A HOME CONTEST THAT'S ALL ABOUT STYLE INSIDE

THE MYANMAR TIMES 1200 Kyats

No. 665: February 11 - 17, 2013 Heartbeat of The Nation www.mmtimes.com

Refugee limbo for thousands of Rohingya in Thailand

AN ESTIMATED 1400 Rohingya refugees in southern Thailand face an uncertain future, as the Thai government mulls a change in its policy towards the boatloads of refugees from western Myanmar that have been arriving on the country's shores.

Thailand has been heavily criticised in the past for turning away the refugees, many of whom come from Rakhine State and identify themselves as Rohingya.

In recent months, the sheer number of displaced peoples fleeing ethnic violence in Rakhine State has drawn the attention of aid groups both in Thailand and internationally, prompting the Thai Department of Foreign Affairs to announce on January 25 that some Rohingya refugees would be allowed to stay in Thailand for at least six months as the government prepares a new policy on the issue.

But the Ministry of Foreign Affairs emphasised in a statement on January 29 that the six months is only an "initial timeframe".

"The possibility of repatriating these persons, and of resettlement and family reunification in a third country will be explored. Thailand has been working with the [UN Refugee Agency] and [International Organisation for Migration] on a scoping exercise which should soon provide more information to help clarify and identify a solution," it said.

More page 6

On the front lines

A Kachin Independence Army soldier aims his weapon from a bunker at the Jan Mai outpost near Mai Ja Yang, a KIA-controlled border town, on January 22. For more images from the front lines of the Kachin conflict, see our photo essay on page 22. *Pic: Kaung Htet*

Air Force boss to take over telecoms

By Win Ko Ko Latt

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein has nominated the head of the Air Force to lead the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology following the resignation of U Thein Tun last month.

Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Myat Hein will be responsible for overseeing a ministry that is simultaneously conducting a closely watched tender for telecommunications licences and the subject of a large corruption investigation that has already seen eight people arrested.

The decision bucks the recent trend towards civilians – including a number who have never served in the military – being appointed to minister and deputy minister posts.

In another surprise move, the president also appointed Lieutenant General Thet Naing Win from the Ministry of Defence as minister for border affairs, replacing Lieutenant General Thein Htay.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint read the February 5 message from President U Thein Sein to representatives on February 8. The message said Lt Gen Thein Htay would revert to the position he held before being appointed a union minister but did not specify what that position was.

Both of the men nominated last week were born in 1955 but the message revealed few other biographical details.

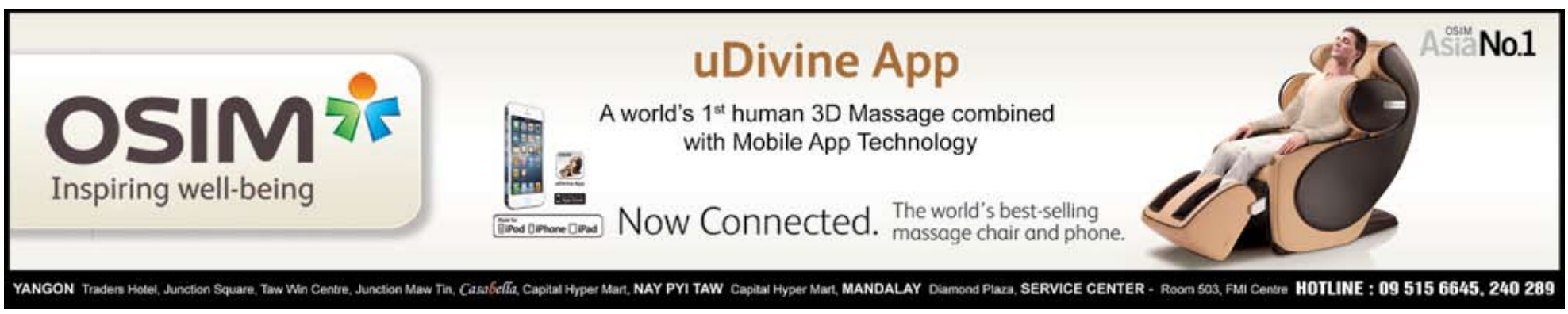
National Democratic Force co-founder U Khin Maung Swe, who is a member of the Rakhine conflict investigation commission, said he was surprised at the decision to remove Lt Gen Thein Htay.

"I've met Lt Gen Thein Htay twice and he knew a lot about border affairs. He has foresight and a gentle manner. I can't say why he was recalled back to his former role," U Khin Maung Swe said.

He said the change would not impact the investigation commission's activities or report, which is expected at the end of March.

"For our investigation commission, it doesn't matter who the minister is. It is an independent group," he said. – *Translated by Thiri Min Htun*

DIGITAL Communications 12-PAGE INSIDE



What's really happening in the s

Almost 13 years ago the first edition of The Myanmar Times came off the found favour with readers who were looking for fresh alternatives. A year of time both became dominant and superior newspapers in Myanmar and the since then and the latest episode involving two of the partners in the business in its last throes. In this exclusive interview Managing Director paints a picture of the tightrope the

Two charges have been filed against you by one of your partners, Daw Khin Moe Moe, the wife of Dr Tin Tun Oo. You have responded. What is the update?

Some criminal charges have been laid. It is quite serious. Dr Khin Moe Moe, along with five other strangers intruded into my office on January 27with a deliberate and pre-meditated plan to cause me a problem and to disrupt the running of The Myanmar Times. I was insulted and defamed and people acted in a threatening and aggressive manner towards me in this incident at The Myanmar Times. I defended myself in my own workplace. I do not believe that I have to be subjected to this type of behaviour in Myanmar, which is now a democratic country. I am shocked and deeply upset at how this happened and then suddenly next morning she has filed two cases against me. I have had no choice but to respond with four charges against her and these other perpetrators. I am contemplating adding more charges and this will depend on the advice of my legal team.

Who are the players in Myanmar Consolidated Media? What are the exact shareholdings?

Fifty-one percent of the shares in MCM Ltd are owned by Swesone Media. Swesone Media is owned by Dr Tin Tun Oo and Dr Khin Moe Moe. I am not aware of the exact shareholders and shareholdings on their side. As for the remaining 49pc, well it is controlled by me. I have as my shareholders Bill Clough, who invested in the project with me back in the year 2000 and who later on won the exploration rights for an offshore oil and gas block. Later on interests associated with a New Zealand friend bought 10pc of the total shares. That's all. These are the same shareholders that we have with our Cambodian media investment, where we publish two daily newspapers called The Phnom Penh Post. I am the publisher of that group, which is 100pc foreign owned and has won 11 international awards in the past four years. It packs a punch way above its weight class.

From my own perspective I have put more than 13 years of my life into these two projects and I see myself leading them into something much more exciting in the near future. I have kept us in the game despite some great periods of turbulence. I hope my own shareholders would also see the sacrifices I have made and the lengths I have gone to protect and nurture these two media companies.

Why has this tension reappeared at The Myanmar Times now? Dr Khin Moe Moe even said recently she will stop the newspaper from being published – is that likely to happen?

Dr Khin Moe Moe appears to believe that because she is a majority shareholder she can throw her weight around and pretty much do as she wants. She has become increasingly aggressive and unpleasant. As a non-executive director she has been making an awful lot of statements this past week or so about what she is going to do here and what she is going to do there. I have refrained from engaging in that game, so let's just talk about what is correct and what is not correct. Dr Khin Moe Moe has no right solely to stop anything at The Myanmar Times. She is not even the publisher of the newspaper – that role is fulfilled by her husband. The publisher is appointed by the board of directors of the company and must comply at all times with the directions given by the board and be seen to be acting in the best interests of the company. We assert and maintain that only the board can decide these things. If Dr Khin Moe Moe wishes to stop the newspaper or prevent a daily application going in then she can call a board meeting and make her case. I'm sure the board will act responsibly.

As far as I am aware the ministry has not received any documents from Dr Khin Moe Moe blocking an application for a daily. Anyway, why would she do that?

Dr Tin Tun Oo and Dr Khin Moe Moe are not your preferred partners, are they? What is the real story behind this?

Late in 2005 I was summoned to a meeting at the Ministry of Information offices on Thein Phyu Road. I was taken to a room there and in the room was Colonel Aung Nyein, who at that time was managing director of the Periodicals Enterprise. Col Aung Nyein said his minister [U Kyaw Hsan] had made it clear that Yamin Htin Aung, the wife of U Myat (Sonny) Swe, my co-founder in Myanmar Consolidated Media, could no longer be the partner in The Myanmar Times and that the minister had identified a new partner for me. They were famous doctors, he told me, and well-known publishers. They would be the perfect partners for me, he said, and as a matter of fact Dr Tin Tun Oo was in the next room and I should meet him. I said to him that I wasn't in the habit of getting engaged let alone married to someone I had never met and that I didn't like the ultimatum I was being given. I said that if he was brought in the room I would leave immediately and I would not talk with him. I said I had offers from other people who wanted to become my partner and that my shareholders were determined that I should exercise our legal rights. I again emphasised to him that it

truggle for *The Myanmar Times*

presses. Founded by Ross Dunkley and U Myat Swe (Sonny Swe) it quickly
later its Myanmar edition caught the market by storm. In a short amount
benchmark for the press. Turbulence has followed the fortunes of the papers
is no exception. The struggle for ownership of the papers now appears to be
of MCM Ltd and Editor in Chief Ross Dunkley bares all and
organisation is now walking on.

was impossible for me to meet these people. Later on at ministry offices next to The Myanmar Times, in a building which is now owned by Dr Tin Tun Oo, Col Aung Nyein tried once more to bring Dr Tin Tun Oo into an introduction situation with me so that I could "have a friendly chat" with him. Again I said I would walk out of the room as I was under no obligation to be forced to do so.

When I met Minister for Information Brigadier General Kyaw Hsan for the first time he said I had no choice but to accept Dr Tin Tun Oo because he had been identified as the best partner for me because he had very good English language skills and was also a publisher. If I accepted him as my partner then everything would be OK and we could discuss other things. I said I didn't want him as a partner and that I wanted to exercise my legal rights under the companies act and our shareholders agreement and that we had made other arrangements.

Not many days I visited U Tay Za at his Inya Rd home and we had a discussion about The Myanmar Times and he indicated he was interested in purchasing the shares if they became available. He said he would make some enquiries, but he never got back to me. One of his directors later informed me that he was told by Brig Gen Kyaw Hsan or Prime Minister Soe Win to stay away because it was complicated. I also received an offer from a syndicate of businessman put together by U Moe Kyaw from Myanmar Marketing Research and Development. They were prepared to buy the shares if indeed Yamin was forced to sell but they also said to me they would be equally as prepared to sell them back to Sonny Swe if and when he got out of jail and we agreed upon a price. I greatly appreciated their gesture and the sum they offered was double the amount that Dr Tin Tun Oo paid for the shares and I have correspondence that clearly states that. I informed the minister that I had an offer of that price, but he informed that this was not the price that would be paid and that the price Dr Tin Tun Oo was offering was fair.

Not long afterwards I met Dr Tin Tun Oo. Finally, on another date, we held a meeting with the minister at his office and I said that I would continue on reluctantly but only on the condition that I ran the company on a day-to-day basis and that Dr Tin Tun Oo and his wife would not have access to the building without my permission but they would be given monthly financial accounts and be entitled to have their input at the board level, which was the appropriate place. Otherwise, I said, I would trash the business. The minister agreed immediately and then brought Dr Tin Tun Oo into the room and he said he didn't care as long as he got dividends every three months.

That is my strong recollection of the events. I decided I would carry on for the sake of the staff and in the hope that one day my real partner would come back and lay claim to his shares. I have waited every day since then.

Is Dr Tin Tun Oo considering selling his shares? If so, who are the possible buyers?

I met with Dr Tin Tun Oo a bit more than a year ago in my office. I commented that Myanmar was changing and that very soon perhaps U Myat Swe would be out of jail. As a partner I advised him to make an early announcement that he was going to sell his shares back to the Swe family, at exactly the same price he paid for them to show he had integrity. I asked him to seriously think about that because bringing this down into a street fight and then into the courts was not a game he could win. He said he would go away and talk with "higher figures". He never reverted to me.

Later on he made it known the shares were for sale at US$2 million. We were astonished at that number. Eventually though he finally settled it down to a figure which was double the price he paid to get into the partnership. Remember, he has also taken close to $1 million in cash over these eight years. That is how much the company has given his family in honorariums, interest, publisher's fees, director's fees and dividends. I'd say he has done quite handsomely.

The price was finally agreed upon just over a fortnight ago but inexplicably Dr Khin Moe Moe changed the nature of it twice in 48 hours and then they went ahead and cancelled the deal. Perhaps it is better as now we can proceed with legal action over Swesone's right to the shares. I have all the evidence I need.

Until Sonny is free from prison, which I hope is very soon, I would be delighted to work with Yamin of course. If Sonny and his father come out then I know President U Thein Sein and his government are serious about reconciliation and democracy. Unless that happens I will remain cynical.

You are, of course, no stranger to a court battle. Can you revisit the circumstances of your arrest and jailing in 2011?

I intend to raise the issues of my arrest, imprisonment and trial to the appropriate bodies that have been set up to examine the judicial process, its transparency and its independence. I have prima facie evidence to suggest that the judicial process has been interfered with in relation to the crimes I was charged with and convicted on. There was political interference here and I must act to ensure that in the end justice has been done. I'm so glad the government has created instruments through which complaints can receive a legitimate hearing.

Time to turn on the lights

By Karin Finkelston, Axel van Trotsenburg, and Michel Wormser

A street vendor in downtown Yangon sells seafood by candlelight. *Pic: Kaung Htet*

THE people of Myanmar have been in the dark for too long. It's time to turn the lights on. Of the nearly 60 million people living in the country, three out of four are without reliable access to electricity. No power means that children cannot study at night, people cannot run a business during the day and clinics cannot refrigerate medicines vital for the population's health.

Access to electricity changes everything. An entrepreneur in a small village can expand trade; charged mobile phones can bring connectivity to urban dwellers and remote villages alike. Rural households can reduce hazardous pollution from wood-fired stoves in poorly ventilated homes. For Myanmar, access to sustainable energy offers the opportunity to boost economic growth dramatically – and to directly improve the lives of the poorest and most vulnerable.

Myanmar's government has embarked on rapid political and economic reforms since 2011, following decades of isolation. The government has allowed the media and civil society to speak up, it has moved towards closing the gap between its official and informal exchange rates and let market forces play their role. It also has a new foreign investment law to attract business. But there is still much to do if Myanmar is going to realise its social and economic potential.

It is important for the government to continue with bold reforms that put people first. The global community is working together to support these efforts; arrears to the World Bank Group and the Asian Development Bank have been cleared and we are reengaging to provide financial and technical support. The World Bank Group brings global knowledge, solutions, and best practice to deliver results on the ground and it can help the government and the private sector create jobs and opportunities. We are already discussing with the government how to improve agricultural output and public financial management to strengthen the economy.

For Myanmar to build a brighter future, the country's leaders have identified increased access and more reliable electricity as a key priority. The World Bank Group is prepared to assist this effort and offer its collective experience and technical expertise in power generation and expansion. The challenge is to meet short-term needs quickly while setting the country's electric power industry on a sustainable path that will satisfy society's growing hunger for economic opportunities for decades to come.

The good news is that Myanmar's vast hydropower potential and gas reserves mean sustainable power can be made available, if done right. At the moment, a run-down system wastes around a quarter of all generated power before it reaches users. Domestic energy demand outstrips supply by 30 percent or more.

The power of electricity to transform lives is evident in Laos and Vietnam where the World Bank Group has supported a dramatic expansion of generation and access – in Laos more than 80pc of citizens are connected and in Vietnam over 97pc of citizens have access to power. Both economies are doing better as a result.

Responding to ever-growing energy needs, Myanmar is recognising the potential of private sector participation and has begun to explore public-private partnerships and independent power production on a pilot basis.

What is important now is to take individual pilots to the next level by developing an electric power industry master plan as an immediate priority. Models such as public-private partnerships should be considered where private sector capital and know-how are used across the entire chain of power production – from generation to delivery to the end-user.

A well-implemented strategy would unlock greater investment in the country's dilapidated power infrastructure to address supply shortages and raise the electrification rate. It would accelerate the path to a Myanmar where all citizens enjoy reliable electricity at reasonable cost.

Now is the time to make strategic decisions that will meet future needs in an economically and environmentally sustainable way. Combined private sector experience and international development know-how can play a key role.

Working with the public and private sectors and other development organisations, we hope to facilitate investments to help revitalise Myanmar's energy infrastructure and power sources, offering both short-term gains and a longer term sustainable path for the entire country – rural villagers and urban dwellers kept in the dark for so long deserve to have the lights turned on in Myanmar.

(Karin Finkelston is the Asia Pacific vice president at International Finance Corporation (IFC), the member of the World Bank Group focused on private sector development in emerging markets. Axel van Trotsenburg is vice president for East Asia and the Pacific at the World Bank. Michel Wormser is vice president and chief operating officer at Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA), the member of the World Bank Group insuring investments in developing countries.)

The Mail Box

Dear editor,

You recently published a letter (No 663, January 28-February 3) by Mr D Khan from Denver, Colorado. He claimed that the problem in Rakhine State is not ethnicity but the lack of equal opportunities for Muslims in Myanmar. Thank you Mr Khan. Why don't you come to Yangon, Mandalay or any other city in Myanmar where Muslims pray peacefully in Mosques every Friday, where ladies walk freely on the streets with their scarves covering their heads, where Muslim children attend state schools together with other children, and where Muslim hospitals are crowded with patients?

In shops, bazaars and plazas in every city you can see Muslim men wearing their religious cap proudly and selling things day in and day out. Please ask them, "Is there any lack of equality for Muslims in Myanmar because their religion?"

Why does Mr Khan say that "the government allied with the NLD had an historic opportunity to do justice to Muslims"? He must have a sound reason.

Yes, Mr Khan, to this day we recognise and bow our heads to the two distinguished Muslims martyred along with General Aung San because they are the true sons of Myanmar (Muslims or not) who would never betray their country. They gave their lives for their brothers of all faiths.

But is Mr Khan sure that the Rohingya now killing, starting fires and destroying villages really do intend to live peacefully with the native people. Not to mention that they are telling the world that they have the right to step on other peoples' throats.

Dear Mr Khan, please, we Myanmar are peace-loving, very friendly by nature and quick to forgive. But it is hard to tolerate when the dog we feed is trying to bite our hands off.

With due respect,
Kyi Tha

Got something to say? We want to hear from you. Address all correspondence to the Editor, *The Myanmar Times* (English).

Address: 379-383, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada township, Yangon. Telephone: (+951) 392-928, 253-642 Fax: (+951) 392-706 Email: your.myanmar.times@gmail.com

Nippon Foundation to donate in Kayin

By Ei Ei Toe Lwin

THE Nippon Foundation of Japan will provide US$30,000 of emergency supplies to displaced people in Kayin State this week to mark Union Day.

The February 12 donation is the second as part of a $3 million project the organisation is implementing that aims to support refugees living in areas controlled by armed ethnic groups.

The donation ceremony will be held in the Kayin State capital Hpa-an and will be attended by Nippon Foundation chairman Yohei Sasakawa and representatives of the government and Karen National Union.

They will then proceed to Tarit Po Kwee village, near a KNU-held part of Kayin State, and provide 70 tonnes of rice to displaced people.

The program is run under the framework of an agreement between the Myanmar government and a grouping of ethnic organisations called the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC). The Chiang Mai-based council, established in February 2011, has 11 members.

The first donation under the project was made at a ceremony in the Mon State capital of Mawlamyine on December 22, during which representatives from the foundation gave $70,000 worth of emergency supplies to the New Mon State Party (NMSP).

The supplies included 50 tonnes of rice, medical supplies for hospitals and 500 boxes of traditional medicine.

Non-USDP member deputy minister

By Win Ko Ko Latt

A NATIONAL Democratic Force MP has become the first representative of an opposition party to join the government.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative Dr Tin Shwe was one of five deputy ministers nominated by President U Thein Sein on February 5, along with one minister and a member of the Civil Services Board.

Dr Tin Shwe becomes deputy minister for tourism, following the elevation of U Htay Aung to minister in September 2012, while U Aung Htoo was appointed deputy minister for energy, U Than Tun Aung deputy minister for mines, Daw Win Maw Tun deputy minister for labour, employment and social welfare, and Dr Zaw Min Aung deputy minister for science and technology. U Than Tun was also made a member of the Civil Services Board.

While the appointment was welcomed by opposition MPs as a strengthening of the multi-party system, they said it should have come earlier.

National Democratic Force Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Phone Myint Aung said President U Thein Sein should go further to make his government more inclusive.

"The president will have a better reputation if MPs from parties like the National League for Democracy, Shan Nationalities Democratic Party, Rakhine Nationalities Development Party and National Unity Party are in the government as well," he said.

Instead of being dominated by a single party, the government should have MPs from other parties in order to earn trust from the people and improve transparency, he said.

"Government is different from the hluttaw. Its meetings are held behind closed doors so it's better if it includes a variety of parties," he said.

He said it was possible for parties to "compete fiercely" in an election but still work together "with a democratic spirit".

"We hope that the government will have wider variety of parties in 2015," he said.

Meanwhile, Ayeyarwady Region Hluttaw Speaker U San Sint was confirmed as Minister for Religious Affairs, despite petitioning President U Thein Sein on February 3 to let him remain in the speaker post.

"I submitted to the president that I want to serve my existing post according to desire of the public in my region," he told *The Myanmar Times* on February 3.

Residents in Kyonpyaw and Pathein townships in Ayeyarwady Region tried to demonstrate last week in support of U San Sint staying on as speaker, while nearly 2000 people in Pathein have signed a petition asking U San Sint not to leave Ayeyarwaddy region hluttaw, an activist in the region said.

"We tried to get permission for a peaceful protest for U San Sint in Pathein but the township administrator did not give permission, giving some reasons like students and Buddhist monks will get involved in it and it will cause traffic congestion," said U San Lynn from Pathein.

"We will try again in two weeks. In Kyonpyaw nothing happened because officials from the regional hluttaw requested activists not to protest without permission," he said.

– *Translated by Thit Lwin*

Thousands of officials snared in blitz

YANGON – Some 17,000 Myanmar civil servants have been punished – with 380 among them jailed – following a "good governance and clean government" campaign, according to a government report.

Action was taken against 16,952 workers, including scores of police officers, between April 2011 and December 2012, said the document, which was sent by the government to parliament this week and seen by AFP on February 7.

President U Thein Sein has vowed to stamp down on graft as part of reforms that promise greater democracy and measures to establish the rule of law after decades of corrupt military rule which ended in March 2011.

None of the alleged offences are detailed in the report, but the punishments range from jail terms and dismissals, to demotion, written warnings and pay cuts.

"Due to the requirement for good governance and clean government, ministries were investigated ... and action has been taken," said the report, which was commissioned after a motion brought by an MP from the Union Solidarity and Development Party, which has a majority in the parliament.

Some 380 workers were jailed, just over 4900 dismissed, and 80 forced to return money, while 689 police were also punished, according to the report.

In late January Myanmar opened a probe into alleged high-level corruption in its telecommunications ministry, while in a rare public move to tackle graft authorities in November ordered state loans totalling tens of millions of dollars to be clawed back from private businesses.

A new anti-graft law will enable authorities to "investigate and rigorously prosecute those involved in corruption in both the public and private sectors", an official document distributed at a recent donor forum said. – *AFP*

Save the Children

Save the Children is one of the two designated Principal Recipients (PR) for Myanmar's three successful Round 9 GFTAM proposals in HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria. Save the Children is seeking to recruit the Finance Coordinator for GFATM (PR).

Required Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in relevant/specific fields (accounting and finance preferred)
- At least four years professional experience in accounting or grants management (preferred with international NGOs)
- Experience of budget preparation (required)
- Proficient English speaking and writing skills
- Proven skills on managing changes, achieving results, ensuring quality, team building and capacity building.
- Ability and willingness to work under pressure as part of a professional team.
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including cultural sensitivity, assertiveness and negotiating skills.
- Willingness to travel to field offices occasionally to support and monitor the work of field activities
- Basic knowledge of IT (accounting automated software, Microsoft Excel and Word)

Detailed job descriptions for this position will be available at the Save the Children office or www.themimu.info/jobs/index.php.

Interested and qualified candidates are requested to send an Application Letter, Curriculum Vitae and Clearance of Criminal Record to:

Human Resources Department, Save the Children, Wizaya Plaza-First Floor, 226 U Wisara Road,

Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar (or)

recruitment.myanmar@ savethechildren.org

not later than 5 P.M., 26 February 2013(Tuesday)

Come study in Canada

FREE Information and Application Seminar

MEET OUR CANADIAN DELEGATION

KARUNA AUSMAN

BARBARA OLD

CHAD THOMPSON

Ms. Old and Mr. Thompson are pleased to represent

College of New Caledonia
INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

The College of New Caledonia welcomes students from around the world! Established in 1969, CNC is an accredited, public post secondary institution in Prince George, British Columbia, Canada. CNC provides high quality education taught by experienced instructors. CNC tuition is affordable, our classes are small and our programs and support are excellent. Choose from ESL, University Transfer, Business, Sciences, or Academic and Career programs. Our goal is your success!

SEMINAR TIME & LOCATION

FEBRUARY 25, 26, 27, 2013
2 pm to 8 pm
CHATRIUM HOTEL YANGON
40 Natmuak Rd., Tamwe Township
Yangon, Myanmar
Ph: 95-1-544500

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
illumeconsulting@hotmail.com
or
Pyi Hein Htet, Thida Moe
09 504 0986, 01 256602, 392617
www.facebook.com/miec.pmc

Please bring: All transcripts of marks, certificates, and two (2) pictures. Application fee between $100 CAD - $150 CAD for approved applications only.

PROGRAMS OFFERED
by represented institutes:

Undergraduate / Bachelors Studies in:
Engineering, Computer Science, Business, Arts, Sciences, Environmental Science, Applied Health Science
Postgraduate Studies in:
Business, Environment, Education, Leisure Management
Certificate and Diploma Programs
High School & Foundation Programs

UNIVERSITIES, COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

Thompson Rivers University	tru.ca
Vancouver Island University	viu.ca
University of Manitoba	umanitoba.ca
Columbia College	columbiacollege.ca
Okanagan College	okanagan.bc.ca
College of New Caledonia	cnc.bc.ca
North Island College	nic.bc.ca
Golden Hills School Division	ghsd75.ca
School District #22 (Vernon)	sd22.bc.ca

THE MYANMAR TIMES
mmtimes.com

Managing Director and Editor-in-Chief (MTE)
Ross Dunkley
rsdunkley@gmail.com

Chief Executive Officer & Editor-in-Chief (MTM)
Dr. Tin Tun Oo
drtto@myanmartimes.com.mm

Chief Operating Officer – U Wai Linn
wailin@myanmartimes.com.mm

EDITORIAL
newsroom@myanmartimes.com.mm
Editor MTE – Thomas Kean
tdkean@gmail.com
Editor MTM – U Zaw Myint
editormtm@myanmartimes.com.mm
Editor Special Publications – U Myo Lwin
myolwin@myanmartimes.com.mm
Deputy Editor MTM – U Sann Oo
Business Editor MTE – Stuart Deed
stuart.deed@gmail.com
Business Editor MTM – U Tin Moe Aung
Property Editor MTM – Htar Htar Khin
property@myanmartimes.com.mm
World Editor MTE – Geoffrey Goddard
geoffrey@myanmartimes.com.mm
Timeout and Travel Editor MTE – Douglas Long
editors@myanmartimes.com.mm
Timeout Editor MTM – Moh Moh Thaw
mohthaw@gmail.com
Online Editor – Justin Heifetz
jscohei@gmail.com
Deputy News Editor – Kyaw Hsu Mon

Chief Political Reporter – U Soe Than Lynn
Contributing Editor – Ma Thanegi
ma.thanegi19@gmail.com
Head of Translation Dept – U Ko Ko

Head of Photographics – Kaung Htet
Photographers – Yadanar, Boothee

Book Publishing Consultant Editor – Col Hla Moe (Retd)
Editor: U Win Tun

Mandalay Bureau Chief – U Aung Shin
koshumgtha@gmail.com
Nay Pyi Taw Bureau Chief – U Soe Than Lynn
soethanlynn@gmail.com

PRODUCTION
production@myanmartimes.com.mm
Head of Production & Press Scrutiny Liaison – U Aung Kyaw Oo (1)
Head of Graphic Design – U Tin Zaw Htway

MCM PRINTING
printing@myanmartimes.com.mm
Head of Department – U Htay Maung
Warehouse Manager – U Ye Linn Htay
Factory Administrator – U Aung Kyaw Oo (3)
Factory Foreman – U Tin Win

ADVERTISING
advertising@myanmartimes.com.mm
National Sales Director
Daw Khin Thandar Htay
sales-director@myanmartimes.com.mm
Account Director – U Nyi Nyi Tun
Classifieds Manager – Daw Khin Mon Mon Yi
classified@myanmartimes.com.mm

ADMIN & FINANCE
Finance Manager – Daw Mon Mon Tha Saing
finance@myanmartimes.com.mm
HR Manager – Daw Nang Maisy
administration@myanmartimes.com.mm

Publisher – Dr Tin Tun Oo, Permit No: 04143

Systems Manager – U Khin Maung Thaw
webmaster@myanmartimes.com.mm

DISTRIBUTION & CIRCULATION
Circulation & Distribution Director – Jesse Gage
distmgr@myanmartimes.com.mm
circulation@myanmartimes.com.mm

ADVERTISING & SUBSCRIPTION ENQUIRIES
Telephone: (01) 253 642, 392 928
Facsimile: (01) 254 158
Email: administration@myanmartimes.com.mm

The Myanmar Times is owned by Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd and printed by MCM Commercial Printing (licence provided by Swesone Media (08102) with approval from MCM Ltd and by Shwe Zin Press (0368) with approval from MCM Ltd). The title The Myanmar Times, in either English or Myanmar languages, its associated logos or devices and the contents of this publication may not be reproduced in whole or in part without the written consent of the Managing Director of Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd.

MCM
Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd.
www.mmtimes.com

Head Office: 379/383 Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Telephone: (01) 253 642, 392 928
Facsimile: (01) 392 706

Mandalay Bureau: No.178, 74th Street, (Bet. 31st & 32nd streets) Chan Aye Thar San Township, Mandalay.
Tel: (02) 24450, 24460, 65391, 65392
Fax: (02) 24460
Email: mdybranch@myanmartimes.com.mm

Nay Pyi Taw Bureau: No. 10/72 Bo Tauk Htein St, Yan Aung (1) Quarter, Nay Pyi Taw-Pyinmana.
Tel: (067) 23064, 23065
Email: capitalbureau@myanmartimes.com.mm

MPs hit out at blogger investigation commission

By Win Ko Ko Latt

A NUMBER of hluttaw representatives have criticised the establishment of a committee to investigate the identity of a blogger who questioned the parliament's decision to amend the Constitutional Tribunal Law despite warnings the changes would be unconstitutional.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw established the investigation committee on February 8, after approving a proposal from Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Soe Yin on January 17 to investigate the identity of the author of an article, "Above the law?", who goes by the penname Dr Seik Phwar.

The 17-member committee is led by U Mya Nyein, the deputy speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

"We have formed the investigation committee because the article insulted the speaker and 'his accomplices'. But we do not mean to stop criticism of the parliament," said Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Thein Nyunt, a member of the committee.

But some MPs said the committee was a "waste of time" and in a democratic country representatives needed to learn how to accept both praise and criticism.

"It doesn't need to be formed and it will just make us even busier," said Pyithu Hluttaw representative Thura U Aung Ko.

Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Hla Swe, who was selected to sit on the committee, said the investigation could also impinge on citizens' rights to free speech – something MPs have been vocal in advocating for.

He also said it would be "impossible" to find the blogger's real identity.

"I don't want to be on this committee. The hluttaw can respond on the internet if it is not pleased with this article. We will get less sleep if we wake every time a dog barks," said U Hla Swe.

He said President U Thein Sein and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi had both been severely criticised on the internet but had been able to ignore it.

"Representatives should forget about it, or at least consider it as a voice coming out from among the public," he said.

An Eleven Media report on February 8 described Dr Seik Phwar's website as "a propaganda blog launched in 2011". It also said some of his articles were printed in *Smart News*, a journal published by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technoology, and online news organisation Myanmar Express.

Eleven said "some viewers" believed Dr Seik Phwar's writings "may hinder national reconciliation as they used to attack Aung San Suu Kyi, the chairperson of the National League for Democracy, politicians and local media". – *Translated by Zar Zar Soe*

Military MPs examine a notice announcing the composition of a commission on February 8 formed to investigate a blogger critical of the parliament. *Pic: Win Ko Ko Latt*

School kids to get oral health education

DENTAL experts plan to bring a smile to the face of more than four million of the country's schoolchildren. A program of dental care is to be launched across the country to teach the youngsters how to look after their teeth, an official from Myanmar Dental Association said last month.

Under a program conducted jointly by FDI World Dental Federation, Myanmar Dental Association (MDA) and Unilever Oral Care, dental specialists will reach children from the age of six across the nation to provide education on oral health and health care services, Dr Sein Mya Aye, president of the association's information committee, said at the 33rd Myanmar Dental Conference at Yangon's Traders Hotel.

The "LLL" project – "Live, Learn, Laugh" – aims to promote awareness of the importance of oral health, Dr TC Wong, president of World Dental Federation, told *The Myanmar Times*.

Its main message is to brush twice a day with a fluoride toothpaste.

"The program will be preventive-based. The important thing about prevention is behavioural change," she said.

"It will be more effective to start with very young generation to develop good behaviour for them. The program will teach them how to protect and improve behaviour which will last for the rest of their lives."

Local dental specialists will volunteer to go to schools to provide education on promoting oral health and sharing the importance of good oral care habits. Teachers will also give lessons on oral health care.

"We target to reach four million school children. We can't be sure we will reach it, but we will certainly try," said Dr Sein Mya Aye.

During the one-year project, the program will try to reach children in both urban and rural areas, Dr Sein Mya Aye said.

The LLL project was launched with the collaboration of FDI World Dental Federation and Unilever Oral Care in 2005. It has been conducted in 37 countries and contributed to fewer school days being lost to dental problems, said Dr Wong.

– *Yamon Phu Thit*

From page 1

Rohingya refugees

This "scoping exercise" began in southern Thailand on February 4, and involved interviews with Rohingya refugees living in government housing, allowing authorities to figure how and why they fled their country, and what should happen next.

However, asylum is only being offered to the 1400 Rohingya refugees staying in shelters built by the Thai government. This is a fraction of the 6000 refugees that Thailand's Internal Security Operations Command (ISOC) estimates have arrived in the country since October.

Speaking to *The Bangkok Post* on February 7, ISOC spokesperson Lieutenant General Dithaporn Sasasamit confirmed that the government's policy is still to deport refugees who arrive by boat.

U Maung Kyaw Nu, chairman of the Burmese Rohingya Association of Thailand (BRAT), said he has repeatedly urged the Thai government to allow all Rohingya refugees to remain in the country. Most recently, he raised it at a meeting with Thai government officials on January 25 that immediately preceded the Department of Foreign Affairs announcement.

"I only asked the Thai government to deal with them as refugees," he said. "There are many laws on how to deal with refugees. They should have shelter and not be sent back."

Ms Vivian Tan, a spokesperson for UNHCR in Bangkok, said her organisation was not considering repatriation at the moment. She said UNHCR's main concern is finding a place of asylum for the refugees, and making sure they have access to assistance from UNHCR and other humanitarian groups.

"Our access so far has been irregular ... [but] what is positive is the government is open to help from the UNHCR," she said.

In the meantime, the 1400 Rohingya who have been allowed to stay in Thailand face the challenges of surviving in an environment where poverty and racism are the norm. As with other migrants from Myanmar, exploitation is also an issue: On January 28, *The Bangkok Post* reported that the Thai fishing industry was interested in having Rohingya migrants work on Thai fishing vessels.

Mr Andy Hall, an expert on migrant workers in Thailand and adviser to the Myanmar government, confirmed the report and said he had heard Rohingya are already working for substandard wages on fishing boats. He described the fishing industry in Thailand as "an incredibly abusive industry", and added: "I think it's incredibly insensitive to suggest that these refugees should be put to work."

In addition, Rohingya refugees continue to fight rumours that they are arriving in Thailand to support Muslim insurgents in the south. "This story has been going on for years," said Mr Alan Morrison, a reporter based in Phuket. "And in years and years of fighting, there's never been any evidence of a Rohingya victim or perpetrator."

Still the story persists. As recently as January 27, the Thai-language weekly newspaper *Matichon* reported that two Rohingya men had confessed to being trained to carry out attacks in southern Thailand. The report cited well-known forensic scientist Pornthip Rojanasunand, who did an initial examination of several bodies of deceased Rohingya refugees earlier this year, as its source.

But Dr Pornthip told *The Myanmar Times* the story was "wrong" and she had only mentioned finding evidence of amphetamine use in the bodies. She said she did, however, mention to the reporter from *Matichon* – and other Thai news outlets – that there were other unconfirmed cases of Rohingya having connections to Muslim insurgents.

"That is all the facts I gave in the interview but they reported it wrong in the story," Dr Pornthip said.

The article was picked up by several other Thai papers, including *The Nation*, which attributed the story to "an un-named source in the department of forensic science".

Ms Achara Deboonme, editor-in-chief of *The Nation*, declined to comment until she could discuss the report with her news team.

These issues have the potential to influence how many Rohingya refugees the Thai government will allow to stay in Thailand, and for how long.

U Maung Kyaw Nu said he remains optimistic that conditions for Rohingya refugees will improve but he believes the solution lies not only with the Thai government.

"We are calling on the international community," he said. "We deserve international protection."

Kachin Independence Army soldiers on guard at Jan Mai post near Laiza on January 22. *Pic: Kaung Htet*

Govt and KIO agree to reduce 'tension', more talks

By Tim McLaughlin

LEADERS of the government's peace team and the Kachin Independence Organisation have agreed to reduce "military tension" in Kachin State and hold further peace talks, they said in a joint statement following a February 4 meeting in China.

The meeting, which took place in Shweli, just across the border in China's Yunnan Province, came after more than a month of intense fighting between the Tatmadaw and Kachin Independence Army, and a failed attempt by President U Thein Sein to force a ceasefire.

"At the meeting, discussions were made on matters concerning establishment of a communication line between the two sides, the reduction of military tension, preparation of the next meeting, and persons who may attend as observers and organisations which may attend as witnesses, at the next meeting," said a joint communique issued by the parties at the conclusion of the talks.

"Agreement was reached to continue discussions for the speedy realisation [of a] durable cessation of war between the government and KIO, and the emergence of a monitoring system."

The Myanmar government delegation was lead by vice chairman of the Union Peace Making Work Committee, U Aung Min, who is also a minister in the President's Office. The Kachin were represented by a KIO negotiation team.

Mr Luo Zhaohui from China's Foreign Ministry, General Mutu Say Poe of the Karen National Union (KNU) and members of the Restoration Council of Shan State/Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA) were also present.

However, no members of the Tatmadaw attended. A previous attempt to bring commanders from both sides together failed when senior Tatmadaw figures attended peace talks on October 30, 2012 but the KIA did not reciprocate.

"It was interpreted as a snub by the military and left government negotiator U Aung Min undermined as he had worked hard to convince the army to send a very senior army commander to attend the talks in China only for him to be stood up," Jim Della-Giacoma of the International Crisis Group said in a recent article on the conflict, "A serious threat to peace in Myanmar."

The next meeting will take place before the end of February, after the KIO has discussed the situation with other members of the United Nationalities Federal Council. The UNFC is an umbrella organisation of more than 10 ethnic groups formed in early 2011.

UNFC deputy leader Saw David Tharkabaw said that no date has been set for the meeting, which will be held in Thailand, but it will be sometime after February 11.

While few other details about last week's talks were released, the KIO indicated it welcomed further meetings.

"Yesterday's meeting was only about preparations for further meetings between the two sides," Sung Lyut Gam, who headed the delegation from the KIO, told *AFP* on February 5.

"We cannot say exactly how optimistic we are about reaching a proper deal as we don't know what the other side is thinking," he said. "It would be good if this kind of meeting continues in the future."

The United States, which in January angered the government with a statement condemning the failure to end the fighting in Kachin, said it was pleased with the initial meeting.

"I welcome reports that the government and the KIO/KIA have concluded preliminary talks toward a cessation of hostilities. It is encouraging that the two sides concluded a joint statement that discusses the process and timing for further dialogue. Dialogue and cooperation between the two sides is the only path to sustainable peace in Kachin State," US ambassador to Myanmar Derek Mitchell said through the US embassy in Yangon's Twitter account.

Talks bring hope but no end to conflict

IN DEPTH with Bill O'Toole

DESPITE what appear to be the first steps towards peace in Kachin State, sources in the region say they are doubtful how much real progress will be made and are preparing for the possibility of a prolonged and decentralised conflict.

The fighting between the Tatmadaw and Kachin Independence Army (KIA) has displaced an estimated 100,000 civilians since June 2011, and December and January saw a dramatic escalation in violence. However, after months of wrangling, a government peace delegation led by U Aung Min met Kachin Independence Organisation leaders in Ruili, China, on February 4. More talks are planned before the end of the month.

International observers have lauded the return to the negotiating table as an important first step and representatives from the KIO declared they would support the negotiating process as much as possible.

But among the Kachin population there is a general scepticism about the prospects for peace, particularly given the failure of a January 19 ceasefire.

"From my own experience I will never trust this government again," said Daw Khon Ja, a representative of the Kachin Women's Peace Network who works and travels extensively in the conflict areas.

A central committee member of the Kachin Independence Organisation based in Chiang Mai, who asked not to be named, said his greatest concern was the way the Tatmadaw appeared to ignore the wishes of the government.

"I think maybe [the military] is not ready to stop fighting ... I think the military would like to put pressure on us" by cutting off supply routes and wearing the KIA down with small attacks, he said.

In late December, the Tatmadaw launched an offensive that included airstrikes targeting key KIA outposts in the Laiza area, where the KIO/KIA has its headquarters.

Daw Khon Ja, who was in Laiza during the bombings, called it the "heaviest fighting" since hostilities resumed after 17 years of relative calm. She said the violence has lessened since the beginning of the New Year and mostly takes the form of small, daily skirmishes in the countryside.

KIO spokesman U La Nan confirmed Daw Khon Ja's description of the fighting, but added that small bursts of artillery fire were still fairly common around Laiza. He said several shells were fired near the city as recently as February 3 – one day before peace talks were held.

A number of sources said they believed the military leaderships on both sides are gearing up for a longer, guerrilla-style conflict as opposed to a war of front lines and occupation.

U La Nan said the Tatmadaw has been in control of the outskirts of Laiza for several weeks, suggesting there will not be an outright assault.

"Militarily, the government troops have the power to take Laiza at any time," said U La Nan, who is based on the Myanmar-China border. "But they know that if they take Laiza, another Laiza will spring up in its place."

> 'Militarily, the government troops have the power to take Laiza at any time.'

Daw Khon Ja agreed with his assessment, saying: "The leadership of the KIA is spread out across the state, they are mobile."

She said this means the KIA could maintain control over its forces, regardless of which regions, including Laiza, the government captures.

As has become clear over the past eight months, Kachin State's mountainous, unforgiving terrain makes it extremely difficult for either side to properly secure an entire area that is nominally under its control.

"If [an army] has a post on a mountain, they only control that post," she said.

Both KIO officials declined to discuss KIA strategy, but U La Nan said the capture and control of the hills around Laiza had exacted a heavy human toll on the Tatmadaw.

Writing in *Asia Times Online* last week, Anthony Davis, a correspondent for *IHS Jane's Intelligence Review*, said an "important aspect of the war" had been the "striking battlefield failings and losses of the Tatmadaw".

"Pitting a conventional army equipped with artillery, armour and air-power against guerrilla forces attempting to defend a fixed position, the battle for Laiza should have been nasty, brutish and short. In the event, it unfolded as a drawn-out, meat-grinder campaign which at best marks a painfully pyrrhic victory for the government," he wrote.

Ministry of Defence officials could not be reached for comment. The Tatmadaw and government have repeatedly stated that the army is behind the peace process, while President U Thein Sein has also vowed that the Tatmadaw will not take Laiza.

Despite their misgivings, both U La Nan and the KIO central committee member vowed to support the peace talks as long as they last. "We are going to proceed in another round of talks," the committee member said. "But the goal must be more than a ceasefire ... we insist on a real, political dialogue."

Impending evictions taint Thilawa economic zone

By Noe Noe Aung

An eviction notice on the home of a resident of Yangon Region's Thanlyin township on February 5. *Pic: Aung Htay Hlaing*

HUNDREDS of households in Thanlyin and Kyauktan townships will this week face prison terms if they do not leave their homes to make way for a planned special economic zone at Thilawa.

Township officials distributed eviction notices on January 31 to every house in three villages – Latyatsan, Bayar Gone and Alwan Sut – instructing residents to leave their homes within 14 days or face 30 days jail. Another 58 farmers in Thida Myaing ward in Kyauktan have also been forced to move from the farmland that they have been working.

For most, the loss of their farmland means the end of their livelihood. Some said they would defy the order to leave their homes for the government's flagship economic development, which will be implemented as a joint venture with a Japanese consortium.

"How do we live without this farmland? We are relying on farming to survive. The authorities told us to give up our farmland even though we are paying taxes regularly. For me, I can't move out because if I have no farmland it means no food for my family. I will go to prison before I give up my farmland," Ko Aye Htay, one of the 58 farmers of Thida Myaing, told *The Myanmar Times* on February 5.

"We have 14 days after we accepted the notice and five days have already passed. We don't plan to move out. I will work on my farmland until the authorities come and take me out by force. Without this farmland, I can't send my children to school and I can't get any money to survive," he said.

But the three villages and approximately 200 acres of farmland in Thida Myaing are potentially just the tip of the iceberg in land evictions.

The project will eventually encompass almost 7000 acres, or 28.3 square kilometres, including 2665.39 acres in Thanlyin and 4233.19 acres in Kyauktan. The prospect of hundreds of forced evictions will hardly please a government that has been keen to tout its emphasis on poverty alleviation. The impending evictions, however, have their roots in previous regimes, which confiscated thousands of acres of land in Thanlyin and Kyauktan. The most significant of these were the Ministry of Industry 1 in 1983-84, Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development (DHSHD) in 1997-98 and military battalions in 1998-99, residents said.

Of this land, some was used to build factories and some remained empty, with farmers allowed to continue farming under a contract system.

While many in the area acknowledge that they no longer legally own the land because of these earlier confiscations, they insist that they will not leave without a fight.

"I have no idea what to do and where to go. My ancestors lived here, died here and I was born in this place. We've been living here for about 100 years. I can't do anything except farming. I'm too old to restart my life," said U Razu, 77, from Bayar Gone village, whose children and grandchildren also live in the area.

U Razu said the authorities took the farmland "many years ago" but he kept farming his 8 acres, which were owned by his parents before him, through contract farming.

"I will be on my farmland until February 14, the deadline that the authorities gave us to leave. I don't understand why they are doing this. We paid tax for this farmland for 72 years. We did nothing wrong," he said.

In Alwan Sut village, all 640 families have been told to leave by February 14. They also plan to defy the order, despite the authorities warning they will almost certainly end up in prison.

U Aung Tint, a farmhand from Alwan Sut, said that everybody in the village lost their land about 15 years ago when it was taken by the government.

"DHSHD took the farmland in 1997-98 and paid us K20,000 an acre. They also gave one 2400-square-foot urban plot to farmers who had ID cards and population census. But most of the farmers in this village did not have them because we are poor and to get the ID cards and population census we had to pay money," U Aung Tint said.

"So many farmers didn't get any replacement land. Even some of those who got land from DHSHD had it taken from them later on too. Now other people are living on the land [that DHSHD gave]. We have nowhere to go," U Aung Tint said.

When *The Myanmar Times* visited Yangon's Southern District General Administration Department office, senior officials refused requests for an interview. But officer Daw Ei Ei Khine said the land had been taken by the government "with fair compensation" many years ago.

"The land the government is trying to get was taken many years ago. Farmers are squatting on the government's land," she said. "The government is giving the eviction notice because it needs to use the land now."

The legalities of land ownership in Myanmar matter little to those who face a future of destitution and homelessness, however. In Alwan Sut, U Mya Hlaing, 66, broke down in tears as he told *The Myanmar Times* that he had lost all hope for the future.

"Though they told us to leave within 14 days, we have nowhere to go. If we don't leave, they said they will destroy our village with a bulldozer under municipal law. There's nothing I can do," he said. "If I have nowhere to stay and nothing to do, I'd rather kill myself."

Yangon to add 40,000 acres under JICA growth plan

By Noe Noe Aung

A PLAN publicised in local media to expand Yangon's urban area by about 20 percent is yet to be approved, a senior Yangon City Development Committee official said earlier this month.

The proposal would see 40,000 acres, or 162 square kilometres (62.5 square miles), of land added to the official city area, which currently stands at slightly less than 800 square kilometres.

"The city extension plan is just a proposal. We can't confirm it yet," said U Toe Aung, deputy head of the committee's Department of City Planning and Land Administration.

U Toe Aung is overseeing the development of the 30-year Yangon Master Plan, which is being drafted with support from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

He said JICA has provided about US$200 million to implement the first five years of the plan.

"We are doing a lot to develop the city, such as extending roads, building flyovers and repairing roads. This is part of the 30-year town plan. JICA is supporting us by providing technical and financial assistance. Recently they have proposed that we extend Yangon by 40,000 acres if we want but we don't have an exact plan yet," U Toe Aung said.

"We are going to build new housing and also upgrade the transport systems. Our target is for Yangon to be developed in 2040 so urban expansion could happen in the future," he said.

The proposed urban expansion would take place in the predominantly rural townships of Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Hmawbi, Hlegu and Htantabin.

U Toe Aung declined to comment on what compensation farmers in these townships could expect to receive if their land is acquired for urban expansion projects.

"Farmland would be included in the proposed city extension. We have to turn farmland into urban land if necessary. But we can't say for sure that farmland will be taken because the plan is not yet confirmed," he said.

Of the city's current area of 792 square kilometres, or 306 square miles, around 90 percent is used for residential development, with only 6pc for industry, YCDC figures show.

Moment of Love and Romance

Looking for new ways to show your loved one how much you care? Let us complete your gifts of love with our fresh take on the classic Valentine's Day formula. Start with a romantic dinner, add a beautiful flower, and express your feelings in a lovely card, multiply that by a bottle of wine and the result is pure romance.

Plus, there's our complimentary Valentine's Chocolate cake that will make this Valentine's Day even sweeter. You'll find it all at The Emporia Restaurant.

Book in advance for perfect dining at (95 1) 544500, Ext: 6294, 6287

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG** of Dieselstrasse 12, 72555 Metzingen, Germany is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark: -

(Reg: No. IV/14835/2012)

in respect of: - "Soaps, perfumeries, essential oils, preparations for body and beauty care, hair lotions, dentifrices."- Class: 3

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates
for **HUGO BOSS Trade Mark Management GmbH & Co. KG**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 11th February, 2013

Mr Arjan Hehenkamp, general director for Doctors Without Borders, speaks during a press conference in Yangon on February 7. *Pic: AFP*

MSF complains of intimidation

By Shwe Yee Saw Myint

INTIMIDATION and the threat of violence from the Rakhine community is the main challenge international health workers face as they attempt to provide assistance to affected people, the regional head of Médecins sans Frontières said last week.

MSF general director in Yangon Mr Arjan Hehenkamp told a press conference on February 7 that hundreds of pregnant women and malnourished children faced hunger and disease in camps at Rakhine State.

"Pregnant women can't go to health centres. They will have to give birth in camps, in the mud and without doctors. Conditions are very bad," said Mr Hehenkamp.

One camp visited by MSF housed more than 200 pregnant women. Through the 10,000 medical consultations MSF has performed since October, the organisation found that many children in the camps suffer skin infections, and worms, chronic coughing and diarrhoea, he added.

"When I visited the Rakhine camps, we encountered the funeral of a child who had died from a common cold. This was entirely preventable," said Mr Hehenkamp, adding that MSF screening has shown "alarming" rates of malnutrition among children.

MSF is delivering healthcare service in 20 camps in Rakhine State with the permission of the government. But their staff face intimidation and threats of violence, particularly when they try to provide health services to Muslim camps.

"Our medical teams face constant threats and hostility from violent [groups]. When our Rakhine national nurse helped Muslim people, she faced many bad impacts," he said.

"We help both communities. It isn't difficult to help Rakhine camps, but if we help Muslim camps some members of the Rakhine community accuse us of pro-Rohingya bias. It is intimidation, not lack of formal permission for access, that is one of the main challenges MSF faces," said Mr Hehenkamp.

MSF has called on the authorities to do more to make it clear that threatening violence against health workers is unacceptable.

"We are not party to the conflict and we have the support of the government to operate. MSF wants supportive community leaders and government authorities to do more [to] counteract the threats and intimidation so that humanitarian aid can be delivered to those who urgently need it," he added.

The outbreaks of communal violence in June and October have deeply divided communities that were previously living side-by-side.

As a result of the violence, hundreds died and more than 100,000 were displaced, many after their homes had been burned down, and forced into camps that lack food, water and medical care. The government placed Rakhine State under a state of emergency.

There are more camps for Muslims than for non-Muslim Rakhine. Because of fears of violence, the Muslim camps are guarded by soldiers and poor transportation deepens their isolation.

Govt, hluttaw to finalise tribunal

By Soe Than Lynn

THE Constitutional Tribunal's new members are likely to be formally appointed this week, sources in Nay Pyi Taw say.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann told MPs he had sent his three nominees to President U Thein Sein on February 1. Three more members will be nominated by the Amyotha Hluttaw speaker, while another three will be selected by the president.

Thura U Shwe Mann nominated retired director general of the Supreme Court U Mya Thein, high court advocate and retired director U Mya Thein and high court advocate U Myint Lwin to fill seats vacated when the Constitutional Tribunal's members resigned en masse in September 2012.

MPs said the nominees had shown in previous dealings with the hluttaw that they would not bow to pressure from influential figures.

"These three people have previously come to the Pyithu Hluttaw to take part in discussions on legal matters. … They spoke bravely and openly, even saying that the speaker was wrong, and they placed emphasis on the need to uphold the law," said U Win San, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Yekyi.

He said the selection process had been significantly different from when the Constitutional Tribunal was first formed in early 2011, with significantly more legislative oversight.

"When members of the tribunal were selected shortly after the new government was formed and sent the candidature to the relevant party leaders, other MPs found it difficult to even read their profiles. This time their personal data is easily accessible so we can learn about them in detail."

Representative for Thingangyun U Thein Nyunt said the selection of legal experts to sit on the Constitutional Tribunal was a positive step.

"Of three people chosen by the Pyithu Hluttaw, I have known two … high court advocate U Mya Thein is a former secretary of the Yangon Lawyers' Association who gave lectures to new lawyers. U Myint Lwin set up a law school, 'Aung U Pa De', and taught us law. Their qualifications and experience are proven. But we have to monitor their performance to assess whether they are honest and impartial after they become members of the tribunal," he said.

