been in communication with the author.

"He may have also entirely missed the point of the book, which was originally subtitled *Histories of Burma*, which was to explore the various different perspectives on Myanmar history that exist and to help show that there are different ways of thinking about the past," Dr Thant Myint-U said.

He added that he thought it unusual that Maung Thwe Chun would not first have contacted him or the book's publisher regarding any errors.

"I think it is strange that someone would go to the trouble of publishing an entire book to point out any errors in the translated version of my book," he said.

## Actors named to movie awards judging panel

By Nyein Ei Ei Htwe

THE list of judges for the 2011 Myanmar Academy Awards was announced in state-run newspapers on September 13, with two actors included on the board for the first time.

The 17 members will be tasked with scrutinising the 15 domestically produced films that were screened in Myanmar cinemas in 2011, and choosing award winners in various categories, including best actor, best actress, best scriptwriter and best director.

The judges include seven people from the Ministry of Information, in addition to others from the fields of film, music and literature.

The actors on the list are U Than Win and Daw Myint Myint Khine, both of whom started working in the film industry in the 1960s.

"My profession is also my hobby, so I'm very happy to be included on the judging board," U Than Win said.

"I will enjoy spending my free time watching the films

and helping pick the winners, because I'm old and it is difficult for me to find work in film now."

Daw Myint Myint Khine thanked those who picked her to be on the board, and said she thought she could help make good choices based on her long experience in the film industry.

"As an actress with many years of experience, I believe I will be able to give careful consideration to who should win. It's not only about acting, but also about clothing and even makeup," she said.

Other judges from the film industry include scriptwriter U Aye Kyu Lay, cinematographer Tin Aung, sound specialist U Kyi Min Thein, editor U Tin Nyein and background musician U Win Kyaw.

Author U Own Maung (Myinmu Mg Naing Moe) and musician U Maung Maung Lat are also members.

The Myanmar Academy Awards were first held in 1952. Since then 338 prizes have been given at 55 awards ceremonies.

## Sharky's passion featured in print

SHARKY'S, a cornucopia of epicurean delights on Dhamazedi Road in Yangon, has been featured in two regional magazines.

The September issue of *Travel and Leisure Asia* devotes a page to Sharky's restaurant, delicatessen and pizzeria, in a colourful tribute to managing director Ye-Htut Win's (Sharky's) passion for excellence in food.

The page includes images of Ye-Htut Win (with an explanation that Sharky's evolved from his decision to return to Myanmar from Geneva 18 years ago to start a slow-food business growing his own produce),

the upstairs restaurant and the charcuterie, with fat "Barma" hams hanging in the background.

The images were taken by French-British photographer Cedric Arnold, whose work has been exhibited at Sharky's since late July.

Some of Arnold's images in the exhibition have been used to illustrate a cover story feature about Myanmar in the September 24 edition of *Newsweek Asia*.

In anticipation that the *Newsweek* report will generate more interest in Arnold's images, Sharky's has decided to extend the exhibition for another month.

— Geoffrey Goddard



83-year-old Buddhist nun Dan Punnami. Pic: Cedric Arnold



## IFG concert to rock 'elegant setting'

By Pinky

THE International Friendship Group is organising a charity concert at Inya Lake Hotel on September 29, aimed at benefiting disabled children in Yangon.

The "Rock on the Lake" concert will start at 6pm and will feature performances by Alex, Htoo L Lynn, Bloodsugar Politik, G Latt, Ag La, Wanted, Nyan Lynn Aung, Dusty Way, SOS, Side Effect, Unrivalled, Myo Myo from Ghost Riders, and DJ Bay Tar.

The International Friendship Group (IFG), whose objective is to "bring people together and help the local community through providing grants and community service", normally raises funds through food and merchandise sales, as well as through publication of the annual *Golden Guide to Yangon*.

But this year they decided to try something different by organising a concert.

"We are expecting to attract a large number of guests that are keen on enjoying local and well-known rock and roll music in a familiar and elegant setting," IFG president Evelyn Chung-Foliot said at a press conference at Corriander Leaf restaurant in Yangon on September 18.

She said proceeds from the concert will be used to set up a trust fund to improve the quality of life for poor and intellectually disabled children through Special Olympics Myanmar and Myanmar Paralympic Sports Federation.

Tickets for Rock on the Lake cost K25,000 and can be purchased at Monsoon restaurant, 50<sup>th</sup> Street restaurant and bar, Corriander Leaf restaurant and Alfa Hotel.

## Singing finalists perform

By Lwin Mar Htun

THE grand finale concert for the second season of the locally produced singing contest *Eain Met Sone Yar* (Where Dreams Meet) was held on September 16 at the National Theatre in Yangon.

The free concert, which was broadcast live on local television station Channel 7, featured performances from the show's eight finalists, who had been weeded out from 300 original competitors.

The first singer was crowd favourite Ye Thway Naung, whose appearance onstage was met with enthusiastic applause from the audience.

The other competitors followed, each singing a song of his or her own choice. Genres included pop, rock, R&B, Myanmar traditional and English-language songs. Backing music was provided by the Ugly Band.

The competitors also sang duets with famous guest singers, including R Zar Ni, L Loon War, Phyo Gyi, Han Htun, Mee Mee Khe, Khin Bhone, Ni Ni Khin Zaw and Eaint Chit.

Then it was time for the judging panel – consisting of singers Kaw Ni and Phoe Kar, and songwriter Nyi Nyi Thwin – to get down to the difficult task of picking



Ye Thway Naung (left) performs a duet with Khin Bhone at the National Theatre in Yangon on September 16. Pic: Thiri Lu

the winners.

Predictably, the People's Choice Award went to Ye Thway Naung, based on votes cast by audience members using their mobile phones.

However, the judges awarded the first prize of K1 million to Su Hlaing

Myo Thein. Second prize (K700,000) went to Shine Wai Yan, while Ye Thway Naung managed to nab third spot (K500,000).

Each of the top three also received a one year supply of Sunsilk hair care products.

### From page 41

Min Khite Soe San said that modernism emerged in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century when increasing urbanisation and industrialisation became overwhelming forces that served to demean human beings, causing production and consumption to trump humanity and compassion.

"In the modernist era, people felt that love was displaced and was no longer important to humanity. The ties of friendship and families became loose, and the value of human beings declined," he said.

"Artists and writers started portraying this pain and suffering, and the modernist era was born. Postmodernism represents and further and deeper exploration of these ideas and concepts."

Min Khite Soe San said people in Myanmar have experienced a similar sort of existential disillusionment, but not as a result of urbanisation and industrialisation.

"In our country, the decline in human values occurred in a different way. It was caused by years of living under a dictatorship," he said. "This system has inflicted a lot of pain on us, and that has produced writers who have a strong affinity for postmodernism."

Min Khite Soe San invoked the metaphor of the rhizome to represent the character of postmodernism.

"The roots and stems spread in different directions under the ground. We are unable to trace where the root starts and ends, and every branch is part of the main. The rhizome grows in many directions, and I think this is a good way to portray society in the age of postmodernism," he said.

Writer and blogger Nay Phone Latt – who last month published a collection of 16 short stories titled *Kya Taw Lut Kya Khae Tae Myo Taw* (The City I Dropped Down) – said his affinity for postmodernism had more to do with style than deep-rooted distress, and stemmed from his boredom with reading realist stories with straightforward narratives and definitive endings.

"I wanted to rebel against the sort of realism in which the writer manipulates the readers into feeling what he wants them to feel," he said.

"Readers [of realist novels] feel happy if the story has a happy ending, or they feel sad if the story has a sad ending. For me, this curtails the reader's right to enjoy freedom of thought and feeling. It's likely that I enjoy postmodernism because it allows me to think and feel more freely when I read these stories."

Nay Phone Latt would not offer a strict definition for postmodernism, but said that in his view it was closely related to ideas of uncertainty.

"I love the word 'uncertainty' very much. People assume that there is truth in the statement that the sun rises in the east, but even here there is uncertainty. If our ancestors had named the cardinal directions differently and said the sun rises in the south, we would accept that as the truth," he said.

He said he does not "pursue postmodernist literary concepts" when he writes stories, but simply avoids "the rules that limit the inspiration and fertility of my mind".

"Because of this I think my writing style is similar to some postmodernist works," Nay Phone Latt said.



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SOCIALITE had another action-packed, fun-filled, amusement-crammed, merriment-engorged week, first dropping in at the Yoon Hlyan mobile phone shop opening in Kamayut township on September 13. On September 15, she attended the MC Jeans product show at Taw Win Centre, the Kanebo new counter opening at Gamone Pwint (Myaynigone) Centre, and the Rich Coffee Mix lucky draw at Sedona Hotel. On the following day, she thoroughly enjoyed the Ogawa new product launch at Junction Square, completely adored the new brand ambassador introduction by Brand's soup at Park Royal Hotel, and utterly revered the Tiger Balm product launch at Sedona Hotel.



**Mr Myint Swe and H.E. Mr. Sebastianus Sumarno**  
@ 67<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Indonesia



**Mr Totok Priyanto**  
@ 67<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Indonesia



**Nyan Linn Aung** @ Kanebo New Counter Opening



**Ms Manju and Mr Ramesh M Shrestha**  
@ 67<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Indonesia



**Mr Takahiko Makino and Mr Sardar Umar Alam**  
@ 67<sup>th</sup> Independence Day of Indonesia



**Daw Kyi Kyi Naing**  
@ Yoon Hlyan Mobile Phone Shop Opening



**Ko Zaw Myo Htet**  
@ Rich Coffee Lucky Draw Program



**Pa Pa Win Khin**  
@ Kanebo New Counter Opening



**Ma Chit Su Wai, Ma Aye Thida, Ma Khin Myat Myat Aye, Ko Arkar Phyo, Ko Ye Htike and Ko Wai Phyo Htet**  
@ Rich Coffee Lucky Draw Program