The tribunal's first task will be to examine amendments to the Constitutional Tribunal Law and Union Auditor General Law that were recently passed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, despite President U Thein Sein's objection that the changes were unconstitutional.

The president signed them into law but said he would submit them to the tribunal as soon as the new members have been appointed. Among the changes was a stipulation that the president appoint the tribunal's members in consultation with the two speakers.

Another case that the new tribunal members are likely to soon have to adjudicate will be the extent to which the president and other members of the government can remain politically active while in office. Representative for Pathein U Win Myint raised the issue on January 21, and Minister for the President's Office U Soe Maung responded that the tribunal will be able to clarify the issue after it has been re-formed. – *Translated by Thit Lwin*

No need to reselect ward administrator in NPT, rules district official

By Su Hlaing Tun

A DISTRICT administrator in Nay Pyi Taw has ruled that a controversial ward administrator election in Pobbathiri township was conducted in accordance with the law, residents said last week.

Forty-nine residents in Pobbathiri township's Mingalardepa Ward, had been lobbying for the election to be held again because they said the ballot was not secret, and they were forced to sign in front of two administrative staff. They said they submitted a video of the election as evidence.

"The district-level official came and investigated. He said that [the selection] was done according to the rules, except that a ballot box was not used," township administrator U Kyaw Tint said last week.

The incumbent administrator was elected in the January 11 vote. Residents said he has held the post for almost four decades and alleged that he used his position for financial gain.

"Fear is deep-rooted in our community. Because we were forced to make our choice under the watchful eye of their people, we were scared and selected him again," said one Mingalardepa resident.

Residents said they were not told how the district administrator had decided the election was in conformity with the law.

"One person who was apparently the district officer came and investigated only after we had complained two times, saying that it was done according to the rules," said U Zaw Gyi, who filed the complaint.

"After he investigated the five [election] overseers … they said that re-selection was not needed. We wonder how he managed to pressure them to say this. We complained because people didn't get to enjoy a taste of rule of law through this election," he said.

Another unhappy resident said he would make sure there was no repeat of the rule-breaking when the next vote is held.

> 'We learned our lesson from this. We will meet them again in 2015.'

"We can't do anything about it now. We have got a knack for overseeing those elections in future because we learned our lesson from this. We will meet them again in 2015," he said.

Mingalardepa ward has about 1000 households. In nearby Wunnadepa ward, residents have also complained about the ward election, alleging township administrators interfered in the process.

One observer said more transparency was needed both in the selection of ward and village-tract officials under the new Ward and Village-tract Administration Law and in how decisions were reached when an appeal is filed. "If [the district administrator] could clarify how the election was conducted according to the law in a way people can easily understand it would be much better. Now it may lead to misunderstanding," he said.

– Translated by Thit Lwin

Vegetables are grown using hydroponic techniques in a green house in Magwe Region. Pic: *Kyay Mone Win*

Hydroponics introduced in dry zone villages

By Kyay Mone Win

GROWING vegetables in tanks could be the answer to the problems of cultivation in the country's dry zone. With the help of an Italian foundation, farmers in Magwe Region can now enjoy the fruits – or vegetables – of their labour, even in the dry season.

For the past 12 months, Fondazione TDH Italia and REAM, a Myanmar NGO, have been running a project in the townships of Yenangyaung and Natmauk. The aim is to improve food security and promote the livelihoods of the most vulnerable groups in an area that suffers from topsoil erosion.

The program is funded by the Italian government, and the University of Bologna, Italy, has also provided assistance.

"Vulnerable villages can grow fresh green vegetables only in the rainy season, so the rest of the year they are short of vitamins and other micro-nutrients like iron. That's why we introduced sustainable agricultural practices," said Daw Khin Khin Aye, the assistant project manager at TDH Italia.

The agricultural technique, known as hydroponics, involves growing plants in small tanks, or even in plastic water bottles. Seven hundred households in six villages in Yenangyaung and four in Natmauk have been using hydroponic techniques to grow vegetables since last January in community greenhouses set up by TDH.

"In Yenangyaung, the soil is mainly sandy and it's hard to plant vegetables. Using hydroponic techniques helps improve food security. The villagers save money and can earn more, "she said.

TDH has also taught these techniques to farmers and students at Yezin University's Magwe campus, where a demonstration farm was set up to test the techniques introduced and disseminate them through students and professors.

"This technique can reduce water use, while helping protect plants from pests. It involves recycled materials and avoids waste of nutrients/fertilisers," said Dr Mi Mi Aung of Yezin University.

TDH built 11,000-gallon rainwater harvester tanks to collect and store water for use in the greenhouses.

"We've never planted vegetables like this before. The first time we heard of this technique was last August. In our village, there are 15 villagers who use it. I have cultivated 200 viss of vegetables (one viss equals 1.6 kilograms or 3.6 pounds). Though the project ended in January, we're still using [the technique]," said villager Sa Khan Can.

Another villager, U Aung Thein, said he had built a small hydroponic greenhouse in his compound after seeing the community greenhouse and had successfully produced lettuce, Chinese kale and mustard.

TDH is discussing possible sources of funding to expand its activities in the dry zone for the next three years and says the greenhouses not only improves the diet of people in the dry zone, but also generate extra income.

UNOPS

The United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) in Myanmar is inviting qualified candidates to apply for the following positions:

Sr.	Title and level	Duty Station	Position	Deadline
1.	Management, Finance and Compliance Specialist (IICA 2)	Yangon	International	11-Feb-13
2.	Administrative Assistant (LICA 3)	Yangon	National	12-Feb-13
3.	Public Health Officer – HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria Component (NOD)	Yangon	National	14-Feb-13
4.	Public Health Analyst (NOB)	Yangon	National	14-Feb-13
5.	Field Finance Assistant (LICA 2)	Mawlamyine	National	20-Feb-2013

For details please visit UNOPS website https://gprs.unops.org/pages/ viewvacancy/VAListing.aspx and click on the post you are interested in applying for. All applications must be made through UNOPS E-recruitment system.

Ten-member group formed to advise MCDC on development

By Si Thu Lwin

THE Mandalay Region government has appointed 10 experts to advise Mandalay City Development Committee on municipal issues, an official said last week.

The group was formed by the region government on January 31.

Chief minister U Ye Myint said the advisers would add impetus to development tasks and act as an intermediary between MCDC and residents.

"If any issue related to the city development committee arises, the people can tell one of the advisers from their township to address it," said MCDC official U Tun Kyi.

"The advisers group will be called to meetings if and when necessary. This group will help to ensure we are fulfilling the desires of residents."

Members of the advisory group are U Po Myint (Chanayethazan), U Nyunt Maung (Aungmyaythazan), U Aung Thein (Aungmyaythazan), U Mya Win (Chanayethazan), U Hla Tun (Chanayethazan), U Win Pe Myint (Mahaungmyay), U Kyaw Win (Mahaungmyay), U Hla Kywe (Chanmyathazi), U Myint Aung (Pyigyitagun) and U Than Myint (Amarapura). *– Translated by Thit Lwin*

Woman files attempted rape charge against policeman

By Phyo Wai Kyaw

A NATIONAL League for Democracy official from Myitthar township in Mandalay Region has accused a police officer of attempted rape.

Daw Than Khin alleges that on the night of December 30 a police officer from Ywar Khaning Gyi village police station in Myitthar township entered her home while her husband was out and attempted to rape her. The officer also allegedly broke a piece of glass from the window and held it to her neck. However, before he could rape her, Daw Than Khin's husband, U Min Kyi, returned home. A man, who identified himself as the officer's brother, then came to their house and took the officer away.

Daw Than Khin, 39, pressed charges over the incident on February 7.

She said the officer had been the subject of anonymous complaint letters sent to his superiors and she thinks the attack was motivated by his suspicion that she was writing the letters.

"I think he thought that I was the cause of those issues and so he harboured a grudge against me … then he committed like this and I think he wants to control to me by this way. I opened the case to show that the law is stronger than those who want to abuse women through power and money," she told *The Myanmar Times* on February 6.

"My wife is not beautiful and young but he wants to control her so he did like that," said U Min Kyi on February 6.

Daw Than Khin was recently selected at the NLD's ward assembly in Ywar Khaing Gyi, a village of about 1000 houses. However, because of the case she was unable to take part in the township-level assembly.

Lawyer Daw Ywat Nu Aung (left) and Daw Than Khin discuss the case at Daw Ywat Nu Aung's office near Mandalay district court on February 6. *Pic: Phyo Wai Kyaw*

She said that she waited one month to press charges because she was afraid of the police officer and his companions came many times to apologise to her.

"I want to the truth to be known … I am not afraid now, even if police officer kills me. I have strong evidence for this case," she said.

The new police officer in Ywar Khaing Gyi, Chief Constable Khin Mg Htun, said by telephone on February 6 that the case had been processed and submitted to Myitthar township court.

Three lawyers, Daw Ywat Nu Aung, U Sann Nyunt Wai and U Kyaw Soe Lynn, who are members of the Mandalay Region NLD office, have agreed to take Daw Than Khin's case for no charge.

"It is a very serious case, as the defendant is a person who understands the law well and has a position of responsibility in the community," Daw Ywat Nu Aung said.

"We don't know exactly yet whether they will allow us to hear the case in the court. We submitted the case to Kyaukse district court on February 6, however, the court transferred it again to Myitthar township court. If it is heard at the township level the maximum punishment is only seven years, regardless of the circumstances of the case. So we will keep trying to have it heard at a higher level," she said.

She said the police officer's "companions" had contacted Daw Khin Than's legal team at least three time asking them to drop the case.

MAI to launch Bangkok flights from Mandalay

NATIONAL carrier Myanmar Airways International will launch daily flights between Mandalay and Bangkok from the end of March and plans to add further services out of Mandalay, a spokesperson said last week.

"We will start Mandalay-Bangkok daily flights on March 31. The round-trip ticket price may be about US$250 but has not been confirmed yet," said Daw Aye Mra Tha, a marketing executive from the airline, adding that demand for flights to and from Mandalay is "really high".

The flight will depart Bangkok at 6:30am on March 31 and arrive at Mandalay International Airport at 7:55am. The return flight will depart Mandalay at 8:35am and arrive in Bangkok at 11am. The airline will use a 180-seat Airbus A320 on the route.

MAI already flies from Mandalay to Gaya, in northeast India.

"This Mandalay-Bangkok route will be our second international direct flight from Mandalay. We also have plans to fly to Singapore from Mandalay but only after launching this Bangkok route," Daw Aye Mra Tha said.

MAI also offers flights between Yangon and Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Gaya, Siem Reap, Phnom Penh and Guangzhou. It also has services linking Bangkok and Singapore.

The strong growth in the aviation sector during last year is expected to continue into 2013 and international and domestic carriers have announced plans to expand operations to cope with the growth, including new international routes to Mandalay.

While Yangon has always been the best serviced destination, until recently the only international flights to Mandalay were from southern China.

In October 2012, Thai AirAsia introduced four weekly services to Mandalay from Bangkok and on January 11 the service was upgraded to daily. Bangkok Airways has also announced plans to operate four weekly flights from September, while Thai Airways says it is considering servicing the Mandalay route through its regional carrier, Thai Smile.

Myanmar's first low-cost carrier, Golden Myanmar Airlines, says it plans to offer flights to Bangkok, Singapore, Malaysia and Hong Kong. – *Zaw Win Than*

Inwa authorities ban women from driving pony carts

By Si Thu Lwin and Cherry Thein

TADA Oo City Development Committee has banned women from driving tourists around the ancient city of Inwa in pony carts, residents in the area said last week.

The committee posted a notice at the pony cart terminus in Ototetan ward on January 23 stating that women and people under 18 had been banned from driving the pony carts for "safety reasons".

About 130 pony cart drivers, including 11 women, wait for passengers at Ototetan in U Tei village tract, a short ferry ride across the Myitnge River from the southern outskirts of Mandalay.

One female coach driver said she was "disappointed" by the decision, which had cut off an important source of income for her family.

"Some foreign women prefer to ride pony carts that are driven by women," said Ma Yu Yu, 20, who has been driving for about two years. "We are disappointed by the notice and in particular how it will affect our income."

It is not clear what prompted the announcement.

"There are about three coach drivers who under 18 years old at this stand but they are skilful drivers and have never had any accidents," said U Tun Oo, 40.

But one resident from Inwa told *The Myanmar Times* on February 6 that despite the warning there had been no attempt made to enforce the ban.

"The authorities said that if the women can drive well and safely, it is okay. They just warned of the need to be careful about preventing accident because the number of tourists has increased," she said.

"There are about 10 women driving pony carts. Some are worried to drive again after this warning was issued but some have continued to work."

Foreign tourists regularly visit Inwa, a former royal capital, during the peak season from October to April but are more scarce at other times of the year.

The resident said women drivers were previously rare but the sharp increase in tourists in 2012 had prompted a few to take up the trade.

"In tourist season, when there are many visitors, the men are busy with their own carts and so some women also helped to drive to help meet the demand."

But one prominent Inwa resident, writer Daw Nu Nu Yi (Innwa), told *The Myanmar Times* she was disappointed to hear that women were being discouraged from driving pony carts.

"When I heard the news that local authorities had banned women from driving pony cart, I wondered why they would do it. I was told it was a 'warning' to prevent accidents but anyway women should get the same employment opportunities as men if they have the same skill," said Daw Nu Nu Yi (Innwa), who has published 15 novels and many short stories.

"I am not a pessimist on the issue but wonder why women face more restrictions than men in the workplace? If these attitudes are still in place, women can't hold decision-making roles," she said.

– *Translated by Zar Zar Soe*

Vendors sell souvenirs to tourists on a pony cart at Inwa. *Pic: Si Thu Lwin*

Upper Myanmar lawyers to meet in February

By Than Naing Soe

LAWYERS from upper Myanmar will meet in Mandalay later this month as part of preparations for the formation of an association of law experts to advise the government and parliament, says high court advocate Tawwin U Khin Maung Than.

"Lawyers from upper Myanmar will meet in Mandalay in February. No date has been fixed but lawyers from regions and states in upper Myanmar have already been informed. The meeting is about establishing a legal experts' association," U Khin Maung Than said.

He said the association was "urgently" needed to help encourage an independent judiciary.

It will also offer legal advice to the hluttaws and government departments on amending and repealing laws that are outdated and suggesting new laws, he said.

No compensation for truck terminal land

About 150 acres taken from farmers for terminal in 2010; MCDC insists fields were converted to urban land in 1998

By Than Naing Soe and Si Thu Lwin

RESIDENTS in Mandalay's Amarapura township whose land was taken three years ago by Mandalay City Development Committee for a new trucking terminal say they are yet to receive any compensation.

The Pyi Gyi Mingalar Truck Terminal, in Thutsaintkone village, Amarapura township, will officially open on February 15.

"Construction started in 2010. People in our village lost more than 150 acres of farmland for the terminal project. However, no compensation or replacement has been given," said U Thaung Tun, who since losing his farm has worked as a casual labourer.

"This project left people here out of work and in financial difficulties. Most had to take their kids out of school because they had no money. As for me, I used to live on farmland so I have now no place to live after it was taken. I also can no longer afford for my children to continue their education," he said.

Land was also taken for an adjoining wholesale agriculture market, which was also built by MCDC, but the owners of that land received compensation.

"Though we are in exactly the same position, those whose land was used for the wholesale centre got two plots of [town] land measuring 40 feet by 60 feet in the same compound as the wholesale centre. But we have been neglected," U Thaung Tun said.

U Khin Maung Myint, head of the MCDC land records department, said the land in question was designated as residential in about 1998.

"The problem arose because people didn't reside in places where grants for land had already been issued. To avoid this, we are reminding everyone that fencing be done on the plots of land which was given as new town plans," he said.

Thutsaintkone residents maintain that they were never informed that the land had been converted into residential land.

U Win Swe, who lost 10 acres of land, said Thutsaintkone residents had repeatedly petitioned government departments for compensation but so far have received no response.

"I was the in-charge for irrigation in the area so I lived on my farm. One day the [Mandalay City Development Committee] officers came and erected small posts on my land. About one week later, the land was bulldozed without prior notice," U Win Swe said.

"We tried in vain to stop them. When officials came we begged them not to bulldoze the fields because our gram crops were nearly ripe. No compensation for the land or for the loss of the crop has been given to this day."

More than 50 acres were left after the terminal was completed but instead of returning the land to the farmers, it was allocated to businesses.

"The land was already fenced off but we submitted a petition to the development minister and chief minister to stop them selling it. Then they summoned us and explained that the land was already allocated [to businesses]," U Thaung Tun said.

A bus terminal and wholesale market are grouped together with a number of other projects in Natyaykan village tract that have resulted in farmers losing their land, including mechanisation department and irrigation projects, a national degree college campus, Swetaw Pagoda, Swetaw Monastery, Swetaw Convent and the Road Transport Administration wholesale centre.

The Thutsaintkone farmers are not the only ones unhappy about the project. As *The Myanmar Times* reported on February 4, trucking companies that are being forced to move to the Pyi Gyi Mingalar terminal have complained that they were not consulted over the project and that buildings at the terminal are too expensive. Twenty feet by 40 feet plots at the terminal are being sold for K70 million (about US$81,000), or rented for K300,000 a month. – *Translated by Thit Lwin*

The entrance to the Pyi Gyi Mingalar Truck Terminal. *Pic: Than Naing Soe*

Trucks banned from inner Mandalay

By Si Thu Lwin

MANDALAY City Development Committee has banned trucks heavier than 3 tonnes from inner city streets, an official said last week.

The ban will come into force from February 16, said Daw Khin May Htay, head of the committee's Department of Engineering (Roads and Bridges).

"We will not allow 3-tonne trucks to use the city streets [from February 16] because the truck terminals will move a new site by February 15," she said, referring to the opening of Pyi Gyi Mingalar Truck Terminal in Amarapura township.

"We will put up noticeboards saying, "No entry for trucks," at toll gates and crossroads connected to the inner streets," said Daw Khin May Htay.

She said officials will take action against lawbreakers in accordance with municipal laws.

"It's a danger for everyone if these trucks are driving around in the city so it's a good development for all of us," said Ko Thein Win, a truck driver on the Mandalay-Bhamo route.

– *Translated by Zar Zar Soe*

MMC suspends doctor for five years over 2010 death

By Yamon Phu Thit

THE Myanmar Medical Council has suspended the licence of a Yangon-based obstetrician and gynaecologist for five years, after finding her guilty of medical negligence over the death of a baby she delivered in August 2010.

The doctor's medical licence was revoked in late January following an MMC investigation, the council said in an announcement.

The investigation was launched based on a complaint from a couple whose child died soon after being born prematurely at a private hospital in North Okkalapa township in August 2010. The couple had filed charges against her for alleged medical negligence in North Okkalapa township court.

At a press conference on November 8, 2010, they alleged that the obstetrician and gynaecologist had miscalculated the due date of the pregnancy and delivered the child prematurely at 30 weeks. The baby was transferred to the children's ward at the North Okkalapa General Hospital but died about a week after the birth.

The mother of the child said at the press conference that a death certificate issued by North Okkalapa Hospital said the child had died because of premature birth.

"The due date which she [the obstetrician and gynaecologist] has given me since my first consultation was wrong," she said.

Media coverage of the press conference was censored by the Press Scrutiny and Registration Division.

Last week's medical council announcement said the obstetrician and gynaecologist has been suspended because she had miscalculated the due date, incorrectly decided to conduct a caesarian operation, failed to give proper consultation to the patient before the operation, and did not have a rapport with the patient despite knowing the child had been born prematurely.

The MMC declined to comment further when asked about the decision on January 30.

"We don't have the right to disseminate information to the public on why or how a doctor has been punished," president Professor Myo Myint said in an interview at the council's headquarters on Natmauk Road in Bahan township.

He said the council has already reported the suspension to the relevant departments, such as the Ministry of Home Affairs and regional health departments. "So we don't need to comment any further," he said.

However, this approach contrasts with the MMC decision to hold a press conference in October 2009 to announce that a five-year suspension had been handed down to a surgeon, after he misdiagnosed dengue haemorrhagic fever as appendicitis at a Bahan-based private medical centre, resulting in the death of a 15-year-old girl.

The obstetrician and gynaecologist is the first doctor to have their licence revoked for medical negligence since the 2009 case.

A member of the Myanmar Medical Association who asked not to be named said doctors can now expect heavy scrutiny if they make an incorrect decision while treating a patient.

"Medical negligence also happened in the past but it was not known publicly. People can complain to the MMC if they have a grievance about medical service," he said on February 5.

"If the case is confirmed as malpractice, the MMC will take action against the doctor."

Tourists at Inle Lake in southern Shan State. *Pic: Thet Htoo*

Intha aim to tap tourism trade

INTHA community leaders have held a meeting to discuss ways of becoming more involved in the tourism sector, including forming a public company with hotel and tourism interests.

Much of the January 26 meeting at Myoma Yangon Monastery in Nyaungshwe township focused on addressing complaints that Intha people are missing out on the benefits of booming tourism in the Inle Lake area.

They also discussed environmental conservation in the Inle Lake area, which has seen rapid development over the past decade.

"Our Intha held a meeting to make a decision about getting involved in the travel and tourism business. We will hold another meeting soon at which we discuss it in more detail. We will also ask our Pyithu Hluttaw representative to take part," said Ko Zarni Soe, who runs a video rental business and helped arrange the meeting.

At the meeting, about 50 participants discussed a proposal to form a public company with initial capital of K200 million that would focus on the tourism sector. Some participants complained that businesses run by "outsiders" control about 75 percent of the Inle Lake tourism sector, including travel companies and hotels.

As a result, there are limited job opportunities for Intha people, who mostly fill "blue-collar" rather than management positions in local firms, the meeting heard.

Ko Zarni Soe said the next meeting will be held at Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda on Inle Lake.

While the exact origins of the Intha people are unclear, they are believed to come from the Dawei area of Tanintharyi Region and speak a form of Burmese. The name literally means "sons of the lake", and they are mostly found in the Inle area. – *Khin Su Wai*

Questions over access to Kachin relief camps

By Bill O'Toole

QUESTIONS remain over when and how aid groups will be able to assist internally displaced people in Kachin State, after the government said in an announcement it would grant access to relief camps throughout the state.

"We are not sure yet how much or to what extent they will allow [aid]. We will wait and see," said Daw Khon Ja, a representative of the Kachin Women's Peace Network who has worked extensively in the state's conflict areas.

U Ye Htut, a spokesperson for the president, said in a statement on February 4 that meetings would need to be held with aid agencies before access could begin. He said security and other logistical issues need to be resolved.

Of the estimated 100,000 civilians displaced by the conflict, about 60,000 are living in camps located in areas controlled by the Kachin Independence Army (KIA). Since fighting between government and KIA troops restarted in June 2011, the government has denied international aid groups access to the region on security grounds, a policy that has been roundly criticised in the humanitarian community.

"The government should be enabling, not hindering, the provision of humanitarian assistance to all who need it," said Mr Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia Division.

Mr Hans Ten Feld, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) representative in Yangon, said: "Since the beginning of the conflict UNHCR has been advocating for humanitarian organisations to have access to those displaced – regardless of their current physical location."

While U Ye Htut's statement alluded to access to "all" internally displaced persons in Kachin State, Mr Ten Feld said there was still uncertainty over how much access would be granted.

"We welcome the discussions and hope they will lead to unhindered access to all the affected populations in Kachin [State]. ... We understand the details are still being discussed."

From its offices in Bhamo and Myitkyina, UNHCR has been able to conduct some humanitarian programs in government-controlled areas but the denial of aid shipments to KIA-controlled areas has left IDP camps woefully undersupplied. "Immediate needs are basic items, such as blankets, mosquito nets, and also food," he said.

UNHCR and Human Rights Watch said that while local Kachin groups, such as the Kachin Peace Network and Kachin Baptist Convention, continue to do "great work" for IDPs in areas controlled by the KIA, there resources were limited.

"It's important that the UN and humanitarian agencies have an agreement with the government for safe, sustained, and unhindered access, otherwise this is window dressing. The denial of aid to tens of thousands of people since this conflict erupted has been unfortunate and reprehensible," said Mr Matthew Smith, a researcher for Human Rights Watch.

USDP aims for April 1 launch for daily newspaper

THE Union Solidarity and Development Party will aim to launch its daily paper in Yangon by April 1, vice chairman U Htay Oo said last week.

It is the second party to announce plans to enter the daily publishing market, after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi announced the National League for Democracy's weekly paper, *D Wave*, would be transformed into a daily after licences become available in April.

U Htay Oo said that while the USDP was aiming to be ready by April 1 it will take some time to prepare. On February 1, the party conducted a two-week journalism training program for 60 people at its headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw.

"It's not the first time we've trained journalists in our party and even many of our party's reporters are already working at other private weekly papers," said U Htay Oo, who is also the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Hinthada in Ayeyarwady Region.

An editor from one local weekly journal said the party had tried to recruit Yangon-based journalists from other publications by offering K350,000 to reporters and K500,000 to editors.

However, U Htay Oo insisted this was not the case. He did not respond to questions about how the party's policy would influence the content of the daily newspaper, instead saying that it will reported news that is "useful and that the public should know".

"The policy of the party is that which will benefit the public. So our daily newspaper will be based on what benefits the public," he said. – *Win Ko Ko Latt*

Yangon electricity demand rising 15pc each year: YESB

By Kyaw Hsu Mon

YANGON'S thirst for electricity continues to grow as city residents buy ever more electronic appliances. Electricity use in the commercial capital, which accounts for half the country's power consumption, is growing at 15 percent a year and shows no signs of slowing.

Most of Yangon's electricity is generated with hydropower, which means that between March and June, sources run dry and the lights start to go out.

To help cope with the shortage, Yangon Electricity Supply Board cuts power to factories during the peak period between 5pm and 11pm.

"Yangon's electricity consumption rate has grown by 15 percent a year in recent years so we're trying to produce more electricity with natural gas turbines, which will enable us to produce more during the dry season," U Maung Maung Latt, vice chairman of Yangon Electricity Supply Board told *The Myanmar Times* last week.

Myanmar as a whole uses 1500 megawatts, of which Yangon consumes 720MW. Minimum daily use ranges between 330MW and 540MW in Yangon.

> **'YESB imposed cuts from 5pm to 11pm every day. Still, we're satisfied that we're getting more power than in the past .'**

"Last year, insurgents bombed electricity pylons at Shwe Li, which deprived us of 200MW a day. The situation will not be as bad this year, provided there are no more attacks," said U Maung Maung Latt.

The efforts to improve electricity supply come as Yangon residents make enthusiastic use of televisions, air conditioners, freezers, washing machines and other electronic appliances and devices. Still, the supply to the city's industrial zones has also improved, with most factories receiving full power throughout the rainy season.

"We received electricity 24 hours a day during the past rainy season, but from January 1 this year, YESB imposed cuts from 5pm to 11pm every day. Still, we're satisfied that we're getting more power than in the past," said U Myat Thin Aung, chairman of Hlaing Tharyar industrial management committee.

Some factory owners who normally close down during the dry season for lack of reliable power supply have remained open for business this year. There are about 530 factories operating in Hlaing Tharyar, Yangon's biggest industrial zone. However, cuts have reportedly also been imposed on some residential areas.

Yangon Electricity Supply Board workers repair cables in downtown Yangon. *Pic: Myanmar Times archive*

Rakhine dam in spotlight over delays

Nine years after construction began, Thatay hydropower dam is only 23 percent completed, ministry tells parliament

By Soe Than Lynn

A HYDROPOWER project involving the government and International Group of Entrepreneur, better known as IGE, is less than one-quarter finished after almost nine years of work, the Ministry of Electric Power has revealed.

But Deputy Minister U Myint Zaw insisted Thatay hydropower project, about 19 kilometres north of Thandwe in southern Rakhine State, would be finished by 2018-19.

It will have a maximum generation capacity of more than 100 megawatts and is expected to produce up to 386 million kilowatt hours a year.

He told the Pyithu Hluttaw on January 30 the K45.62 billion (US$53.4 million) budget for the project was adequate and the project had been delayed because of difficulties digging tunnels for the dam due to the "geological complexity" of the area.

Speaking in response to a question from U Aye Mauk, the representative for Mahlaing, the deputy minister said IGE is working together with the Hydropower Implementation Department on two diversion tunnels and sluice gate. IGE is owned by U Nay Aung and U Pyi Aung, the sons of former Minister for Industry 1 U Aung Thaung, who is now a Pyithu Hluttaw representative.

Earlier reports suggest the project was to be implemented by an Indian company with a $60 million loan from the Indian government's Exim Bank.

U Myint Zaw said the government did not plan to change the project into a build, operate transfer or joint venture to speed up the construction process.

After the deputy minister's response, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said the value of the hydropower project was "questionable" and criticised the deputy minister's overly technical response, which he said was hard for MPs to understand.

"What MPs and the people want to know is not the way it is done but the result: when it will be finished or, if necessary, how much money we will have to allocate to finish it, for example," he said.

"Electricity generation is extremely important in the current circumstances. This project started in 2004 so it has been nine years as of 2013. It is 23 percent completed and if we let this project continue it will go well beyond the tenure of this government, until 2018-19. So it is a questionable project."

Thura U Shwe Mann said parliamentary committees should review government projects that are in progress "as a collaborative effort" and recommend the prioritisation of particular projects that can bring the most benefit "for the people and country".

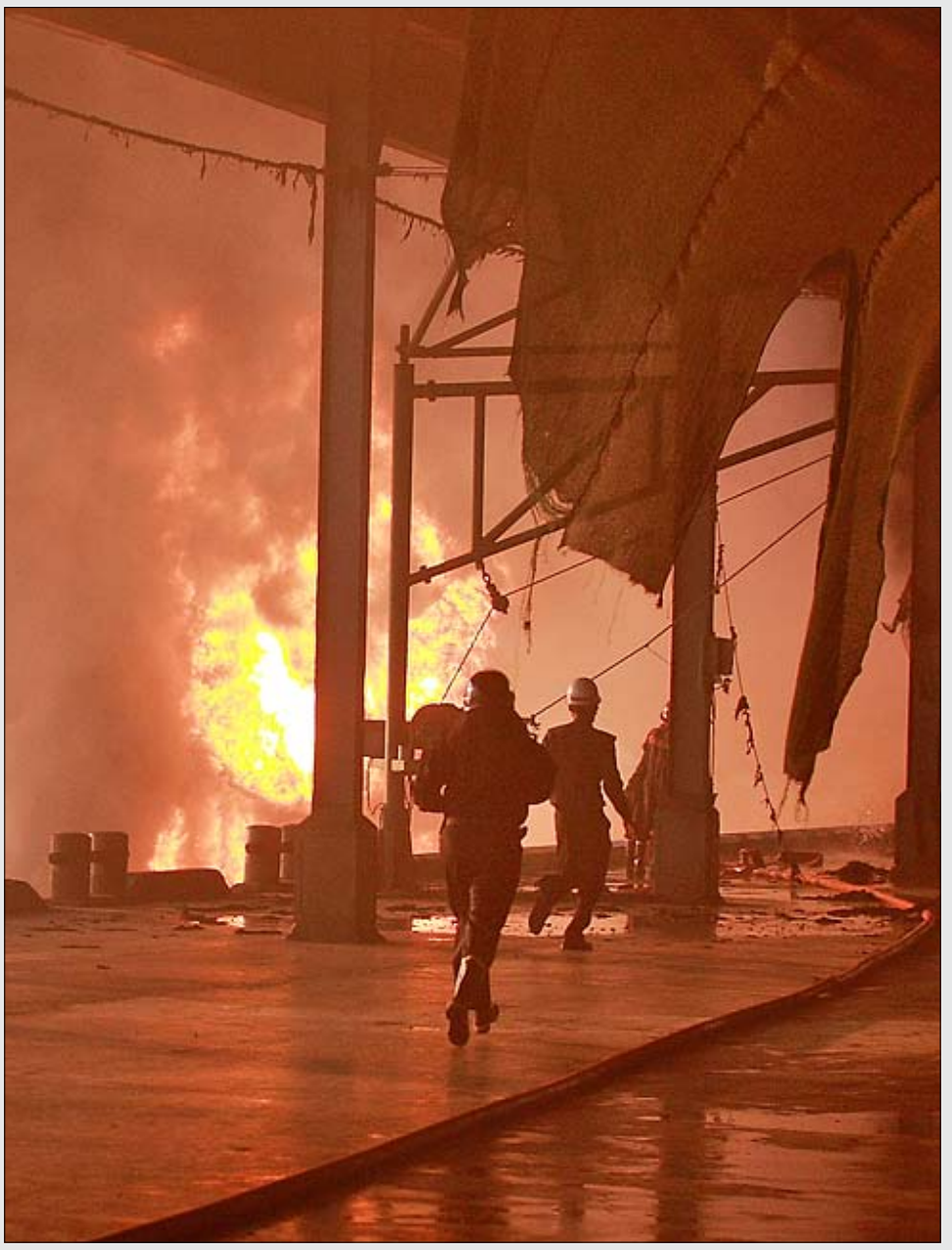
"We discussed [Thatay dam] based on a submission [from an MP] so nobody knows how many similar projects need to be dealt with. Because it is time to discuss and assess projects, as well as budgetary and taxation matters submitted by the Union Government to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the relevant committee should review projects seriously," the Speaker said.

He said projects that have not begun should be vetted to assess whether they should continue "based on the difficulties and potential benefits".

"Committees will have to assess which electricity project, for example, should have been completed or needs more funds to be completed it. If funds are scattered among all electricity projects under construction, no particular projects are completed, delaying improved electricity generation," he said.

"Whatever project is executed, it uses public fund so should be beneficial to the people and the country ... the hluttaw committees should review the projects that are needed and arrange for them to be completed in as short a time as possible."

– *Translated by Thit Lwin*



Firefighters run towards the burning oil tanker that caught fire when it was unloading fuel at a Myawaddy-owned distribution station on February 4. *Pic: Boothee*

Emergency personnel carry a body from the remains of the fire. *Pic: Aung Htay Hlaing*

Myawaddy fire leaves four dead, six injured

By Htoo Aung

THE Fire Services Department is still investigating the cause of a massive fire at the Myawaddy fuel distribution station in Yangon that killed four people and injured six more.

The fire broke out at the fuel distribution station on Bayintnaung Road in Hlaing township about 5:05pm on February 4, as a Myawaddy-owned oil tanker was depositing fuel at the station

It was extinguished by 6:20pm but the oil tanker *Kaung Myat Kyaw* was destroyed in the blaze.

"The fire started from an oil tanker and after that it spread to a fish factory. I was sitting at that time when I saw the flames and then the smoke simultaneously appeared," said U Htay Win, a 40-year-old employee at Myawaddy fuel distribution.

The dead and injured were transferred to Yangon General Hospital.

Fifty-five fire engines, seven support vehicles, seven administrative vehicles, 395 firefighters, 228 reserve firefighters and 65 Myanmar Red Cross Society personnel attended the scene.

Myawaddy is a subsidiary of military owned company Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited.

Hail destroys homes in Kentung

By Aye Sapay Phyu

HAIL the size of lemons – thought to be the largest to hit Myanmar in 20 years – has badly damaged more than 500 homes in Kengtung township, eastern Shan State, an official of the Relief and Resettlement Department said last week.

Department director U Aung Khine said 518 buildings were damaged when the hail hit villages in the area at about 5:30pm on February 3.

"Three village groups – Kat Taung, Wansaung and Kat Htike – were affected by hail that fell when the area received rain from 5:37pm to 5:45pm," he said on February 6.

The report mentioned that the hail was about the size of a lemon. A total of 518 houses across the three villages sustained damaged to their roofs estimated at more than K35 million. "No casualties were reported," U Aung Khine said.

U Kyaw Lwin Oo, an assistant director of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology, said the hail was the result of a combination of cumulonimbus clouds and excessive moisture.

Cumulonimbus clouds produce severe weather systems, such as thunder, isolated heavy rain, hail, strong wind and tornadoes.

"According to the report from our weather station in Kengtung, the hail was as big as an egg. There has been nothing like hail that size [in Myanmar] for the past 20 years. Mostly we see hail in northern Myanmar and the Sittoung River basin that is about as big as a tamarind seed," he said.

He said formations of cumulonimbus cloud had developed in central Myanmar and Kayah, Kayin and Mon states at the end of January and then moved into eastern Myanmar last week.

U Aung Khine said his department would provide relief assistance to affected families and help them to repair their homes.

Papilla® "Passion of cooking"

World Centre Point Co., Ltd.

Contact at:
86/90, Shwe Dagon Pagoda Road, Pabedan Tsp., Yangon. Myanmar.
Ph: 250129, 380035, Fax: 380131 Website: www.worldcentrepoint.com

Bogyoke Market Branch
No.(7/8), (Ground Floor) North Row, Near Nawarat Hall,
Bogyoke Aung San Market. Ph: 380 372

Tilleke & Gibbins

Attorneys / Legal Consultants in Cambodia, Myanmar, or Laos

Leading Southeast Asian regional law firm Tilleke & Gibbins is seeking highly qualified local and foreign attorneys to join our expanding regional practice in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Laos.

What we offer:
At Tilleke & Gibbins, you will have an opportunity to:
- Represent some of the world's top multinational corporations.
- Formulate legal strategies and advise clients across a wide range of practice areas.
- Sharpen your skills as part of a high-quality international team.
- Grow a practice and advance in your career.
- Earn a competitive salary and a generous package of welfare benefits.

What we need:
We are seeking motivated and ambitious candidates with the following profile:
- Three or more years of post-qualification experience in general law practice in each relevant country. Lawyers with experience in more than one jurisdiction will be accorded preference.
- Postgraduate level of education in law.
- Fluency in English and excellent English writing skills.
- Excellent analytical, drafting, communication, and research skills.
- Excellent problem-solving abilities.
- Strong commitment to client service.
- Proven record of success in identifying and capturing new business opportunities in the legal field.
- Strong case, client, and team management skills.
- Ability to oversee not only legal matters, but also business development and practice administration, including billings and collections.
- Willingess to travel as needed.

Location: Phnom Penh, Cambodia / Yangon, Myanmar / Vientiane, Laos
Job Type: Full Time, Permanent
Contact or send full resume to:
Ms. Sairoung Punthumaphol | Director, Human Resources Department
Tilleke & Gibbins International Ltd.
Supalai Grand Tower, 26th Floor,
1011 Rama 3 Road, Chongnonsi, Yannawa,
Bangkok 10120, Thailand.
T: +66 2653 5555 F: +66 2653 5678
E: recruit@tilleke.com

www.tilleke.com

Donors help libraries spread in the delta

By Cherry Thein

ANYONE in Yangon who has books gathering dust at home is welcome to donate to a worthwhile and sustainable cause – a reading and education project in Pyapon township, Ayeyarwady Region.

The books will be going to small home-libraries managed by young disabled people in villages alongside rivers and creeks in the delta region.

An Australian freelance English teacher at the British Council, Mr Peter Berechree, is happy to pick up any number of books and deliver them to the libraries.

Mr Berechree told *The Myanmar Times* that this project could be "a valuable and sustainable educational program for remote rural communities around Pyapon and beyond".

"I want to expand it to other villages outside Pyapon where it can serve as an exchange and sharing of resources among communities," he said.

"The young disabled people who run the libraries are now being looked after by their parents and relatives, but when their parents are no more, how will they survive and earn a living? I wanted to help them acquire the spiritual courage to thrive in society," said Mr Berechree.

The library project, which he calls REAL, was partly inspired by the scarcity and high cost of reading materials in the remote villages but also by the attitude of the disabled people who were so keen to read and gain knowledge of the outside world, he said.

It was established with a small fund in August 2012 under the Disabilities, Education, Livelihood and Training Association (DELTA), which was set up to help young physically disabled people in the Ayeyarwady Region.

"I've donated about 100 books to the free-lending libraries, but I need more," said Mr Berechree.

In particular, books on hygiene and health, environmental issues, Myanmar-language textbooks both for children and adults, national curriculum textbooks for all grades, weekly journals, novels, comic books, dictionaries, biographies and historical non-fiction are needed.

Ma Pann Ei from Ah Paung village in Pyapon township at the library she runs from her home. *Pic: Peter Berechree*

Ko Than Kyaw Htay from Ah Chan Lay village in Pyapon township. *Pic: Peter Berechree*

During his work as a volunteer with various NGOs, including ActionAid Myanmar, the Burnet Institute and Local Resource Centre, Mr Berechree said he ventured into the delta to conduct interviews, collect stories and write cases studies about poor and vulnerable people and to monitor programs ActionAid had been involved in.

The inspiration for REAL and DELTA came from one of his case studies: Ma Nwe Ni Khine, who was born with spina bifida, which affects the spinal column and nervous system. She suffers from paraplegia and has severe kidney and urinary problems. DELTA donated medical expenses through ActionAid Myanmar for her spinal operation, and now she can walk with the help of crutches.

Ma Nwe Ni Khine and Ma Pann Ei, who suffers from paraplegia, established the first home libraries after attending a two-day library training program at British Council.

As well as the library program, DELTA provides up to 10 young disabled people from the delta area with access to learning and livelihood assistance.

The fund also pays medical expenses for two men. Mg Kaung Myat Thu, 14, suffered a spinal cord injury in an accident he sustained at the age of eight months. He spoke to *The Myanmar Times* on January 24 while waiting in the National Rehabilitation Hospital for his spinal operation.

"I like to read English books and want to be educated. I regret not being able to go to school this year because my father was sick. He is a trishaw driver and used to take me to school," he said.

He dreams to stand on his own legs and walk to school. He said: "Even if I can't stand up after the operation, I want my hands to be strong enough to let me use my wheelchair."

His mother, Daw Khin Khin Nyo, said Cyclone Nargis in 2008 was a blessing in disguise for most people living with disability in Ayeyarwady Region. It brought many medical teams and several surveys for rehabilitation programs.

U Than Kyaw Htay lost the ability to walk six years ago because of spastic paraplegia.

"I spend my time reading journals and books, and exercising my legs. My dream is to stand up again. Meanwhile, I plan to open a barber shop, because I can't stand to be idle," he said.

DELTA has two aims. Firstly, providing access for disabled children and teenagers (10-18 years old) to a formal education and, secondly, helping young disabled adults (18-30 years) to learn skills and get opportunities to pursue independent livelihoods, possibly through vocational training programmes and/or low-interest micro-credit schemes.

A recent national disability survey found that 85 percent of people with disabilities had no jobs or livelihood. About 1.3 million people, or 2.32pc of the population, have a disability, and one in 10 households and more than 16pc of all poor people are associated with disability.

Buddha image returns from US

By Cherry Thein

A LOST Buddha image has now been restored to the country, and can be viewed at the National Museum in Yangon.

The 22-inch high statue, in the Dhammacakka posture, was originally housed in the Kyaut Gu Umin in Bagan. In 1988 it was taken to the United States, and was returned last November by Northeastern Illinois University. The reasons why it was first taken away, and then returned, are not clear.

Museum director U Thaung Win told *The Myanmar Times* that for the time being the image was on display in the Buddha Image Showroom on the fourth floor.

"I don't know much about the history of the image or why it was taken away, but we are all happy to have it returned," he said.

The statue was made available to public viewing after the refurbishment of the display room was completed in late January.

"Every citizen should learn to cherish our cultural, historical and Buddhist heritages because they are our country's treasure, and are responsible for maintaining, valuing, protecting and promoting our values," said U Thaung Win.

The five-storey National Museum, established in 1996 at its present 3.8 acre site, contains works of Myanmar epigraphy and calligraphy and historical, cultural and religious artefacts, including King Thibaw's Lion Throne. The museum offers a one-year postgraduate diploma in applied museology and museum studies to promote understanding of Myanmar's cultural treasures.

Kayin villagers lobby for return of land

About 20 acres was confiscated by Democratic Karen Buddhist Army for temporary living quarters in 1995, say residents

By Noe Noe Aung

VILLAGERS from Papun township in Kayin State are calling for 20 acres of land taken by the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army 18 years ago to be returned.

The DKBA took land from 15 households in Kataing Ti village for temporary living quarters in 1995, after the group signed a ceasefire with the government in December, 1994, said U Aye Win, who lost 1.5 acres and is representing those who lost land.

"They took 15 properties by the road side of Kataing Ti-Papun road," U Aye Win told *The Myanmar Times* on January 28.

"After they moved from our village, they gave our lands to the non-villagers who were getting along with them. Now those people are living on our land for years. We have every paper needed to prove that we are the official owners of the land," he said.

Kataing Ti village is more than 160 kilometres from the state capital Hpa-an and has about 80 households. Most earn a living from agriculture, said U Aye Win.

"We were given three days to leave. We had no choice; we had to let them take our land. The DKBA said they would only use it for four years and a month. So we waited for four years to get our land back but they didn't keep their promise," said U Aye Win.

U Aye Win said the 15 households have documents in their name from the general administrative department, Settlement and Land Records Department and tax office showing they own the land.

Villagers said they reported the case to the Kayin State government and President's Office last year and have been upset at the lack of response.

Daw Kyi Kyi Win, who lost more than 1 acre, said that those living on the disputed land said they would give it back if instructed to by the government.

"They said that they knew the land does not belong to them. If the authorities instructed them to move, they would give the land back right away. So we are reporting to the authority to check and [issue the instruction]," she said.

She said the confiscation turned the 15 households from "land owners to tenants for so many years".

"Some had to move and live with their relatives in other villages during these years. We want to live on our own land again. We reported to the Kayin State government in May 2012 President's Office in September, and hluttaw land investigation commission in January but we didn't get a response from anyone. That's why we are so upset," said Daw Kyi Kyi Win.

But U Sai Than Naing, the Pyithu Hluttaw representative for Papun, who is also a member of the land dispute investigation commission, said representatives could not look into the case immediately because they are attending the hluttaw session.

"It's hard to even know if a complaint from our own region has been submitted to the commission yet. It might be accepted but because the hluttaw is in session all of the representatives are busy. And another reason is that the commission doesn't reveal the [complaint] letters [it has received] during the hluttaw session. When the hluttaw session is about to end, the head of the commission holds a meeting with all commission members and assigns the duties to investigate during the break between sessions," said U Sai Than Naing.

"So if I was assigned to investigate this case, I will let the villagers know."

United Nations human rights envoy Tomas Ojea Quintana during a visit in August 2011. *Pic: Kaung Htet*

Quintana to assess Kachin, Rakhine conflicts

By Maria Danmark

THE United Nations' human rights envoy will make a six-day visit this week to gather data on conflicts in Kachin and Rakhine states ahead of the submission of a report to the Human Rights Council in March.

Mr Tomás Ojea Quintana, the special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, will make his seventh visit to Myanmar from February 11 to 16, the UN said in a statement on February 5.

"As Myanmar continues to undergo reforms, it is important to assess the current human rights situation and to reflect on positive developments and remaining challenges," Mr Quintana said in the statement.

The visit is Mr Quintana's first since August 2012, when he expressed concern about the violence in Rakhine State in June and called for a review of the 1982 Citizenship Act "to ensure that it is in line with international human rights standards".

Mr Quintana said he would review the situation in Rakhine State again, following a second outbreak of violence in October.

"I would like to see the conditions in the camps for the internally displaced, which I was particularly concerned about following my previous visit last August," he said.

"I will also seek an update on what steps have been taken to address the underlying causes of the violence and displacement there, including the systematic discrimination against the Rohingya community, before I report to the Human Rights Council."

In August he also highlighted the impact of the fighting in Kachin State and the need to release remaining political prisoners and these will remain a focus of this week's visit.

"A particular concern is the escalation of the conflict in Kachin State, and I hope my visit will give me a clearer picture of the situation there and the impact it has had on civilians," he said. "I will be lending my voice to calls for a ceasefire and progress in addressing minority issues."

During his stay in Myanmar, Mr Quintana will meet government officials, as well as members of parliament, the judiciary, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission and civil society organisations in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon.

"I look forward to constructive discussion, at both senior and grassroots levels, with the aim of encouraging continuing progress in human rights protection, democratic transition and national reconciliation, while also advising on remaining gaps," he said.

Mr Quintana's report on the human rights situation in Myanmar will be presented to the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council on March 11.

Ministers do not understand role of hluttaw: speaker

By Soe Than Lynn

MEMBERS of the government and judiciary "don't understand" the operations of the parliament and its efforts to institute a system of checks and balances, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann says.

Speaking to reporters on January 31, he said there had been a "misunderstanding" between the three branches of government over the nature of the parliament's activities.

In the past year there were confrontations between the parliament and executive over the budget and national planning bills and the Constitutional Tribunal issue, he said.

He said this had occurred because of a lack of knowledge about the parliamentary system and its functions, including reciprocal checks and balances.

"The parliament was organised with elected representatives of the people to set policies for the nation and to enact laws based on the needs and desires of the people. The parliament also has to monitor and mutually control the executive, including whether it has correctly followed the policies and laws passed by the houses on behalf of the people," said Thura U Shwe Mann.

"But the executive in our country has not understood this custom so its members have been unhappy. This has been a lesson for us and we have to try to ensure that the public, hluttaw representatives, executive and other institutions understand the parliamentary system," he said.

He said Myanmar had little experience with parliamentary bodies, particularly in a multi-party democracy.

"There was only one house and one party after the Revolutionary Council government took power in 1962 ... as a result, there is a lack of experience and knowledge about the parliamentary system," Thura U Shwe Mann said.

> **'Members of the executive and judiciary complained that the parliament interfered and even created trouble for them.'**

"Members of the executive and judiciary complained that the parliament interfered and even created trouble for them in some issues. [Their complaints] mean they don't understand the characteristics of the hluttaw," he said.

He emphasised the importance of the media in helping to improve knowledge about the parliament as well as offering "comments and advice" on its activities.

"The media has the most important role to help people understand the system ... I would also like to say that the parliament welcomes criticism from the media," he said.

Thura U Shwe Mann called the press conference to mark the second anniversary of the convening of the first hluttaw session, on January 31, 2011.

He said that while it was criticised as the "15-minute parliament" in the beginning, it was not like the "raise hand, nod parliament" of the Burma Socialist Program Party period.

After six months there were "some optimists", while both "internal and external media and the international community" recognised the democratic functions of the three houses after eight months, he said. – *Translated by Zar Zar Soe*

Specialize in Genuine Parts for
Toyota, Lexus & Japan Domestic Models
Direct to Car Owner 3 days from Japan
E: taitiong@pacific.net.sg
W : www.taitiong.com

A C&S Consultancy firm in Brunei Darussalam is looking for suitable candidates to fill up the following positions for a Major Infrastructure and Earthworks project.

Requirements:-

-) Possess at least eight (8) years experience in Infrastructure works, Interchanges including Bridge Construction and Major Earthworks. Candidates with relevant site experience and extensive technical know-how will only be considered.
-) Holding a NEBOSH safety certification or equivalent is an advantage.
-) Hold at least a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from a recognized institution and a member of a recognized professional institution (eg. ICE, UK)
-) Must be a Chartered Professional Engineer.
-) Able to communicate fluently in English both orally and in written communication.
-) Must be able to lead and be in charge of all the QA/QC works on site.

Requirements:-

-) Possess at least 5 years experience in Infrastructure works, Interchanges including Bridge Construction and Major Earthworks Construction. Candidates with relevant site experience will only be considered.
-) Holding a NEBOSH safety certification or equivalent is an advantage.
-) Hold at least a High Diploma in Civil Engineering from a recognized institution. Higher qualifications will be an advantage.
-) Able to communicate fluently in English both orally and in written communication.
-) Must be proactive, able to resolve problems without much supervision and be able to work well with others.

Requirements:-

-) At least a Diploma or equivalent education certificate in Civil Enginggering/Construction from a recognized institution.
-) Minimum of 5 years experience in drafting work for civil and structural projects.
-) Ability to operate Computer Aided Software (Auto Cad) in advance level.
-) Highly intiative and ability to work without much supervision
-) Able to work in a team-oriented enviroment.

Interested applicants are required to write in within 15 days from the date of this advertisement with full Curriculum Vitae together with a recent and non-returnable passport sized photograph to

THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
P O BOX 681, MPC POST OFFICE, BERAKAS BB3577
NEGARA BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
Email Address: jtbrunei@brunet.bn
Fax: 673-2333882

Only short listed applicants will be notified.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

People sometimes argue but our guarantee to you remains.

Some readers may have noticed there has been some arguing going on over at *The Myanmar Times* recently. Some things remain constant though, just like *The Myanmar Times* guarantee which ensures you will always get your newspaper, no matter what. You can subscribe with confidence and we guarantee satisfaction & delivery, otherwise we will refund you in full. That's right, a full money-back guarantee*.

And if you subscribe between now and March 31, we'll deliver our new daily newspaper** every day for the price of your weekly subscription.

Now that's what I call a daily deal!

Subscribe now to *The Myanmar Times*. Just email us to start at

IwantmyMTnow@gmail.com

We'll start delivery almost immediately.

Send no money as we will invoice you upon delivery. And don't forget our guarantee!

THE MYANMAR TIMES	6 months	K27,000	THE MYANMAR TIMES	1 Year	K50,000
မြန်မာတိုင်း(စ)	6 months	K17,000	မြန်မာတိုင်း(စ)	1 Year	K30,000
THE MYANMAR TIMES မြန်မာတိုင်း(စ)	6 months	K40,000	THE MYANMAR TIMES မြန်မာတိုင်း(စ)	1 Year	K70,000

* If we are legitimately unable to deliver the newspaper to you then MCM Ltd guarantees to fully refund your subscription within 7 days. Force Majeure exception. ** You will receive our daily newspaper Monday-Friday for the same price as your new weekly subscription. Valid for subscriptions of no more than one year. Both offers expire March 31, 2013. Please contact 392 928 for further information.

Cyber attackers target President's Office, journals

By Htoo Aung

THE President's Office website was attacked three times last week from international IP addresses, an official said.

U Zaw Htay, director of the President's Office, said the attack occurred on February 5 between 9am and noon. U Zaw Htay said that the website had first come under distributed denial of service (DDoS) attack via international IP addresses at 9am, coming under further attacks at 11:10am and 11:35am.

However, the government has identified the attackers as an Indonesian cyber gang, U Zaw Htay said, adding that the IP address identified as the launch pad for the attack was 74.220.202.19.

He added that security officials were now taking action. The motive behind the attack was unclear.

U Zaw Htay also said that the attacks were "only" DDoS attacks and that the site had not been hacked. The official website is now under increased protection, although he did not disclose what extra protection had been put in place.

A DDoS attack involves multiple computers trying to access a single target, sometimes sending millions of requests in order to force a shutdown and deny all users access. Computers involved in such attacks may themselves be victims of hackers who target them for use in DDoS attacks.

The attack follows other recent attacks on Myanmar websites. Weekly journal *The Voice* had its Facebook page hacked on February 4, the publication's chief editor U Kyaw Min Swe said.

"We have reported [the attack] to Facebook to get our page back. We've just opened another page but I believe that we will get back our Facebook page," he said.

Both the group responsible and the motive for the attack remain unclear.

U Kyaw Min Swe added that the Electronic Transactions Act of Myanmar 2004 should be revised, saying that it did not adequately cover cyber security and hacking.

He added that the website of *The Voice* has also been attacked, and the journal plans to hire IT technicians to prevent further intrusions.