**Zwe Naung**  
@ MSI Lucky Draw Program



**Min Maw Kun**  
@ Kanebo New Counter Opening



**Salesperson explains the products** @ Ogawa New Product Launch



**U Than Win and U Khin Maung Latt**  
@ Tiger Balm Product Launch



**U Kyaw Ko Ko Win**  
@ Brand's Soup New Brand Ambassador Introduction



**Aye Aye Aung, Kaung Myat and Shwe Sin Htet Win**  
@ MSI Lucky Draw Program



**San Toe Naing**  
@ Tiger Balm Product Launch



**Models** @ Brand's Soup New Brand Ambassador Introduction



**Customers** @ Ogawa New Product Launch



**Ma Wai, Ma Theinge Htwe and Ko Soe Moe Naing**  
@ MC Jeans Product Showcase



**MC Jeans team** @ MC Jeans Product Showcase



**Ko Kaung Myat and Ko Aung**  
@ MSI Lucky Draw Program



**Customers** @ Ogawa New Product Launch





Ma Wai Thit Lwin and Ko Zaw Latt @ Rich Coffee Lucky Draw Program



Ko San Win Tun @ Rich Coffee Lucky Draw Program



Thidar Aung, Wai Yan and Phyo War Lin @ Yoon Hlyan Mobile Phone Shop Opening



Ko Htet Phone Hlyan @ Yoon Hlyan Mobile Phone Shop Opening



Ko Demo Aung and Ma San Yoon Hwe @ Yoon Hlyan Mobile Phone Shop Opening



Thandar Hlaing @ Brand's Soup New Brand Ambassador Introduction



K Me Ko @ Rich Coffee Lucky Draw Program



Ko Thet Win Hlaing @ Tiger Balm Product Launch



Ju Juu K @ Tiger Balm Product Launch



Wine Su Khine Thein @ Rich Coffee Lucky Draw Program



Thandar Bo @ Tiger Balm Product Launch



M Seng Lu @ MC Jeans Product Showcase



San Thit La @ MC Jeans Product Showcase



May Grace @ Tiger Balm Product Launch



Kaung Pyae @ MC Jeans Product Showcase

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## DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr	Days	Flight	Dep	Arr	Days	Flight	Dep	Arr	Days	Flight	Dep	Arr	Days	Flight	Dep	Arr		
<b>YANGON TO NAY PYI TAW</b>																					
MON	6T 111	07:00	07:55	TUE	YH 918	08:30	10:25	SAT	YH 917	06:10	07:45	WED	W9 011	07:30	09:20	WED	W9 307	07:00	08:25		
<b>NAY PYI TAW TO YANGON</b>																					
FRI	6T 112	17:05	18:00		K7 223	08:48	10:53		YJ 891	06:15	07:35		W9 119	10:30	11:40		6T 611	07:30	08:55		
<b>MANDALAY TO NAY PYI TAW</b>																					
FRI	6T 112	16:00	16:45		W9 012	08:50	10:35		6T 401	06:20	07:40		YJ 751	11:00	12:10		THRU	W9 315	07:00	08:25	
<b>NAY PYI TAW TO MANDALAY</b>																					
MON	6T 111	08:15	09:00		W9 144	08:50	10:15		K7 222	06:20	07:40		YH 737	11:00	12:25		6T 611	07:30	08:55		
<b>YANGON TO MANDALAY</b>																					
MON	YJ 901	06:00	07:40		W9 252	14:05	15:30		W9 143	06:30	07:50		YJ 751	11:00	12:25		FRI	W9 307	07:00	08:25	
	YH 917	06:10	08:30		W9 212	16:10	18:15		W9 211	14:30	16:40		W9 015	15:15	16:40		6T 611	07:30	08:55		
	6T 401	06:20	08:25		W9 012	08:50	10:35		YH 909	07:00	08:35		W9 015	15:15	16:40		SAT	6T 611	07:30	08:55	
	K7 222	06:20	08:25		W9 262	14:50	18:15		W9 211	14:30	16:40		W9 015	15:15	16:40		SUN	W9 307	07:00	08:25	
	W9 143	06:30	08:35		W9 120	15:50	17:25		YH 726	17:45	19:10		W9 015	15:15	16:40		6T 611	07:30	08:55		
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	W9 119	10:30	15:35		YJ 752	17:50	19:15		W9 144	08:05	10:15		YJ 751	11:00	12:25		6T 608	09:55	11:20		
	YJ 201	11:00	12:25		YH 726	17:45	19:10		YJ 902	08:25	09:45		W9 144	14:00	15:15		TUE	W9 308	08:40	10:05	
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# forgotten empire



Vittala Temple, in the Indian state of Karnataka, is the site of this stone chariot, a shrine that once held an icon of the Hindu god Garuda. Pic: The Washington Post/St John Bamed-Smith

then dabbed some red paste onto my forehead, before thrusting her hand out for a tip and shooing me on my way.

I came next to the Achyutaraya temple, an abandoned compound of red-capped structures that was housing a tribe of shade-seeking monkeys instead of worshippers. An empty bazaar bordered the boulevard that emanated from the temple. It was a long, covered causeway offering only shade in the summer heat instead of an empire's treasures.

But during its heyday in the 1400s, Abdur Razzak, a Persian ambassador to the kingdom, wrote: "Each class of men belonging to each profession has shops contiguous the one to the other; the jewellers sell publicly in the bazaars pearls, rubies, emeralds and diamonds."

On that first day I focused less on the empire's weighty history than on one of Hampi's current treasures: Lakshmi, the town's holy elephant. I found her in the still-used Virupaksha temple, a much grander affair than those small temples tucked into the hillside. The Virupaksha temple looked like a lost Mayan ruin, a cream-white pyramidal cone of intricate columns and statues.

On my second day, elephant spotting completed, I visited more monuments and temples, this time with Kumar, my guide. As we wandered past the city's mighty statue of Ganesh, he told me the local legend about

the city's founding.

The Telegu prince Harihara Raya chose to build his kingdom in Hampi after visiting it in 1336 and watching a tiny rabbit attack and chase his dogs into quivering submission. "He saw that the earth was so powerful [to produce such a fierce rabbit] that he wanted to build it here," Kumar said.

Luck or fate was on the prince's side. Vijayanagar grew quickly over the next 200 years, mustering million-man armies, constructing thousands of temples and housing 500,000 people, a population second only to that of Beijing at the time.

Hundreds of years later, Hampi seemed littered with monuments, but otherwise fairly empty. Until recently, people lived in the shadows of the temples, even building shops and homes in some of the abandoned bazaars.

But over the past year, the government forcibly evicted around 350 families in the name of protecting the statues and temples, which are a UNESCO World Heritage site. For now, the smashed houses and storefronts are a grim modern reminder of the fate that the village's mighty ancestor faced centuries ago.

"I never saw a place like this," said Nicolo Conti, the first European to see the Vijayanagara Empire when he arrived in 1420. I couldn't get the same thought out of my head.

A Roman-style aqueduct, helped along by later Italian

visitors, carried water to the city from a lake a few miles away, Kumar said. I found myself almost looking for a water tap to see whether it still worked. Where was this place in history class? Hampi was, in its heyday, "a city with which for richness and magnificence no known western capital could compare," wrote British historian Robert Sewell in *A Forgotten Empire: Vijayanagar*.

This Indian Rome wouldn't last, however. In 1565, an alliance of Muslim invaders known as the Deccan Sultans laid waste to the empire, defacing statues, razing temples and putting the empire's citizens to the sword.

"For a space of five months Vijayanagar knew no rest. The enemy had come to destroy, and they carried out their object relentlessly. They slaughtered the people without mercy, broke down the temples and palaces," Sewell wrote. "Never perhaps in the history of the world has such havoc been wrought, and wrought so suddenly, on so splendid a city."

But even with all their carnage and destruction, the Deccan invaders couldn't erase the grandeur of the place.

The din, the smell of spice, the rustle of fabrics, the clink of coins and the creaking of scales, it was all hidden just beneath Hampi's surface, ready to leap from the rocks like that dog-chasing rabbit 700 years ago.

- The Washington Post

## INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

DAYS	Flight	Dep	Arr	DAYS	Flight	Dep	Arr	DAYS	Flight	Dep	Arr	DAYS	Flight	Dep	Arr		
<b>YANGON TO BANGKOK</b>				<b>SAT</b>				<b>BANGKOK TO YANGON</b>				<b>THUR</b>					
MON	PG 706	07:15	09:30	8M 231	07:55	12:25	FD 3770	07:15	08:00	MI 512	07:55	09:20	MI 512	07:55	09:20		
	8M 335	07:35	09:20	MI 511	10:10	14:45	TG 303	07:55	08:50	8M 232	13:25	14:55	8M 232	13:25	14:55		
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20	3K 586	11:30	16:05	PG 701	09:15	10:05	MI 518	14:20	15:45	MI 518	14:20	15:45		
	TG 304	09:50	11:45	MI 517	16:40	21:15	8M 336	10:40	11:25	8M 234	18:50	20:20	8M 234	18:50	20:20		
	PG 702	10:55	12:50	MI 519	00:25	05:00	TG 301	13:00	13:55	<b>FRI</b>							
	TG 302	14:55	16:50	8M 231	07:55	12:25	FD 3772	16:50	17:35	MI 512	07:55	09:20	MI 512	07:55	09:20		
	8M 331	16:30	18:15	MI 511	10:10	14:45	TG 305	17:50	18:45	3K 585	09:10	10:40	3K 585	09:10	10:40		
	PG 704	16:40	18:35	8M 233	13:20	17:50	8M 332	19:15	20:00	8M 6231	09:10	10:40	8M 6231	09:10	10:40		
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55	MI 517	16:40	21:15	PG 705	20:15	21:30	8M 232	13:25	14:55	8M 232	13:25	14:55		
	TG 306	19:45	21:40	<b>YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR</b>				<b>TUE</b>				MI 518	14:20	15:45			
TUE	PG 706	07:15	09:30	MON	8M 501	09:00	13:00	FD 3770	07:15	08:00	MI 520	22:00	23:30	MI 520	22:00	23:30	
	8M 335	07:35	09:20	MH 741	12:15	16:30	TG 303	07:55	08:50	3K 585	09:10	10:40	3K 585	09:10	10:40		
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20	AK 851	18:50	23:05	PG 701	09:15	10:05	8M 6231	09:10	10:40	8M 6231	09:10	10:40		
	TG 304	09:50	11:45	<b>TUE</b>				8M 336	10:40	11:25	8M 232	13:25	14:55	8M 232	13:25	14:55	
	PG 702	10:55	12:50	8M 501	09:00	13:00	TG 301	13:00	13:55	MI 518	14:20	15:45	MI 518	14:20	15:45		
	TG 302	14:55	16:50	MH 741	12:15	16:30	PG 703	15:00	15:50	MI 520	15:20	16:40	MI 520	15:20	16:40		
	8M 331	16:30	18:15	AK 851	18:50	23:05	FD 3772	16:50	17:35	<b>SUN</b>							
	PG 704	16:40	18:35	<b>WED</b>				TG 305	17:50	18:45	MI 512	07:55	09:20	MI 512	07:55	09:20	
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55	8M 501	09:00	13:00	8M 332	19:15	20:00	8M 232	13:25	14:55	8M 232	13:25	14:55		
	TG 306	19:45	21:40	MH 741	12:15	16:30	PG 705	20:15	21:30	MI 518	14:20	15:45	MI 518	14:20	15:45		
THUR	PG 706	07:15	09:30	AK 851	18:50	23:05	<b>WED</b>				8M 234	18:50	20:20	8M 234	18:50	20:20	
	8M 335	07:35	09:20	<b>THU</b>				FD 3770	07:15	08:00	<b>KAULA LUMPUR TO YANGON</b>						
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20	MH 741	12:15	16:30	TG 303	07:55	08:50	MON	MH 740	10:05	11:15	MH 740	10:05	11:15	
	TG 304	09:50	11:45	AK 851	18:50	23:05	PG 701	09:15	10:05	8M 502	14:00	15:00	8M 502	14:00	15:00		
	PG 702	10:55	12:50	<b>FRI</b>				8M 336	10:40	11:25	AK 850	17:10	18:20	AK 850	17:10	18:20	
	TG 302	14:55	16:50	8M 501	09:00	13:00	TG 301	13:00	13:55	<b>TUE</b>							
	8M 331	16:30	18:15	MH 741	12:15	16:30	PG 703	15:00	15:50	MH 740	10:05	11:15	MH 740	10:05	11:15		
	PG 704	16:40	18:35	AK 851	18:50	23:05	FD 3772	16:50	17:35	8M 502	14:00	15:00	8M 502	14:00	15:00		
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55	<b>SAT</b>				TG 305	17:50	18:45	AK 850	17:10	18:20	AK 850	17:10	18:20	
	TG 306	19:45	21:40	8M 501	09:00	13:00	8M 332	19:15	20:00	<b>WED</b>							
THUR	PG 706	07:15	09:30	MH 741	12:15	16:30	PG 705	20:15	21:30	MH 740	10:05	11:15	MH 740	10:05	11:15		
	8M 335	07:35	09:20	AK 851	18:50	23:05	<b>THUR</b>				8M 502	14:00	15:00	8M 502	14:00	15:00	
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20	<b>YANGON TO GAUNGZHOU</b>				FD 3770	07:15	08:00	AK 850	17:10	18:20	AK 850	17:10	18:20	
	TG 304	09:50	11:45	WED	CZ 3056	11:20	15:50	TG 303	07:55	08:50	<b>THU</b>						
	PG 702	10:55	12:50	THUR	8M 711	08:40	13:15	PG 701	09:15	10:05	MH 740	10:05	11:15	MH 740	10:05	11:15	
	TG 302	14:55	16:50	SAT	CZ 3056	11:20	15:50	8M 336	10:40	11:25	AK 850	17:10	18:20	AK 850	17:10	18:20	
	8M 331	16:30	18:15	SUN	8M 711	08:40	13:15	TG 301	13:00	13:55	<b>FRI</b>						
	PG 704	16:40	18:35	<b>YANGON TO TAIPEI</b>				PG 703	15:00	15:50	MH 740	10:05	11:15	MH 740	10:05	11:15	
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55	MON	CI 7916	11:10	04:35	FD 3772	16:50	17:35	8M 502	14:00	15:00	8M 502	14:00	15:00	
	TG 306	19:45	21:40	TUE	CI 7916	11:10	04:35	TG 305	17:50	18:45	AK 850	17:10	18:20	AK 850	17:10	18:20	
FRI	PG 706	07:15	09:30	WED	CI 7916	11:10	04:35	8M 332	19:15	20:00	<b>SAT</b>						
	8M 335	07:35	09:20	FRI	CI 7916	11:10	04:35	PG 705	20:15	21:30	MH 740	10:05	11:15	MH 740	10:05	11:15	
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20	<b>YANGON TO KUNMING</b>				FD 3770	07:15	08:00	AK 850	17:10	18:20	AK 850	17:10	18:20	
	TG 304	09:50	11:45	MON	MU 2032	09:40	12:50	TG 303	07:55	08:50	<b>SUN</b>						
	PG 702	10:55	12:50	TUE	MU 2032	09:40	12:50	PG 701	09:15	10:05	MH 740	10:05	11:15	MH 740	10:05	11:15	
	TG 302	14:55	16:50	CA 906	14:15	17:35	8M 336	10:40	11:25	8M 502	14:00	15:00	8M 502	14:00	15:00		
	8M 331	16:30	18:15	WED	MU 2032	09:40	12:50	TG 301	13:00	13:55	AK 850	17:10	18:20	AK 850	17:10	18:20	
	PG 704	16:40	18:35	CA 906	14:15	17:35	FD 3772	16:50	17:35	<b>GUANGZHOU TO YANGON</b>							
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55	THUR	MU 2032	09:40	12:50	8M 332	19:15	20:00	WED	CZ 3055	08:40	10:30	CZ 3055	08:40	10:30
	TG 306	19:45	21:40	CA 906	14:15	17:35	PG 705	20:15	21:30	TG 305	17:50	18:45	THUR	8M 712	14:15	15:50	
SAT	PG 706	07:15	09:30	<b>YANGON TO KOLKATA</b>				8M 332	19:15	20:00	8M 332	19:15	20:00	SAT	CZ 3055	08:40	10:30
	8M 335	07:35	09:20	MON	A1 228	15:50	16:45	PG 705	20:15	21:30	PG 705	20:15	21:30	SUN	8M 712	14:15	15:50
	FD 3771	08:35	10:20	FRI	A1 228	15:50	16:45	<b>SAT</b>				<b>TAIPEI TO YANGON</b>					
	TG 304	09:50	11:45	<b>YANGON TO CHIANG MAI</b>				FD 3770	07:15	08:00	CI 7915	07:15	10:10	CI 7915	07:15	10:10	
	PG 702	10:55	12:50	THUR	W9 9607	14:20	16:10	TG 303	07:55	08:50	CI 7915	07:15	10:10	CI 7915	07:15	10:10	
	TG 302	14:55	16:50	<b>YANGON TO HANOI</b>				PG 701	09:15	10:05	CI 7915	07:15	10:10	CI 7915	07:15	10:10	
	8M 331	16:30	18:15	MON	VN 956	19:10	21:30	8M 336	10:40	11:25	<b>KUNMING TO YANGON</b>						
	PG 704	16:40	18:35	WED	VN 956	19:10	21:30	TG 301	13:00	13:55	MON	MU 2031	08:40	09:00	MU 2031	08:40	09:00
	FD 3773	18:05	19:55	FRI	VN 956	19:10	21:30	FD 3772	16:50	17:35	CA 905	12:40	13:15	CA 905	12:40	13:15	
	TG 306	19:45	21:40	SAT	VN 956	19:10	21:30	8M 332	19:15	20:00	THUR	MU 2031	08:40	09:00	MU 2031	08:40	09:00
SUN	PG 706	07:15	09:30	<b>YANGON TO HO CHI MINH</b>				PG 703	15:00	15:50	CA 905	12:40	13:15	CA			





Phyto Zar Thwin at home in Yangon. Pic: Yadanar

## Phyto's Cooking Adventure comes to 'Myanmar Times'

By Douglas Long

WHEN Phyto Zar Thwin left Myanmar in 2005 to move to Australia with her husband, she didn't have many options for passing the time in her new home — particularly since her visa status prevented her from working or attending school.

It was fortunate then that Phyto Zar Thwin quickly discovered that she and her Australian mother-in-law shared an affinity for cooking, an interest that helped them bond and provided a subject for intense exploration.

"We spent time watching cooking shows together, going to restaurants together, and my mother-in-law was asking about Myanmar food. I also missed the food from my country, so I made Myanmar food for her, and at the same time she showed me how to cook modern Australian cuisine," Phyto Zar Thwin said.

One aspect of "modern Australian cuisine" that she found particularly attractive was the freedom to experiment with seemingly incongruous combinations of tastes and ingredients.

"It's about picking up one or two different things from different cuisines and creating one dish," she said.

"I love food, and I don't mind exploring new tastes. My habit is that I can't follow the recipe. I start changing and tweaking a bit, and I end up creating my own recipe. Then I cook for my husband, his family and other people, and they give me feedback."

As a result, over time Phyto Zar Thwin has amassed a sizable collection of original recipes.

Moving back to Myanmar with her husband earlier this year only added to her creative momentum, and she was energised by the notion that she could use local ingredients for further experimentation.

She is also keen to share her discoveries, old and new, with a wider audience, which she will do starting next week with a new weekly column in *The Myanmar Times*, "Phyto's Cooking Adventure".

"The recipes that I will present in my column are ones that I have developed on my own over time," she said.

"My goal with the column is very basic: healthy eating. Myanmar traditional food is very healthy, but people here are increasingly relying on Western-style junk food. At the same time, when you look at the West, they're going in the other direction, with chefs offering healthy

recipes, such as congee for breakfast. Japanese and Vietnamese foods are very popular in Australia because they use lots of vegetables and not much oil."

Phyto Zar Thwin said one advantage of cooking in Myanmar is the ready availability of fresh fruits and vegetables.

"The ingredients for healthy cooking are available all around you. It doesn't matter whether you're making Chinese, Shan or Western food," she said.

However, she warned that Myanmar needs to be careful not to squander this boon.

"We have beautiful tomatoes here, but we spoil them by using a lot of chemical fertiliser. In Australia they've dropped all of those habits and they try to grow organically using natural fertilizer," she said.

"We already have those things here, but now for the sake of achieving 'international standards' we are dropping our good habits and adopting the bad habits that Western countries were using 40 years ago. We need to avoid making those same mistakes."

And speaking of bad habits, Phyto Zar Thwin added that she would like to encourage cooks in Myanmar to abandon their long-standing reliance

on two favourite local ingredients: oil and *acho mote*, known in English as monosodium glutamate (MSG).

"When we cook fish the taste is beautiful, but we add MSG because we think it will be nice, but actually we're spoiling the taste of the fish. And we create more health problems for ourselves," she said.

Phyto Zar Thwin added that her dreams for promoting healthy new tastes in Myanmar are not limited to her food column, although she was not yet prepared to reveal all of her long-term plans.

"I would like to do leisure cooking classes, and from there go on to do a bit more," she said.

"When I left Myanmar there were a lot of things I couldn't do here because at that time everything was crazy and the country's door was closed. But coming back, the door is more open. I brought a lot of dreams with me when I came back to Myanmar."

*Starting next week, Phyto's Cooking Adventure will appear as a weekly feature on The Myanmar Times' revamped Food & Drink page, which will also offer restaurant reviews and wine recommendations.*

## EU to look again at wine growing limits

BRUSSELS — The European Commission said on September 21 it may review agreed reforms of the EU's massive wine industry, including plans to drop area growing limits.

Under reforms agreed in 2008, growing limits are due to be phased out by 2018 at the latest, freeing up the industry to adjust better to changing tastes and demand.

However, many vineyard owners

increasingly fear that ending the limits will lead to over-production, lower prices and see more favoured sites get an advantage over more difficult geographic regions.

"If there is going to be a system ... then it has to be more flexible and not restrictive ... covering most of the industry," said the commission's senior agriculture official, Jose Manuel Silva Rodriguez.

At the same time, completely dropping the 2008 reforms and keeping the status quo was out of the question, he said, as that would only benefit Europe's competitors in the Americas and elsewhere.

One possibility would be for limits which could be introduced if output reached certain levels although the overall aim has to be to ensure that there were "no competition distortions" in the EU. — AFP



### YOUR STARS

By Astrologer  
Aung Myin Kyaw

#### Aquarius Jan 20 - Feb 18

It will be difficult for you to settle down into a steady relationship of any description. Where memory is deficient loyalty can hardly expect to flourish. Time is given unsparingly to revealing the truth, and this tendency can lead to embarrassing situations. You could become notorious for your social blunders. The main challenge in your love life will be you and your partner's efforts to keep up with each other.

#### Pisces Feb 19 - Mar 20

Strong social relationships are anchored by mutual understanding. Build trust in society and live in flexibility. Associate with those who have creative ideas that they apply to constructive plans. Each moment has unique qualities, and you should navigate life with endurance and a harmonious nature. Try to appreciate the sensitivity of the one you love, and strive for spirituality in your love life.

#### Aries March 21 - April 19

Contemplation aimed at reducing fear, worry and tension can be a great mental process that will make your life gentle and noble. Understand that there is nowhere to hide from the truth of impermanence. The world is already in the dark, and you can use this knowledge as a basis for practical learning to boost your wisdom.