These attacks follow the Kachin Cyber Army's attack last December on Eleven Media Group's website, which succeeded in penetrating the site and replacing it with a Kachin Independence Army flag and text insulting the Myanmar government.

> **'The government has identified the attackers as an Indonesian cyber gang.'**

On January 30, Eleven Media Group announced it was pressing charges against online news site Myanmar Express "in connection with two hacking incidents that disabled Eleven Media's news website on January 15 and 16".

The charges were filed under section 34 of the Electronic Transactions Act, which calls for punishment of up to five years in prison, a fine or both for "hacking, modifying, altering, destroying, stealing, or causing loss and damage to electronic records, electronic data messages, or the whole or part of a computer program", Eleven Media Group said.

"Eleven Media's website was hacked after Myanmar Express encouraged its readers to distribute a link that would allow them to hack the website. Myanmar Express also encouraged its readers to begin hacking Eleven Media's news site at 7am on January 15, accusing Eleven Media of reporting false news," it said.

A bear prepares to perform at Yangon Zoological Gardens in early 2008. *Pic: Myanmar Times archive*

Minister moots Yangon zoo shift to Hlawga

By Aye Thidar Kyaw

A SENIOR government official has proposed moving the Yangon zoo to Hlawga Wildlife Park and turning the grounds into a "green park".

Minister for the President's Office U Soe Thein said the plan's approval would depend "on the will of the people" and emphasised that the land would not be given to "rich people".

"Some people will suspect that [the government] is cooperating with rich people to build residences on that land. Let me just say that it not the case. We just think people living in downtown need more green parkland," he said.

Yangon zoo is the country's oldest and was established in 1901. When it was built the zoo was on the city's outskirts but now it is surrounded by residential areas and poses potential public health risks, U Soe Thein said. He also cited the smell of the animals as another reason for moving the zoo to Hlawga, which is 22 miles north of Yangon. The zoo was operated by the Forest Department until April 2011 when it was transferred to Htoo Foundation.

"We are thinking about whether it should change to a green park so that people living in the cramped downtown area can go there for a picnic on the weekend. It would instead become a recreation area," he said at a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw on February 3.

"But if people don't want to move it and they prefer to live with those smells, we won't do it. We always listen to what the people say."

The zoo covers 69.25 acres and features a natural history museum, aquarium and amusement park. If it is changed to a park it will be linked with Kandawgyi park, he said, adding that the colonial-era buildings would not be demolished.

U Ye Myint, a freelance architect and employee for construction company Gabar Kyaw, said the government needed to create more recreational areas throughout the city. He said the Strand Road between Botahtaung and Lanmadaw townships could be changed into a riverview area.

"There are a lot of places to make green areas in Yangon. These should not be changed into luxury residences but instead be places for the people," he said.

Government hopes for even more debt relief

FRESH from a 60 percent debt cancellation last month, Myanmar is now looking to secure further write-offs from major creditors, ministers told journalists in Nay Pyi Taw on February 3.

The Paris Club, an informal group of creditor governments from major industrialised countries, announced on January 28 that nearly US$6 billion in debts had been cancelled, a decision President U Thein Sein hailed in a national radio address last week. Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank, Japan and Norway have also agreed to further cancellations.

Finance and Revenue Minister U Win Shein said the government would negotiate with nine other countries to which Myanmar owes money.

"After all our debts have been cancelled, we will re-enter the international community as a responsible country," U Win Shein said.

According to the ministry's website, the minister pledged that resources released by the debt relief would be used for development projects and poverty reduction efforts.

Myanmar's debts are largely owed to the ADB, World Bank and Paris Club members. "Most of the loans date back to the 1970s. Debt acquired after 1988 is not included in the settlement," he said. The country still owes US$3.6 billion in post-1988 debt, mostly to China.

Dr Zaw Oo from Myanmar Development Resource Centre said Myanmar has achieved more favourable results than those in the so-called Heavily Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) group, which have to wait three years for IMF approval for debt relief.

"We don't need to wait for three years like HIPC countries," he added.

He singled out the 100pc debt cancellation by Norway as an "exceptional contribution".

– Aye Thidar Kyaw

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Kawasaki Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha (doing business as Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd)** a company incorporated in Japan and having its principal office at 1-1, Higashikawasaki-Cho, 3-Chome, Chuo-Ku, Kobe, Japan is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark: -

Ninja

(Reg: No. IV/10818/2012)

in respect of : - "two-wheeled motor vehicles, bicycles and their parts and fittings"

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates
for **Kawasaki Jukogyo Kabushiki Kaisha**
(doing business as Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd)
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 11th February, 2013

The Myanmar Times is going Daily

53 Newspaper Jobs

Fantastic career opportunities to join the most dynamic media company in Myanmar.

Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd is one of Myanmar's leading media organisations and is the publisher of *The Myanmar Times* in both languages. With more than 360 staff and bureaus in Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw it has a news gathering force of nearly 100 people making it one of the biggest and most professional operators in the country. *The Myanmar Times* is now preparing to take its newspapers onto a daily cycle and is seeking qualified personnel for a variety of positions.

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 15 February 2013.

Newsroom (Yangon)	15	Reporters
Newsroom (Yangon)	2	Sub Editors
Newsroom (Yangon)	2	Photographers
Newsroom (Yangon)	6	Translators
Newsroom (Nay Pyi Taw)	3	Reporters
Newsroom (Nay Pyi Taw)	1	Photographer
Newsroom (Mandalay)	1	Photographer
Special Publication	2	Writers
Special Publication	1	Sub Editor
Production	3	DTP
Marketing	7	Marketing Assistants
CJ/Wheels	2	Reporters
IT/System	2	Technicians
Admin/HR	2	Executive Assistants
Online/Web	2	Webdevelopers
Printing	2	Operators

To apply for a position applicants should note carefully the following:
Applicants should email or send to us an abridged CV of ONE PAGE plus a typewritten letter of ONE PAGE explaining why they are best suited for the position applied for.

Applications should be sent to: administration@myanmartimes.com.mm Or by mail to
The Human Resources Manager, Myanmar Consolidated Media Ltd
379-383 Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyaukatada T/S, Yangon

Widow fights to clear name of Thingyan bomber

By Naw Say Phaw Waa

A WIDOW fighting to clear her late husband's name has submitted a special appeal to the government.

Ko Phyo Wai Aung, who died last December, was sentenced to death in May 2010 after being convicted of a bombing during that year's water festival that killed 10 people and injured scores more. He was released under an amnesty August 2012 and died on January 4 of cancer, just weeks after submitting an appeal against his sentence, leaving behind a wife and two young children.

Now his widow, Daw Htay Htay, 34, and his brother, Dr Htet Wai Aung, are calling for the sentence to be repealed for the "dignity of their family" and so the truth can be revealed.

About 300 people attended the conference, at Royal Rose restaurant in Yangon, on February 4.

Normally the appeal would be closed when a person dies but Ko Phyo Wai Aung's family is waiting for a reply from the court on their application for a special appeal to clear his name.

Daw Htay Htay said her husband was also ill-treated in prison. Because of his ill-health, he was transferred to Insein Hospital before being released under the presidential amnesty.

Still in poor health, he was transferred to Yangon Hospital and diagnosed with liver cancer before passing away just months later.

"He wanted to hold a press conference himself, but his health did not allow it. He died before he could speak out. Now I want to take his case to the public," said Daw Htay Htay, 34.

Daw Htay Htay said her husband was arrested because of his contact with a politician named Thura Zaw, who police considered a suspect in the case. After Ko Phyo Wai Aung was arrested, Thura Zaw went underground and fled the country and Ko Phyo Wai Aung was charged as an accomplice.

Ko Phyo Wai Aung's case has also been raised by the United Nations special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, Mr Tomas Quintana, and the Asian Human Rights Commission. In an open letter to the leaders of four important parliamentary committees – including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the chair of the Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law, Peace and Stability Committee – the committee's interim director Bijo Francis called on the authorities to reopen the case and overturn the verdict.

"His passing away does not change the facts of what was done to him over 11 days of torture in police custody after his arrest, and in the months and years subsequently when he was subjected to institutionalised abuse both physical and psychological in nature of the most egregious varieties," he said.

"From my brief meeting with Phyo Wai Aung, and what I know of his case through the extensive documentation and advocacy work that the Asian Human Rights Commission has conducted on it over the last three years, I am confident that he would want us all to continue to fight to have his innocence officially declared, not only so that his own name could be restored, but so that the facts of the behaviour of the Myanmar Special Branch and judiciary could be fully revealed."

Committee formed to release remaining political prisoners

By Naw Say Phaw Waa

IN a move hailed as "the dawn of national reconciliation", the government has established a committee to examine the case of Myanmar's remaining political prisoners with a view to ensuring their early release.

Though estimates vary, there are thought to be at least 200 prisoners still in custody who could benefit from such a review.

State-run media reported on February 7 that the committee will be led by Minister for the President's Office U Soe Thein and its members will include representatives of government ministries, civil society organisations and some political parties.

At a press conference on February 3, U Soe Thein said: "We will discuss how many political prisoners are left, who is actually in custody, and establish the real numbers. We have already begun the process."

State media added that the committee would define the term "prisoner of conscience", and report their findings to the president.

Ko Bo Kyi, joint secretary of the Thailand-based Assistance Association for Political Prisoners (Burma), told *The Myanmar Times* his organisation had a list of 218 political prisoners remaining in jail. But the Former Political Prisoners association lists 234 names, and the National League for Democracy (NLD) is thought to have its own list.

NLD member U Naing Naing said the difference in the numbers was not of great significance. "We don't insist that our list is definitive. There may be other prisoners in remote areas," he said.

Both U Naing Naing and FPP committee member U Tun Kyi told *The Myanmar Times* that they welcomed the president's decision to set up the committee. "You could say it's the dawn of national reconciliation. We still have to discuss the definition of the term "political prisoners", and we are agreed there are more than 200. We are discussing the matter," said U Tun Kyi.

Supporters welcome political prisoners at Yangon airport on July 4, 2012 shortly after their release in an amnesty. *Pic: AFP*

Mr Phil Robertson, the deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia Division, said his organisations was "watching this very closely" and urged the government to ensure the mechanism is inclusive.

"Quite a few civil society groups have been doing pioneering work to identify and track political prisoners through Burma's highly opaque prison system and so the government should recognise and take advantage of that work by including representatives of the groups on the committee," he said.

He said the committee's mandate should allow prisoners and their relatives to explain how they qualify as political prisoners.

"The [State Peace and Development Council] did not hesitate to use trumped up criminal charges to go after political activists and so not every political prisoner is in prison under one of the clear, politically related laws, like the Unlawful Associations Act or the State Protection Act."

The United States welcomed the creation of the committee on February 4, news agency *AFP* reported.

"By establishing an inclusive, transparent review mechanism to ensure the release of all remaining political prisoners, the government has taken an important step toward national reconciliation," US State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said in a statement.

"We look forward to supporting the implementation of this process," she said, adding that the government has released more than 700 political prisoners over the past 18 months. – *Additional reporting by Thomas Kean*

Sailors return from 'hell' on the high seas

By Htoo Aung and Soe Sandar Oo

TWO Myanmar sailors who say they escaped from a "hell" of torture and deprivation want to sue their shipping agent over the treatment they received. And they say other Myanmar seamen are in the same plight.

Ko Khant Lin Aung and Ko Lin Htike Aung arrived back in Yangon on January 30 with the help of Myanmar Seamen's Federation and Myanmar's ambassador to South Africa, U Min Naung. They had been working on a fishing boat on which they say they were beaten, forced to work excessive hours and fed only boiled rice and cabbage.

Ko Khant Lin Aung told *The Myanmar Times:* "We are preparing to sue Ko Thein Htike Aung of the Shadow Company. Ko Lin Htike Aung and I are taking advice from lawyers." Shadow Company is the name of the shipping company whose agent sent the men to work on the fishing boat.

"The agents told us we had to work on the fishing boat. We assumed the boat would be equipped with proper machinery. But we had to work nearly 24 hours a day. We were exhausted. We were given only boiled rice and fried cabbage to eat," said Ko Khant Lin Aung.

Ko Lin Htike Aung added: "We thought we were in hell. As soon as we arrived on the boat were beaten in the face with sticks. We managed to get out, but there were other Myanmar sailors aboard who are still there."

Neither man was permitted to leave the boat, but passed a message to their families via another sailor who went ashore. The families sought help from Myanmar Seamen's Federation and the Myanmar embassy in South Africa, and managed to make contact on December 27, when the men were released.

Ko Lin Htike Aung's mother, Daw Nwe Ni Tin, said "I want to thank the Myanmar ambassador in South Africa for helping our citizens so promptly. I am proud of my country."

Altogether, six Myanmar sailors worked on the boat, all engaged by shipping agent U Thein Htike Aung, said Ko Lin Htike Aung. All were beaten on arrival on the boat with iron pipes and sticks, and one had his forearm broken, according to Daw Nwe Ni Tin.

Ko Lin Htike Aung and Ko Khant Lin Aung left Myanmar last July for work arranged by their shipping agent, U Thein Htike Aung, who had made a contract with the Deep Sea Fisherman Company. Both seamen were sent to NAHAM 4 fishing boat, out of Cape Town, South Africa. The captain was Chinese, and spoke no other language, they said.

Myanmar Seamen's Federation chairman Dr Tin Hlaing said: "We are prepared to act as witnesses in any court case, and we invite any other sailors who have had similar experiences to come forward."

The Myanmar Times was unable to reach U Thein Htike Aung and Daw Nwe Ni Tin said his whereabouts are unknown.

An employee at Shadow Company, who asked not to be named, said U Thein Htke Aung had disappeared and could not be contacted.

The employee was defensive when asked about his role in U Thein Htike Aung's firm.

"I was just his worker. I am not his business partner so I am not responsible for this issue. I will inform the authorities immediately if I have any contact with him. If the sailors want to file a suit against me, I am ready to prove with many documents that I am not responsible," he said.

Life on the KIA front lines

Since June 2011 Kachin Independence Army soldiers have been battling the Tatmadaw throughout Kachin State. Despite having less firepower and troops, the KIA has managed to hold off the Tatmadaw – until, at least, a recent escalation in fighting that brought government soldiers to the fringe of the KIA headquarters at Laiza. *The Myanmar Times'* chief photographer, Kaung Htet, visited the Laiza area in the midst of the fighting, from January 22 to 24, and documented KIA soldiers at Jan Mai (photos 2-3, 5-7) and Ma Ga Khat (photo 4) outposts near Mai Ja Yang, as they unloaded rations (photo 5), ate breakfast (photo 6) and checked off serial numbers on weapons arriving from headquarters (photo 7). Still carrying their weapons, the KIA soldiers also left the front lines to visit their comrades at Mai Ja Yang hospital (photo 1).

CBM may allow foreign bank joint ventures in April

MYANMAR'S Central Bank may allow foreign lenders to form joint ventures with local banks as early as April in a further step to overhaul the financial system, said an official who oversees regulatory issues.

The central bank will set regulations for joint ventures in the financial year starting April 1, said Daw Khin Saw Oo, head of the Financial Institutions Regulation and Anti-Money Laundering Department. Officials are considering a requirement that local banks own at least 20 percent of the venture, she said.

"We will allow them at least two years' time to form the joint ventures," Daw Khin Saw Oo said in an interview in the Central Bank's headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw. "After that we will allow the establishment of the subsidiary."

The rule change would allow lenders such as Standard Chartered and Japan's Mizuho Corporate Bank to expand in Myanmar as it welcomes new investment. President U Thein Sein's moves to dismantle a fixed exchange rate and modernise the banking system are starting to boost the economy, the International Monetary Fund said in a report last month.

Joint ventures for foreign banks will eventually be followed by wholly owned subsidiaries and then full branches, Daw Khin Saw Oo said. The Central Bank will look for "reputable banks" to engage in partnerships, checking for financial soundness and setting capital requirements, she said.

"Those who are interested to form joint ventures, I told them that it depends on you," she said. "This is not a forced marriage and you can try your best partners. And then you engage and after that you can get married."

Myanmar has 19 domestic banks, which recently started building ATM networks and establishing relationships with Visa and MasterCard to ease money transfers. Co-operative Bank plans to sign a "business alliance" next month with Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ for training and assistance, managing director U Pe Myint said on January 22.

Japan, Myanmar's largest creditor, agreed last year to settle US$6.6 billion in arrears. Japanese banks are seeking assets in Vietnam and other Southeast Asian nations to diversify as falling interest rates squeeze loan profitability at home.

About 20 foreign banks have set up representative offices in Myanmar since 1992, including Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp, Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp and Bangkok Bank. Most recently, Standard Chartered opened an office in Yangon.

Myanmar's parliament is considering a law that would give the central bank greater autonomy. The regulatory and licensing structure for foreign banks remains unclear, said Anoop Singh, who heads the IMF's Asia and Pacific Department.

"There's certainly no lack of interest from foreign banks coming in," Singh said on February 4 in Nay Pyi Taw, where he was visiting government leaders to discuss recent reforms.

"In terms of the speed of the reforms, and the breadth of reforms, it really is quite remarkable," Mr Singh said. "Asia has quite a few frontiers, and I would hope it would be in that category, yes. They certainly have that potential."

– Bloomberg

Standard Chartered officials Jaspal Bindra, Peter Sands and Tina Singhsacha, speak during a press conference at Strand Hotel to announce the opening of the bank's representative office in Yangon last week. *Pic: Boothee*

Standard Chartered opens Yangon representative office

By Christian Myers

STANDARD Chartered executives held a press confrence at Strand Hotel on February 5 to mark the re-opening of a representative office in Yangon.

Chief executive officer Peter Sands said the opening is planned to "help Myanmar with its reintegration back into the International community".

The office is in Centrepoint Towers at the corner of Sule Pagoda and Merchant roads. Standard Chartered first established an office in Yangon in 1862 but was nationalised in 1963. The bank returned to maintain a representative office from 1995 to 2004.

"We hope to be able to play a positive role in the future economic development of this country," Mr Sands said at the press conference.

However, Mr Sands said the venture is only a representative office – and the bank does not yet have a timeframe for commencing business or doing other investments. "It depends on the way the government decides to develop the financial services market here," he added. "At the moment, we're focused on opening this rep office. We can't do onshore banking but it [the representative office] will still enable us to play a supportive role for those who wish to invest and trade with Myanmar."

Mr Sands said it was premature to speculate on how Standard Chartered would develop its presence in Myanmar. "There are many steps along the way in terms of new legislation, the approval processes and so on, and therefore we're just focused on getting the rep office started," he said.

However, Mr Sands acknowledged that the banking system in Myanmar needs to change as the economy develops.

"The banking system here is going to have to change quite a lot as the needs of the economy develop, in terms of the breadth and depth of financial needs, and that will require quite a lot of change in the structure of the banking system, the nature of regulation and what services banks offer," he said.

Standard Chartered officials – and the press release – were also light about the office's role. Mr Sands said the office was intended for "building relationships, gathering information and understanding the ways the market is developing".

He added that Standard Chartered would be ready to assist both government and the private sector with technical assistance or other forms of support should it be requested.

"We hope we can help the domestic banks here in Myanmar, to help operations and businesses that want to do business in Myanmar. And also in dialogue with the authorities, if we can be helpful in bringing technical expertise, we hope we can contribute that as well," Mr Sands said.

Mr Sands said Standard Chartered was pleased with the progress of Myanmar's reforms, despite the ethnic conflicts.

World Bank to support electricity access

By Zaw Win Than

World Bank executive vice president and chief executive officer of the World Bank's International Finance Corporation Mr Jin-Yong Cai (centre) speaks during a press conference in Yangon on February 5. *Pic: Ko Taik*

POWER to the people: that's the goal of a World Bank team that visited Myanmar last week. The team said energy infrastructure development would be at the core of its program to expand the country's economy, create jobs and reduce poverty through accelerated reforms.

"Connecting people and businesses to a reliable electricity grid is critical for Myanmar to realise its enormous social and economic potential," Mr Jin-Yong Cai, the executive vice president and chief executive officer of the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC), told a press conference in Yangon on February 5.

Improvements in the banking and communications also form part of the plan. "IFC is working with the government to establish a strategy that will promote investment in the power industry and help deliver electricity in a reliable and sustainable way to all citizens," said Mr Cai.

The World Bank is providing Myanmar with US$165 million in zero-interest loans for its priority needs. This is in addition to an $80-million grant for community-driven development that will enable villagers to improve schools, clinics, roads and water supply. World Bank East Asia and the Pacific vice president Mr Axel van Trotsenburg said: "I took up my position on February 1 and I decided my first trip would be to Myanmar, for two reasons: first of all, the World Bank wants poverty reduction in this country. Secondly, the developments in Myanmar have been remarkable and there is now a complete new reengagement with the World Bank."

He said the first phase of the World Bank's reengagement with Myanmar had recently been concluded with the debt arrears clearance.

"So we can now really start thinking of normal programs. We've decided to commit about $700 million over a 20-month period, of which we had already committed $520 million," said Mr van Trotsenburg.

The World Bank said improving electricity supply was a strategic development priority that required large investments from both the public and private sectors in a country where only one in four people have access to reliable electricity. "Turning on the lights in Myanmar will enable children to read at night, and encourage villagers to start new businesses that will lead to growth and jobs. Sufficient, reliable and affordable electricity will help relieve poverty in rural areas and create opportunities for all," Mr van Trotsenburg said.

The World Bank's recent East Asia and Pacific Economic Update shows Myanmar's economy continued to accelerate in fiscal year 2011-12 with gross domestic product growth at 5.5 percent. Growth is expected to reach 6.3pc in 2012-13.

The World Bank said electricity demand was also growing fast, with current supply 30pc or more below demand. Myanmar should embark on strategic power sector reform to ensure sustainable access to electricity, which will be important to attract investment, it said. "We started with community-driven development in the villages. They know how we can help them. People are hoping for some financial support so that they can make a difference in their communities for the children, job creation and health clinics," said Mr van Trotsenburg.

The World Bank is to develop projects in the electricity sector that will provide about 120 megawatts more electrical capacity, especially in rural areas.

"This is important because it will result in five million people having regular electricity. In the medium and longer term it will support health, education and infrastructure," he told *The Myanmar Times*.

"Access to infrastructure and to finance holds the key to economic development," said IFC Asia Pacific vice president Karin Finkelston. "Mobile phone connections, ports and power lines create jobs and link people to markets, enabling the flow of goods and services. IFC is also working with ACLEDA Bank to bring sustainable microfinance to the people in Myanmar." IFC, the part of the World Bank Group focused on private sector development in emerging markets, has invested $2 million in ACLEDA Bank to help set up a new microfinance institution in Myanmar. It aims to provide loans to more than 200,000 people – mostly micro- and small businesses run by women – by 2020. IFC also recently co-published the study *Microfinance in Myanmar – Sector Assessment* highlighting the need to build up the sector quickly, as demand for microfinance is four times higher than supply. IFC is also working with the government and chambers of commerce to support the establishment of a business forum aimed at improving the business climate in the country. The World Bank Group delegation met President U Thein Sein, government ministers, members of parliament – including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi – as well as representatives of the private sector, civil society, academic and development institutions. Discussions focused on how the World Bank Group can support reforms aimed at improving the lives of all the people in Myanmar, especially the poor and vulnerable. "The World Bank cares about all the citizens of this country. We hope all citizens can have a secure and peaceful life," said Mr van Trotsenburg.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **Lowe International Limited** of 60 Sloane Avenue, London SW3 3XB, UNITED KINGDOM is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks: -

LOWE

(Reg: No. IV/12932/2012)

(Reg: No. IV/12933/2012)

the above two trademarks are in respect of: - "Advertising services; advertising agency services; preparing and placing of advertisements; producing of commercial advertisements; radio and television advertising; brand creation, development and consultancy services; business management and advice; business enquiries and investigations; business information and research; business advisory services; business appraisal; business consultation services; business advisory services relating to sponsorship and franchising; publicity services; public relations services; marketing services; market analysis and research; market surveys; direct marketing services; sales promotion services; promotional services; information, consultancy and advisory services relating to the aforesaid."- Class: 35

"Brand creation and development services; design services, graphic design services, packaging design services, design and drawing services; creating and maintaining websites; information, advisory and consultancy services relating to the aforesaid."- Class: 42

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademarks or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates
for **Lowe International Limited**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 11th February, 2013

Shan State tea farmers struggle against imports, loss of workers

By Soe Sandar Oo

CHINA'S hunger for women is at least partly to blame for a reduction in Myanmar's dried tealeaf production, the spokesperson for an industry association said last week.

Most of Myanmar's tea is grown in Shan State but demand for brides in China is drawing away many of the workers needed to cultivate the crop, farmers from the Palaung Tea Growers and Sellers Association, which is not officially recognised as yet, told a meeting at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry on February 6.

Namhsan, Kyaukme, Namkham, Kutkai, Kalaw, Yatsouth, Mong Hsu and Mong Tone townships in Shan State are the major tea growing areas, with most farming done by members of the Palaung ethnic group.

"When Chinese dried tea leaf flooded the market in 2002-03, our business was badly affected because the two products were so different," said U Soe Maung, a farmer from Namhsan township. "The market for dried tea dried up and there were no jobs available for young Palaung and Shan women, and many chose to get married to Chinese men instead," he said, adding that Chinese men paid up to 20,000 yuan (about US$3200) to marry the women.

He said Chinese tea farmers can afford to use lots of fertiliser on their crops but farmers in Myanmar cannot. He added that farmers would get better yields if cut terraces into the hills but many cannot do so.

"Most of the dried tea leaf imported from China is illegal. But imports make up about 75 percent of the market, so most farmers have changed their operations to make wet tea leaf for use in salads," he said.

U Soe Maung said there are 10 factories in Namhsan township producing dried tea, down from 100 in 2002.

U Win Kyaw, another farmer from Namhsan, said many Chinese from Shweli, as well as workers from central Myanmar, came and worked tea plantations eight years ago but the trend has reversed.

"Now Palaung men go to China and work at poppy fields or cutting sugar cane as daily workers because there is little work here," he said.

Tea plantations are long-term investments and require significant capital to maintain. "We cannot afford to maintain our plants already but we need to make investment if we want to harvest high-quality leaf," he added.

However, U Tun Myaing, the chairman of the association, said farmers need to work harder and more efficiently. "There are many drug users in every Palaung village. Farmers should focus on growing only tea, not growing illegal opium poppies on the side," he said.

"We should be better organised as an association and work hard to lift quality levels so we can compete with China, Vietnam and India," he said.

He added that the easing of Western sanctions, and the possibility of the European Union granting Myanmar global system of preferences for Least Developed Country status, tea growers stood a good chance of accessing new markets. But to do so they must improve quality.

"That is the only way to solve human trafficking and the illegal marriage of Palaung and Shan women," he said.

Ministry of Home Affairs statistics, collected by the Central Body for Suppression of Trafficking in Persons, show that Shan State has accounted for most of the human trafficking cases over the past five years. The statistics show that 80 percent of human trafficking cases involve people who have been taken to China.

Mae Sot SEZ could benefit local workers

By Soe Sandar Oo

THE decision by the Thai government to declare a special economic zone at the border town of Mae Sot could bring benefits for local Myanmar workers.

And another SEZ could be set up on the Myanmar side of the border, at Myawaddy, to help boost the national and local economy, say business leaders.

Dr Mg Mg Lay, vice chairman of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said last month's decision could bring benefits to both countries. "The establishment of an SEZ in Mae Sot could help the ASEAN Economic Community develop and create more jobs. Residents can find work there, without the need to go to the city."

the new Thai regulation sets a daily minimum wage of 300 baht (about K8500).

"Workers from Myawaddy in Kayin State, on the Myanmar side, could also earn that much later on if the demand for labour is competitive. We have a plan to set up another SEZ in Myawaddy as well," Dr Mg Mg Lay said, which would benefit the economy and help reduce poverty.

Mr Ikumo Isono, an economist with the Economics Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, said the economic zone could stimulate trade between the two countries and help to provide high-quality products to Myanmar, such as processed foods and some garments.

However, the economic zone would mainly benefit Thai companies and migrant workers from Myanmar. Most of the products from the economic zone will be for the Thai domestic market and other countries, he said.

If the economic zone can expand capacity and enhance productivity, the Mae Sot garment industry would benefit, he said. Many companies in Mae Sot employ migrant workers from Myanmar, he added.

"The new 300-baht minimum wage could give Myanmar the chance to invite companies from the Thai side to Myanmar. Economic zones on both sides can work together," he said, adding that the Myanmar zone must have good trade and transport facilitation measures. The Hpa-an Industrial Zone in Kayin State might also work if Myanmar can develop a good logistics infrastructure between Myawaddy and Hpa-an, he said.

The *Bangkok Post* reported that the new zone will be opposite Myawaddy and will cover more than 8.96 square kilometres next to the Moei River, which separates Thailand and Myanmar. Transport infrastructure, shipment and distribution centres, duty-free areas, bonded warehouses, one-stop service facilities, single-service inspection and customs checkpoints will be part of the special economic zone.

Mae Sot's border trade value was recorded at 30 billion baht (US$1 billion) last year, said the newspaper. Mr Masami Ishida, vice president of the Bangkok Research Centre, under the Institute of Developing Economies and Japan External Trade Organisation said much depended on the rigidity of immigration controls.

Strict controls would prevent Myanmar workers from crossing the border, which could encourage companies in search of low-cost labour to invest in the Myanmar side at Myawaddy. Light immigration controls would allow workers to move freely cross the border, he said.

Suzuki to restart Myanmar factory in May

SUZUKI Motor Corp will start making 100 small trucks a month in Myanmar in May, the Japanese automaker said on February 5, after it received approval from the Myanmar government to resume production.

The move will make Suzuki the only Japanese automaker to be producing vehicles in Myanmar, where many foreign companies are seeking to expand as the country embarks on economic reforms. Suzuki built vehicles in Myanmar for 11 years, until 2010.

"We plan to expand production and sales of four-wheel vehicles from now on in Myanmar, which is undergoing economic liberalisation and infrastructure development," the company said in a statement.

Customers look at Suzuki cars at a showroom in Yangon last week. Suzuki announced on February 5 that it will restart its manufacturing plant in Myanmar, which has been dormant since 2010. *Pic: AFP*

Suzuki, Japan's Number 4 automaker by sales, will use its existing plant in Yangon, and about 80 to 90 employees will be involved in operations there, spokesman Hideki Taguchi said. The small trucks produced there will be sold in Myanmar, he added.

Suzuki, whose Indian subsidiary Maruti Suzuki is the top producer of small cars in India, has said it is also considering building a new plant in Myanmar, although chairman Osamu Suzuki has said it could take years to be completed.

Suzuki produced about 6000 automobiles and 10,000 motorbikes in total in Myanmar between 1999 and 2010 under a joint venture that included Japanese trading house Toyota Tsusho Corp. The venture ended in 2010 after its business licence from the government expired. – *Reuters*

ETHNIC PEACE PROCESS

* recruiting now *

"hd Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre) is a private Swiss foundation dedicated to the resolution of conflict. We are supporting the Myanmar Government, Myanmar Peace Centre, ethnic groups, and civil society to find a lasting solution to the country's ethnic conflicts. We are recruiting:

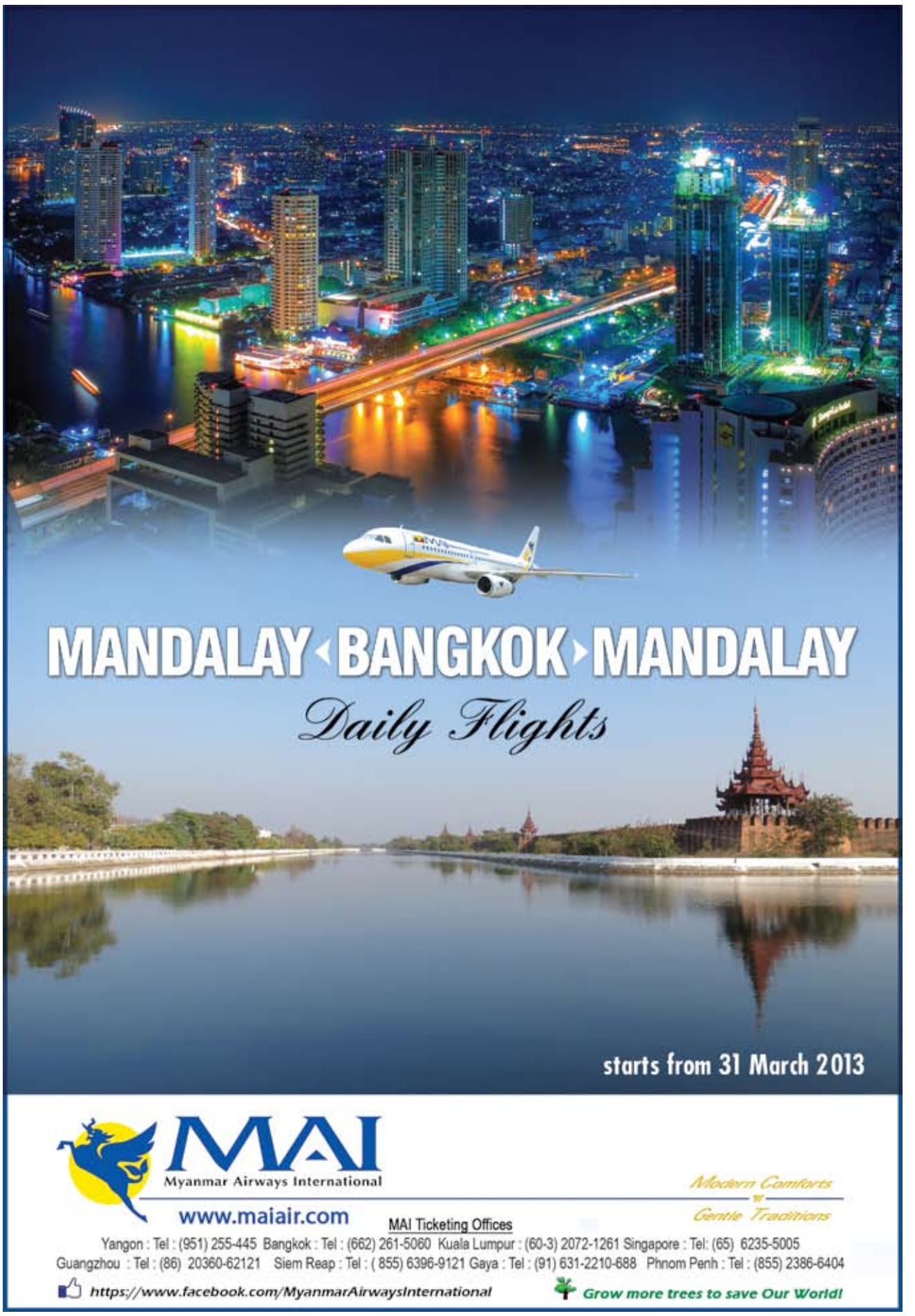
Project Officer

- Monitor ethnic conflicts and implement activities to support the peace process, working with ethnic groups, government, and civil society
- 5 years work experience and a Bachelor's degree

Administration Assistant

- 3 years work experience needed, and good English
- energetic, dedicated, hard working candidates sought

To apply, submit a CV and covering letter to hdcentremyanmar@gmail.com. Salary levels will be in line with international NGO / UN norms. The deadline for applications is 19th February. Women and **ethnic nationalities** are especially encouraged to apply.



JOB WATCH

Australian Government
AusAID

AusAID - 5 Vacancies

The Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID) is the Australian Government's agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program.

AusAID is seeking to recruit candidates for the following vacancies at its office at the Australian Embassy in Yangon:

- Executive Assistant
- Human Resources Officer
- Program Manager – Governance, Livelihoods, & Humanitarian
- Senior Program Manager – Governance, Livelihoods, & Humanitarian
- Senior Policy Advisor – Education

The duty statements can be obtained from the Australian Embassy, 88 Strand Road, Yangon, Myanmar, or at the Australian Embassy website: http://www.burma.embassy.gov.au/rang/aboutus.html

Closing date for the applications will be 4PM (Yangon time) 28 February 2013.

Delta fisheries dispute continues

By Myat Nyein Aye

A DISPUTE over fishing rights could cost the owners of private fish ponds in Maubin township, Ayeyarwady Region, their entire investment this year, the owners say.

But local fishermen insist on the right to fish freely in the pools, despite the owners' claims.

In September two fishermen were shot dead in Ayeyarwady Region's Kyonpyaw township by police in an altercation over illegal fishing.

U Htun Wai, a fish pond owner in Maubin township, says he invested K10 million this year on a 300-acre pool, and faces the loss of his entire investment unless the fishing is halted.

"We've been losing money for the past two years, but this year was the worst. Last year we lost 20 percent of our investment. This year, we've lost nearly everything," he said.

Speaking of the local fishermen, he said: "They regard all fishing pools as common property that the government has given them. I remind them that I am the owner and that I've paid annual revenue, but they don't accept that," he said.

However, a Maubin fisherman told *The Myanmar Times* that the common fishing grounds are too far away from towns and villages.

Another pool owner, U Kyaw Soe, said on February 3: "I have to watch 19 people fishing in my pools. I can't do anything about it."

The problem seems to lie in the interpretation of century-old legislation governing fishing rights.

The 1905 fishing law, which was drafted by foreign experts, established four kinds of fishing pools: leaseable, resort, open and protected fishing, said U Nyunt Maw, a former member of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Maubin township.

"The law doesn't cover the idea of common fishing places, which has emerged since the present government was elected," he said.

U Aung Kyaw Moe, deputy director of the Department of Fisheries in Maubin township, said the department views a number of formerly tender pools as common fishing grounds but fishermen who want to fish those areas must have licences. He added that 14 ponds that had been marked out using nets on the streams and rivers in Maubin township had been dismantled by the department in the 2012-13 financial year.

However, he said fishermen have told him that they did not want to apply for licences to fish – and want to catch fish wherever they like.

"That's not acceptable to us because we need to maintain and conserve fish species as well," he added.

However, the secretary of a licensed inland fishing association that has not been officially recognised yet, and is also called U Aung Kyaw Moe, said: "We want the government to reform the fishing rules for everybody's benefit."

U Khin Ko Lay, director general of Yangon Region's Department of Fisheries, told the Myanmar Fisheries Federation meeting in Yangon that in the 2011-12 fiscal year there were 3415 pools and 1777 leasable pools in Ayeyarwady Region. However, he said statistics for 2012-13 are not available.

U Win Kyaing, general secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation, said in October that the fishing licences date back to the colonial era and are a source of tax revenue for the regional government.

Businesspeople buy the rights to fish lakes and artificial ponds from the government through a tender system but he said some people have been taking advantage of lax security to steal fish from the ponds.

"The law has never allowed villagers to catch fish in the lakes … if they don't obey the law and it is not enforced, that can discourage investment. I am also worried that the government will get less tax revenue," he said.

He said the lakes had previously been administered by the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries but responsibility was transferred to regional governments in 2011 after their creation under the 2008 constitution. He said the ministry used to fine or imprison those who illegally fish in the lakes but the regional government had taken a less strict approach because, it said, it is prioritising poverty reduction.

Traffic hits bottom line for dance troupes

THE curse of traffic congestion is hurting a number of dragon dance troupes as Chinese New Year approaches.

"It takes so much time to get to each show, we couldn't play as many shows this year as we have done in previous years," said Ko Mg Toe, leader of the Sky Dragon kung-fu and dance club. "Last year, we could play about eight shows a day, but now we can only play five."

The group performs at a number of events, including opening ceremonies, shop openings, weddings and other celebrations. But lions do not come cheap: each performance costs from K300,000-K1 million.

"We need to invest in our costumes and they need to changed yearly," he said.

Some costumes are handmade, while some are imported from Singapore. The owner of one dragon dance costume shop told *The Myanmar Times* that dragon dance groups invest about K8 million a year in costumes and props.

"Dragon dance groups always change their costumes and suit design for their performances every year," he said.

And February is the big month for dance competitions. This year Junction Square shopping mall is hosting a three-day competition starting February 6 that Sint O Dan Road in Latha township will celebrate five days of competition starting February 11, said Ko Zaw Min Htut, the leader of Blue Blood dragon dance group.

Dragon dancers practice at a club in Yangon's Lanmadaw township last week. *Pic: Ko Taik*

But getting to competitions is neither easy nor cheap. Dance groups usually hire two vehicles and about 15 labourers to carry their costumes and iron frames to shows and competitions. Each vehicles costs up to K50,000 a day while each labourer costs K5000 a day.

The high costs mean some groups have fallen on hard times.

"This year there are only about half the competitions there are last year and show invitations have declined, so it's harder to cover our investment," Ko Zaw Min Htut said.

– San Yamin Aung

MCDC to prosecute illegal waste dumpers

By Si Thu Lwin

MANDALAY'S great clean-up has begun. More than 90 factories around the city that produce liquid waste have been told the government is ready to take action against them unless they clean up their act.

Unless disposal of liquid waste from industrial zones in Mandalay is done systematically, legal proceedings will be launched against factories, said U Tun Kyi, a member of the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC).

According to the committee's statistics, more than 90 factories producing leather, sugar, paper, batteries, soap, condensed milk, dyes and beverages will now have to dispose of their liquid waste thoughtfully.

"We will investigate and take offenders to court, starting soon. We will act under the new development and garden preservation laws. The proprietors have already agreed to this plan," he said.

The agreement was reached on January 30 when factory owners and MCDC officials met to discuss the issue. Liquid waste may affect the ecosystem of Taungthaman Lake and its surroundings, as well as Taunginn and Myaukinn natural ponds, and even the Ayeyarwady River itself, state media has reported.

"Untreated liquid waste has been disposed of for more than 16 years, so it's time we took action," said U Tun Kyi.

"Factories that can afford to set up their own waste treatment facilities are arranging to do so. We will be inviting tenders for a company to assist those that cannot. We are studying the issue with the help of a Thai company," he added.

Treatment to render liquid waste harmless requires as many as five stages, and the cost will be borne by the companies depending on the volume of their emissions.

"We will charge by the gallon for disposal of liquid waste, though once the factory has covered the cost we could charge a reduced rate, of provide the service free," said Industrial Zone Management Committee joint secretary 1 U Maung Maung Oo.

– Translated by Thit Lwin

When

ADVERTISING
DOES ITS JOB,
THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE
KEEP THEIRS

Good advertising
doesn't just inform.
It sells. It helps move
product and keep business.
Every time an ad arouses
a consumer's interest enough
to result in a purchase,
it keeps
a company going strong.
And it helps secure the
jobs of the people
who work there.
Advertise now and keep
people working.

Tel: 392 676, 392 928
Email: advertising@myanmartimes.com.mm

The Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation says farmers who fail to pay back debts to the government or specialist rice companies will not be eligible for long-term loans planned to boost productivity. *Pic: Myanmar Times Archive*

No loans for farmers with debts: minister

By Myat May Zin

FARMERS who owe debts to the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank or specialist rice companies will be ineligible for long-term loans the government plans to make available, the Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation said last month.

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing said farmers with unpaid debts cannot register for the loans, which might not have to be repaid for 15 years and will carry low interest rates. The ministry's Settlement and Land Records Department commenced a land survey to determine tenures on January 1 ahead of the distribution of loans, he said.

The ministry will conduct the land registration survey until March, with the intention of making long-term loans available to farmers equal to 30 percent of the value of the land. He said interest on the loans would be charged at a low rate.

"[But] I will not support farmers who still owe money to specialist rice companies or Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank," U Myint Hlaing said on January 27. "We are pursuing this project for the benefit of our farmers. Seasonal loans are not enough for farmers.

"After the land registration project is complete, we will recognise the value of farm land. If your land is valued at K100,000 an acre you will be able to borrow up to K30,000 or 30pc of its value. Farmers will not need to pay back the loan after one harvest," he said.

U Myint Hlaing said farmers are regularly forced to borrow money from private lenders, who charge from 5-20pc interest a month, which leaves them stuck in a debt cycle. "I would like to help all of our farmers but existing debts must be cleared," he added.

"If farmers register their land they are sure to get high prices. For instance, the average value of 1 acre in Nay Pyi Taw is K10 million," he said.

The government is carrying out land registrations under the Farmland Law, which was enacted by parliament in March 2012, with rules for the law enacted in August.

U Ye Min Aung, general secretary of the Myanmar Rice Federation, told *The Myanmar Times* that the registration process is confusing for farmers.

"It is not a transparent or inclusive process. The registration process should be made known to the farmers' network, civil society and private associations as well as consulting agencies," he said.

If farmers are provided adequate credit they will be able to invest more in their crops, likely leading to larger and higher quality yields. They will also be able to hold onto stock until paddy prices increase.

An International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) spokesperson told *The Myanmar Times* by email that Myanmar's rice crop could "easily" be boosted.

"If rice farmers in the 2 million hectares of rice-producing areas in Myanmar's Ayeyarwady delta used better management practices and appropriate rice varieties, they could easily boost Myanmar's domestic and export rice capacities," the spokesperson said.

"By using data from satellites and remote-sensing technology, IRRI and its partners will determine those specific areas in Myanmar that are prone to floods, salty soils, and drought. Through high-resolution imagery, these areas will be better identified and targeted for intervention," the spokesperson added.

However, farmers in Ayeyarwady Region's Danubyu township say they face a number of major challenges – chiefly unstable paddy prices and the scarcity of affordable credit. As a result, many are unable to repay Myanmar Agriculture and Development Bank or the specialist rice company that operates in the area , Gold Delta.

Gold Delta is the sole private, official lender operating in Danubyu township. A company spokesperson said farmers owe K1.5 billion in loans that date back to 2009.

But U Thant Zin, who owns 30 acres in Ngapyin Chaung village in Danuphyu township, said providing more credit would not necessarily solve farmers' problems.

"Our main challenge is unstable paddy prices, which mean that as harvest time nears the price drops. But when the paddy is in the hands of traders it rises, so we never see the fruits of our labour," he said.

"If we could earn K350,000 for 100 baskets (5200 pounds or 2358 kilograms), we would make a decent profit and repay our loans on time," he said.

"We will take money if they [state and private lenders] give it to us. This is the way they press us with debt. But if they can help us to buy machinery, clear old loans, buy quality fertiliser and help us to solve transportation problems that would address all of our needs," U Thant Zin said.

But U Myint Hlaing said: "It is not difficult to stabilise paddy prices if we can export at good prices. We have already allowed exports directly from Pathein port. But to improve exports, we must improve quality rice, which means we need to get better seeds.

"Farmers should think about using higher quality seeds, which will enable them to get better prices for their crops," he said.

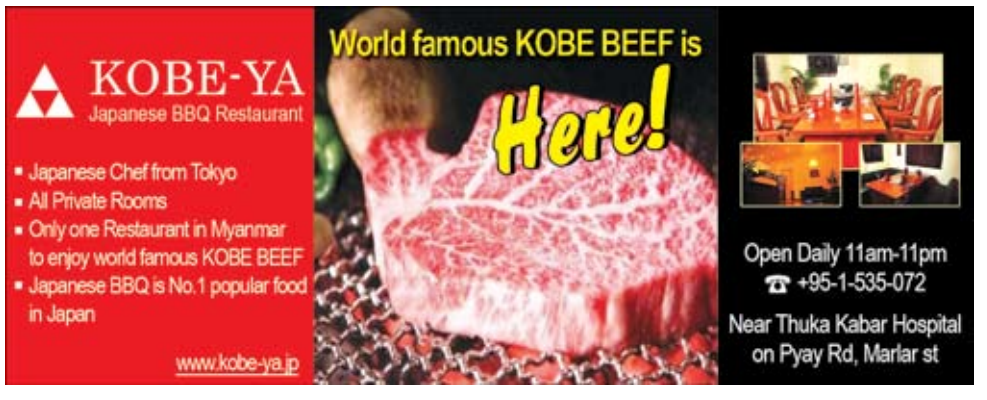
Floods have affected western Danubyu in each of the past five years.

U Sein Win, a farmer in Pantanaw township, said: "The Settlement and Land Records Department recorded our lands in three categories before land registration project started: R1, R2 and R3."

"R1 is land where you can grow two crops a year and pulses also. R2 is only one crop a year and in some years you can't grow pulses. R3 is only one crop a year, and subject to regular floods.

"The department is surveying paddy fields but they are not revealing what the value of those fields will be and I don't know how they will make that decision," he said.

"But I can say that immediately after the department left, the asking price for land increased from K1.4 to K2 million an acre."



Lawyers disect 'foreigner friendly' FIL rules

By Stuart Deed

A WINDOW of opportunity has been created by the enactment of the Foreign Investment Law and, on January 31, the rules determining investments, a foreign law firm working in Myanmar said last week.

The Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development released the 100-page document, which details prohibited and restricted sectors, as well as the exemptions different ministries may grant, on January 31.

As *The Myanmar Times* reported last week, the role and responsibilities of the Myanmar Investment Commission and the Department of Investment and Company Administration have also been enhanced.

Mr Edwin Vanderbruggen, a partner at VDB, a specialised law and tax advisory firm that has more than 60 transactional lawyers and tax advisers working in offices across Southeast Asia, said the investment law and subsequent rules are "foreigner friendly".

"I consider the 1988 Foreign Investment Law foreigner friendly," he said. "I consider the 2012 update just a modernisation of it. And now the regulations and notifications are out I think it confirms a consistent choice of the government to create a highly open climate for foreign investors but one where the foreign investor needs to engage with the government in order to actually get a project going."

Mr Vanderbruggen said the most important rule allows up to 80 percent foreign ownership in companies, which had been the subject of fierce debate in parliament as it considered the law, and looked likely to see foreign ownership in most ventures capped at 50pc.

"Generally speaking, the fact that even within prohibited and restricted activities foreign ownership [is] up to 80pc and maybe even more is possible … this one is quite far reaching.

"We're talking about activities that you cannot have even 1pc in some countries. And here you not only have a majority but you can also have an absolute majority … the government is giving a super majority to the foreign investor. That means they can do anything they want in that company."

Mr Vanderbruggen said the rules benefited companies that put project proposals to the government.

"The common mistake that I see clients making is that they say: 'Well, what does that mean? We need to figure out what this means, and how would that work? Can we ask the MIC for this or that?'

Villagers pan for copper at the Letpadaung copper mine jointly owned by Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd and China's Wanbao company in Sagaing Region. *Pic: AFP*

"And I always tell them the same thing: If you want to progress here you need to put a deal on the table. If you want the government to take you seriously you need to put a proposal in. If you want the government to compromise, you need to give them something to compromise for. You need to tell them: 'Look, this is my project, this is US$20 million that I'm bringing in, it is 800 jobs, I'll purchase that and that from local suppliers, and I really believe in this country and I really want to be here.

"But I need something from you too – you need to make clear how that and that is going to work. I need to get confirmation on how this and this is going to work. And I really need you to confirm this and that'," Mr Vanderbruggen said.

Mr William Greenlee, a partner in law firm DFDL, which has a team of 10 Myanmar and foreign lawyers in Yangon and was founded in Myanmar in 1995, said the company had received hundreds of client enquiries since it sent out a notice detailing the rules on February 2.

Mr Greenlee said he considered the enabling of share transfers from Myanmar owners to foreign hands and vice versa to be a key component of the rules.

"One of the most important features of the new FIL notification and rules is that shares held by Myanmar citizens of companies in entities formed under the FIL, with MIC approval, may now be transferred to foreigners and from foreigners to Myanmar citizens," he said. "This is a significant step in making equity in Myanmar companies more fungible and attractive to foreign investors. This is a significant change from previously, when all such transfers were prohibited by government policy."

He added that the 80pc equity limit would not be a "major deterrent for foreign investors".

"In my opinion quite good; it is a low entry barrier, even compared to some other countries in the region."

Mr Greenlee said client feedback had suggested that industries in the prohibited list such as telecommunications, banking, insurance and energy would be better suited to the restricted list. "This would allow the government to encourage the development of its own industries but still foster growth in a controlled manner," he said.

Mr Vanderbruggen added: "There are a number of surprises in terms of specific conditions, such as local content conditions for beverages, for spirits, cigarettes, a few more things that we knew about. They were actually in the practice of the MIC but it was not official or published."

The rules also boost the role of MIC, which Mr Vanderbruggen said gave the government flexibility in dealing with investors. "When you look at the regulations [rules] that have been created and also in the FIL they [the government] do need some latitude," he said

"It's a trade-off between flexibility and arbitrariness. The government is very concerned about being transparent and even-handed but at the same time when we're talking about promoting investments it's also about making choices.

"MIC is making these choices and they need that latitude. MIC's role is to be able to say: 'Well, as a rule we don't want you to have 100pc foreign-owned mining company but maybe there are circumstances conceivable where shareholding for the local partner should be less than 20pc'.

"Maybe that's for the benefit of the country in certain circumstances. And that means that the MIC needs to have flexibility ... even if it's at the risk of being blamed by all of the people they said no to for not being even handed. It's not easy," he said.

Mr Greenlee said the increase in MIC's power would hasten projects.

"MIC now having more authority as a government body may speed up the time in which relevant approvals are obtained. For example, the notification and rules require a relevant ministry to respond to one of its potential FIL company queries within seven days," he said.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

OAO "TMK", of 40 bldg 2a, Pokrovka Street, Moscow 105062, Russian Federation, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

Reg. No. 7406/2012 **Reg. No. 7407/2012**

in respect of "**Class: 06:** Common metals and their alloys; metal building materials; transportable buildings of metal; materials of metal for railway tracks; non-electric cables and wires of common metal; ironmongery, small items of metal hardware; pipes and tubes of metal; safes; goods of common metal not included in other classes; ores. **Class 07:** 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; automatic vending machines. **Class 11:** Apparatus for lighting, heating, steam generating, cooking, refrigerating, drying, ventilating, water supply and sanitary purposes. **Class 19:** Building materials (non-metallic); non-metallic rigid pipes for building; asphalt, pitch and bitumen; non-metallic transportable buildings; monuments, not of metal".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks in any manner whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **OAO "TMK"**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 11 February 2013

Chickpea stands out in B&P crops

CHICKPEA is unusual among Myanmar's beans and pulses crops because a fair portion of the crop is consumed locally, where most of the rest are grown for export purposes.

Domestically called *ka-la-be*, chickpea is used in a variety of dishes and is processed in different ways depending on the intended usage.

The most popular use is split chickpea, which is mixed with meat or vegetables and cooked into curry. Powdered chickpea is used to flavour and thicken salads, curries and noodle dishes.

Chickpea for export is commonly called *ka-la-be-phyu-loun–gyi*, which roughly translates to big, white chickpea. Trade of this commodity is facilitated by companies in Yangon and Indian traders.

The amount of sown chickpea area in 2011-12 was estimated by the Department of Agriculture (formerly Myanmar Agriculture Service) at 810,00 acres, with an average yield of about 544 kilograms an acre. Total production of chickpea for the 2011-12 year was estimated at 441,000 tonnes. The crop is only sown in the cool months and mostly in Sagaing, Mandalay, and Magwe regions in the central dry zone.

Chickpea can only be sown in specific growing conditions. For instance, it can be sown in Ayeyarwady Region but yields will be reduced below viable levels. Specific soil conditions are also required: PH levels below 5.5 will result in plants that bear no fruit. Successful crops also need between 33-40 inches of rain a year, and the temperature at the time of planting must be within 23-33 Celsius.