#### Taurus April 20 - May 20

Striving to turn the good into the better, and the better into the best, is a worthy challenge. It never does any good to harbour suspicions and doubts in social relations for a long time. You must learn to take a detached attitude toward certain problems. Strong waves in family relations will become calm, and you will be able to enjoy the flowering of beautiful emotions.

#### Gemini May 21 - June 20

Morality is the law of nature, as well as the backbone of religion and humanity. Your struggle for existence will help you gain wisdom, as well as insight into the truth of impermanence. Changeable attitudes in your love life can lead to misery. Learn to add value to the emotions of others. Gird yourself with the courage to face any challenges.

#### Cancer June 22 - July 22

Learn to adapt yourself to the environment and modify yourself to exist in the new world. Developing good mental balance is important to making the right decisions for facing social challenges. A friendly demeanour is the golden bridge to gaining the trust of your peers and forging a life of ease, comfort and success.

#### Leo July 23 - Aug 22

Your ideas and thoughts must be modern and scientific to reach your financial goal. Don't be crazy and lost in superstition, but instead march towards a new horizon without believing any hearsay or gossip. A wonderful omen issuing from your own tongue will be true and effective for you in the coming week. Your life is a love story in progress.

#### Virgo Aug 23 - Sept 22

Apply yourself efficiently but quietly, taking in even the smallest detail. Your knowledge of the truth will help you develop the concentration and focus necessary to strive for greatness. You must perform good deeds that reflect your good fortune. Careless speaking will become problematic and questionable, so you should be very cautious with your words this week; in fact, the less you talk the better. A strong love affair must develop over time.

#### Libra Sept 23 - Oct 22

Love is of paramount importance in your life, and now is the time to connect with the right person to forge a long-term relationship. The more you can control your tension, the more opportunities you will have to choose your professional direction in a balanced way. You will soon have a wonderful reunion with old, nearly forgotten friends, and spending time with them will bring you good fortune.

#### Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 21

Turn your tears into sweat as you pursue your target to become well-to-do and well-connected. Focus on the solution instead of the problem to make yourself a candidate for promotion. A person who always plays it safe is likely to get nowhere, so you must be brave in following your decisions to the end. Love means giving your understanding, sympathy and compassion to someone else.

#### Sagittarius Nov 22 - Dec 21

Have the right friends and establish the right relationships in your place of work. The best strategy is to maintain a mix of friends at all levels in your organisation, and not only on your own level. Never forget your management's perspective, but understand that you don't have to be a workaholic to get ahead. You will have little time to pursue the needs of your heart or your emotional desires.

#### Capricorn Dec 22 - Jan 19

Be vigilant for unexpected changes in social relationships, as close friends and colleagues might want to adjust the terms of your unwritten social agreement. Learning and thought must work together: Learning without thought is naught, but thought without learning is also dangerous. Love is wonderful but too complicated to understand in a short period.

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113 Thamaing Bayan Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon.  
Tel: 0973135632, Email: willameaste@gmail.com



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**HR SOFTWARE** Package: Price 250,000. Modules: Employee Management, Time Attendance, Payroll. (Available : Finger Print/Card). Retail Management System: Price 250,000. Modules: Inventory Control, Purchase, Sale, Account Payable (Available : Bar Code Printer/Scanner). Point Of Sale System : Price 400,000 Modules : Inventory Control, Purchase, Sale, Account Payable, Account Receivable, General Ledger (Available : Bar Code Printer/Scanner). Ph: 09-504-2775, 09-506-2812

**CAR FOR SALE :** Toyota

Prado, Model : 2006. Year of Manufacture: 2006. Colour : White. Condition: fairly good. Interested person may contact Ms. Thazin - Tel: 01-516-952

**CREATIVE ZEN MEDIA** Player for sale (Genuine Creative Product) 4 GB internal memory. Original Silicon case and box. Can play music, video, FM, Voice recording & photo view. Very good condition. Battery more than 3.5 hours. Price: 35000 Kyats Ph: 09-507-9980 (Aung Thu Hein).

**HD** (Game, app) install iPhone, iPod touch 6000ks, iPad 8000ks, iTunes account open (free game, app download) Gmail account open, All iDevices iOS 5.1.1 version upgrade full untethered jailbreak (power off) . Android Game, app install 5000ks, Ph : 09-514-7480.

**VERY GOOD 2nd Hand.** (1) GSM/CDMA Handset HTC Desire S RUS 1 Set (300,000Ks). (2) GSM Handset Louis Vutton Design 1 Set (50,000Ks). (3) GSM Handset LG KF 350 1 Set (50000Ks). Contact: 09-501-8380, 505597.

(1). **VOLVO** 740GLE [ New Cabin with WRTA ] [ 4Ka— ] [ ABS, AC, PS, PW, MP3 Player ] [ Mileage : 53000 Km ] (2). **Toyota Mark II** Grande limited (1989 model ) [ 9Ka— ] Ph: 09-44-800-6520

(1). **CANON** NP6416 copier (new condition) (2). Canon FAX-B150 (3). CHIGO air-con KF72LW . 3 hp (single) Floor Type (2) unit, (about 100 hr) 6 Lakhs (4). Needle - testing Machine (brand new) 70 Lakhs. Ph: 09-730-82783. ko poe zaw

**GIPHONE** 3GS Black 16GB IOS version 5.1.1 with Original Head phone Cable Charger with Original Box. Already Jailbreak Very good condition 80% New. Price - 170000 Ph: 09-517-8391

## General

**NYOON** Book Dealing: Various kinds of Books regrading Business Management, Business & Investing, Accounting, Briefcase Series, Interview skills, English Language can be available at Innwa Book Store, A Yone Thit Book Store, TAB Book Centre (Taw Win Centre), Yar Pyae (Mandalay) Book Store. We also provide ordering books by door to door system. No.214, 4th Flr, Cor of Anawrahta Rd & 32nd St, Pabedan Email: nyoon.bookdealing@gmail.com, Ph: 386693, 09-504-6769.

**ORGANIC FOLIAR** Spray for hotels, family gardens and indoor flower plants. Door to door service. Call 09-420080585.

## Training

**MDT** Pharmaceutical Institute, Applied Courses For Pharmaceutical Field. MDT training centre is train for pharmaceutical sales & marketing. Available courses are; Sales Training for Pharmaceuticals fields, Medico Marketing (Pharmaceuticals Marketing Training), Anatomy & Pharmacology for Pharmaceuticals Fields, KSA-Basics for Success as MSR, Business Communication, Customer Conversion (Buying Process). We assure brighter for your career. Ph: 09-516-9386, 09-730-47051, 09-493-14107.

**SMART** (Body Fitness): Welcome to all of customer. To reduce your over weight body (Above 200lb). To get smart and healthy body. To get a healthy life. Available to discuss with experts (Excellent Training Teacher). 142, 47th St, 1st Flr, Bota-htaung. Ph: 09-730-17729.

**DANCE CLASS** Special Attention Dance Teacher ; Hamjit Great experience teacher for dancing hip hop, rap & Tango Contact : 9190133 C/O Chaw Chaw

## Public Notice

**MARKETING** Groups, Septerm life Sciences Marketing Groups is the business of Medico-marketing, FMCG-marketing, Advertising or otherwise Promoting the sale of Pharmaceuticals products or Consumer products. We are specializing in direct pharmaceutical marketing services and FMCG marketing services including of recruiting, training, organizing & managing sales & marketing field forces in Myanmar. We offer longterm partnerships in representing pharmaceutical companies or FMCG who wish to increase their product's aware ness & sales in markets & the medical environment in our country. Ph: 09-516-9386, 09-493-14107.

## Want To Buy

**USED PHONE**- Samsung, Huawei, Iphone Nokia HTC Sony Ericsson Ipad Ipad Laptop, Notebook Netbook, Macbook Pro, Macbook Air, Samsung Galaxy Tablet, External Hardisk. Ph: 3764201.

## PROPERTY

### Housing for Rent

**HLAING**, Near Thiri Myaing Bus Stop, Baho Road, 12½x50 Sqft. Ground Floor, Very good for live, Near from ISM International School and New Thiri Mingalar Market. 1 month only 2 lakhs. Ph: 09-730-49543.

**BAHAN**, Nat Mauk Yeikthar St. (50'x100') 2RC, 3 Master Beds, 1 Bed room, 5AC, Ph, USD-3200 per month, Ph: 09-4201-14749.

**YANKIN**, A Wai Yar St. (30'x70') 2RC, 2 Master Beds, 2 Bed rooms, Ph, AC, Kyat 10 Lakhs, Ph: 09-4201-14749.

**BAHAN**: An apartment in Pearl Condominium, 12th flr, 1700 sq ft. designed & furnished in European style. Most modern interior decoration. Fully furnished & air conditioned. Best for foreigners. Rent expected USD 1900 per month. Call owner (English speaking 09-5082244 ) or ( Myanmar speaking. 09-73567890)

**BAHAN**: (1) Golden Valley, (70'x120') 2RC, 4 Master Bed Rooms, 1 Bed Rooms, AC, Ph, 40 Lakhs, 09-492-14276. (2) **Dagon** Tsp, Nawaday Lane, near the Bogyoke market, 2nd Flr (25'x100'), Fully furniture, USD 2000, 09-492-14276.

**CONDO** : IT's a most suitable ready made condo for office opening facilities Chairman room : 1, MD room, Director room, Meeting room, Reception Counter : 2, Staff cabinet : 18 No, CCTV Camera, Internet ph line : 4 , Full AC, Full AC, Full furniture, Full curtains service, 2200 sqft, US\$ 2500 per month. Ph: 09-515-5241.

**BAHAN** : (1) New University Avenue Lane, Condo, 7Flr, 1500sqft , Fully furnished & furniture, 3A/C, 1MBR, 2 SBR, 1Ph, 8Lakhs (2) **Golden Valley**, 2 Story Building, Fully furnished & furniture, 2MB, 2SB, Ph, A/C, Good neighbor hood, 30 Lakhs, (Suitable to Rent for Foreigner), Ph: 09-43200669

### Housing for Sale

**9 MILES**, Pyay Rd, Bonyarna Lane (50"x70") garden with including house (3500 Lakhs) no agent please. Pls call : 09-730-28726, 09-421-029911

**THINGANGYUN**, Brand New Apartment at Bawga Rd, 12.5' x 50' 100 lakhs to 250 lakhs . Ph: 09 500 2133

**FANTASTIC** opportunity to purchase this 5 bedroom, 3.5 bath-room, well-priced home in east lake forest. Stately brick home, just one block from lake side. 9 foot ceilings on ground floor with hardwood floors in formal rooms. Grand living rooms with volume ceilings and fireplace. Family room ideally situated off of kitchen. Library with pine paneling. Highly sought after home. Click here to view additional information www.realtorhome depot.com/secure/

**THINGANKYUN**, 120, Pyi Taw Aye St, Lay Daung Kan Word, Ph: 09-730-95600 (Kyaw Sein Lwin) Third Flr (130 Lakhs) (Back of Main St) **9 MILES**, 5 minutes walk from Main Road (Pyay Road), Bonyarna Lane (50"x70") garden with including house. Can travel all seasons (Especially Rainy Season), (3500 Lakhs) no agent please. Ph: 09-73028726 , 09-421-029911.

## Want To Hire

**BAHAN**, Kanbawza Rd, Golden Valley . 3300 sqft compound. 2 storey building (1110 sqft). Upstairs: 1 master bed room (16x13.5 sqft), 1 bed room (18x11 sqft), family room with small balcony Downstairs: Large living room, dining room with kitchen attached, 1 master bedroom (17x12 sqft) with staircase to upstairs (inside). Lawn & plants at backyard, highly secure, best electricity in town, municipal (gyo-phyu water). Fully furnished, heater, air-conditions, fridge, washing machine. Asking for \$ 1,500. Available immedately. Pls call -Myat @ 09-501-0816, Email: ixora2007@gmail.com. No agent pls.

## For Rent (55 Lakh)

**25' x 100', Height 20'**

Hall Type, Telephone (2) Lines  
Ground Floor (Including Attic)  
Full utilities

No. 127/129 (A), Theinbyu Main Rd.  
Mingalar Taung Nyut Tsp.

## For Rent (75 Lakh)

**25' x 50', Height 22'**

Hall Type, Telephone (2) Lines  
Ground Floor (Including Attic)  
Full utilities

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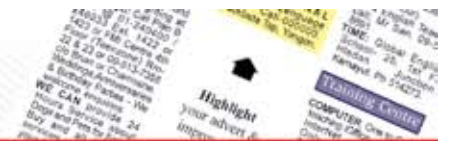
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## Employment

### UN Position

**THE UNITED Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC)** is seeking Myanmar nationals for (1) **Field Officer (SC-7) XSPK26 Project** - 1 Post, in Loilen, Southern Shan State. A relevant academic or a professional university degree in social sciences and/or development students. 5 years experience in Agriculture, Livestock, Community Development, health etc. Fluency in English. Knowledge of a local language of the region would be an asset. (2) **Marketing Specialist (Re-advertise) (SC-6) MMRJ94/J95 Projects** - 1 Post, Taunggyi/Hopone, Southern Shan State. University degree in Business Administration, marketing or related field. 5 years experience in marketing, with a focus on agriculture products preferred. Proficiency in MS Office & project management software: Fluency in English. Knowledge of a local language of the region would be an asset. Candidates should clearly indicate the Post Title in their application. Application must include a cover letter, current CV, copies of relevant academic qualification certificates, & a recent passport sized photograph to UNODC, 11A, Maylikha Rd, Mayangone. (or) C/O UNDP, POBox (650), Yangon, Closing Date: 25 September 2012.

### INGO Position

**ALLIANCE** in Myanmar is seeking **National consultant for Trainings** on capacity development (UNDP) : Minimum bachelor degree in relevant field. Working experience in public health sector, especially with PLHIV. Experience in conducting trainings & workshops. Solid understanding of PLHIV & women related aspect in Myanmar Country context facilitation and interpersonal skills. Excellent in writing, editing and drafting skills in English. Pls submit CV stating the consultation fees to the Country Director, Int'l HIV/AIDS Alliance: 12/F, Pyi Thu St, 7 miles, Mayangone, Yangon or email to admin@alliance.org.mm by 25 September 2012.

**BURNET** Institute Myanmar is seeking (1) **Project Manager (Education Program)** 1 post (2) **Technical Officer** for QLMA (Quality, Learning, Monitoring & Accountability) 1 post. All positions will be based in Yangon. Detailed information can be assessed at Burnet Institute Myanmar office. Pls submit an application letter, curriculum vitae with recent passport sized photo and copies of relevant documents to: HR Officer - Burnet Institute Myanmar: 226, 2nd Flr, Wisaya Plaza, U Wisara Rd, Bahan (OR) Email: burnet.myanmar@gmail.com Closing date: October 5, 2012 (Friday).

**MEDECINS** Sans Frontieres is seeking **Coordinator-Myanmar Emergency Response Unit**, 1 Post: Medical/paramedical degree with Full & current registration/ license with relevant professional body. Previous experience of working with MSF in Myanmar in a senior medical

management role for at least 2 years. Very good computer skills; MS Office. Fluent in Myanmar. Excellent command of English language. Pls send application letter, CV & passport photo, copies of education qualifications & references to: Attention: HR Department, Medecins Sans Frontieres (Yangon Coordination): 62A, Bawdiyektha, Thanlwin Rd, Bahan. Or through msfh.myanmar.recruitment@gmail.com. Closing date: 25th September 2012.

**MEDECINS du Monde (MDM)** is seeking **Health Advisor**, 1 Post in Pyapon: public health back-ground. Senior level experience in behavioural change communication and/or participatory rural appraisal in order to support the progress of the work by health team in the villages. 3 years of experience in an int'l context with a focus on public health, community health and/or MNCH. Pls submit CV & a cover letter to MDM Country Coordination Office, Yangon: 47-B, Po Sein St, Bahan. Ph: 542830, Email: ao.yangon.mdm@gmail.com, Closing date: 1st Oct, 2012.

**SOLIDARITES** Int'l is seeking **Deputy Programme Manager** in Bhamo, Kachin State: Technical qualification or degree holder, 3 years professional experience similar position in INGO. Excellent level of written & spoken English & Myanmar. IT skills: proficiency in MS Office. Pls submit application (CV, cover letter, references) by email to: bmo.prg.manager@solidarites-myanmar.org, hr.solidarites.mm@gmail.com. Important: the position you want to apply for has to be specified in the subject of your e-mail, otherwise the application will not be considered as valid. Closing date: 30th September 2012

**MYANMAR** Red Cross Society is seeking **Community Based Disaster Risk Reduction Training Officer** 2 Posts: University degree holder, 3 years experience in technical activities such as community based activities, DRR, community preparedness, etc. Computer literate in MS Office pack. Strong reporting skills (activities report in Myanmar & English language). Intermediate English language. Translation skills (Myanmar & English). Knowledge of Red Cross Movement. Pls submit a letter of application, relevant documents & CV. Copy of recommendation letter from Police station, Copy of labor registration card/Health Certificate & 1 passport photo (Cover Letter CV documents only need to be sent via e-mail) to U Khin Maung Hla, Executive Director, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Nay Pyi Taw mrcshrrecruitment@gmail.com before 28th September 2012.

**MEDECIN du Monde (MDM)** is seeking **Behavior Change Communication Officer**, 1 post in Yangon: Graduate. Fluent English (oral & written). Knowledge in Basic photoshop software and its tools. Knowledge in basic principles of Budget management. Pls submit CV & a cover

letter to MDM Yangon Office: 2, Aung Dhama Yeik Thar St, Hlaing. Ph: 664352, 660948. Email: hr.mdmmyanmar@gmail.com

### Local Position

**V A C A N C Y** Announcement (For Local Service Only) We are a progressive international manufacturing company looking for talented and motivated individual to join our company. (1) Job Title: **Accountant** Position required: 1 post Requirements: Essential Overall management of the budget in updating, monitoring, and reconciliation of monthly expenses by cost centres. Managing the cash flow in processing and disbursement of cash requirement of advances and settlement of advances and float monies. Management & updating Crop expenses by area of Farmers' Ledgers, leaf purchases, debts and Barn loan & Flue pipe balances. Updating & maintaining updated records of Farmer ledgers and Accounts Ledgers. Responsible for monitoring Leaf stocks, Agrochemical and Material stocks, fixed assets, and Crop equipment. Desirable **Age** : Age between 30-40. **Qualification** : Certified Public Accountant (CPA) **Experience** : At least 3 to 5 years relevant experience Proficient in Accounting. **Skills** : Strong computer skills, Able to communicate well with levels of people. Good Command of English. Awareness of fraud, ability to improve efficiency of the process by innovating new systems. Ability to travel to field areas to check on procedures. Positive working attitude and able to hard work to meet dead line. (2) Job Title : Assistant Accountant Position required : 1 post Requirements: Essential Handling, Processing of expenses claim bills, checked accuracy, completeness and validity. Disburse the money for day to day running expenses and receipt money recorded in daily cashbook. Desirable. **Age** : Age between 25-30. **Qualification** : B.com (or) LCCI Level III **Experience** : At least 2 years relevant experience Proficient in Accounting **Skills** : Strong computer skills, Able to communicate well with all levels of people. Good Command of English. Willingness to contribute. Discreet, positive working attitude and able to hard work to meet dead line. **Interested persons should submit** : a letter of application with full resume i.e. providing personal particulars, academic qualifications, working experience, full contact address and telephone number (if any), together with a recent photograph, copy of NRC, labor registration card and recommendation from local township police department and send to following address not later than **12 October 2012**: Human Resources Department Virginia Park 38, No.3 Trunk Road, Pymabin Industrial Estate, Mingaladon Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Note: Only short listed candidates will be contacted for a personal interview.

**ICARE** Medical Group is seeking Medical Doctor Female 1 Post. Must have a minimum degree from university M.B.B.S with SAMA registration. Age 25-30. Good communication in English. Minimum 2 years working experience at medical field. Must be able to use computer, internet and microsoft application with excellent skills. We welcome the candidates who are trust worthy, self-motivated & outstanding, willing to learn and able to focus on work, be polite and hospitality, able to communicate in courteous manner

Successful applicants will be rewarded monthly remuneration between 500,000Ks to 1,000,000 Ks. Pls sent detailed resume to 81, Hlaing Myintmo St(1), Hlaing, Ph: 530003, 513087, email: info@asmbuilding.com; Closing date: 30.9.2012 **WE** are currently seeking dedicated and quality (1) **Secretary** - M/F 1 Post : Bachelor Degree Holder. Fluent in English. 2 years experiences. (2) **Admin/HR Officer** - M/F 1 Post: Bachelor Degree Holder. Good command in English. (3) **Driver** - M 2 Posts: Driving

and must have positive working attitude. Interested persons are invited to submit: CV with recent photo, copy of relevant certificate and documents, describe working experience from graduation till present and expected salary to the following address. Room No.(G-07), Ground Floor, Diamond Center, Pyay Road, Ward 8, Kamayut Township, Tel: 532438, 532447, 09-513-6584, 09-431-19729.

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Details Page 33

**WE** are looking for (1) **Technical Sales Representative** - M/F 1 Post : (MBBS, B.Pharm, B.Med Tech & Above). Fluent in spoken & written English & computer knowledge in MS Office. Able to travel within the country as well as overseas. Must drive & have valid driving license. (2) **Sales Coordinator** - M/F 1 Post : (B.Agr. Sc and above). Fluent in English (spoken/written) Computer knowledge in MS Office. Able to travel within the country as well as overseas. Must drive and have valid driving license. Note: Pls submit application letter, 1 passport photo, CV with complete personal data including job experiences, educational certificates & character recommendation from police station to MY Associates Co., Ltd (IID), Rm (701), 7th Flr, Block (B), Dagon Centre, Pyay Rd, Myaynigone, Sanchaung. Tel: 510515, 525990.