Most chickpea is sown in October and November and harvested in December and January.

Chickpea exports reached a high of nearly 115,000 tonnes in 2007-08, while exports in 2010-11 hit a low of 8460 tonnes, Department of Agriculture data shows.

However, excluding these two years chickpea exports ranged from about 31,000-88,000 tonnes from 2004-05 to 2011-12. Prices, however, have gradually crept from US$307 a tonne in 2004-05 to about $828 a tonne in 2011-12.

Statistics compiled by the Directorate of Trade, under the Ministry of Commerce, show that chickpea exports in 2009-10 were 46,300 tonnes. Of this, 56 percent was exported to India, with further shipments sent to Pakistan, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates.

In the first week of December newly harvested chickpea began entering markets in Mandalay Region's Myingyan township, an important clearing house in the dry zone. Much of it was then purchased by traders, who had it milled and sent to Yangon.

Angel Commodities, an Indian website that focuses on foodstuffs, reported in late November that the nation's sown acreage of chickpea was down 8pc on the previous crop, likely leading to greater demand for Myanmar imports.

U Kyaw Myint is a former civil servant, and consultant with the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organisation's Market Information Service Project, the Agriculture Market Information Service and E-Trade Myanmar.

AIR INDIA

Air India GSA Tender - Important Notice

The last date of receipt of completed tender documents for appointment of General Sales Agent (GSAs) of Air India Limited has been extended to **22nd February 2013** till **1600 hrs**. For more details please log on to the Air India website **www.airindia.com**

Pabedan dispute centres on 'dangerous' site

IN DEPTH
with
Htar Htar Khin

Construction labourers work at a long-delayed site in Pabedan township at the centre of a dispute between former tenants and several government bodies. *Pic: Thiri Lu*

RESIDENTS evicted from a "dangerous building" in Pabedan township say they will sue the Department of Human Settlements and Housing Development (DHSHD) over delays in re-housing them.

The former tenants were evicted in March 2010 when their building was declared by Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) to be in dangerous condition. An urgent survey of nearby buildings was conducted at that time following the collapse of a building in Pabedan in which a 15-year-old girl was killed.

The two-storey, 5500-square-foot building on Merchant Road, contained five residential apartments where four tenants lived. The upper floor was used as a primary school. The building has been closed since November, 2009. Originally owned by DHSHD, some responsibilities were transferred in 2011 to the Ministry of Education for development.

Residents called a press conference on January 26 to voice their complaints.

"After YCDC declared the building unsafe, DHSHD gave us three days' notice to get out. They said if we didn't leave they could evict us by force and then refuse to relocate us after reconstruction was complete," said U Sein Maung, a former tenant of the building.

He said tenants had called the press conference to complain about neglect and the lack of information from DHSHD.

"They've told us nothing. All we know is that there has been a long delay in demolishing the building, which was knocked down only last July. Reconstruction only started last month," he said, adding that the residents' concerns had "fallen between the cracks" as responsibility seemed to be divided between DHSHD, YCDC and the education ministry.

According to the residents, the company Aung Chan Thar Construction is now at work on a three-storey building on the site, with a primary school on the top floor.

"All we want is a straight answer – are we going to be relocated at the old address or not?" said U Sein Maung. "That's why all the residents have agreed to write to the president, the ministries of education, construction, home affairs, the Yangon Region government, the Mayor of Yangon, YCDC, DHSHD and the special investigations department of the Ministry of Home Affairs."

U Sein Maung's wife, Daw Thein Thein Yin, who had to relocate her construction materials shop, said her business had suffered because of the delay.

"Eviction meant abandoning our customers when we had to move to Latha township. We'll go on fighting until we get an answer, and we're prepared to take this to court," she said. "We want a more transparent response."

Construction at the site is still at an early stage.

U Kyaw Zaw Win, a former ground floor resident, said the first priority was to get apartments in the new development.

"We accept to some extent that the authorities had to evacuate the building because the other apartment block on 30th Street had just collapsed. They told us orally we would eventually be re-housed here. But officially, that's the last we heard," he said.

U Myint Naing, director of DHSHD's administration and estate division, said the department had already informed the Ministry of Education about the dispute in Pabedan township.

"We've already reported to the ministry about the case," he said. "According to the procedure set for dangerous buildings, DHSHD must inform the ministry and try to re-house residents at their former location. But the ministry has not replied to us yet," U Myint Naing said.

He said the building had been nationalised in 1962 before it was taken over by YCDC, which then turned it over the Ministry of Education. He added that the ministry is responsible, along with the developer and other landowners, for the rebuild.

U Myint Naing added that an official letter has already been sent the ministry about the dispute in Pabedan but detailed information about the proposed redevelopment, including the number of levels and timeframe, had not been provided to DHSHD yet.

"The answer will depend on the result of negotiations between the ministries of Construction and Education, which will then solve the problem for tenants," he said.

"DHSHD represents the residents and the public on this matter and we would like to see the dispute resolved and settled in accordance with the rules and regulations."

A HOME CONTEST THAT'S ALL ABOUT STYLE

Advertorial

An interview with AMID's patron architect U Sun Oo

Q. We heard that an association of Interior Designers had been founded. Please tell us about that?

A. There are four branches of trades that are related to architecture. They are (1) Landscape design (2) Interior design (3) Town and urban planning (4) Heritage conservation. These are regarded as the branches of architecture. So, when the Association of Interior Designers was formed the association of architects extended much help. So the Interior Designers' Association was founded in Dec. 2012 as a brother association of the Association of Myanmar Architects (AMA). The full name of the association is the Association of Myanmar Interior Designers (AMID). To become a member of the Association one must be a bonafide Myanmar citizen and must be a formally trained interior designer. He should also possess a certificate of Interior Designer issued by a local or an international training school. I am helping the Association as a patron.

Q. What sort of good effects do you think will the Association of Myanmar Interior Designers have on Myanmar Interior Designers as a whole?

A. The designing profession will be well settled only when such an association appeared. When Interior Designers are not organized and doing their trade haphazardly there will never be progress in the interior designs of architectural building including shops, condominiums, museums etc. which shows the standard of Myanmar culture itself. If we are compelled to hire foreign interior decorators for most of important buildings, our Myanmar designers will suffer. Myanmar designers are capable and efficient and if they are carrying out best designing works we could take in their work the precious foreign currency will be saved. Only Myanmar designers will be able to produce the interior decor that is best suited to our country.

Q. Is there any plan to accept interior decorators as members of the association of interior designers?

A. I really admire some of the interior decorators. They have artistic talent and understand the principles. What is lacking is that they haven't had the chance of access to systematic training in Interior Decoration. I want them to be included. I welcome them. They should, however, take a training course at a most convenient institute, to make themselves admissable. Once they possess a certificate, they become entitled to be a member of the association in accordance with its rules and regulations. We have to welcome them as a unifying force.

Q. What are the plans of AMID at the moment?

A. As a chairman of the association, I want to let you know that a competition of interior design is going to be held in the near future sponsored by Lorenzo. There are two parts. One is the 'Contest of interior design' only for interior designers. The other is 'Beautiful Home Contest', open to all including interior decorators.

Q. Who are the organizers of the contests?

A. Myanmar Times Journal and Association of Myanmar Interior Designers are known to be the organizers of these contests.

Q. Who are the judges of this contest/ competition?

A. There are five judges. An interior designer with international experience, an architect, an interior design instructor. Mr. Ross Dunkley from Myanmar Times, Daw Khin Marla from Nat Ray Co. Ltd., will be included.

Q. How will this contest bring benefits to the world of interior design?

A. Holding these contests may bring about three significant results. Firstly, interior design boys will have an opportunity to meet in one place and this will make people more intimate with interior design. Secondly, because of this activity, Interior Designers and Interior Decorators will become integrated. Thirdly, the most important and beneficial fact is that people who sell Interior Decorations and Interior Designers become friendly and in coordination, mutually carry out an activity. In the long term, the Interior Designer Industry with the inclusion of Interior Desigers and Interior material suppliers will benefit vastly.

Q. Do you have anything to say concerning the emergence of AMID, an association of Interior Designers and contests that involve interior design?

A. My view is that, it is an indication of the country developing and progressing. In the past, when the country was not in the developing stage there were no such things. These activities show that the country is progressing.

A HOME CONTEST THAT'S ALL ABOUT STYLE is jointly organized by The Myanmar Times, NatRay Co.,Ltd and the Association of Myanmar Interior Design (AMID).

A HOME CONTEST THAT'S ALL ABOUT STYLE

ENTER NOW!

BEST BEAUTIFUL HOME

GRAND PRIZE

GRAND PRIZE - LORENZO SOFA SET

LORENZO
LIVING STARTS HERE . . .

HONORABLE MENTIONS - 2 PRIZES
DUNLOPILLO KING SIZE MATTRESS
OSIM UPHORIA FOOT MASSAGER

Dunlopillo moments | OSIM

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTESTANTS
(1) Must be citizen of Myanmar.
(2) Number of Pictures need to submit: 4 Photos
***(Living room + master bedroom + Dining Room + structure of the whole house)
(3) Picture size: 10" x 15"

DATE OF CONTEST
Last date for submission - 30 March, 2013
Date of announcement of winner - 29 April, 2013

* 20,000 Kyats Casabella Gift Voucher will be given to all those contestants who register for the contest.

Best interior design

GRAND PRIZE

PACKAGE TOUR TO BANGKOK

FOR 2 PERSONS (4 NIGHTS /5 DAYS)

HONORABLE MENTIONS - 2 PRIZES

massimo

- **MASSIMO RECLINER CHAIR**

éko Office Solution

- **OFFICE CHAIR**

JUDGES FOR
BEAUTIFUL HOME CONTEST
1. U Sun Oo
(Association of
Myanmar Interior Design)
2. Daw Khin Marla
(NatRay Co., Ltd)
3. Mr. Ross Dunkley
(Myanmar Consolidated Media)
4. Mr. Thomas
(Interior Designer from
NatRay Design Studio)

REQUIREMENTS FOR CONTESTANTS
(1) Must be citizen of Myanmar.
(2) Must be well-trained in Interior Design.
(3) Member of Association of Myanmar Interior Designs
(One entitled to (1) and (2) can apply for membership)

DESIGN TO BE SUBMITTED
(1) Interior Design already done anywhere in Myanmar.
(2) Any type of design (10" x 15" one figure only)
For example: Completed Interior design of home, showroom, hotel and restaurants
(3) Photo of completed design together with the design submitted to the owner (3D Rendering) or
(Orthographic Plan Elevation Section) 10" x 15" one figure only
(4) Above two drawings (2) & (3) explanation and concept of Design not more than one page (A4)
Note* The following must not be included in colorful (10" x 15") figures. 1. Name of Design 2. Name of Design Company 3. Logo

WIN GREAT PRIZES!

DATE OF CONTEST
Last date for submission - 30 March, 2013
Date of announcement of winner - 29 April, 2013

Sponsors by - NatRay Co., Ltd & Casabella Home Furnishing Center
Organized by - The Myanmar Times
Supported by - Association of Myanmar Interior Design (AMID)
& NatRay Design Studio (NDS)

JUDGES FOR BEST INTERIOR DESIGN
1. Daw Khin Marla (NatRay Co., Ltd)
2. Mr. Ross Dunkley (Myanmar Consolidated Media)
3. Daw Hnin Si (Former Principal ZK School of Design)
4. U Win Myint (Architect)
5. U Wai Phyo (Senior Interior Designer)
6. Mr. Thomas (Interior Designer from NatRay Design Studio)
Note* 1.The Judges will inspect the Interior Design if needs be.
2. For membership of AMID, contact the following
Tel: 09 5500 575 | 09 5506 215 | 09 7314 5876 Email: interior.amid@gmail.com

Name:..... NRC:..... Marital Status:..... Age:..... Gender M / F
Occupation:..... Address:.....
Contact:(Mobile)..... (Home)..... (Office)..... (Email).....
Submit your entry form and photos now
Personally deliver your entry to *Casabella* No.22, 9 mile, Pyay Road, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel 664363, 660769, 656162. Email: nr.casabella@gmail.com | Mail entries to The Myanmar Times - No.379/383, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Tel: 392928, 253642 (MDY) No. 178, 74th st,(Bet 31st & 32nd st) Chan Aye Thar Zan Tsp, Mandalay. Tel: 02 24450, 24460. Closing date is 2pm on 30 March, 2013 for entries in both Yangon and Mandalay.

Competition terms and conditions

No NatRay or Myanmar Consolidated Media (MCM) employees, nor any member of their immediate families, may participate in the competition. Entrants must own the house, condominium or apartment entered into the competition; it cannot be a rented property. Entries must be made on an original entry form cut from a participating MCM product. Photocopies will not be accepted. All entries mailed to The Myanmar Times Head office, must clearly state in either English or Myanmar "The Myanmar Times/NatRay A home contest that's all about style" on the front. NatRay reserves the right to refuse poorly written or illegible entries. The competition will be drawn in Yangon on Friday, April 26, with the results to be published in The Myanmar Times (English) and (Myanmar) on Monday, April 29. By participating in the competition all entrants consent to allow MCM and NatRay to use the information submitted as deemed necessary. Additionally, the winner will allow MCM to publish a house profile that will expand on the original entry.

natray · design · studio
MCM

Main Sponsors
MYANMARTIMES NatRay Co.,Ltd. Casabella
LORENZO Dunlopillo moments
Co- Sponsors
NOW! ABITEX AUSSINO KETTLER OSIM

Bionic eye restores partial sight to some in US breakthrough

WASHINGTON – After years of research, the first bionic eye has been successfully tested in the United States, giving hope to the blind around the world.

Developed by Second Sight Medical Products, the Argus II Retinal Prosthesis System has helped more than sixty people recover partial sight, with some experiencing better results than others.

Consisting of 60 electrodes implanted in the retina and glasses fitted with a special mini camera, Argus II has already won the approval of European regulators. The US Food and Drug Administration is soon expected to follow suit, making this bionic eye the world's first to become widely available.

"It's the first bionic eye to go on the market in the world, the first in Europe and the first one in the US," said Brian Mech, the California-based company's vice president of business development.

Those to benefit from Argus II are people with retinitis pigmentosa, a rare genetic disease, affecting about 100,000 people in the US, that results in the degeneration of the retinal photoreceptors.

The photoreceptor cells convert light into electrochemical impulses that are transmitted to the brain via the optic nerve, where they are decoded into images.

"The way the prosthesis works (is) it replaces the function of the photoreceptors," Mech told *AFP*.

Thirty people aged 28 to 77 took part in the clinical trial for the product, all of whom were completely blind.

Mech said the outcomes varied by participant.

'It's the first bionic eye to go on the market in the world...'

"We had some patients who got just a little bit of benefit and others who could do amazing things like reading newspaper headlines," he said.

In some cases, the subjects could even see in colour.

"Mostly they see in black and white, but we have demonstrated more recently we can produce colour vision as well," Mech said.

Mech said Argus II is already available in several European countries for 73,000 euros (US$99,120). A US price has not been set but is likely to be higher, he said.

Other researchers are also vying to develop bionic eyes of their own, that would offer higher resolution images with more electrodes implanted in the retina.

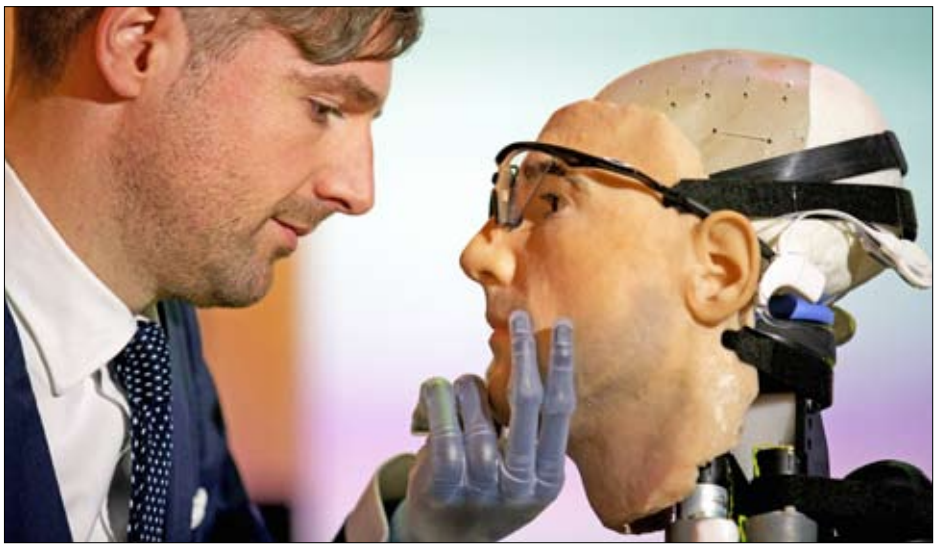
At the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a team lead by John Wyatt is working on a system that would have up to 400 electrodes.

Daniel Palanker of California's Stanford University is proposing a different approach based on tiny photovoltaic cells instead of electrodes.

"We're thinking about implanting up to 5000 of these cells at the back of the eye that would theoretically allow for a resolution that is ten times better," George Goetz, a member of Palanker's team, told *AFP*. This system would also help individuals who lost their sight due to age-related macular degeneration, he added.

These photovoltaic cells convert light into electrical impulses that stimulate the nerve cells in the retina, which then transmit the signals to the brain.

This system has successfully been tested in rats and the first clinical trial could begin in a year, probably in France. Palanker is linked with French company Pixium Vision based in Paris. – *AFP*



Swiss social psychologist Bertolt Meyer, who was born without a left hand and has a bionic replacement, admires "Rex", a bionic man costing US$1 million, at the opening of an exhibition featuring the humanoid at the Science Museum in London on February 5. Meyer was the model for Rex, short for "Robotic Exoskeleton", who was assembled by roboticists for a television program. As well as prosthetic limbs, Rex has a functional blood circulation system and artificial organs. The exhibition explores changing perceptions of human identity due to rapid progress in bionics, though Rex is not strictly bionic as he does not include living tissue. "I've looked around for new bionic technologies, out of personal interest, for a very long time and I think that until five or six years ago nothing much was happening," Meyer said. "Then suddenly we are now at a point where we can build a body that is great and beautiful in its own special way." *Pic: AFP*

Facebook users take a break

SAN FRANCISCO – More than half of US Facebook members have taken breaks from the leading social network, with the top reason being they are just too busy, said a study released on February 5.

About 61 percent of US users said they had taken time off from Facebook at some point, with 27pc planning to spend less time on it in the coming year, the Pew Research Center said.

The largest group – 21 percent – said they had taken a break because they were too busy. Other reasons included being "tired of stupid comments," "crazy" friends, boredom, and having it cause love life problems.

"These data show that people are trying to make new calibrations in their life to accommodate new social tools," said Pew Internet Project director Lee Rainie, a co-author of the study titled "Coming and Going on Facebook."

"They are adding up the pluses and minuses on a kind of networking balance sheet and they are trying to figure out how much they get out of connectivity vs. how much they put into it."

Slightly more than two-thirds of adults in the United States who use the internet belong to Facebook, said Pew.

A fifth of those who were not Facebook members said they once belonged to the service but quit, the study said.

Reasons given for leaving included getting tired of "minding everybody else's business" and it "takes my time away."

The survey, which has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.6 percentage points, was based on telephone interviews between December 13 and 16 with 1006 adults living in the continental United States. – *AFP*

WEB DEVELOPER

The web developer will assist with the development of the English and Myanmar news sites for the Myanmar Times, as well as other sites for Myanmar Consolidated Media (MCM), including classifieds, archives and more. He or she will report directly to the Online Editor.

The web developer must:

- Be a Myanmar national
- Be fluent in Myanmar and proficient in English
- Have a bachelor's in computer science and at least 2 years of experience in IT
- Know back-end web development and administration
- Know the following languages for development: PHP and MySQL
- Know the following languages for design: CSS, JavaScript, jQuery, HTML, XML
- Know how to use Content Management System (CMS), especially Joomla
- Know how to use the following software: Adobe Photoshop and Dreamweaver
- Have a good understanding of graphic design and front-end web design
- Provide his or her portfolio

Applicants should send a one page abridged curriculum vitae together with a covering letter summarizing the reasons why they believe they are the most suitable person for the position. Applications will be accepted until end of February 2013 and can be sent to

MCM
The Human Resources Manager
Myanmar Consolidated Media Company Limited
379-383 Bo Aung Kyaw St, Yangon Or by email to mcmhrd@myanmartimes.com.mm

Links: Google wins court case

SYDNEY – Internet titan Google won an Australian court case on February 6 over sponsored links in its search results, with the nation's highest court ruling it did not engage in conduct that was misleading.

Australia's competition regulator had taken Google to court, alleging that adverts using keywords for Honda, Harvey World Travel, Alpha Dog Training and Just 4X4 Magazine were published by Google and led consumers to rival firms.

The Australian Competition and Consumer Commission lost the initial case but won an appeal in the Federal Court, which ruled that Google's technology created its search results.

Google had argued that it should not be held responsible for the content of ads on its platform because it was paid for and submitted by the advertisers.

The High Court of Australia overturned the appeal decision on February 6, agreeing that the advertisers, not Google, were responsible for the content of so-called sponsored links.

– *AFP*

Amazon unveils virtual money

SAN FRANCISCO – Amazon unveiled a virtual currency on February 5 to enhance the potential for developers to make real money in games and other "apps" tailored for Kindle Fire tablet computers.

Amazon Coins will be introduced in the United States in May in a move aimed at inspiring the creation of more fun, hip or functional programs for its challenge to iPads and rival tablets powered by Android software.

Industry analysts maintain that the availability of apps synched with people's lifestyles can be more important than slick hardware when it comes to which mobile gadgets people buy.

The Seattle-based online retail titan is providing added incentive for developers by promising to give away tens of millions of dollars in Amazon Coins for people to spend when the virtual currency is introduced.

Amazon coins can be used to buy applications or to pay for virtual goods or features sold inside mini-programs. Developers get to keep 70 percent of the revenue, with Amazon getting 30pc. – *AFP*

China warns NKorea of 'heavy price' if nuclear device tested

BEIJING – China should exact a "heavy price" from North Korea if an imminent nuclear test goes ahead, state-run media said last week in their strongest call yet, but analysts say Beijing appears unable to restrain its wayward ally.

The state-run *Global Times* raised the prospect that the relationship founded on the battlefields of the 1950-53 Korean War, and which Pyongyang has relied on ever since, "might break down" over the issue.

That would "be of no benefit to Pyongyang", it said on February 6. "North Korea would face an even worse situation, but China could find some ways to compensate for geopolitical losses."

The article appeared in both the English- and Chinese-language editions of the paper.

But analysts and diplomats said that despite its discontent Beijing was unwilling to carry out meaningful action, leaving the media as its only theatre to display its frustrations.

North Korea vowed to conduct its third nuclear test after the UN Security Council condemned its December 12 rocket launch in a resolution that was the product of extensive negotiations with China.

The *Global Times* – which is owned by the *People's Daily*, the official mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party – has previously urged Beijing to cut off aid if it goes ahead with the blast.

But the threats contrast with Beijing's official position of repeatedly urging calm and restraint, and avoiding punitive measures to prevent regional instability.

'China is never afraid of Pyongyang.'

China is widely seen as fearing the consequences of a North Korean collapse, which could send an exodus of refugees across the border and potentially lead to a reunified, US-allied Korea on its border.

"If North Korea insists on a third nuclear test despite attempts to dissuade it, it must pay a heavy price," said the editorial in the *Global Times* on February 6. "The assistance it will be able to receive from China should be reduced."

"China is never afraid of Pyongyang," it went on. "If Pyongyang gets tough with China, China should strike back hard, even at the cost of deteriorating bilateral relations."

Stephanie Kleine-Ahlbrandt, the Beijing-based Northeast Asia director for the International Crisis Group, said that "editorials are a great way to let off steam".

Although Beijing has long maintained its stance of supporting its unpredictable neighbour, she said, the media provides a way to vent the views of those arguing for a tougher tack.

"They are really upset," she said. "But there's a higher-order priority."

Avoiding instability was China's main concern in the Korean peninsula, she said.

"Even if they diminish the assistance, they are not going to do it enough to cripple the regime or make a difference," she said. "Beijing is simply afraid of pushing the regime too far."

Beijing provides substantial economic support to Pyongyang through cross-border trade and investment, while aid constitutes "just one part of the relationship", she added. – *AFP*

A member of Cambodia's royal family on an elaborately decorated funeral barge lowers a bag containing ashes of former king Norodom Sihanouk into the Mekong river in Phnom Penh on February 5, a day after a cremation ceremony that attracted tens of thousands of mourners. *Pic: AFP*.
* Related report, P. 34.

Briefly

BEIJING – Beijing's defence ministry on February 8 denied Japanese allegations that a Chinese warship's radar system had locked onto one of Japan's vessels, and accused senior government officials in Tokyo of having made "irresponsible remarks that hyped up the so-called 'China threat'."
• Earlier report, P. 39.

GAO, Mali – Islamist rebels chased from their territory by French-led forces in northern Mali said on February 7 they had opened a new front in the conflict involving guerrilla attacks and landmines, one of which killed four civilians.

WASHINGTON – The White House warned on February 7 that America could not afford to be without a defence secretary, after Republican moves delayed a Senate confirmation vote on its nominee for the post, Chuck Hagel.

DHAKA – Scores of people were missing after a ferry carrying around 100 passengers sank after a collision on a river in Bangladesh on February 8, the latest in a series of disasters blamed on lax safety standards. – *AFP*

Obama's choice for CIA chief defends drones as 'last resort'

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama's choice to run the CIA defended drone strikes as a vital "last resort" against Al-Qaeda militants, despite criticism from senators about the veil of secrecy surrounding the raids.

John Brennan, known as the architect of the drone war, faced repeated questions at his confirmation hearing on February 7 over the "targeted killings," which have even involved Americans not charged with a crime. Democratic senators demanded the administration share more information about the strikes with Congress and the public.

"Taking the fight to al-Qaeda is something every member of this committee feels strongly about. It's the idea of giving any president unfettered power to kill an American without checks and balances that's so troubling," said Senator Ron Wyden, a Democrat from Oregon.

The hearing before the Senate Intelligence Committee had hardly begun before protesters opposed to the drone attacks disrupted the proceedings and heckled Brennan, before being removed by police.

Brennan later referred to a "widespread debate" over counter-terrorism policies but said "disagreements should never prevent us from carrying out our national security and intelligence responsibilities."

Pressed about the clandestine nature of the drone strikes, Brennan said the government needed to speak out more publicly about the operations to dispel misconceptions.

"We only take such actions as a last resort to save lives," said Brennan, a 25-year veteran of the CIA who has served as Obama's top counter-terrorism adviser.

"We need to be able to go out and say that publicly and openly. I think it is critically important because people are reacting to a lot of falsehoods that are out there."

But he added secrecy also had to be upheld.

The hearing shone a rare public spotlight on Obama's drone campaign and associated missile strikes, involving hundreds of bombing raids by unmanned, robotic aircraft in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere.

On the eve of the hearing, Obama bowed to pressure from lawmakers and handed over a classified memo that outlines the legal justification for killing Americans abroad if they are suspected of plotting with al-Qaeda.

Some Senate Democrats and Republicans have long demanded the document and threatened to delay confirming Brennan as CIA director over the issue.

Senator Dianne Feinstein, chairwoman of the intelligence committee, welcomed the move but said she would propose legislation that would ensure a court review the drone strikes.

Asked about the proposal, Brennan said the administration had "wrestled" with the idea but suggested it was impractical to apply to military-type operations.

The Obama administration has sought to maintain strict secrecy over the raids but the threat of lawsuits, media reports and frustration from Congress has put pressure on officials to defend the drone campaign publicly.

With the strikes an open secret, Feinstein said it was unrealistic to keep insisting the program is "covert." – *AFP*
• Related report, P. 36.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Lanson Place Hotels & Residences (Bermuda) Limited, a company incorporated in Bermuda, of Canon's Court, 22 Victoria Street, Hamilton HM12, Bermuda, is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

LANSON PLACE

Reg. No. 13075/2012

LANSON PLACE

Reg. No. 13076/2012

Reg. No. 13077/2012

in respect of "Hotels (Business management of —) in **Class 35**. Accommodation (Rental of temporary —); hotels in **Class 43**".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Marks will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin, M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **Lanson Place Hotels & Residences (Bermuda) Limited**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 11 February 2013

Obama plans first visit to Israel as US president

WASHINGTON – President Barack Obama plans to soon make his first trip to Israel as US leader to confer on the Iranian nuclear showdown and to soothe his delicate relationship with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The White House said on February 5 that Obama also plans to stop to talk to Palestinian leaders in the West Bank and to travel to Jordan on his trip.

It will also come as the United States mulls whether to make a new effort to revive stalled peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians, though political conditions on neither side seem conducive to dramatic progress.

The president faced fierce criticism during his re-election campaign last year for not having visited Israel as president, though George W. Bush also waited for his second term to visit the Jewish state.

Obama has a fractious relationship with Netanyahu, and there has been open disagreement between the two men on the imminence of the threat posed by Iran's nuclear program, and Israeli settlement building and talks with Palestinians.

The White House said that Obama discussed a visit to Israel with Netanyahu on the phone on January 28, and will likely arrive after the Israeli leader finishes assembling his new governing coalition after last month's election.

Israeli media reported that Obama would begin his visit to Israel on March 20. – *AFP*

Kerry vows to seek peace, confront evil

WASHINGTON – John Kerry was publicly sworn in as secretary of state on February 6, vowing to work for peace but pledging to do what is needed to stand up to "extremism, terrorism, chaos and evil."

"I am proud to take on this job because I want to work for peace and because the values and ideals of our nation are really what represents the best of the possibilities of life here on earth," Kerry told the audience.

But he warned that "while my preference is for peaceful resolution to conflict, my journey has also taught me that when remedies are exhausted, we must be prepared to defend our cause and do what is necessary to stand up to extremism, terrorism, chaos and evil."

Kerry was first sworn in as secretary of state at a small, private ceremony on Capitol Hill on February 1, less than two hours after Hillary Clinton stepped down from the job.

On February 6, Vice President Joe Biden administered the oath of office to Kerry, his long-time friend from the days when they were both in the US Senate.

Kerry's speech was short on any specific foreign policy priorities, although he dismissed critics who maintain America should turn inward as it deals with its own domestic and economic problems.

"This is not a time for America to retreat. This is a time for us to continue to lead," Kerry said.

"Unless we stay vigilant, these forces threaten to unravel whole nation states and create greater pockets of instability than we have seen in recent times. This is our challenge." – *AFP*

John Kerry gestures while speaking after his ceremonial swearing in at the State Department in Washington on February 6. *Pic: AFP*

'Dysfunction' in Congress puts US at risk: Panetta

WASHINGTON – Chronic deadlock in Congress threatens to derail the US economy, damage national security and undermine public trust in its leaders, outgoing US Defence Secretary Leon Panetta warned on February 6.

In his last major policy address days before he retires, the Pentagon chief blasted lawmakers for what he called a lack of leadership that has produced escalating budget crises.

The most urgent task facing the country is to overcome "partisan dysfunction in Congress that poses a threat to our quality of life, to our national security, to our economy, to our ability to address the problems that confront this country," said Panetta.

"Today, crisis drives policy," he told students at Georgetown University in the US capital. "It has become too politically convenient to simply allow a crisis to develop and get worse and then react to the crisis."

But inaction is costly, he warned.

"The price to be paid is that you lose the trust of the American people. You create an aura of constant uncertainty that pervades every issue and gradually undermines the very credibility of this nation to be able to govern itself."

Panetta's tough speech comes as Congress faces a March 1 deadline to broker a budget deal to avert multi-billion dollar budget cuts, with military funding due to take a major hit.

The Pentagon chief, who served as CIA director before taking over as defence secretary in 2011, renewed his warning that if Congress fails to break the impasse, automatic budget cuts will jeopardise the military's readiness and force cuts in training, maintenance and weapons programs.

Panetta's frustration with the current bitter political climate was evident as he often strayed from his prepared text to drive home his point, lamenting that lawmakers apparently no longer knew how to compromise.

"I've seen that attitude before," he said, recalling his days in Bill Clinton's White House, when Republican lawmakers helped force a government shutdown in 1995 which "badly hurt the American people."

"The same damn thing is going to happen again if they allow this to occur," Panetta said.

The looming threat of automatic defence cuts of about US$50 billion this fiscal year, along with Congress's failure to adopt a proposed Pentagon budget for 2013, has forced the Defence Department to start laying off thousands of temporary workers. – *AFP*

SAVE CASH
TAKE OUR SPECIAL OFFER
SUBSCRIBE TODAY
FOR FREE DELIVERY
Subscribe to any of our four publications and have them delivered free to your home or office.
www.mmtimes.com

Subscription	Issues	MYANMARTIMES		THE CRIME	WHEELS	NOW!
☐ 3 Months	☐ 13 Issues	☐ 14,000 Kyats	☐ 8775 Kyats	☐ 4680 Kyats		☐ 5850 Kyats
☐ 6 Months	☐ 26 Issues	☐ 27,300 Kyats	☐ 17,100 Kyats	☐ 8840 Kyats		☐ 11,050 Kyats
☐ 1 Year	☐ 52 Issues	☐ 53,000 Kyats	☐ 33,150 Kyats	☐ 16,640 Kyats		☐ 20,800 Kyats

Name .....
NRC Number .....
Address .....
Township .....
Division .....
Telephone .....
Fax .....
E-mail .....

Yangon
No.379/383, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. Tel: (951)392 928, 253 642
•Fax: (951)254 158 •E-mail: circulation@myanmartimes.com.mm, subscribe.mt@gmail.com
Mandalay
No.180, 74th St (Between 31st & 32nd St) Mandalay.
Tel: (02) 24450, 24460, 65391, 65392 •Fax: (02) 24460 •E-mail: mdycirculate@myanmartimes.com.mm
Capital
No.10/72, Bo Tauk Htein St, Yan Aung (1) Quarter, Pyinmana.
Tel: (067) 23064, 23065 •E-mail: capitalbureau@myanmar.com.mm

Four Publications (MTE,MTM,Crime,NOW)

1 year	25% off	K111,150/-
6 months	22.5% off	K57,500/-
3 months	20% off	K29,700/-

Three Publications (MTM,Crime,NOW!)

1 year	25% off	64,350/-
6 months	20% off	34,350/-
3 months	15% off	18,300/-

Study raises questions on microfinance

WASHINGTON – The number of the world's poor people who benefited from small loans has declined for the first time, a study said on February 5.

The report called for microlenders to find ways to be more effective, including by tightening rules on accountability and by embracing mobile technology to better reach the world's desperately poor.

The report was prepared by Washington-based Microcredit Summit Campaign, which promotes microfinance.

It said in its report that after more than a decade of sharp growth, the number of microloan recipients slipped to 195 million in 2011 from 205 million a year earlier.

The drop, the first since statistics began in 1997, were led by falls in India.

"I think it could be a very good warning sign, a time for us to pause and take a look at what's happening and to reassess how we are operating," said the campaign's director, Larry Reed. – *AFP*

Briefs

OIC urges 'serious dialogue' on Syria

CAIRO – Leaders of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation called for a peaceful resolution to the Syrian conflict through "serious dialogue" between the regime and its foes, at a summit in Cairo on February 7.

Such dialogue should "pave the way for a transition that will allow the Syrian people to achieve their aspirations for democratic change," said OIC spokesman Tareq Ali Bakhit, citing the summit's final statement.

The summit was held in the absence of Syria which the 57-member OIC suspended in August because of a bloody crackdown on protests against President Bashar al-Assad.

US agency finds clue to 787 fire

WASHINGTON – The National Transportation Safety Board said on February 7 it had pinpointed how a battery fire occurred on one of the troubled Boeing 787 Dreamliners.

NTSB chairwoman Deborah Hersman said investigators probing the January 7 incident on a Japan Airlines 787 Dreamliner found evidence pointing to a single cell on the battery that caught fire on the plane parked in Boston.

The battery problems resulted in the global grounding of all 50 787s in service until the problem is fixed.

Kuwaiti jailed for insult on Twitter

KUWAIT CITY – Kuwait's supreme court has confirmed a 10-year jail term for an activist convicted of using Twitter to insult the emir and call for the overthrow of the regime, a report said on February 5.

Al-Jarida newspaper said the verdict against Orance al-Rasheedi is final.

Rasheedi was accused of using the social networking sites Twitter and YouTube to publicly insult the emir, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmad Al-Sabah, who is protected against criticism by Kuwait's constitution.

Poachers kill half of Gabon's elephants

LIBREVILLE – More than half of Gabon's elephant population has been killed by poachers since 2004 despite stronger security measures to try to stop the slaughter, wildlife officials said on February 6.

"More than 11,000 elephants have been killed since 2004," Fiona Maisels of the Wildlife Conservation Society said in a statement.

Gabon is estimated to host over half of the continent's 40,000 forest elephants but the animals have long been targeted by poachers for their ivory. – *AFP*

SAMSUNG
Smart alert
missed calls or messages
large files at amazing speed
GALAXYs 4.0" Super AMOLED display
provides breathtaking visuals and crystal
Android™ 4.1, Jelly Bean the fastest
and smoothest version of Android yet, with
stunning graphic capabilities Pop up play
picture-in-picture lets you multi-task
seamlessly Smart stay screen maintains
ight display as long as you're watching
Voice Command your smartphone with
voice Direct call Make a call simply
ifting the phone 5MP Camera
ntinuous Shot & Best Photo
Min size.
Max features.
12:03
Samsung GALAXY S III mini
S BEAM | SMART STAY | BEST PHOTO
SAMSUNG Mobile Brand Shop
• အမှတ် (၂၁၂)၊ ပန်းဆိုးတန်းလမ်း (အလယ်)၊ ကျောက်တံတားမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၁ - ၂၄၂၅၄၂ ၃၇၉၇၂၆
• အမှတ် (၁၁၈/မြေညီ)၊ ဆူးလေဘုရားလမ်း (မြို့တော်ခန်းမအနီး)၊
ကျောက်တံတားမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ - ၂၅၂၅၁၄
• အခန်း (၄၀၅၆)၊ တော်ဝင်စင်တာ (တတိယထပ်)၊ မြည်လမ်း၊ ဒဂုံမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၉ - ၄၃၀၅၃၃၁၀
• အမှတ် (၁၁၁/၁၁၃)၊ လသာလမ်း၊ လသာမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၁ - ၂၄၆၃၁၁၊ ၂၄၆၄၄၈
• အမှတ် (၆၃)၊ လသာလမ်း၊ လသာမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ - ၂၄၆၃၁၁၊ ၂၄၆၄၄၈
• F-121၊ Junction Square Centre၊ မြည်လမ်းနှင့်ကျွန်းတောလမ်းကြား၊ ကမာရွတ်မြို့နယ်၊
ရန်ကုန်မြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ - ၅၂၇၂၄၄ လိုင်းခွဲ (၂၀၂၀)
• အမှတ် (၃၅)၊ ရန်ကုန် - အင်းစိန်လမ်း၊ ကမာရွတ်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့
ဖုန်း - ၀၉ - ၇၃၁၅၄၁၂
• အမှတ် (၂၅၅၊ A)၊ ဗညားဒလလမ်း၊ တာမွေမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ - ၂၀၁၃၀၇
• အခန်း (D3)၊ ၇၈လမ်း၊ (၂၇ x ၂၈) လမ်းကြား၊ မန်းပြန်မာတိုက်ခန်း၊ ချမ်းအေးသာဇံမြို့နယ်၊
မန္တလေးမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၂ - ၇၁၇၁၈
• အမှတ် (၂၂၄/၂၂၆)၊ ဝိုလ်အောင်ကျော်လမ်း၊ ဝိုလ်တထောင်မြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၉ - ၄၂၀၂၇၇၀၁၉
SAMSUNG CUSTOMER SERVICE PLAZA
အမှတ်(၁၉၅)၊ မဟာဗန္ဓုလပန်းခြံလမ်း(အလယ်)၊ ကျောက်တံတားမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်။ ဖုန်း - (၀၁) ၃၇၈၂၁၆၊ ၃၇၈၂၁၇

US rights group lifts lid on foreign role in CIA abuses

WASHINGTON – Fifty-four foreign governments assisted the CIA in a global campaign that included harsh interrogations of suspects, a rights advocacy group said on February 5, as it pressed for greater accountability.

The report by Open Society Foundations marks the most comprehensive list of countries that helped the United States in what critics saw as excesses by then president George W. Bush's administration after the September 11, 2001 attacks.

Bush authorised "extraordinary rendition" – the transferring of individuals without legal process – to allow US and foreign intelligence agencies to interrogate alleged extremists outside the protections ensured on US soil. The Open Society Foundations found evidence that 54 foreign governments supported the system by actions such as hosting CIA prisons, interrogating suspects, allowing airspace for secret flights or providing intelligence.

Many of the cases involve countries that have long fought Islamic militants on their home territory such as Afghanistan, Egypt, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

The report also listed close US allies such as Australia, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and Thailand.

The study also listed Iran, saying that despite poor relations with the United States, Tehran indirectly handed over at least 10 suspects – mostly Arabs – to US custody via the Kabul government.

The report called for accountability both in the United States and overseas, saying there was "no doubt" that Bush administration officials authorised what it called human rights violations and thereby hurt US moral standing.

But it said that other nations also bore responsibility. Only Canada has apologised for its role, while three other countries – Australia, Britain and Sweden – have also offered compensation to individuals.

The report was released two days before a Senate panel considers President Barack Obama's nomination of John Brennan to be CIA director. Brennan, an aide to Obama, is likely to face questions about interrogation policies.

Obama ordered an end to harsh interrogations when he took office in 2009. But the Open Society Foundations criticised Obama for still allowing renditions if other countries promise to treat prisoners humanely.

The group named 136 individuals subjected to extraordinary detention and rendition. As the report focused on secret CIA operations, it did not cover the Pentagon's controversial detention of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The Central Intelligence Agency kept some prisoners in Guantanamo Bay and also secretly held detainees in Afghanistan, Lithuania, Morocco, Poland, Romania and Thailand, the report said.

The CIA declined comment on the report. Some US lawmakers and intelligence professionals have vigorously defended "enhanced interrogation techniques" as necessary against a ruthless enemy. – *AFP*

Drone attacks are legal, declares White House

WASHINGTON – The White House on February 5 defended drone strikes against al-Qaeda suspects as legal, ethical and wise and insisted they complied with US law and the Constitution, even if they targeted Americans.

The White House defended President Barack Obama's power to wage drone war after a Justice Department memo argued that Americans high up in al-Qaeda could be lawfully killed, even if intelligence fails to show them plotting an attack.

The disclosure by *NBC* news, which posted a link to the white paper on its web page, came as US drone attacks in Pakistan, Yemen and elsewhere face increasing scrutiny and questions from human rights groups.

"We conduct those strikes because they are necessary to mitigate ongoing actual threats, to stop plots, to prevent future attacks and, again, save American lives," said White House spokesman Jay Carney.

"These strikes are legal, they are ethical, and they are wise."

Among the most controversial of the attacks were the September 2011 killings in Yemen of Anwar al-Awlaki and Samir Khan, which stoked concern because the two were US citizens who had never been charged with a crime.

The white paper offers a more expansive definition of self-defence and imminent attack than those given publicly in the past by senior US officials, who have cited "the inherent right to self-defence" in defending the attacks.

"The condition that an operational leader present an 'imminent' threat of violent attack against the United States does not require the United States to have clear evidence that a specific attack on US persons and interests will take place in the immediate future," the memo says.

Instead, an "informed, high-level" official could decide that the targeted individual posed "an imminent threat of violent attack against the United States" if he had "recently" engaged in such activities, and there was no evidence he had renounced or abandoned them.

The memo also says the individual's capture must be unfeasible and can be considered so if capture posed an "undue risk" to US personnel.

NBC said the memo was given to the Senate Intelligence and Judiciary Committees in June on condition it be kept confidential.

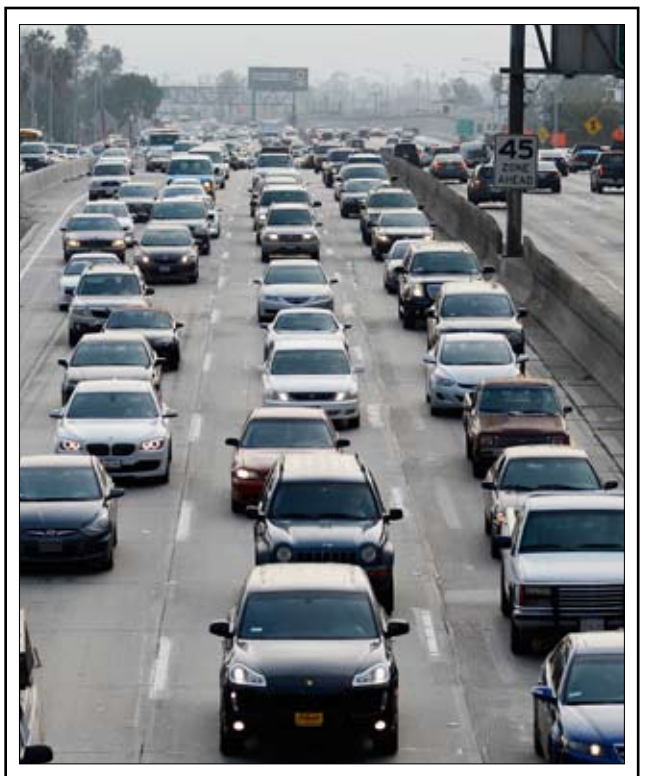
The leak came two days before White House counter-terrorism chief John Brennan was to go before the Senate for hearings on his nomination to be head of the CIA.

Brennan has been a central player in the US drone campaign, which has expanded sharply under President Barack Obama despite qualms about its legality.

Jameel Jaffer, deputy legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, which has sued to obtain the legal document used to authorise the killing of Awlaki, a radical preacher, called the white paper "chilling."

"According to the white paper, the government has the authority to carry out targeted killings of US citizens without presenting evidence to a judge before the fact or after, and indeed without even acknowledging to the courts or to the public that the authority has been exercised.

"Without saying so explicitly, the government claims the authority to kill American terrorism suspects in secret," he wrote on the ACLU's web site. – *AFP*



If you think traffic in Yangon is getting bad, spare a thought for drivers in Los Angeles (where there are mobile traffic police patrols and few motorists dare to drive on the wrong side of the road because of heavy penalties, which are enforced). In its annual report last week, the Texas Transportation Institute said the average commuter in the greater Los Angeles area spent 61 hours delayed in traffic during 2011. The cost of wasted time and fuel was estimated at US$1300 a commuter. The image shows traffic building up on the 101 Harbor Freeway in Los Angeles during rush hour on February 5. *Pic: AFP*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Societe de Conseils de Recherches et d' Applications Scientifiques (S.C.R.A.S), a Company incorporated France, of 42, rue du Docteur Blanche-75016 PARIS, France, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademarks:-

smecta

Reg. No. 4/1241/2008 **Reg. No. 4/1242/2008**

in respect of "**Class 05**: Pharmaceutical and veterinary preparations; sanitary preparations for medical purposes."

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

U Nyunt Tin Associates International Limited
Intellectual Property Division
P.O. Box No. 952, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: 959 4500 59 247-8, 951 375754, Fax: 951 254321
Email: info@untlaw.com
For **Societe de Conseils de Recherches et d' Applications Scientifiques (S.C.R.A.S)**
Dated: 11th February, 2013.

Endgame nears in gun control debate

Analysis by Stephen Collinson

WASHINGTON – The endgame of the US gun control debate is coming into focus, with a consensus forming around steps likely to fall short of the sweeping reform vision favoured by President Barack Obama.

Plans for action on tightening background checks for gun owners appear are gathering pace and some sources close to the debate detect momentum behind idea of reducing the size of lethal high capacity magazine clips.

But hopes for a renewal of a ban on new assault weapons are fading owing to staunch Republican opposition and the plight of moderate Senate Democrats facing re-election in 2014 in pro-gun states.

Obama, who has already signed off on executive actions to improve gun safety, is trying to maintain the urgency behind reform efforts in Congress, launched amid the horror of the Newtown school massacre last year.

"The good news is that we're starting to see a consensus emerge about the action Congress needs to take," Obama said in Minnesota on February 4, mentioning efforts to close background check loopholes and to halt gun trafficking.

But Obama appeared to prepare the ground for reforms which his administration could portray as meaningful but still fall short of his call for a renewal of the assault weapons ban that expired in 2004.

'We don't have to agree on everything...'

"We don't have to agree on everything to agree it is time to do something," Obama said, while calling for the assault weapons ban bill to get a vote.

Recent polls do show rising support for efforts to tighten gun laws, including a renewal of the assault weapons ban and measures to keep guns out of the hands of the mentally unstable.

And the image of the National Rifle Association, the top gun lobby group, may have been jolted, but at 41 percent in a recent *NBC* poll, its approval rating was higher than that of Hollywood and Congress.

Dan Gross, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, was quoted in the *New York Times* on February 5 as seeing a "convergence" of support around universal background checks, but said assault weapons must also be discussed.

But lawmakers are more likely to be influenced by political self preservation rather than morals.

For this reason, the administration has been careful to insist that it bears no malice to the constitutional right to bear arms, and even released a picture of Obama skeet shooting at Camp David.

Top officials have also pitched their campaign as an attempt to improve safety and protect children, rather than an effort to grab guns.

"The administration knows that a gun safety narrative is probably going to play better than a gun control narrative," said Jonathon Schuldt, a communications professor at Cornell University.

Republican opposition to an assault weapons ban is firm in the Senate, and it seems unlikely majority Democrats could build a simple majority in the 100 seat chamber for such a measure.

The slate of Democratic-held Senate seats up for grabs in mid-term elections in 2014 contains several where a vote for gun control could be damaging.

But action on fast-firing clips does appear to have some traction – and a scenario in which pro-gun senators oppose an assault weapons ban for political reasons but vote to limit the size of magazines is still seen as possible. – *AFP*

Overwhelming vote backs same-sex marriage in UK

LONDON – British lawmakers voted in favour of controversial legislation allowing gay marriage on February 5 despite fierce opposition from members of Prime Minister David Cameron's own party.

The move puts Britain on track to join the ten countries that allow same-sex couples to marry, but Cameron had the embarrassment of seeing more than half of his Conservative legislators refusing to back him.

The prime minister insisted that the plan to allow same-sex couples to marry in England and Wales would "make our society stronger", although the draft law still has several other parliamentary hurdles to clear.

"Strong views exist on both sides but I believe MPs voting for gay people being able to marry too, is a step forward for our country," Cameron wrote on his Twitter page after the vote.

Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, who leads the Conservatives' junior coalition partners, the Liberal Democrats, hailed the result as a "landmark for equality".

"Tonight's vote shows parliament is very strongly in favour of equal marriage," he said. "Marriage is about love and commitment and it should no longer be denied to people just because they are gay."

'Marriage...should no longer be denied to people just because they are gay.'

The vote passed by 400 to 175, mainly because it had overwhelming support from the Lib Dems and opposition Labour Party.

But just 127 of Cameron's 303 Conservatives voted in favour of the plans, with 136 voting against and 40 more either formally abstaining or not voting.

Cameron had allowed lawmakers a free vote on the issue, meaning they were not directed by party managers.

Opponents attacked the bill during an often impassioned day-long debate ahead of the vote in the House of Commons, or lower house of parliament.

A former junior defence minister, Gerald Howarth, said the government had no mandate for such a "massive social and cultural change".

"I believe this bill is wrong, the consultation was a complete sham. It has caused deep and needless divisions within the Conservative Party," he said.

Same-sex couples in Britain have had the right to live in civil partnerships since 2005 but cannot marry.

Culture Secretary Maria Miller, the minister responsible for the legislation, insisted the bill would protect religious freedoms and "not marginalise those who believe marriage should be between a man and a woman".

The proposals are opposed by the Church of England but the legislation bans the established churches of England and Wales from offering gay marriage.

No place of worship of any faith would be legally required to carry out gay marriages under the draft law.

Britain's newspapers said on February 6 the vote had alienated Cameron from many members of his own party and could have far-reaching political consequences ahead of the next general election in 2015.

The bill must next be scrutinised by a committee of lawmakers and then go before the upper chamber the House of Lords before becoming law. – *AFP*

A plastic facial model of England's King Richard III, based on a reconstruction made from the discovery last year of his skeleton. *Pic: AFP*

English king's face revealed 500 years after he was killed

LONDON – The face of England's much-maligned king Richard III was revealed on February 5 for the first time in 500 years after a reconstruction of his skeleton which was found buried underneath a car park.

The three-dimensional plastic model is based on a CT scan of the skull of the king, who was killed in battle in 1485 after just two years on the throne but lived on as one of history's worst villains in the eponymous play by William Shakespeare.

Academics hope the discovery of his remains under a car park in the central English city of Leicester, complete with the twisted spine of folklore and major wounds to his skull, will lead to a rehabilitation of his reputation.

Richard III enthusiasts believe the image of his face, until now only depicted in paintings, will be key to rewriting his legend.

"It's an interesting face, younger and fuller than we have been used to seeing, less careworn, and with the hint of a smile," said Phil Stone, chairman of the Richard III Society.

Another member of the society, Philippa Langley, who led the project to unearth the bones of the last Plantagenet king, said the reconstruction showed for the first time what he might have looked like when he died in battle aged 32.

"The portraiture that we have of him that was done in the Tudor era always seems to bring out this guy who looks like he was 50," she told *AFP*.

"He led armies and he fought many skirmishes and I think you can see that strength of character and that determination."

The task of reconstructing the face – complete with shoulder-length black hair – was led by Caroline Wilkinson, professor of craniofacial identification at the University of Dundee in Scotland, and paid for by the Richard III Society.

Her team created a scientific reconstruction using a CT scan of the remains, without any reference to contemporary portraits of the king, and then "humanised" it by painting the face and adding features such as brows and eyelashes.

The skeleton was found during an archaeological dig at a municipal car park in Leicester last August.

A team at the University of Leicester announced on February 4 that DNA tests, carbon dating and examination of bones had proved beyond reasonable doubt that it belonged to Richard, ending a 500-year-old mystery.

After his death at the Battle of Bosworth, near Leicester, Richard's body was buried by Franciscan friars, known as Greyfriars, in an unmarked grave. When their monastery was destroyed in the 1530s, all traces of him disappeared.

Richard's remains will be re-interred at Leicester Cathedral in a ceremony next year that befits his royal status.

In *Richard III*, Shakespeare described a villain who murdered his two young nephews to win the throne, whose hunchback and withered arm were a physical manifestation of his evil.

The skeleton confirms the king did have a twisted spine, but no withered arm.

Enthusiasts also say there is no evidence he killed the young boys. – *AFP*

Bomb attack on Israelis blamed on Hezbollah

SOFIA – Bulgaria has blamed the Lebanese group Hezbollah for a July 2012 bomb attack that killed five Israeli tourists.

"What we can make as a justified conclusion is that the two persons whose identity we have established belonged to the military wing of Hezbollah," Interior Minister Tsvetan Tsvetanov told reporters on February 5.

He said they "had Canadian and Australian passports but have resided in Lebanon since 2006 and 2010."

The investigation made the conclusions on the basis of three fake drivers' licences – made in Lebanon – from the US state of Michigan used by the bomber and suspected accomplices between their entry into EU member Bulgaria on June 28 and the July 18 attack.

"From these three fake personalities, we established beyond doubt two persons' real identity. ... We traced their whole activity on the territories of Australia and Canada and we have data for funding and complicity with Hezbollah," he added.

Five Israeli tourists and their Bulgarian driver were killed in the bus bombing at Bulgaria's Black Sea Burgas airport in the deadliest attack on Israelis abroad since 2004.

Hezbollah is the most powerful faction in the current Lebanese cabinet and its militia is the most powerful military force in Lebanon.

– *AFP*

'I want to serve the people', says girl shot by Taliban

LONDON – Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl shot in the head by the Taliban for campaigning for girls' education, said she was "getting better day by day" in her first public statement released on February 4.

The 15-year-old said she had been given a "second life" to campaign for girls to have the right to go to school, in a video statement recorded before she underwent surgery to repair her skull at a hospital in Britain on February 2.

Malala said she was "getting better day by day" because of the prayers that people have offered for her.

"And because of all these prayers God has given me this new life – a second life. And I want to serve. I want to serve the people. I want every girl, every child, to be educated. For that reason, we have organised the Malala Fund."

The Malala Fund is a charity set up in late 2012 to promote education for girls.

Malala was shot at point-blank range by a Taliban gunman as her school bus travelled through Pakistan's Swat Valley on October 9, in an attack that drew worldwide condemnation.

Surgeons in Pakistan saved her life with an operation to relieve the pressure on her brain before she was flown to Britain to be treated at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham.

– *AFP*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

NOTICE is hereby given that **The Procter & Gamble Company** a company incorporated in the U.S.A and having its principal office at One Procter & Gamble Plaza, Cincinnati, Ohio 45202, U.S.A. is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks: -

OLAY

(Reg: Nos. IV/1797/2003 & IV/139/2010)

in respect of: - "Lip moisturizers and conditioners, liquid and powder foundation, make-up base, skin moisturizing creams, lotion and gels, skin whitening preparations, facial and skin masks, skin toners, cleansers and astringents, eye masks, eye creams, lotions and gels, skin and body massage creams, soaps, perfumeries, essential oils, dentifrices, shampoos, conditioners, hair styling preparations, hair care preparations and hair coloring preparations"

OLAY

(Reg: Nos. IV/2846/2003 & IV/140/2010)

in respect of: - "Facial wipes; facial cloths; paper wipes; make-up removal wipes (paper) other than impregnated with cosmetics or toilet preparations; paper wipes for toilet purposes (other than impregnated with a toilet preparations); wipes for toilet use (other than impregnated with cosmetics preparations)"

PAMPA

(Reg: Nos. IV/2084/2006 & IV/138/2010)

in respect of: - "Diapers made of paper and/or cellulose; diapers for babies; disposable diapers; paper products in this class; paper cleaning products; paper wipes and cleaning tissues"

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said trademarks or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

U Kyi Win Associates
for **The Procter & Gamble Company**
P.O. Box No. 26, Yangon.
Phone: 372416 Dated: 11th February, 2013

Cambodia's 'king father' is dead, long live Hun Sen

Analysis by Didier Lauras

PHNOM PENH – He towered over his kingdom through tumultuous decades. Yet when Cambodia's "king father" Norodom Sihanouk finally ceded power, experts say, it was not to his heir but to strongman premier Hun Sen.

Since his death in October in Beijing, Cambodia has paid homage to the man who was king, prime minister, head of state, then king once more, before stepping down in favour of his son Sihamoni in 2004.

An elaborate week-long funeral, which ended on February 7, drew throngs of mourners to Phnom Penh's streets to bid farewell to the beloved royal, whose embalmed body had been lying in state for three months.

The shrewd political operator remained a dominant figure for more than half a century marked by independence from France, civil war, the murderous Khmer Rouge regime, his own exile and finally peace.

But he leaves behind a politically weak institution.

When Sihanouk returned to the throne in 1993, analysts say it was only after striking a deal with prime minister and one-time Khmer Rouge cadre Hun Sen that allowed the premier to exercise full political power.

"This rather weird couple was a political set up," said Hugues Tertrais, a history professor at the Pantheon-Sorbonne University in Paris.

"As Norodom Sihanouk abdicated relatively early in favour of Sihamoni, the formula has remained the same, even though Sihamoni does not have his father's charisma."

The decision to pass the crown to Sihamoni, 59, rather than to his oldest and more politically ambitious son Ranariddh was seen by some diplomats as an attempt to ensure the survival of the monarchy, albeit one with little power.

'Hun Sen is now more powerful than ever.'

Widely seen as disconnected from his country's politics, Sihamoni – a keen amateur dancer who was Cambodia's ambassador to UNESCO in Paris at the time – made what is widely described as a reluctant return to Phnom Penh.

Sihanouk's choice of heir was supported by Hun Sen, "perhaps because Sihamoni is apolitical and believed to be relatively pliable," said a US diplomatic memo dated October 2004 and published by WikiLeaks.

"Since reassuming the throne in 1993, Sihanouk has seen his power progressively eroded by powerful politicians, especially Hun Sen, and a more open political system," it added.

Sihamoni has since firmly stuck to his role as a symbolic head of state, respecting the deal struck between his father and Hun Sen, an authoritarian leader who has vowed to stay in office until he is 90, three decades from now.

"Sihamoni has almost no freedom of action," said David Chandler, a Cambodian expert at Australia's Monash University.

The reluctant king is by all accounts "an admirable, astute but unambitious and apolitical person. He never wanted to be king. Hun Sen, to be safe, has more or less locked him in a box," he added.

More than ever, Hun Sen dominates Cambodian politics despite fierce criticism for overseeing a venal regime responsible for rampant land grabs and harassment of dissidents.

"Hun Sen is now more powerful than ever," said Ou Virak, president of the Cambodian Centre for Human Rights.

"For anything happening in the country, all fingers are pointed to Hun Sen. That is what happened in the old days with Sihanouk."

Since 2008, Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party has held 90 of the 123 seats in the lower house of parliament, and there are few doubts that he will win elections in July.

His ambitions echo those of Sihanouk who remained in power –or close to it – for six decades from independence to peace, the golden age of the 50s and 60s but also civil war and two million deaths under the Khmer Rouge.

"Hun Sen could be a kind of Sihanouk without the title. He has overcome all times and all changes," Tertrais said.

"Sihanouk has spent 63 years in power, or interested in power," he added. "This may well be a model for Hun Sen who became a minister at age 27 and is now aged 60. He still has a long time ahead of him." – *AFP*

Astrologers forsee stormy Snake year

HONG KONG – A stock market slide, escalated conflict between Japan and China and more Gangnam-styled success for South Korean singer Psy will shape the incoming Year of the Snake, say Asian soothsayers.

Those who make predictions according to the study of feng shui – or literally "wind-water" – are influential in many parts of Asia where people adjust their lives or renovate houses and offices based on the advice.

As they bid farewell to the Year of the Dragon, the fortune tellers warn that the "black water snake" that emerges to replace it on February 10 – the first day of the Lunar New Year – could be a venomous one that brings disaster.

Previous Snake years have been marked by the September 11, 2001 terror strikes that killed nearly 3000 people, the crushing of the 1989 Tiananmen pro-democracy protests and the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941.

The 1929 stock market plunge that heralded the Great Depression also occurred in a snake year.

Hong Kong's celebrity feng shui master Mak Ling-ling predicts the stock markets will enjoy a smooth first-half before becoming turbulent in the second half of the year, which she links to the characteristics of the reptile.

"It's just like the movement of snakes – fast, aggressive and sharp, but cunning and tricky at the same time," she said.

'This is a disaster year... a lot of things will not go smoothly.'

Mak warned that despite early market optimism there would be no full recovery in the crisis-hit eurozone, while the economy of the United States would not gather a strong pace until 2014.

She added that President Barack Obama needed to "be less conservative" in his attempts to revive the economy.

Astrologers say this year's snake is identified with the element of water – symbolising fear – that sits on top of the fire element, representing joy and optimism. They say conflict between the two will bring turbulence in May.

"This is a disaster year... a lot of things will not go smoothly," said Singapore's "Grand Master" Tan Khoon Yong, 59, of geomancy consultancy Way OnNet Group.

"The European Union may split, the euro may be in trouble," Tan said, adding that the bloc would be threatened by division in May.

Hong Kong astrologer Chow Hon-ming said a disharmonious May would see an dispute between Japan and China possibly escalate into a "brief" war, as two "snakes" are going to clash according to his reading of the Chinese almanac.

"May is known as the 'snake month' and it's the Year of the Snake so between May 5 and June 6, these two snakes will meet.

"This is why things will be very intense between Japan and China. Tensions will rise to a peak and they will possibly go to war."

Chinese fortune telling is based on ancient philosophy and belief dating back thousands of years that events are dictated by the different balances in the five elements that make up the universe: metal, wood, water, fire and earth.

A person's fortune can be calculated by using the exact time and date of his birth, with the relationship of each of the elements.

The lunar calendar is based on the cycles of the moon and associates each of the 12 years forming a rotating cycle with an animal – with the snake assuming the sixth position out of the 12 animal signs.

China's new leader Xi Jinping and "Gangnam Style" singer Psy, two of the most famous people born in the Year of the Snake, will see success despite entering a year matching their Chinese zodiac, usually considered to be a bad thing.

But China's Xi, born in 1953, and 36-year-old South Korean pop sensation 'Psy' Park Jae-Sang will be spared, due to their favourable birth dates and elements.

'Snake years are marked by major transformation and change – and sometimes great upheaval.'

While the 60-year-old Chinese leader is set to see a smooth leadership transition in March from predecessor President Hu Jintao, there may however be the odd bump in the road.

"He needs to watch out for his health. He might suffer a fall in November if he travels," Chow said, recommending Xi avoids "Europe or Russia" that month.

CLSA, one of Asia's leading brokerages, creates its own tongue-in-cheek annual "feng shui index". This year it states that while stock markets will be volatile in the second-half, the presence of the market-driving "fire" element gave reason for optimism.

"We've got the fire element so we're pretty hopeful," CLSA analyst Mariana Kou said, predicting this year markets will have a "decent finish" this year.

Past Snake years give little encouragement, with the three most recent ones seeing Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index finish down, falling 33.5 percent in 2001.

"As befits "skin-shedders", Snake years are marked by major transformation and change – and sometimes great upheaval," CLSA said. – *AFP*

Translator/Sub-editor

The translator/sub-editor will work on The Myanmar Times features supplement desk and will be responsible for translating reporters' copy from Myanmar language to English. Sub-editing English articles will also be required. The successful candidate will report to the Features Supplement Editor.

The translator/sub-editor must:
- Be a Myanmar national
- Be fluent in Myanmar and highly proficient in English
- Have a bachelor's degree
- Have a strong interest in news and current affairs
- Have the capacity to work under pressure and meet deadlines

Applicants should send a two page curriculum vitae with a covering letter explaining why he/she is the most suitable candidate for the role.
The deadline for applications is February 2013.

MCM
The Human Resources Manager
Myanmar Consolidated Media Company Limited
379-383 Bo Aung Kyaw St, Yangon Or by email to mcmhrd@myanmartimes.com.mm

Talks 'window' with China must stay open, says Abe

TOKYO – Japan's prime minister said on February 7 the "window of dialogue" with China must remain open, even as he reiterated his rebuke to Beijing over a naval confrontation on the high seas.

Shinzo Abe said an incident in which a Chinese frigate locked its weapons-targeting radar on a Japanese warship was "extremely regrettable", as tension grows over the sovereignty of islands in the East China Sea.

"But we will not close the window of dialogue. This is most important," Abe said. "I would like China to return to a more open attitude towards our strategic partnership."

Abe had on February 6 described the Chinese action as "dangerous" and "provocative".

Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera told parliament the Chinese radar lock amounted to a "threat of force" but he called for some mechanism to allow defence authorities to communicate with each other.

"We think this is a threat of force, as defined in the UN Charter," Onodera said.

"But what is most important is to prevent incidents like this from recurring in the future," he said. "I also think it is necessary for Japan and China to have a means of consultation on maritime safety issues."

The radar incident, which Japan said happened last month, marked the first time the two nations' navies have locked horns in a dispute that has some commentators warning about a possible armed conflict.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in parliament on February 6 after describing a Chinese frigate's radar-lock on a Japanese warship as "dangerous" and "provocative". *Pic: AFP/Jiji Press*

The situation has been tense for months in the East China Sea, where Asia's two largest economies are at loggerheads over the sovereignty of an uninhabited island chain, called the Senkakus in Japan and the Diaoyus in China.

Beijing has repeatedly sent ships to the area since Japan nationalised some islands in the chain in September. The nationalisation move triggered a diplomatic dispute and huge anti-Japan demonstrations across China.

Natsuo Yamaguchi, head of the New Komeito party which is Abe's coalition ally, on February 7 called for a Japan-China summit by August 12, the 35th anniversary of the signing of the Japan-China Peace and Friendship Treaty.

"Avoiding contingencies and pushing for big-picture ties is the duty of the two countries' political leaders," said Yamaguchi, who delivered a letter from Abe to China's incoming president Xi Jinping last month.

In another development on February 7, Abe said he wants to find a "mutually acceptable solution" to a decades-old territorial row with Russia over the Kuril islands and sign a long-delayed peace treaty with Moscow.

In December last year, Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to restart talks on signing a peace treaty formally ending the hostilities of World War II that has been stymied by the dispute.

Soviet forces seized the isles, which stretch out into rich fishing waters off the northern coast of Hokkaido, in the dying days of WWII and drove out Japanese residents. – *AFP*

Malaysian state trims planned dams to four

KUCHING, Malaysia – A Malaysian state minister on February 8 said the government would not push ahead with controversial plans to build 12 dams on Borneo island, after outrage from local tribes and environmentalists.

The proposals sparked fears that the dams would destroy pristine rainforests, endanger wildlife, and displace natives in Sarawak, a Malaysian state crossed by powerful rivers with rich jungle habitats.

"It is not a firm plan to build 12 dams. I don't think we will need that. We will only need four of them," James Masing, Sarawak's state minister of land development, told *AFP* in an interview.

Masing said the government was backing off in response to widespread criticism. Protests over the years have seen activists and locals staging blockades of roads into dam areas.

"I'm pleased that this type of thing (protests) takes place. Not all that we do is correct, and this shows we need to refine our plans and think again," he said.

The government mooted plans for the dams as part of an industrial development drive to boost the resource-rich state's backward economy.

But the now-complete Bakun mega-dam deep in the interior has been dogged for years by allegations of corruption in construction contracts, the flooding of a huge swathe of rainforest and displacement of thousands of local tribespeople.

Besides Bakun, another dam at Murum is nearing completion and two others are in the planning stages.

The four dams – at Bakun, Murum, Baleh and Baram – are expected to put out nearly 6,000 megawatts of power, six times what Sarawak uses, Masing said.

"The protests are becoming more vocal on the ground so (the dam rethink) is a very good development for me," said Peter Kallang, member of a Sarawak tribe and chairman of SAVE Rivers, an NGO that has campaigned against the dams.

However, he said plans for the Baram and Baleh dams should be scrapped as well, noting that the Baram dam would displace about 20,000 people, compared to about 10,000 at Bakun, and destroy irreplaceable forest. – *AFP*

Gillard despairs of 'rivers of grog' as bans eased

SYDNEY – Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard warned on February 6 that "rivers of grog" were beginning to flow again in Aboriginal communities as she unveiled a mixed report on tackling indigenous disadvantage.

Gillard criticised local governments rolling back strict alcohol bans on Aborigines in the nation's fifth annual "Closing the Gap" address on improving indigenous welfare, employment and education.

She said progress was being made on several important measures including halving infant mortality for Aboriginal Australians, but warned that literacy and numeracy had slipped and called for a review of state alcohol policies.

"I have a real fear that the rivers of grog that wreaked such havoc among indigenous communities are starting to flow once again," the prime minister told parliament.

"We're hearing worrying reports about the rise in admissions to the emergency department at Alice Springs Hospital due to alcohol-related accidents and abuse," she added.

"People are witnessing more alcohol-related violence. In and around Alice Springs over the Christmas-New Year period there were at least five alcohol-related deaths."

Alcohol and pornography bans were a key plank of the so-called "Intervention" in the Northern Territory in 2007, when troops were sent in by the former conservative government following claims of child abuse and neglect.

The new NT government dismantled a territory-wide banned drinkers register when it came to power last August, arguing that it failed to help with the problem and was unpopular with voters.

Gillard called for its immediate reinstatement and warned the Queensland government, contemplating similar moves, to "exercise extreme caution in reviewing remote community alcohol restrictions".

"According to the then Northern Territory government, after (the register's) first year of operation, alcohol-related assaults dropped," she said.

"There were 10,000 fewer anti-social instances reported."

Now, Gillard said "former banned drinkers are again on the long list of alcohol-related offences coming before the Alice Springs Magistrates Court each day".

Aborigines are the most disadvantaged Australians, with indigenous children twice as likely to die before their fifth birthday as other children and Aboriginal men estimated to die 11.5 years earlier than other males.

They are believed to have numbered about one million at the time of British settlement in 1788, but there are now 470,000 out of a total population of 22 million in Australia. – *AFP*

Activists rampage in Bangladesh after war crimes sentence

DHAKA – Police fired rubber bullets on February 6 at hundreds of activists from Bangladesh's largest Islamic party during a second day of rioting sparked by the conviction of a top opposition figure for war crimes.

After four people were killed during violence that flared late into the night the previous day, dozens more Jamaat-e-Islami supporters were wounded when riot police tried to disperse fresh protests on February 6 near Dhaka and the southwestern district of Khulna.

The violence erupted after the party's fourth most senior official, Abdul Quader Molla, was jailed for life on February 5 for committing mass murder during the 1971 war of independence against Pakistan.

The sentence was handed down by a domestic war crimes tribunals which lacks any international oversight.

Jamaat says the war crimes charges against Molla and eight other senior party officials due to face trial – including its leader and deputy leader – are bogus and part of a wider political vendetta.

The party enforced a nationwide strike on February 5 and 6 and threatened to call indefinite protests if the trials are not halted. It had called a series of protests the previous week that left at least three people dead.

The government maintains the trials are needed to heal the wounds of the deadly nine-month war in which it says three million people were killed, many by pro-Pakistani militia whose members allegedly included Jamaat officials.

The local police chief for Narayanganj, the suburb of Dhaka which saw the worst of the violence on February 6, said about 15 people had been injured by rubber bullets.

The private *Independent TV* channel said at least 12 people were injured in Khulna after police fired rubber bullets.

Security has been tightened throughout the country. In Dhaka, the government deployed border guards as reinforcements to stem spiralling violence while at least 10,000 policemen were also on patrol.

Thousands of pro-government protesters also staged a night-long candlelit rally at a key crossing in central Dhaka, demanding the death sentence for Molla.

The tribunal, which was created by the country's secular government in 2010, is also trying two senior officials of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party. – *AFP*

A handler plays with Joe, a three-month-old pygmy elephant left orphaned after its mother was found dead from suspected poisoning, at the Lok Kawi Wildlife Park at Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia's Sabah state on February 6. *Pic: AFP*

Elephants' deaths probed

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia – Malaysian authorities will offer a US$16,000 reward for information on 14 rare Borneo pygmy elephants found dead last month if it is confirmed they were poisoned, officials said on February 6.

"There is a reward of 50,000 ringgit for information leading to the arrest, prosecution and conviction of the alleged culprits if the chemist report confirms that death was due to intentional poisoning," said Masidi Manjum, Sabah state's tourism, culture and environment minister.

He added in a text message that the report was due to be completed on February 8, about a fortnight after a group of eight elephants were found dead near an oil palm plantation.

Further bodies were later found decomposing in the Gunung Rara forest reserve.

Officials believe the pachyderms – an endangered species – may have been poisoned, possibly by substances left out by workers at nearby plantations to deter them from eating the palm fruit.

Poisoning is suspected due to severe ulceration and bleeding in the animals' digestive tracts. – *AFP*

Briefs

China to tighten fuel standards

SHANGHAI – China has announced stricter motor fuel standards in a bid to reduce harmful emissions – but the measures will not come fully into force for almost five years.

The powerful State Council, or cabinet, mandated that sulphur content for both petrol and diesel would be set at no more than 10 parts a million (ppm) by 2017, a reduction from the current 50 ppm, the government said in a statement posted on its website on February 6.

Burning fuel with sulphur produces sulphur dioxide, a major air pollutant.

Beijing has already started to implement the new standard but other cities will have a "grace period" until the end of 2017, the state-run *Xinhua* news agency said separately.

Cost of corruption rises in Afghanistan

KABUL – The cost of corruption in Afghanistan has risen sharply and half of all citizens paid a bribe to public officials last year, a United Nations study said on February 7.

The report by the UN office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and Afghanistan's anti-corruption unit says that while there has been "some tangible progress", the total cost of corruption increased to US$3.9 billion in 2012 – 40 percent up on 2009.

"The bribes that Afghan citizens paid in 2012 equals double Afghanistan's domestic revenue or one-fourth of the Tokyo pledge," the report says, referring to the $16 billion promised by donors at a conference in Japan last year. – *AFP*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Precise Electric Manufacturing Co., Ltd., a company incorporated under the laws of Thailand, and having its principal place of business at 103/2 M.6 Tiwanon Road, Banmai, Maung, Pathumthani. 12000, Thailand, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademark:-

PRECISE

Reg. No. 4/13366/2012

in respect of: "Surge arrester, current transformer, voltage transformer, distribution transformer, capacitor, load break switch, switchgear, control protection board, distribution board, unit substation, package substation, disconnecting switch, drop out fuse, fuse link, polymer insulator, Remote terminal unit (RTU)."

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark will be dealt with according to law.

U Nyunt Tin Associates International Limited
Intellectual Property Division
P.O. Box No. 952, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: 959 4500 59 247-8, 951 375754, Fax: 951 254321
Email: info@untlaw.com
For **Precise Electric Manufacturing Co., Ltd.**
Dated: 11th February, 2013

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Phoon Huat & Co. (Pte) Ltd., a company incorporated in Singapore, of 231A Pandan Loop Singapore 128419, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

REDMAN

Reg. No. 11807/2012

in respect of "**Class 29:** Preserved, frozen, dried and cooked fruits and vegetables; jellies, jams; compotes; eggs; milk and milk products; edible oils and fats. **Class 30:** Coffee, tea, cocoa and artificial coffee; rice; tapioca and sago; flour and preparations made from cereals; bread, pastry and confectionery; ices; sugar, honey, treacle; yeast, baking-powder; salt; mustard; vinegar; sauces (condiments); spices; ice".

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 **Phoon Huat & Co. (Pte) Ltd.**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 11 February 2013

TRADE MARK CAUTION

KT & G Corporation, a company incorporated in Republic of Korea and having its registered office at 100, Pyongchon-dong, Daedeok-gu, Daejeon, Republic of Korea is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:

CARNIVAL

Myanmar Reg. No. 4/9074/2009
(30 November 2009)

in respect of "Tobacco; cigarettes; cigars; snuff; cigarette papers; tobacco pipes; cigarette filters; cigarette cases (not of precious metal); tobacco pouches; cigarette lighters (not of precious metal); matches; pipe cleaners for tobacco pipes; ashtrays (not of precious metal) for smokers; cigar cutters" in **Int'l Class 34.**

Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the said mark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
For **KT & G Corporation,**
C/o **Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.**
Unit 1508-1509, 15th Floor, Sakura Tower
Kyauktada Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Date 11 February 2013 **utm@kcyangon.com**

Regional street artists gather to share work, ideas and grievances

By Nathalie Johnston

NO matter what you call it — street art, urban art, graffiti, painting, bombing, tagging — the use of spray paint and stencils on city streets all over Asia gains ground and legitimacy with every one of its artists practicing today. Not unlike other areas of visual arts, it is recognised for its casual and poignant reflection of society, carrying its message from Yangon to New York City.

With so many art events springing up in Yangon over the past 10 years, it's no wonder that Thu Myat and Chit Thut wanted to bring the conversation on Southeast Asia's urban artists to their front door.

They are the organisers of the Rendezvous II Southeast Asia Urban Art Event, held in Yangon from February 4 to 9 and meant to "understand different stands and aims among participants coming from a different map".

Rendezous is now in its second year, and last week's event drew artists from Jakarta, Manila, Ho Chi Minh City, Singapore, Phnom Penh, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, as well as more than 20 artists living in Yangon.

The opening of the event on February 4 drew a crowd of hundreds, with local hip-hop artists and media from around the city. Day 2 offered something a bit more substantive: a symposium at which each artist showed selected works, videos and various commercial works, which helps sustain their creativity and make a living.

More importantly, they addressed the issues they face in their respective cities as well as brushes with law enforcement officials, jail time and ultimately their desire to overcome the stigma of graffiti art as "vandalism" or "defacement".

Escape, an artist from Kuala Lumpur, chose his tag name because of its positive connotations. For him, it does not imply cowardice, but the courage to be yourself and do what you believe.

He began the symposium by presenting a potential business plan for graffiti artists. With this, artists can approach potential clients in commissioned work. It included payment plans with reference to workmanship and materials, merchandising and invoices.

When asked whether this might be something in their future, one Myanmar artist replied, "Maybe, but right now, it's not something we do."

Sonic, a Myanmar artist painting since 2007, mentioned the difficulty of living in Yangon during the past 20 years, let alone tagging it up. He showed a video documenting the "search for a wall" on which to paint. He prefers graffiti to remain illegal, despite the fact he spent some time in a Mandalay jail for vandalism.

An artist from the crew Liar Ben in Ho Chi Minh City described the speed with which some murals or paintings need to go up — with most it's no more than one minute.

Zero, hailing from Singapore, faces the largest penalty. Singapore is one of the most dangerous places to tag in the world, with jail time and the infamous lashes (caning) doled out to those who break the law. In light of this, Zero chooses to take a more contemporary art approach to his craft, working with local art spaces to display his work, and creating murals for brands like Adidas and Nike.

Westerncrew, or WTC, is among the many street art crews working in Yangon today. Together since 2006, their contributions are multiple wall murals around the city, including one painted in a local neighbourhood where they were once arrested.

Knowing the neighbours remained suspicious of them, they asked one resident if they could paint a wall on his property to showcase their talents. The neighbours and crew came out on good terms. They have also painted murals at art and music festivals.

LAC, OKP, CRASH and ROAR crews are just a few of the other collections of artists around the city who struggle to find a blank wall and when they do, finish their work as quickly as possible.

While all artists are politically aware, only some use it in their work. In Yangon, one artist sprayed a stencil of Ne Win as Kentucky Fried Chicken's Colonel Sanders. The next day it was painted over.

At the Rendezvous show, the same artist painted a rendition of General Aung San listening to an iPod with headphones, standing over the words "One nation under pop!" Another artist in Yangon wrote a Leo Tolstoy quote on the wall of a main road — "How much land does one man need?" — questioning the new demarcations of ownership in a changing Myanmar.

Other artists work in graphic design, sculpt toys, exhibit work, photograph, make music or run design companies. Most are involved in education programs for kids, in order to change the psyche of young people growing up today, and to make graffiti and street art more approachable.

Whatever the path, these artists are beginning to work across countries and cultures to raise awareness and address a changing society's impression of urban painting, stickers, tags and murals. The Rendezvous II event allows them conversation and voice. And best yet? They meet on the Yangon streets.

Graffiti show seeks to put local urban art on the map

By Maria Danmark and Nyein Ei Ei Htwe

An artist works on a mural at the opening of the Rendezvous II exhibit in Yangon on February 4. *Pic: Boothee*

UNDER normal circumstances, the empty furniture factory just off a hectic main street in Yangon's Hlaing township would seem insignificant. And that would indeed be the case had it not become the focal point last week for more than 30 street artists from around Southeast Asia who participated in the Rendezvous II Southeast Asia Urban Art Event.

As it was, the building and its environs were decorated with colourful graffiti, starting from the opening day on February 4, at which the artists provided live demonstrations of their work and techniques.

This was the second year for the event. Last year it opened on the same date, February 4, but this year there were more international participants. Organisers called it the biggest urban art event ever held in Myanmar.

One of these organisers, local artist Thu Myat, has been working with graffiti since 2008.

"The purpose of our event is to make Myanmar's urban art a part of the international urban art scene. In past years international artists from Southeast Asia have held urban art events, but without artists from Myanmar. So as hosts of this event we are hoping to show our abilities and put Myanmar's urban art on the map," Thu Myat said.

He said graffiti artists in Myanmar have the same opportunities to work with their art as their colleagues in other Southeast Asian countries, because they are all working under the same rules.

The main difference, he said, is the audience.

"It is not very difficult to work in Myanmar as a graffiti artist compared to other countries, but it is the acceptance from the audience that is different. In Myanmar most people don't know about urban artists because we just started in 2008. They just think we're people destroying the beauty of the land with our graffiti," Thu Myat said.

Street art came to the attention of many people in Yangon late last year when artist Arker Kyaw and others painted a mural of Barack Obama in a prominent area, just prior to the US president's visit to Myanmar. The mural was defaced overnight, but a couple of days later the crew created another Obama mural in another location.

Shortly after this, in late November, the Myanmar government published notices in the state-run press declaring that graffiti was illegal.

Local artist Chit Htut, who also helped organise Rendezvous II, said the ban has made it more difficult to be a street artist in Myanmar.

"We have to obey these rules but we hope we can find places for ourselves where we can make our art, because the most important thing for us is too improve," he said.

Events like Rendezvous II are a good start, providing locals with an opportunity to upgrade their techniques, and also to learn from artists from other countries.

One visiting artist was Mohd Zaki bin Nordin from Malaysia, better known under the name Escape.

"We started out like the artists in Myanmar. Our art was not very original to begin with and many people thought that it was vandalism, but in my opinion vandalism is part of the process with graffiti," he said.

"You can't paint as a professional if you have no experience, and you get experience by painting outside on the walls. We

More page 43

TRADE MARK CAUTION

Eli Lilly and Company (an Indiana Corporation), of Lilly Corporate Center, Indianapolis, Indiana, United States of America, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

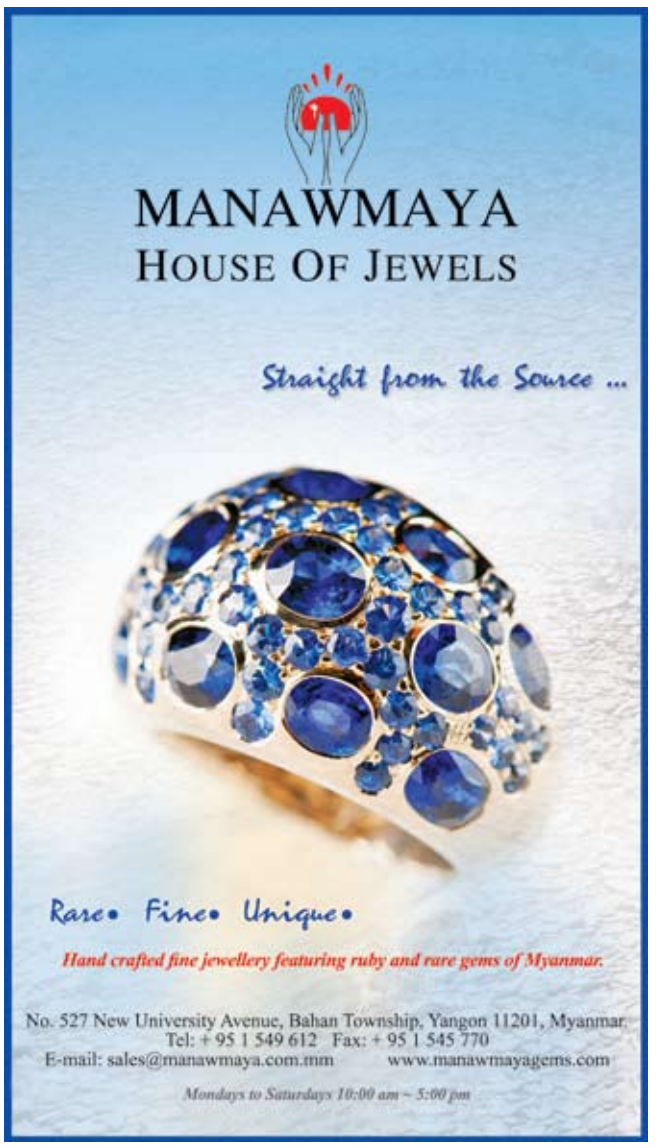
GEMZAR

Reg. No. 13790/2012

in respect of "Pharmaceutical preparations for the treatment of cancer".

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 **Eli Lilly and Company**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
E-mail: makhinkyi.law@mptmail.net.mm
Dated: 11 February 2013



Jung Chang on becoming an author

By Jessica Mudditt

FOR the first 26 years of her life, China-born author Jung Chang faced a seemingly insurmountable number of obstacles to fulfilling her dream of becoming a writer.

Despite possessing the two things Virginia Woolf famously declared necessary for a woman to write — money and a room of her own — Ms Chang was living under the rule of Chairman Mao, whom she described as a megalomaniac who "owned thousands of books but prevented a billion Chinese people from reading".

During her talk at the Irrawaddy Literature Festival in Yangon on February 2 about how she became a writer, Ms Chang said: "While growing up, I realised that being a writer was an impossible dream because all the writers of the 1950s, 1960s and parts of the 1970s were persecuted. They were denounced, sent to a gulag, committed suicide or executed."

Even writing for one's self was dangerous. In 1968, at the age of 16, Ms Chang wrote her first poem. But she immediately ripped it up and flushed it down the toilet when the Communist Red Guards stormed her home.

Ms Chang's parents were Communist officials, so she had grown up in an elite environment, with a chauffeur, cooks and gardener. After her father openly criticised Mao's policies, her parents became targets for imprisonment and torture. Her father was exiled to a camp and eventually driven insane. He died prematurely "in terrible circumstances", she said.

Ms Chang said that along with books, libraries were burned or turned into torture chambers. Her mother was imprisoned in a cinema.

Ms Chang was exiled to the Himalayas and worked as a "barefoot doctor", a part-time general practitioner for the peasant population. She worked off a single manual, which listed symptoms on one side and prescriptions on the other. No training was provided because Mao publicly professed to believing that "books made people stupid".

Ms Chang and her husband Jon Halliday co-authored the book *Mao: The Unknown Story* (2005), in which they wrote: "In June 1944, a Chonqing correspondent observed an eerie uniformity: 'if you ask the same question of 20 or 30 people, from intellectuals to workers [on any topic] their replies are always more or less the same. ... Even on questions about love, there seems to be a point of view that has been decided by meetings.' And, not surprisingly, 'they unanimously and firmly deny the Party had any control over their thoughts.'"

Chinese author Jung Chang speaks during the opening ceremony of the Irrawaddy Literary Festival In Yangon on February 1. *Pic: AFP*

Ms Chang said that while sitting through "endless indoctrination sessions, I was writing in my head with an invisible pen". She described Mao's China as "totally isolated — the West was considered a terrifying place, full of terrifying people. At nursery school we were told to eat everything on our plate — they said, 'Think of all the starving children in the capitalist world.'"

She and her friends grew up believing that "hello" was a swear word because the "baddies in films always drank Coca-Cola and said hello".

In 1971, five years before Mao's death, Ms Chang was able to return to her home province of Sichuan, where she became a steel worker and electrician. She suffered five electric shocks in a month due to a lack of training.

When universities began to reopen in 1973, Ms Chang enrolled at Sichuan University to study English. "But we were persecuted if we were seen working too hard at it. Our textbooks were written by teachers who had never met a foreigner."

Mao's rule ended when he died in 1976, and two years later scholarships began to be awarded on academic merit. Ms Chang was among the first group of 14 people to study in Britain, and in 1982 she became the first person from China to receive a PhD from a British university.

> **'My mother was forced to walk on broken glass and she was paraded around while children spat on her.'**

For the next 10 years, Ms Chang's "desire to write disappeared because my life was so exciting. Writing meant looking back to the past, to the tragedy of the deaths of my family members. I didn't want to think about it. I used to say I was South Korean so that people wouldn't ask me about China."

In 1988 Ms Chang's mother visited her in London, and for the first time told her daughter stories about Ms Chang's grandmother, herself and her relationship with my father. Ms Chang's grandmother had lived in excruciating pain because at the age of two, her feet had been crushed with stones and then bound to prevent the broken bones from mending.

Ms Chang offered a graphic illustration of this during her talk at the festival by holding up what appeared to be a toddler's slipper, explaining that this was the size of her grandmother's feet as an adult.

"This practice went on for 1000 years," she said.

At the age of 16, her grandmother was given to a warlord general to be one of his many concubines. "After six days, he left her for six years. She was a virtual prisoner in his house, with the servants ordered to spy on her."

Ms Chang's mother refused to bow to the tremendous pressure to denounce her husband. She was subjected to 100 "ghastly interrogations", which often involved being humiliated and tortured in front of hysterical crowds.

"My mother was forced to walk on broken glass and she was paraded around while children spat on her," she said.

After spending six months in London, Ms Chang's mother returned to China, leaving behind 60 hours of tape recordings and notes from their many conversations.

"Then I realised how much I wanted to be a writer. My mother had been trying to help me fulfil my dream."

Ms Chang spent the next two years writing *Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China* (1991), the biography of her grandmother, mother and her own autobiography — a period spanning 100 years. Just after she finished the book – which was accepted by a publisher with an initial print run of 3000 copies, she received a short letter from her mother.

"She said that people may not pay attention to my book, but not to worry about that. My mother's words wiped away the anxiety before it was published," she said.

Ms Chang described her book as a success — something of an understatement considering it has sold 10 million copies and has been translated into 40 languages.

Ms Chang said that afterwards she was then keen to write another book, and Mao "seemed an obvious choice because he had dominated my life and turned the lives of a quarter of the world's population upside down. Yet people knew very little about him, both outside and inside China. [Mao's] face appears on every Chinese banknote, his body is on display to worship and his portrait hangs in Tiananmen Square."

Mao: the Unknown Story took 12 years to complete and has been described as "the most thoroughly researched and richly documented piece of synthetic scholarship".

However during the literary festival, Ms Chang lamented the lack of creative freedom in China, where her books are banned, and told the BBC that the situation for writers in Myanmar, by contrast, is encouraging. When the moderator asked Ms Chang whether she believes Mao's portrait will still be hanging in Tiananmen Square in five years time, she replied, "Definitely."

Writers discuss the changing face of Myanmar poetry

By Bill O'Toole

WITH Yangon's first literary festival still fresh in our collective minds and the press censorship board officially disbanded at the end of January, it seems like as good a time as any to examine the changing face of poetry in Myanmar, which several writers say is taking a turn toward the international and the avant-garde.

"Poetry in Myanmar is very much alive," said U Zeyar Lynn, a poet and translator based in Yangon.

"In the past 20 years or so, we only had two kind of poems: the traditional kind and the modern kind. Now we have a lot poems written in new styles and new forms. ... We have prose poems, conceptual; our current poetry scene is very vibrant and diverse."

U Zeyar Lynn is well known in Myanmar's poetry circles for proselytising in support of these more experimental forms of poetry, through his work as both a poet and a translator. In addition to his half-dozen books of poetry, he has translated the work of Western authors such as Sylvia Plath, Donald Justice and Charles Bernstein.

Fellow poet Ko Ko Thett described U Zeyar Lynn as "a master of the doggerel", which the dictionary defines as "a comic verse composed at an irregular rhythm".

Speaking to *The Myanmar Times* at the Irrawaddy Literary Festival at the beginning of this month, U Zeyar Lynn said experimental poetry was the best way to entice new readers who might be wary of poetry.

"Poetry is always a limited art, compared to movies or music. Not everyone likes poetry, especially when they read [traditional] poems that are difficult to understand, but I think young people are the most interested in poetry," he said.

Ko Ko Thett, who last year co-edited an anthology of Myanmar poetry translated into English titled *Bones Will Crow and Other Works*, agreed with U Zeyar Lynn's assessment.

Recalling his own introduction to poetry in the early 1980s, he said: "We only learned poetry that supported quasi-socialist propaganda." He added that it was rare to read a poem that was not about General Aung San or some tale of fine socialist youth.

As with so many Myanmar thinkers, 1988 was a pivotal year for Ko Ko Thett: "In the university I really learned the freedom of poetry. ... On campus we began experimenting with alternative types of poetry, and that's when I began to find it particularly fascinating."

Intense censorship compelled him and his friends to conduct their work in secret, but more recently, interest in alternative poetry, especially poetry associated with political activism, has become more pronounced as Myanmar has opened up to the world.

"Things have changed since my campus days. Many aspiring writers are inspired to experiment with new forms of poetics," he said.

While there are very few contemporary poets who enjoy much in the way of compensation for their work, U Zeyar Lynn and Ko Ko Thett agreed that the problem is especially apparent in Myanmar.

"We have an expression in our language that translates into 'famous but famished'. That's what most Burmese poets are," said Ko Ko Thett.

Both poets also said they saw the literary festival and translated texts such *Bones Will Crow* as means of boosting the prominence of Myanmar's poetic community. Speaking at the festival, U Zeyar Lynn repeatedly mentioned his belief in the power of translation to build bridges with the international community and to empower the writers of Myanmar.

"From these other writers, Burmese poets learn that if they are committed to their craft they don't need to be famous but famished," Ko Ko Thett said.

U Zeyar Lynn and Ko Ko Thett also emphasised the freedom of poetry, no matter what country it comes from.

This idea is nicely summed up by U Zeyar Lynn in his work "Telephone": "Poetry is not by the language, not via the language from the language, not with the language without the language. It is written, made, composed, constructed, read and felt in the language. Of course, sometimes it is not."

Lit fest step in right direction, despite missed connections

By Zon Pann Pwint

THEIR liberties curtailed for decades by illogical and counterproductive censorship laws, Myanmar writers had the chance at the Irrawaddy Literary Festival earlier this month to make connections and trade ideas with authors from around the world.

Writer Khin Pan Hnin, a participant in one of the panel discussions at the festival held in Yangon from February 1 to 3, said she struck up friendships with authors Sudha Shah from India and Jung Chang from China.

"Most Myanmar writers have shut themselves away from the rest of the world. They are quiet and more interested in spending their time writing," Khin Pan Hnin said. "The festival was good for making friendships with fellow writers outside Myanmar."

She added that she was looking forward to reaping the benefits of buying and reading the books written by international writers who participated in the festival.

"I once visited a literary festival in Bangkok and noticed that attendees were quite open about talking to strangers. Here in Myanmar, people usually only talk to people they already know. This was a major problem for some people at the Yangon festival," she said, adding: "Just a few writers tried to talk to international authors, but most didn't. The language barrier was one issue for us."

Writer Maung Lwin Mon, who participated in an English-language panel discussion about short story writing, admitted that he felt uncomfortable approaching foreign authors whose books he had not read.

"I met some of them but my conversation was tempered by lack of knowledge about their works, so I avoided asking literary questions about their books," he said. "But the festival was an ideal platforms for Myanmar writers to talk to the world about the plight we have lived through for the past decades. I hope it will lift up their interest in Myanmar literature."

Khin Pan Hnin said more effort could have been made to mix with international writers and other participants "to broaden their minds".

"At dinner [on February 1], the local participants just sat next to their local friends," she said, adding that only a few local participants expressed interest in taking part in the English-language sessions.

"The international writers showed respect for us, but the local writers failed to pay heed to them whenever the language barrier came up," she said. "But the completion of such a festival in our country was a great success."

Ma Thida, who took part in a panel discussion alongside Irish writer Fergal Keane and British author Rory Stewart, said the festival failed to live up to her expectations, perhaps because she "raised [her] hopes too high".

"I expected closer cooperation between local and international writers, and the organisers should have helped establish links between writers ahead of time by email," she said. "Since the festival was not well prepared, I recognised the authors on my discussion panel only after I took a seat. And it seemed that our relationship ended after the discussion."

Visitors to the Irrawaddy Literary Festival browse books on February 1. *Pic: AFP*

Khin Pan Hnin said it was obvious that some local authors lacked experience participating in panel discussions.

"For some it was clear that it was their first experience leading a panel discussion. Though each session lasted an hour, some authors talked too long and didn't allow time for question and answer session," she said.

Ma Thida agreed that the international authors were more accustomed to panel discussions, so their sessions tended to go more smoothly.

"For local writers, some discussions went awry. Some just read the papers they had prepared, leaving the moderators unsatisfied," she said.

She said that some local writers started out speaking English, but when discussions grew more dynamic they often switched to Myanmar language, leaving the international participants and moderators feeling ignored.

'Just a few writers tried to talk to international authors, but most didn't.'

One problem, suggested Khin Pan Hnin, was the lack of interpreters, which prevented foreign guests from hearing the whole story of how Myanmar writers had struggled with censorship.

"The foreign participants lost a chance to gain a better understanding of Myanmar authors," Ma Thida agreed. " I think the international visitors had looked forward to hearing more local authors talking about how they had overcome whatever obstacles they faced under the military government."

Despite the perceived problems, Ma Thida said the festival was a good first step toward starting the culture of interaction between authors and readers.

"Overall, it was satisfactory," she said.

Poet and satirist Saw Wai, who took part in a session on cartoons and satire, said many local writers attended the festival "to break the habit of one-way Myanmar literary talk" even though participating posed a bit of a financial burden.

"The writers received an honorarium of K5000 a day, but it cost me K38,000 to photocopy my cartoons, not to mention taxi fees," he said.

"That was one of the factors behind the absence of some bestselling local authors at the festival. They didn't receive fair recognition and respect, or a deserving honorarium," Ma Thida said.

Writer Min Khite Soe San, who took part in a panel discussion on modern and postmodern Myanmar literature on February 2, admitted that much of the blame for missed connections between participants lay with the local writers, who were not well prepared for the festival.

"Before the festival the organisers arranged many meetings. I only attended two of these meetings, so I didn't have a clear idea in advance about what we should do during our panel discussion," he said.

"It was only the day before the discussion that the panelists got together and sat on the lawn to start our preparations."

Pic: Thandar Khine

From page 41

graffiti artists always have to start at the bottom.."

He said urban art in Malaysia has developed quickly, and for the past two years he has been able to earn a living from his artwork by getting commissions to make advertisements for local companies.

He said pioneers like Thu Myat — who are willing to organise events at which Myanmar artists can work alongside established artists and promote their work for new audiences— are essential to helping the local scene grow.

Another established artist who participated in Rendezvous II was Singapore's Mohammed Zulkarnaen Othman (aka Zero), who has worked with graffiti for more than 10 years and who has travelled all over the world with his art.

"It's so interesting to be here, because for me these artists in Myanmar are starting from scratch and are doing everything by themselves and not giving up. It doesn't matter that there aren't that many artists in Yangon, because the ones who are here really bring a special energy to the art," he said.

"I think it's kind of a revolution for them because it's so new for them, so they just put so much energy into it to develop the art. This is the second year they are doing this exhibition. I hope we can move this exhibition from country to country in South Asia, so we can promote the graffiti from South Asia."

On opening day the artists started their live painting demonstration around 6pm. The air around the old factory compound quickly grew thick with spray paint and intense creativity.

As the sun went down, a wide range of scenes started appearing in the white canvases set around the compound, from a portrait of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to a rabbit-like animal with a wide grimace.

The scenes were as diverse as the backgrounds of the painters, but they were all here for a common goal: to indulge in their love for street art, and to help raise the profile of Myanmar's urban art scene.

Japanese director hopes delayed film on Myanmar will soon escape from limbo

By Moh Moh Thaw

AFTER more than 20 years of effort, a Japanese film director's strong desire to present the novel of a famous Myanmar author on the silver screen is coming closer to fulfillment.

The project dates back to 1990, when Mr Koji Chino started preparations to make a film based on Journal Kyaw Ma Ma Lay's best-selling novel *Thway* (Blood Ties). Shooting started in 1997 with a Myanmar and Japanese cast.

The novel is based in 1973 and follows the story of a Japanese university student whose father tells her that while fighting in Myanmar during World War II, he had a child with a local woman. The student travels to Myanmar in search of her half-brother.

Mr Chino finished shooting his film at the end of 2003, but it has not yet seen official release, mostly because of financial difficulties. But the Japanese director says he feels the time is ripe to finally show his film to the public.

"The main reason I haven't released the movie is because of financial difficulties. The Myanmar government gave permission to shoot and release the film, but we also signed an agreement that I had to pay a fee to the government when I released the film. I haven't been able to afford the fee," said the director, now 82.

Mr Chino told *The Myanmar Times* last week that he had shown the film in parliament at the end of January, and had asked the government for leniency on the fee so he could release it to the public.

"I had good negotiations with government after showing the movie in parliament, and they removed some sections from the contract. Now I will cooperate with a local company to show the movie, and I expect to release it this coming August," he said.

His financial difficulties have also prevented him from officially releasing the movie in Japan, where fees must be paid in advance before films can be shown in cinemas. Additionally, movies that have not seen cinematic release cannot be sold as DVDs.

Japanese film director Koji Chino. *Pic: Moh Moh Thaw*

However, he has shown *Thway* at small venues in 30 towns around Japan, at the request of World War II veterans.

"Former soldiers came and watched the movie, and they cried because it made them remember the past," Mr Chino said, adding: "There is not a lot about World War II in the original book but I added a bit more about it to make film more interesting."

Thway has also been shown once in Myanmar, by special request at Yangon's Thamada Cinema in 2006. The three hour, 21 minutes film got rave reviews from moviegoers and local movie industry personnel.

Thway was mainly shot in Myanmar, and local cast members include Kyaw Thu, Min Maw Kyune and Myo Thandar Tun. Japanese actor Toshiyuki Nagashima plays the role of a Japanese soldier stationed in Myanmar during the war, while Akari Asou depicts the university student in search her half brother.

Mr Chino said he got the chance to show his movie to government officials last month after meeting U Khin Aung Myint, the speaker of the Amyothar Hluttaw (upper house), at an event in Kyoto in May 2012.

"When I met him, I told him about the movie. He said he would help me show it in parliament," said Mr Chino, who is chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association based in Kyoto. "I didn't expect to get so much help from him, but I'm very happy because the parliamentarians really liked the movie."

Despite the fact that *Thway* was finished 10 years ago, the director has no fears that the time gap will diminish anyone's enjoyment of the film.

"This is not a fancy movie so there can't be a time gap. It's okay to show anytime," he said.

During Mr Chino's recent visit to Myanmar, from January 27 to February 3, he met with members of the Myanmar cast, the consultant team and Japanese actress Akari Asou, who is married to a Myanmar national and lives in the country.

"Some of the consultants who helped with the movie have already passed away," he said, adding that one of his Myanmar friends will help find a local partner to facilitate screenings at local cinemas.

The novel *Thway* has been translated into several languages, including Japanese, and Mr Chino said he first read it 23 years ago. At that time, he contacted a Japanese company that he had heard wanted to fund a film related to Myanmar and Japan.

"The company agreed to fund the movie so I prepared the script and other things, but then the company's business went down and they were unable to give any money during the preparation period," he said.

"Later, I met a [Japanese] businessman interested in Myanmar Buddhism who said he would support me in continuing the project, but his business also went bad so he couldn't support me either."

Rather than give up, Mr Chino looked for support from big Japanese big companies like Mitsubishi and Wacom. The help they provided allowed him to start shooting in Myanmar in 1997 and 1998, but even those corporations fell prey to the global economical crisis and pulled out as well.

The director kept plugging away, and soon gathered pledges of support from 99 companies and 1150 World War II veterans.

The movie was finally completed in 2003, but the next challenge was paying the fee to release the film. By that time he was completely out of money.

Now, rather than new financial backers coming to the rescue, Mr Chino appears to be benefitting from the reform process initiated by U Thein Sein's government in 2011.

The director, who had previously shot five movies and about 140 television drama episodes, said he has not made any films since finishing *Thway* a decade ago.

"I can't bear that people would say that I should make another one before releasing the last one," he said, adding that he remains determined to see *Thway* all the way through to the end: "I can't die yet before releasing my film."

Local association awards 'best publisher' of 2011

By Nyein Ei Ei Htwe

THE Myanmar Publishers and Booksellers Association (MPBA) hosted a book fair in Yangon from January 31 to February 3, which included talks by local writers and a ceremony to award the best publisher of 2011.

U Zaw Oo of Law Ka A Lin (Light of World) publishing house won the best publisher award for distributing the English-language book *Wave of Influence* by retired ambassador U Thet Tun.

Members of the association chose the winner from among seven books released by privately owned publishing houses that had won National Literature Awards for 2011, said the association's vice president, U Kyaw Oo.

It was the first time the association had given the best publisher award.

"There were many difficulties in choosing the Best Publisher award for the first time," said U Kyaw Oo. "In the future we also plan to give an award for the best bookstore, because bookstores a very important for the growth of literature. For that award, we will take suggestions from the public."

He enumerated the five criteria used to choose the best publisher award: "The pages of the book must be attractive and the words displayed in neat and tidy way; the cover must attractive and match the theme of the book; the binding system must be good; the book's price must be reasonable; and the publisher must venture to publish a book by a little-known author that is not guaranteed to sell quickly."

The book fair featured displays by 66 publishing houses, while 12 local writers took part in the discussions, including Ko Ta, Pe Myint, Mg Sein Win (Padee Kone), Juu and Ma Sandar.

Doco highlights need for new skateboard park

By Naum Bawi and Maria Danmark

THE world premiere of the short documentary film *Youth of Yangon* was shown at Pansodan Gallery New Space in Yangon on February 5, along with an exhibition of photos titled "Skateboarders of Yangon".

Two of the film's producers, James Holman from New Zealand and Ali Drummond from England, were present on opening night, which drew a big crowd to the gallery.

The two had previously made another film about Myanmar titled *Altered Focus: Burma* (2011) that included some footage of skateboarding around the country, but the new 12-minute documentary focuses more directly on the lives of skaters in Yangon.

Mr Drummond told *The Myanmar Times* on opening night that the purpose of the event was to "get support in order to build a new skate park here in Yangon, because the skateboarders don't have a suitable place to skate at the moment".

Mr Drummond, who has been skateboarding for 10 years, lived in Myanmar for six months in 2010 and 2011 as part of his university degree. During that time he often skated with young people in Yangon.

"When I first lived in Yangon I always brought my skateboard wherever I went because skateboarding is a great way to interact," he said.

"You don't need to speak the same language because you have this one thing that connects you. You could actually skateboard anywhere in the world and be able to get friends. There aren't that many activities that can allow that to happen."

The skateboarders in Yangon used to skate at Thuwunna Skate Park, but the park was demolished in 2012. Mr Drummond said that as soon as he heard about the park's destruction, he decided to make a second film with Mr Holman to call attention to the difficulties faced by local skaters.

The British Council in Yangon, which works on many youth-focused initiatives, was one of the sponsors of the film screening and photo exhibition.

Matthew Sheader from the council said skateboarding has been popular in the United Kingdom for decades, and skaters there have a "good deal of knowledge and learning to share".

"So the British Council was naturally keen to support this event. My hope for the project is that the skateboarding community of Yangon is recognised and heard — film is an excellent medium for this — and that others can begin to work with them for provision of better facilities," he said.