**ASTERISM** Int'l Co., Ltd is one of the leading supplier of Building Materials and Home Decoration in Myanmar is seeking (1) **Civil Engineer** - M/F 1 Post: ME (Civil) or BE (Civil). AutoCAD skill. 5 years experience. Estimated measurement & costing. Should possess good presentation skill. Must hardworking & able to work independently & under pressure. Age over 35. (2) **Interior Design Engineer** - M/F 1 Post: Preferred Diploma graduate or equivalent; ideally within interior design. AutoCAD Skill & able to do quick sketch. 5 years experience in specializing in Architecture/ Interior Design or equivalent. Quality surveyor, Site valuation, all Correspondence etc. Age over 27.

License (Black or Red). 2 years experiences. Pls submit CV with 2 recent photos, copies of relevant qualifications, labor registration, and copy of NRC to Myanmar Agri-Tech Ltd : Rm 504, 5th Flr, FMI Center, No. 380, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan. Ph: 240360 ext 1524. Only the person who meets the above criteria will be informed to interview. Call for immediate interview and bring along your resume.

**A FINE** Dining Int'l Standard Myanmar Restaurant is looking for (1) **Sales & Marketing Executive** F 1 Post : Must be fluent in spoken English. Age 20-35. Pleasant and outgoing personality. Will provide food & transportation. (2) **Driver** - 1 Post : 3 years experience. Non alcoholic and personal hygiene are essential. Will provide food and accommodation. High salary for highly qualified person. Pls apply with update CV form, recent photo, Government labor registration, Copies of related data with NRC to 105/107, Kha Yae Bin Rd, Dagon Tsp, between Pyi Daung Su Yeik Thar (Halpin) Rd & Manawhari Rd / Ahlone Rd. Tel: 538895, 09-730-29973

**URGENTLY** Require **English/ Myanmar Translator** - M/F 1 Post : Translation in English & Myanmar. Knowledge of Marketing, Advertising on flyer & Billboard. Computer Literate (English/ Myanmar Typing). Good Command in spoken English. Able to work together with native speaker. Interested person to contact HR Manager : (107-115), 41 St, Botahtaung. Ph: 376022, 376010 with application, CV & required testimonials. Closing Date: 28.9.2012.

**MEDICAL DOCTOR** - F 1 Post : Must have a minimum degree from university M.B.B.S with SA MA registration. Age 25-30. Good communication in English. 2 years working experience at medical field. Must be able to use computer, internet & microsoft application with excellent skills. Interested persons are invited to submit: CV with recent photo, copy of relevant certificates & documents, describe working experience

from graduation till present and expected salary to iCare Medical Group: Rm (G-07), G Flr, Diamond Center, Ward-8, Pyay Rd, Kamayut, Tel: 532438, 532447, 09-513-6584, 513087, email: info@asmbuilding.com; Closing date: 30.9.2012 **WE ARE** looking for experience professional with the creative, global thinking, proactive & self motivated candidates as per the following positions: (1) **Manager** (Administration Department) - M/F 1 post (2) **Finance Manager** - F 1 post (3) **Chief Accountant** - F 1 post (4) **Marketing Supervisor** - M/F 1 post (5) **Sales Supervisor** - M/F 1 post (6) **Management Trainee** - M/F 5 posts (7) **Marketing Staff** - M/F 2 posts (8) **Sales Staff** - M/F 2 posts (9) **Office Staff** - M/F 2 posts (10) **Receptionist** - F 2 posts. All preferred to be able to speak English and ability to work well under pressure. Salary will depend on your experience & qualification. Pls submit CV (resume) with recent photo in MS word format, all copy/scan of academic certificates and NRC, within 3 weeks to info.74473@gmail.com.

**MANAGER, Liaison & Documentation**, required for Industrial House. Presentable & Communicable M/F. Knowledge of Myanmar Banking (MICB), & Government Departments in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. Will develop and lead team of capable Assistants. Knowledge of English. CV with 2 references. Pls call for Appointment 01 401093, 09-49323284.

**MANAGER, Liaison & Documentation**, required for Industrial House. Presentable & Communicable M/F. Knowledge of Myanmar Banking (MICB), & Government Departments in Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw. Will develop and lead team of capable Assistants. Knowledge of English. CV with 2 references. Pls call for Appointment 01 401093, 09-49323284.

**Place a FREE ad NOW!**

**AN INT'L Media Co.** is seeking for: (1) **Advertising Sales & Marketing Executives** (2) **English language Business News Editor & Writers**. Requirements: Bachelor Degree or Higher. Good command of English, Experience Preferred. Send CV with recent Photo to : Tharaphu Decor Co., Ltd: 22 (A), Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Bahan. Email : marchettiyangon@gmail.com Ph: 951-8603288, (951) 552886 Ext:105/106

**WE ARE** currently seeking (1) **Secretary** - M/F 1 Post: Bachelor Degree Holder, Fluent in English, 2 years experiences (2) **Admin/HR Officer** - M/F 1 Post: Bachelor Degree holder, Good command in English, Multitasking, good communication, administrative & organizational skills are essential. (3) **Driver** - M 2 Posts : Driving license (Black or Red), 2 years experiences. Pls submit CV with 2 recent photos, copies of relevant qualifications, labor registration, & copy of NRC to Myanmar Agri-Tech Ltd. Rm-504, 5th Flr FMI Center, 380, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan HO Office Ph: 240360 ext-1524: 09-5009527, **STAFF REQUIRED**,

needs to be technologically savvy & has banking / fsi experience, salary 2500USD to 3000USD, to be stationed in Yangon. At least 3 years experience, must include 2 references with contact details (one must be previous employer). Pls send resume to moelwin999@gmail.com.

**SMART** Group of Companies is seeking (1) **Environment Engineer** (Based - Kanbauk, Dawei) M 1 Post (2) **Electrician** (Based - Kanbauk, Dawei) M 4 Posts (3) **Instrumentation Engi-neer** (Based - Kanbauk, Dawei) M 1 Post (4) **Logistics Coordinator** (Based - Kanbauk, Dawei) M 15 Posts (5) **Project Coordinator** (Based - Kanbauk, Dawei) M 2 Posts. Pls send CV, 2 passport photos, copy of NRC card, academic transcripts (copy) & testimonial documents to CityBank Building 4th Flr, Banyardala Rd, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Ph: 09-8616730, 09-8616731, during 2 weeks.

**GSICO., LTD** is seeking : **Secretary** - F: Age 23~35, University Graduate Working hours : 8:30 am ~ 5:00pm. Language : Korean or Japanese Salary : Negotiation. Pls submit CV with other documents to No.2, Aung Thu Kha St, 9 Mile, Mayangone, Yangon. Ph: 661887, 0973186094 (1) **WEB DESIGNER** - 3 Posts : Design expert, 3 years of experience, Creative portfolio is essential. (2) **Web Developer** - 2 Posts : Demonstrated ability to code & program on PHP

Programming languages both autonomously and effectively within a team environment, Knowledge in CMS (Joomla)(3) **Networking** - 2 Posts (4) **Journal Layout Designer** - 1 Posts : Photoshop in Design, Experience in related fields. Pls submit CV with other documents to Media Lane, The Creative Agency. Ph: 01-430 897, 01 553 918 **MYANMAR AUTO** Corporation is looking for (1). **Manager** (Agricultural B.H.D) Oil-palm plantation experience at least 5 years (2). **Assistant Manager** (Agricultural B.H.D) experience with oil-palm plantation Ph: 66260209-49317989 myanauto@gmail.com Both positions need to be able to live at countryside.

**PEACE** Myanmar Electric Co., Ltd. is seeking (1) **Branch Manager** - M 2 Posts: M.B.A (or) D.M.A (or) Any Graduate with Management Diploma. 5 years experiences in Management & knowledge for TQM & ISO. Be able to speak & write English. Advance computer literate. Age above 40. (2) **Sales Engineer** - M 5 Posts: B.E/B.Tech (or) AGTI (Electrical/ Electronic). 2 years experience in Factory Automation

& Industrial Product. Computer literate & able to speak & write English. Age under 35. (3) **Sales Engineer** - M 5 Posts: B.E/B.Tech/AGTI (Electrical/ Electronic). Age 25-40 Strong working experience in Solar System Products. Computer literate & able to speak and write in English. (4) **Manager** (Project/Data Analysis) - M 2 Posts: Graduate with M.B.A (or) Management Diploma. Age 30 ~ 45. Excellent in English. Computer literate, ability to speak & write English. (5) **Store Keeper** - M 6 Posts : Any Graduate. 2 years experience & knowledge in store. Computer literate and ability to use Microsoft Office. Age under 30 (6) **Receptionist** - F 5 Posts: Any Graduate. Able to speak English. Age under 25. (7) **Computer Operator** - M/F 5 Posts: Any Graduate. Must be able to use Microsoft Office & Adobe Page Maker, Photoshop. Ability to use English & Myanmar font. 2 years experience Age under 35 (8) **Sales & Marketing Staff & Executive** - M/F 10 Posts: Any Graduate (or) B.E (or) B.Tech (or) AGTI (Electronics/ Mechanical/Mechanical). Marketing Diploma (or) Certificate. 2 years experience. Be able to speak & write English. Computer literate. Age under 35. (9) **AutoCAD** - M/F 3 Posts: B.E (Mechanical) (or) AGTI (Mechanical). Able to 2D, 3D Design. 2 years experience. Age under 30. (10) **Web Developer** (or) **Software Engineer** - M 3 Posts : 2-3 years experience. SQL familiar. Understanding VB6. Under 30 years old. (11) **Hardware Engineer** - M 1 Post: 2-3 years experience. Age under 30. Pls submit CV with relevant documents to : 37/139, Botahtaung Pagoda Rd, Botahtaung. Ph: 202117 (5 Lines).

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**Egypt** 81, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 222886, 222887, fax: 222865, email: egyptmbyangon@mpmail.net.mm

**France** 102, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 212178, 212520, 212523, 212528, 212532, fax: 212527, email: ambafrance.rangon@diplomatie.fr

**Germany** 9, Bogyoke Aung San Museum Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 548951, 548952, fax: 548899 email: info@rangun.diplo.de

**India** 545-547, Merchant Street, Yangon. tel: 391219, 388412, 243972, fax: 254086, 250164, 388414, email: indiaembassy@mpmail.net.mm

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**Israel** 15, Khabaung Street, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. tel: 515115, fax: 515116, email: info@yangon.mfa.gov.il

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**North Korea** 77C, Shin Saw Pu Road, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon. tel: 512642, 510205, fax: 510206

**South Korea** 97 University Avenue, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 527142-4, 515190, fax: 513286, email: myanmar@mofat.go.kr

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**Malaysia** 82, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 220248, 220249, 220251, 220230, fax: 221840, email: mkyangon@mpmail.net.mm

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**Sri Lanka** 34 Taw Win Road, Yangon. tel: 222812, fax: 221509, email: slembassy.yangon@gmail.com, info@slembyangon.org, www.slembyangon.org

**Thailand** 94 Pyay Road, Dagon Township, Yangon. tel: 226721, 226728, 226824, fax: 221713

**United Kingdom** 80 Kan-na Road, Yangon. tel: 370867, 380322, 371852, 371853, 256438, 370863, 370864, 370865, fax: 370866

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**Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia** No.287/289, U Wisara Rd, Sanchaung Tsp. tel: 01-536153, 516952, fax: 01-516951

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**IOM** 12th Flr, Traders Hotel, 223, tel: 252560 ext. 5002

**UNAIDS Rm:** (1223-1231), 12 Fl, Traders Hotel. tel: 252361, 252362, 252498. fax: 252364.

**UNDCP** 11-A, Malikka St, Mayangone tsp. tel: 666903, 664539. fax: 651334.

**UNDP** 6, Natmauk Rd, Bahan tel: 542910-19. fax: 292739.

**UNFPA** 6, Natmauk Rd, Bahan tsp. tel: 546029.

**UNHCR** 287, Pyay Rd, Sanchaung tsp. tel: 524022, 524024. fax 524031.

**UNIAP Rm:** 1202, 12 Fl, Traders Hotel. tel: 254852, 254853.

**UNIC** 6, Natmauk St., BHN tel: 52910-19

**UNICEF** 14-15 Flr, Traders Hotel. P.O. Box 1435, KTDA. tel: 375527-32, fax: 375552 email: unicef.yangon@unicef.org, www.unicef.org/myanmar.

**UNODC** 11-A, Malikka Rd., Ward 7, MYGN. tel: 666903, 660556, 660538, 660398, 664539, fax: 651334. email: fo.myanmar@unodc.org www.unodc.org./myanmar/

**UNOPS** Inya Lake Hotel, 3rd floor, 37, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp. tel: 951-657281-7. Fax: 657279.

**UNRC** 6, Natmauk Rd, P.O. Box 650, TMWE tel: 542911-19, 292637 (Resident Coordinator), fax: 292739, 544531.

**WFP** 3rd-flr, Inya Lake Hotel, 37, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 657011-6 (6-lines) Ext: 2000.

**WHO** 12A Fl, Traders Hotel. tel:250583.

**ASEAN** Coordinating Of. for the ASEAN Humanitarian Task Force, 79, Taw Win st, Dagon Township. Ph: 225258.

**FAO** Myanma Agriculture Service Insein Rd, Insein. tel: 641672, 641673. fax: 641561.

## General Listing

### ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS

**Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon**  
40 Natmauk Rd, Tarmwe. tel: 544500. fax: 544400.

**Clover hotel**  
No.7A, Wingabar Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : (951) 546313, 430245. 09-731-77781-4. Fax : [01] 546313. www.cloverhotel.asia. info@cloverhotel.asia

**Confort Inn**  
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**Golden Aye Yeik Mon Hotel**  
4, Padauk Lane, 4th Word, Aye Yeik Mon Housing, Hlaing. tel: 681706.

**Hotel Yangon**  
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**Inya Lake Resort Hotel** 37 Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 662866. fax: 665537.

**Orchid Hotel**  
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**Savoy Hotel**  
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**Seasons of Yangon Yangon Int'l Airport Compound.** tel: 666699.

**Sweet Hotel**  
73, Damazedi Road, San Chaung Tsp, Ph: 539152

**Sedona Hotel**  
Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin. tel: 666900.

**Strand Hotel**  
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**Summit Parkview Hotel**  
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**Thamada Hotel**  
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**Traders Hotel**  
223 Sule Pagoda Rd. tel: 242828. fax: 242838.

**Winner Inn**  
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**Yangon YMCA**  
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**Yuzana Hotel**  
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**Yuzana Garden Hotel**  
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**MiCasa Hotel Apartments**  
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**Sakura Residence**  
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**The Grand Mee Ya Hta Executive Residence**  
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**Yangon City Villa (Residence)**  
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**General**  
83-91, G-F, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Kyauktada Tsp, tel : 706223, 371906

### ASTROLOGER

**Saya Min Thoun Dara Astrologer**  
No(2), Maha Wizaya Pagoda North Stairway, Dagon Tsp. tel: 296184

### BARS

**50th Street**  
9/13, 50th street-lower, Botataung Tsp. Tel-397160.

**Green Garden**  
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**INYA 1**  
Restaurant & Bar  
No.(1), Inya Road, Kamayut Tsp. Tel: 01-527506 email: inyaone@gmail.com www.inya1.com

**Strand Bar** 92, Strand Rd, Yangon, Myanmar. tel: 243377. fax: 243393, sales@thstrand.com.mm www.ghmhotels.com

**the LOBBY BAR**  
PARKROYAL Yangon, Myanmar. 33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Tsp. tel: 250388.

## Emergency Numbers

- Ambulance ☎tel: 295133.
- Fire ☎tel: 191, 252011, 252022.
- Police emergency ☎tel: 199.
- Police headquarters ☎tel: 282541, 284764.
- Red Cross ☎tel:682600, 682368
- Traffic Control Branch ☎tel:298651
- Department of Post & Telecommunication ☎tel: 591384, 591387.
- Immigration ☎tel: 286434.
- Ministry of Education ☎tel:545500m 562390
- Ministry of Sports ☎tel: 370604, 370605
- Ministry of Communications ☎tel: 067-407037.
- Myanmar Post & Telecommunication (MPT) ☎tel: 067-407007.
- Myanmar Post & Tele-communication (Accountant Dept) ☎tel: 254563, 370768.
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs ☎tel: 067-412009, 067-412344.
- Ministry of Health ☎tel: 067-411358-9.
- Yangon City Development Committee ☎tel: 248112.

- Yangon Children Hospital ☎tel: 222807, 222808, 222809.
- Yangon General Hospital (East) ☎tel: 292835, 292836, 292837.
- Yangon General Hospital (New) ☎tel: 384493, 384494, 384495, 379109.
- Yangon General Hospital (West) ☎tel: 222860, 222861, 220416.
- Yangon General Hospital (YGH) ☎tel: 256112, 256123, 281443, 256131.

**ELECTRICITY**  
Power Station ☎tel:414235

**POST OFFICE**  
General Post Office  
39, Bo Aung Kyaw St. (near British Council Library). ☎tel: 285499.

**INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**  
Yangon International Airport ☎tel: 662811.

**YANGON PORT**  
Shipping (Coastal vessels) ☎tel: 382722

**RAILWAYS**  
Railways information ☎tel: 274027, 202175-8.

- HOSPITALS**
- Central Women's Hospital ☎tel: 221013, 222811.
- Children Hospital ☎tel: 221421, 222807
- Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital ☎tel: 543888.
- Naypyitaw Hospital (emergency) ☎tel: 420096.
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**Inya Day Spa**  
16/2, Inya Rd, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 537907, 503375.

**Lemon Day Spa**  
No. 96 F, Inya Road, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 514848, 09-732-08476. E-mail: lemondayspa.2011@gmail.com

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La Source Beauty Spa 80(A), Inya Rd, Kamayut. tel: 512 380, 511 252. Sedona Hotel, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 666 900

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Summit Parkview Hotel 350, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp. tel: 211888, 211966.

**Traders Health Club.**  
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# Last-minute Ronaldo sinks City

By Dermot Ledwith

MADRID – Cristiano Ronaldo struck a last-minute winner on September 18 as Real Madrid beat Manchester City 3-2 in a thrilling Champions League clash that saw all the goals come in a nerve-wracking final 22 minutes.

Real came back twice through Marcelo and Karim Benzema to level the game after substitutes Edin Dzeko and Aleksandar Kolarov had put City ahead.

And then up stepped Ronaldo to give the home side a deserved three points to kick start their Champions League Group D campaign.

“We were lacking in confidence and in the circumstances it was difficult to play any better than we did,” Real coach Jose Mourinho said.

“We have won back our DNA, we’ve got three points, our last game in this phase is at home and we have a good chance of qualifying from a difficult group.”

Asked about what he was thinking as he performed an enthusiastic celebration on Ronaldo’s winner, the Portuguese coach was belligerent after recent press criticism of his team.

“I thought about all the match reports that the journalists would have to delete.”

“My team has played completely the opposite to what we did in Seville on Saturday [September 16], we battled, we won balls and we played football, there are no problems within our camp and I have no problems with any of my players,” he said after surprisingly leaving out Sergio Ramos and Mesut Ozil from the side that lost 1-0 in Seville.

City coach Roberto Mancini was pragmatic about the defeat.

“It is difficult to take, not the way we lost but because we went 2-1 up,” said Mancini.

“I don’t want to continue to defend like how we did in the last four minutes.”

“We were too deep, it can happen that you can lose here, Madrid were better in the first half but to score 2 here and be 2-1 up, then go too deep is disappointing.”

Real took the initiative from the start as City took their time to adjust to their surroundings.



Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates after scoring during the UEFA Champions League football against Manchester City at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on September 18. Pic: AFP

A blistering counter-attack by Real after eight minutes saw Gonzalo Higuain pick out Ronaldo who drew the first save of the evening from English international Joe Hart.

Four minutes later and Hart denied Higuain, this time with an acrobatic dive after the Argentine striker glanced a Ronaldo cross goalbound.

Next it was Alvaro Arbeloa cutting in from the left who tried his luck and it was all the home side.

On 32 minutes Hart got down well to save a Marcelo drive and the home crowd, strangely subdued at kick-off, for a fleeting moment smelt blood and upped the volume.

Yet the visitors gradually began to dispute more possession and but for a half chance for Higuain and an Angel Di Maria curled shot the interval arrived goalless.

City had yet to trouble the home defence so in the hour the Spanish World Cup winner David Silva left the field as Mancini shuffled his pack and brought on Dzeko.

Mourinho immediately reacted bringing on Ozil to replace Essien and Marcelo saw another shot drift high.

It looked like the match would drift to a

close with both teams happy with a point until Toure intercepted a short pass in his own half and made a wonderfully leggy sprint before playing in Dzeko who put City ahead.

The game burst into life and it was the English side who were enjoying the better chances. Dzeko and Toure went close as Luka Modric and Benzema were called from the bench for the hosts.

The changes had an immediate effect as Real levelled on 75 minutes when Marcelo, who had previously favoured his left, moved onto his right foot to curl a shot in from 25 yards.

City were now attacking at will and Kolarov took advantage to hit what looked like the winner on 84 minutes from a free-kick wide on the right that evaded Iker Casillas in the Madrid goal.

Their lead, however, was short lived during a crazy final five minutes.

It was another substitute in Benzema who turned well before shooting to level on 86 minutes.

And then Ronaldo, who had started the game on fire, finished it off with the last minute winner to break English hearts.

– AFP

## Man charged over AFC ‘theft’

KUALA LUMPUR – A Malaysian man was charged September 18 with stealing documents from the Asian Football Confederation’s (AFC) headquarters in Kuala Lumpur, a government prosecutor said.

Kong Lee Toong, husband of the AFC’s former finance director Amelia Gan, pleaded not guilty to the charge in a court in the capital, Kue Wei Lon, deputy public prosecutor in the Malaysian attorney-general’s office, said.

The charge comes amid an increasingly bitter battle between the governing body of Asian football and its suspended president Mohamed bin Hammam, who is being investigated by the AFC for what it calls possible corrupt activities.

The AFC had lodged a complaint with police over missing documents reportedly relating to a large payment made to bin Hammam in 2008.