One of the skateboarders featured in the new documentary is Nyi Nyi Naing, a trainer at Speed Ring Skateboarders Training Centre, which is the only training facility for skateboarding in Myanmar.

"When we started skateboarding in 2006 there were no teachers, so we had to learn through the internet," he said. "But at that time internet access was very limited in Myanmar, so we had to ask our friends who lived abroad to buy some videos and books on how to skateboard."

Nyi Nyi Naing said he remains passionate about the sport despite the difficulties skaters face in Yangon

I'm crazy about skateboarding because it makes me feel different. Skateboarding can really change a person because it gives you a lot of confidence when you are controlling a trick on the skateboard," he said.

In the past, Yangon skaters were able to hone their skills at the Thuwunna Skate Park, but now there's no place in the city to practice. The best place in Myanmar is the National Village Skate Park in Nay Pyi Taw, nearly six hours away by car.

"When Thuwunna Skate Park was torn down we felt very bad because it was the only place that we had. Now we're trying to form a federation like other sports so we can get some land from the Ministry of Sports," said Nyi Nyi Naing.

He added that skateboarders have already written a letter to the minster with a proposal to form a federation, and they hope to have a meeting with him soon.

Mr Drummond agreed that the main obstacle was getting land for a new skate park.

"No foreign sponsor is going to pay for land because it's too difficult and too expensive, so we need to get the land donated by the government," he said. "If that could happen, then I'm sure we can build the skate park in the near future."

He said he has already contacted some companies in the UK that he hopes can help build an international-standard skate park in Yangon.

The 15 photographs on display at Pansodan Gallery New Space (144 Pansodan Street, Second Floor, Kyauktada township) from February 6 to 11 were taken by photographer Henry Kingsford and originally appeared in UK-based *Grey* skateboarding magazine.

Youth of Yangon is screening at the gallery nightly at 7:30pm through February 11

EMAIL
subscribe.mt@gmail.com

Yes

we accept
Subscriptions by **EMAIL.**

subscribe.mt@gmail.com

"Simple. Just email us your details and we will start delivery of The Myanmar Times to your home or office immediately."

EMAIL US YOUR SUBSCRIPTION NOW!

THE MYANMAR TIMES မြန်မာတိုင်း(မ်)

subscribe.mt@gmail.com

CALL US AT (951) 253642, 392928 AND ASK FOR 'SUBSCRIPTION'

We have the largest classified listings in Myanmar.

In our print editions

THE MYANMAR TIMES ျမန္မာတိုင္း(မ)

And now online at
www.mmtimes.com/classifieds

Post a classified ad for free now!

YANGON: 01-392928 , 01-253642 | MANDALAY: 02-24450-60 , 02-65391-2 | NAYPYITAW: 067-23064 , 067-23065

Phyo's Cooking Adventure

Phyo cuts through culture to reveal life's true taste

In the mood for minty mutton mince

THIS recipe has its origins in Lebanese cuisine, and normally calls for lamb mince. I uncovered it while looking through my mother-in-law's collection of recipes from around the world.

Once I started experimenting, it became a favourite dish that we loved to cook over and over, not only for family dinners but also for dinner parties. When I returned to Yangon from Sydney I wanted to share this delicious minty mince dish with my family, so I taught myself to prepare it using spices that are easily available in Myanmar. everyone loved it, and my sisters asked me to reveal the recipe to them. So now I'm sharing it with you as well.

If you have pine nuts, you can use them in this dish. But pine nuts are expensive so I normally use cashew nuts, and they work just fine. However, you need to crush them first because we don't a texture that is too nutty.

Pic: Phyo

Minty mutton mince
INGREDIENTS

(6 servings)
500g of mutton mince
2 big red onions (diced)
3 big cloves of garlic
½ cup of chopped mint leaves
1 tablespoon of roasted cumin seeds
½ teaspoon of chili powder
¼ cup of roasted cashew nuts
3 tablespoon of olive oil
¼ cup of tamarind paste
Freshly crushed black pepper
Salt to taste

PREPARATION

Sauté the onions in a frying pan over medium-low heat until they become soft. Add the crushed garlic and stir.

When the aroma is released, add the mince and fry for 3-4 minutes. When the colour of the mince changes, mix in the cumin seeds, chili powder and mint leaves, and fry them for a couple minutes.

Use a wooden spoon to break the lumps of mince, then pour the tamarind paste into the pan and continue frying until the mince is cooked. When the mince releases water, continue frying until the water evaporates. However, the dish should not be too dry, so make sure the meat remains moist.

Crush generous amounts of black pepper into the pot, and salt to taste. Mix the roasted cashew nuts into the mince, and add more fresh mint leaves for garnish.

Serve the minty mutton mince with naan bread, which can be bought at local teashops. You can also serve it with butter rice, spiced rice or plain rice.

Spiced cauliflower
INGREDIENTS

(6 servings)
1 medium cauliflower (cut into florets)
2 tablespoons of vegetable oil
1 red onion (diced)
2 cloves of garlic (crushed)
2 green chili (thinly sliced; optional)
1 tablespoon of mustard seeds
¼ teaspoon of turmeric
¼ teaspoon of paprika
125ml of water
1 tablespoon of tamarind paste

PREPARATION

Cut the cauliflower evenly into florets, and wash and drain well.

Sauté the onions in a frying pan over low-medium heat until they become translucent. Add the garlic and fry until the aroma is released.

Add all the spices and fry for 1 minute. Add the cauliflower into the pan and coat them well with the spices.

Add the water, cover the pan and cook until the cauliflower is soft. If you need more time to cook the cauliflower through, add another ¼ cup of water. Keep the pan covered with the lid at all times.

Main Tips

For tamarind paste, soak ¼ cup of dried tamarinds in 2/3 cup of warm water. When they become soft, rub the flesh of the tamarind into the water to make a paste, then sieve them. You can keep the paste in the refrigerator, in a closed jar, for a week. You can add more warm water to make juice.

Always dry the mince using kitchen paper. Water always comes out from the mince during cooking.

QUAFFING QUOTE

"You have to taste a culture to understand it." – Deborah Cater (travel writer, reviewer and blogger)

NEXT WEEK

Pickled tofu, chives and fish, stir fried.

Red Wine

Grandes Serres Cotes du Ventoux 2010

Not brilliant, but sufficient to get you through a difficult night. If you must drink it with food, the label recommends red meat in sauce and fermented cheeses.

Ks 6850

Score BOX 6/10

White Wine

Capsula Viola Toscana 2010

Made with 85 percent trebbiano grapes, this Tuscan wine's noticeably low alcohol content (10 percent) translates into lightness on the palate, and helps bring out the fruity aftertaste.

Ks 11,800

Score BOX 8/10

FOOD REVIEW

In praise of raw fish and squid

EVERY time I eat well-prepared Japanese food, I feel like years are being added to my life. With each bite of fresh sashimi, I can practically feel the protein, omega-3 fats, selenium, niacin, vitamins B6 and B12, phosphorous, magnesium, and various other useful minerals and nutrients flowing into my body.

Fortunately, there are several restaurants in Yangon that specialise in quality Japanese cuisine. Although this type of food does come at a steep price, I believe it to be a worthwhile indulgence every now and then.

Among the top-end Japanese restaurants in Yangon is Ajishin, opened on September 11, 2011, and located on a small lane behind Sedona Hotel. The building boasts a tastefully minimalist exterior, and more of the same inside: hardwood floors, well-designed chairs and atmospheric lighting diffused through paper lanterns.

The tables in the dining room are separated by room dividers covered with handmade paper, providing a modicum of privacy. There are also three nicely appointed private rooms available: two with Japanese-style floor-level seating (capacity eight people each), and one with a Western-style table and chairs (seats six).

Ajishin Japanese Restaurant

18B Thukhawadi Lane, Yanking township, Yangon; Tel (95-1) 562-701, 293-640; Email info@ajishin.com

Food:	9
Drink:	8
Atmosphere:	8
Service:	10
X Factor:	9
Value for Money:	8

Score BOX 9/10

Being a party of two, we sat in the main dining room. We skipped the appetisers and went straight for the sashimi: buri (adult yellowtail; US$23) plus the three-item sashimi set ($23), which included maguroakami (top loin of blue fin tuna), tako (octopus) and salmon.

We also ordered the sakura sushi set ($18), torimomo (chicken; $3) from the yakiniku menu, and an Ajishin salad ($5) with lettuce, cucumber, scallions and dressing.

The food as a whole was fresh, tasty and excellently prepared, especially the yellowtail sashimi and squid sushi. The grilled chicken and Ajishin salad were also good, but a bit too salty for my taste. The wasabi was fresh and robustly piquant, and I took full advantage of the plentiful supply served along with our meal.

The service at Ajishin was impeccable. There was always someone standing by, but not hovering too closely, to offer help when needed. Toward the end of the meal I noticed a small brass bell hanging from the air-conditioning duct above our table; I tapped it experimentally, and three waiters came a-running with the same level of enthusiasm demonstrated by beer-station employees when summoned by the Burmese kissy noise.

Speaking of air conditioning, the flow of artificially chilled air through the restaurant's ceiling ducts was conspicuously unquiet. Perhaps some soft classical koto music would help remove the edge a bit.

But even the airy hum wasn't too bothersome for me. Being a fan of electronic Japanese noise music, and an advocate of using my imagination to delude myself into believing that life can be perfect, I simply pretended I was enjoying my raw squid while listening to an ambient composition by my favourite Japanoise band, Violent Onsen Geisha.

Problem solved, evening enhanced. — *DL*

Mar Mar Aye @ Art Freedom Film Festival

U Zaw Oo @ MPBA Bookfair

Mr Terry Atchison and wife @ Yangon Bake House Launch

U Win Aung @ MPBA Bookfair

Customers @ Casabella Promotion Event

Ma Khin Thida and Ma Tin Nilar Win Pa @ Hitachi New Product Launch

Daw Khin Marlar and guest @ Casabella Promotion Event

Awn Seng @ Iora Lucky Draw

U Khine Khant @ MPBA Bookfair

U Myint Tun @ MPBA Bookfair

Hantharwady U Win Tin @ Art Freedom Film Festival

GS battery dealers and models @ GS Battery Dealer Conference

Ma Su Su Tin, Ms Michelle and Ma Phyu Phyu Tin @ Yangon Bake House Launch

Guests @ Casabella Promotion Event

Ma Theingi Htwe and Tin Moe Lwin @ Iora Lucky Draw

Ma May Sabel and Ma Hnin Wut Yee @ Hitachi New Product Launch

Model @ Casabella Promotion Event

Linn Htet @ Art Freedom Film Festival

Summer Palace
Fine Dinning at it's most elegant introducing our new Chinese Chef, who brings you the finest in Chinese Cuisines.

Gallery Bar
The only neighborhood pub in town with daily Happy Hours from five p.m to nine p.m. Featuring Chef's complimentary snacks on Friday. Now open for lunch at one p.m serving lip smacking pub lunches.

Gourmet Shop
This February, Yangon's favorite confectioners present special and delicious homemade Valentine Cakes & Chocolates.

Happy Valentine's Day
Valentine International Dinner Buffet at Traders Cafe
14 February 2013
Dinner-6:30pm-10:30pm
Free Flow Sparkling Wine,
House Wine,
Draught Beer &
Soft Drinks
US$ 35.00 per Person
US$ 65.00 per Couple
Welcome drinks with Cocktail, Mocktail
Give away Couple Photo and Door Gifts

TRADERS HOTELS

GOURMET ADVENTURE
Yangon

223, Slue Pagoda Road, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 242828, Fax : 242800, Ext : 6519, 6441 email : f&b.thyn@tradershotels.com

SOCIALITE
WITH NYEIN EI EI HTWE

ANYONE who has spent a significant amount of time around Socialite will know how much she loves batteries. They are just so awesome, the way they power things and, like, make stuff go. So you can imagine how excited she was to attend the GS Battery Dealer Conference at Traders Hotel on January 30, and of course the event did not disappoint. Other awesome affairs included the Hitachi new product launch at Traders Hotel on January 28, the Carlsberg Beer signing occasion at Chatrium Hotel on February 1 (Woo hoo! More beer!) and the Iroa lucky draw program on February 3. In the midst of all this excitement, Socialite also managed to make her way to the Dine and Donate event at Monsoon Restaurant, plus an unusually high number of cultural events: the opening ceremony for MPBA's book fair at the National Theatre, the awards ceremony for the Art of Freedom Film Festival at Taw Win Centre, and the Irrawaddy Literary Festival at Inya Lake Hotel. After all that, Socialite might need her own battery recharge to get ready for next week!

Mr Tsunehiro Takahash and U Thet Lwin Shwe @ Hitachi New Product Launch

U Win Aung @ Hitachi New Product Launch

Tun Eaindra Bo and Iora representatives @ Iora Lucky Draw

Ko Nay Phone Latt and Ko Soe Zay Yar Htun @ Art Freedom Film Festival

Thazin Nwe Win and models @ Carlserg Beer Signing Event

Yu Thandar Tin @ Iora Lucky Draw

Mr Christian Kruger @ Carlserg Beer Signing Event

Mr Roy Bagattini, Mr Joryen Bu, Mr Mads Kofod and Mr David Fang @ Carlserg Beer Signing Event

U Pike Htwe @ MPBA Bookfair

U Thein Tun @ Carlserg Beer Signing Event

Mr Kiyoshi Kinugawa @ Hitachi New Product Launch

Thandar Bo @ Iora Lucky Draw

Model @ GS Battery Dealer Conference

Ms Kalaya Sukprasertchai @ Carlserg Beer Signing Event

DOMESTIC FLIGHT SCHEDULES

YANGON TO NAY PYI TAW

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
TUE	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
WED	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
THUR	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
FRI	UB-A1	07:45	08:45
	UB-B1	11:30	12:30
	UB-C1	16:00	17:00
SAT	UB-A1	08:00	09:00
SUN	UB-A1	15:30	16:30

NAY PYI TAW TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
TUE	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
WED	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
THUR	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
FRI	UB-A2	09:15	10:15
	UB-B2	13:00	14:00
	UB-C2	17:30	18:30
SAT	UB-A2	10:00	11:00
SUN	UB-A2	17:00	18:00

YANGON TO MANDALAY

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 501	06:00	07:25
	YJ 901	06:00	08:05
	YH 909	06:00	08:25
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	Y5 131	08:00	09:00
	YJ 911	10:00	11:25
	W9 503	11:00	12:25
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 727	11:15	13:25
	W9 119	11:45	13:40
	K7 622	12:00	13:25
	6T 501	13:45	15:45
	W9 109	14:00	15:55
	6T 341	15:00	16:25
	YJ 211/W97211	15:00	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	YJ 791	15:45	17:10
TUE	W9 141	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	YH 909	06:30	08:10
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	06:45	08:50
	6T 401	07:00	08:25
	Y5 131	08:00	09:00
	8M 6603	09:00	10:10
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 729	11:15	14:15
	W9 251	11:30	12:55
	K7 822	11:30	12:55
	K7 622	12:00	13:25
	6T 501	13:45	15:45
	W9 109	14:00	15:55
	YJ 109/W97109	14:30	16:25
	YJ 791	14:30	16:25
	6T 341	15:00	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
WED	YH 909	06:00	08:25
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	6T 331	06:45	08:10
	W9 143	06:45	08:50
	W9 201	07:30	08:55
	Y5 131	08:00	09:00
	YJ 911	09:15	10:40
	YJ 751/W97751	11:00	12:55
	YH 737	11:15	13:25
	W9 119	11:45	13:40
	K7 622	12:00	13:25
	W9 501	12:00	13:25
	YJ 129/W97129	14:00	15:55
	6T 501	14:30	16:30
	YJ 791	15:00	16:55
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	W9 129	15:30	17:25
THUR	W9 205	06:00	07:25
	YJ 201	06:00	07:25
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YH 909	06:30	08:10
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	W9 143	06:45	08:50
	Y5 131	08:00	09:00
	8M 6603	09:00	10:10
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 729	11:15	14:15
	YJ 116/W97116	11:30	13:25
	K7 226	12:00	13:25
	6T 501	13:45	15:45
	W9 129	14:30	16:25
	6T 341	15:00	16:25
	W9 501	15:00	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
FRI	YH 917	06:00	07:40
	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	Y5 131	08:00	09:00
	YJ 751/W97751	10:30	12:25
	YJ 211	11:00	12:55
	YH 727	11:15	13:25
	K7 824	13:00	14:25
	6T 501	13:45	15:45
	6T 341	15:00	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
SAT	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 341	06:15	07:40
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YH 909	06:30	08:10
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	K7 244	06:45	08:10
	Y5 131	08:00	09:00
	YJ 601/W97601	11:00	12:25
	YJ 761	11:00	12:55
	YH 729	11:15	12:55
	YJ 211/W97211	15:00	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	17:10
	6T 501	15:30	17:30
SUN	YJ 891	06:10	08:15
	YH 917	06:10	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	08:25
	YH 909	06:30	08:10
	K7 222	06:30	08:40
	Y5 131	08:00	09:00
	8M 6603	09:00	10:10
	YJ 211	10:30	11:55
	YJ 751/W97751	11:00	12:55
	YH 737	11:15	13:25
	K7 622	12:00	13:25
	6T 501	13:45	15:45
	YJ 129/W97129	14:30	16:25
	6T 341	15:00	16:25
	YH 731	15:00	17:10

MANDALAY TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	YH 910	07:40	10:30
	YJ 902	08:20	09:45
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 502	09:10	11:05
	Y5 132	09:30	10:30
	W9 504	15:45	17:10
	YJ 202	16:00	17:25
	6T 502	16:05	17:30
	W9 109	16:10	18:15
	YH 728	16:15	18:10
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	YJ 211/W97211	16:40	18:45
	6T 342	16:45	18:50
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	YJ 792	17:25	19:30
	W9 120	17:50	19:15
TUE	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 143	09:05	11:00
	Y5 132	09:30	10:30
	6T 502	16:05	17:30
	W9 109	16:10	18:15
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	YJ 109/W97109	16:40	18:05
	YJ 792	16:40	18:45
	6T 342	16:45	18:50
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	8M 6604	17:20	18:30
	YH 730	18:00	19:25
	K7 823	18:00	19:25
	W9 252	18:35	20:00
WED	YH 910	07:40	10:30
	6T 332	08:30	09:55
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 144	09:05	11:10
	Y5 132	09:30	10:30
	YJ 129/W97129	16:10	18:15
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	6T 502	16:50	18:55
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	YJ 792	17:10	19:15
	YH 738	17:25	18:50
	W9 129	17:40	19:45
	W9 120	17:50	19:15
	YJ 752/W97752	17:50	19:15
THUR	W9 205	07:40	09:45
	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	W9 143	09:05	11:10
	Y5 132	09:30	10:30
	YJ 202	10:30	11:55
	YJ 117/W97117	13:40	15:35
	K7 227	15:50	17:15
	6T 502	16:05	17:30
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	W9 129	16:40	18:05
	6T 342	16:45	18:50
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	8M 6604	17:20	18:30
	YH 730	18:00	19:25
FRI	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	YH 918	09:10	11:05
	Y5 132	09:30	10:30
	6T 502	16:05	17:30
	YH 728	16:15	18:10
	YJ 212	16:30	18:15
	6T 342	16:45	18:50
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	YJ 752/W97752	17:15	18:40
	K7 825	17:40	19:05
SAT	6T 342	08:00	10:05
	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	Y5 132	09:30	10:30
	YJ 602/W97602	15:40	17:45
	YJ 762	16:35	18:00
	YJ 211/W97211	16:40	18:45
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	YH 730	17:35	19:00
	6T 502	17:50	19:55
SUN	YH 910	08:10	10:15
	YH 918	08:30	10:25
	YJ 892	08:30	10:25
	6T 402	08:45	10:45
	K7 223	09:00	11:05
	Y5 132	09:30	10:30
	YJ 212	15:30	16:55
	6T 502	16:05	17:30
	K7 623	16:40	18:05
	YJ 129/W97129	16:40	18:45
	6T 342	16:45	18:50
	YH 732	17:10	19:15
	8M 6604	17:20	18:30
	K7 823	17:20	18:45
	YH 738	17:25	18:50
	YJ 752/W97752	17:50	19:15

YANGON TO NYAUNG U

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	YJ 901	06:00	07:20
	W9 501	06:00	08:10
	YH 909	06:00	08:25
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	07:50
	6T 351	06:30	07:50
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	W9 143	07:00	08:20
	YJ 911	10:00	12:10
	W9 109	14:00	16:40
	6T 341	15:00	17:15
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
	YJ 791	15:45	17:55
TUE	W9 205	06:00	07:20
	YJ 901	06:00	07:20
	W9 141	06:00	08:10
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	6T 351	06:30	07:50
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	07:50
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	YH 909	06:30	08:55
	W9 143	06:45	08:05
	YH 711	10:30	12:50
	W9 109	14:00	16:40
	YJ 791	14:30	17:10
	6T 341	15:00	17:15
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
WED	YJ 901	06:00	07:20
	YH 909	06:00	08:25
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	07:50
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	W9 143	06:45	08:05
	K7 242	06:45	08:05
	YJ 911	09:15	11:25
	6T 351	11:15	12:35
	YJ 129/W97129	14:00	16:40
	6T 501	14:30	17:20
	YJ 791	15:00	17:40
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
	W9 129	15:30	18:10
THUR	W9 205	06:00	08:10
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	07:50
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	W9 141	06:30	07:50
	6T 351	06:30	07:50
	YH 909	06:30	08:55
	W9 143	06:45	08:05
	YH 711	10:30	12:50
	W9 501	15:00	17:10
	6T 341	15:00	17:15
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
FRI	YJ 901	06:00	07:20
	YH 917	06:00	08:25
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 909	06:10	07:45
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	07:50
	6T 351	06:30	07:50
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	K7 242	06:45	08:05
	6T 341	15:00	17:15
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
SAT	YJ 911	06:00	07:20
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	6T 341	06:15	08:30
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	07:50
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	YH 909	06:30	08:55
	6T 451	10:30	11:50
	YJ 211/W97211	15:00	17:10
	YH 731	15:00	17:55
	6T 501	15:30	18:20
SUN	YJ 901	06:00	07:20
	YJ 891	06:10	07:30
	YH 917	06:10	07:45
	6T 401	06:20	07:40
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	07:50
	K7 222	06:30	07:50
	6T 351	06:30	07:50
	YH 909	06:30	08:55
	K7 224	14:15	16:25
	YJ 129/W97129	14:30	17:10
	6T 341	15:00	17:15
	YH 731	15:00	17:55

NYAUNG U TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	YJ 901	07:35	09:45
	YH 918	07:45	10:05
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	YJ 141/W97141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	YH 910	08:25	10:30
	W9 502	08:25	11:05
	W9 144	08:35	09:55
	YJ 911	12:25	15:30
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	W9 109	16:55	18:15
	YJ 211/W97211	17:25	18:45
	6T 342	17:30	18:50
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	YJ 792	18:10	19:30
TUE	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 141/W97141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 143	08:20	11:00
	W9 141	08:25	11:25
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	YH 712	12:50	14:45
	W9 109	16:55	18:15
	YJ 792	17:25	18:45
	6T 342	17:30	18:50
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
WED	YJ 902	07:35	08:55
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	YJ 141/W97141	08:05	11:05
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	YH 910	08:25	10:30
	W9 144	09:50	11:10
	YJ 911	11:40	14:45
	6T 351	12:50	15:55
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	YJ 129/W97129	16:55	18:15
	6T 502	17:35	18:55
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	YJ 792	17:55	19:15
	W9 129	18:25	19:45
THUR	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	YJ 141/W97141	08:05	11:05
	W9 141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	W9 143	08:20	11:10
	W9 205	08:25	09:45
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	YH 712	12:50	14:45
	6T 342	17:30	18:50
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
FRI	YJ 901	07:35	09:40
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	YJ 141/W97141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	YH 918	08:25	11:05
	YH 910	09:35	10:45
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	YJ 212	17:15	18:35
	6T 342	17:30	18:50
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
SAT	YJ 911	07:35	10:40
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	YJ 141/W97141	08:05	11:05
	6T 342	08:45	10:05
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	6T 451	12:05	15:10
	YJ 602/W97602	16:25	17:45
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	YJ 762	16:45	18:05
	YJ 211/W97211	17:25	18:45
	YH 732	17:55	19:15
	6T 502	18:35	19:55
SUN	YJ 901	07:35	09:40
	YH 918	07:45	10:25
	YJ 891	07:45	10:25
	6T 401	07:55	10:45
	YJ 141/W97141	08:05	11:05
	6T 351	08:05	11:10
	YH 910	08:55	10:15
	K7 225	16:40	18:00
	YJ 129/W97129	17:25	18:45
	6T 342	17:30	18:50
	YH 732	17:55	19:15

YANGON TO MYITKYINA

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 503	11:00	13:55
	K7 622	12:00	14:55
TUE	W9 251	11:30	14:25
	K7 622	12:00	14:55
WED	K7 622	12:00	14:55
THUR	YJ 201	06:00	08:50
FRI	YJ 211	11:00	14:20
SUN	YJ 211	10:30	13:20
	K7 622	12:00	14:55

MYITKYINA TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 504	14:15	17:10
	K7 623	15:10	18:05
TUE	K7 623	15:10	18:05
	W9 252	17:05	20:00
WED	K7 623	15:10	18:05
THUR	YJ 202	09:05	11:55
SUN	YJ 212	13:35	16:55
	K7 623	15:10	18:05

YANGON TO HEHO

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	YH 909	06:00	09:20
	YJ 891	06:10	09:00
	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	6T 351	06:30	08:45
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	08:45
	K7 828	10:00	11:15
	YJ 911	10:00	13:05
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	YH 727	11:15	12:40
	W9 119	11:45	12:55
	6T 501	13:45	14:55
	W9 109	14:00	15:10
	K7 224	14:15	15:30
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
TUE	W9 141	06:00	09:05
	YJ 891	06:10	09:00
	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 351	06:30	08:45
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	08:45
	6T 353	06:45	09:05
	W9 143	06:45	09:35
	6T 401	07:00	09:20
	W9 201	09:30	10:40
	YH 711	10:30	11:55
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	K7 822	11:30	13:45
	6T 501	13:45	14:55
	W9 109	14:00	15:10
	YJ 791	14:30	15:40
	YJ 109/W97109	14:30	15:40
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
WED	YH 909	06:00	09:20
	YJ 891	06:10	09:00
	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	08:45
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 201	07:30	09:40
	YJ 911	09:15	12:20
	YJ 751/W97751	11:00	12:10
	YH 711	11:00	12:25
	YH 737	11:15	12:40
	6T 351	11:15	13:30
	W9 119	11:45	12:55
	K7 826	12:30	13:45
	YJ 129/W97129	14:00	15:10
	K7 224	14:15	15:30
	6T 501	14:30	15:40
	YJ 791	15:00	16:10
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
	W9 129	15:30	16:40
	YJ 129/W97129	16:55	18:15
THUR	YH 909	06:00	09:20
	YJ 891	06:10	09:00
	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	6T 351	06:30	08:45
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	08:45
	W9 141	06:30	08:45
	W9 143	06:45	09:35
	YJ 902	08:55	10:15
	K7 828	10:00	11:15
	YH 711	10:30	11:55
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	YJ 116/W97116	11:30	12:40
	6T 501	13:45	14:55
	W9 129	14:30	15:40
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
FRI	YJ 901	06:00	08:15
	YH 909	06:10	08:40
	YJ 891	06:10	09:00
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	6T 351	06:30	08:45
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	08:45
	K7 242	06:45	09:00
	YJ 751/W97751	10:30	11:40
	YJ 211	11:00	12:10
	YH 727	11:15	12:40
	6T 501	13:45	14:55
	K7 224	14:15	15:30
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
SAT	YJ 911	06:00	08:15
	YJ 891	06:10	09:00
	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	08:45
	K7 224	06:45	09:00
	YH 505	10:30	11:55
	6T 451	10:30	12:45
	YJ 761	11:00	12:10
	K7 826	12:30	13:45
	K7 224	14:15	15:30
	YH 731	15:00	16:25
	6T 501	15:30	16:40
SUN	YJ 901	06:00	08:15
	YJ 891	06:10	09:00
	YH 917	06:10	09:15
	6T 401	06:20	09:20
	6T 351	06:30	08:45
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	08:45
	YH 505	10:30	11:55
	YJ 751/W97751	11:00	12:10
	YH 737	11:15	12:40
	K7 822	11:30	13:45
	6T 501	13:45	14:55
	K7 224	14:15	15:30
	YJ 129/W97129	14:30	15:40
	YH 731	15:00	16:25

HEHO TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	YJ 141/W97141	09:00	11:05
	6T 352	09:00	11:10
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	YH 910	09:20	10:30
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	W9 502	09:55	11:05
	YJ 912	13:20	15:30
	6T 501	15:10	17:30
	W9 109	15:25	18:15
	YJ 762	15:50	18:00
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	K7 829	16:30	17:45
	YH 728	17:00	18:10
	W9 120	17:05	19:15
TUE	YJ 141/W97141	09:00	11:05
	6T 352	09:00	11:10
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	W9 141	09:20	11:25
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	W9 143	09:50	11:00
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	W9 202	10:55	12:05
	YH 712	11:55	14:45
	6T 502	15:10	17:30
	W9 109	15:25	18:15
	YJ 762	15:50	18:00
	YJ 109/W97109	15:55	18:05
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	K7 823	17:10	19:25
WED	W9 141	09:00	11:05
	YJ 141/W97141	09:00	11:05
	K7 243	09:15	11:30
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	YH 910	09:20	10:30
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	W9 201	09:55	11:05
	YJ 912	12:35	14:45
	6T 352	13:45	15:55
	YJ 129/W97129	15:25	18:15
	6T 501	15:55	18:55
	YJ 791	16:25	19:15
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	K7 827	16:30	17:45
	YH 738	16:40	18:50
	W9 129	16:55	19:45
	W9 120	17:05	19:15
THUR	YJ 141/W97141	09:00	11:05
	6T 352	09:00	11:10
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	W9 143	09:50	11:10
	YH 712	11:55	14:45
	YJ 117/W97117	14:25	15:35
	6T 501	15:10	17:30
	YJ 762	15:50	18:00
	W9 129	15:55	18:05
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	K7 829	16:30	17:45
FRI	YJ 902	08:30	09:40
	YH 910	08:40	10:45
	YJ 141/W97141	09:00	11:05
	6T 352	09:00	11:10
	K7 243	09:15	11:30
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	YH 918	09:55	11:05
	6T 501	15:10	17:30
	YJ 212	15:15	16:25
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	YJ 752/W97752	16:30	18:40
	YH 728	17:00	18:10
SAT	YH 910	08:25	10:40
	YJ 912	08:30	10:40
	YJ 141/W97141	09:00	11:05
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	YH 506	11:55	14:00
	6T 452	13:00	15:10
	YJ 762	15:50	18:05
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	6T 501	16:55	19:55
	K7 827	17:10	18:25
SUN	YJ 902	08:30	09:40
	YJ 141/W97141	09:00	11:05
	6T 352	09:00	11:10
	YJ 892	09:15	10:25
	YH 918	09:15	10:25
	6T 402	09:35	10:45
	K7 223	09:50	11:05
	YH 506	11:55	14:00
	6T 501	15:10	17:30
	YJ 129/W97129	15:55	18:45
	YJ 212	16:15	17:25
	YH 732	16:25	19:15
	YH 738	16:40	18:50

YANGON TO SITTWE

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	6T 611	11:30	12:55
TUE	K7 422	06:45	08:40
	6T 611	11:30	12:55
WED	6T 607	10:15	11:40
THRU	6T 611	11:30	12:55
FRI	6T 611	11:30	12:55
SAT	6T 611	11:15	12:40
SUN	K7 422	06:45	08:40
	6T 611	11:30	12:55

SITTWE TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	6T 612	13:15	14:40
TUE	K7 423	08:55	10:50
	6T 612	13:15	14:40
WED	6T 608	12:00	12:50
THUR	6T 612	13:15	14:40
FRI	6T 612	13:15	14:40
SAT	6T 612	13:00	14:25
SUN	K7 423	08:55	10:50
	6T 612	13:15	14:40

YANGON TO MYEIK

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	K7 319	07:00	09:05
TUE	K7 319	07:00	09:05
WED	K7 319	07:00	09:05
THUR	K7 319	07:00	09:05
FRI	K7 319	07:00	09:05
	YJ 301	11:30	13:35
SAT	K7 319	07:00	09:05
SUN	K7 319	07:00	09:05

MYEIK TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	K7 320	11:30	13:35
TUE	K7 320	11:30	13:35
WED	K7 320	11:30	13:35
THUR	K7 320	11:30	13:35
FRI	K7 320	11:30	13:35
	YJ 302	13:50	17:30
SAT	K7 320	11:30	13:35
SUN	K7 320	11:30	13:35

YANGON TO THANDWE

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	W9 141	06:30	10:00
	6T 351	06:30	10:00
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	10:00
	K7 420	06:45	07:40
	YH 503	10:30	11:35
	6T 601	11:15	12:10
TUE	W9 141	06:00	10:20
	6T 351	06:30	10:00
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	10:00
	K7 422	06:45	07:40
	YH 711	10:30	13:55
	6T 601	11:15	12:10
WED	W9 141	06:30	10:00
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	10:00
	6T 607	10:15	12:50
	YH 711	10:30	13:40
	6T 351	11:15	14:45
THUR	W9 141	06:30	10:00
	6T 351	06:30	10:00
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	10:00
	K7 420	06:45	07:40
	YH 711	10:30	13:55
	6T 601	11:15	12:10
FRI	6T 351	06:30	10:00
	YH 503	10:30	11:35
	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	10:00
	6T 601	11:15	12:10
SAT	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	10:00
	YH 505	10:30	13:10
	6T 451	10:30	14:00
	6T 601	15:30	16:25
SUN	YJ 141/W97141	06:30	10:00
	6T 351	06:30	10:00
	K7 422	06:45	07:40
	YH 505	10:30	13:10
	6T 601	11:15	12:10

THANDWE TO YANGON

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
MON	K7 421	07:55	08:50
	W9 141	10:15	11:05
	YJ 141/W97141	10:15	11:05
	6T 352	10:15	11:10
	YH 504	11:35	12:25
	6T 602	12:25	13:20
	YJ 912	13:50	14:45
TUE	K7 423	09:55	10:50
	YJ 141/W97141	10:15	11:05
	6T 352	10:15	11:10
	W9 141	10:35	11:25
	6T 602	12:25	13:20
	YH 712	13:55	14:45
WED	W9 141	10:15	11:05
	YJ 141/W97141	10:15	11:05
	6T 608	13:05	14:00
	YH 712	13:40	14:30
	YJ 912	13:50	14:45
	6T 352	15:00	15:55
THUR	K7 421	07:55	08:50
	YJ 141/W97141	10:15	11:05
	W9 141	10:15	11:05
	6T 352	10:15	11:10
	6T 602	12:25	13:20
	YH 712	13:55	14:45
FRI	YJ 141/W97141	10:15	11:05
	6T 352	10:15	11:10
	K7 243	10:35	11:30
	YH 504	11:35	12:25
	6T 602	12:25	13:20
SAT	YJ 912	09:45	10:40
	YJ 141/W97141	10:15	11:05
	K7 245	10:35	11:30
	YH 506	13:10	14:00
	6T 452	14:15	15:10
	6T 602	16:40	17:35
SUN	K7 423	09:55	10:50
	YJ 141/W97141	10:15	11:05
	6T 352	10:15	11:10
	6T 602	12:25	13:20
	YH 506	13:10	14:00

Domestic

6T = Air Mandalay
W9 = Air Bagan
YJ = Asian Wings
K7 = AIR KBZ
YH = Yangon Airways
UB = FMI UB Charter
Y5 = Golden Myanmar Airlines

Subject to change without notice

Tips for avoidi

By Christie Aschwanden

I'VE always wondered why I can fly several time zones west with barely a hint of jet lag but feel like a zombie after journeying just a few hours to the east. So with the winter travel season well underway, I decided to delve into the science.

Anyone who has crossed multiple time zones knows the misery of jet lag. You're tired when you need to be alert, you can't sleep when you're supposed to, and your gastrointestinal system feels out of whack. Researchers have even found signs of memory impairment in female flight attendants with chronic jet lag.

The symptoms of jet lag result from two things: the sleep deprivation and fatigue that come with long stints in a cramped seat, and the misalignment of your body clock with the local time zone, says physician Vivek Jain, medical director of the George Washington University Hospital Centre for Sleep Disorders.

Jet lag's severity depends on several factors, the most obvious being how many time zones you crossed. But which direction you travelled matters, too. Turns out, it's not my imagination: Going east really does produce worse jet lag.

Your body clock has an innate tendency to run slightly longer than 24 hours, Jain says. Each morning, your body compensates for this slight discrepancy by contracting your internal clock to synchronise with the 24-hour sun cycle. When you travel west, you gain several hours, so your day is extended and your body gets the extra time it naturally wants. But when you travel east, your day is shortened; that makes it harder to adjust, Jain says, because your body has to cut its natural cycle even further.

Studies suggest that you can push your body clock back about two hours per day, meaning that you can adjust from the Eastern time zone in the United States to Colorado time in a single day, but you can move your body clock forward (as when you travel from California to Washington) only by about an hour to an hour and a half per day, Jain says.

So for Easterners flying to see friends or family in California, where it's three hours earlier, your body clock should be able to adjust in less than two days. But if you've got a vacation planned in Paris, where it's six hours later than the US East Coast, you'll likely need three to five days to get in sync.

You can't entirely prevent jet lag, but you can tame it, experts say. First, time your travel well. Rest up the night before you go, and book a daytime flight if you can. Red-eye flights compound jet lag by heaping sleep deprivation on top of your body clock problems. If you absolutely must take a late-night flight, do what you can to sleep. "Don't get sucked into watching the movie," Jain says.

Keep hydrated to avoid headaches and light-headedness, and stay away from alcohol on the plane. Alcohol interferes with sleep, Jain says. Plus, you might end up with a hangover.

If you're heading east, aim for an evening arrival. "You can do some work on the plane; then when you arrive, you're tired from the travel and you can have a quick dinner [at the new dinnertime] and be ready to sleep," Jain says. All of that helps you align with the new time schedule.

Before your trip, ease your transition to the new time zone by moving your bedtime. The American

Domestic Airlines

Air Bagan Ltd.(W9)
56, Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Tsp, Yangon.
Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888,
Fax : 515102

Air KBZ (K7)
33-49,Corner of Bank Street & Maha Bandoola Garden Street, Kyauktada Tsp,Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: 372977~80, 533030~39 (Airport)
Fax: 372983

Air Mandalay (6T)
146, Dhammazedi Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon
Tel : (Head Office) 501520, 525488, Fax: 525937.
Airport: 533222~3, 09-73152853. Fax: 533223.

Asian Wings (AW)
No.34(A-1), Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Township,Yangon. Myanmar.
Tel: 951 516654, 532253, 09-731-35991~3.Fax: 951 532333

Yangon Airways(YH)
166, MMB Tower, Level 5, Upper Pansodan Rd, Mingalar Taungnyunt Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (+95-1) 383 100, 383 107, 700 264, Fax: 652 533.

FMI Air Charter - Sales & Reservations
No.380, Bogyoke Aung San Rd., FMI Centre, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: (95-1) 240363, 240373 / (+95-9) 421146545, E-mail: reservations@fmiaircharter.com sales@fmiaircharter.com

ng the drag of jet lag

Destination: jet lag. *Pic: AFP*

Academy of Sleep Medicine guidelines suggest shifting your sleep schedule an hour earlier each night, starting three days before you leave on an eastbound trip. If that's impractical, Jain says, try for 15 minutes earlier each night, and get as much early-morning sunlight as you can. Light is the most potent tool for adjusting your body clock: Think of it as a medication that wakes you up, he says.

If you're travelling east, start seeking bright light first thing in the morning at home. If you're headed west, though, expose yourself to light in the evening before you leave. That'll slightly fool your body clock into thinking it's morning. Sunshine is ideal, but those sun-mimicking "happy" lights designed to counter seasonal affective disorder are a good stand-in, Jain says.

A walk might help, too, Jain says. Though its effects are much weaker than light's, exercise (especially when vigorous) has a similar influence and can make you feel more alert.

If these tricks sound too complicated or haven't worked for you in the past, there are both natural and prescription aids.

Melatonin, a hormone normally excreted during sleeping hours, can help shift your circadian clock by inducing drowsiness. Though Jain cautions that the studies on melatonin are mixed, a review of 10 studies by the Cochrane Collaboration, an independent research group, concluded that melatonin can be "remarkably effective" at reducing jet lag, and the American Academy of Sleep Medicine guidelines suggest that a dose of 0.5 to 5 milligrams of melatonin taken at bedtime may help you adjust when travelling east.

Your doctor may be willing to prescribe a short-acting sleeping pill. It won't reset your body clock, Jain says, but it may help you get the rest you need to work or enjoy your vacation despite jet lag. Such drugs can cause serious side effects, however, including amnesia and confusion, so if your doctor does give you a prescription, try it out at home first before you use it during travel, Jain says.

I've never tried melatonin or pills, but on my last business trip to Geneva, I tested the light strategy when I got to my destination. I'd arrived in the dead of winter, so I used a "happy light" during the morning hours and went running outdoors when the sun came out. I can't say it completely eliminated my grogginess, but it got me through my workdays and even allowed me to stay awake past dinnertime.

Light provides your body's most important cue for synchronising circadian rhythms. Light exposure in the morning helps your body clock spring forward (just as clocks do at daylight saving time), and light at night prods your body clock to fall backward. Here's how to use light to sync your body clock to the local time.

When travelling east:

A few days before you leave, start exposing yourself to bright light in the morning.

When you arrive, seek bright light in the morning hours.

When travelling west:

Several days before leaving, seek bright light in the evening.

When you arrive, expose yourself to light during the evening hours.

When travelling more than eight time zones east:

On first and second days after arriving, avoid bright light during the first two to three hours after dawn. On the third day, seek bright light in the early morning.

When travelling more than eight time zones west:

On Day 1 and Day 2, avoid bright light during the two to three hours prior to dusk. Starting on Day 3, expose yourself to bright light in the evening hours.

If these calculations seem too complicated, researchers at the Mayo Clinic have created a chart that can help: www.ccjm.org/content/78/10/675.full.pdf. A smartphone app such as JetLag Genie (www.jetlaggenieapp.com) can help you figure out your optimal light schedule.

– *The Washington Post*

International Airlines

Air Asia (FD)
33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Ground Flr, Parkroyal Hotel, Yangon. Tel: 251 885, 251 886.

Air Bagan Ltd.(W9)
56, Shwe Taung Gyar Street, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 513322, 513422, 504888, Fax : 515102

Air China (CA)
Building (2), corner of Pyay Rd and Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Hotel Yangon, 8 miles, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel : 666112, 655882.

Air India
75, Shwe Bon Thar St, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 253597~98, 254758. Fax: 248175

Bangkok Airways (PG)
#0305, 3rd Fl, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 255122, 255 265, Fax: 255119

Condor (DE)
Unit 10-05, 10th Flr, La Pyayt Wun Plaza, 37, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Dagon Tsp, Yangon, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Tel: + 95 1 -370836 up to 39 (ext : 810)

Dragonair (KA)
Unit 1107, 11th Flr, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauk-tada Tsp; Yangon. Tel: 95-1-255322

Malaysia Airlines (MH)
335/357, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 387648, 241007 ext : 120, 121, 122 Fax : 241124

Myanmar Airways International(8M)
08-02, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Ygn. Tel : 255260, Fax: 255305

Silk Air(MI)
339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, 2nd Flr, Sakura Tower, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 255 287~9, Fax: 255 290

Thai Airways (TG)
Room No. 1101, Sakura Tower, 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauk-tada Tsp, Ygn. Tel : 255491~6, Fax : 255223

Vietnam Airlines (VN)
#1702, Sakura Tower 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon. Fax 255086. Tel 255066/ 255088/ 255068.

Qatar Airways (Temporary Office)
33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd. 2nd Flr, Parkroyal Hotel, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 01-250388, (ext: 8142, 8210)

INTERNATIONAL FLIGHT SCHEDULES

DAYS	Flight	Dep	Arr
YANGON TO BANGKOK			
MON	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
TUE	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
WED	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
THUR	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
FRI	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
SAT	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
SUN	PG 706	07:15	09:30
	8M 335	08:40	10:25
	TG 304	09:50	11:45
	PG 702	10:45	12:40
	TG 302	14:45	16:40
	8M 331	16:30	18:15
	PG 704	18:45	20:40
	TG 306	19:40	21:35
YANGON TO DON MUENG			
MON	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
TUE	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
WED	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
THUR	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
FRI	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
SAT	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
SUN	FD 2752	08:30	10:20
	FD 2756	12:50	14:40
	FD 2754	17:35	19:25
YANGON TO SINGAPORE			
MON	MI 509	00:25	05:00
	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	8M 6232	11:30	16:05
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
TUE	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 6232	11:30	16:05
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
WED	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	8M 6232	11:30	16:05
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 233	13:45	18:15
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
THUR	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 6232	11:30	16:05
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
FRI	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 6232	11:30	16:05
	8M 233	13:45	18:15
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
SAT	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	8M 6232	11:30	16:05
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 233	13:45	18:15
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
	MI 509	00:25	05:00
SUN	8M 231	08:30	13:00
	SQ 997	10:25	14:45
	3K 586	11:30	16:05
	8M 6232	11:30	16:05
	8M 233	13:45	18:15
	MI 517	16:40	21:15
YANGON TO KUALA LUMPUR			
MON	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	21:30
TUE	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	21:30
WED	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	21:30
THUR	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	21:30
FRI	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	21:30
SAT	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	8M 501	08:55	12:55
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	21:30
SUN	AK 1425	08:30	12:45
	MH 741	12:15	16:30
	AK 1421	17:15	21:30

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
YANGON TO BEIJNG			
TUE	CA 906	14:15	21:55
WED	CA 906	14:15	21:55
THUR	CA 906	14:15	21:55
SAT	CA 906	14:15	21:55
SUN	CA 906	14:15	21:55
YANGON TO FRANKFURT			
WED	DE 2369	05:35	16:40
YANGON TO GAUNGZHOU			
MON	CZ 3056	17:40	22:15
TUE	8M 711	08:40	13:15
WED	CZ 3056	11:20	15:50
THUR	8M 711	08:40	13:15
FRI	CZ 3056	17:40	22:15
SAT	CZ 3056	11:20	15:50
SUN	8M 711	08:40	13:15
YANGON TO TAIPEI			
MON	CI 7916	10:50	16:10
TUE	CI 7916	10:50	16:10
	BR 288	11:35	17:20
WED	CI 7916	10:50	16:10
THUR	CI 7916	10:50	16:10
FRI	CI 7916	10:50	16:10
	BR 288	11:35	17:20
SAT	CI 7916	10:50	16:10
	BR 288	11:35	17:20
SUN	CI 7916	10:50	16:10
YANGON TO KUNMING			
MON	MU 2032	14:40	18:00
TUE	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	18:00
WED	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	18:00
THUR	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	18:00
FRI	MU 2032	14:40	18:00
SAT	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	18:00
SUN	CA 906	14:15	17:35
	MU 2032	14:40	18:00
YANGON TO KOLKATA			
MON	AI 234	13:40	16:55
FRI	AI 234	13:40	16:55
	AI 228	18:45	19:45
YANGON TO CHIANG MAI			
THUR	W9 9607	14:20	16:10
SUN	W9 9607	14:20	16:10
YANGON TO HANOI			
MON	VN 956	19:10	21:30
TUE	VN 956	19:10	21:30
WED	VN 956	19:10	21:30
THUR	VN 956	19:10	21:30
FRI	VN 956	19:10	21:30
SAT	VN 956	19:10	21:30
SUN	VN 956	19:10	21:30
YANGON TO HO CHI MINH			
TUE	VN 942	14:25	17:10
THUR	VN 942	14:25	17:10
SAT	VN 942	14:25	17:10
SUN	VN 942	14:25	17:10
YANGON TO GAYA			
MON	8M 601	10:30	11:50
	AI 234	13:40	15:00
WED	8M 601	10:30	11:50
FRI	8M 601	10:30	11:50
	AI 234	13:40	15:00
SAT	8M 601	10:30	11:50
YANGON TO DOHA			
MON	QR 619	08:00	11:45
TUE	QR 619	08:00	11:45
WED	QR 619	08:00	11:45
THUR	QR 619	08:00	11:45
FRI	QR 619	08:00	11:45
SAT	QR 619	08:00	11:45
SUN	QR 619	08:00	11:45
YANGON TO PHNOM PENH			
WED	8M 403	16:45	19:10
SAT	8M 403	16:45	19:10
YANGON TO SEOUL			
MON	KE 472	00:05	08:00
TUE	KE 472	00:05	08:00
WED	KE 472	00:05	08:00
THUR	KE 472	00:05	08:00
FRI	KE 472	00:05	08:00
SAT	KE 472	00:05	08:00
SUN	KE 472	00:05	08:00
YANGON SIEM REAP			
MON	8M 401	17:05	19:15
FRI	8M 401	17:05	19:15
YANGON TO HONGKONG			
MON	KA 251	01:00	06:00
TUE	KA 251	01:00	06:00
THUR	KA 251	01:00	06:00
SAT	KA 251	01:00	06:00
YANGON TO TOKYO			
MON	NH 914	22:00	06:40+1
WED	NH 914	22:00	06:40+1
SAT	NH 914	22:00	06:40+1
MANDALAY TO DON MUENG			
MON	FD 2761	11:05	13:30
TUE	FD 2761	11:05	13:30
THUR	FD 2761	11:05	13:30
SAT	FD 2761	11:05	13:30
MANDALAY TO KUNMING			
MON	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
	MU 7524	18:20	21:00
TUE	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
WED	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
	MU 7524	18:20	21:00
THUR	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
FRI	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
	MU 7524	18:20	21:00
SAT	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
SUN	MU 2030	14:40	17:20
MANDALAY TO GAYA			
TUE	8M 603	11:10	12:15
THUR	8M 603	11:10	12:15
SUN	8M 603	11:10	12:15

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
BANGKOK TO YANGON			
MON	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
TUE	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
WED	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
THUR	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
FRI	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
SAT	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
SUN	8M 336	06:40	07:25
	TG 303	08:00	08:45
	PG 701	09:05	09:55
	TG 301	13:00	13:45
	PG 703	17:05	17:55
	TG 305	17:55	18:40
	8M 332	19:20	20:05
	PG 705	20:15	21:30
DON MUENG TO YANGON			
MON	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
TUE	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
WED	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
THUR	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
FRI	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
SAT	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
SUN	FD 2751	07:15	08:00
	FD 2755	11:35	12:20
	FD 2753	16:20	17:05
SINGAPORE TO YANGON			
MON	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
TUE	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
WED	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
THUR	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
FRI	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
	8M 234	19:15	20:45
	MI 520	22:10	23:35
SAT	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
	8M 234	19:15	20:45
SUN	SQ 998	07:55	09:20
	8M 6231	09:10	10:40
	3K 585	09:10	10:40
	8M 232	14:10	15:40
	MI 518	14:20	15:45
	8M 234	19:15	20:45
	MI 520	22:10	23:35
BEIJNG TO YANGON			
TUE	CA 905	8:05	13:15
WED	CA 905	8:05	13:15
THUR	CA 905	8:05	13:15
SAT	CA 905	8:05	13:15
SUN	CA 905	8:05	13:15

Days	Flight	Dep	Arr
FRANKFURT TO YANGON			
TUE	DE 2368	12:40	04:25+1
KAULA LUMPUR TO YANGON			
MON	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
TUE	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
WED	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
THUR	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
FRI	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
SAT	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	8M 502	14:00	15:00
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
SUN	AK 1424	06:55	08:00
	MH 740	10:05	11:15
	AK 1420	15:40	16:45
GUANGZHOU TO YANGON			
MON	CZ 3055	14:45	16:35
TUE	8M 712	14:15	15:50
WED	CZ 3055	08:40	10:30
THUR	8M 712	14:15	15:50
FRI	CZ 3055	14:45	16:35
SAT	CZ 3055	08:40	10:30
SUN	8M 712	14:15	15:50
TAIPEI TO YANGON			
MON	CI 7915	07:00	09:50
TUE	CI 7915	07:00	09:50
	BR 287	07:30	10:35
WED	CI 7915	07:00	09:50
THUR	CI 7915	07:00	09:50
FRI	CI 7915	07:00	09:50
	BR 287	07:30	10:35
SAT	CI 7915	07:00	09:50
	BR 287	07:30	10:35
SUN	CI 7915	07:00	09:50
KUNMING TO YANGON			
MON	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
TUE	CA 905	13:00	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
WED	CA 905	13:00	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
THUR	CA 905	13:00	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
FRI	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
SAT	CA 905	13:00	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
SUN	CA 905	13:00	13:15
	MU 2031	13:30	14:00
KOLKATA TO YANGON			
MON	AI 227	10:10	12:55
FRI	AI 227	10:10	12:55
	AI 233	13:30	16:00
CHIANG MAI TO YANGON			
THUR	W9 9608	17:20	18:10
SUN	W9 9608	17:20	18:10
HANOI TO YANGON			
MON	VN 957	16:35	18:10
TUE	VN 957	16:35	18:10
WED	VN 957	16:35	18:10
THUR	VN 957	16:35	18:10
FRI	VN 957	16:35	18:10
SAT	VN 957	16:35	18:10
SUN	VN 957	16:35	18:10
HO CHI MINH TO YANGON			
TUE	VN 943	11:40	13:25
THUR	VN 943	11:40	13:25
SAT	VN 943	11:40	13:25
SUN	VN 943	11:40	13:25
GAYA TO YANGON			
MON	8M 602	12:50	16:00
WED	8M 602	12:50	16:00
FRI	8M 602	12:50	16:00
	AI 233	15:00	16:00
SAT	8M 602	12:50	16:00
GAYA TO MANDALAY			
TUE	8M 604	13:15	16:20
THUR	8M 604	13:15	16:20
SUN	8M 604	13:15	16:20
DOHA TO YANGON			
MON	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
TUE	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
WED	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
THUR	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
FRI	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
SAT	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
SUN	QR 618	21:05	06:29+1
PHNOM PENH TO YANGON			
WED	8M 404	20:10	21:35
SAT	8M 404	20:10	21:35
SEOUL TO YANGON			
MON	KE 471	18:40	22:55
TUE	KE 471	18:40	22:55
WED	KE 471	18:40	22:55
THUR	KE 471	18:40	22:55
FRI	KE 471	18:40	22:55
SAT	KE 471	18:40	22:55
SUN	KE 471	18:40	22:55
SIEM REAP TO YANGON			
MON	8M 402	20:15	21:25
FRI	8M 402	20:15	21:25
TOKYO TO YANGON			
MON	NH 913	11:10	17:05
WED	NH 913	11:10	17:05
SAT	NH 913	11:10	17:05
HONGKONG TO YANGON			
MON	KA 252	21:35	23:35
WED	KA 252	21:35	23:35
FRI	KA 252	21:35	23:35
SUN	KA 252	21:35	23:35
DON MUEANG TO MANDALAY			
MON	FD 2760	09:10	10:35
TUE	FD 2760	09:10	10:35
THUR	FD 2760	09:10	10:35
SAT	FD 2760	09:10	10:35
KUNMING TO MANDALAY			
MON	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
TUE	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
WED	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
THUR	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
FRI	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
SAT	MU 2029	14:00	13:50
SUN	MU 2029	14:00	13:50

International

FD & AK = Air Asia	IC = Indian Airlines Limited
TG = Thai Airways	W9 = Air Bagan
8M = Myanmar Airways International	3K = Jet Star
	AI = Air India
PG = Bangkok Airways	QR = Qatar Airways
MI = Silk Air	KE = Korea Airlines
VN = Vietnam Airline	NH = All Nippon Airways
MH = Malaysia Airlines	SQ = Singapore Airways
CZ = China Southern	DE = Condor Airlines
CI = China Airlines	MU=China Eastern Airlines
CA = Air China	BR = Eva Airlines
KA = Dragonair	DE = Condor

Subject to change without notice

Photo exhibition to benefit disabled

By Cherry Thein

AN exhibition of photographs focusing on people living with disabilities will be held at New Zero Art Space in Yangon from February 22 to 24.

The show, titled "Ayeyarwady Dreaming: Images from Myanmar and Beyond", will feature the work of Australian photographers Peter Berechree and Don Wright, and ethnic Karen photographer Thet Oo Maung from Myanmar.

Up to 70 photos will be included in the show, and they will be for sale.

Mr Berechree said the photographers are donating their work to the exhibition, and all proceeds from sales of the photos will go toward supporting the Disabilities, Education, Livelihood and Training Association (DELTA), which benefits disabled people living in Ayeyarwady Region.

"Disability isn't 'inability'," Mr Berechree said. "A person with a disability might have a limb damaged, a mind impaired or a sense incapacitated, but that doesn't mean their hopes and dreams are diminished because of this disability."

He said that while developed countries go to great lengths to promote and demand wheelchair access for people with physical disabilities, in developing countries like Myanmar the most basic needs for the handicapped are access to education and job opportunities.

"Education and employment are the right of every individual. Disabled people are 'able' to learn and work, and we should all fight together alongside the disabled people in our society against social exclusion and ostracism," said Mr Berechree.

"We need to strive to build a fairer and more tolerant society where all individuals can participate effectively in workplaces and schools."

New Zero Art Space is located at the corner of Nawaday and Alanpya Pagoda roads in Dagon township.

Events Flash

What art?

A group exhibition titled "What" and featuring the work of artists WPM, Htay Lwin, Augn Kyaw San and Tin Min Aung will be held at Lokanat Gallery (62 Pansodan Street, First Floor, Kyauktada township) from February 11 to 16.

Pantomime show

A performance by Japanese pantomime Kazuki Yano will be held at Chatrium Hotel's Grand Ballroom on February 12 at 6pm.

Gangaw show

The 24th group exhibition by artists from the Gangnaw village group will be held at Lokanat Gallery (62 Pansodan Street, First Floor, Kyauktada township) from February 18 to 23.

Photo show

An exhibition of photographs focusing on people living with disabilities, titled "Ayeyarwady Dreaming: Images from Myanmar and Beyond", will be held at New Zero Art Space (Nawaday and Alanpya Pagoda roads, Dagon township, Yangon) from February 22 to 24. Proceeds from sales of the photos will benefit the Disabilities, Education, Livelihood and Training Association (DELTA), which benefits disabled people living in Ayeyarwady Region.

Plus Three

The "Plus Three Stars" exhibition — featuring work by artists Kyaw Min, Shwe Myint and Thar San — will be held at Lokanat Gallery (62 Pansodan Street, First Floor, Kyauktada township) from February 25 to March 2.

Calle de la Salsa

Tuesday is salsa night at 50th Street Bar, featuring free dance classes (salsa, bachata, mambo, meringue and more), plus dance shows and drink specials. With music by DJ Mani and special guests.

Wednesday wine

The Wednesday Wine Club meets every (you guessed it) Wednesday at the QP Inya Shop (30 Inya Road). Taste four or five wines for K10,000 a person. Contact chad.quarto@gmail.com or 09-7321-8711.

Live music

Friendship Band belts out classic rock tunes at 50th Street Restaurant every Wednesday and Friday night.

Thurs night jam

Enjoy an eclectic mix of free-form music upstairs at 50th Street Restaurant, starting at 8pm.

If you would like your event listed in Event Flash, please email editors@myanmartimes.com.mm.

BOOK REVIEW

Yo ho ho and a bottle of milk: pirate adventure for the kids

By Stuart Deed

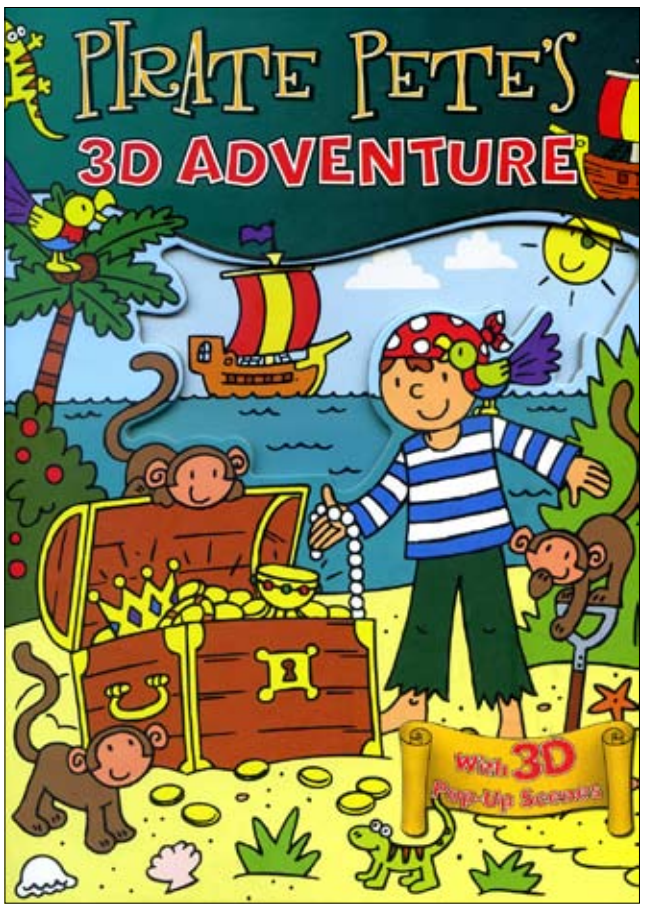
YAAARRRR! Ahoy there, mateys! Here be lurking a tale of Pirate Pete's 3D adventures on the Seven Seas in search of buried treasure!

Pirate Pete's 3D Adventure was written and illustrated by David Crossley, and is a delight for young children, although its subject matter probably favours boys over girls.

At barely 10 pages long, with the text on the left-hand page and colourful 3D pictures on the right, the plot is a bit thin. However, the author/illustrator makes up for the paucity of story with the depth and detail of the accompanying pictures.

The story begins with curious Pete finding the key to all good pirate stories — a treasure map — while cleaning out an old pirate chest aboard the seaworthy vessel the *Jolly Rose*.

Pete rows a small boat to the nearest island, which rather conveniently happens to be a treasure island, and meets a cheeky monkey, who assists him in the search for the buried plunder.



In quick time the pair find a Spanish fort on the island and are given the key to the treasure chest by a talking parrot, although Pete and the monkey must first discover the location, which as you might guess is buried beneath an "X" on the ground.

My young son found the book highly entertaining. While not exactly enthralled by the spare plotline, he loved the pirate dialogue and the vibrant illustrations.

Without giving away the denouement, I will reveal that the tale ends so abruptly that one can't help but wonder whether the author plans to replicate the never-ending *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie franchise by releasing his own series of Pirate Pete sequels.

Yarrr, we can only hope it be so, me hearties! We be waitin' with bated breath!

Pirate Pete's 3D Adventure *can be purchased at Monument Books, 150 Dhammazedi Road, Bahan township, Yangon; Tel (95-1) 536-306, 537-508; Website www.monument-books.com.*

YOUR STARS

By Astrologer
Aung Myin Kyaw

Aquarius **(Jan 20 - Feb 18)**
Evenas a treehasa single trunkbut many branches and leaves, so too is there one true and perfectrule ofnatural managementfrom which all human behaviour extends. Your owntheoryor philosophy will be more organised, powerful and effective if it is based on respect for interrelatedsystems and relationships.

Pisces **(Feb 19 - Mar 20)**
Perfection in love is an unattainable ideal in this life, but it is an ideal toward which you should ceaselessly strive nonetheless. You must notlose faith in humanity, which is likean ocean: A few dirty drops of water do not make the entire ocean dirty.Create a positive picture inyour imagination, and use it as inspiration in pursuit of your goals.

Aries **(March 21 - April 19)**
The most practicaland dignified way of engaging with the world istotake peopleat their word, especially when you have been given no real reason to disbelieve them. The advanced stage of social development is that mode of conduct that points out the best path for fulfilling your duty. Open your heart to feel the depths oflove and reaffirm your commitment to your romantic partner.

Taurus **(April 20 - May 20)**
Itis the special privilege ofa friend to own the other's faults and re-declare affection despite these shortcomings. Real friendshipshould be used to reach the whole through the fragments. Make it your social policy to amend what needs to be amended as quickly as possible. Rather than harbouring feelings of rejection, strive for understanding in your romantic relationship.

Gemini **(May 21 - June 20)**
A pure character is the foundation of health in the real sense ofthe term, and all evil thoughts and evil passionsarebutdifferentforms of disease. Realise that every illness is but a branch of some unknown law of nature. Pure love exists only in the imagination, and is never capable of being physically drawn.

Cancer **(June 22 - July 22)**
Interrelationships between society and your family will suffer setbacks, and an unexpected event is sure to disturb your mental balance. Pay special attention to new information and the way it is presented. Once-trusted channels of communication will break down, and those who promise to make financial commitments are not always to be believed. It's best to consult old business partners in such matters.

Leo **(July 23 - Aug 22)**
Itisunwise to contradictyour mentor. Weakness might emanate from your soul in the form of hatred, but be careful that it does not manifest itself as violence; nonviolenceshould always be an integral part of your approach to social struggle. Family relationships get better and become more compatible. Love is the strongest force you possess, and yet itis the humblest power imaginable.

Virgo **(Aug 23 - Sept 22)**
Performance of your duty should be independent of public opinion. You will be compelled to act according to what you know to be right, even when it appears wrong to others. There will be good news in family relationships. Avoid breaking promises among those in your social circle, and do not fail to follow the light within you despite fears of unseen interference.

Libra **(Sept 23 - Oct 22)**
Put your talents inthe service ofyour country instead of convertingthem into dollars, gold or authority. Strive for social reform using nonviolent means, and use your knowledge and experience to reform yourself. Imagine your life is a love storyin progress.

Scorpio **(Oct 23 - Nov 21)**
Use the power of past experience to change the focus of your thoughts and the condition of your life. Exercise free will in your decision-making process. Always carry a lofty and high image of yourself, and remember that the world is not interested in the weak, ineffective and self-deprecating person. Challenge yourself to expand your social circle into previously unexplored territory.

Sagittarius **(Nov 22 - Dec 21)**
Nothing will help more in strengthening your self-confidence than a clear-cut goal and destination.You should not allow any person's opinion to enter yourmind ifit does not harmonisewith your definite aim in life. Keep your mind on the things you want and off the things you don't want. Say nothing about your ideas and thoughts, but instead express your wishes.

Capricorn **(Dec 22 - Jan 19)**
Itisin the interest oftransformation for you and other reformers to avoid hysterics and exaggeration.You should walk warily and avoid making unexpected jumps, and understand that your role in social organising depends on reciprocity. Maintain humility in self-management, and remain harmonious and flexible in friendships and family relationships; strength, trust and reliability will result.

For a personal reading contact Aung Myin Kyaw, 4th Floor, 113, Thamain Bayan Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon. Tel: 0973135632, Email: williameaste@gmail.com

FREE CLASSIFIEDS

HOW TO GET A FREE AD

By Fax : 951-254158
By Email : classified@myanmartimes.com.mm
: advertising@myanmartimes.com.mm
By Mail : 379/383, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Kyauktada Tsp, Yangon.

www.mmtimes.com

HOW TO GET MORE BUSINESS FROM AS LITTLE AS **K.5,000.**

BUY SPACE ON THESE PAGES

Call: **Khin Mon Mon Yi** - 951-392676, 392928
classified@myanmartimes.com.mm

www.mmtimes.com

General

Education

INTERNATIONAL schools subjects : English, Maths, Science, Hindi & social. Will coach your kids with great effort. Contact : Teacher Fiona, 31, 6th flr, U Lun St, Tawme. Yangon . Ph :09-430-63590

MATHS Foundation: Basic, Intermediate and advanced level. Courses: Calculus, Algebra, IGCSE A, O level Geometry, Integral. For Grade IX, X and XI. Int'l student & Pre University level. Tr.Johnny. BE (PE). Ph: 09-731-42020, Kaungmyatoo-251@gmail.com

SUMMER Programmes 11 March ~31 May 2013 (including Thingyan Festival days) Summer Fun English Class : Ages 6 ~ 9 Mon ~ Fri 9am ~ 12pm Fee: USD200 including materials. General English 4 skills (Reading, writing, communication & listening). Ages 10 ~ 12 Mon ~ Fri 1pm ~ 4pm Fee: USD200 including materials. General English 4 skills (Read ing, writing, communi cation & listening). Summer Ballei & Speech & Drama. Join our classes for a great summer experience.

EXAM preparation classes for 2013 May/ June IGCSE Exam (Cambridge & Edexcel) Start on first week of February. Limited seats available. Tr, Pyae Phyo Kyaw 09-508-8683

FOR PRIMARY Students Int'l School Subjects If you need to guide your child with school subjects English, Maths, Science, History English & Chinese Language. Chinese Writing social, English writing skill Myanmar language Myanmar writing skill. Pls contact : 49, U Lun St, G Flr, Ayokone, Tamwe Near Thida Bus stop. Ph : 420115461 C//O Teacher Caroline

YOUNG Learners Specialist Young learners (Age 6 ~ 14) (Starters, Movers, Flyers, KET, PET) For int'l school students One to One, Special Class & Home Teacher Cynthia. Ph : 09-421-102180

TEACHING combination of Foreign & Myanmar Style/ skillful Teachers, Teachers who have got Teaching experience in Singapore,Now back to Myanmar/Teaching for those who need Foreign teaching experience/ Study Guides for Grade 10, 11 & Int'l school Sayar Bryan, ME (IT) 09-42 007 0692, Sayar Htet : 09-21 50075.

ENGLISH for all levels: female teacher, experienced at home & abroad, holder of BA (Eng.) & Dip in TESOL (UK) Ph : 01-552122

SPECIAL Teaching (Individual or Group). Mathematics for GCE, Edexcel IGCSE (O Level & A Level). Mathematics for SAT (Grade 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). Mathematics for Matric Exam. Teacher Kyi: B.Sc (Honours), M.Sc (Engg Maths), M.Res (Mathematics). Ph: 09-731-48725.

LITERATURE study for IB and SAT up to 12 Grade, it is right to enjoy reading classic and persuaded writing critical thinking and world culture External students can also be inquired to sit on SAT.If you had tried as much as you can to follow the lesson and you will get good experiences and skill .This program will help you capability and fill your luck of knowledge..Beginners and Intermediate Spanish can also be learnt here. U Thant Zin, ph 09 5035350 , 01 547442

IGCSE, Secondary II, III, IV, Physics, Pure Maths, Maths (B), Ph: 09-4500-25213.

SAYA Saw Aung (Ex.A.P) Chemistry Classes for Int'l School (sec-levels), iGCSE, GCE 'A' Level & SAT II, Ph: 2300441, 09-500-5470.

LEARN IELTS from expert IELTS Teacher & achieve your desired Band With latest practice materials, unique test tips and techniques, Domo answers & special preparation By Teacher Pwintnee - 09-448-026167

Expert Service

PYI MYANMAR, Air Con; Sale & Service, Installation, Servicing, Repairing, Ph: 09-4211-06509, 09-730-67031.

SLIVER STAR Graphic House if you need Designs Pls do contact at , 420115461 Call for No.49,TELC Designer Rachael.

QUICK and Professional Translation: Tr. Daw Aye Mya Oo (B.A (Eng) YUFL) (Dip. ELTM) (Dip. DMA). Ph: 09-430-64296, ayemyaoo @ gmail.com.

Language

SPOKEN Myanmar for everyday. Saya Victor Hla Wai, a former tour guide with 15 years experience will teach to foreigners who want to learn spoken Myanmar. Ph: 09-4210-18410.

LANGUAGE Proficiency (A) Effective & Scientific way, (B) Intensive Class, (C) Interpreter - part time/ Full time (Under mentioned languages), (D) Hindi/ Myanmar/ English (Basic Advance for Embassy staff/ Foreigner/A group single/ Kids + Teens/ NGO - INGO personal/ (Special rate for national peoples) by an Expert Tutor. (1) Home tuition available in group or single. (2) Translation of English/ Hindi/ Sanskrit/ Bengali / Nepali & Myanmar are also available. (3) Business guide & Agency services. (4) Partnership business welcome. Rs. Verma. B.Sc., (bot), Yangon. (UFL-English), Yangon. Email: rsverma. myanmar@gmail.com, Ph: 09-730-42604, Add: 125, 43rd St, 5th Flr ($), Botahtaung.

ENGLISH , Business CommunicativeEnglish, Basic & General English, IELTS (Foundation & Preparat ion), Young Learners (KET,PET), One to One, Special Class & Home Teacher Veronica: 09-400-494397. "Inspiration", 115,1st Flr, Insein Rd , Near Thukha Bus top, Hlaing,Yangon

GIVE your child the best possible start to life at Int'l Montessori Myanmar (English Education Center)Accredited by IMC Bangkok (Since 1991). Our Montessori curricu lum includes: Practical Life Exercises. Senso rial Training.Language dvelopment. Mathe matics. Cultural studies. Botany & Zoology. History. Creative Art. Music and Movement. Cooking. Physical development. Social & emotional development.Learning through play, 55(B), Po Sein Rd, Bahan. Tel: 546097,546761 Email: imm. myn@gmail. com

ENGLISH Grammar for 8-9th Std. Ph: 09-541-3847.

MYANMAR, Thai, Shan and Russian, Ph: 09-731-61269.

SPANISH Language class with Spanish native in exchange of MYANMAR lenguage with native in Yangon. Pls interested ones contact me at rafamadrid2003@yahoo. es

ENGLISH class for Mom. Fashion and Personal Grooming for Mom. Beauty and Skin Care for Mom. Ph: 09-731-27074. 09-518-1316.

MYANMAR Language Training Course For Foreigners. Contact 09-518-1316 or 09-731-27074 for Registration.

HOME visit experienced Freelence Teacher for foreigners who is willing ly learn Myanamar Language. (4-skills). (Available for weekdays & weekend also group or individual class) enquiry to teacher Nang 09-4210-11345.

HLC: High Language Centre. Hindi, English & Myanmar. (Writing, Reading & Speaking) by an Expert Teacher. Ph: 09-4210-98790.

For Sale

SAMSUNG Galaxy S2 Black With Box and all original Accessries Price - 230000 Kyats Iphone 3GS 32GB Price - 150000 Kyats Lenovo U410 Laptop Price - 450000 Kyats Ph : 09-730-48106.

SAMSUNG Galaxy S2 Black With Box and all original Accessries Price - 230000 Kyats Iphone 3GS 32GB Price - 150000 Kyats Lenovo U410 Laptop Price - 450000 Kyats Ph : 09-730-48106.

IPOD TOUCH 32GB (Black) Version 5.1.1 With full appz game installed Price - 120000 Samsung Galaxy S2 (Black) 16GB With box + Original Accessries Price - 230000 Dell Core i3 Laptop 280000 Lenovo core i5 450000 Ph : 09-730-48106, 09-517-8391

IPOD Touch 4th Generat ion Black 32GB Version 5.1.1 Already Jailbreak & Full App and HD Game Installed Very Good Condition Price - 130000 Kyats. Ph: 09-517-8391

FOR BUY & SALE (Not Brand New But Excellent Quality) Used iPhones, Samsungs, Sony, HTC, Huawei, Nokia Used Lptops, Notebooks, Netbooks, UltraBooks, Used Mac bookpro, MacbookAir, Used iPods, Samsung Tablets & etc. Ph : 09450039844

For Buy and Sales & Exchange (Not Brand But Excellent Quality) Apple Iphone Samung HTC LG Sony Huawei Nokia Ipad Ipod Iphone Notebook Macbook Pro Macbook Air Laptop Netbook All kind of Tablet & PSP contact to: 09-517-8391

COMPUTER : M.B - G41 CPU - Intel Xeron 3.6GHz RAM - DDRII 1GB VGA - 302MB HDD - 40GB Drive - ASUS DVD R/W Window 7, Software, Games Monitor LCD 15" 150,000 Kyat. Ph: 09 - 421-162995

RED LINK - Wireless Internet 2MB for Sale 5,40000 lakhs, Negotiat able) Ph : 09-730-65958, 09-506-1232

IPHONE 4G 32GB Black Official Unlock (Excellent Condition) Price : 320000 iPhone 4G 16GB Black Official Unlock (Excellent Condition) Price : 280000 Ph : 09-450-039844

SAMSUNG P1000 Galaxy Tab 16GB (Wifi+3G) Price : 150000 Ph : 09-450-03844

IPHONE 4S 64GB B/W : 450000 iPhone 4S 32GB B/W : 390000 iPhone 4S 16GB B/W : 350000 iPhone 4G 32GB B/W : 300000 iPhone 4G 16GB B/W : 250000 iPhone 3GS 32GB B/W : 170000 iPhone 3GS 16GB B/W : 140000 iPhone 3G 16GB B/W : 100000 iPhone 3G 8GB B/W : 70000 Ph : 09-450-039844

SAMSUNG P1000 Galaxy Tab 16GB (Wifi + 3G) Price : 150000 iPhone 3GS 32GB Black. Ph : 09-450-03844

ORIGINAL 3DS GAME Cartridge (Spirit Camrea: The Cursed Memoir) - 20000 Kyats - Original 3DS Game Cartridge (Kid Icarus: Uprising) - 20000 Kyats - Imation External Harddisk 320 GB (with cover) - 18000 Kyats - 2.5" External Harddisk casing + 2.5" Laptop Harddisk 320 GB - 16000 Kyats. Ph: 09-507-9980"

Travel

NYAN MYINT THU, Car Rental Service, Ko Nyan Myint Win Kyi Managing Director, Add: 56, Bo Ywe St, Latha, Tel: 095-01-246551, 095-01-375283, 09-570-4335, Email:colwinkyi@gmail. com,nyanmyint thu@ gmail.com

Training center

MA THESIS / PhD Dissertation Professio nal Editing (APA 6th ed.) Professional editing services by a Yangon-based expatriate with 5 years int'l experience in teaching Academic Writing and Research. Standard American English only. Extensive background in Educat ion, Sciences, Develop ment & Religion. Accuracy. Reliability. Value for money.Email: pinoytesol@gmail.com Ph: 09-420-123199

AUSTRALIAN, 7 months in Myanmar, FRC (S) visa, experienced Manager/Supervisor - NGO, Welfare/Disability -& Aged Care - General Insurance - Pvte English tuition, seeking P/T, F/T or Contract work. Anything considered. Please call Graham 450046492, email: Grahamgoody@ gmail.com

Public Notices

THIS COMPANY is Ready to Move! This Company is Exploding at the Seams! Trade Date: Feb, 1 Company: MICROELECTRONICS TECHNOLOGY Trade: M_E_L Y Last Trade: $0.0254 Short Term Target: 0.10 Next Week May Be Our Biggest Ever! It could test recent high!

COOPER Valves is a well-respected & approved USA manufacturer that specializes in exotic alloy valves, serving the downstream and mid-stream chemical, petrochemical, oil and gas, water, and refining industries for over 75 years. COOPER's success is derived from its dedication to quality, highly engineered and complex application solutions, experienced personnel, US based manufacturing, and a wide level of end-user approvals. COOPER Valves are still proudly made in the USA. The Cooper Valves website is www.CooperValves. com. Pls contact me at mlwin@coopervalves. com for the 2013 Cooper Valves Catalogue, January 2013 & The Cooper Approval List for your reference.

MYANMAR AUTO Corporation. Invitation for Bids to Conduct Land clearing operat ion in TANINTHARYI Region. MAC announces invitation of Sealed Bids for Land-Clearing Operation (**7,000**Acres), for the Oil Palm Plantation, will be taking place in TANINTHARYI *region* from February 2013 until April 2014. The Interested parties are cordially invited to submit "the Letter of Expression of Interest" to No.10, Thiri St, Parami Ward, Yangkin until 30TH JAN 2013. The Bidders will only obtain "the detailed information", only after Signing "Non-Exposal" agreement conducted by MAC. For any questions Ph: 662602, 09-493-17989 Email: myanauto@gmail. com

REAL ESTATE or Land-housing investment in Myanmar. We coordi nately invite Myanmar citizens or nons to cooperate with us as w will take responsibilities with our citizenship scrutiny For those who are interested and want to cooperate with us may contact Saya Bryan 09-4200-70692, Saya Htet (Engineer) 09-215-00 75

THE UNITED Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Myanmar, is looking for potential suppliers for the following main supplies and services: **Supplies** Printing of textbooks, exercise books, posters etc - Classroom equipment including furniture - Emergency shelter including tarpaulin - Household and Kitchen equipment - Blankets - Vehicle spare parts including tyres and batteries - Generators - Hand and submersible pumps and spare parts - PVC and HDPE pipes - Galvanized pipes and fittings - Galvanized roof systems - Water storage including plastic jerry cans and buckets - Water treatement chemicals - Soap - Sports and playing equipment - Bicycles - Communication and IT equipment. **Service** Communication and Marketing Services including road show: artwork/ pre-print design, development and maintenance of website, transit media (hoarding messages on buses, billboards etc), TV & radio production. Interpretation and transla tion services - Financial assessment and auditing - Service and maintenance of computers, printers, UPS, PABX - Network cabling and wiring - Development of computer software - Car and bus rental - High volume photo copying includ ing high quality digital print - Transport & forward ing services. Pls contact Ms. Yin Win Khine (ywkhine@ unicef. org) Ph: 375527~32ext 1568

Want To Buy

SECONDHAND Apple iPhone 5/4S/4/3GS/3G iPad 4G/Mini/3/2/1, iPod 5G/4G, Macbook Pro , Mac Air Samsung Note2 /Note1 /S3/S2 Samsung Tablets , Laptops Note Books , Net Books , Ultra Books, & More. Ph : 09-450-039844

Property

Housing for Rent

(1) **7 MILE** (Near Honda Car Showroom) (70'x 70') 5MBR, 2 storey, USD-4500 (2) Golden Valley (Near Korea Embassy) (60'x80) 3 Storey, 5MBR, USD - 9000 (3) Near Vietnam Embassy, (70'x80') 2 Storey, 2MBR, 3BR, USD 5000 (4) Near Embassy (60'x70') 2MBR, Ph: 09-4211-77105.

MAYANGONE, 9 Mile, (80'x90') 2 storey, 4MBR, USD 2700, Ph: 09-511-2525.

KAMAYUT, Maha Bawga St. (Close to Heldan Market) 5th Flr (R) 15'x50' (New building) Option I : Deposit 5,000,000K, Monthly rental fee - 15,000K Option II : Monthly rental fee - 120,000K Ph:09-516-3051, 09-731-45699 09-730-39254 65 86309422. pls contact Kyi Kyi Hlaing kyiikyiih @ gmail.com.

Place a FREE ad NOW!

(1)**MAYANGONE**, Near Myanmar Jewellery centre, Kabaraye pagoda Rd. 25'x40', 2 storey, 1MBR, 2SR, 1500$ (2)**Po Sein St** Near Chatrium Hotel, 70'x80' 2 storey, 7MBR, 6SR, 20,000$, (3) **Golden Velly**, Than Lwin St 45'x50', 1 storey, fully furnish, 3000$, Ph: 09-4921-4276.

MAYANGONE, (1) Near Sedona Hotel 20,000$ 70'x150', 2 storey, 5MBR, all furnish. (2) **Parami Rd**, 5000$, 60'x90', 2 storey, 3MBR, 2SR (6) **Golden Velly**, Inyamyaing 45'x55', 3 storey, 3MBR, 2SR, fully furnish, 4500$, Ph: 09-4211-77105.

BAHAN, Golden Velly 4000$, Kanbawza St, 40'x60', 2 storey, 3MBR, 2SR, Ph:09-4201-14749.

MYAYNIGONE, Min St, 16'x34', 1F, 1BR, 1 liviingroom, 1 kitchen, Wifi TV, new redecorat ion. All furniture AC. US$ 600, Ph: 09-731-92603.

BAHAN, (1) Inya Lane, 60'x60', RC2, Newly house US$ 4000. (2) **Shwe Than Lwin Condo**, 3600 Sqft, 2MBR, 1BR, 6A/C, Ph. US$ 3000 (3) **Than Lwin Lane**, 60'x80', RC1, US$ 2500, Maureen: 09-518-8320.

THINGANGYUN, (Foreign only) 30'x60' (1/2 upper layer), 2 RM, 1MBR with A/C, 1BR fully furnished , 8 flr(top) without lift , Wai Za Yan Tar (main) Rd. US$ 500 (no broker pls) Ph: 09-516-7767, 09-517-0481

BAHAN(1) Inya Lane, 60' x 60'. 2 RC. Newly house. US$ 4000. (2) Shwe Than Lwin Condo, 3600 sqft, 2 MB, 1BR, 6 A/C. US$ 3000 (3)**Than Lwin Lane**, 60 x 80 RC 1, US$ 2500. Maureen : 09-518-8320

NORTH DAGON, Shwe Pin Lone Housing, Good estate, 80'x80', 2MB, 2SB, Without furniture, Fully furnish ed, Good neighbor hood, near Pinlone Hospital, Foreigner welcome. 5 Lakhs, Ph: 09-432-00669 or email :nicerealproperty@gmail. com

CHAN THAR Condo, 1650 sq ft, 1 master bed, 2 singles, maid room, living room, kitchen, dining area, free internet, tv, swimming pool, 24 hr electricity, water, security, parking. Gym, Spa & convienan ce store, playground in same compound. USD 1800, negotiable. Ph: 09-732-24316

KAMAYUT, Thirimigalar Rd (Attia Rd), 2RC, 4MB+Hall type, 10,000 sqft compound. no agent. Ph: 389706, 09-200-4467. e-mail: star85ster@ gmail.com

Housing for Sale

BAHAN, (1) **Moe Myint San Condo**, 2400 Sqft, 5A/C, f.f Nice & Newly for sale asking price, 3600 Lakhs (2) **New University Ave Rd**, 1200 Sqft, 1MB, 2BR, Apt. for sale 1400 Lakhs Call owner no agts: 09-518-8320.

BAHAN, New University Ave Lane Condo, 2400 Sqft, Newly Apt. Negotiable 3600 Lakhs. Maureen:09-518-8320

KYAUKTADA, MGW Tower (Bo Aung Kyaw Lane) 7th Flr, 1500 sqft, 2 WC. Ph, 3 BR. Ph : 09-507-9048, 09-732-41848

MAYANGONE , 9 miles, Bonyarna Lane, 50"x 70" garden with including house. 3500 Lakhs. no agent pls. Ph :09-503-6519, 09-421-029911.

DUPLEX PENTHOUSE for sale. The highest quality and most beautiful duplex penthouse in Yangon. Stunning scenery of Shwe Dagon Pagoda and Inya Lake, fully furnished with export quality wooden floors & furniture, central air-con system, state-of-the-art plumbing and electricity, all in accordance with Swiss standards. CCTV, internet, ... Two floors, total area 4057 sqft. Shwe Hintha Tower, 6 1/2 miles, Pyay Rd. For more info visit http:// yangon-penthouse. com.

Crusade SERVICES CO, LTD.
You can now have your Carpet/ Sofa/ Mattress cleaning at your home with professional cleaners. Using the latest cleaning technology and award winning environmentally friendly cleaning solution.
For a limited period all cleaning carried out will be treated with anti-bacterial solution.
Call Now @ 01-215285, 09421147810.

Power 7 Real Estate Service Co.,Ltd.
寶瓦7房地產中介服务
Warmly Welcome...!
Our Company Special service...
Rental-Single house, Condominium, appartment, office and wear house.
Please Contact us-09-4921 4276, 09-420 114749, 09 421 177105, Power7may@gmail.com

FREEClassifieds

SEE OUR ALL NEW CLASSIFIED SECTION IN TODAY'S PAPER.

Employment

UN Positions

THE UNITED NATIONS Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) is seeking for Myanmar nationals: (1) **Agriculture Specialist** (SC-6) MMRJ94/J95 Projects - 1 Post in Taunggyi/ Hopone, Southern Shan State: A University degree in agriculture with the knowledge and skill in community mobilizat ion & organization. 5 years relevant work experience. Fluency in English. Knowledge of a local language of the region would be an asset. (2)**Marketing Specialist** (SC-6) MMRJ94/J95 Projects - 1 Post in Taunggyi/ Hopone, Southern Shan State: Secondary Education with specialized training in Marketing. University degree in Business or public administration, marketing, marketing or related field would be desirable. 5 years experience in market ing. Proficiency in MS & 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. Applicat ion must include a cover letter, current CV, copies of relevant academic qualification certificates & a recent passport photo. Application should be address to UNODC, 11A, Maylikha Rd, Mayan gone. (or) C/O UNDP, POBox (650), Yangon, Closing Date: 20 February 2013.

WFP Myanmar is seeking : Grade Duty Station No. of post **Admin Assistant** - Facility Management 1 post in Yangon, Grade : SC-4 Yangon : Minimum secondary school education. Supplemen ted by technical or University courses in a field related to the post will be an advantage. 3 years of progressive responsible support work experience in general administrative work with 1 year at the level 3 or equivalent. Communicate effective ly in both written & oral English. Pls send applications with UN P-11 form to HR Unit, WFP, 3rd Flr, Inya Lake Hotel, 37 Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Yangon, P.O. Box 650 (or) email to Myanmar. vacancy@wfp. orgCOB 18 February 2013.

Ingo Positions

MEDECINS du Monde (MDM) is seeking **Program Data Assistant** 1 post : B.C.Sc. degree holder (or) B.E (Information Technology) (or) B.Sc. (Computing & Informat ion Studies). Fluent in English. Good command of computer skills, especially in Database technology. Pls submit CV & a cover letter to MDM Country Coordination Office, Yangon : 47-B, Po Sein St, Bahan, Ph: 542830, 09-731-71002. Email: hr.mdmmyanmar@ gmail. com

WE are seeking (1) **Sale Representative** - 2 Posts : B.Sc, Science Graduated). (2) **Ware House Staff** (Hlaing Thar Yar) 2 posts : B.Sc, Science Graduate. For well establish company supplying plastic and paint raw material and PVC Fitting. Pls send C.V, 2 recent photos, photocopies or labor registration card, Recommendation from police force, education certificate & other related documents to 10, Parami Rd, Hlaing . Ph:521002, 521009, Closing date : 23.2. 2013

SOLIDARITES Int'l (SI) is looking **Deputy Administrative Manager** in Bamo & 1 week per month to work in Yangon office. : Take part in meetings relating to administra tive aspects, represent Solidarites Int'l on request and/ or by order. University level or equivalent in account ing/ manage ment/ administration. 1 years experience in a similar position with NGO. Excellent knowledge of word & excel. Know ledge of logistics procedures. Fluent in English & Myanmar. Pls submit application (CV, cover letter, references) by email to: hr. solidarites.mm@ gmail. com, recuriment@ solidarites-myanmar. org, The position you want to apply for has to be specified in the subject of e-mail, Closing date: 15 February 2013.

BURNET INSTITUTE Myanmar is seeking (1) **Project Manager (Education)** - 1 post : Detailed information can be assessed at Burnet Institute Myanmar office. Pls submit an application letter, CV with recent passport photo & copies of relevant documents to: HR Officer : 226, 2nd Flr, Wizaya Plaza, U Wisara Rd, Bahan (OR) Email:burnet.myanmar @ gmail.com Closing date : February 22, 2013

JAPAN Int'l Cooperation Agency (JICA), a Japanese governmen tal organization respon sible for implementing **Official Development Assistance** (ODA) is seeking (1) **Programme Assistant** : University Graduate. Fluent in English. Age under 45. Good relation ship with Myanmar governmen tal offices. Over 5 years experience in the organization/s. Good computer skills. **(2) Administrative Assistant** : University Graduate. Fluent in English. Age under 40. Over 5 years experience Good computer skills . Duration of assign ment: From March 2013 (negotiable), yearly renewal upon satis factory performan ce. Pls send applicat ions with updated C.V, educational creden tials & references to JICA Myanmar Office, Rm 701, 7th Flr, Sakura Tower, 339, Bokyoke Aung San Rd, Kyaukta da, Closing date : February 15, 2013.

SOLIDARITES Int'l (SI) is seeking (1) **Logistics Coordinator** in Yangon: 5 years experience in Logistics field with INGO/ NGO. University Degree or Diploma (preferably in Logistics Or related proven experience in similar area.). Strong know ledge of IT manage ment & MS office. Fluent in English. (2) **Deputy Logistics Coordinator** in Yangon: 4 years experience in Logistics field with INGO/ NGO. University Degree or Diploma (preferably in logistics Or related proven experience in similar area). Know ledge of IT manage ment & MS office. Fluent in English & Myanmar. Pls submit application (CV, cover letter, references) to : HR Unit- Application for Logistics Coordinator, Solidarites Int'l office -44-A, Tharyarwa ddy Lane, Bahan, or email: recruitment@solidarites-myanmar. org Closing date: 15-2-2013

Local Position

ANNAM MYANMAR Co., Ltd is seeking **(1) Marketing Manager (Cosmetic)** - F 1 post : Any graduate (Diploma in Marketing is preferable), 3 years experience in cosmetic field, Proficiency in English 4 skills and computer (MS office, Internet, Email) **(2) Assistant Manager (Import and logistic)** – M 1 post : Any graduate, 3 years experiencein logistics, Import & Inventory control, Proficiency in English & computer (MS office , Email and Internet) **(3) Accountant** - F 1post : B.Com (or) LCCI level (3), 1 year experience in related field, Must have well knowledge in computerized accounting software **(4) Sales Assistant** - M 3 posts : Any graduate, 1 year experience in sales, Must have knowledge in English speaking and computer skills, Must be able to work overtime. **(5) Delivery + Driver** - M 1 post : Driving license at least 3 year, Must be able to work overtime. Pls apply to Annam Myanmar Office together with : CV, copy of qualification docu ments or relevant certificates, 1 recent color photo, copy of NRC & contact number. Non-refundable for your CV. Pls send application to : 35, Thayawaddy Lane, Bahan, . Tel: 09- 421006979, Email: nono.annam@gmail. com Web: www.annam-group.com

STRAITS Trading Co., Ltd. No.14-16, Shwe Mya Yar Housing, Mya Yar Gone St, Mingalar Taung Nyunt, Yangon. Tel: 01 8619348, 01 8619349 (1) **Sales Representative/Driver** - 2 Posts : Degree Holder, 2 years experience of distribut ion for sales & market ing, Valid driving license, Good communi cations skill. Pls submit: a letter of application, relevant documents & CV, Copy of labor registration card & 1 passport photo to be sent e-mail nawshwetl. straits@gmail. com before 28th February 2013, 6:00 PM.

IPSTAR Engineer (Male only) - To support and advise Myanmar customers. Desired Experience: -Minimum Bachelor Degree in IT or related field, 3 years experience in IT/Network services. Familiar with admin on Linux, Database and Network (Router, L3 SW, Firewall, Security, etc). Good command of both written/spoken English & Myanmar, Travelling in Myanmar and abroad will be expected. Interested candidates are invited to email CV with contact details and expected salary to THAICOM Public Co., Ltd, email at thwaym@ thaicom.net.

MARKETING and Real Estate Agent Company was seeking 3 **English Interpreter**, must interested in marketing & know basic computer, good written and spoken communication skills in English, active & pleasant personality, must understand in customer communicat ion skills, must be spinster, age not over 45. Pls send full resume stating their current and expected salaries, together with a recent photograph, copy of NRC card, to: Muditar Housing, 75/2 Quarter, Ground Flr, B/R-116, Baho Rd, Mayangone. Ph : 01-9669061, 01-9669062 Email: ooliver9 @ gmail. com Pls kindly put your detail address and contact ph no on CV's.

I CARE Medical Group is seeking **Clinic Supervisor** - F 1 Post. Must have a minimum degree from university preferably accounting & marketing back ground. Age 25 ~ 35. Good communication in English. 2 years experience. Must be able to use computer, internet and Microsoft application with excel lent skills. We welcome the candi dates who are trust worthy, self-motivated & outstand ing, willing to learn and able to focus on work, be polite & hospitality, able to communicate in courteous manners and must have positive working attitude. Interested persons are invited to submit: CV with recent photocopy of relevant certificates & documents, describe working experience from graduation till present and expected salary to : Rm G-07, G Flr, Diamond Center, Pyay Rd, Kamayut. Tel 532438, 532447, 09-513-6584, 09-431-19729.

I CARE Medical Group is seeking **Medical Doctor** - F 1 Post : Must have a minimum degree from University M.B.B.S with SA MA registration. Age 23 ~ 28. Good communicat ion in English. Must be able to use computer, internet and Microsoft application with excellent skills. 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 manners and must have positive working attitude. Pls submit CV with recent photocopy of relevant certificates & docu ments, describe working experience from graduation till present and expected salary to Rm (G-07), G Flr, Diamond Center, Pyay Rd, Kamayut. Tel: 532438, 532447, 09-513-6584., 09-431-19729.

SALE & MARKETING Executives - M/F : Age 20 ~ 29. Any bachelor degree. Outstanding communication skills. Ability to easily gain trust and respect. Great telephone sales skills. Friendly nature. Exceptional negotiat ing skills. Must be able to spoke English. Should have flexible working hours. Generous Base Salary, Huge Commission Allowence, Huge Performance Bonuses. Send a detailed and comprehensive covering letter expressing perso nal qualities and why you think you should be chosen for these positions along with a current CV to Estate Myanmar Co., Ltd : 183, Baho Rd (Khaing Shwe War Rd), Kamayut. Ph: 512029, 701062, 704942.

PR & MEDIA Executive needed. Excellent written and spoken English required. Ability to: Translate written documents (press releases mainly) English to Myanmar & vice versa. Distribute releases to all media in Myanmar. Maintain a media database; visit media offices and have the confidence to mix with media. Monitor media & write reports. Attend & help arrange events such as media interviews and press briefings. Must be confident and a good communicator . Possi ble travel to BKK for training. Also will be tasked with some general admin work email CV to marcusal lender @ gmail.com.

(1).**IMPORT** canvassing **sales** of its various products (construction materials) A Singapore based company & dealing in building materials is seeking a male/female for Yangon repoffice experienced in dealing with Architects/ Building Contractors for canvassing sales of its various products. Relevant experience & Good English is necessary. Pls apply to vatsal@ e v e r t o p c o m . c o m (2). Import canvassing **sales** of its various products (industrial products) A Singapore based company dealing in sales of foreign brands of Industrial products. Is looking for a male/female having engineering degree & relevant experience for its Yangon rep Office. Prior relevant sales experience & good English is necessary. Pls apply to vatsal@ evertopcom.com

NETSYS SOLUTIONS is seeking (1) **Admin Cum Receptionist :** Can converse & understand English. Managing customers calls. Simple Accounting knowledge. Manual filing. Understand Microsoft Office such as word, powerpoint & excel. 1 year experience. Fresh grad can apply. (2) **Sales Engineer** - Knowledge in servers, storage & networking. Knowledge in enterpri se solutions. Able to provide solution based on customer require ment. 2 years in sales. Fresh Grad may be considered. Can converse & understand English. Pls apply CV to : raymond@lscs.biz

ALBA is looking for (1). **Local English Teacher** (Full time/ Part time) (2).**Local Re-leaving Teacher** (Full time) (3). Experienced **IGCSE Math teacher** (Part time) The candidate must be :University Graduate, Fluent in spoken & written English, Must have experience in related field, Excellent commu nication & inter personal skills. Pls send a curriculum vitae together with a recent photo and copies of testimonials to : 66, Shwedagon Pagoda Rd, Dagon Tsp. Ph: 376236, 376314, Email: admin@ albaedu. com

SAIL Advertising agency is looking for a **receptionist** who has a good command in English. Pls send resume to : SAIL Marketing & Communi cations: 790, Bogyoke Rd & Wadan Rd Junction suite 403, Danathiha Center, Lanmadaw. Ph: 211870, 224820.

FINANCE HEAD for Utility: B.Com, CPA. Proficient in English. At least 10 years experience in finance function. Willing to travel between Yangon & Mandalay. Interested & qualified candidates should email CV & cover letter to pmar@mpic. com.ph

GOVERNMENT Relations Junior Associate, Myanmar - 1 Post, Vriens & Partners (a Singapore-based corporate advisory firm). We are seeking a Government Relations Junior Associate to join our growing team in Myanmar on a full-time basis. Experience & Skills: Strong interperso nal skills, knowledge of administrative systems of government and international agencies, knowledge and interest of Myanmar govern ment protocol, profi ciency in written & spoken English, tran slation/ Interpre tation experience (Myanmar-English). Pls send CV to romain@vriens partners. com & htet@ vriens part ners. com, Applications are accepted on a rolling basis with a view to recruit asap.

M.YASSOCIATE Co., Ltd. (Engineering Division) is looking for motivated & committed **Sales Engineer** (Male) 1 post : B-Tech or AGTI (Mech or E.C) Gradu ate, qualified with Sales & Marketing experience, Fluent English. Pls send CV to 216, Bogyoke Aung San Rd. Botahtaung during office hours. Or send the email to tunnaingsoe@ myassoco.asia.

RECEPTIONIST - F Age 20 ~ 30, Any graduate, Must aware of duties and responsibilities of a receptionist role, Fluent in English, Korean (for phone answering) is a compulsory, Computer skill in the use of Microsoft Word, Excel, other basic data based applications and data updating in website, Interpersonal skills and Organizational skills, Self-Motivating, Energetic & hard-working. Submit application C.V. attach ed a recent photo with references to KOTRA, 9th Flr., Sakura Tower. Only selected candi dates will be invited for personal interview.

NAVIGAT GROUP (Myanmar Power Pte, Ltd) is looking (1) **Power Plant Operator** - 1 Post (Tharkata Tsp) :Int'l Diploma Holder in Electrical or Mechani cal (BE/ ME- Mechani cal or Electrical if it is possible), Proficient in English, Preferable to have experience in maintenance & operat ion of gas fired engines for power generation experience in the changing of lube oil, spark plug gapping and fuel filters, experience in the monitoring & maintainance gas and the electrical system, recording performance of individual engines & the overall plant, Ability to work shift work. Training will be provided by Navigat in Myanmar & Indonesia (if needed) ***(2)*Senior Power Plant Operator** - 1 Post (Tharkata Tsp) :Int'l Diploma Holder in Electrical or Mechani cal (BE/ ME-Mechani cal or Electrical f it is possible), Extensive experience in main tenance & operation of gas fired engines for power generation (minimum of 5 years) , Proficient in English, Ability to lead a team of operator & establish shift plans, Ability to initiate counter measures in case of breakdowns, analyze problems and escalate to manage ment (if needed), Ability to manage spare parts and consumable inventory, Being responsible for the presentation of production targets and efficiency measures, meter reading in conjunction with the client & document preparation for invoic ing. Handling to repair and maintenan ce of engines, electrical switchgear & swit chyard. Pls send CV including introducing letter in English to wernerm@navigat.com with recent photograph to Rm-1705 , 17th Flr, Sakura Tower: 339, Bogyoke Aung San Rd Kyauktada, Ph:255094 Closing date : 12th February 2013. For information www. Navigat.com

BANDOOLA Enterprises Ltd : We are looking for efficient & affluent candidates for the following posts, for arenowed multinatio nal company operat ions in Yangon (1) **Business Develop ment Manager** :Should have min.10 years of experience in Lubri cants sector. Duties include over operations and marketing of the product."Must be able to speak, read & write English fluently. (2) **Markety Executive**: 3 years experience in marketing Lubricants & various Oil products. (3) **Marketing Manager** : 5 years experience in marketing tractors & other agricultural equip ments. Applicants with experience in market ing generators, various inductrial equipments & other vehicles can also apply."Must be able to speak,read & write English fluently. (4) **Service & Marketing Executive** : 3 years experience in servicing & maintence of tractors and various agricultural equip ments. Applicants with experience in repairing generators can also apply. Eligible appli cants must send in their CV's before 20th February 2013 to Email: gbg. tractors@ gmail.com or Mobile : 09-4200-87374

WE are Int'l Trading and Supplying Company is looking (1) **Sales Engineer**(BE)M/F2posts (Electronics/ Mechanical/ Mechatro nics)- Age 25 ~ 35. 1 years experience. Proficient in English. Well computer literate (2) **Business Coordi nator** - F 2 posts: With Any Graduate. Age 20 ~ 28. 1 year experience. (MFTB and MICB Bank Relates Understood for Company Document.) Well computer literate . Pls apply personal CV, recent colour photo, Education Documents, expected salary, work ing experience & range of proficiency in CV to HR Department: 3(A), May Kha Lane, 7th mile. Mayan gone. Ph: 655565, 661142.

BUSINESS Develop-ment Team, a leading ship, dealing in high quality fashion is seeking (1) **Accountant Executive** - F 1 post: Age 25~30. Any graduate (B.Com or DA are more prefer). 2 years experience . (2) **Auditor** F 2 posts : Age 22~28. Any graduate (experien ce in related field will be more preferred). (3) **Manage ment Trainee** - M/F 3 Posts : Age 20~25. Any graduate (BBA, BBM are more prefer). Can do English & Myanmar typing, Maths calculat ion & use Microsoft office well. (4) **Driver** - M 2 posts. Pls submit CV with labour registration card to HR (BDT), (Upper of Tamwe Orange Super Market) - No(15, 16, 17, 18), Thamain Bayan Rd, Myittar Yeik Mon Housing, Tarmwe. Ph: 09-862-3381~3 ext 111. E-mail: bdt. hrassistant @gmail. com

THE CENTER for Vocational Training, with school facilities and office in Yangon provides vocational training according to the dual apprenticeship model from Switzer land, which combanies Practice with Theory. CVT works closely with a wide range of training companies as a non profit organization. (1) **Commercial Assistant Profession Teacher** - M/ F 1 Post : Bachelor Degree from University of Economic or relevance knowledge. Experience in Admini strative work. (2) **Senior Cabinet Maker Profession Teacher** - M 1 Post : Must know how to draw, design and produce the furniture in theoretical & practical knowledge. Must have relevance certificate concerned with making furniture. (3) **Electri cian Profession Teacher** - M/F 1 Post : B.E (EP), AGTI (EP), & CVT graduate. (4) **Hotel & Gastronomy Asst Profession Teachers** - M/F 2 Posts : Must be a certificate holder of Room Divisions, F&B Production. (5) **Metal Worker Profession Teacher** - M/F 1 Post : AGTI (Machine Tools & Design). Must be skillful in machine shop subject in theory and practice. Must be skillful in using milling machine. (6) **Media Officer** - M/F 1 Post : Any degree but prefer in computer subject. Skillful in computer, excel, graphic & prefer experience in media. Each and every post required 5 years experience and 2 years teaching experience for 1 to 5. Good command in English, using a computer (MS Office). Pls submit an applicat ion letter with CV, recent passport photo & copy of relevance docu ments to 3rd Flr, MRCS Bldg 42, Strand Rd, Botahtaung, Ph: 383 676, 09-731-66206, or by email within 3 weeks. Email:cvtygn @ golden land. com. mm, cvt. 2001.2009@gmail. com

---

Myanmar Megasteel Industries Ltd is seeking for:

1. **Admin Manager** **F/M (2) Posts**

   Age 35~45, well understanding of vehicle management, fully understand and support of Admin function, at least (5) yrs supervisory experience in related field. Able to coordinate with Government offices.

2. **Marketing Executive** **F/M (4) Posts**

   Age 25~35, strong working knowledge in sales of construction materials, having Auto CAD knowledge, driving license is preferable, (2) yrs experience in Marketing field.

All applicants must have University Degree Holder, Fluency in English 4 Skills and Proficiency in computer skill.

Application should included one recent photo, photo copy of NRC & labour card, contact Ph No and address to be submitted before 1st Mar' 13 to Rm. 903, 9th Flr., Yuzana Tower, Shwegonedine (or) No 53B, 54, 55 U Hmou Road, Hlaing Thar Yar Industrial Zone (3), Yangon. Ph No: 684655, 685629, 685630.

MT QUICK GUIDE

• Fax : (951) 254 158 • Email: advertising@myanmartimes.com.mm • Tel: (951) 392 928, 253 642, 392 676 • www.mmtimes.com

The Essentials

EMBASSIES

Australia 88, Strand Road, Yangon. tel : 251810, 251797, 251798, 251809, 246462, 246463, fax: 246159

Bangladesh 11-B, Than Lwin Road, Yangon. tel: 515275, 526144, fax: 515273, email: bdootygn@mptmail.net.mm

Brazil 56, Pyay Road, 6th mile, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. tel: 507225, 507251, 507482. fax: 507483. email: Administ.yangon@itamaraty.gov.br.

Brunei 17, Kanbawza Avenue, Golden Velly (1), Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 566985, 503978, fax: 512854 email: bruneiemb@ bruneiemb.com.mm

Cambodia 25 (3B/4B), New University Avenue Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 549609, 540964, fax: 541462, email: RECYANGON @mptmail.net.mm

China 1, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 221280, 221281, 224025, 224097, 221926, fax: 227019, 228319

Egypt 81, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 222886, 222887, fax: 222865, email: egyembyangon@mptmail.net.mm

France 102, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 212178, 212520, 212523, 212528, 212532, fax: 212527, email: ambaf rance. rangoun@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 @mptmail.net.mm

Indonesia 100, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 254465, 254469, 229750, fax: 254468, email: kukygn @indonesia.com.mm

Israel 15, Khabaung Street, Hlaing Tsp, Yangon. tel: 515115, fax: 515116, email: info@ yangon.mfa.gov.il

Italy 3, Inya Myaing Road, Golden Valley, Yangon. tel: 527100, 527101, fax: 514565, email: ambyang.mail@ esteri.it

Japan 100, Natmauk Road, Yangon. tel: 549644-8, 540399, 540400, 540411, 545988, fax: 549643

Embassy of the **State of Kuwait** Chatrium Hotel, Rm: No.416, 418, 420, 422, 40 Natmauk Rd, Tarmwe Tsp, Tel: 544500.