Hammam, meanwhile, had complained that documents detailing “personal payments” were stolen from his office, and were included in an internal AFC audit of his activities as president, carried out by PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Kee said the alleged theft involved a “financial document from AFC House” and occurred on July 31. Kong, 35, had earlier surrendered to police.

An AFC lawyer had earlier given the defendant’s name as “Tony Kang”.

Kong is jointly charged with another unnamed person who is still at large, Kee said, and faces a potential 10-year jail sentence. He was freed on bail and will reappear in court on October 17.

Citing the ongoing investigation, neither Kee nor AFC legal counsel Mohamad Bustaman Abdullah provided details of the allegedly stolen documents.

The AFC had said its internal audit looked into the handling of certain contracts and financial transactions involving AFC bank accounts and Bin Hammam’s own personal account during his tenure.

It said possible alleged infringements included violations of AFC statutes on ethics, corruption, conflicts of interest, bribery and accepting gifts and other benefits.

British media said Hammam, who was provisionally suspended from the AFC on the basis of the audit, met AFC-appointed investigators in London this week and offered a detailed explanation of the payments.

The 63-year-old Qatari remains provisionally suspended by both world football governing body FIFA and the AFC pending the investigations.

In July, his lifetime ban from football was overturned by the Court of Arbitration for Sport on grounds of insufficient evidence.

Bin Hammam was handed the ban last year after being found guilty by FIFA’s ethics committee of bribery during his campaign to replace Sepp Blatter as the world body’s president. He says the accusations are politically motivated. – AFP

## AFF Suzuki Cup tickets go on sale

By Kyaw Zin Haling

Myanmar will host the next AFF Suzuki Cup 2012 qualifying games from October 5 to 13.

The qualifying matches will be between Myanmar, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Brunei and Laos at the Youth Training Centre, Yangon.

Tickets will be sold for K3000 for special seats while ordinary seats cost K1000 using a digital ticketing system produced by My Asia Ticket company limited. Ticket sales will be limited to four tickets per person.

“We are selling around 30,000 tickets for each match. Myanmar people are not yet familiar with a digital ticketing system, but we will try and I hope the system will be successful here,” said Mr Choakchai Eaimrittikrai, assistant ticketing manager of the Malaysian My Asia Ticket.

There are also plans to introduce the digital ticketing system for the upcoming Myanmar National League 2013.

Tickets outlets will be the MRTV-4 digital showroom and Yatanarpon call centre. Call 1876 for booking.

## Arsenal fight back to edge spirited Montpellier

By Tom Williams

MONTPELLIER, France – Arsenal came from behind to win 2-1 in an end-to-end game at Champions League debutants Montpellier on September 18, as Arsene Wenger’s side made a winning start to their Group B campaign.

Younes Belhanda stunned the visitors with a ninth-minute Panenka penalty but Arsenal hit back through quick-fire goals from Lukas Podolski and Gervinho to secure only their sixth win in their last 16 group-phase away games.

“It was difficult,” said Arsenal assistant coach Steve Bould, who took charge of the team due to Wenger’s touchline ban.

“In the first half, I thought we were excellent and kept the crowd really quiet. The second half was tough and we looked a bit tired physically.”

“It was hot and humid. The crowd got right behind them and it’s quite an intimidating place to play, so we were pleased to get the result.”

Remy Cabella hit the bar for Montpellier, who gave Arsenal several uneasy moments, and despite the result, the hosts’ display belied a difficult start

to their Ligue 1 title defence that has seen them beaten three times already.

“We can have a few regrets,” said Montpellier coach Rene Girard.

“They scored two goals in two minutes and it nearly killed the match. We were a bit timid in the first half, but in the second half we were exemplary in terms of our desire and engagement, and we created a few opportunities.”

“But at this level, you don’t get second chances.”

Girard had called on the club’s fans to make Stade de la Mosson “hell” for the visitors but there was a nervousness in the hosts’ ranks until Belhanda’s penalty brought the stadium roaring to life.

The penalty award appeared harsh but replays vindicated referee Carlos Velasco Carballo’s decision to penalise Thomas Vermaelen for a robust challenge on Belhanda, who beat Vito Mannone with a nonchalant chipped spot-kick.

It was a better start than Montpellier’s fans could have hoped for on their team’s first ever appearance in the competition, but within only nine minutes the French champions found themselves behind.

Girard had received a warm reception from the supporters of his former club but he created the equaliser in the 16<sup>th</sup> minute with a prodded through ball for fellow summer signing Podolski that

the German guided past Geoffrey Jourden.

Montpellier barely had time to gather their senses before Arsenal struck again, as Gervinho ghosted into the 4 metre area to convert Carl Jenkinson’s low cross from the right.

In response, Cabella drew a save from Mannone with a low drive, while Giroud threatened to open his Arsenal account just before half-time with a volley from a Kieran Gibbs cross that flew wide.

Montpellier began to pin Arsenal back in the second period, with a succession of chances early in the half serving to raise the volume in the stadium.

Garry Bocaly and Anthony Mounier both shot off-target, while Cabella fired over after dispossessing the dallying Abou Diaby and then saw a carefully weighted chip from 20 yards come back off the bar.

Back in the Arsenal team after injury, Diaby looked ponderous at times, but in the 57<sup>th</sup> minute he drove forward and released Santi Cazorla for a shot that Jourden had to beat away.

Belhanda’s promptings were at the heart of much of Montpellier’s best football, but he spurned a glorious chance to bring his side level in the 80<sup>th</sup> minute.

After tip-toeing around the prone Per Mertesacker, the Moroccan playmaker found himself with a clear sight of goal, but from 10 yards out he could only shoot straight at Mannone. – AFP



Arsenal striker Gervinho (left) vies with Montpellier goalkeeper Geoffrey Jourden during their UEFA Champions League football match on September 18. Pic: AFP





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# TIMESSPORT

## Messi saves Barcelona against Spartak

By Tim Hanlon

BARCELONA – Lionel Messi came to the rescue with a late double to earn Barcelona a 3-2 victory over Group G opponents Spartak Moscow on September 19 as the Catalans stuttered in the opening match of their Champions League campaign.

Barca are aiming for their third Champions League trophy in five years but could have had their first home defeat in the competition in nearly three years when Romulo gave the visitors the lead on the hour mark.

The hosts went ahead early on through Cristian Tello, but an own-goal from Dani Alves after 29 minutes brought Spartak back into the contest.

Barca were enjoying the vast majority of the play but Romulo's second-half goal left them staring at potentially their first loss at the Camp Nou since another Russian club, Rubin Kazan, won here in 2009.

Messi, though, put their European ambitions back on track with two poacher's goals inside the last 20 minutes.

"To start off with a win is very important and this was never going to be an easy game as we were against a Spartak side with good players including a lot of foreigners," said Barca coach Tito Vilanova.

"They closed themselves in at the back and looked to counter



Barcelona forward Lionel Messi (centre) shoots during their Champions League football match against Spartak Moscow at the Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on September 19. Pic: AFP

attack. It was that kind of game, perhaps boring.

"I can't say that I am pleased with the performance but as for the defence it is always possible that you can concede if you are so far up the pitch."

Spartak's Spanish coach Unai Emery had never beaten Barcelona during his time in

charge of Almeria or Valencia and it was always likely to be a severe test.

"We are not happy obviously with the way the game turned out but if there is something good to take from it then we made it difficult for Barcelona and we know that we have a bright future," said Emery.

"I have no regrets about the way the defence performed but I think we could have done a bit more going forward."

Tello should have given the home side the lead after 10 minutes but he scooped his shot round the post following a delightful through ball from Messi.

While Barca were dominating,

their situation deteriorated at the back as Gerard Pique had to go off a couple of minutes later having injured his leg – and is expected to be out for two to three weeks – with Alex Song forced to step into the defence.

But Tello made up for his earlier miss with a fine shot from the edge of the area to give Barca the lead.

The youngster stepped inside Kirill Kombarov before slotting past 'keeper Andriy Dykan and into the far corner.

Vilanova's men looked comfortable at that point, but Spartak drew level from a rare breakthrough, Emmanuel Emenike making a marauding run down the right before seeing his harmless pass steered into his own goal by Dani Alves on the back foot.

Barca once again went on the offensive and Spartak were left hanging on against waves of attacks.

Messi forced a good save out of Dykan at one end and then Spartak stole into the lead as Aidan McGeady supplied Romulo, who finished clinically into the corner.

Vilanova took off Alves and switched to a three-man defence as they looked to get back in the game and Messi once again proved to be the difference.

He first knocked in a Tello pass from close range on 71 minutes and then headed home an Alexis Sanchez cross with ten minutes to go. – AFP

## John Barnes praises Myanmar young players, sees future success

By Aung Si Hein

THE former Liverpool and England player John Barnes added star power to a youth football training clinic last week, and admitted he was impressed with what he saw.

"The quality of the boys here are the same as English or even Brazilian boys. If they are trained systematically, they will grow in the future and become outstanding players," Mr Barnes said during a press conference at the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) on

September 19.

The four day clinics are sponsored by Digicel as part of its youth development programme. Working as Digicel's brand ambassador and coach, Mr Barnes arrived on September 17 to instruct 70 young coaches and players who have been selected from the national MFF U-12 Digicel Cup 2012.

Despite liking what he saw, Mr Barnes highlighted the urgent need to improve training and infrastructure to properly develop the youngsters.

"Yesterday I watched how the Myanmar under twelve

players performed. They are very disciplined and very eager to learn. They have a lot of skill and quality, so they should be continually trained in terms of discipline, tactics, and togetherness," he said.

"With that kind of attitude, they have an equal chance to grow as the boys in England if they are given good training."

Jamaican born Mr Barnes made his name as part of Kenny Dalglish's Liverpool side 25 years ago as a midfielder. Renowned for a skillful left foot, he helped Liverpool secure their 17<sup>th</sup> League title during the

record-equaling 29 game unbeaten run from the start of the 1987-88 season.

Liverpool FC hails the influence of Mr Barnes: "just as the No 7 shirt will always be associated with Kenny Dalglish, the No 10 will forever belong to Barnes."

He was also capped 79 times for England before moving into coaching, first with Celtic FC and the Jamaican national team before he worked for Digicel.

Digicel, a mobile telecommunications company based in Jamaica, has expanded to 31 countries, including Myanmar, and

is strongly involved in youth sports development programmes. They started youth football training in the Caribbean, and has expanded to Africa as well as Southeast Asia.

"Football in the Caribbean is similar to football in South East Asia. In South East Asia, Myanmar will be very successful in the future," Mr Barnes said.

In Myanmar Digicel has agreed a three-year contract with MFF, sponsoring the 2013 AFC U-22 qualifiers, the Myanmar men & women national teams, the MNL knockout competition 2012,

as well as youth development programs for U-12, 14 and 16, and the Myanmar referees federation.

"A lot of positive things have happened since Digicel came in. We want to support Myanmar football at all levels. We want to help restore the glory Myanmar football had in 1960s," Ms Vanessa Slowey, chief executive officer of Digicel Asia Pacific said.

"Digicel's support and sponsorship will have a big role to play in youth development and John Barnes is the ideal man given his football skills and technique," Ms Vanessa added.

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