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

Lao A-1, Diplomatic Quarters, Tawwin Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. tel: 222482, fax: 227446, email: Laoembcab@ mptmail. net.mm

Malaysia 82, Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Yangon. tel: 220248, 220249, 220251, 220230, fax: 221840, email: mwkyangon@mptmail.net.mm

Nepal 16, Natmauk Yeiktha, Yangon. tel: 545880, 557168, fax: 549803, email: nepemb @mptmail.net.mm

Pakistan A-4, diplomatic Quarters, Pyay Road, Yangon. tel: 222881 (Chancery Exchange) fax: 221147, email: pakistan@ myanmar.com.mm

Philippines 50, Sayasan Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 558149-151, fax: 558154, email: p.e. yangon@gmail.com

Russian 38, Sagawa Road, Yangon. tel: 241955, 254161, fax: 241953, email: rusinmyan@mptmail .net.mm

Serbia No. 114-A, Inya Road, P.O.Box No. 943-Yangon. tel: 515282, 515283, fax: 504274, email: serbemb@ yangon.net.mm

Singapore 238, Dhamazedi Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. tel: 559001, fax: 559002, 559922, email: singemb_ ygn@_ sgmfa. gov.sg

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 Kanna Road, Yangon. tel: 370867, 380322, 371852, 371853, 256438, 370863, 370864, 370865, fax: 370866

United States of America 110, University Avenue, Kamayut Township, Yangon. tel: 536509, 535756, 538038, fax: 650306

Vietnam Building No. 72, Thanlwin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. tel: 511305, fax: 514897, email: vnemb myr@ cybertech.net.mm

Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia No.287/289, U Wisara Rd, Sanchaung Tsp. tel : 01-536153, 516952, fax : 01-516951

UNITED NATIONS

ILO Liaison Officer Rm (M1212~1220), 12 Fl-A, Traders Hotel. 223, tel: 242 393, 242811. fax: 242594.

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, Malikha 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, Malikha 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, Kabar 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.

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.
Myanma Post & Telecommunication (MPT) ☎tel: 067-407007.
Myanma 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.

HOSPITALS

Central Women's Hospital ☎tel: 221013, 222811.
Children Hospital ☎tel: 221421, 222807
Ear, Nose & Throat Hospital ☎tel: 543888.
Naypyitaw Hospital (emergency) ☎tel: 420096.
Worker's Hospital ☎tel: 554444, 554455, 554811.
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.

General Listing

ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS

Avenue 64 Hotel
No. 64 (G), Kyitewine Pagoda Road, Mayangone Township. Yangon.
09 8631392, 01 656913-9

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
4, Shweli Rd, Bet: Inya Rd & U Wisara Rd, Kamaryut, tel: 525781, 526872

Eden Palace Hotel
No. (356/366), Kyaikkasan Rd, Tamwe Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Ph: 542826, Fax: 545650
Email: reservation@ edenpalacehotel.com

Hotel Yangon
91/93, 8th Mile Junction, Mayangone. tel : 01-667708, 667688.

Inya Lake Resort Hotel
37 Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd. tel: 662866. fax: 665537.

PANDA hotel
No. 205, Corner of Wadan Street & Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road, Lanmadaw Tsp, Yangon. Myanmar.
Tel: (95-1) 212850 ~ 3, 229358 ~ 61,
Fax: (95-1) 212854.
info@myanmarpandahotel.com http://www.myanmarpandahotel.com

PARKROYAL Yangon, Myanmar
33, Alan Pya Pagoda Rd, Dagon tsp.
tel: 250388. fax: 252478.
email: enquiry.prygn@ parkroyalhotels.com
Website: parkroyalhotels.com.

Savoy Hotel
129, Damazedi Rd, Kamayut tsp.
tel: 526289, 526298,

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
92 Strand Rd. tel: 243377. fax: 289880.

Summit Parkview Hotel
350, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp. tel: 211888, 211966. fax: 227995.

Thamada Hotel
5, Alan Pya Phaya Rd, Dagon. tel: 243639, 243640, 243641.

Traders Hotel
223 Sule Pagoda Rd. tel: 242828. fax: 242838.

Winner Inn
42, Than Lwin Rd, Bahan Tsp. Tel: 503734, 524387.
email: reservation@winner innmyanmar.com

Yangon YMCA
263, Mahabandoola Rd, Botataung Tsp. tel: 294128,

Yuzana Hotel
130, Shwegondaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, tel : 01-549600, 543367

Yuzana Garden Hotel
44, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Mingalar Taung Nyunt Tsp, tel : 01-248944

HOTEL MAX Chaung Tha Beach
Reservation Office (Yangon)
123, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Dagon Township
Tel : 951- 255 819~838
Hotel Max (Chaung Tha Beach)
Tel : 042-423 46~9, 042-421 33,
E-mail: maxhotelsreservation@ gmail.com
Managed by Max Hotels

ACCOMMODATION-HOTELS (NAY PYI TAW)

ROYAL KUMUDRA HOTEL (Nay Pyi Taw)
Reservation Office (Yangon)
123, Alanpya Pagoda Rd, Dagon Township
Tel : 951- 255 819~838
Royal Kumudra Hotel, (Nay Pyi Taw)
Tel : 067- 414 177, 067- 4141 88
E-Mail: maxhotelsreservation@ gmail.com
Managed by Max Hotels

ACCOMMODATION LONG TERM

Espace Avenir
No 523, Pyay Rd, Kamaryut. tel: 505213-222.

Golden Hill Towers
24-26, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Bahan Tsp.
tel: 558556. ghtower@ mptmail.net.mm.

HAPPY HOMES
REAL ESTATE & PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
Tel: 09-7349-4483, 09-4200-56994.
E-mail: aahappyhomes@ gmail.com, http://www.happyhomesyangon.com

Marina Residence
8, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Mayangone Tsp.
tel: 6506 51~4. fax: 650630.

MiCasa Hotel Apartments
17, Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp.
tel: 650933. fax: 650960.

Sakura Residence
9, Inya Rd, Kamaryut Tsp.
tel: 525001. fax: 525002.

The Grand Mee Ya Hta Executive Residence
372, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Pabedan Tsp.
tel 951-256355 (25 lines).

ACCOUNTANTS AND CONSULTANTS

Charted Certified, Certified Public Accountants. tel: 09-501-0563. drtinlatt@matglobal.com

AIR CONDITION

Chigo
No. 216, 38 Street (Upper), Kyauktada Tsp,
tel : 373472

FRESH Air Conditioning Systems
The First Air conditioning systems designed to keep you fresh all day **GUNKUL Engineer supply Co., Ltd.**
No.437 (A), Pyay Road, Kamayut. P., O 11041
Yangon, Tel: +(95-1) 502016-18,
Mandalay- Tel: 02-60933.
Nay Pyi Taw- Tel: 067-420778, E-mail : sales.ac@freshaircon.com. URL: http://www.freshaircon.com

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 Beer Gallery Mini Zoo Karaweik Oo-Yin KaBar
Green Garden
Beer Gallery Mini Zoo, Karaweik Oo-Yin Kabar.

INYA 1 Restaurant & Bar
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@thestrand.com.mm
www.ghmhotels.com

the LOBBY BAR
Lobby Bar
PARKROYAL Yangon, Myanmar. 33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Tsp.
tel: 250388.

ADVERTISING

WE STARTED THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY IN MYANMAR SINCE 1991

SAIL MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS ADVERTISING

SAIL Marketing & Communications
Suite 403, Danathiha Center 790, Corner of Bogyoke Rd & Wadan Rd, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: (951) 211870, 224820, 2301195. Email: admin@advertising-myanmar.com www.advertising-myanmar.com

ART & CRAFT

AUGUSTINE'S ANTIQUES

25-B, Thirimingalar Street, (8) block, Kamayut Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel/Fax: 95-1-504290 Tel: 09-541-9459, 505409. Email: augustine@myanmar.com.mm.

BEAUTY & MASSAGE

DR. FACE aesthetic.mm

Aesthetic Medical Spa
5 (C), Race Course Condo, South Race Course Street, Tarmwe, Yangon. Mobile: 09-5202781 dr.face.Aesthetic@gmail.com

LS Salon
Junction Square, 3rd floor. Pyay Rd, Kamayut Tsp. Tel 527242, ext 4001

La Source Beauty Spa

La Source Beauty Spa
~80(A), Inya Rd, Kamayut Tsp, tel: 512 380, 511 252. www.lasourcebeautyspa.com

Lemon Day Spa

Lemon Day Spa
No. 96 F, Inya Road, Kamaryut Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 514848, 09-732-08476. E.mail: lemondayspa.2011@gmail.com

A Little Dayspa
No. 475 C, Pyi Road, Kamayut, Yangon. Tel: 09-431-28831.

The Girl in the Red Scarf

Spa & Boutique Fashion
No. 24, Inya Road, Kamaryut Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 951 534 654, 09-73200147 theredscarf99@gmail.com

BOOK STORES

Innwa Book Store
No. 246, Rm.201/301, GF, Pansodan Street (Upper Block), Kyauktada Tsp. Tel. 389838, 243216, 374324, 514387

Monument Books — MONUMENT TOYS

- 150 Dhamazedi Rd., Bahan T/S, Yangon. Tel: 536306, 537805.
- Room 308, 3rd Flr., Junction Center (Maw Tin), Lanmadaw T/S, Yangon. Tel: 218155, Ext. 1308.
- 15(B), Departure Lounge, Yangon Int'l Airport.
- 45B, Corner of 26th & 68th Sts., Mandalay. Tel: (02) 66197. Email: yangon@monument-books.com

MYANMAR BOOK CENTRE
Nandawun Compound, No. 55, Baho Road, Corner of Baho Road and Ahlone Road, (near Eugenia Restaurant), Ahlone Township. tel: 212 409, 221 271. 214708 fax: 524580. email: info@myanmarbook.com

CAFÈS

La BRASSERIE

La Brasserie (International)
PARKROYAL Yangon. 33, Alan Pya Phaya Road, Dagon Tsp. tel : 250388.

Acacia Tea Salon
52, Sayar San Rd, Bahan Tsp, Tel : 01-554739.

Cafe47
47-A, Pyay Rd, 7½ miles, Mayangone Tsp, Tel : 01-651774.

Traders Café
Traders Hotel, Yangon. #223, Sule Pagoda Rd. Tel: 242828 ext: 6519

COLD STORAGE

GLOVER ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES PTE., LTD.

Est. 1992 in Myanmar Cold Storage Specialist, Solar Hot Water Storage Solutions.
Tel: 09-504-2196, 09-731-94828. E-mail: gei.ygn2@gmail.com, glover2812@gmail.com

CONSTRUCTION

ZAMIL STEEL — total steel building solutions

Zamil Steel
No-5, Pyay Road, 7½ miles, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (95-1) 652502~04. Fax: (95-1) 650306. Email: zamilsteel@zamilsteel.com.mm

CONSULTING

THURA SWISS — Myanmar Research | Consulting | Technology

Shwe Hinthar B 307, 6 1/2 Miles, Pyay Rd., Yangon. Tel: +95 (0)1 654 730 info@thuraswiss.com www.thuraswiss.com

DUTY FREE

Dream Works Limited

Duty Free Airport Shopping
Yangon International Airport Arrival/Departure Tel: 662676 (Airport) Office: 17, 2nd street, Hlaing Yadanarmon Housing, Hlaing Township, Yangon. Tel: 500143, 500144, 500145.

EDUCATION CENTRE

MHR
905, 9th floor, Modern Iron Market(Thanzay Condo) Lanmadaw St. Tel: 707822.

NLEC
82 Anawrahta Rd, Corner of 39 St, Kyauktada Tsp. Tel: 250225.

ELECTRICAL

GLOVER ELECTRICAL INDUSTRIES PTE., LTD.

Est. 1992 in Myanmar Electrical & Mechanical Contractors, Designers, Consultants.
Tel: 09-504-2196, 09-731-94828. E-mail: gei.ygn2@gmail.com, glover2812@gmail.com

ENTERTAINMENT

HOLA Dance Club & Bar
No.94, Ground Floor, Bogalay Zay Street, Botataung Tsp, Yangon.Tel: 392625, 09-500-3591
Email : danceclub.hola@gmail.com
(Except Sunday)

The Uranium Dance Studio
Pearl condo Bldg (C), 2nd flr, Bahan Tsp. Tel: 09-731-42624, 09-514-0404.

FASHION & TAILOR

SEIN SHWE TAILOR

Sein Shwe Tailor, No.797 (003-A), Bogyoke Aung San Road, Corner of Wardan Street, MAC Tower 2, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Ph: 01-225310, 212943~4 Ext: 146, 147, E-mail: uthetlwin@gmail.com

FITNESS CENTRE

The Yangon GYM
Summit Parkview Hotel 350, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp. tel: 211888, 211966.

Traders Health Club.
Level 5, Traders Hotel Yangon#223 Sule Pagoda Rd, Tel: 951 242828 Ext: 6561

Balance Fitnesss
No 64 (G), Kyitewine Pagoda Road, Mayangone Township. Yangon 01-656916, 09 8631392 Email - info@balancefitnessyangon.com

KETTLER Germany

Sports & Fitness
Grand Meeyahta Executive Residence. Shop 4-5, Ph: 256355, Ext: 3015, 3204 09 731 94684 email: natraysports@gmail.com

PASO LATINO DANCING STUDIO — STRICTLY BALLROOM

Mr. Betchang
No.(272), Pyay Rd, DNH Tower, Rm No.(503), 5th flr, Sanchaung Tsp, Tel: 095041216

FLORAL SERVICES

ETERNAL FLOWERS

Floral Service & Gift Shop
No. 449, New University Avenue, Bahan Tsp. YGN. Tel: 541217, 559011, 09-860-2292.
Market Place By City Mart
Tel: 523840~43, 523845~46, Ext: 205.
Junction Nay Pyi Taw
Tel: 067-421617~18 422012~15, Ext: 235. Res: 067-414813, 09-492-09039. Email : eternal@mptmail.net.mm

Flower Express
For enquiries pls call tel: 685150.

Rosana FLORAL & GIFT

Flora Service & Gift Shop
No.173(B), West Shwegonedaing Rd, Bahan Tsp, YGN. Tel: 09.731 800 30

No.75/77, Yaw Min Gyi St.
Dagon Tsp, YGN. Tel: 09.431 432 34.

Home: 01-577 387,
Email: rosanafloral.ygn@gmail.com

Sandy's

Floral Service & Gift
Centre 102(A), Dhamazaydi Rd, Yangon.tel: 500142 Summit Parkview Hotel, tel: 211888, 211966 ext. 173 fax: 535376.email: sandy@sandymyanmar.com.mm.

FOAM SPRAY INSULATION

COOL SPEED FOAM SPRAY INSULATION

Foam Spray Insulation
No-410, Ground Floor, Lower Pazuntaung Road, Pazuntaung Tsp, Yangon. Telefax : 01-203743, 09-730-26245, 09-500-7681. Hot Line-09-730-30825.

GAS COOKER & COOKER HOODS

Rinnai

Yangon : A-3, Aung San Stadium (North East Wing), Mingalartaungnyunt Tsp. Tel : 245543, 09-730-37772.
Mandalay : Room No.(B,C) (National Gas), 35th St, Btw 80th & 81st, Chanaye-tharzan Tsp. Tel : 09-680-3505, 02 34455, 36748, 71878.

GEMS & JEWELLERIES

Diamond Queen
75, Oo Yin Lane, New University Avenue Rd, Bahan Tsp. Tel : 01- 548001, 704398

Diamond & Me
Junction Square, Ground Floor, Kamayut Tsp. Tel : 01- 527242, (Ext : 1082)

MANAWMAYA HOUSE OF JEWELS

Ruby & Rare Gems of Myanamar
No. 527, New University Ave., Bahan Tsp. Yangon. sales@manawmaya.com.mm www.manawmayagems.com Tel: 549612, Fax : 545770.

SP GEMS

Natural Gems of Myanmar
No. 30 (A), Pyay Road (7 mile), Mayangone Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 01-660397, 654398~9. E-mail: spgems.myanmar@gmail.com

GENERATORS

winning way

Winning Way
No. 589-592, Bo Aung Kyaw St, Yangon-Pathein highway Road. Hlaing Tharyar tsp. Tel: 951-645178-182, 685199, Fax: 951-645211, 545278. e-mail: mkt-mti@winstrategic.com.mm

HEALTH SERVICES

Asia Pacific Dr Centre for Medical and Dental Care Dr Aesthetic Centre

98(A), Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tel: 553783, 549152, 09-732-16940, 09-730-56079. Fax: 542979 Email: asiapacific.myanmar@gmail.com.

GOLDEN LION PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTER

Professor Doctors,
(Made in USA) Equipment Physio-therapists, Fully Aircon, At China Town. 96, Latha Street , Latha Tsp, Yangon. Ph : 01-395544, 246365

HEALTH BRIDGE LAW KA NET

Acupuncture, Medicine Massage, Foot Spa
Add:No,27(A),Ywa Ma Kyaung Street, Hlaing Township, Yangon. Tel: 01-511122, 526765.

โรงพยาบาล ปิยะเวท PIYAVATE HOSPITAL BANGKOK, THAILAND

Piyavate Hospital (Bangkok) Myanmar Represent ative (Head office)
Grand Mee Yahta Executive Residences. No.372, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, PBDN. Ph: 256355, Ext: 3206. Hotline: 09-7377-7799. Email: piyavate@cnt.com.mm, piyavate.cnt@gmail.com, Website: www.piyavate.com

Vibhavadi Hospital
214. 1st Floor, Waizayanter Rd, Thingangyun Tsp.Email: vibhavadimyanmar@gmail.com, Hot line: 09-2011-772, 09-731-650-45, 09-86-250-86

PHIH-Specialist Clinic
FMI Centre (4th Floor) #380, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Pabedan Tsp. tel: 243 010, 243 012, 243 013

Innovative DIAGNOSTICS

24 hours Laboratory & X-ray
No. 330, Ground Flr, Yangon Int'l Hotel, Ahlone Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: (951) 218388, (951) 218292 Fax: (951) 218389

MCOC Myanmar Clinical Oncology Centre

24 hours Cancer centre
No. 330, Yangon International Hotel, Ahlone Road, Dagon Tsp, Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: (951) 218388, 218292 Fax: (951) 218389

LEO medicare 24 hour Medical Assistance Service

24 Hour International Medical Centre @ Victoria Hospital
No. 68, Tawwin Rd, 9 Mile, Mayangon Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: + 951 651 238, + 959 495 85 955
Fax: + 959 651 398
24/7 on duty doctor: + 959 492 18 410
Website: www.leo.com.mm
" One Stop Solution for Quality Health Care "

HEAVY MACHINERY

KOHLER ON

ATC Co., Ltd.
27 (A), Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin TSP:, Yangon, Myanmar. T & F : 665610, 667498 atc-admin@wimaxmail.net.mm

JCB

ATC Co., Ltd.
27 (A), Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin TSP:, Yangon, Myanmar. T & F : 665610, 667498 atc-admin@wimaxmail.net.mm

HOME FURNISHING

Casabella One Stop Luxury Home Furnishing Center

22, Pyay Rd, 9 mile, Mayangone Tsp. tel: 660769, 664363.

Franzo Living Mall
15 (A/5), Pyay Rd, A-1, 9 Miles, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. Ph: 664026

SMART DESIGNS CO., LTD.

European Quality & Designs Furniture Suitable for Outdoor or Indoor Use
No. 422 - 426, FJVC Centre, Ground Floor, Room No. 4, Strand Road (Corner of Botahtaung Pagoda Road), Botahtaung Township, Yangon 11161, Myanmar. Tel: 01 202063, 01 202064 H.P: 09 509 1673 Fax: 01 202063 E-mail: contact@smartdesignstrading.com Website: www.wovenfurnituredesigns.com

LEGAL SERVICE

U Min Sein, BSc, RA, CPA.,RL Advocate of the Supreme Court 83/14 Pansodan St, Yangon. tel: 253 273. uminsein@mptmail.net.mm

MARINE COMMUNICATION & NAVIGATION

Top Marine Show Room
No-385, Ground Floor, Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Tsp, Yangon. Ph: 01-202782, 09-851-5597

Media & Advertising

Intuitive Design, Advertising, Interior Decoration
Corporate logo/Identity/ Branding, Brochure/ Profile Booklet/ Catalogue/ Billboard, Corporate diary/ email newsletter/ annual reports, Magazine, journal advertisement and 3D presentation and detailed planning for any interior decoration works. Talk to us: (951) 430-897, 553-918 www.medialane.com.au 58B Myanma Gon Yaung Housing, Than Thu Mar Road, Tamwe, Yangon.

OFFICE FURNITURE

Monday to Saturday (9am to 6pm)
No. 797, MAC Tower II, Rm -4, Ground Flr, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Lamadaw Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (951) 212944 Ext: 303 sales.centuremyanmar@gmail.com www.centure.in.th

Bld-A2, Gr-Fl, Shwe Gabar Housing, Mindama Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. email: eko-nr@myanmar.com.mm Ph: 652391, 09-73108896

Bld-A2, Gr-Fl, Shwe Gabar Housing, Mindama Rd, Mayangone Tsp, Yangon. email: eko-nr@myanmar.com.mm Ph: 652391, 09-73108896

PAINT

TOP MARINE PAINT
No-410, Ground Floor, Lower Pazundaung Road, Pazundaung Tsp, Yangon. Ph: 09-851-5202

PRINTING

No. 177, U Chit Maung Road, Zay Kwayt Bus Stop, Bahan Tsp. Tel: (959) 4200 56166 Fax: (951) 860 3866 maharbandula1@gmail.com

PLEASURE CRUISES

Road to Mandalay
Myanmar Hotels & Cruises Ltd. Governor's Residence 39C, Taw Win Rd, Dagon Tsp, Yangon. Tel: (951) 229860 fax: (951) 217361. email: RTMYGN@mptmail.net.mm www.orient-express.com

Moby Dick Tours Co., Ltd. Islands Safari in the Mergui Archipelago
4 Days, 6 Days, 8 Days Trips Tel: 95 1 202063, 202064 E-mail: info@islandsafarimergui.com. Website: www.islandsafarimergui.com

REAL ESTATE

Real Estate Agency
Our Services - Office, House & Land (For Rent) (Agent Fees Free) Tel: 09-501-8250, 09-732-02480.

REMOVALISTS

Relocation Specialist
Rm 504, M.M.G Tower, #44/56, Kannar Rd, Botahtaung Tsp. Tel: 250290, 252313. Mail : info@asiantigers-myanmar.com

Legendary Myanmar Int'l Shipping & Logistics Co., Ltd.
No-9, Rm (A-4), 3rd Flr, Kyaung St, Myaynigone, Sanchaung Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 516827, 523653, 516795. Mobile. 09-512-3049. Email: legandarymyr@mptmail.net .mm www.LMSL-shipping.com

Crown Worldwide
Movers Ltd 790, Rm 702, 7th Flr Danathiha Centre, Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Lanmadaw. Tel: 223288, 210 670, 227650. ext: 702. Fax: 229212. email: crownworldwide@mptmail.net.mm

Schenker (Thai) Ltd. Yangon 59 A, U Lun Maung Street. 7 Mile Pyay Road, MYGN. tel: 667686, 666646.fax: 651250. email: schenker@mptmail.net.mm.

World Wide Movers Myanmar
Bo Sun Pat Tower, Bldg 608, Rm 6(B), Cor of Merchant Rd & Bo Sun Pat St, PBDN Tsp. Tel: 377263, 250582, 250032, 09-511-7876, 09-862-4563.

RESTAURANTS

Lunch/Dinner/Catering 555539, 536174

Restaurant & Bar
No.430(A), Corner of Dhamazedi Rd & Golden Valley Rd, Building(2) Market Place (City Mart), Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel : 01-523840(Ext-309), 09-73208079.

Black Canyon Coffee & International Thai Cuisine
330, Ahlone Rd, Dagon Tsp. Tel: 0980 21691, 395052.

Heaven Pizza
38/40, Bo Yar Nyunt St. Yaw Min Gyi Quarter, Dagon Township. Tel: 09-855-1383

INYA 1 Restaurant & Bar
No.(1), Inya Road, Kamayut Tsp. Tel: 01-527506 email: inyaone@gmail.com www.inya1.com

Kohaku Japanese Restaurant
Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Tsp, Lobby Level, Tel: 544500 Ext 6231

22, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Bahan Tsp. tel 541997. email: leplanteur@mptmail.net.mm. http://leplanteur.net

Enchanting and Romantic, a Bliss on the Lake
62 D, U Tun Nyein Road, Mayangon Tsp, Yangon Tel. 01 665 516, 660976 Mob. 09-4210-34875 operayangon@gmail.com www.operayangon.com

Monsoon Restaurant & Bar 85/87, Thein Byu Road, Botahtaung Tsp. Tel: 295224, 09-501 5653.

Pansweltaw Express Cafe: 228, Ahlone Rd, Ahlone Tsp. Tel: 215363 (1)-Rm-309, 3rd flr, Ocean, East Point Shopping Center, Pazundaung Tsp. Tel:397900 Ext: 309. (2)-G-Flr, Ocean North Point Shopping Center. Tel:652959, 652960, Ext: 133.

Royal Garden
Nat Mauk Road, Kandaw Gyi Natural Park, Bahan Tsp. tel: 546202

Signature
Near U Htaung Bo Round, about Bahan Tsp. tel: 546488, 543387.

Spicy Forest Thai, Korean and European Food
Rm-051/Basement-1 (B1), Taw Win Center, Pyay Rd. Tel : 09-7320-9566, 01-8600111 (1151)

Summer Palace (Chinese) Restaurant
Level 2, Traders Hotel, #223, Sule Pagoda Road. tel: 242828. ext:6483

Indian Fine Dining & Bar
Bldg No. 12, Yangon Int'l Compound, Ahlone Road. Tel: 01-2302069, 09-431-85008, 09-731-60662. sales@corrianderleaf.com

The Ritz Exclusive Lounge
Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Tsp, Ground Floor, Tel: 544500 Ext 6243, 6244

The Emporia Restaurant
Chatrium Hotel Royal Lake Yangon 40, Natmauk Road, Tamwe Tsp. Lobby Level, Tel: 544500 Ext 6294

Traders Gourmet Corner
Level 1, Traders Hotel, #223 Sule Pagoda Road, Kyauktada Tsp. Tel : 242828 ext : 6503

Traders Gallery Bar
Level 2, Traders Hotel, #223 Sule Pagoda Road. tel: 242 828. ext: 6433

Traders Lobby Lounge
Level 1, Traders Hotel, #223 Sule Pagoda Road. tel: 242 828. ext: 6456

Western Park
Thakhin Mya Park, Ahlone. Tel: 225143

1. WASABI : No.20-B, Kaba Aye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp,(Near MiCasa), Tel; 666781,09-503-9139
2. WASABI SUSHI : Market Place by City Mart (1st Floor). Tel; 09-430-67440
Myaynigone (City Mart)
Yankin Center (City Mart)
Junction Mawtin (City Mart)

SCHOOLS

Horizon Int'l School
25, Po Sein Road, Bahan Tsp, tel : 541085, 551795, 551796, 450396~7. fax : 543926, email : contact@horizonmyanmar.com, www.horizon.com

ILBC
180, Thunandar 9th Lane, Thumingalar Housing, Thingungyung.tel: 562401.

ILBC IGCSE SCHOOL
No.(34), Laydauntkan Road, Tamwe Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 542982, 545720, 549106,545736,400156 Fax: 541040 Email: info@ilbc.net.mm www.ilbcedu.com

International School Yangon
20, Shwe Taung Kyar St, Bahan Tsp. Tel: 512793.

Admissions Office:
Than Lwin Campus: 44, Than Lwin Road, Bahan Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 951-535433, 959-8503073. Email: rviacademygn@rvcentre.com.sg Website: www.rvcentre.com.sg

Yangon International School
Fully Accredited K-12 International Curriculum with ESL support No.117,Thumingalar Housing, Thingangyun Township, Yangon. Tel: 578171, 573149 www.yismyanmar.net

Yangon International School
New Early Childhood Center Pan Hlaing Golf Estate Housing & U Tun Nyo Street, Hlaing Thar Yar Township, Yangon. Tel: 687701, 687702

Streamline Education
24, Myasabai Rd, Parami, Myangone Tsp. tel: 662304, 09-500-6916.

No.35(b), Tatkatho Yeik Mon Housing, New University Avenue, Bahan Township, Yangon. Tel: 951-549451, 557219, 540730. www.yangon-academy.org

SOLAR SYSTEM

The Brightest AC CFL Bulb
21, 9th St, Lanmadaw Tsp. Ph: 212243, 216861, 216864. spsolarstation@gmail.com. www.spsolarstation.com

STEEL CONSTRUCTION

PEB Steel Buildings
21/5, Thirimingalar Avenue, Kabaaye Pagoda Rd, Yankin Tsp, Yangon. Tel: 653410, 09-7325-7042, 09-515-0332, 09-4016-01948. marketing@pebsteel.com.mm www.pebsteel.com.mm

SUPERMARKETS

Asia Light
106, Set Yone Rd.tel: 294074, 294083.

Capital Hyper Mart
14(E), Min Nandar Road, Dawbon Tsp. Ph: 553136.

City Mart
(Aung San Branch) tel: 253022, 294765. (9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(47th St Branch) tel: 200026, 298746. (9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Junction 8 Branch) tel: 650778. (9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(FMI City Branch) tel: 682323.

City Mart
(Yankin Center Branch) tel: 400284. (9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Myaynigone Branch) tel: 510697. (9:00 am to 10:00 pm)

City Mart
(Zawana Branch) tel:564532. (9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Shwe Mya Yar Branch) tel: 294063. (9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Chinatown Point Branch) tel: 215560~63. (9:00 am to 10:00 pm)

City Mart
(Junction Maw Tin Branch) tel: 218159. (9:00 am to 9:00 pm)

City Mart
(Marketplace) tel: 523840~43. (9:00 am to 10:00 pm)

City Mart
(78th Brahch-Mandalay) tel: 02-71467~9. (9:00 am to 10:00 pm)

IKON Mart
IKON Trading Co., Ltd. No.332, Pyay Rd, San Chaung P.O (11111), Yangon, Myanmar. Tel: 95-1-535-783, 527705, 501429. Fax: 95-1-527705. Email: sales-ikon@myanmar.com.mm

Junction Mawtin
Bogyoke Aung San Rd, Cor of Wadan St. Lanmadaw.

Ocean Supercentre
(North Point), 9th Mile, Mayangone Tsp. Tel: 651 200, 652963.

Pick 'n' Pay Hyper Market
Bldg (A,B,C), (14~16), Shwe Mya Yar Housing, Mya Yar Gone St, Mingalartaungnyunt Tsp. Tel: 206001~3, Fax: 9000199

Sein Gay Har
44, Pyay Rd, Dagon Tsp. Tel: 383812, 379823.

Super 1 (Kyaikkasan)
65, Lay Daunt Kan St, Tel: 545871~73

Victoria
Shwe Pone Nyet Yeik Mon, Bayint Naung Rd, Kamaryut Tsp. Tel : 515136.

TRAVEL AGENTS

Asian Trails Tour Ltd
73 Pyay Rd, Dagon tsp. tel: 211212, 223262. fax: 211670. email: res@asiantrails.com.mm

Tour & Car Rental Service
English Speaking Driver Ph:09-510-7461,09-730-46093.

WATER TREATMENT

Commercial scale water treatment (Since 1997)
Tel: 01-2300086.
H/P: 09-5161431, 09-43126571.
39-B, Thazin Lane, Ahlone.

WATER HEATERS

The Global leader in Water Heaters
A/1, Aung San Stadium East Wing, Upper Pansodan Road. Tel: 251033, 09-730-25281.

Water Heater
Same as Rinnai Gas cooker and cooker Hood
Showroom Address

WEB SERVICES

World-class Web Services
Tailor-made design, Professional research & writing for Brochure/ Catalogue/e-Commerce website, Customised business web apps, online advertisement and anything online. Talk to us: (951) 430-897, 553-918 www.medialane.com.au 58B Myanma Gon Yaung Housing. Than Thu Mar Road, Tamwe, Yangon.

THE MYANMAR TIMES
advertising hotline
CALL: 392676, 392928

Baltimore celebrates Ravens

BALTIMORE – The city of Baltimore welcomed their Super Bowl-winning Ravens home with a raucous party on February 5, with defensive star Ray Lewis taking center stage after the triumph in his final NFL game.

As the Ravens faithful flocked to the parade and rally, US President Barack Obama offered his congratulations in a phone call to head coach John Harbaugh and general manager Ozzie Newsome.

According to the White House press office, Obama "commended the Ravens on an unbelievable year and for the steadiness the team displayed through the end" and said he lookied forward to congratulating the team in person at the White House.

Thousands of fans lined the streets leading to the Ravens' stadium, where an overflow crowd were able to see Lewis do his trademark "squirrel dance" on the turf one last time. Lewis is retiring after a 17-year NFL career capped in storybook fashion with a 34-31 victory over the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl 47 on Sunday in New Orleans.

Quarterback Joe Flacco also received plenty cheers for his Most Valuable Player performance.

Safety Ed Reed offered Lewis a little musical accompaniment with his rendition of Eddie Money's "Two Tickets to Paradise" and the familiar chorus of the White Stripes' "Seven Nation Army" during the rally.

For most fans, however, Lewis was the main attraction. The 37-year-old has spent his entire NFL career with the Ravens and was the only player remaining from their first Super Bowl triumph 12 years ago.

Ed Reed of the Baltimore Ravens holds aloft the Vince Lombardi Trophy following their 34-31 victory over the San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl XLVII at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome on February 3. *Pic: AFP*

"There is nothing in the world, there is no place on this earth, that is better than Baltimore," Lewis told the adoring throng. "We believed in each other from day one, from 1996 to now.

"The only way on my last ride to pay Baltimore back for everything you did for me and all the support you gave to me, was to bring back the Lombardi Trophy to Baltimore one more time. I love you, Baltimore. Baltimore! Forever my city."

Reed's turn at the podium included a poke at the 49ers.

"Who's got it better than who?," he said -- a reference to 49ers head coach Jim Harbaugh's famed team rallying cry of "Who's got it better than us?"

'Who's got it better than us?'

Harbaugh, of course, is the younger brother of Ravens' head coach John Harbaugh, who wrapped up the festivities by leading the crowd in a chant.

"Our team, I'm talking about all of us, one of the keys was our determination," the coach said. "We played with incredible determination and resolve. And judging by how hard it was to get into this stadium, I would say that's true about our fans, too. We're on the parade coming down here, and every cranny, every sidewalk is full. Every opening where it opens up, every grassy knoll is packed with Ravens fans. They broke down the barriers behind Ray Lewis and mobbed the streets, right? They filled the streets.

"The city's going crazy! For the Ravens! The world champion Baltimore Ravens!" – *AFP*

USADA grant Armstrong extension

WASHINGTON – Lance Armstrong, facing a multi-million-dollar lawsuit and reportedly the subject of a new criminal probe, got a bit of breathing room on February 6 from the US Anti-Doping Agency.

USADA gave him two more weeks to cooperate with anti-doping authorities by testifying under oath, now that Armstrong has admitted to using performance-enhancing drugs.

Dallas insurance company SCA Promotions said it would file a $12 million lawsuit against Armstrong over bonuses it paid to him for multiple Tour de France victories.

The company had asked Armstrong to repay the money after he was stripped last year of his record seven Tour de France titles and banned for life after USADA found him to be the key figure in a sophisticated doping scheme on his US Postal Service teams.

"I can now confirm that we are filing February 7," SCA attorney Jeff Dorough told AFP on February 6. "We think there are several avenues for us to seek recovery on this."

Armstrong sued SCA and won after the company delayed his 2005 bonus payment because of reports in Europe that the American used performance-enhancing drugs.

"Armstrong and his lawyers said flat-out at that time that if he was ever stripped of the titles they would pay the money back," Dorough said. "We're just seeking to hold them to their promises."

That might not be the only legal battle looming for Armstrong now that he has admitted via a confessional TV interview with Oprah Winfrey that he did dope during all seven of his Tour de France triumphs.

ABC News reported February 6 that federal agents are investigating Armstrong for crimes including obstruction, witness tampering and intimidation.

Citing an anonymous source, ABC News said the current probe is focused on different charges from those previously investigated in a federal probe that was dropped last year.

US Attorney Andre Birotte, who led the prior investigation, said he had no current plans to press charges despite Armstrong's recent doping admissions, although that could change.

Birotte's investigation was centered on doping, fraud, conspiracy and Armstrong's denials of such crimes when he was the lead rider at US Postal.

The ABC News source, quoted on condition of anonymity, said: "Birotte does not speak for the federal government as a whole. Agents are actively investigating Armstrong for obstruction, witness tampering and intimidation."

USA Today reported February 6 that the Food and Drug Administration was investigating Armstrong.

FDA special agent Jeff Novitzy once played a key role in the BALCO steroid distribution probe and worked to build a case against Armstrong before the government declined to file charges in February of 2012.

FDA spokeswoman Sarah Clark-Lynn told AFP on Wednesday, however, that the FDA "is not currently investigating on Lance Armstrong."

Former teammate Tyler Hamilton opened the door to possible witness tampering charges against Armstrong when he described a confrontation with Armstrong at a bar in Colorado in 2011 – when Hamilton was a witness in the then on-going federal probe.

"The biggest thing he said is: 'You know, we're going to make your life a living, f-ing hell, both in the courtroom and out,'" Hamilton recalled Armstrong saying.

After the government probe of Armstrong ended without charges in 2012,

'We're just seeking to hold them to their promises.'

USADA continued its own investigation, using the testimony of former teammates to build a devastating case against him.

After Armstrong finally came clean last month, USADA chief Travis Tygart had given him until February 6 to cooperate with anti-doping authorities by testifying under oath about his activities.

Armstrong had said he couldn't meet that deadline, and his attorney Tim Herman told USA Today that Armstrong thought the International Cycling Union and World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) were better suited to battle doping in the sport.

However, on February 6 night it became clear that Armstrong was dealing with USADA when Tygart said he had granted Armstrong a two-week extension to cooperate.

"We have been in communication with Mr. Armstrong and his representatives and we understand that he does want to be part of the solution and assist in the effort to clean up the sport of cycling," Tygart said in a statement.

"We have agreed to his request for an additional two weeks to work on details to hopefully allow for this to happen." – *AFP*

Inaugural Euro Games will be innovative

PARIS – The inaugural European Games being hosted by Baku in 2015 will be about being different and innovative, the president of the European Olympic Committees (EOC) Pat Hickey told AFP in an interview.

The 67-year-old Irishman, who is on the International Olympic Committee (IOC) elite Executive Board, saw his dream realised last year when the Games were voted into being by 85 percent of the EOC members.

Hickey admitted the first Games – which will feature 14 to 15 sports – would target a youthful audience, for the Irishman said something had to be done to arrest the dramatic fall in young people taking up sports.

"This Games will be a trial, an experiment with the emphasis on being innovative," said Hickey, who has already got two bidders for the 2019 edition with another two cities expressing an interest.

"There will be a big emphasis on them being very attractive to the young because the fall off in their participation in sports has been huge. They are more at ease sitting down in front of their latest computer game than taking exercise.

"Another facet to the Games is we are allowing sports involved that appear at the Olympics to feature programmes that aren't allowed in those Games. We are being very flexible.

"We are expecting about 3,000 athletes, though, we can stretch it to 5,000 but we want to keep it manageable. The last thing we want is to be a carbon copy of the Olympic Games."

Among the non Olympic sports being seriously considered for the inaugural edition is dance, from ballroom to hip hop, as Hickey says it is the sort of event that will encourage the young to get off their sofas and do some exercise.

"Dance is extremely popular with the young," he said.

"The majority of the most watched TV shows now in Europe are dance-based with some form of athlete trying his luck. Dance can be like snowboarding at the Winter Olympics, a magnet for the young, and thus far we have got great feedback from all round Europe."

One sport not likely to be in Baku will be athletics, always a showpiece of major Games.

"We have a very good relationship with European Athletics authorities. However, they have contracts signed up to 2015.

"We always knew that we wouldn't have athletics at the first Games. As time goes by we hope to have a solution. We fully appreciate their concerns and commitments and hope to have them on board for 2019."

Hickey said he hoped the European Games would be the ideal showpiece for those cities who can't aspire to host an Olympic Games.

"We want the European Games to be open to mid-sized cities hosting them, the likes of Warsaw, Prague or Lyon," said Hickey.

"Ideally a city which can't really host an Olympics but wants to be the host of a prestigious Games."

Baku, though, is keen to host an Olympics and Hickey believes a successful hosting of the European Games would do their chances a world of good.

"We have no concerns over Baku and their hosting of the Games.

"It is an immensely rich country and it will be a very strong financial Games," said Hickey, who added that support from the hosts came from the top as the wife of Ilham Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, was head of the organising committee.

"They have bid twice previously for the Olympic Games and they see it as a stepping stone to a successful Olympics bid.

"We still have to decide with them whether they are held in May or June, and that will be decided in March, but we always knew we would have problems with the European sporting schedule.

"But if you were to look at all these problems you would never start anything.

"A year ago we had no venue or sports and now we have gone from zero to between 14 to 15 sports and a host city. That is a phenomenal success." – *AFP*

Kremlin hopes for Sochi prestige

MOSCOW – Moscow views the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi as a chance to improve Russia's image, but analysts say the event is unlikely to stifle Western criticism of its poor record on rights.

Like other big sporting events to be held in Russia – such as its first Formula 1 Grand Prix in 2014 and the football World Cup in 2018 – the Sochi Olympics are a pet project for Russia's leader Vladimir Putin.

Nestled between the Caucasus Mountains and the Black Sea in Russia's south, the resort city of Sochi was chosen to host the Games in a year's time thanks to Putin's vigorous efforts.

But his bid to use grand international events to promote Russia's image as a modern country and a major global power faces serious obstacles, including security concerns and endemic corruption.

"We will try to do something special, full of Russian mystery. Russia is a new, modern, very open and transparent country," the head of Sochi Olympics organising committee, Dmitry Chernyshenko, promised in comments to AFP last year.

Chernyshenko said that everything will be done for the Games to be held "in the safest environment" -- a challenge as Sochi is close to Russia's volatile North Caucasus region where deadly attacks by Islamist rebels are frequent.

An athlete overlooks the shooting range of the Laura Cross Country and Biathlon Center in Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi on February 3. *Pic: AFP*

Chechen Islamists' leader Doku Umarov for instance claimed both the 2011 bombing in Moscow's Domodedovo airport which killed 37 people as well as a twin attack in the Moscow subway in 2010 which resulted in 40 deaths.

When Moscow in May said it had arrested near Sochi a group of Islamists armed with surface-to-air missiles who were preparing attacks during the 2014 Olympics, it became clear that the militant threat to the Sochi Games was more than just hypothetical.

Another headache for organisers is the widespread corruption. Several criminal cases have already been launched into public agencies and local enterprises working on Sochi construction sites.

Two companies in charge of building the main stadium and a bobsleigh track are being probed for alleged embezzling more than 200 million euros.

The scandal went further when the judge who revealed fraudulent land distribution schemes was arrested. He later claimed being tortured and threatened with death in custody.

"The Games will be a great event, a two-week celebration for sports fans, but it has been preceded by a period of theft on a colossal scale," said Maria Lipman of the Carnegie Moscow Centre.

Like other analysts, Lipman does not believe the event could significantly improve Russia's image.

"Relations with the West have deteriorated in recent times, especially with the United States. And even wonderful Sochi Olympics won't suffice to make things better," she said.

The Russian authorities have come under harsh Western criticism for the recent adoption of several controversial laws which -- the opposition claims -- are restricting civil liberties.

Russia's relations with Washington have also recently been strained by the adoption of a law prohibiting Americans from adopting Russian children -- the Kremlin's retribution for sanctions imposed against Russian officials accused of rights violations.

"The Olympics will have a positive effect on the country, but only in the short term. And there will be no effect abroad whatsoever," said political analyst Mark Urnov of Russia's Higher School of Economics.

Russia has a problem with its image, German Gref, the head of Russia's largest bank, Sberbank, said last month in Davos.

"What we need, is to improve our image, because we are better than what (they) think we are." – *AFP*

The slow pursuit of match-fixing ring's top suspect

SINGAPORE – It's a conventional life for a well-to-do Singaporean businessman: he lives in a condo, drives a BMW and enjoys trips to the casino, according to people familiar with his routine.

The difference is that Tan Seng Eet – better known in global law-enforcement circles as Dan Tan – is the key suspect in what could be the biggest match-fixing scandal in football history.

When news broke last week that nearly 700 games, mainly in Europe, had been targeted by Singaporean-linked fixers, questions were immediately raised about Tan, who has been in the spotlight for the past 18 months.

His name has cropped up in multiple investigations. In the latest probe revealed by Europol, hundreds of players and officials are under suspicion, 14 people have been sentenced and more than 100 prosecutions are expected.

But the head of Interpol among others complains that, while the integrity of the world's most popular sport is under threat, the alleged ringleaders are living freely.

Tan, in a rare interview in 2011, vigorously protested his innocence and said he was mystified as to why he had been accused.

"Why I'm suddenly described as a match-fixer, I don't know. I'm innocent," he told Singapore's The New Paper. "If there's anything against me, I can take it to court and fight it," he added.

Tan, an ethnic Chinese man in his forties, first reached public attention in 2011, when his alleged partner and fellow Singaporean Wilson Raj Perumal was arrested in Finland, convicted of match-fixing and jailed.

Perumal, believed to be a key source for blowing open the *calcioscommesse* scandal in Italy, as well as this week's Europol revelations, maintains he was double-crossed by Tan and named him as a key figure in his fixing syndicate.

Italian police have issued an arrest warrant for Tan, and court papers quoted by *The New Paper* called him the "leader" of an international fixing ring.

Reports have named him in a German court case and police probes in several countries. According to Perumal, who spoke to the *Invisible Dog* investigative website last year, Tan was still active as recently as June.

"If you arrest Dan Tan, the signal it gives is that investigators can reach out and touch you," said Zaihan Mohamed Yusof, The New Paper's investigative reporter who interviewed Tan.

But Tan appears to feel secure in Singapore, according to Zaihan, who recounted his routines including trips to the casino.

"It doesn't make any sense for him to leave the country, he could be arrested. It's safer for him to be in Singapore," the reporter told AFP.

Attempts to contact Tan this week failed. His listed phone numbers are disconnected, and a visit to his home, a run-down condominium next to a suburban shopping mall, proved fruitless.

Singapore is considered the nexus of global match-rigging after fixers learned their trade in the local leagues and neighbouring Malaysia, and then took it abroad.

With the birth of online gambling, Singaporean fixers were perfectly placed to take advantage, with contacts in the European leagues and criminal gangs, and in the underworlds of Asia where illicit betting is possible on a huge scale.

Last month, Interpol secretary-general Ronald Noble said match-fixing generates hundreds of billions of dollars around the world each year, comparing the revenues to multinationals such as drinks giant Coca-Cola.

With enormous pressure now on to smash the match-fixing syndicates, Singapore, a wealthy island state known for its low crime and low corruption, is squirming in the glare of attention.

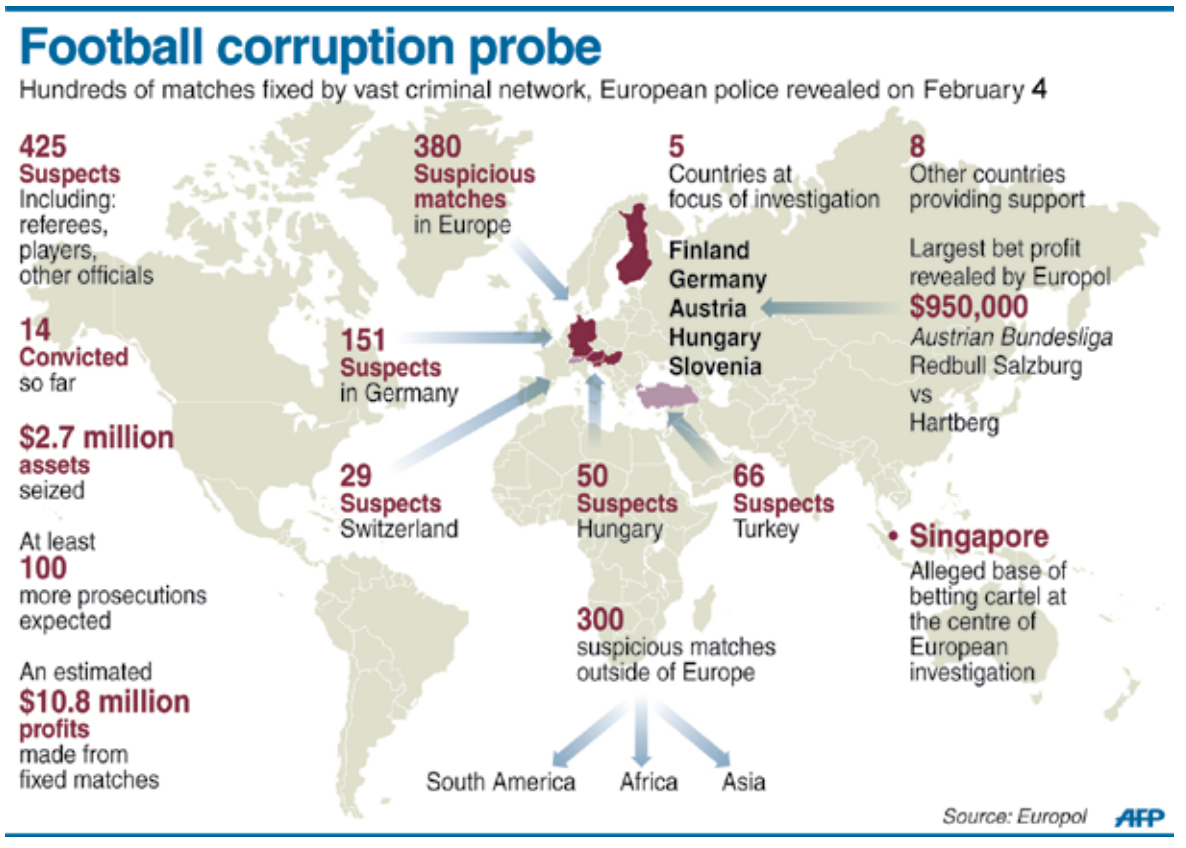
Its powerful Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau (CPIB) said "match-fixing of any form is not condoned in Singapore" and that it investigates allegations of game-rigging through bribery.

Since 2005, the CPIB has investigated eight such cases in Singapore, with 11 individuals charged and convicted, it said in a statement. However, the CPIB also told AFP it was not involved in matters concerning Interpol.

Singapore's police force has confined its comments to a few terse statements saying it is cooperating with Europol and Interpol, including handing over information about Tan. But it said it needed hard evidence to make arrests.

However, calls for Singapore to get proactive grew louder last week.

Interpol chief Noble told the Straits Times: "Until arrests are made in Singapore and until actual names, dates and specific match-fixing details are given, these organised criminals will appear above the law and Singapore's reputation will continue to suffer." – *AFP*



Myanmar's Phyo Ko Ko Thein fights for a header against the Philippines on February 6 at Yangon's Thuwunna Stadium. *Pic: Boothee*

Park apologises as Myanmar loses again

By Aung Si Hein

AN aggressive Myanmar squad failed to produce a goal against the Philippines in last week's FIFA International friendly in Yangon, falling 1-0 as the team continued to struggle.

OJ Porteria found the back of the net for the Philippines in the 78th minute for the lone score of the match. The loss on February 6 was Myanmar's second to the Philippines in three months.

"Myanmar was dominating much of the game but we were lucky to snatch a goal. Myanmar is not like before. But they need to take more time preparing and the coach should continue building the team and not listen to negative criticisms from the journalists, fans and others. On the other hand, the journalists and fans should nurture positive feelings toward the Myanmar national team," Philippines' coach Hans Weiss said after the match.

The Philippines' side included seven players who did not play in last year's Suzuki Cup. Manuel Ott a midfielder playing for FC Ingolstadt 04 in Germany and goalkeeper Neil Etheridge who is on loan to English club Bristol from Fulham were added to the roster.

Myanmar controlled the match early but failed to capitalise on opportunities. Defender Zaw Min Tun put a weak shot wide of the goal in the 15th minute.

In the 18th minute striker Kyaw Ko Ko made a run up the left side, passing to Kyaw Zeyar Win whose shot was stopped by Etheridge.

"We lost though we played well. So I want to apologise to the fans. We had so many goal scoring chances but maybe individual weaknesses lead to a failure in scoring," said Myanmar coach Park Sung Hwa. The team has not won since it defeated Cambodia 3-0 in November 2012 and the scant attendance at Thuwunna Stadium reflected a growing apathy amongst fans.

The friendly was preparation for the AFC Challenge Cup 2014 Qualifiers in which Myanmar will face India, Taiwan and Guam in early March in Yangon.

Weiss said that he believed Myanmar is the strongest team in the AFC Challenge Cup and he hoped to see the team again.

Doping investigation shocks Australia

SYDNEY, Feb 8, 2013 (AFP) - Doping agencies urged Australian cheats to come clean February 8 as concern mounted that everyone has been tarred with the same brush after a probe pointed to widespread drug use in professional sport.

The bombshell Australian Crime Commission inquiry, which said use of prohibited substances including peptides, hormones and illicit drugs was common across multiple sporting codes, has sent shockwaves through Australia.

"Blackest day in sport", ran the *Sydney Morning Herald* headline while the tabloid *Sydney Daily Telegraph* screamed: "Sport on Trial."

The broadsheet *Australian* newspaper said doping threatened the sporting culture of a nation that has long had a reputation as being predominantly drugs-free.

"The report will alarm a sport-loving nation that prides itself on the prowess and fairness of its athletes," it said in an editorial.

The official report indicated that sports scientists, coaches and support staff as well as doctors and pharmacists were involved in the provision of drugs, which were often supplied by organised criminal gangs.

World Anti-Doping Agency president John Fahey said tougher penalties were expected to be adopted by his organisation in response to the growing use of new-generation, performance-enhancing drugs such as peptides.

He told *The Australian* that any athletes who came forward and offered "substantial assistance" would be shown leniency.

"If you are caught, you will be dealt with in a manner that can take you out of the sport forever," he said.

"If they want to reduce that sanction, the opportunity exists today for them to do it, and I encourage them to do it."

In an indication of the growing problem, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) said the importation of peptides had exploded with seizures up 255 percent over the past year.

ASADA chief Aurora Andruska said peptides, which increase levels of human growth hormone, were the "new generation" of performance-enhancing drugs but only two labs in the world could test for them, in Cologne and Montreal.

"We've been talking to sports about peptides, so we're very conscious about that being a new generation of drug that people are looking to use to improve their performance," she told reporters.

The crime commission report did not name specific players, teams or codes due to legal reasons and cricket, football and rugby union authorities insisted they were not under investigation, although rugby league admitted it was.

Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd voiced growing concerns that all sports had been tarnished by such broad-brush allegations and said more information must be made public.

"The key thing now is to establish the facts – which players, which clubs – because I'm a bit concerned about every person out there who we've all watched, admired, is now walking around with a total cloud over their head," he said.

He was joined by senior opposition figure Joe Hockey who said it was unfair on athletes who are clean.

"If I were the authorities, I'd be getting it out there as quickly as possible about exactly how far this goes, rather than tarring the brush across every professional sportsman in the country," he said.

ASADA's Andruska said their hands were tied, but insisted the drug problem was "across a range of sports".

"Under our legislation, once we have started an investigation we are not in a position to talk about the investigation in any detail at all and that's because there is protection there," she told ABC radio. – *AFP*